

# Systemizing Attribute-Based Encryption – In Search of Practical Decentralized ABE

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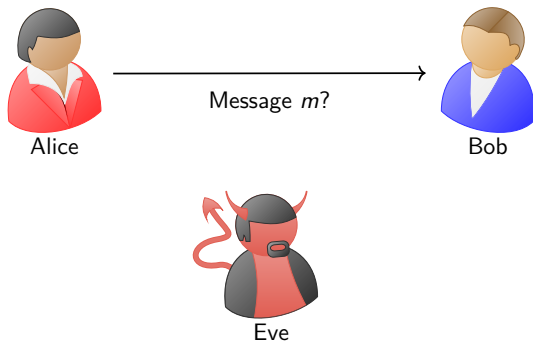


# High-level overview

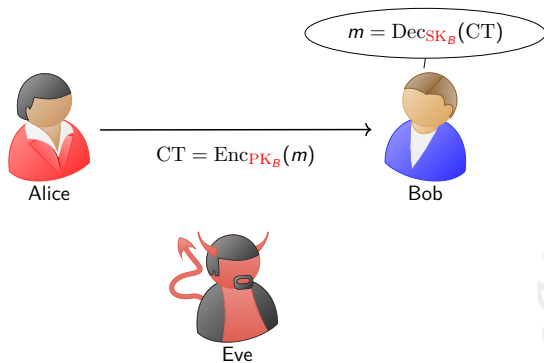
- ▶ Introduction to attribute-based encryption
- ▶ Motivation to ABE
- ▶ Use case: electronic health records
- ▶ Properties of ABE
- ▶ Open problems



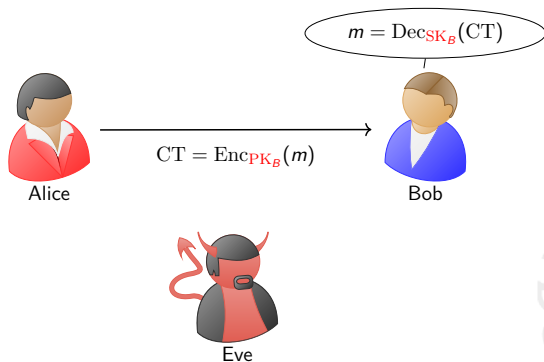
# Traditional public-key encryption



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What if Alice wants to send encrypted messages to all people with a name starting with a B?

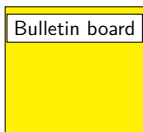
# Attribute-based encryption



Bob



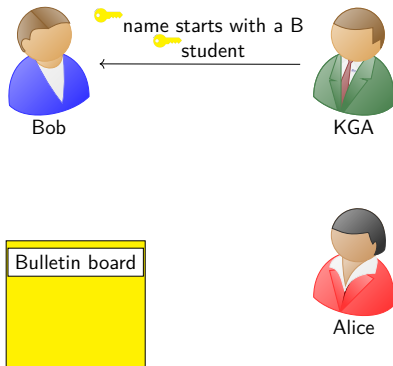
KGA



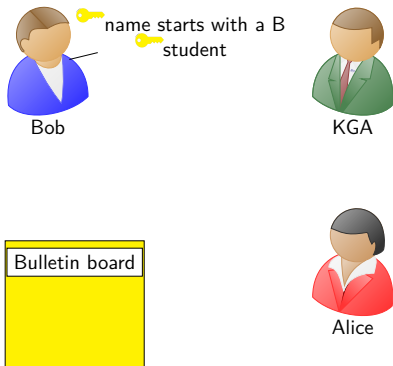
Alice



# Attribute-based encryption

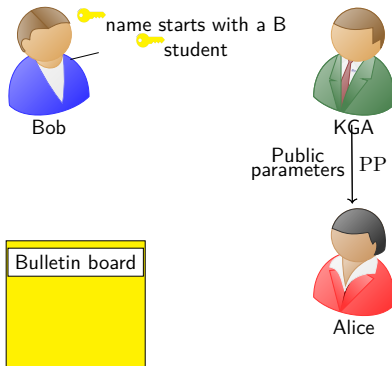


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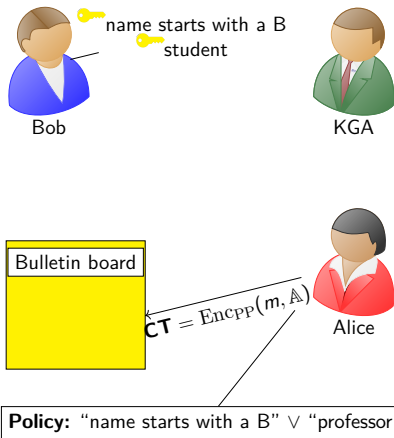




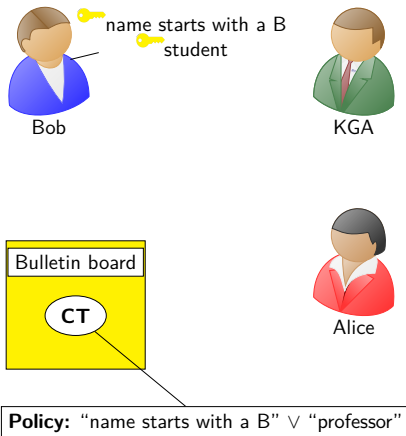
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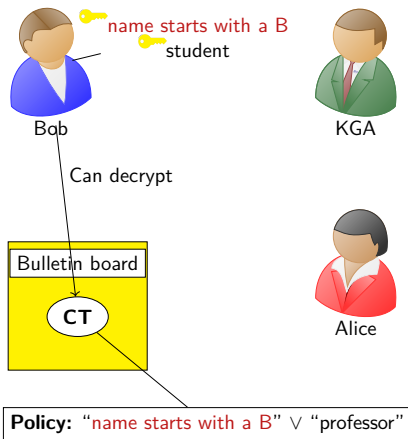
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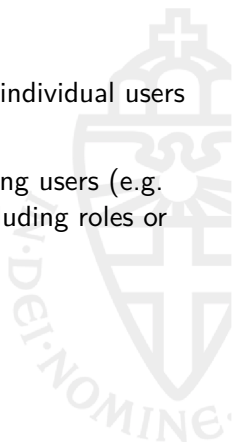
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- ▶ Alice doesn't even need to know Bob
- ▶ Potentially a nice cryptographic tool for implementing e.g. access control

# Definition

Generally, any ABE scheme has four algorithms:

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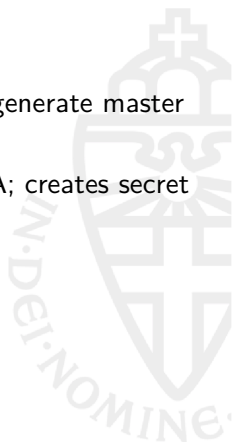




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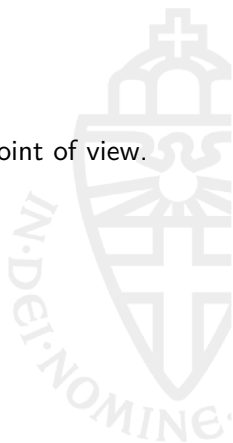
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- ▶ **Decrypt:** ciphertext is decrypted if the set associated with the secret key satisfies the access policy

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**Practical** motivation therefore needs to be very strong!

## Use case: electronic health records

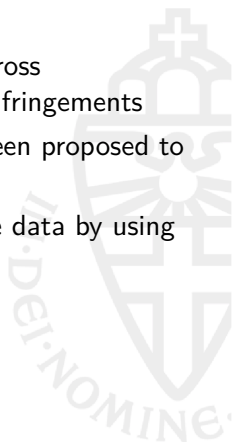
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- ▶ Most of these include a form of access control on the data by using encryption
- ▶ Keys are often held by the same entity that stores the data, and effectively enforces access control
- ▶ This entity needs to be trusted and needs to be online when access is requested
- ▶ These approaches are difficult to decentralize

## Use case: electronic health records (cont.)

- ▶ Suppose Alice wants to share her medical data with her doctor and an employee at her insurance company
- ▶ She could specify an access policy, e.g.  $'(\text{doctor} \wedge \text{RadboudUMC}) \vee (\text{actuary} \wedge \text{VGZ})'$



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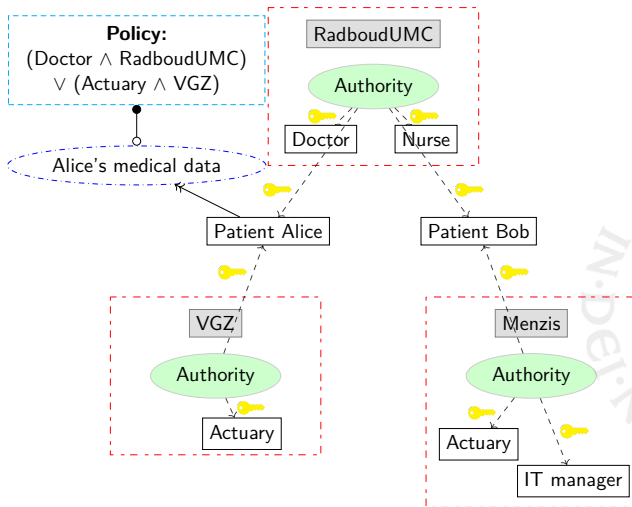
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- ▶ Traditionally, to handle an access request, both entities need to be online

# EHRs and ABE



## EHRs and ABE (cont.)

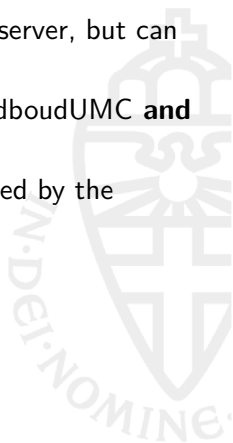
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- ▶ Alice can encrypt the data by using attributes managed by the RadboudUMC and VGZ authorities
- ▶ Once they have received keys for their attributes, VGZ actuaries can independently decrypt the ciphertext (and therefore access the data)
- ▶ They don't need to interact with the VGZ authority for each access request
- ▶ Furthermore, they don't need to interact with the RadboudUMC authority at all

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- ▶ Main advantage of ABE over other cryptographic primitives: trusted party does not need to be online for each access request
- ▶ As such, users are much less dependent on the availability of this party
- ▶ Additionally, some variants of ABE can implement decentralized access control (like in the example)
- ▶ This makes ABE especially attractive compared to other solutions

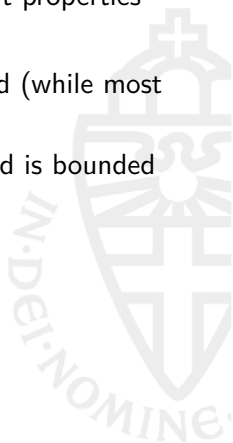
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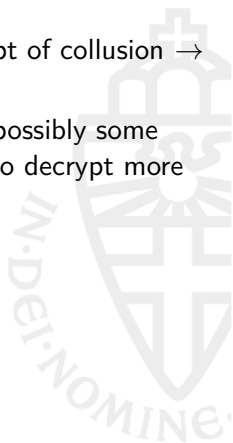
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- ▶ So, together, they shouldn't be able to decrypt it either (even though together they have the attributes 'actuary' and 'VGZ', which satisfies the policy)

## Collusion resistance (cont.)

- ▶ In traditional PKE such as ElGamal there's no concept of collusion → attacker only has access to ciphertexts
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- ▶ Decryption uses a pairing operation

# Pairings

- ▶ Let  $\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{H}, \mathbb{G}_T$  be three groups of prime order  $p$ , where  $g \in \mathbb{G}, h \in \mathbb{H}$  are generator
- ▶ A pairing is a mapping  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  such that
  - ▶ For all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  holds that  $e(g^a, h^b) = e(g, h)^{ab}$  and
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- ▶ and exponentiations are cheaper than pairing operations
- ▶ As such, efficiency of a scheme is determined by the groups in which the key and ciphertext components live
- ▶ Remarkably, little to no research has been done in an accurate efficiency analysis of ABE. Most works treat efficiency very naively

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- ▶ As such, authorities do not need to trust one another
- ▶ We have identified that there exist two types of MA-ABE: distributed and decentralized

# Decentralized ABE

- ▶ Consider again the electronic health record example with the policy '(doctor  $\wedge$  RadboudUMC)  $\vee$  (actuary  $\wedge$  VGZ)'
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- ▶ However, not all MA-ABE schemes have this property
- ▶ Rather, they need keys from all authorities, regardless of whether they have attributes managed by that authority
- ▶ We call these schemes *distributed*

## Existing work

Scheme	Based on	KP/CP	Expr.	LU	Bounded	RP	Private	Type	CS-CT	CP-D	Modulo	CCA*	Anonymous	RDM	MA-ABE	On/Off	Reconc.	A/H	Date, desc.	Trac.
SW05 [91]	-	KP	T	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SW05 [91] II	-	KP	T	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GPSW06 [52]	[98]	KP	MSP	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
GPSW06 [52] II	[98]	KP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cha07 [27] I	[98]	KP	MA-T	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cha07 [27] II	[52]	KP	MA-MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
BSW07 [48]	[52]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	GGM	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CH07 [87]	[5-8]	KP*	AND	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OSW07 [87]	[52]	KP	NMSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
NYO08 [82] I	[17]	KP*	AND	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x
NYO08 [82] II	[18]	CP	AND	x	[U]	✓	✓	II	x	x	✓	✓	GGM	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x
CC09 [28]	[27]	KP	MA-T	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
YWRL10 [115]	[37]	KP*	AND	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
HLR10 [56]	-	CP	T	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(U)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LOSTW10 [66]	[110]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT10 [84]	[66]	KP,CP	NMSP	✓	OU,IA	✓	✓	III	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] I	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] II	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AND)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] III	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LHCC+11 [72]	[28, 82]	KP*	AND	x	[U]	x	✓	II	x	x	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓
LW11 [68] I	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[U],OU	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
LW11 [67] II	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[U],OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	GGM	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
LW11b [69]	[66]	KP	MSP	✓	-	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
GHW11 [54] I	[111]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	RCCA	q(AD)	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓
GHW11 [54] II	[52]	KP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	RCCA	Static	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓
LCMW11 [75]	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LW12 [70]	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	q(AND)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SBW12 [97]	[66]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT12 [85]	[84]	KP,CP	NMSP	-	✓	✓	✓	III	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
HW13 [58]	[52]	KP	MSP	x	[U]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(U)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CCL2+13 [30]	[49]	KP	T	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT13 [86]	[84]	KP,CP	NMSP	✓	[U],IA	✓	✓	III	x	x	✓	✓	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
LCL3+13 [73]	[98]	KP	T	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓
RW13 [95]	[98]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
LCW13 [74]	[48, 70]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	✓	✓
HW14 [59]	[95]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
NCDWL14 [83]	[95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓
KL15 [64]	[66]	KP	MSP	x	log [U]	x	x	I	x	x	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
RW15 [96]	[98]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
LW15 [77]	[76, 95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓
ZTC+16 [116]	[85, 106]	KP	MSP	x	[U]	✓	✓	III	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
ZTC+16 [116] II	[85, 106]	KP	MSP	✓	[U]	✓	✓	III	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AHMTY16 [14]	[10, 69]	KP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	III	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
CDLQ16 [40]	[95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
MST17 [78] I	[98]	CP	DNF	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
AC17 [31]	[31]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	✓	✓	III	x	x	✓	✓	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x
CGKW18 [32]	[10, 95]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
LYZL18 [74]	[20, 111]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	q(AND)	x	x	x	✓	x	x	x
MJ18 [79]	[31]	CP	T	x	[U]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x
KW19 [86] LU	[79]	KP,CP	BF	x	[U]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
KW19 [86] HI	[79]	KP	BF	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	x	x	✓	x	x	x	x
TKN20 [105]	[5, 65]	KP,CP	NM-BF	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x

## Existing work

Scheme	Based on	KP/CP	Expr.	LU	Bandwidth	RP	Private	Type	CS-CT	CP-D	Modulo	CCA*	Anonymous	RO	MA-DR	On/Off	Reconc.	A/H	Date, desc.	Trac.
SW05 [90] I	-	KP	T	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
SW05 [90] II	-	KP	-	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
GPSW06 [52] I	[98] I	KP	MSP	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
GPSW06 [52] II	[98] II	KP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cha07 [27] I	[98] I	KP	MA-T	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cha07 [27] II	[52] II	KP	MA-MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
BSW07 [48]	[52] II	CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	GGM	x	x	x	x	x	x
CH07 [87]	[52] I	KP*	AND	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
OSW07 [87]	[52] II	KP	NMSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
NYO08 [82] I	[37] I	KP*	AND	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
NYO08 [82] II	[18]	CP	AND	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	GGM	x	x	x	x	x	x
CC09 [28]	[27]	KP	MA-T	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	x
YWRL10 [115]	[37] I	KP*	AND	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
HLR10 [56]	-	CP	T	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(17)	x	x	x	x	x	x
LOSTW10 [66]	[110]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT10 [84]	[66]	KP,CP	NMSP	✓	OU,IA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] I	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] II	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(AND)	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wat11 [111] III	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
LHCC+11 [72]	[28, 82]	KP*	AND	x	[17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(AD)	x	x	x	x	x	✓
LW11 [68] I	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[17],OU	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
LW11 [67] II	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[17],OU	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	GGM	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
LW11b [69]	[66]	KP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
GHW11 [54] I	[111]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓
GHW11 [54] II	[52]	KP	MSP	✓	LU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓
LCMW11 [75]	[66]	CP	MSP	x	[17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓
LW12 [70]	[66]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(AND)	x	x	x	x	x	x
SBW12 [97]	[66]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT12 [85]	[84]	KP,CP	NMSP	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
HW13 [58]	[52] II	KP	MSP	x	[17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(17)	x	x	x	x	x	x
CCL2+13 [30]	[49]	KP	T	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
OT13 [86]	[84]	KP,CP	NMSP	✓	[17],IA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
LCL3+13 [73]	[98]	KP	T	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
RW13 [95]	[98]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	x
LCW13 [74]	[48, 70]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	✓
HW14 [59]	[95]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	x
NCDWL14 [83]	[95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	✓
KL15 [64]	[66]	KP	MSP	x	log [17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
RW15 [96]	[98]	CP	MSP	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
LW15 [77]	[76, 95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	✓
ZGT+16 [108] I	[85, 106]	KP	MSP	x	[17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
ZGT+16 [108] II	[85, 106]	KP	MSP	✓	[5]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
AHMTY16 [14]	[10, 69]	KP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	x
CDLQ16 [40]	[95]	CP	MSP	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	✓
MST17 [78] I	[98]	CP	DNF	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(IA)	x	x	x	x	x	x
AC17 [31]	[31]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
CGKW18 [32]	[10, 95]	KP,CP	MSP	✓	OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
LYZL18 [74]	[28, 111]	CP	MSP	✓	LU,OU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	q(AND)	x	x	x	x	x	x
MJ18 [79]	[31]	CP	T	x	[17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x
KW19 [86] LU	[79]	KP,CP	BF	x	[17]	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
KW19 [86] HI	[79]	KP	BF	✓	-	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	x	x	x	x	x	x
TKN20 [104]	[5, 65]	KP,CP	NM-BF	✓	LU	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓ <sub>DP</sub>	Static	✓	✓	x	x	x	x



# Open problems

- ▶ In conclusion, there is still some work to make it truly practical
- ▶ We have identified several open problems that help ABE become more practical



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- ▶ One covers the briefly mentioned issue with more accurately analyzing efficiency of ABE schemes
- ▶ Others cover e.g. the design of more efficient and privacy-friendly decentralized ABE
- ▶ If we solve these, ABE can truly practically implement a privacy-friendly fine-grained access control in multiple-domain settings

Thank you for your attention!

