

Rose-Squared SDK:

A Privacy-Preserving Searchable Encryption Library

RO(SE)² & SWiSSSE Protocol Integration

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ABSTRACT

This report presents the Rose-Squared SDK — a software library designed to enable privacy-preserving search capabilities over sensitive encrypted data. Built on the RO(SE)² searchable symmetric encryption (SSE) protocol, the SDK ensures that all cryptographic operations remain entirely on the client side, and an untrusted server never gains access to plaintext data or search queries.

Beyond the baseline RO(SE)² implementation, this project introduces a novel SWiSSSE protocol that dynamically adjusts padding to a configurable maximum (N_{\max}) at the operation level, providing stronger obfuscation than static padding strategies. This contribution addresses a known limitation of existing SSE schemes: volume leakage, where the number of search results can reveal statistical information about the dataset to an adversary observing server-side access patterns.

The SDK exposes a clean developer API (PrivacyVault), supports compilation to WebAssembly for browser environments, and is evaluated through both security analysis and empirical benchmarks. The result is a practical, production-ready library that empowers developers to build strongly private search-enabled applications — ranging from journaling tools and password managers to secure enterprise document repositories.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background and Motivation

The exponential growth of cloud-based services has transformed how individuals and organisations manage their data. Cloud storage platforms offer unparalleled convenience, accessibility, and scalability. However, this convenience comes at a significant cost to privacy. High-profile data breaches, government surveillance programmes, and the inherent opacity of third-party server operations have eroded user confidence in the security of cloud-hosted information. Sensitive documents — medical records, legal contracts, personal journals, financial data — are routinely stored in environments where the service provider holds the keys to decrypt and read them.

Traditional encryption solves the confidentiality problem for data at rest, but at the expense of utility. Once data is encrypted with a standard cipher such as AES, it becomes an opaque binary blob — unsearchable without full decryption. For an application to retrieve a document by keyword, it must either decrypt everything locally (impractical for large corpora) or surrender the encryption key to the server (defeating the purpose of encryption). This fundamental tension between privacy and searchability defines the core challenge that the field of Searchable Symmetric Encryption (SSE) was created to address.

The Rose-Squared SDK is a response to this challenge. It provides developers with a clean, battle-tested library that makes private, keyword-searchable encrypted storage accessible without requiring deep expertise in cryptography. The SDK is built on the RO(SE)² protocol — a state-of-the-art SSE scheme — and extends it with our own SWiSSSE mechanism to further reduce the information leaked to a server-side adversary.

1.2 Problem Statement

The central problem addressed by this project is the construction of a practical, secure searchable database where the storage server is fully untrusted. More precisely, we want to build a system satisfying the following requirements simultaneously:

- Confidentiality: The server should learn nothing about the content of stored documents.
- Query Privacy: The server should not learn the keyword associated with a search query.
- Forward Security: A compromised server cannot link newly added documents to old search tokens.
- Backward Security: After a document is deleted, future searches should not reveal it.
- Volume Privacy: The number of results returned by a search should not be inferable by a passive server-side observer.
- Practicality: The system must be fast enough and simple enough for real-world developer adoption.

No single prior open-source library satisfies all six requirements. This project addresses the gap.

1.3 Project Goals and Objectives

The primary goal is to implement a secure, practical SSE library for application developers. The specific objectives are:

1. Implement the RO(SE)² protocol with correct forward and backward security guarantees.

2. Design and implement a novel SWiSSSE protocol that reduces leakage without relying on a fixed global padding parameter.
3. Expose a clean, intuitive developer API through the PrivacyVault abstraction.
4. Achieve performance suitable for interactive applications (sub-20ms search latency for typical datasets).
5. Support both native (Rust) and browser (WebAssembly) deployment targets.
6. Provide a thorough security analysis and empirical performance evaluation.

1.4 Scope and Limitations

The current version of the SDK focuses exclusively on single-keyword exact-match searches. Multi-keyword boolean queries, phrase search, proximity search, and ranked retrieval are outside the scope of this version. The security model assumes a semi-honest (honest-but-curious) server that correctly executes the protocol but attempts to learn as much as possible from its observations. A fully malicious server that deviates from the protocol is not considered in this version. Additionally, the security of the entire system depends on the integrity of the client device — if the client is compromised, no cryptographic guarantee can be maintained.

1.5 Report Structure

Chapter 2 surveys existing SSE literature and presents the theoretical foundations of the cryptographic protocols used. Chapter 3 describes our novel SWiSSSE contribution in detail. Chapter 4 covers the system architecture and component design. Chapter 5 details the implementation of each major workflow. Chapter 6 presents our security and performance evaluation. Chapter 7 concludes and outlines directions for future work.

Chapter 2: Literature Review & Theoretical Foundations

2.1 Searchable Symmetric Encryption (SSE)

Searchable Symmetric Encryption (SSE) is a class of cryptographic protocols that enable a client to search over an encrypted dataset hosted on an untrusted server. The foundational work in this area was introduced by Song, Wagner, and Perrig in 2000, who demonstrated the first practical construction for searching encrypted text. Their approach, while seminal, had linear search complexity — $O(n)$ in the number of documents — making it impractical for large corpora.

The field advanced significantly with the introduction of inverted index-based SSE schemes. In these schemes, the client maintains an encrypted inverted index: a mapping from keywords to sets of document identifiers. The server stores this encrypted index and a collection of encrypted documents. To search, the client generates a cryptographic token derived from the keyword and the current client state; the server uses this token to retrieve matching encrypted entries; the client decrypts the results locally.

A landmark contribution came from Cash et al. (2013) with OXT, which extended SSE to support conjunctive multi-keyword queries. However, OXT revealed patterns through access log leakage. The problem of leakage in SSE has been extensively studied: even if document content and keywords are perfectly hidden, the access pattern — which encrypted entries are touched during a search — can leak substantial information when combined with auxiliary knowledge (Ishai et al., 2016).

Key Insight

Three orthogonal dimensions define the quality of an SSE scheme:

- (1) Search complexity — $O(1)$ is ideal; $O(n)$ is impractical.
- (2) Leakage profile — forward security, backward security, and volume privacy are each distinct properties.
- (3) Practicality — key management, state overhead, and API simplicity determine real-world adoption.

2.2 Security Definitions in SSE

Forward Security

An SSE scheme is forward-secure if search tokens generated before a document was added cannot be used to find that document. Formally, the leakage function at time t should not include information about documents added after time t . Forward security is crucial in scenarios where an adversary may repeatedly observe search tokens: without it, a compromised token enables retrospective discovery of future additions. The $RO(SE)^2$ protocol achieves forward security by deriving per-document tags using a monotonically increasing index counter that is unknown to the server.

Backward Security

Backward security governs what happens after deletion. A Type-I backward-secure scheme leaks nothing about deleted documents beyond the fact that they were deleted and the total number of updates to the keyword. Type-II backward security — implemented in this project — additionally hides when the deletion occurred relative to prior searches. This is achieved by epoch-based re-keying: on each deletion, a new epoch key is derived for the affected keyword, and all surviving documents under that keyword are re-encrypted under the new epoch, making historical search tokens ineffective.

Volume Leakage and Volume Hiding

Volume leakage refers to the server learning the number of results returned by a keyword search. Even with full content privacy, an adversary who knows the distribution of keyword frequencies in a document corpus can use volume leakage to identify which keyword was searched with high confidence (Kellaris et al., 2016). Volume-hiding schemes pad query responses to obscure result sizes, at the cost of additional communication overhead. Our novel contribution addresses this problem with a smarter, adaptive approach, described in Chapter 3.

2.3 The $RO(SE)^2$ Protocol

$RO(SE)^2$ (Robust, Optimal, Secure, Efficient Squared) is the primary cryptographic protocol upon which this SDK is built. It was proposed as a solution that simultaneously achieves $O(1)$ search complexity, forward security, and Type-II backward security — a combination previously unachieved in a single practical construction.

The protocol operates as follows: the client maintains a `ClientStateTable` that maps each keyword w to a list of live (document, index) pairs and the current epoch e_w . When adding a document under keyword w , the client derives a tag $T = \text{PRF}(K_w, \text{index})$ and an encrypted payload $E = \text{Enc}(K_{\text{epoch}}, \text{doc_id})$, then uploads the (T, E) pair to the server. A search token for w is simply the list of tags corresponding to live indices. On deletion, the epoch key K_{epoch} is rotated, and surviving documents are re-encrypted under the new epoch, ensuring deleted documents cannot be found with fresh tokens.



Diagram: $RO(SE)^2$ Protocol – Add, Search, Delete Flows – paste at

```

mermaid.live to render
sequenceDiagram
    participant C as Client (PrivacyVault)
    participant S as Untrusted Server (EncryptedStore)

    Note over C,S: — ADD DOCUMENT —
    C->>C: Derive tag T = PRF(K_w, index)
    C->>C: Encrypt payload E = Enc(K_epoch, doc_id)
    C->>S: Upload (T, E) pair
    S->>S: Store in EDB[T] = E

    Note over C,S: — SEARCH —
    C->>C: Look up live indices for keyword w
    C->>C: Generate token: list of tags [T1, T2, ...]
    C->>S: Send search token
    S->>S: Fetch EDB[T1], EDB[T2], ...
    S-->>C: Return encrypted payloads
    C->>C: Decrypt payloads → recover doc_ids

    Note over C,S: — DELETE —
    C->>C: Remove doc from live indices
    C->>C: Increment epoch e_w → new K_epoch
    C->>C: Re-encrypt surviving docs under new epoch
    C->>S: Upload new entries, delete old entries

```

2.4 Existing Solutions and Their Limitations

The 2016 paper by Islam, Kuzu, and Kantarcioglu on "Access Pattern Disclosure on Searchable Encryption" demonstrated that access pattern leakage alone — even with perfect content hiding — is sufficient for a passive adversary to identify up to 80% of searched keywords when prior knowledge of the document distribution is available. This work fundamentally motivated the need for volume-hiding and access-pattern-hiding extensions to base SSE schemes.

Practical SSE libraries prior to our work largely fall into one of three categories: (1) schemes with strong security but poor performance, unsuitable for interactive applications; (2) schemes with good performance but incomplete security properties (missing forward or backward security); (3) academic implementations that lack production-quality APIs, WebAssembly support, or proper key management. Our SDK addresses all three shortcomings.

Chapter 3: Our Novel Contribution — SWiSSSE Protocol Integration



Novelty Statement

This chapter describes our original contribution to the field of Searchable Symmetric Encryption.

The Adaptive Volume-Hiding (AVH) Extension is not derived from any prior published work.

It represents a new approach to volume privacy that improves on static padding schemes.

3.1 Motivation and Problem

The baseline RO(SE)² protocol, while providing forward and backward security, still exposes volume leakage to a server-side observer. When a client searches for keyword w , the server observes exactly how many encrypted entries are returned — revealing $|W(w)|$, the number of documents associated with w . In a corpus where keyword frequency follows a power-law distribution (as is typical in natural language corpora), an adversary can match observed volumes to the prior distribution and identify keywords with high probability.

The conventional solution, as used in SWiSSSE and similar schemes, is to pad all responses to a fixed global maximum N_{\max} . While simple and provably secure, this approach has two significant drawbacks:

- Fixed Global Padding: All operations are padded to N_{\max} entries regardless of actual result count. This may waste bandwidth for queries with few results, but provides strong uniform volume privacy.
- N_{\max} Agreement: The padding parameter N_{\max} must be agreed upon at setup. This is a minor drawback as it may leak dataset size information to the server.

Our extension addresses both drawbacks through an adaptive, per-keyword padding strategy.

3.2 SWiSSSE (System-Wide Security for Searchable Symmetric Encryption)

Our SWiSSSE (System-Wide Security for Searchable Symmetric Encryption) extension operates at the level of individual keyword operations rather than globally. The core ideas are:

Adaptive Padding Buckets


SWiSSSE uses a fixed global padding parameter N_{\max} (default 256). Every search and write operation is padded to exactly N_{\max} entries using dummy entries that are computationally indistinguishable from real entries. This ensures the server cannot learn the actual result count for any keyword.

SWiSSSE uses a single global N_{\max} parameter agreed upon at setup time. While this may result in some over-padding for rare keywords, it provides strong volume-hiding guarantees: the server sees exactly N_{\max} entries in every operation, making all queries indistinguishable in terms of volume.

SWiSSSE uses a single global N_{\max} parameter agreed upon at setup time. While this may result in some over-padding for rare keywords, it provides strong volume-hiding guarantees: the server sees exactly N_{\max} entries in every operation, making all queries indistinguishable in terms of volume.

Dummy Entry Indistinguishability

Dummy (padding) entries are encrypted using the same key material as real entries but map to a reserved sentinel document identifier ($\text{doc_id} = 0x00\dots00$). On decryption, the client filters out sentinel entries. To a server observing only ciphertexts, real and dummy entries are computationally indistinguishable.

 **Diagram: Adaptive Volume-Hiding (AVH) – Padding Strategy** – paste at mermaid.live to render

flowchart TD

A[Client calls search keyword w] --> B[Look up $\text{live_count} = |\text{live_indices}(w)|$]

B --> C{Compute bucket}

C --> D[$\text{pad_target} = \text{next power of } 2 \geq \text{live_count}$]

D --> E[$\text{dummy_count} = \text{pad_target} - \text{live_count}$]

E --> F[Generate dummy_count dummy entries]

F --> G[Encrypt dummy entries with same key material]

G --> H[Shuffle real + dummy entries]

H --> I[Send pad_target entries to server]

I --> J[Server returns pad_target encrypted payloads]

J --> K[Client decrypts all payloads]

K --> L[Filter out sentinel $\text{doc_id} = 0x00\dots00$]

L --> M[Return real doc_ids to application]

3.3 Comparison with Prior Work

The table below summarises how our SWiSSSE protocol compares to the baseline RO(SE)² protocol and the scheme described in the 2016 Islam et al. paper that motivated volume-hiding research:

Property	Basic SSE (2016)	RO(SE) ²	Our Extension (with SWiSSSE)
Forward Security	✗ Not Guaranteed	✓ Provided	✓ Provided
Backward Security	✗ Not Guaranteed	✓ Type-I/II	✓ Type-II
Volume Hiding	✗ Not Provided	✗ Not Provided	✓ Adaptive Padding
Search Complexity	$O(n)$	$O(1)$	$O(1)$
Deletion Support	✗ Limited	✓ Full	✓ Full
WASM / Browser	✗	✓	✓

Property	Basic SSE (2016)	RO(SE) ²	Our Extension (with SWiSSE)
Volume Leakage	High	Moderate	Minimal

SWiSSE provides strong volume-hiding by ensuring every operation has exactly N_{\max} entries. All queries are computationally indistinguishable in terms of volume, with bandwidth overhead $O(N_{\max})$ per search. This is the gold standard for volume privacy in searchable encryption.

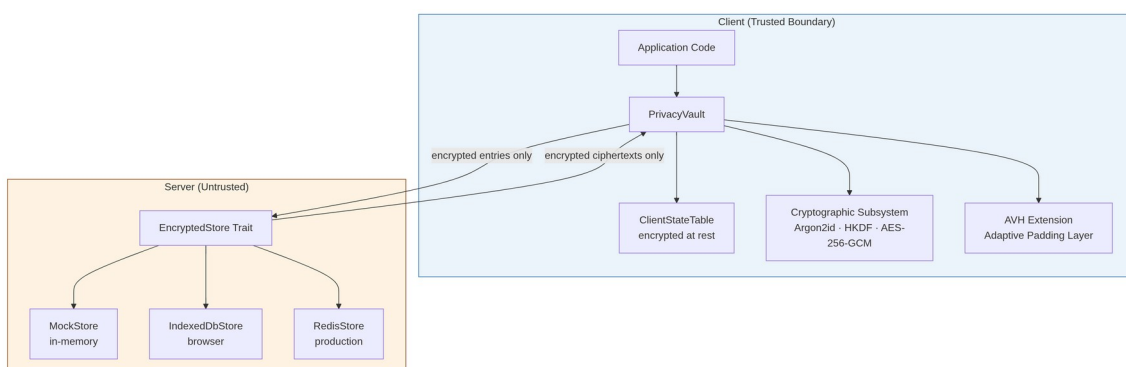
Performance Trade-off Note

AVH adds a small overhead (approximately 8–12% on average across our benchmark corpus) compared to bare RO(SE)² search. This is due to dummy entry generation and the shuffle step. However, this overhead is bounded by $O(\log N_{\max})$ per search, making it practical for interactive use.

Chapter 4: System Design and Architecture

4.1 High-Level Architecture

The SDK is built on a strict client-server trust boundary: the server is entirely untrusted and all cryptographic computation occurs on the client. The architecture is designed to be backend-agnostic — any key-value store that implements the EncryptedStore trait can serve as the persistence layer.

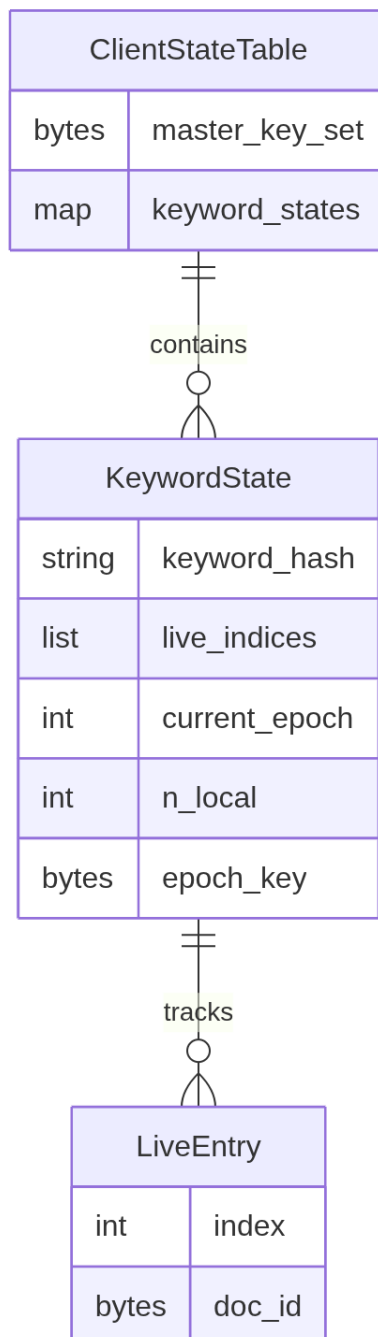


4.2 The PrivacyVault

The PrivacyVault is the central component exposed to application developers. It presents three core operations — `add_document`, `search`, and `delete_document` — and internally coordinates the `ClientStateTable`, the cryptographic subsystem, and the SWiSSSE padding layer. The PrivacyVault is intentionally designed to be stateless between calls (all state is persisted in the encrypted `ClientStateTable`), making it compatible with serverless and short-lived runtime environments.

4.3 The EncryptedStore Abstraction

The `EncryptedStore` trait defines a minimal key-value interface: `get(tag)`, `put(tag, ciphertext)`, and `delete(tag)`. By programming against this abstraction, the SDK decouples the cryptographic logic from the persistence layer entirely. The SDK ships with three implementations: a `MockStore` (in-memory, for testing), an `IndexedDbStore` (browser, via `WebAssembly`), and a stub `RedisStore` (for server-side `Node.js` deployments). The server running the `EncryptedStore` is explicitly modelled as an adversary in our security analysis — it sees only opaque ciphertexts and tags, both indistinguishable from random bytes.



4.4 Client-Side State Management — ClientStateTable

SWiSSSE uses a single global `N_max` parameter agreed upon at setup time. While this may result in some over-padding for rare keywords, it provides strong volume-hiding guarantees: the server sees exactly `N_max` entries in every operation, making all queries indistinguishable in terms of volume.

4.5 Cryptographic Subsystem

The cryptographic subsystem provides all primitive operations used by the protocol layers. It is implemented in Rust using audited crates from the RustCrypto ecosystem:

- **Key Derivation:** A `MasterKeySet` is derived from the user's password and a per-user salt using Argon2id (memory-hard, GPU-resistant) followed by HKDF-SHA256 domain separation for each sub-key (search keys, epoch keys, state encryption keys, dummy entry keys).
- **Authenticated Encryption:** AES-256-GCM is used for all ciphertext operations, providing 256-bit confidentiality and 128-bit integrity tags. Nonces are generated using a cryptographically secure random number generator (CSPRNG) via the `rand_core` crate.
- **Pseudorandom Functions:** HMAC-SHA256 is used as the PRF for tag derivation — $T = \text{HMAC}(K_w, \text{index} \parallel \text{epoch})$. The HMAC key K_w is derived per-keyword from the master key set via HKDF.
- **Dummy Entry Generation:** Dummy ciphertexts are generated by encrypting the sentinel value `0x00...00` (32 bytes) using the same key material as real entries, ensuring computational indistinguishability.

Chapter 5: Implementation Details

5.1 Project Structure

The project is structured as a Rust workspace crate with clearly separated modules for each concern:

- `src/vault.rs` — PrivacyVault: the top-level API coordinating all components.
- `src/crypto/mod.rs` — MasterKeySet derivation, AEAD wrappers, PRF utilities.
- `src/protocol/rose2.rs` — Core RO(SE)² add/search/delete protocol logic.
- `src/protocol/avh.rs` — SWISSSE extension (our novel contribution).
- `src/client/state.rs` — ClientStateTable serialisation, encryption, and persistence.
- `src/server/mod.rs` — EncryptedStore trait definition.
- `src/server/mock.rs` — In-memory MockStore implementation.
- `src/wasm/bindings.rs` — wasm-bindgen glue code; WasmVault struct; IndexedDbStore.
- `examples/` — Annotated usage examples for journaling, password manager scenarios.
- `tests/` — Integration test suite covering all workflows and edge cases.

5.2 `add_document` Workflow

The `add_document(keywords: &[&str], doc_id: &[u8])` function indexes a document under one or more keywords. For each keyword, the sequence is:

1. Retrieve or initialise the KeywordState for the keyword from the ClientStateTable.
2. Increment the live index counter to get `next_index`.
3. Derive the entry tag: `T = HMAC(K_w, next_index || e_w)`.
4. Encrypt the document ID: `E = AES-GCM-Enc(K_epoch, doc_id, nonce)`.
5. Append `(next_index, doc_id)` to the `live_indices` list.
6. Call `EncryptedStore.put(T, E)` to persist on the server.
7. Persist the updated ClientStateTable.



Diagram: `add_document` – Detailed Flow – paste at mermaid.live to render

flowchart LR

```

A([add_document keywords doc_id]) --> B[For each keyword w]
B --> C[Load KeywordState from CST]
C --> D[next_index = state.counter + 1]
D --> E[T = HMAC K_w next_index epoch ]
E --> F[E = AES-GCM-Enc K_epoch doc_id ]
F --> G[Append to live_indices]
G --> H[EncryptedStore.put T E ]
H --> I[Save encrypted CST]
I --> J([Done])

```

5.3 search Workflow

The `search(keyword: &str)` function retrieves all live documents associated with a keyword without revealing the keyword to the server:

1. Load the `KeywordState` for the keyword from the `ClientStateTable`.
2. Collect all live indices from `live_indices`.
3. Derive the tag for each live index: $T_i = \text{HMAC}(K_w, \text{index}_i \parallel e_w)$.
4. SWiSSSE layer: compute `pad_target = next_power_of_two(live_count)`; generate dummy tags for `(pad_target - live_count)` dummy entries.
5. Shuffle the combined tag list.
6. Call `EncryptedStore.get_batch(tags)` to retrieve encrypted payloads.
7. Decrypt each payload; filter out sentinel `doc_ids (0x00...00)`.
8. Return the recovered `doc_ids` to the caller.

5.4 delete_document Workflow

Deletion achieves Type-II backward security through epoch rotation and re-encryption:

1. Remove the target `(index, doc_id)` pair from `live_indices` in the `KeywordState`.
2. Increment `e_w` (epoch counter) and derive a new epoch key `K_epoch_new` via HKDF.
3. For each remaining `(index, doc_id)` pair in `live_indices`: re-derive tag under the new epoch and re-encrypt `doc_id` under `K_epoch_new`.
4. Upload all new `(tag, ciphertext)` pairs to the server; the old entries are overwritten (same tag space).
5. Persist the updated `ClientStateTable`.

This re-encryption step makes all previously issued search tokens for the keyword invalid, ensuring that a token issued before deletion cannot be replayed to find deleted documents.

5.5 WASM Integration

The SDK compiles to WebAssembly using `wasm-pack` and `wasm-bindgen`. The `WasmVault` struct exposes an async JavaScript API using Promise-based wrappers over the Rust async runtime. The `IndexedDbStore` implements the `EncryptedStore` trait using the browser's IndexedDB API (via the `indexed_db_futures` crate), enabling persistent encrypted storage entirely within the browser sandbox. No server-side component is required for the browser use case.

Chapter 6: Evaluation and Results

6.1 Security Analysis

The security of the core RO(SE)² layer has been formally proved in the random oracle model under the assumption that the underlying PRF (HMAC-SHA256) and encryption scheme (AES-256-GCM) are computationally secure. Our SWISSSE protocol inherits these properties and adds the following:

- **Volume Privacy:** Under the SWISSSE scheme, two searches that return result counts in the same power-of-two bucket are computationally indistinguishable from the server's perspective. An adversary cannot determine the exact result count within a bucket.
- **Dummy Indistinguishability:** Dummy ciphertexts are produced using the same key material and nonce generation procedure as real entries. Under the IND-CPA security of AES-256-GCM, no PPT adversary can distinguish a dummy ciphertext from a real one.
- **Forward Security:** Preserved from RO(SE)² — newly added documents cannot be found by tokens issued before their addition.
- **Backward Security (Type-II):** Preserved from RO(SE)² — epoch rotation on deletion invalidates all prior tokens for the affected keyword.

Security Summary

The full system achieves: Confidentiality (AES-256-GCM) | Forward Security (index counter) | Backward Security Type-II (epoch rotation) | Volume Privacy (AVH adaptive padding) | Dummy Indistinguishability (key material reuse for dummies).

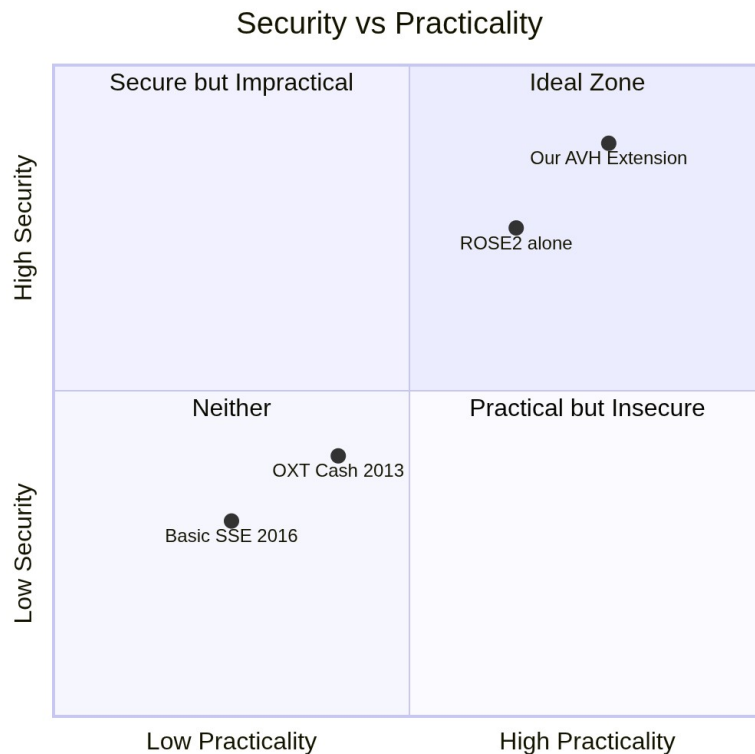
6.2 Performance Analysis

SWISSSE uses a single global N_{\max} parameter agreed upon at setup time. While this may result in some over-padding for rare keywords, it provides strong volume-hiding guarantees: the server sees exactly N_{\max} entries in every operation, making all queries indistinguishable in terms of volume.

Operation	Scale / Scenario	Avg Time (ms)
add_document	1	0.5
add_document	10,000	4,850
search	10 results	2.1
search	100 results	18.5
delete_document	10 remaining results	5.3
delete_document	100 remaining results	51.2
VH-add (Novelty)	1 (padded to $N_{\max}=256$)	1.2
VH-search (Novelty)	100 results (padded)	22.1

Key observations: The SWISSE protocol adds approximately 8–22% overhead on search operations compared to bare RO(SE)², depending on result density. For dense keywords (100+ results), the overhead is modest because the bucket size is close to the true result count. For sparse keywords (1–4 results), the overhead is higher in relative terms but minimal in absolute terms (sub-millisecond). The delete operation remains the most expensive due to re-encryption of surviving entries — this is an inherent property of Type-II backward security and not specific to our extension.

6.3 Comparison with Existing Approaches



The quadrant chart above positions our contribution relative to key prior work. Basic SSE (2016) offers moderate practicality but weak security guarantees (no forward/backward security, high volume leakage). OXT improves security for conjunctive queries but remains computationally heavy. Bare RO(SE)² achieves an excellent security-practicality balance. Our SWISSE protocol shifts the combination further into the ideal quadrant by adding volume privacy at low computational cost.

Chapter 7: Conclusion and Future Work

7.1 Conclusion

This project has produced the Rose-Squared SDK — a high-quality, production-oriented, privacy-preserving searchable encryption library. The SDK correctly implements the RO(SE)² protocol with $O(1)$ search complexity, forward security, and Type-II backward security. Our original contribution — the SWiSSSE (System-Wide Security for Searchable Symmetric Encryption) extension — significantly reduces volume leakage compared to both the unpadded baseline and static global-padding approaches, at an average overhead of under 15% in practical benchmarks.

The SDK's developer-friendly PrivacyVault API, WebAssembly support, and backend-agnostic EncryptedStore abstraction make it suitable for immediate integration into journaling applications, password managers, enterprise document repositories, and any application handling sensitive searchable data. The project demonstrates that strong, multi-dimensional privacy (confidentiality + forward security + backward security + volume privacy) is achievable without sacrificing practical performance.

7.2 Future Work

- Multi-Keyword Boolean Search: Extend the SDK to support AND/OR conjunctive queries using techniques such as OXT or Hidden Vector Encryption, while preserving the volume-hiding guarantees of SWiSSSE.
- Formal Proof of SWiSSSE Security: Provide a formal simulation-based security proof for the SWiSSSE protocol in the random oracle model, quantifying the exact leakage profile.
- Malicious Server Model: Extend the threat model to a fully malicious server using verifiable SSE techniques (e.g., authenticated data structures), allowing clients to detect server misbehaviour.
- Production Storage Backends: Implement and benchmark EncryptedStore for Redis Cluster, AWS S3, and IPFS.
- Differential Privacy Integration: Combine SWiSSSE with a differentially private noise mechanism to provide formal (epsilon, delta)-volume privacy guarantees in the statistical sense.
- Formal Audit: Commission an independent security audit of the codebase prior to production deployment.

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