

# Chapter 5

## Public Key Cryptography & Message Authentication

### I. Authentication

#### 1. What is Authentication

- It's about verifying the identity of a person or system.
- For example, when you log in to your email you prove your identity with a password

#### 2. Authentication Requirements

- The message must come from a valid source
- The message must not be altered
- (Sometimes) the message must have been sent at a specific time or in order.

#### 3. Why It's important?

- Protects against active attacks (e.g. modifying messages, impersonation)

### II. Approaches to Message Authentication

There are **2 main ways** to authenticate messages:

#### 1. Authentication using Conventional Encryption

- Sender encrypts the message using a **shared secret key**

• Receiver decrypts it using the same key  
Key idea: Only sender and receiver should have the key.

2. Message Authentication without Message Encryp.  
Instead of encrypting the whole message, an authentication tag (small piece of data) is added.

Method: Message Authentication Code (MAC)

→ A small piece of data is generated from:

$$MAC = F(K, M) \quad (\text{MAC})$$

• K = Secret Key

• M = Message

• F = MAC Function

- The sender attaches the MAC to the message
- The receiver recomputes the MAC and checks if it matches the received MAC.
- If both match → Message is authentic

How MAC works (Step-by-Step)

1. Sender Side

- Sender has a message (M) to send
- Uses a secret key (K<sub>AB</sub>) to generate a MAC
- $MAC_M = F(K_{AB}, M)$
- Sends (Message + MAC) to the receiver

2. Receiver Side

- Uses the same secret key (K<sub>AB</sub>) to compute a new MAC from the received message
- Compares the received MAC with the computed one.

### III - Hash Functions

#### 1. What is a Hash Function?

It takes any input message (M) and produces a **Fixed-size** output called a **hash value** or **message digest** (H)

$$h = H(M)$$

↳ H: Hash Function

M: Input Message

h: Fixed Size hash value

• Purpose: Produce a fingerprint of a file / message

#### 2. Properties of a good Hash Function

A secure cryptographic hash function should have

→ **Fixed Output Size**: no matter how big the input is, the hash value is always the same length

→ **Fast Computation**: Easy to compute  $H(M)$  for any given input M

→ **One way property**: Given h, it should be impossible to find the original message M

→ **Weak Collision Resistance**: Should be difficult to find another message with the same hash value

#### 3. One-way Hash Function

• Alternative to MAC

• Accepts a variable size message M and produces a fixed size digest  $H(M)$

• Doesn't take a secret key as input

Problem: Since hash functions don't use a secret key, they don't authenticate the sender, they only verify that the message was not modified

Solution: **HMAC** (Hash-based Message Authentication Code)

#### 4. Simple HASH Function

One of the simplest hash functions is bitwise XOR

→ Divide the input message/file into sequence of  $n$ -bit blocks.

→ Input is processed one block at a time to produce an  $n$ -bit hash function

$$C_i = b_{i1} \oplus b_{i2} \oplus \dots \oplus b_{im}$$

→  $C_i$ :  $i$ th bit of the hash function

→  $m$ : nb. of  $n$ -bit blocks in the input

→  $b_{ij}$ :  $i$ th bit in the  $ij$  block

#### IV. Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA)

SHA is a family of cryptographic hash functions designed for data integrity and security.

Purpose:

→ Detects modification in data (integrity)

→ Produces a unique fixed size hash for any input

→ Used in digital signatures, authentication and encryption.

## Types of SHA algorithms

Algorithm	Digest-size	Block size	Rounds
SHA-1	160 bits	512 bits	80
SHA-256	256 bits	512 bits	64
SHA-512	512 bits	1024 bits	80

## V. HMAC (Hash-based Message Authentication Code)

### 1. What is HMAC?

- Technique that enhances security by combining a cryptographic hash function (like SHA-1, SHA-256) with a Secret Key

### 2. Why HMAC?

- Hash functions alone don't authenticate the sender (no secret key)
- MAC alone may not be strong enough for security
- HMAC provides message integrity and authentication

### 3. Formula:

$$\text{HMAC}(K, M) = H((K^+ \oplus \text{opad}) \parallel H((K^+ \oplus \text{ipad}) \parallel M))$$

→ K: Secret Key

→ M: Message

→ H: Hash Function

→  $K^+$ : Key padded to a fixed length

→ ipad: Inner padding

→ opad: Outer padding

→  $\parallel$ : Concatenation

### 4. How HMAC works?

→ Sender side (Generating HMAC)

1. Pad the secret key to required length ( $K^+$ )
2. Compute the inner hash using the padded key and the message.
3. Compute the outer hash using the inner hash output
4. Final output is the HMAC.

## → Receiver Side (Verifying HMAC)

1. Receive (Message + HMAC) from the sender
2. Re-compute HMAC using the same key and hash function.
3. Compare computed HMAC with received HMAC.  
→ If they match → Message is authentic.

## VI. Public-Key Cryptography

### 1. What is public-key cryptography?

- An encryption system that uses **Two Keys**
  - Public Key ( $K^+$ ): Shared with everyone
  - Private Key ( $K^-$ ): Kept secret by the owner

### • Key Concept:

- Anything encrypted with one key can only be decrypted with the other key

### 2. Applications of Public-Key Cryptography

• Encryption / Decryption: Protects sensitive data (emails, HTTPS)

• Digital Signatures: Authenticates senders (used in blockchain, certificates)

• Key Exchange: Securely shares encryption key (used in TLS, SSH)

### 3. Requirements For Public-Key Cryptography

- Easy Key Generation
- Efficient Encryption/Decryption
- Hard to compute private key
- Hard to reverse encryption
- Both keys must be interchangeable

### VII - Public-Key Cryptographic Algorithms

The two most widely used algorithms are:

- 1) RSA: used for encryption and digital signatures
- 2) Diffie-Hellman: Used for key exchange

- 1) The RSA Algorithm (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman)
  - Asymmetric encryption algorithm
  - Provides confidentiality, integrity, and authentication

#### • RSA Key Generation (Step-by-Step)

To generate a public-private key pair:

- 1) Select two large prime numbers  $p$  and  $q$
- 2) Compute  $n = p \times q$  (Key Size)
- 3) Compute Euler's Totient Function:  
$$\phi(n) = (p-1) \times (q-1)$$
- 4) Choose a public exponent  $e$  such that:  
 $1 < e < \phi(n)$ ,  $\gcd(e, \phi(n)) = 1$   
(Common choices: 3 / 7 / 11 ...)
- 5) Compute the private key  $d$   
$$d = e^{-1} \pmod{\phi(n)}$$
  
$$d \cdot e = 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$$

6) Public Key:  $(e, n)$  , Private Key:  $(d, n)$

RSA Encryption and Decryption

→ Encryption (Sender Side)

$$C = M^e \pmod n$$

M: Message (as a nb.)

C: Encryption message

→ Decryption (Receiver Side)

$$M = C^d \pmod n$$

Only the receiver (who had  $d$ ) can decrypt it

I) Examples

1)  $p = 17$  ,  $q = 11$

2)  $n = p \times q = 17 \times 11 = 187$

3)  $\phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1) = (16 \times 10) = 160$

4)  $e?$   $\gcd(\phi(n), e) = 1$   $1 < e < \phi(n)$   
"should be prime"  $\Rightarrow 1 < e < 160$

options:  $e = 3$  ,  $e = 7$  ,  $e = 11$

5)  $d \cdot e = 1 \pmod{160}$  ;  $d < 160$

$$e \cdot d = 1 + K \cdot \phi(n)$$

$$3 \cdot d = 1 + K \cdot 160 \quad \} \quad K = 1$$

$$3d = 161$$

$$d = 53.66 \text{ (not integer)} \Rightarrow e = 3 \times$$

$$\frac{1}{7} \quad e = 7$$

$$7 \cdot d = 161$$

$$d = 23 \quad \checkmark \quad \text{Then } e = 7$$

6) Public Key:  $K_U \{e, n\} = \{7, 187\}$

Private Key:  $K_R \{d, n\} = \{23, 187\}$

II) 1)  $p=3$   $q=11$

2)  $n=p \times q = 33$

3)  $\phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1) = 2 \times 10 = 20$

4)  $e?$

$$\gcd(\phi(n), e) = 1$$

$$\gcd(20, e) = 1$$

$$1 < e < 20$$

$e$  can be 3, 7, 11, ...

5)  $d \cdot e = 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$

$$d \cdot e = 1 \pmod{20} \Rightarrow d < 20$$

$$e \cdot d = 1 + k \cdot \phi(n)$$

Let  $k=1$  and  $e=3$

$$3 \cdot d = 1 + 20$$

$$3 \cdot d = 21$$

$$d = 7$$

6) Private Key:  $KR = \{d, n\} = \{7, 20\}$

Public Key:  $KU = \{e, n\} = \{3, 20\}$

III) 1)  $p=5$ ,  $q=7$ ,  $M=L$  (12 in alphabetical order)

2)  $n = q \times p = 7 \times 5 = 35$

3)  $\phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1) = 4 \times 6 = 24$

4)  $e=?$

$$\gcd(24, e) = 1$$

$$1 < e < 24$$

$e$  can be 5, 7, 11, ...

$$5) e \cdot d = 1 \pmod{24} \Rightarrow d < 24$$

$$e \cdot d = 1 + K \phi(n)$$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{let } K=1 \text{ and } e=5$$

$$5 \cdot d = 25$$

$$d = 5 \text{ and } e = 5 \quad (\text{e and d are the same : not logical})$$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{let } K=6, e=5$$

$$5 \cdot d = 1 + 6(24)$$

$$5 \cdot d = 145$$

$$d = 29 \checkmark$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Public Key: } KU = \{5, 35\} \quad \rightarrow \text{For encryption}$$

$$\text{Private Key: } KR = \{29, 35\} \quad \rightarrow \text{For decryption}$$

Encryption:

$$C = M^e \pmod{n}$$

$$C = 12^5 \pmod{35}$$

$$\begin{array}{r|l} 248832 & 35 \text{ ) } \otimes \\ 248815 & 7109 \\ \hline & 17 \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow C = 17$$

$$\text{Decryption: } M = C^d \pmod{n} = 17^{29} \pmod{35}$$