

ECE 435 – Network Engineering

Lecture 8

Vince Weaver

`https://web.eece.maine.edu/~vweaver`

`vincent.weaver@maine.edu`

7 February 2025

Announcements

- HW#1 was graded
- HW#3 will be posted. Encryption. No coding.
- HW#2 will be extended to Monday



Symmetric Key Implementations – AES

- AES – Advanced Encryption Standard (2001)
 - replaces DES
 - NIST had a contest to find new standard
 - Rijndael won
 - developed by two Belgian cryptographers Joan Daemen and Vincent Rijmen
 - NSA allows for classified data
 - Intel chips have AES instructions
 - Galois Field Theory (Gal-wah) interesting math guy



AES Notes

- Block size 128 bits (really, 4x4 array of bytes)
- 128, 192, 256 bits supported
- 10, 12 or 14 rounds based on size
- Each extra bit of key length doubles search space



AES Encryption

1. Key Expansion (using key schedule)
2. AddRound on initial key (add/xor on round key)
3. 9/11/13 rounds (depending on key size)
 - (a) SubByte: non-linear substitution (w lookup table)
 - (b) ShiftRows: transposition/row shift
 - (c) MixColumns: mix columns (matrix multiply)
 - (d) AddRound (xor again)
4. Final round: a,b,d again



AES Attacks

- In theory take billions of years to brute force
- “Attack” means finding some way to decode key faster than brute force
- Have been some but none really effective yet
biclique attack reduce search for 128-bit to 2^{126} but that’s still large
- Side Channel Attacks are possible though



AES Performance

- Pentium Pro 200MHz: 11 MBits/s
- Modern Intel/AMD with AES in hardware, multiple GB/s



Asymmetric / Public Key Encryption

- Asymmetric/Public Key
- Key exchange is weakest link of symmetric encryption, as both sides need it and if it leaks, all is lost
- Have a public key that anyone can use to encrypt a message. Can only be (easily) decrypted by a secret, private key
- Hard to solve math problems. Integer factorization, discrete logarithm, elliptic curves



Why not use Asymmetric for everything?

- Often only used to encrypt small amounts of data, i.e. used to encrypt a symmetric key used for longer transactions
- High overhead and requires high-quality random numbers, hard to use it for large amounts of data



Uses of Public Key Crypto

- public key encryption
 - public key used to encrypt message only holder of private key can decrypt
- digital signature
 - message signed with private key and anyone with access to public key can verify the original sender



RSA

- Rivest/Shamir/Adleman at MIT (1977)
Discovered before by UK govt (1973) but classified
- Choose two large primes p and q (1024+ bits)
- Compute: $n=p*q$, $z=(p-1)*(q-1)$
- Choose number relatively prime to z : d
(no common factors)
- Find e such that $e*d \bmod z=1$
- Divide plaintext into blocks $0 \leq P < n$, blocks of k bits
where k largest $2^k < n$



- To encrypt, compute $C = P^e \bmod n$
- To decrypt, compute $P = C^d \bmod n$
- public key is e, n . private key is d, n
- Hard to break as you need to factor n (hard)
- How do you find p and q ? Generate random number, then apply various tests to determine if prime (there are algorithms for that)



RSA Example

- Example from Tanenbaum Figure 8-17:
Pick two large primes: $p=3$, $q=11$
 $n=p*q=33$, $z=(p-1)*(q-1)=20$
 $d=7$ (no common factors with 20)
 $7 * e \text{ mod } 20 = 1$ so $e=3$
private key= $7,33$ public key= $3,33$
To encrypt "13", $13^3 = 2197, \text{ mod } 33 = 19$
To decrypt "19", $19^7 = 893871739 \text{ mod } 33 = 13$



Why RSA Not Used Anymore

- Needs really good random primes, if you pick bad primes can be easier to crack (if p and q too close together)
- Slow, so on low-power devices tempting to pick low value exponents
- Adding more bits only slowly adds better encryption
- No random element, so can tell if the same message sent twice because will encrypt to the same (or can brute force easier)

Fix to this is random padding at end



- Improper padding can lead to “padding oracle” attack (if you get an invalid padding error on invalid cyphertext, can slowly work your way to the key)



RSA Replacements – DSA

- RSA 2048 bit but even that might not be enough
- DSA (NIST 1991 / FIPS 1993)
 - built on modular exponentiation / discrete logarithms
 - Roughly same security with keysize as RSA



RSA Replacements – ECDSA

- ECDSA – elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) (1999)
 - Algebraic structure of elliptic curves on finite fields
 - Same security with smaller keys than RSA/DSA
 - Endorsed by NSA
 - 1024 bit RSA equivalent to 160 bit ECC
- EdSA (not same as ECDSA)
 - Edwards curve, “Schnorr Signature”
 - github using ed25519: SHA-512 plus curve 25519 based on $y^2 = x^3 + 486662x^2 + x$ with prime $2^{255} - 19$



Cryptographic Hash Functions

- Maps a document of arbitrary size to a fixed size
- Easy to calculate, hard to reverse. Only real feasible way to reverse is brute-force search
- Break file up into chunks, do a series of operations to “compress” it, often shift, xor, or, add, and, not
- Small changes in document should lead to very different hashes



Hash Collisions

- Should not be able to find two different messages with same hash
- Two items with same hash are a collision
- Are collisions useful? If you can map documents of same filetype, or if somehow same document with lots of garbage on end



Cryptographic Hash Algorithms – md5

- md5 md5sum (Rivest) (1991, replacing md4)
- 128-bit md5 hashes, create checksum, almost uniquely ID file
 - supposed to be unlikely to get collision
- Been broken, easy to defeat since 2007
 - Birthday attack, while creating two files with same sum hard, creating a huge number of files the likelihood of getting two to be the same is more likely than you think



- Chosen-prefix attack – in this case take two differing start texts, by appending arbitrary data to each (in a comment section in some formats like PDF) can find match



SHA-1

- Developed by NSA 1993
- 160-bits (40 hex digits)
- Deprecated by NIST since 2011
- SHAppening (2015)
- SHAttered (2017) first collision (pdf file)
- chosen-prefix attack 2019
- Used by git (oops)



SHA-2, SHA-3

- SHA-2 (Secure-Hash Algorithm 2)
 - Designed by NSA, 2001
 - Family of 6 possible bit sizes: SHA-224, SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512, SHA-512/224, SHA-512/256
 - Merkle-Damgård construction
- SHA-3
 - Keccak, Sponge Construction
 - Different than others. Not meant to replace SHA-2 as SHA-2 not broken yet



Cryptographic Hash Uses

- passwords (/etc/shadow)
- (mostly) uniquely identifying a file (git),
- verifying file contents (download, error checking),
- bitcoin?



Proof of Concept || GTFO

- One issue of hacker magazine had fun generating collisions
- Distributed as PDF that included its own md5sum (should that be hard?)
- Same PDF file was also a zip file and an NES ROM you could run in an emulator, also showing the sum

