

# Cleaning up crypto

D. J. Bernstein, U. Illinois Chicago  
& T. U. Eindhoven

Tanja Lange, T. U. Eindhoven

Joint work with:

Peter Schwabe, R. U. Nijmegen

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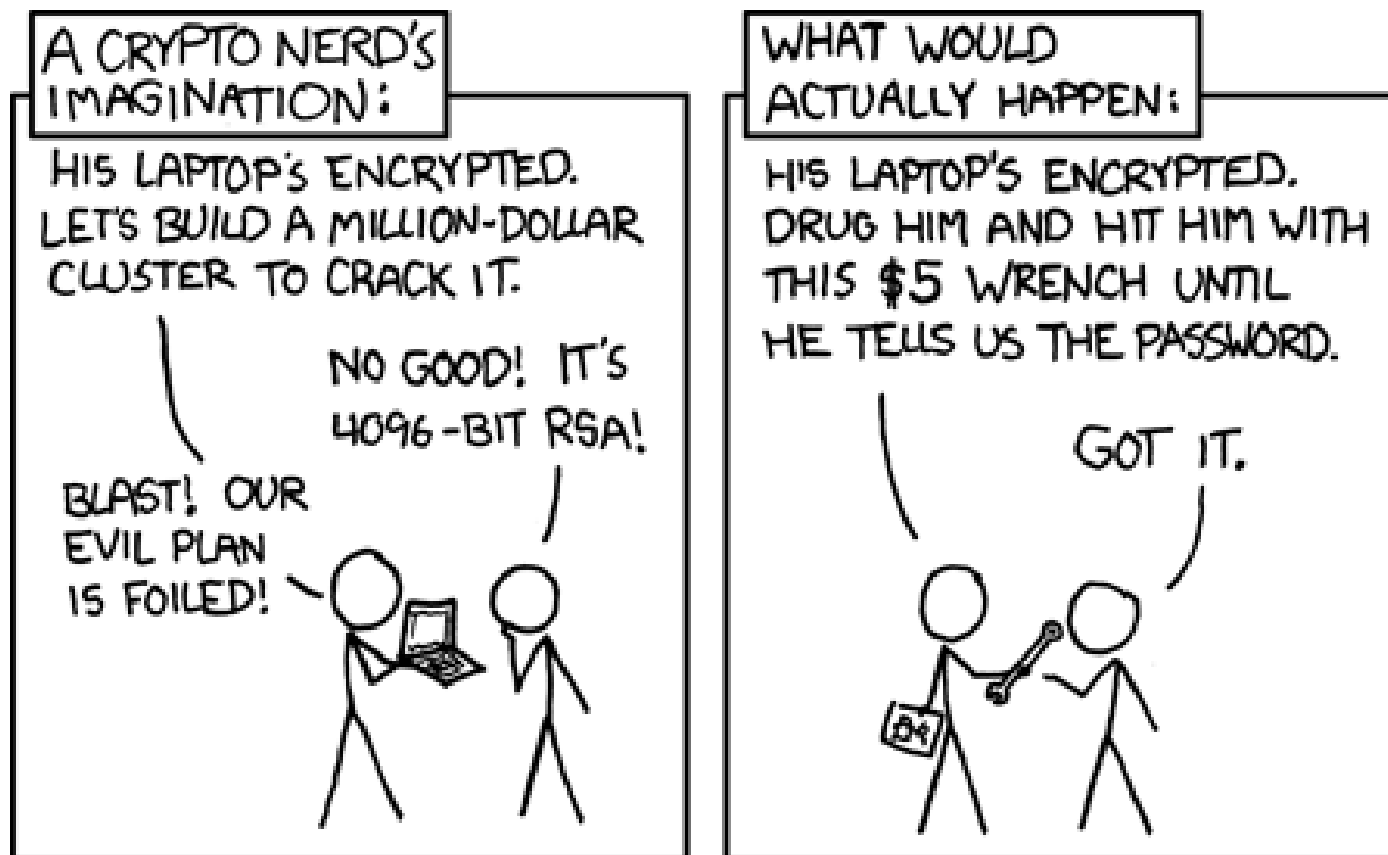
AES-128, RSA-2048, etc.

are widely accepted standards.

Obviously infeasible to break  
by best attacks in literature.

Implementations are available  
in public cryptographic libraries  
such as OpenSSL.

Common security practice is  
to use those implementations.



<http://xkcd.com/538/>

## Cleaning up crypto

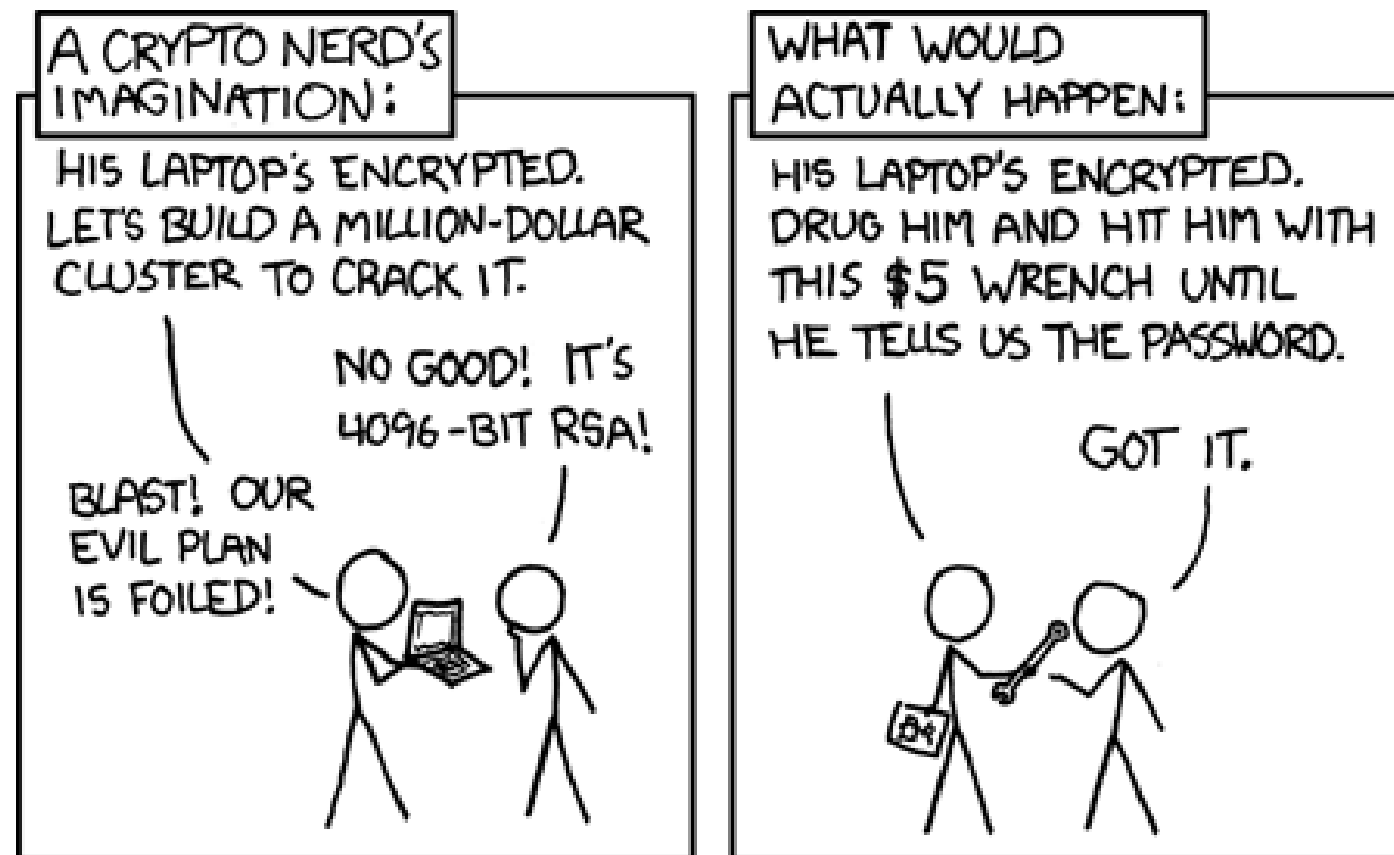
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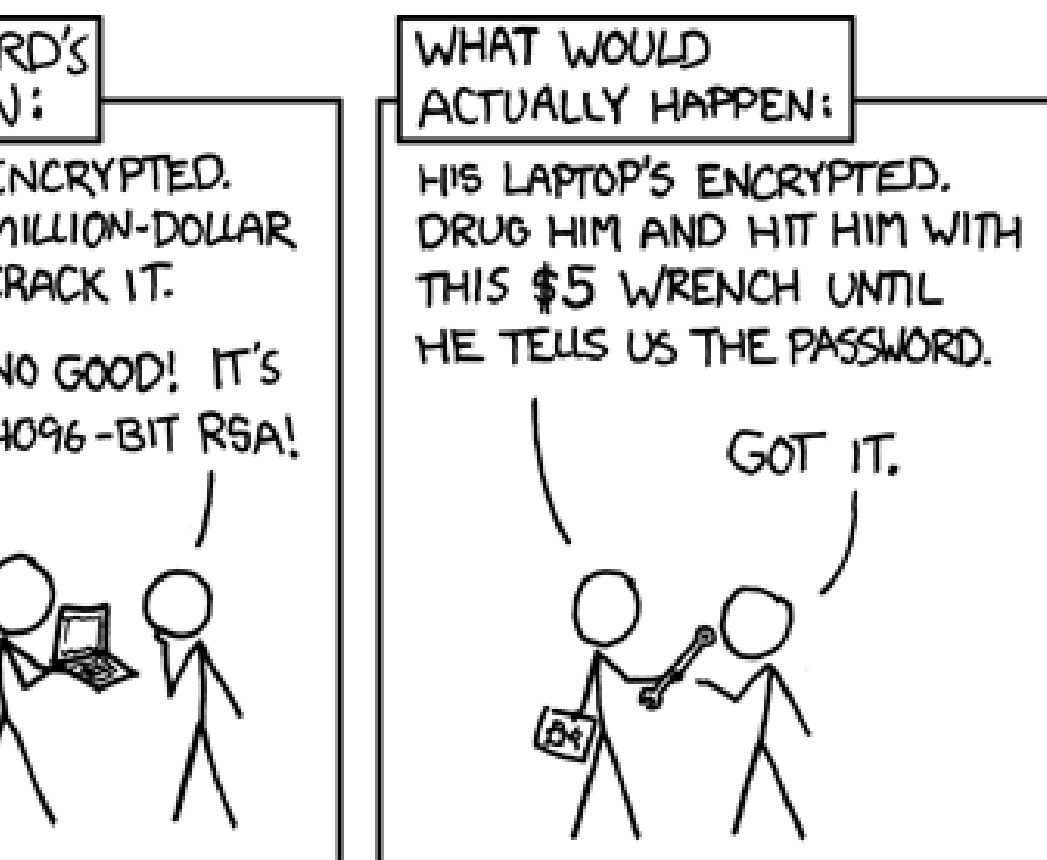
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Emilia K

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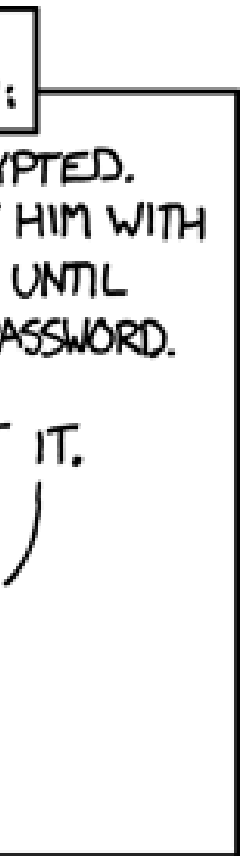
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the underlying pro  
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is cryptographically  
Primary goal of Na  
Main task: **public**  
**authenticated en**  
Alice has a messag  
Uses Bob’s public  
Alice’s secret key t  
authenticated ciph  
Sends  $c$  to Bob.  
Bob uses Alice’s p  
and Bob’s secret k  
to verify and recov



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Most of the Internet is cryptographically unprotected.  
Primary goal of NaCl: Fix that.

Main task: **public-key authenticated encryption.**

Alice has a message  $m$  for Bob.

Uses Bob’s public key and Alice’s secret key to compute authenticated ciphertext  $c$ .  
Sends  $c$  to Bob.

Bob uses Alice’s public key and Bob’s secret key to verify and recover  $m$ .

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Alice uses  
typical operations

Generate  
Use AES

Hash encryption  
Read RSA

Use key  
Read Bob's

Use key  
Convert

Plus more  
allocate

handle encryption

+implemented  
nic library,  
address  
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Alice using a  
typical cryptograp  
Generate random  
Use AES key to en  
Hash encrypted pa  
Read RSA key from  
Use key to sign ha  
Read Bob's key fro  
Use key to encrypt  
Convert to wire fo  
Plus more code:  
allocate storage,  
handle errors, etc.

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Alice using a  
typical cryptographic library:

Generate random AES key.

Use AES key to encrypt packet.

Hash encrypted packet.

Read RSA key from wire for

Use key to sign hash.

Read Bob's key from wire for

Use key to encrypt signature

Convert to wire format.

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Read Bob's key from wire format.

Use key to encrypt signature etc.

Convert to wire format.

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Convert to wire format.

Plus more code:  
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Alice using  
 $c = \text{crypt}$



packet  
is unprotected.  
NaCl: Fix this.

**Asymmetric-key  
encryption.**

Message  $m$  for Bob.

Bob's public key and  
use it to compute  
ciphertext  $c$ .

Bob's public key  
and message  
key  
to recover  $m$ .

Alice using a  
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Convert to wire format.

Plus more code:

allocate storage,

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Alice using NaCl:  
`c = crypto_box(m, ...)`

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Bob.

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Use key to sign hash.  
Read Bob's key from wire format.  
Use key to encrypt signature etc.  
Convert to wire format.

Plus more code:  
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Alice using NaCl:

```
c = crypto_box(m, n, pk, s)
```

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Plus more code:  
allocate storage,  
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Alice using NaCl:

```
c = crypto_box(m, n, pk, sk)
```

32-byte secret key `sk`.

32-byte public key `pk`.

24-byte nonce `n`.

`c` is 16 bytes longer than `m`.

All objects are C++

`std::string` variables

represented in wire format,

ready for storage/transmission.

C NaCl: similar, using pointers;

no memory allocation, no failures.

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Bob veri

`m=crypt`

Initial ke

`pk = cry`

chic library:

AES key.

ncrypt packet.

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Bob verifying, dec

```
m=crypto_box_op
```

Initial key generati

```
pk = crypto_box.
```

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Bob verifying, decrypting:

```
m=crypto_box_open(c, n, pk, sk)
```

Initial key generation:

```
pk, sk = crypto_box_keypair()
```



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m=crypto_box_open(c, n, pk, sk)
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Initial key generation:

```
pk = crypto_box_keypair(&sk)
```

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```

Initial key generation:

```
pk = crypto_box_keypair(&sk)
```

Can instead use **signatures**

for public messages:

```
pk = crypto_sign_keypair(&sk)
```

64-byte secret key,

32-byte public key.

```
sm = crypto_sign(m, sk)
```

64 bytes overhead.

```
m = crypto_sign_open(sm, pk)
```

ng NaCl:

```
crypto_box(m, n, pk, sk)
```

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Examples of applications  
using NaCl’s crypto\_box:

DNSCurve and DNSCrypt,  
high-security authenticated  
encryption for DNS queries;  
deployed by OpenDNS.

QUIC, Google’s TLS replacement.

MinimaLT in Ethos OS,  
faster TLS replacement.

Threema, encrypted-chat app.



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```
crypto_box_open(c, n, pk, sk)
```

ey generation:

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crypto_box_keypair(&sk)
```

ead use **signatures**

c messages:

```
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No secrets

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`open(c, n, pk, sk)`

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`_keypair(&sk)`

## Signatures

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`n_keypair(&sk)`

`n(m, sk)`

`_open(sm, pk)`

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2005 Osvik–Shamir  
65ms to steal Linux  
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Almost all AES im  
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Kernel’s secret AE  
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of the attack proc  
65ms to compute

pk, sk)

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## No secret load addresses

2005 Osvik–Shamir–Tromer:  
65ms to steal Linux AES key  
used for hard-disk encryption  
Attack process on same CPU  
but without privileges.

Almost all AES implementations  
use fast lookup tables.

Kernel’s secret AES key  
influences table-load addresses  
influencing CPU cache state  
influencing measurable timing  
of the attack process.

65ms to compute influence

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l by OpenDNS.

Google's TLS replacement.

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LS replacement.

a, encrypted-chat app.

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65ms to steal Linux AES key

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Attack process on same CPU

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Almost all AES implementations

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Kernel's secret AES key

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NaCl does not decrypt unless message is authenticated.

Verification procedure rejects all forgeries in constant time.

Attacks are further constrained by per-nonce key separation and standard nonce handling.



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Intel's RDRAND in applications.  
Single entropy source; no backup;  
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Also simplifies testing. NaCl uses automated test battery from eBACS (ECRYPT Benchmarking of Cryptographic Systems).

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CPU (\$190 in 2011):

`crypto_box`: >80000.  
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fill up a 1 Gbps link.

2. Pure secret-key crypto  
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4. Fast batch verification, doubling speed of `crypto_sign_open` for valid signatures.

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## Cryptographic details

The main NaCl work we did achieve very high speeds *without* compromising security.

ECC, not RSA:

much stronger security record

Curve25519, not NSA/NIST

curves: [safecurves.cr.jp](http://safecurves.cr.jp)

Salsa20, not AES:

much larger security margin.

Poly1305, not HMAC:

information-theoretic security

EdDSA, not ECDSA:

collision-resilience et al.

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`crypto_sign_open`  
for valid signatures.

## Cryptographic details

The main NaCl work we did:  
achieve very high speeds  
*without* compromising security.

ECC, not RSA:

much stronger security record.

Curve25519, not NSA/NIST

curves: [safecurves.cr.yp.to](http://safecurves.cr.yp.to)

Salsa20, not AES:

much larger security margin.

Poly1305, not HMAC:

information-theoretic security.

EdDSA, not ECDSA:

collision-resilience et al.

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Oops, there's another  
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Example:

*“PRESERVE contributes to the security and privacy of future vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication systems by addressing critical issues like performance, scalability, and deployability of V2X security systems.”*

[preserve-project.eu](http://preserve-project.eu)

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Other risk:  
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and vehicle-  
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requiring critical  
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ct.eu

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“NEON crypto” (Cortex-A9)  
on 1GHz Cortex A9  
5.48 cycles/byte (SHA-1)  
2.30 cycles/byte (SHA-256)  
for Salsa20, Poly1305  
498349 cycles (2000000 bytes)  
624846 cycles (1600000 bytes)  
for Curve25519 DHE

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“NEON crypto” (CHES 2011) on 1GHz Cortex A8 core:  
5.48 cycles/byte (1.4 Gbps)  
2.30 cycles/byte (3.4 Gbps)  
for Salsa20, Poly1305.  
498349 cycles (2000/second)  
624846 cycles (1600/second)  
for Curve25519 DH, verify.



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Case study: EdDSA  
1985 ElGamal signature  
 $(R, S)$  is signature  
if  $B^{H(M)} \equiv A^R R^S$   
and  $R, S \in \{0, 1, \dots\}$   
Here  $q$  is standard  
 $B$  is standard base  
 $A$  is signer's public  
 $H(M)$  is hash of message  
Signer generates  $A$   
as secret powers of  
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Case study: EdDSA

1985 ElGamal signatures:

$(R, S)$  is signature of  $M$

if  $B^{H(M)} \equiv A^R R^S \pmod{q}$

and  $R, S \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-2\}$

Here  $q$  is standard prime,

$B$  is standard base,

$A$  is signer's public key,

$H(M)$  is hash of message.

Signer generates  $A$  and  $R$

as secret powers of  $B$ ;

easily solves for  $S$ .

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1990 Schnorr impr

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$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R$

Reduces attacker c

2. Replace three e

with two exponent

$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv A^R$

Saves time in verif

3. Simplify by rela

$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv A^R$

Saves time in verif

4. Merge the hash

$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv A^R S$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$

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$A$  is signer's public key,

$H(M)$  is hash of message.

Signer generates  $A$  and  $R$

as secret powers of  $B$ ;

easily solves for  $S$ .

1990 Schnorr improvements:

1. Hash  $R$  in the exponent:

$$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R^S.$$

Reduces attacker control.

2. Replace three exponents

with two exponents:

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv A R^{S/H(R)}.$$

Saves time in verification.

3. Simplify by relabeling  $S$ :

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv A R^S.$$

Saves time in verification.

4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv A R^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

## Case study: EdDSA

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$$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R^S.$$

Reduces attacker control.

2. Replace three exponents

with two exponents:

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^{S/H(R)}.$$

Saves time in verification.

3. Simplify by relabeling  $S$ :

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^S.$$

Saves time in verification.

4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv AR^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

## EdDSA

Gamal signatures:

Signature of  $M$

$$S \equiv A^R R^S \pmod{q}$$

$$S \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-2\}.$$

Standard prime,

Standard base,

Sender's public key,

Hash of message.

Generates  $A$  and  $R$

Random powers of  $B$ ;

Looks for  $S$ .

1990 Schnorr improvements:

1. Hash  $R$  in the exponent:

$$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R^S.$$

Reduces attacker control.

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Saves time in verification.

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Saves time in verification.

4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv AR^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

5. Eliminate  $R$

$$B^S \equiv R^S$$

Simpler,

6. Compact

Saves space

7. Use hash

Saves space

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atures:

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(mod  $q$ )

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f  $B$ ;

.

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4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv AR^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

5. Eliminate inverse:

$$B^S \equiv RA^{H(R,M)}.$$

Simpler, faster.

6. Compress  $R$  to

Saves space in signature.

7. Use half-size  $H$

Saves space in signature.

1990 Schnorr improvements:

1. Hash  $R$  in the exponent:

$$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R^S.$$

Reduces attacker control.

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5. Eliminate inversions for  $s$

$$B^S \equiv RA^{H(R,M)}.$$

Simpler, faster.

6. Compress  $R$  to  $H(R, M)$ .

Saves space in signatures.

7. Use half-size  $H$  output.

Saves space in signatures.

1990 Schnorr improvements:

1. Hash  $R$  in the exponent:

$$B^{H(M)} \equiv A^{H(R)} R^S.$$

Reduces attacker control.

2. Replace three exponents

with two exponents:

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^{S/H(R)}.$$

Saves time in verification.

3. Simplify by relabeling  $S$ :

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^S.$$

Saves time in verification.

4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv AR^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

5. Eliminate inversions for signer:

$$B^S \equiv RA^{H(R,M)}.$$

Simpler, faster.

6. Compress  $R$  to  $H(R, M)$ .

Saves space in signatures.

7. Use half-size  $H$  output.

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$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^{S/H(R)}.$$

Saves time in verification.

3. Simplify by relabeling  $S$ :

$$B^{H(M)/H(R)} \equiv AR^S.$$

Saves time in verification.

4. Merge the hashes:

$$B^{H(R,M)} \equiv AR^S.$$

$\Rightarrow$  Resilient to  $H$  collisions.

5. Eliminate inversions for signer:

$$B^S \equiv RA^{H(R,M)}.$$

Simpler, faster.

6. Compress  $R$  to  $H(R, M)$ .

Saves space in signatures.

7. Use half-size  $H$  output.

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Subsequent research: extensive theoretical study of security of Schnorr's system.



1990 Schnorr improvements:

1. Hash  $R$  in the exponent:

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Reduces attacker control.

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EdDSA

Duif-Lam

Use elliptic

–1-twist

$\Rightarrow$  very

natural s

no excep

Skip sign

Support

Use dou

and inclu

Generate

as a secr

$\Rightarrow$  Avoid

Improvements:

exponent:

$S$ .

control.

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Duif-Lange-Schwar

Use elliptic curves

-1-twisted Edwards

$\Rightarrow$  very high speed

natural side-channel

no exceptional cases

Skip signature con

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and include  $A$  as i

Generate  $R$  determ

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Patent expired in 2008.

EdDSA (CHES 2011 Bernstein, Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang)

Use elliptic curves in “compact–1-twisted Edwards” form.

$\Rightarrow$  very high speed, natural side-channel protection, no exceptional cases.

Skip signature compression. Support batch verification.

Use double-size  $H$  output, and include  $A$  as input.

Generate  $R$  deterministically as a secret hash of  $M$ .

$\Rightarrow$  Avoid PlayStation disaster

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