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In electronic subscription and pay TV systems, data can be organized and encrypted using symmetric key algorithms according to predefined time periods and user privileges, then broadcast to users. This requires an efficient way to manage the encryption keys. In this scenario, time-bound key management schemes for a hierarchy were proposed by Tzeng and Chien in 2002 and 2005, respectively. Both schemes are insecure against collusion attacks. We propose a new key assignment scheme for access control which deploys elliptic curve cryptography. This scheme is both efficient and secure. We also provide analysis of the scheme with respect to security and efficiency issues. (Received September 18, 2007)