CS489/698 Privacy, Cryptography, Network and Data Security

Integrity and Authenticated Encryption

Spring 2024, Monday/Wednesday 11:30am-12:50pm

Block/Stream Ciphers, Public Key Cryptography...



Size of message on textbook RSA

• Overview:

$$(x^e)^d \equiv x \mod N$$

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$(x^e)^d \equiv x \mod N$



x has to be strictly smaller than **N**, otherwise decryption will produce erroneous values. Ok! So we can break the message in **chunks**! But perhaps we're better served with **hybrid** schemes...







Can we Detect Messages Changed in Transit?





Can we Detect Messages Changed in Transit?





Checksums, appended so Bob can verify it

Not. Good. Enough.

Checksums are deterministic...I can construct fake ones.

Goal: Make it hard for Mallory to find a second message with the same checksum as the "real" one



Common examples:

• MD5, SHA-1, SHA-2, SHA-3 (aka Keccak after 2012)



Takes an arbitrary length string, and computes a fixed length string.

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Q: Why is this useful?

Common examples:

• MD5, SHA-1, SHA-2, SHA-3 (aka Keccak after 2012)

Properties: Preimage-Resistance



Goal: Given y, "hard" to find x such that h(x) = y

Properties: Second Preimage-Resistance



Properties: Collision-Resistance



Goal: It's hard to find any two distinct x, x' such that h(x) = h(x')



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Making it too hard to break these properties?

- SHA-1: takes 2¹⁶⁰ work to find a preimage or second image
- SHA-1: takes 2⁸⁰ to find a collision using brute-force search
 - \circ If there are 2ⁿ digests, we need to try an average 2^{n/2} messages to find 2 with the same digest

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- SHA-1: takes 2¹⁶⁰ work to find a preimage or second image
- SHA-1: takes 2⁸⁰ to find a collision using brute-force search
 - If there are 2^n digests, we need to try an average $2^{n/2}$ messages to find 2 with the same digest
- Collisions are always easier to find than preimages or second preimages due to the birthday paradox

The birthday paradox

• If there are **n** people in a room, what is the probability that at least two people have the same birthday?

• For n = 2: P(2) =
$$1 - \frac{364}{365}$$

• For n = 3: P(3) =
$$1 - \frac{364}{365} \times \frac{363}{365}$$

• For n people: P(n) =
$$1 - \frac{364}{365} \times \frac{363}{365} \times \dots \times \frac{365 - n - 1}{365}$$

Collisions are easier due to the birthday paradox

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How about a bad example? (Integrity over Conf.)



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A: Just change it...Mallory can compute the new hash herself.



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How about a less bad example? (Integrity & Conf.)



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Q: What can Mallory do to send the message she wants (change it)?

A: Still just change it.



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Limitations for Cryptographic Hash Functions

Integrity guarantees only when there is a <u>secure</u> ^{*}
way of sending/storing the message digest



Limitations for Cryptographic Hash Functions

- Integrity guarantees only when there is a <u>secure</u> way of sending/storing the message digest
- E.g.:

I could publish the hash of my public key on a business card



Good idea! Although the key would be too big to place on the card, I could use the hash to... verify it!

. .

Limitations for Cryptographic Hash Functions



Authentication and Hash Functions

- Use "keyed hash functions"
- Requires a key to generate or check the hash value (a.k.a., tag)



Called: Message authentication codes (MACs)

Message Authentication Codes (MACs)



Use "keyed hash functions" e.g., SHA-1-HMAC, SHA-256-HMAC, CBC-MAC

Combine Ciphers and MACs


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But how to combine them? Three possibilities

- MAC-then-Encrypt
- Encrypt-and-MAC
- Encrypt-then-MAC

But how to combine them? Three possibilities

MAC-then-Encrypt

Encrypt-and-MAC

Ideally, there is an authenticated encryption mode that combines them...but...

Let's make it work?

- Alice and Bob have a secret key k for a cryptosystem
- Also, a secret key K' for their MAC



How can Alice build a message for Bob in the following three scenarios?

MAC-then-Encrypt

- Alice and Bob have a secret key k for a cryptosystem and a secret key K' for their MAC
- Compute the MAC on the message, then encrypt the message and MAC together, and send that ciphertext.



Encrypt-and-MAC

- Alice and Bob have a secret key k for a cryptosystem and a secret key K' for their MAC
- Compute the MAC on the message, the encryption of the message, and send both.

[E_k(m)||MAC_{K′}(m)]



Encrypt-then-MAC

- Alice and Bob have a secret key k for a cryptosystem and a secret key K' for their MAC
- Encrypt the message, compute the MAC on the encryption, send encrypted message and MAC



Which order is correct?

Q: Which should be recommended then? $E_k(m||MAC_{K'}(m))$ vs. $E_k(m)||MAC_{K'}(m)$ vs. $E_k(m)||MAC_{K'}(E_k(m))$ MAC-then-encryptEncrypt-and-MACEncrypt-then-MAC

The Doom Principle



"if you have to perform any cryptographic operation before verifying the MAC on a message you've received, it will somehow inevitably lead to doom."

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Q: What are possible problems that can arise from the orderings?

- **MAC-then-Encrypt:** Allows an adversary to force Bob into decrypting the ciphertext before verifying the MAC. May lead to a padding oracle attack
- Encrypt-and-MAC: Allows an adversary to force Bob into decrypting the ciphertext to verify the MAC. May lead to a chosen-ciphertext attack



The Doom of MAC-then-Encrypt

Observation: To verify the MAC, Bob has first to decrypt the message, since the MAC is part of the encrypted payload

- **Padding oracle attack:** The idea is for the attacker to send modified ciphertexts to Bob and observe how he responds.
- With CBC, by modifying the last block of the ciphertext in a way that alters the block's padding, the attacker can tell if the padding is valid or not.
- If the padding is invalid, the system might respond differently (e.g., with an error message that is padding-specific). This information leakage allows the attacker to gradually decrypt the ciphertext byte by byte.



The Doom of Encrypt-and-MAC

Q: What happens if the MAC has no mechanism to provide confidentiality?

- MACs are meant to provide integrity
- MACs are often implemented by a **deterministic** algorithm without an explicit random input (essentially, for a given key and message, the output of the MAC is always the same).
- If a deterministic MAC is used, then there is no guarantee that the tag $E_k(m)||MAC_{K'}(m)|$ will not leak information about the secret message **m**.

Which order is correct?

Usually: we want the receiver to verify the MAC first!

Recommended: Encrypt-then-MAC, $E_k(m) || MAC_{K'}(E_k(m))$

 Encrypt-then-MAC: Allows Bob to check the MAC of the ciphertext before performing any decryption whatsoever (e.g., prevent attacks by immediately closing a connection if the MAC fails)





More properties that matter?













Implications? Repudiation Con't



Alice sent m, look: $[E_k(m)||MAC_{K'}(E_k(m))]$

Uhh...did she?



Implications? Repudiation Con't



Implications? Repudiation Con't



Repudiation Property: For some applications this property is good (e.g., private conversations)...others less good (e.g., e-commerce...).

Digital Signatures - For When Repudiation is Bad



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Achievable? Use techniques similar to public-key crypto (last class)

Making Digital Signatures



- 1. A pair of keys
- Everyone gets each other public verification key
- 3. Alice signs with private signing key
- 4. Bob verifies using Alice's public verification key

5. If it verifies correctly, success, valid signature

Digital Signatures at a Glance



Faster Signatures, aka More Hybrids

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Verify_{vk}(sig, h(m))?

• Finally, authenticity and confidentiality are separate, you need to include both if you want to achieve both

The Key Management Problem



Q: How can Alice and Bob be sure they're talking to each other?
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A: By having each other's verification key!

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Q: But how do they get the keys...

The Key Management Problem...Solutions?



