



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Towards User-centric Privacy-preserving Techniques for Cloud-assisted IoT Applications

**Nesrine Kaaniche**  
[n.kaaniche@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:n.kaaniche@sheffield.ac.uk)

Security of Advanced Systems Research Group  
Department of Computer Science

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## A little bit about me!

- **Lecturer in Cybersecurity**, Department of Computer Science, Affiliated with the Security of Advanced Systems group, University of Sheffield, UK
- **Associate Member** of the Chair Values and Policies of Personal Information, Institute Mines Telecom, France

- Anonymous certification scheme, based on attribute based signatures
- Blockchain-based applications
- Privacy-preserving personalised services
- Informed consent in e-Health Applications

- Data confidentiality and access control mechanisms (ID-based encryption, homomorphic encryption)
- Data integrity (proofs of data possession)
- Authenticated search in cloud environments
- Formal validation, experimentation

**Security in distributed Systems- Data provenance and auditing systems**  
(2015 - 2020)

**Privacy Enhancing Techniques**  
(2015 – 2020)

**Security and Privacy in Cloud and Cloud-assisted IoT**  
(2011- 2020)

- Applications/Design of attribute based cryptographic techniques
- **Visiting researcher (Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International)** : Integrity of metadata in distributed data provenance systems
- Trapdoors' detection in neural networks
- Lattice-based homomorphic encryption and signature schemes



# Outline

- General Context
- Privacy Preserving Cooperative Computation
- Privacy Preserving Fine grained Access Control to Outsourced Data
- Interdisciplinary Discussion
- Conclusions



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Who possess our data? What they know about us? How they are using our data?

## Amazon Echo's privacy issues go way beyond voice recordings

20 Janvier 2020, 16:36 CET Mis à jour le 21 Janvier 2020, 09:56 CET

HelkoAL/Pixabay

Adresse électronique  
Twitter 189  
Facebook 1.2k  
LinkedIn  
Imprimer

Amazon Echo and the Alexa voice assistant have had widely publicised issues with privacy. Whether it is the amount of data they collect or the fact that they reportedly pay employees and, at times, external contractors from all over the world to listen to recordings to improve accuracy, the potential is there for sensitive personal information to be leaked through these devices.

## Equifax Data Breach Affects Millions of Consumers. Here's What to Do.

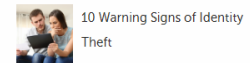
By Steve Symanovich October 12, 2017

Share f t G+ in

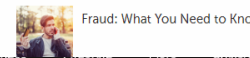


Search...

### Related Articles



10 Warning Signs of Identity Theft



Fraud: What You Need to Know

Support The Guardian  
Subscribe Find a job Sign in Search  
News Opinion Sport Culture Lifestyle



Cambridge Analytica The Cambridge Analytica Files

## Revealed: 50 million Facebook profiles harvested for Cambridge Analytica in major data breach

Whistleblower describes how firm linked to former Trump adviser Steve Bannon compiled user data to target American voters

## NEWS

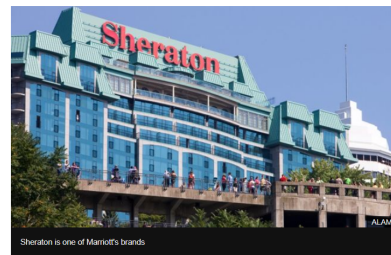
Home UK World Business Politics Tech Science Health Family & Education Entertainment & Arts Stories More

### Technology

## Marriott hack hits 500 million Starwood guests

30 November 2018

f t G+ Share



Sheraton is one of Marriott's brands.  
The records of 500 million customers of the hotel group Marriott International have been involved in a data breach.

### Top Stories

MPs back May's bid to change Brexit deal  
MPs vote for changes to Irish border 'backstop' plans in Theresa May's Brexit deal as she seeks to reopen EU talks  
16 minutes ago  
Reaction after MPs' Brexit plan votes  
29 January 2019  
MP jailed over speeding driver lie  
5 hours ago

### Features



Brexit: Theresa May blinked

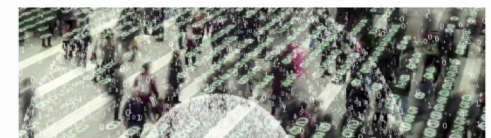
37,578 views | May 12, 2020, 04:31am EDT

## Forget Apple And Google: Contact-Tracing Apps Just Dealt Serious New Blow



Zak Doffman Contributor @Cybersecurity

I write about security and surveillance.



Could Error C Session brightness

LO IMM





# Privacy as a Security Property?



## Confidentiality

Keep your secrets, well, secret

## Control

Who? And How can use your personal information?

## Beyond Technology/Engineering:

A lot of aspects related to sociology, law, psychology, economics, etc. ..

## Privacy Enhancing Technologies

Mitigate privacy threats  
Increase privacy of users, groups, organizations  
Enable scenarios impossible w/o strong privacy guarantees



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Privacy Preserving Cooperative Computation

## Personalisation vs Privacy -Web Search Engines

# Web Search Engine: Privacy Challenges

User



Web Servers



News provider



Advertisement  
provider

**Service providers**

The service provider is a search engine, interacting with an advertising and news agency.

Ads and news are also categorized and annotated by keywords.

# Web Search Engine: Privacy Challenges

User



**Need for privacy preserving matching techniques**  
**Need for privacy preserving search techniques**



Web Servers



News provider



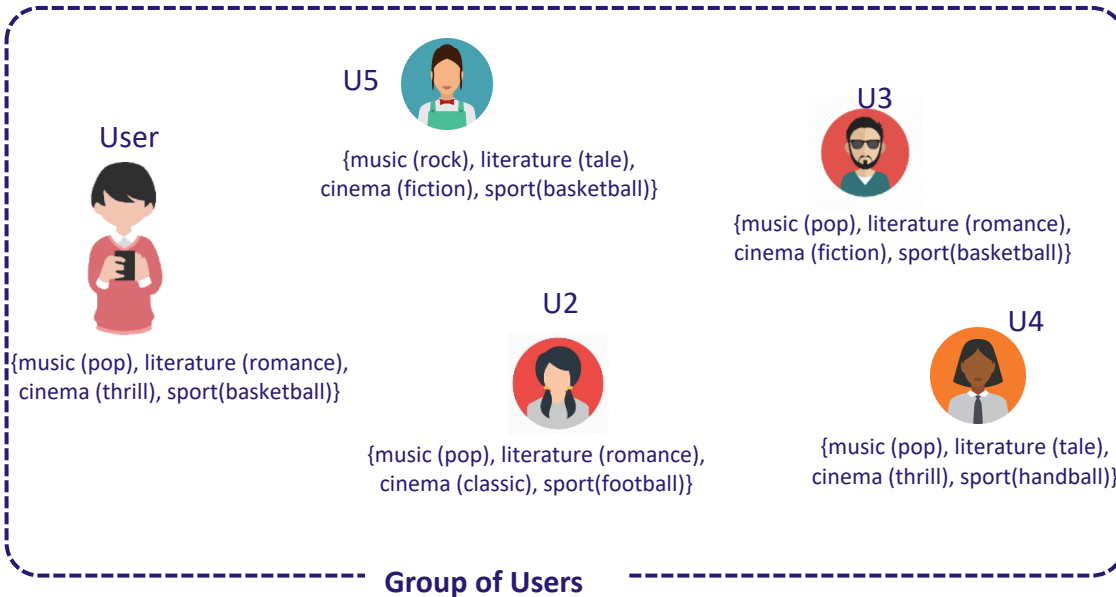
Advertisement  
provider

**Service providers**

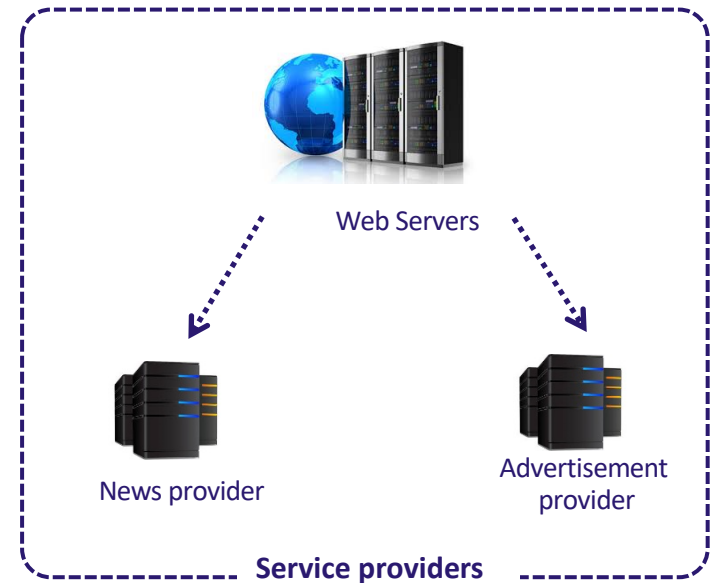
The service provider is a search engine, interacting with an advertising and news agency.

Ads and news are also categorized and annotated by keywords.

# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach



Each client belongs to a group of users, sharing the same interests → each client obtains a characterizing profile, encompassing several categories.

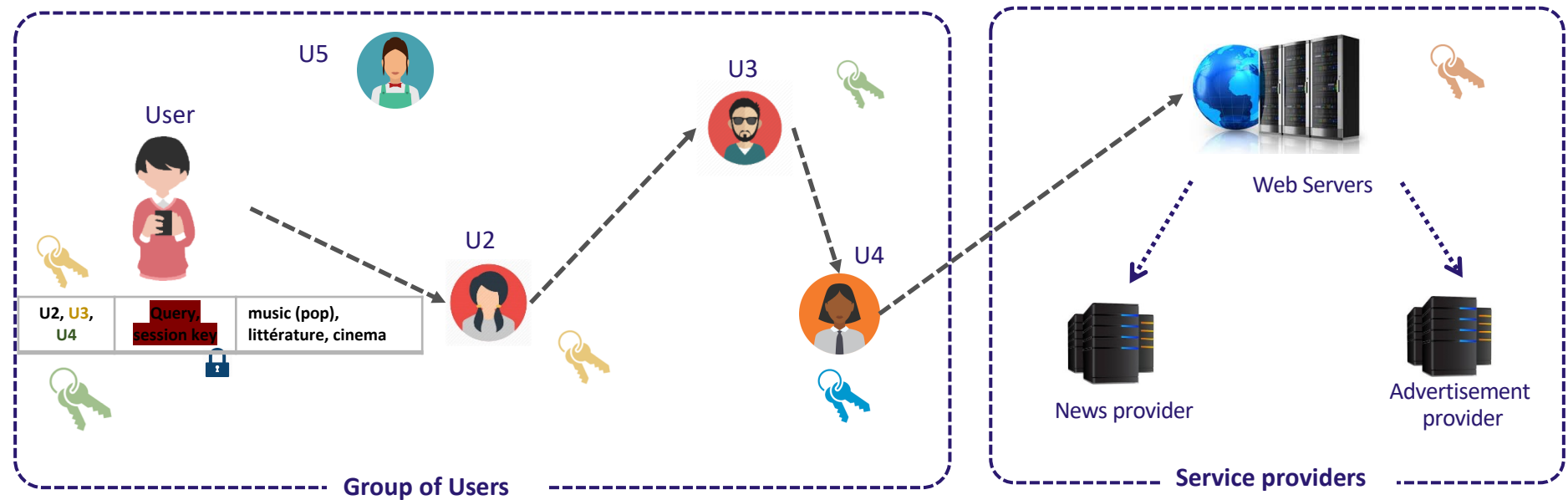


The service provider is a search engine, interacting with an advertising and news agency. Ads and news are also categorized and annotated by keywords.

- Collaboration with Qwant, France – <https://github.com/QwantResearch/masq-app/>
- **Kaaniche** N., Masmoudi S, Znina S., Laurent M. and Demir L., Privacy Preserving Cooperative Computation for Personalized Web Search Applications, 35<sup>th</sup> ACM SAC 2020

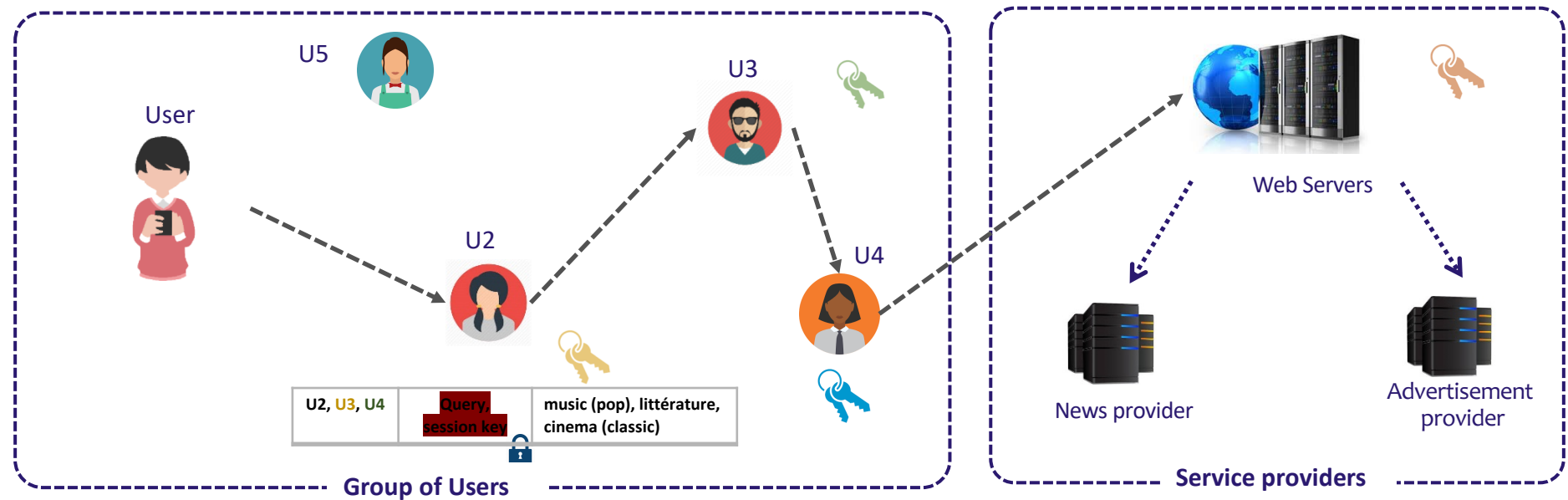
# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's submission process



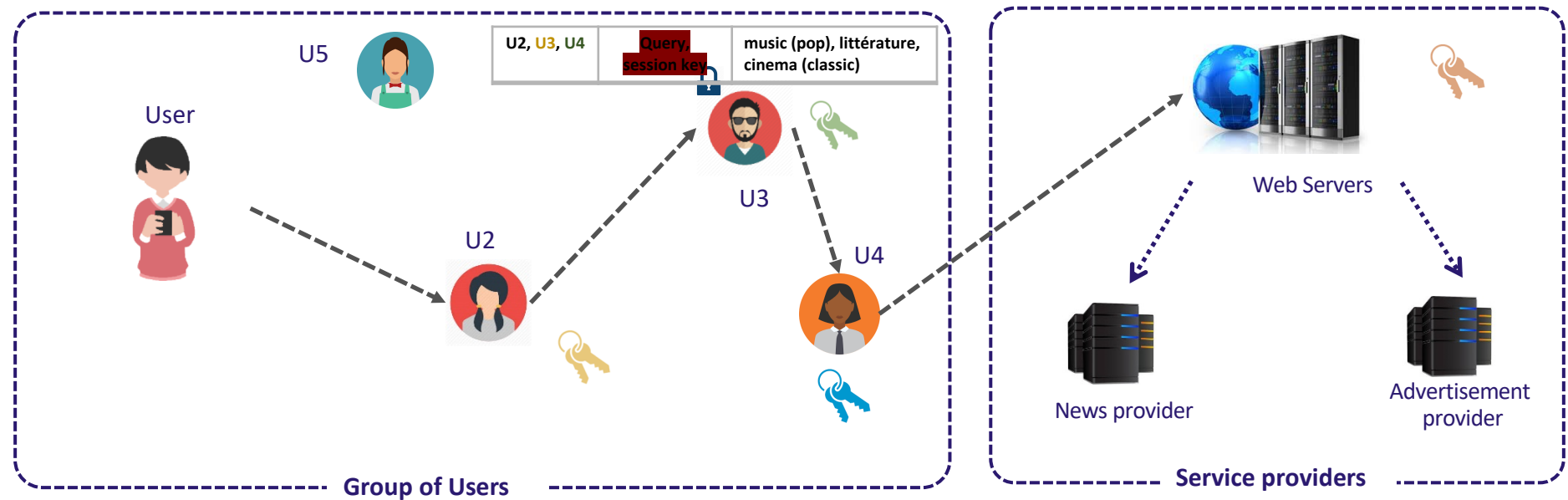
# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's submission process



# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

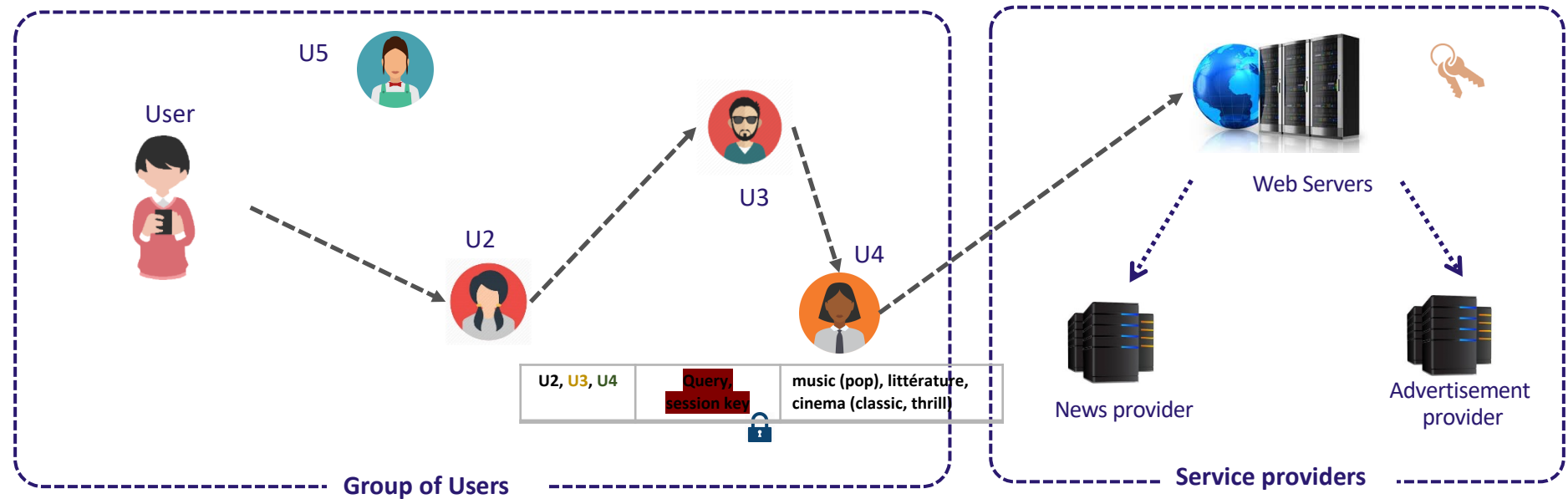
## Query's submission process





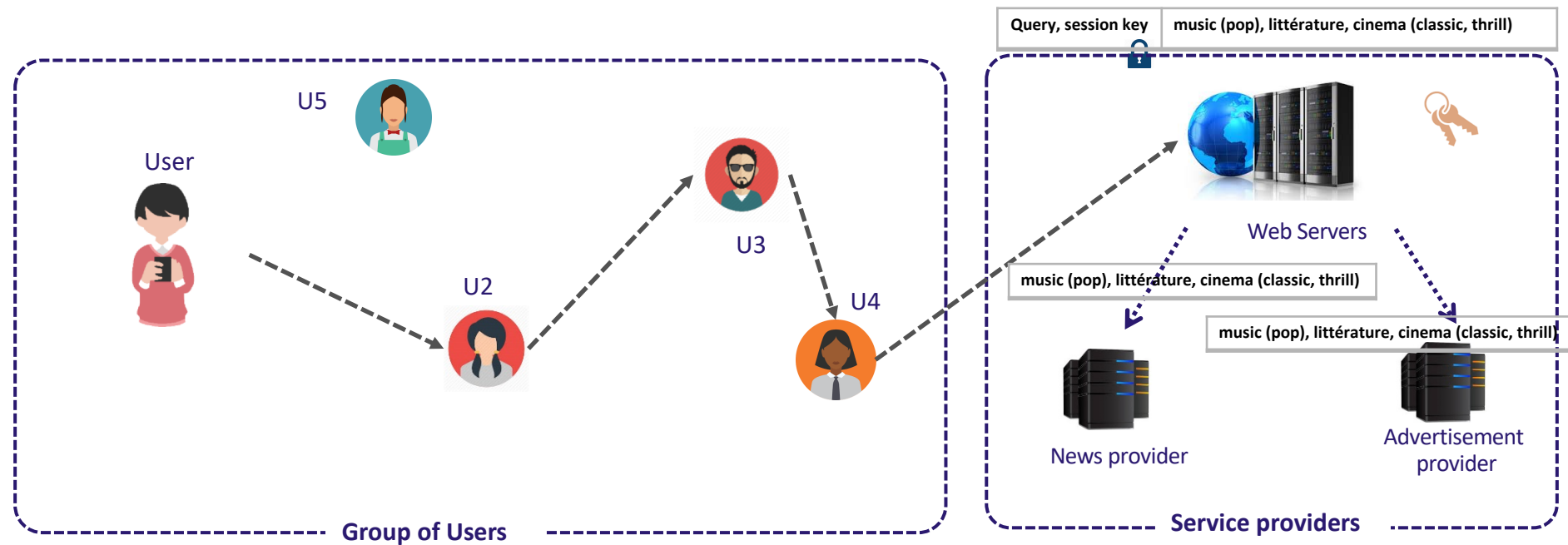
# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's submission process



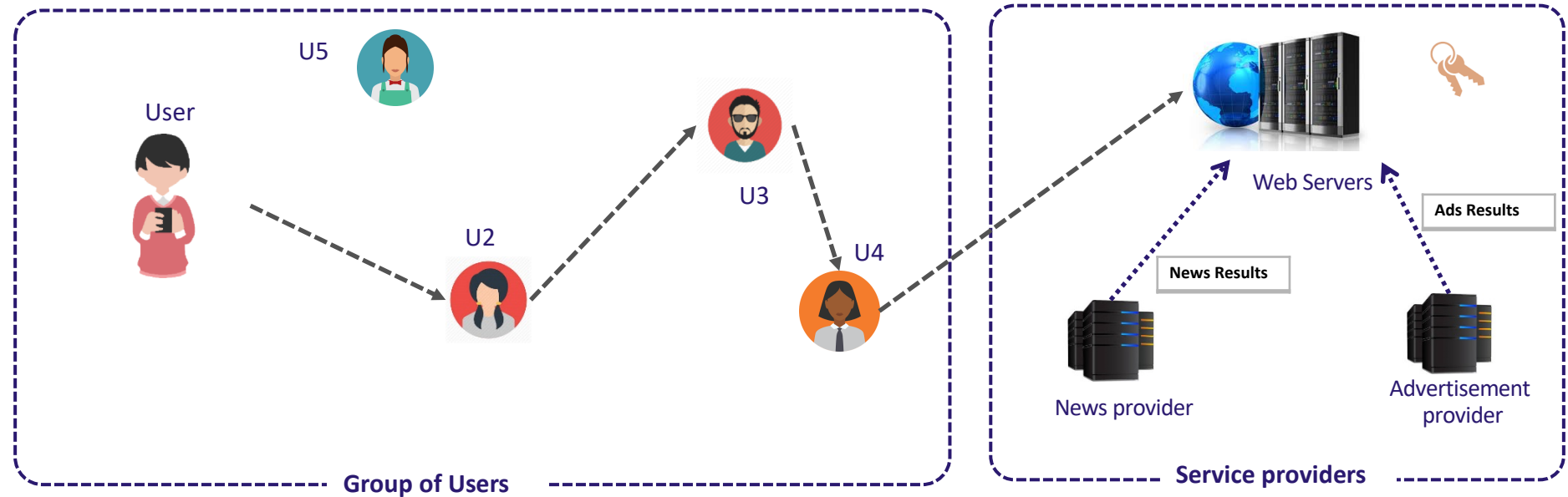
# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's submission process



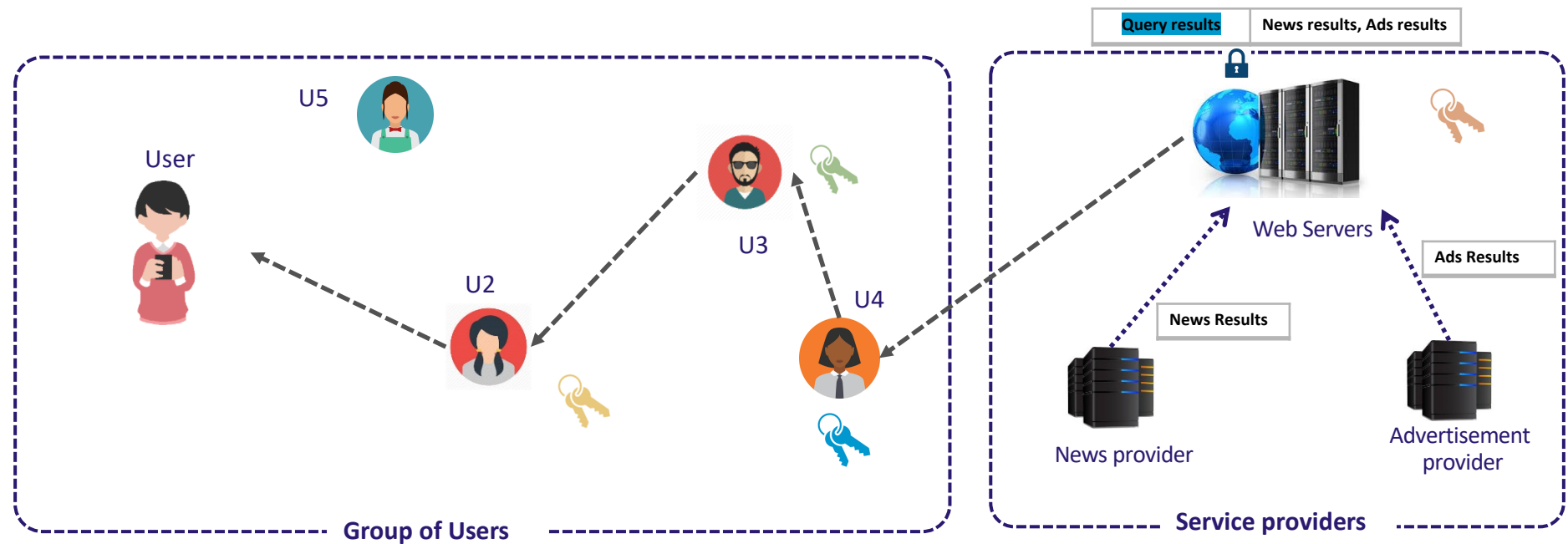
# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's response process

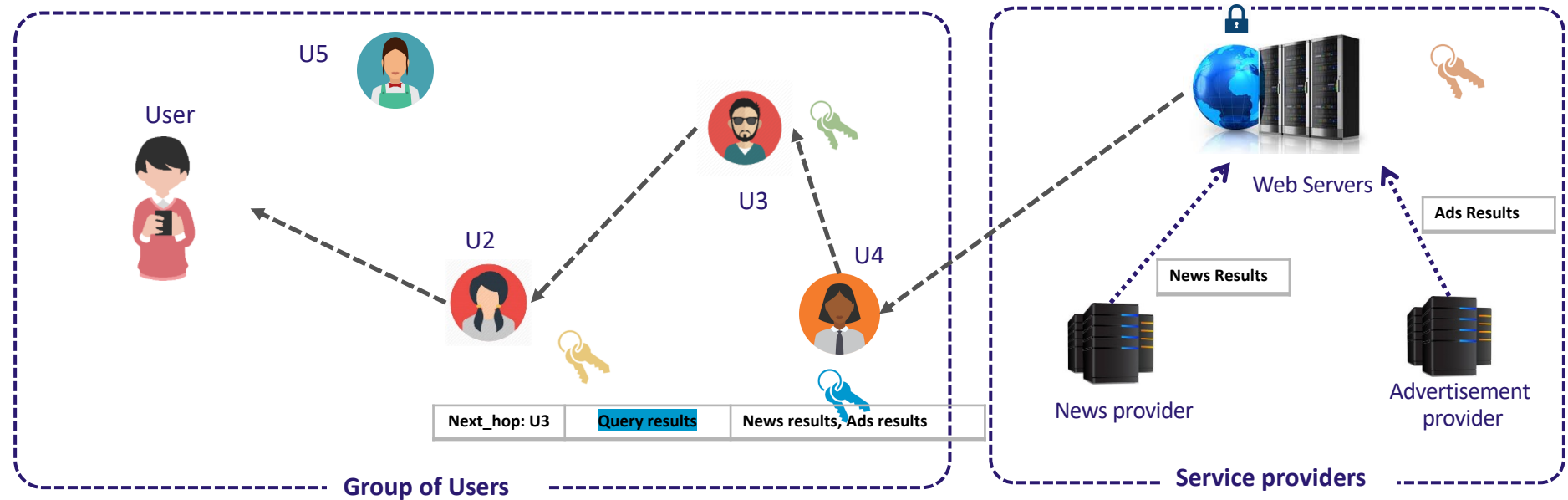


# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's response process

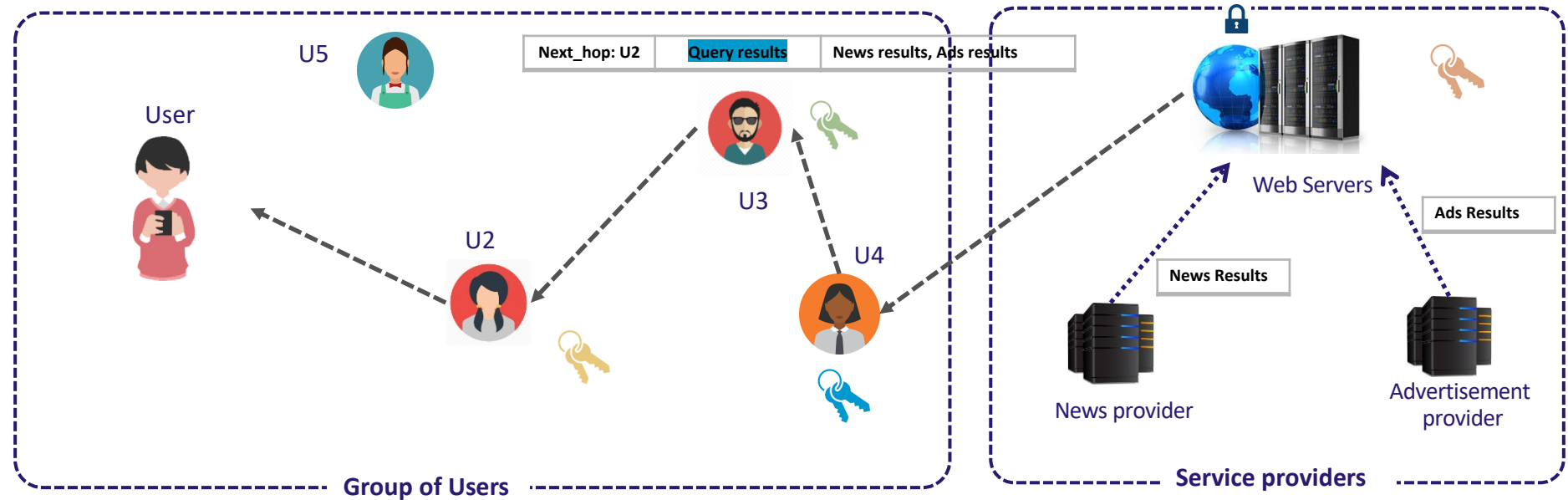


## Query's response process

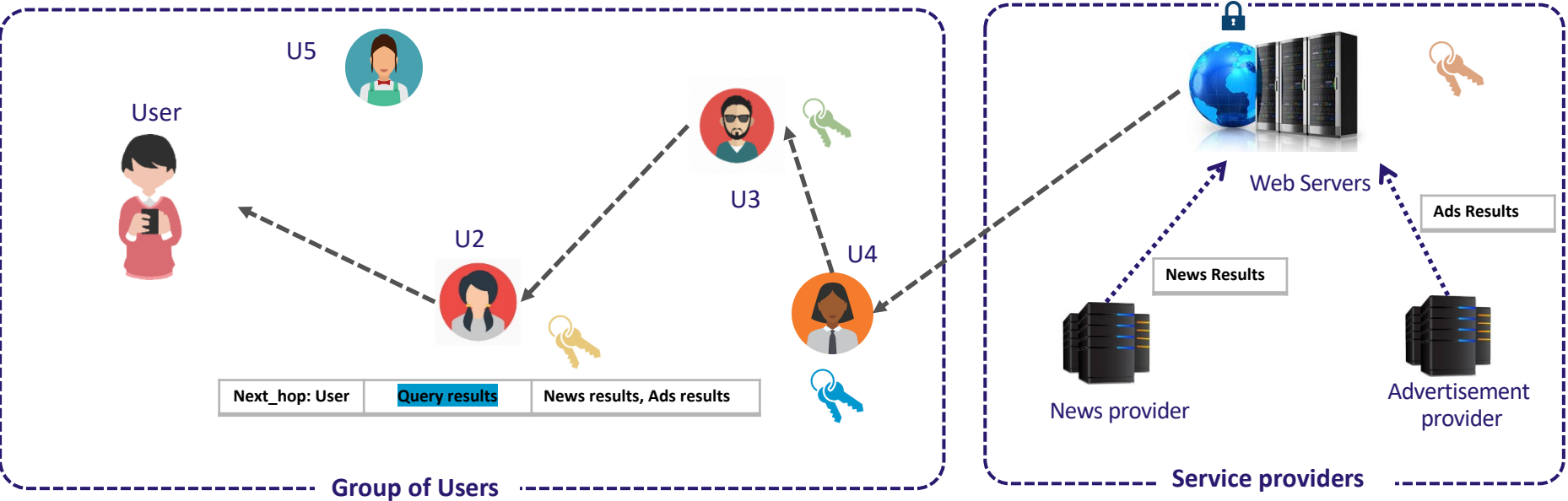


# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's response process

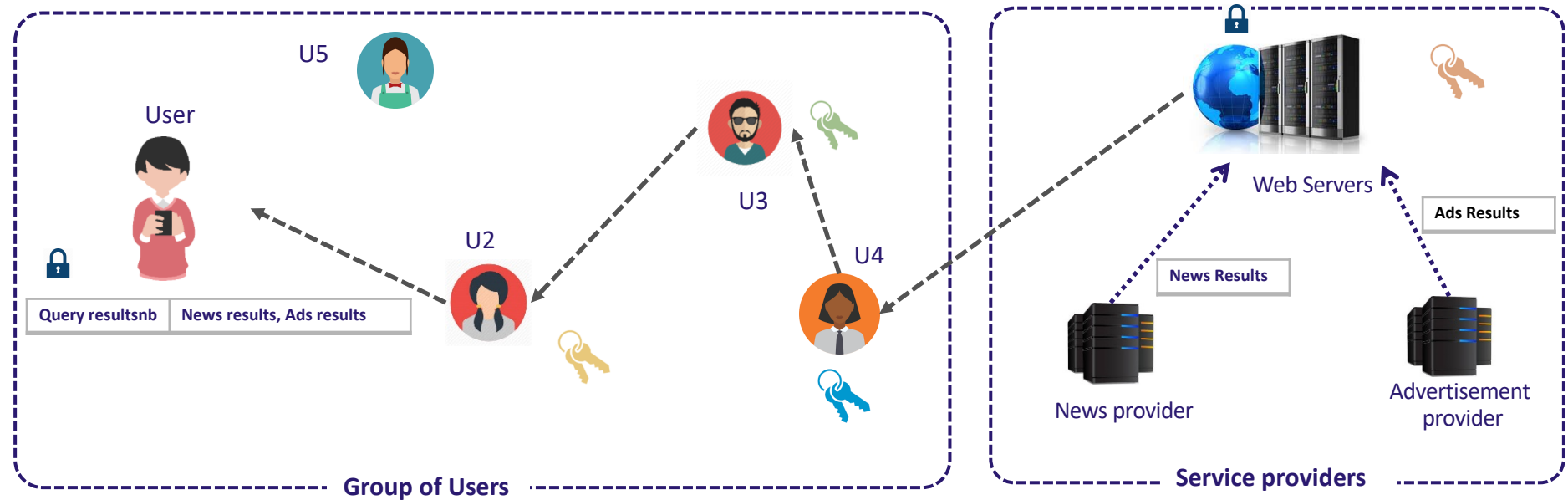


## Query's response process



# Privacy-preserving WSE: a collaborative approach

## Query's response process



- Collaboration with Qwant, France – <https://github.com/QwantResearch/masq-app/>
- **Kaaniche** N., Masmoudi S., Znina S., Laurent M. and Demir L., Privacy Preserving Cooperative Computation for Personalized Web Search Applications, 35<sup>th</sup> ACM SAC 2020





## Privacy-preserving WSE and beyond?

(+) Better outreach for WSE-side applications based on aggregated profiles

(+) User-empowerment: control of disclosed personal data

(-) Collaboration between users: Computation overhead

⇒ *Ongoing research: Perturbation at the client side*

(\*) Personalization vs Privacy trade-offs

⇒ *Ongoing research: Reliance on ML algorithms to enhance privacy based on a GAN-inspired approach*



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Privacy Preserving Fine grained Access Control to Outsourced Data

## Access Control in the Cloud: Challenges?

### Access Control List (ACL):

- Save users identities in ACL
- Check ACL to authorise users
- Managed by a trusted party

### Role Based Access Control (RBAC):

- Identify users by roles
- Users' roles match data roles
- Managed by a trusted party

### Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC):

- Identify users by attributes
- Users' attributes match data roles
- Managed by a trusted party



- Reliance on the cloud server
- Confidentiality against SP
- Privacy



## Encrypted Access Control in the Cloud

### •Selective Encryption

- Encrypting data before outsourcing.
- Achieving fine-grained access control based on effective attributes.

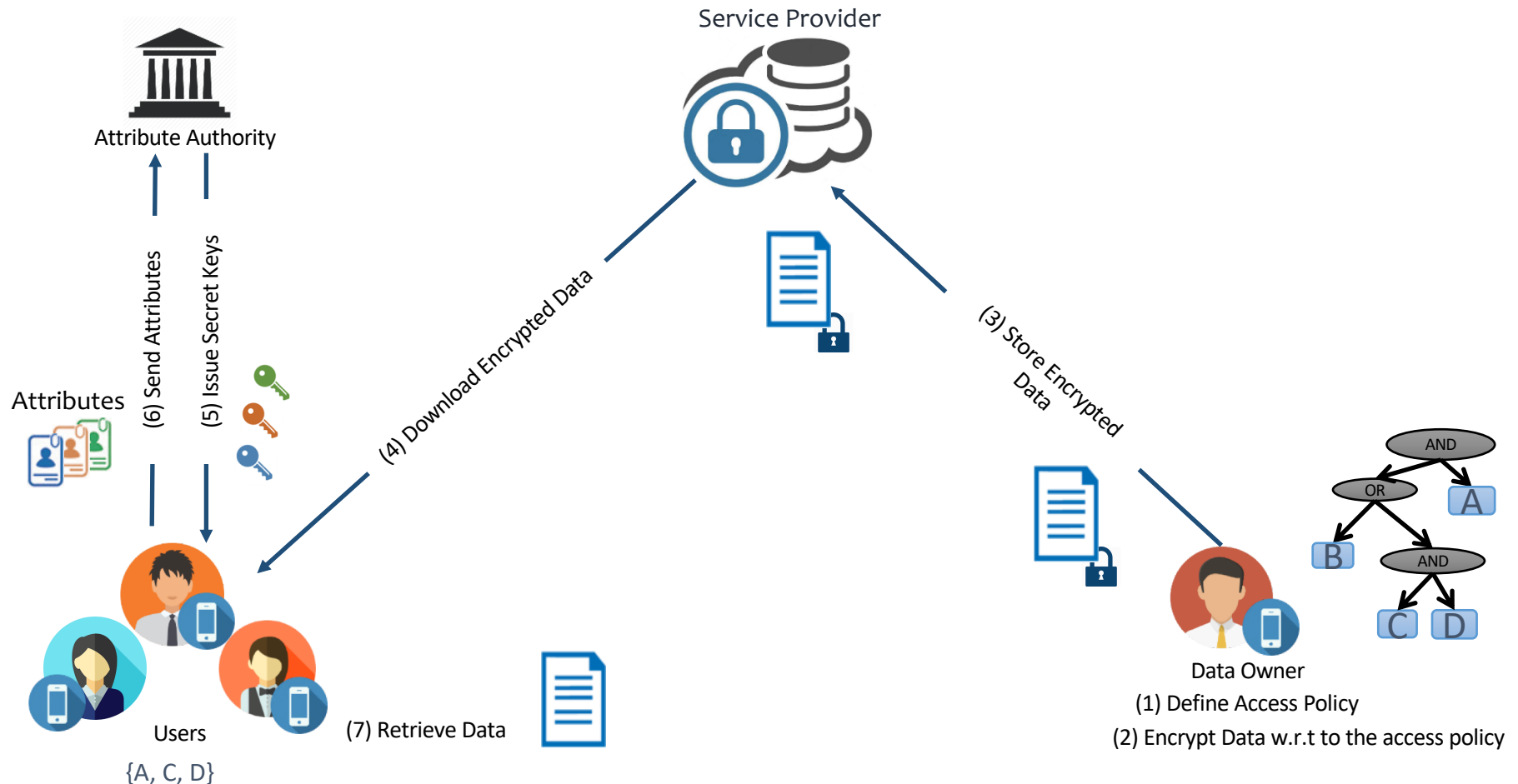
### •Attribute Based Encryption

- Both users' private keys and ciphertexts are associated with a set of attributes or a structure over attributes.
- User is able to decrypt a ciphertext if there is a match between his private key and the ciphertext

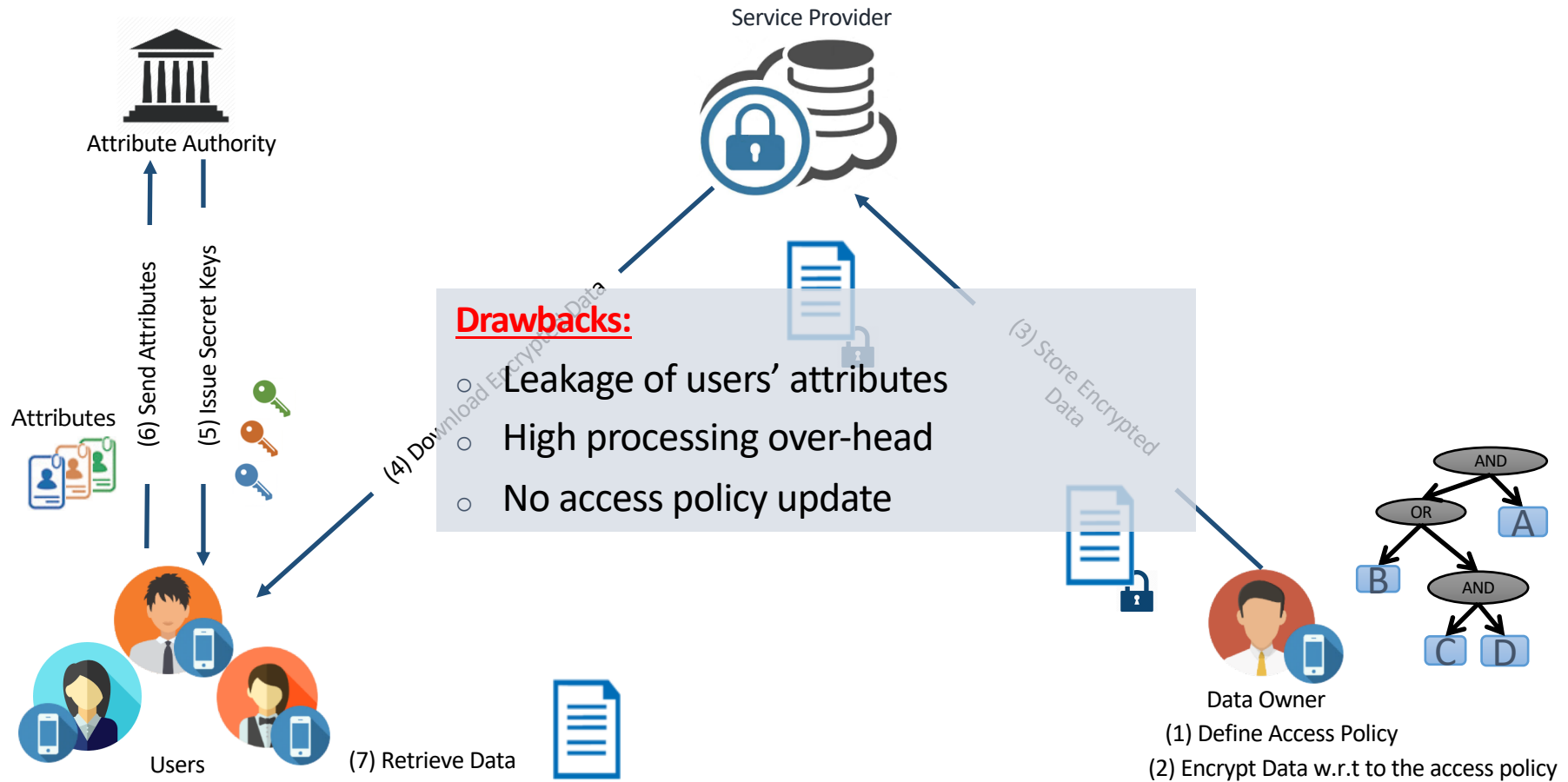
- Key management
- Confidentiality
- Privacy

- Easier key management system
- Flexibility in specifying different access rights
- Confidentiality

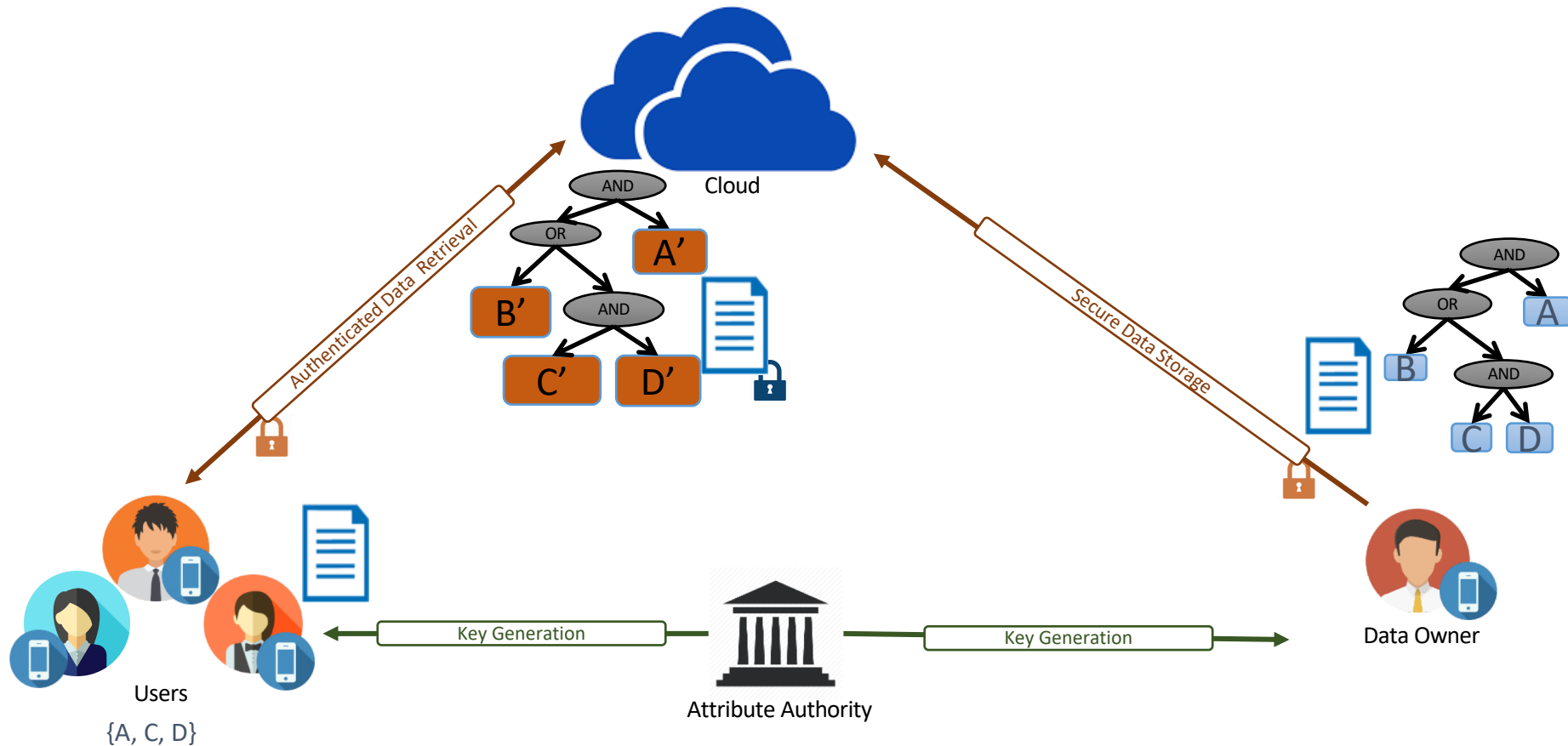
# Attribute Based Encryption (ABE)



# Attribute Based Encryption

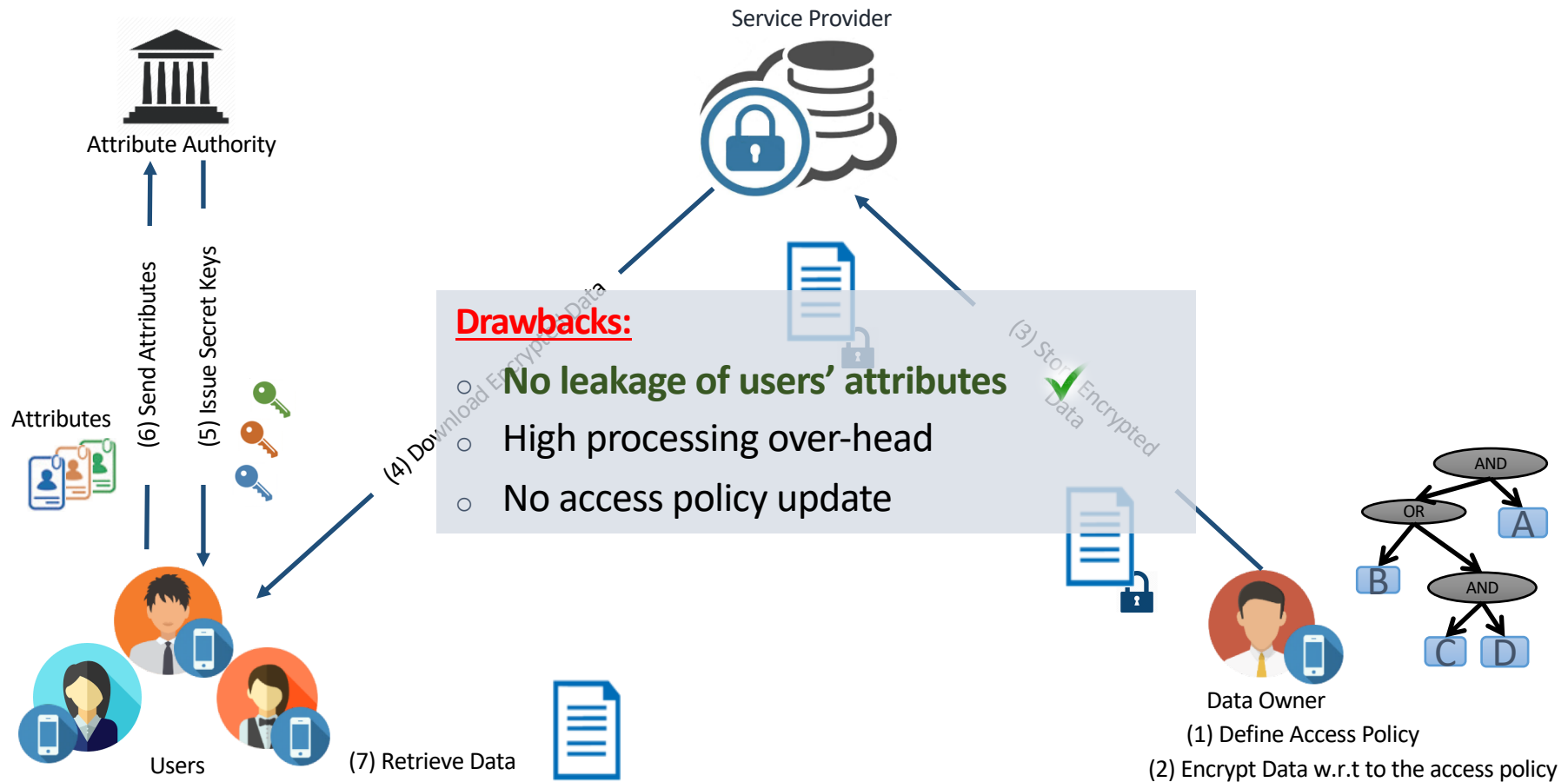


# Attribute Based Encryption: Hidden Access Policy



- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Laurent, M, Jemai, A. , Phoabe: Securely outsourcing multi-authority attribute based encryption with policy hidden for cloud assisted IoT, Computer Networks

# Attribute Based Encryption

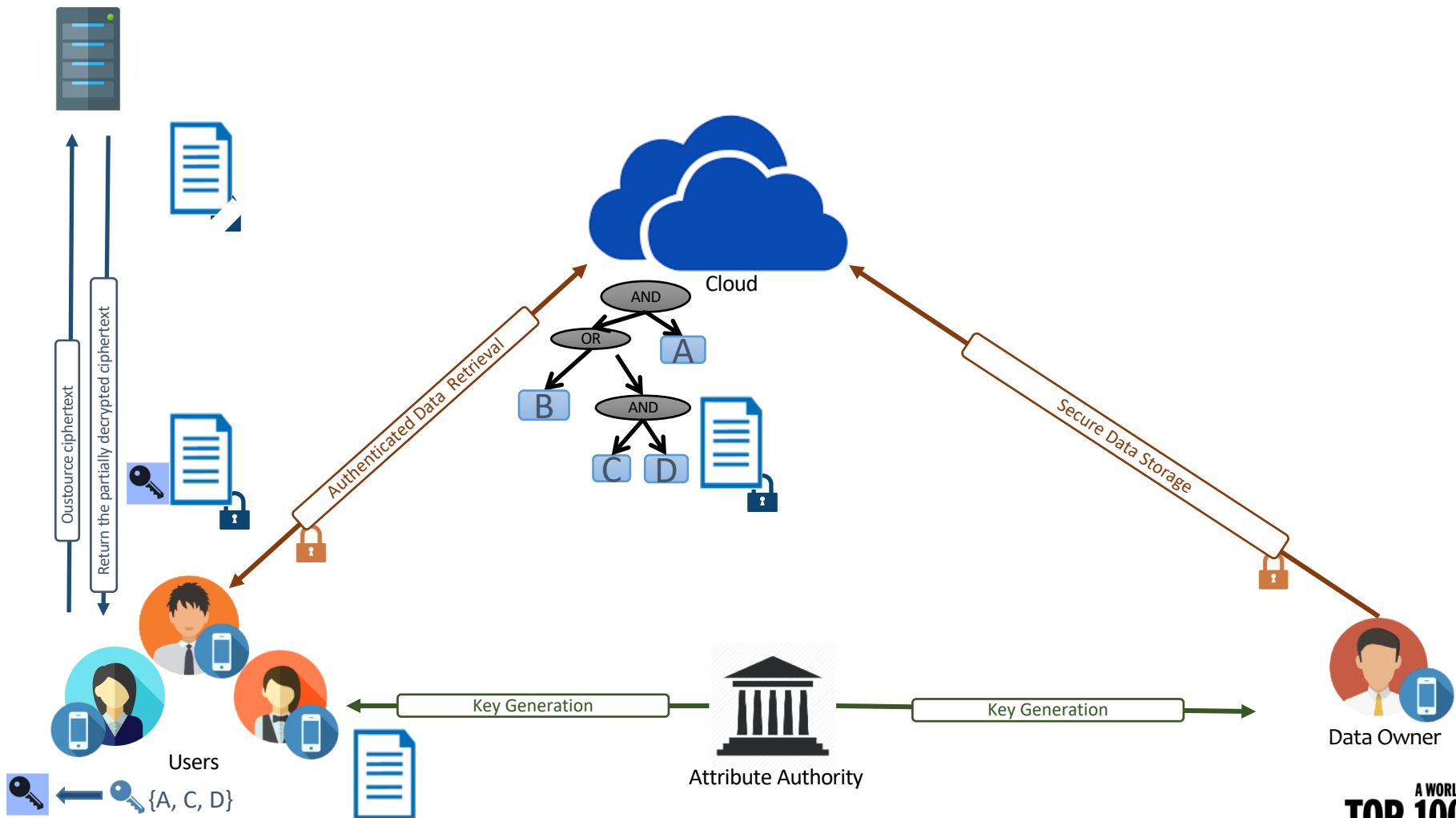


- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Laurent, M, Jemai, A. , Phoabe: Securely outsourcing multi-authority attribute based encryption with policy hidden for cloud assisted IoT, Computer Networks

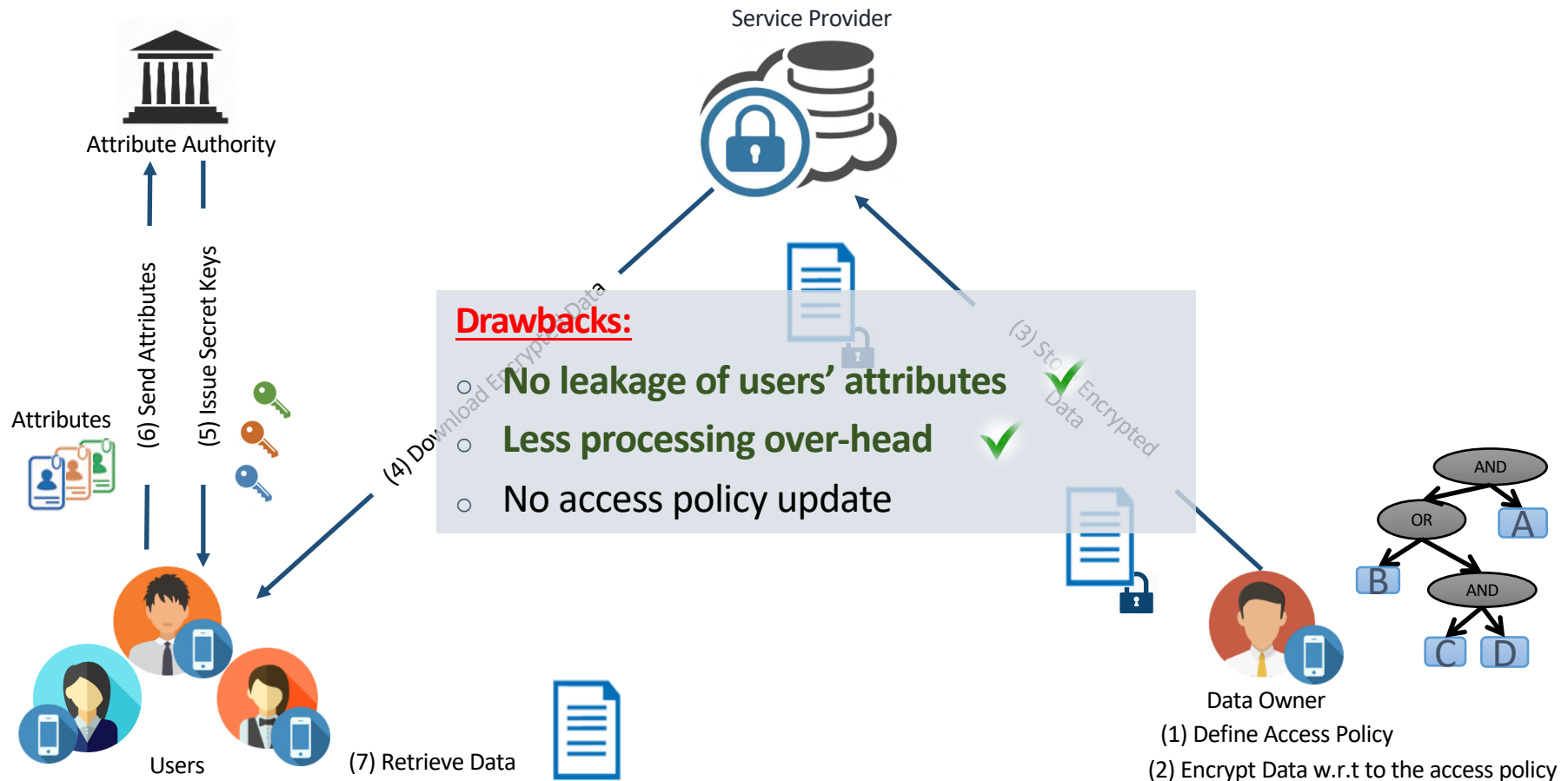


# Attribute Based Encryption: Outsourced Decryption

Semi Trusted Edge Server

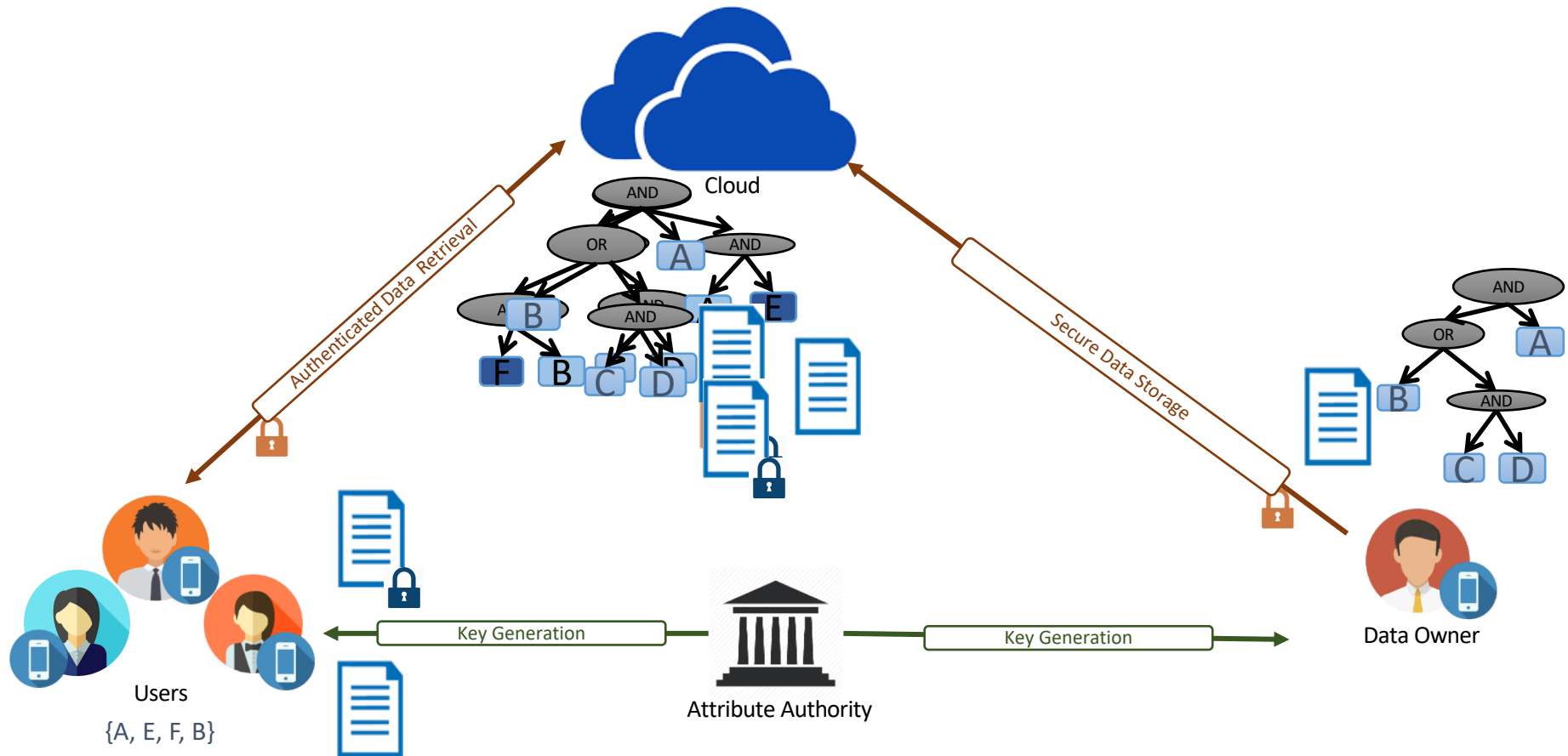


# Attribute based Encryption

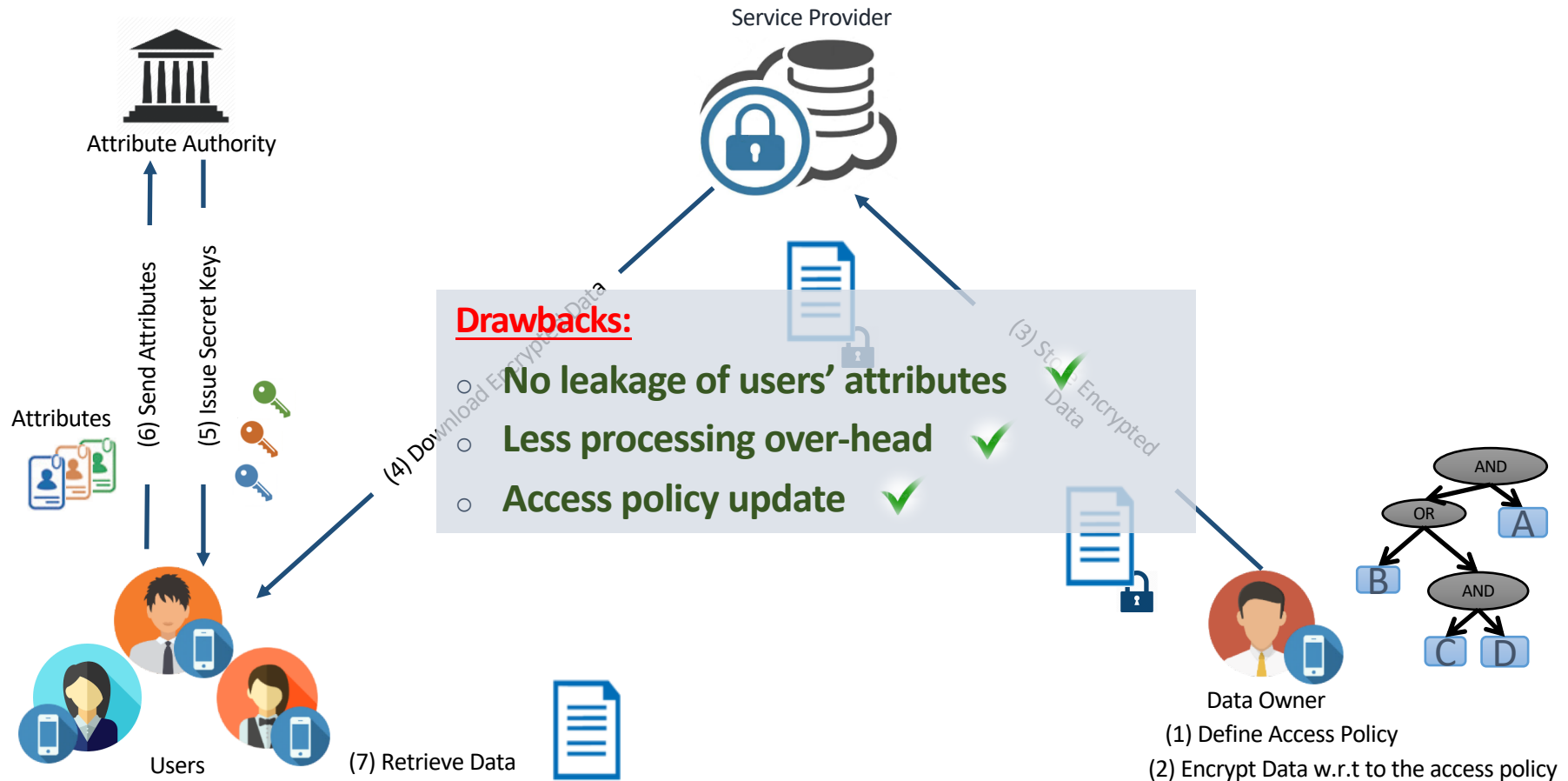


- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Hammoudeh, M., Dargahi, T., PROUD: verifiable privacy-preserving outsourced attribute based signcryption supporting access policy update for cloud assisted IoT applications, Future Generation Computer Networks

# Attribute-based Encryption : Access Policy Update



# Attribute Based Encryption

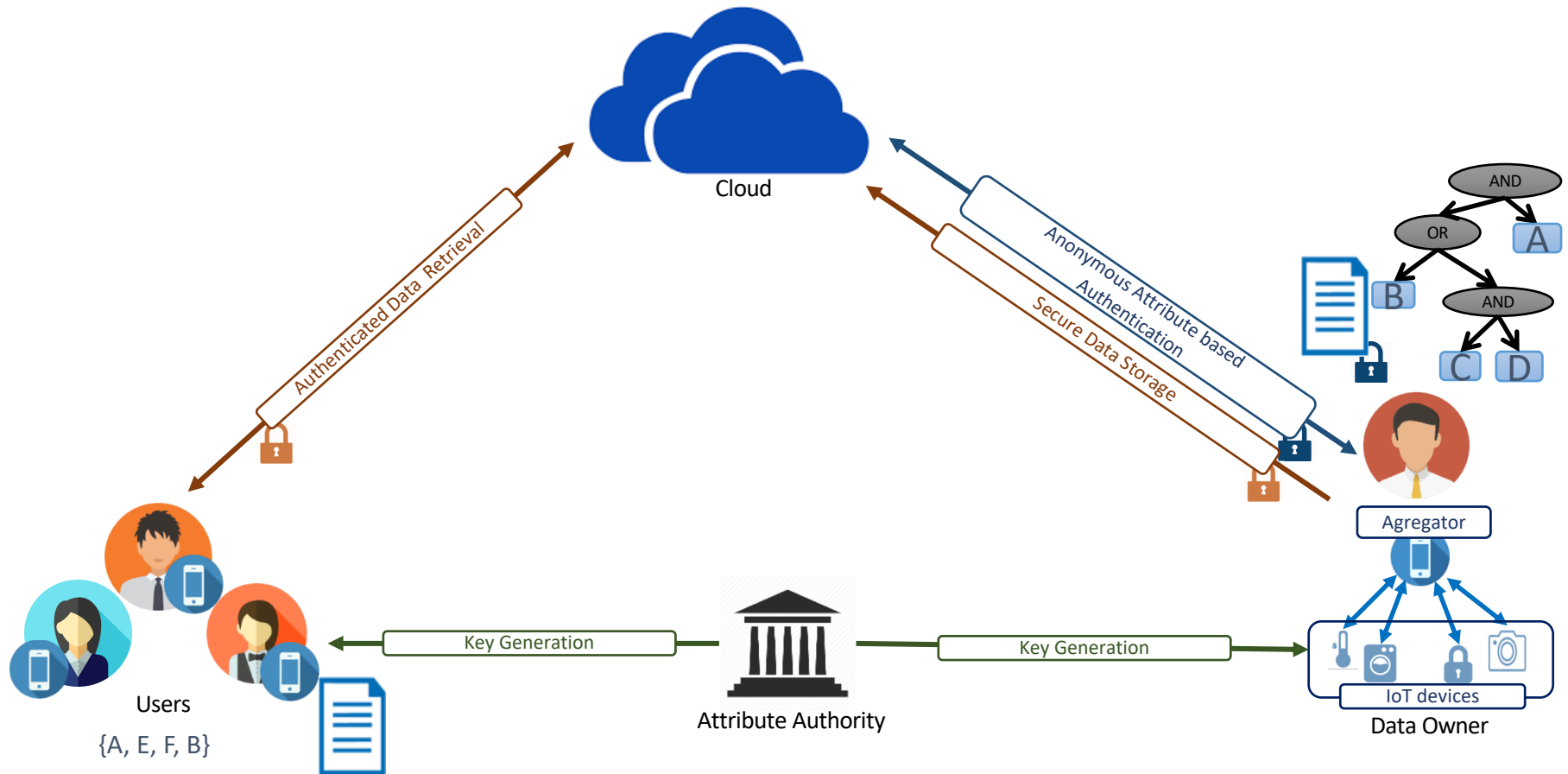


- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Hammoudeh, M., Dargahi, T. , PROUD: verifiable privacy-preserving outsourced attribute based signcryption supporting access policy update for cloud assisted IoT applications, Future Generation Computer Networks



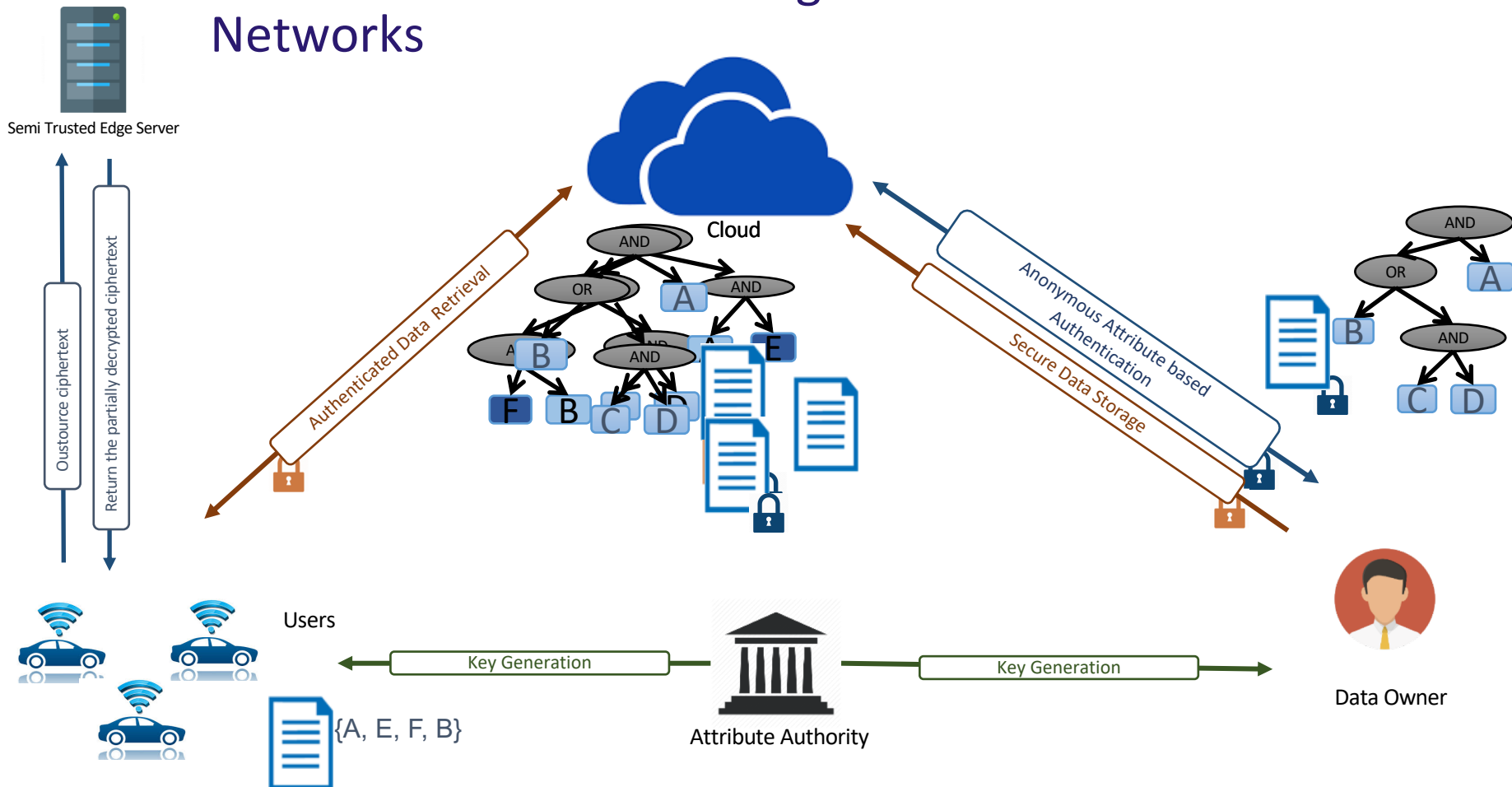
# Encrypted Fine-grained Access: Real World Applications

# Data Aggregation in Cloud-assisted IoTs: Smart Home Use Case



- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Mohamed, M, Russello G, T. , Coop-daab: Cooperative attribute based data aggregation for internet of things applications, OTM Conference

# Authenticated Data sharing in Cloud-assisted Vehicular Networks



- Belguith S, **Kaaniche N.**, Hammoudeh, M, Dargahi, T. , PROUD: verifiable privacy-preserving outsourced attribute based signcryption supporting access policy update for cloud assisted IoT applications, Future Generation Computer Networks



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Interdisciplinary Discussion & Research Directions





## Technical Challenges

- Privacy preserving auditing tools
  - Transparency and auditing concerns have been addressed by a minority of works → Need to address these requirements which have been emphasized by recent regulations.
  - *Examples of recent works: Intel-SGX provenance systems, informed consent for e-health applications, transactional privacy in blockchain-based systems*
- Privacy preserving data collection techniques
  - Massive collection of sensitive data, by AI-based systems, in emerging pervasive applications → Need for privacy preserving data collection processes,
  - *Research directions: privacy-enhancing cryptographic methods (i.e., homomorphic encryption on encrypted users' data) to meet an agreement between privacy, efficiency and quality of experience.*
- Privacy sensitive processing for ubiquitous environments
  - Need for lightweight security/privacy solutions adapted to resource-constrained devices (mobile devices).
  - *Examples of recent solutions: Intel-SGX based solutions for pervasive/ubiquitous applications.*



# Legal, Social & Economic Challenges

- Legal challenges
  - Several regulations and laws regarding data protection
  - *Research directions: translations laws/texts into efficient technical solutions, namely for users' consent collection and data transfers between several service providers*
- Social and economic challenges
  - User-experience is the main pillar to define the perimeter of private information and the utility over the adoptions of PETs
  - Several mediated cases: Kodak cameras, Google glasses, LG-TV..
  - Trade-off between protection strategies and economic activities
  - *Recent works: user empowerment approaches, the impact of data collection abuse practices on consumers' attitudes...*



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## Conclusions



## Conclusions

- Several user-centric privacy-preserving solutions based on attribute-based cryptographic techniques have introduced, while pointing out their applications in distributed systems, i.e., clouds, cloud-assisted IoTs, e-assessment platforms ...
- Several solutions at the server-side have been proposed, namely cooperative proofs of possession of outsourced data in cloud-of-clouds environments, authorized keyword search over outsourced encrypted data for multi-owner, multi-user settings, privacy preserving auditing systems, pseudonyms systems and privacy-enhancement for lifelogging personal assistants.
- Ongoing works and several collaborations are actually set-up with different universities and research labs: SRI International, USA; University of Salford, UK; University of NewCastle, AUS; and University of Auckland, NZ to investigate emerging privacy-preserving techniques.



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Thank you for your attention!

**Nesrine Kaaniche**

[n.kaaniche@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:n.kaaniche@sheffield.ac.uk)