

CSci 5271
Introduction to Computer Security
Day 15: Cryptography part 2: public-key

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Outline

Block ciphers and modes of operation
Hash functions and MACs
Announcements
Building a secure channel
Public-key crypto basics
Public key encryption and signatures

From last time

- Goal: bootstrap from small secret key to secure channel
- Approach: use good crypto primitives
 - Observation: easier to design than to break
- Considered stream ciphers, didn't see ones we liked
- Another primitive: block cipher

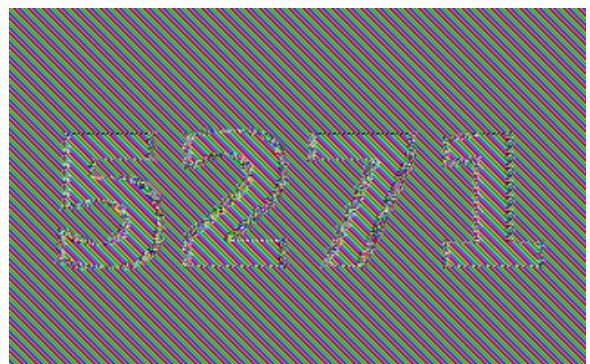
Modes of operation

- How to build a cipher for arbitrary-length data from a block cipher
- Many approaches considered
 - For some reason, most have three-letter acronyms
- More recently: properties susceptible to relative proof

ECB

- Electronic CodeBook
- Split into blocks, apply cipher to each one individually
- Leaks equalities between plaintext blocks
- Almost never suitable for general use

Do not use ECB



CBC

- Cipher Block Chaining
- $C_i = E_K(P_i \oplus C_{i-1})$
- Probably most popular in current systems
- Plaintext changes propagate forever, ciphertext changes only two blocks

CBC: getting an IV

- C_0 is called the initialization vector (IV)
 - Must be known for decryption
- IV should be random-looking
 - To prevent first-block equalities from leaking (lesser version of ECB problem)
- Common approaches
 - Generate at random
 - Encrypt a unique value ("nonce")

Stream modes: OFB, CTR

- Output FeedBack: produce keystream by repeatedly encrypting the IV
 - Danger: collisions lead to repeated keystream
- Counter: produce from encryptions of an incrementing value
 - Recently becoming more popular: allows parallelization and random access

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Ideal model

- Ideal crypto hash function: pseudorandom function
 - Arbitrary input, fixed-size output
- Simplest kind of elf in box, theoretically very convenient
- But large gap with real systems: better practice is to target particular properties

Kinds of attacks

- Pre-image, "inversion": given y , find x such that $H(x) = y$
- Second preimage, targeted collision: given x , $H(x)$, find $x' \neq x$ such that $H(x') = H(x)$
- (Free) collision: find x_1, x_2 such that $H(x_1) = H(x_2)$

Birthday paradox and attack

- There are almost certainly two people in this classroom with the same birthday
- n people have $\binom{n}{2} = \Theta(n^2)$ pairs
- So only about $\sqrt{365}$ expected for collision
- "Birthday attack" finds collisions in any function

Security levels

- For function with k -bit output:
- Preimage and second preimage should have complexity 2^k
- Collision has complexity $2^{k/2}$
- Conservative: use hash function twice as big as block cipher
 - Though if you're paranoid, cipher blocks can collide too

Not cryptographic hash functions

- The ones you probably use for hash tables
- CRCs, checksums
- Output too small, but also not resistant to attack
- E.g., CRC is linear and algebraically nice

Short hash function history

- On the way out: MD5 (128 bit)
 - Flaws known, collision-finding now routine
- SHA(-0): first from NIST/NSA, quickly withdrawn
 - Likely flaw discovered 3 years later
- SHA-1: fixed SHA-0, 160-bit output.
- 2^{60} collision attack described in 2013
 - First public collision found (using 6.5 kCPU yr) in 2017

Length extension problem

- MD5, SHA1, etc., computed left to right over blocks
- Can sometimes compute $H(a \parallel b)$ in terms of $H(a)$
 - \parallel means bit string concatenation
- Makes many PRF-style constructions insecure

SHA-2 and SHA-3

- SHA-2: evolutionary, larger, improvement of SHA-1
 - Exists as SHA-{224, 256, 384, 512}
 - But still has length-extension problem
- SHA-3: chosen recently in open competition like AES
 - Formerly known as Keccak, official standard Aug. 2015
 - New design, fixes length extension
 - Not yet very widely used

MAC: basic idea

- Message authentication code: similar to hash function, but with a key
- Adversary without key cannot forge MACs
- Strong definition: adversary cannot forge anything, even given chosen-message MACs on other messages

CBC-MAC construction

- Same process as CBC encryption, but:
 - Start with IV of 0
 - Return only the last ciphertext block
- Both these conditions needed for security
- For fixed-length messages (only), as secure as the block cipher

HMAC construction

- $H(K \parallel M)$: insecure due to length extension
 - Still not recommended: $H(M \parallel K)$, $H(K \parallel M \parallel K)$
- HMAC: $H(K \oplus a \parallel H(K \oplus b \parallel M))$
- Standard $a = 0x5c^*$, $b = 0x36^*$
- Probably most widely used MAC

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Upcoming: HA2

- Hands-on assignment 2:
 - Relates to network and web security
 - No week-by-week patching
 - Groups can but need not be same as HA1
- You will need to delete your HA1 VMs

Schedule changes next week

- My Tuesday office hour will be canceled
- Wednesday will be a guest lecture

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Session keys

- Don't use your long term password, etc., directly as a key
- Instead, *session key* used for just one channel
- In practice, usually obtained with public-key crypto
- Separate keys for encryption and MACing

Order of operations

- Encrypt and MAC ("in parallel")
 - Safe only under extra assumptions on the MAC
- Encrypt then MAC
 - Has cleanest formal safety proof
- MAC then Encrypt
 - Preferred by FS&K for some practical reasons
 - Can also be secure

Authenticated encryption modes

- Encrypting and MACing as separate steps is about twice as expensive as just encrypting
- "Authenticated encryption" modes do both at once
 - Recent (circa 2000) innovation, many variants
- NIST-standardized and unpatented: Galois Counter Mode (GCM)

Ordering and message numbers

- Also don't want attacker to be able to replay or reorder messages
- Simple approach: prefix each message with counter
- Discard duplicate/out-of-order messages

Padding

- Adjust message size to match multiple of block size
- To be reversible, must sometimes make message longer
- E.g.: for 16-byte block, append either 1, or 2 2, or 3 3 3, up to 16 "16" bytes

Padding oracle attack

- Have to be careful that decoding of padding does not leak information
- E.g., spend same amount of time MACing and checking padding, whether or not padding is right
- Remote timing attack against CBC TLS published 2013

Don't actually reinvent the wheel

- This is all implemented carefully in OpenSSL, SSH, etc.
- Good to understand it, but rarely sensible to reimplement it
- You'll probably miss at least one of decades worth of attacks

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Pre-history of public-key crypto

- First invented in secret at GCHQ
- Proposed by Ralph Merkle for UC Berkeley grad. security class project
 - First attempt only barely practical
 - Professor didn't like it
- Merkle then found more sympathetic Stanford collaborators named Diffie and Hellman

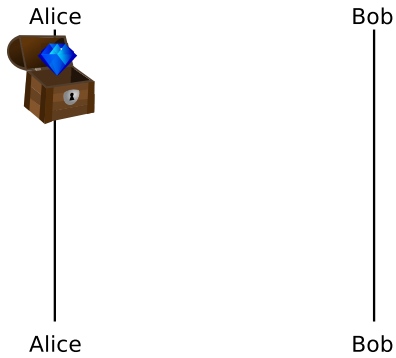
Box and locks analogy

- Alice wants to send Bob a gift in a locked box
 - They don't share a key
 - Can't send key separately, don't trust UPS
 - Box locked by Alice can't be opened by Bob, or vice-versa

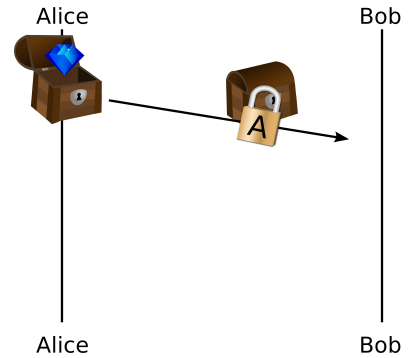
Box and locks analogy

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 - Box locked by Alice can't be opened by Bob, or vice-versa
- Math perspective: physical locks commute

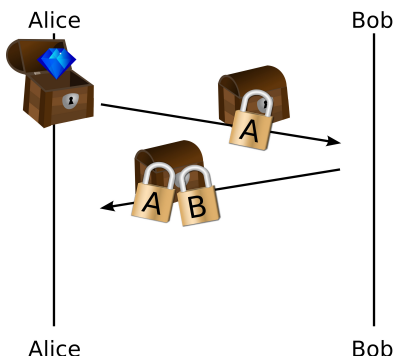
Protocol with clip art



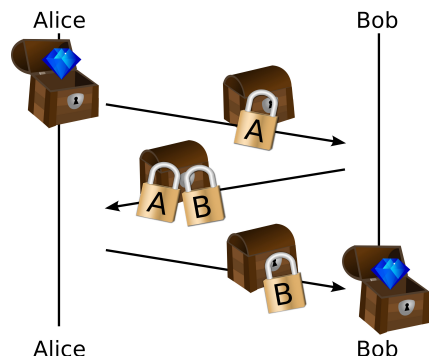
Protocol with clip art



Protocol with clip art



Protocol with clip art



Public key primitives

- Public-key encryption (generalizes block cipher)
 - Separate encryption key EK (public) and decryption key DK (secret)
- Signature scheme (generalizes MAC)
 - Separate signing key SK (secret) and verification key VK (public)

Modular arithmetic

- Fix *modulus* n , keep only remainders $\text{mod } n$
 - $\text{mod } 12$: clock face; $\text{mod } 2^{32}$: unsigned int
- $+$, $-$, and \times work mostly the same
- Division: see Exercise Set 1
- Exponentiation: efficient by square and multiply

Generators and discrete log

- Modulo a prime p , non-zero values and \times have a nice ("group") structure
- g is a *generator* if g^0, g, g^2, g^3, \dots cover all elements
- Easy to compute $x \mapsto g^x$
- Inverse, *discrete logarithm*, hard for large p

Diffie-Hellman key exchange

- Goal: anonymous key exchange
- Public parameters p, g ; Alice and Bob have resp. secrets a, b
- Alice \rightarrow Bob: $A = g^a \pmod{p}$
- Bob \rightarrow Alice: $B = g^b \pmod{p}$
- Alice computes $B^a = g^{ba} = k$
- Bob computes $A^b = g^{ab} = k$

Relationship to a hard problem

- We're not sure discrete log is hard (likely not even NP-complete), but it's been unsolved for a long time
- If discrete log is easy (e.g., in P), DH is insecure
- Converse might not be true: DH might have other problems

Categorizing assumptions

- Math assumptions unavoidable, but can categorize
- E.g., build more complex scheme, shows it's "as secure" as DH because it has the same underlying assumption
- Commonly "decisional" (DDH) and "computational" (CDH) variants

Key size, elliptic curves

- Need key sizes ~ 10 times larger than security level
 - Attacks shown up to about 768 bits
- Elliptic curves: objects from higher math with analogous group structure
 - (Only tenuously connected to ellipses)
- Elliptic curve algorithms have smaller keys, about $2\times$ security level

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General description

- Public-key encryption (generalizes block cipher)
 - Separate encryption key EK (public) and decryption key DK (secret)
- Signature scheme (generalizes MAC)
 - Separate signing key SK (secret) and verification key VK (public)

RSA setup

- Choose $n = pq$, product of two large primes, as modulus
- n is public, but p and q are secret
- Compute encryption and decryption exponents e and d such that

$$M^{ed} = M \pmod{n}$$

RSA encryption

- Public key is (n, e)
- Encryption of M is $C = M^e \pmod{n}$
- Private key is (n, d)
- Decryption of C is $C^d = M^{ed} = M \pmod{n}$

RSA signature

- Signing key is (n, d)
- Signature of M is $S = M^d \pmod{n}$
- Verification key is (n, e)
- Check signature by $S^e = M^{de} = M \pmod{n}$
- Note: symmetry is a nice feature of RSA, not shared by other systems

RSA and factoring

- We're not sure factoring is hard (likely not even NP-complete), but it's been unsolved for a long time
- If factoring is easy (e.g., in P), RSA is insecure
- Converse might not be true: RSA might have other problems

Homomorphism

- Multiply RSA ciphertexts \Rightarrow multiply plaintexts
- This *homomorphism* is useful for some interesting applications
- Even more powerful: fully homomorphic encryption (e.g., both $+$ and \times)
 - First demonstrated in 2009; still very inefficient

Problems with vanilla RSA

- Homomorphism leads to chosen-ciphertext attacks
- If message and e are both small compared to n , can compute $M^{1/e}$ over the integers
- Many more complex attacks too

Hybrid encryption

- Public-key operations are slow
- In practice, use them just to set up symmetric session keys
- + Only pay RSA costs at setup time
- Breaks at either level are fatal

Padding, try #1

- Need to expand message (e.g., AES key) size to match modulus
- PKCS#1 v. 1.5 scheme: prepend 00 01 FF FF .. FF
- Surprising discovery (Bleichenbacher'98): allows adaptive chosen ciphertext attacks on SSL

Modern "padding"

- Much more complicated encoding schemes using hashing, random salts, Feistel-like structures, etc.
- Common examples: OAEP for encryption, PSS for signing
- Progress driven largely by improvement in random oracle proofs

Simpler padding alternative

- "Key encapsulation mechanism" (KEM)
- For common case of public-key crypto used for symmetric-key setup
 - Also applies to DH
- Choose RSA message r at random mod n , symmetric key is $H(r)$
- Hard to retrofit, RSA-KEM insecure if e and r reused with different n

Box and locks revisited

- Alice and Bob's box scheme fails if an intermediary can set up two sets of boxes
 - Man-in-the-middle (or middleperson) attack
- Real world analogue: challenges of protocol design and public key distribution

Next time

- Building crypto into more complex protocols