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Foreword

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Introduction

Homomorphic Encryption is a type of symmetric or asymmetric encryption that allows third parties (i.e. parties that are neither the encryptor nor the decryptor) to perform operations on plaintext data while keeping the data in encrypted form. The primary purpose of homomorphic encryption is to allow third parties to perform such computations on data while simultaneously ensuring that the confidentiality of the plaintext data is preserved. It is typically the case that homomorphic encryption schemes require the plaintext to be represented in the form of elements of a group, rather than strings of bits or bytes as is the case with most conventional methods of encryption.

Homomorphic encryption mechanisms can be categorized by the nature of the operation(s) on the plaintext that they can support. This document considers homomorphic encryption mechanisms where the plaintext operation is typically addition and/or multiplication in a prescribed group.