

(Picture credit: Reuters.)

How to manipulate standards

Daniel J. Bernstein University of Illinois at Chicago & Technische Universiteit Eindhoven



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Move towards more accurate model of cryptography. e.g. protocol $ECDH_V$:

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Warmup

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Extensive ECDL/ECDH literature: Pollard rho breaks small E, Pohlig–Hellman breaks most E, MOV/FR breaks some *E*, SmartASS breaks some *E*, etc.

 V_1 : any curve surviving these public criteria is acceptable.

What is V? Which curves will public accept?

What does Jerry do? Will he accidentally help us? How robust is this protocol?

How secure is this protocol if Jerry works for us?

Traditional crypto literature fails to formalize any of this. Also fails to formalize analogous questions about selecting ciphers, protocols, etc. Warmup: Manipulating curves

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We actually generated >1000000 curves, each having a Brainpool-like explanation.

Example of underlying flexibility: Brainpool generates seeds from exp(1) and primes from arctan(1); MD5 generates constants from sin(1); BADA55-VPR-224 generated a seed from cos(1).

Most material in this talk was drawn from this paper: How to manipulate curve standards: a white paper for the black hat Daniel J. Bernstein Tung Chou Chitchanok Chuengsatiansup Andreas Hülsing Tanja Lange Ruben Niederhagen Christine van Vredendaal safecurves.cr.yp.to

/bada55.html