OTR PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION IN GO

ISA 763 – Security Protocol Analysis

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1. Introduction

Off-the-record protocol or more commonly known as OTR, is a cryptographic protocol that provides encryption for instant messaging conversation. OTR combines several cryptographic schemes: AES symmetric-key algorithm with 128 bits key length, the Diffie—Hellman key exchange with 1536 bits group size, and the SHA-1 hash function.

The motivation behind this protocol was to provide "deniable authentication" for the participants in a conversation while at the same time keeping their conversations "private". We can think of using PGP (instead of OTR) for communicating between two entities via Internet, however, PGP comes with the following drawbacks:

- The compromise of Bob's secret allows Trudy (attacker) to read not only future messages protected with that key, but past messages as well, and,
- Alice uses her Digital Signature to prove to Bob that she was the initiator of the message, which also proves it to Trudy or any other third entity.

To overcome these drawbacks, OTR was designed by Nikita Borisov, Ian Goldberg and Eric Brewer.

2. OTR Cryptographic Primitives

2.1. Perfect Forward Secrecy

The most obvious feature that we need from OTR is "confidentiality", which means, only Alice and Bob should be able to read messages that make up their online conversation. For this to work, we need to use encryption.

OTR achieves PFS by using short lived encryption keys that are generated as and when needed and discarded after use. These keys also contain the property that make it impossible for anyone to rederive them from any long-term material.

Thus, neither Trudy nor Alice or Bob would be able to reconstruct the key to read those past messages.

2.2. Digital Signatures

Digital Signatures are used to authenticate the author of the message. In short, a digital signature provides non-repudiation. However, OTR desires "repudiation". That is, no one should be able to prove that Alice sent any message. For this reason, OTR does not use Digital Signature to prove Alice's authorship of any message.

2.3. Message Authentication Codes (MAC)

OTR provides repudiation however, it still requires authentication to get security. That is, Bob needs to be assured that Alice is the one sending him the messages. For this reason, OTR uses MAC.

MAC provides repudiation, because Trudy cannot look at the MAC appended message and determine that Alice sent it because Trudy does not know the MAC key. Furthermore, Bob cannot prove to any other third entity that Alice sent him a message. All he can prove is that "someone" with the MAC key sent him the message and that "someone" could be Bob, himself.

Thus, by using a MAC, Bob can be assured that Alice sent the message, yet no one (not even Bob) can prove this fact to any other third entity.

2.4. Malleable Encryption

A more stronger property than repudiation is "forgeability". This means that OTR desires to have a property that essentially says, "anyone could have modified the message or sent the message".

To achieve this, after Alice knows all the messages she has sent to Bob that were MAC'd with the given MAC key have been received, Alice publishes the MAC key as part of her next message. Key things to note here are:

- 1) Bob has already checked all the messages authenticated by this MAC key and
- 2) Anyone can now create arbitrary messages with that MAC key and no one will be able to determine the author of the message.

Any other third-party entities can now modify past messages and recompute a correct MAC for them. However, this will not result in successful decryption because modifying an encrypted message will result in garbage once it is decrypted.

Thus, OTR uses Malleable encryption in the form of stream cipher, to encrypt the messages. In a malleable encryption scheme, someone can easily make changes to Ciphertext to make meaningful changes to Plaintext, even when someone does not know the key.

OTR derives the MAC key from Diffie-Hellman shared secret: MAC key is the hash of the encryption key.

3. Code Design

- 1) Specific functions have been used to perform the following functions:
 - i) Generate Diffie-hellman parameters p,g
 - ii) Generate x and y for Alice and Bob respectively. These are secret values selected to compute $g^x mod(p)$, $g^y mod(p)$, $g^{xy} mod(p)$
 - iii) To generate public-private RSA key pair for the two users
 - iv) Generating RSA signature on g^xmod(p), g^ymod(p) and performing verification
 - v) Generation of SHA256 digest, HMAC, EK and MK keys.
 - vi) Encryption and decryption of messages using AES
 - vii) Re-keying operations
- 2) The communicating users have been defined as structs to store various values and properties associated to them.
- 3) Used various crypto libraries available in GO to implement:
 - a) Diffie-hellman key exchange
 - b) SHA256 digest generation
 - c) HMAC generation
 - d) RSA key generation
 - e) RSA Signature generation and verification
 - f) Encryption and decryption of messages using AES
- 4) Channels used to communicate between processes
 - a) Channels allow synchronization without explicit locks
 - b) Channels exists between the various processes specially the user functions
- 5) Used WaitGroups to coordinate between the different actors.
 - a) Example: Bob can store Alice's public exponent only after she generates in Step 1 first.

4. Results

```
osboxes@osboxes:~/project4$ go run project4.go
##### RSA Initialization being done for users #####

*** Successfully generated RSA key pair for Alice ***

*** Successfully generated RSA key pair for Bob ***

*** RSA Public key exchange successfully completed between Alice <<--->> Bob ***

##### DH (p,g) being generated by Alice #####

--> g = 2

--> p = 1505199815620807919103361541217458920878167760850648061240295188326883003003:
938057810621462159709403071884364719712459690135040656650882822365603740960150445256:
##### DH (p,g) successfully shared with Bob #####
```

Figure 1: Generation of RSA key pairs for users and DH parameters (p,g)

```
##### DH (Public,Secret) exponents being generated by Alice #####
--> Alice 's picked secret: 103964084020026324848209336112650135991484181032624577677
92461629942341052357946909253804876516080532080162267405522806102184989313184580300840
*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***
*** Generated RSA Signature ***
>>>> Sharing Alice 's public exponent with Bob <<<<<
*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***
*** RSA Signature verification successful. Accepting Alice 's public exponent ***
##### DH (Public,Secret) exponents being generated by Bob #####
--> Bob 's picked secret: 119520144965738630533633623124973093294119213883364137551
51583148025824307767911397289315700560383033627825441660035011053166361960520966187194
*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***
*** Generated RSA Signature ***
>>>> Sharing Bob 's public exponent with Alice <<<<<
*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***
*** RSA Signature verification successful. Accepting Bob 's public exponent ***
##### Generating DH shared secret #####
|| Bob || Generated Shared key: 150022248432210514716610828729664380371153357784880
95559922565073277728466232440641229998086961245745867880640360681426274526434182011775
|| Alice || Generated Shared key: 150022248432210514716610828729664380371153357784880
95559922565073277728466232440641229998086961245745867880640360681426274526434182011775
##### Generating EK and MK #####
```

Figure 2: Exchanging DH parameters with RSA signature verification

Figure 3: First message exchange between Alice-Bob with AES encryption and MAC verification

```
##### DH (Public,Secret) exponents being generated by Bob ####

"*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***

*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***

*** Checking HMAC integrity ***

##### DH (Public,Secret) exponent with Alice <<<<

*** MAC verification successful. Accepting Bob 's public exponent ***

##### DH (Public,Secret) exponents being generated by Alice ####

--> Alice 's picked secret: 27037805054907526309519545153204593481237443634:
3268494274291324174524484599284543003318033985787237833251438557425253547576:

*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***

*** MAC verification successful. Accepting Alice 's public exponent ***

##### Generating DH shared secret ####

|| Alice || Generated Shared key: 13653572208076300892812647235820610352473
05087763461984212880077516192253284963640955754200787574536785052781100846966

##### Generating EK and MK ####

Generating EK and MK ####
```

Figure 4: First Re-keying request by Bob to Alice

Figure 5: Second Message from Bob to Alice after Re-keying

Figure 6: Third Message from Alice to Bob after Re-keying

Figure 7: Fourth Message from Bob to Alice after Re-keying

Figure 8: Fifth Message from Alice to Bob after Re-keying

Figure 9: Sixth Message from Bob to Alice after Re-keying

Figure 10: Seventh Message from Alice to Bob after Re-keying

Figure 11: Final Message from Bob to Alice after Re-keying

5. Conclusion

The results prove that OTR protocol provides encryption, authentication, and perfect forward secrecy. Even though it provides authentication, it also provides plausible deniability. During the protocol, Alice and Bob can be confident that the messages are authentic, but after the protocol finishes, it is not possible to prove that someone sent any given message (repudiation).

References

- [1] Nikita Borisov, Ian Goldberg, Eric Brewer "Off-the-Record Communication, or, Why Not to Use PGP" https://otr.cypherpunks.ca/otr-wpes-present.pdf
- [2] Cypherpunks "Off-the-Record Messaging Protocol version 3" https://otr.cypherpunks.ca/Protocol-v3-4.0.0.html
- [3] Online GO Documentation: http://golang.org
- [3] TutorialsPoint GO Language: https://www.tutorialspoint.com/go/index.htm

Appendix

I. Code:

```
package main
import (
   "bytes"
   "fmt"
   "strings"
   "time"
   "sync"
   "io"
   "crypto"
   "crypto/aes"
   "crypto/cipher"
   "crypto/rsa"
   "crypto/rand"
   "crypto/hmac"
   "crypto/sha256"
   "math/big"
   mathr "math/rand"
   "os/exec"
   "log"
   "encoding/base64"
)
/***** Diffie-Hellman
**********************************
func (u *User) genDHparam(ch bigint chan *big.Int, ch int chan int) {
   out, err := exec.Command("bash", "-c", "openssl gendh -2 1024 | openssl dh -noout -text |
sed 's/^[ ^t]*//;s/://g;' | sed -n 3,11p | tr -d '\\n'").Output()
   if err != nil {
       log.Fatal(err)
   output := string(out[:])
    p := new(big.Int)
   p.SetString(output, 16)
   u.dh p=p
   fmt.Println("--> g = ",u.dh g,"\n--> p = ",u.dh p)
   ch bigint <- u.dh p
```

```
ch int <- u.dh g
    wq.Done()
func (u *User) genDHkeys (ch bigint chan *big.Int) {
   secret := new(big.Int)
   public := new(big.Int)
   var err error
   mathr.Seed(time.Now().UTC().UnixNano())
    secret, err = rand.Int(rand.Reader, u.dh p)
   if err != nil {
           fmt.Println(err)
   u.dh secret = secret
    public.Exp(big.NewInt(int64(u.dh g)), u.dh secret, u.dh p)
    u.dh public = public
    fmt.Println("-->",u.identity,"'s picked secret: ",secret)//,"\n-->",u.identity,"'s Public
Exponent: ", u.dh public)
    ch bigint <- u.dh public
    wq.Done()
func (u *User) genSharedkey() {
    shared := new(big.Int)
    shared.Exp(u.dh public partner, u.dh secret, u.dh p)
    u.dh shared = shared
    fmt.Println("||",u.identity,"||","Generated Shared key: ", u.dh shared)
   wq.Done()
func initializeDHparams (u1 *User, u2 *User) {
   channel bigint := make(chan *big.Int,1)
   channel int := make(chan int,1)
   wg.Add(1)
    fmt.Println("\n##### DH (p,g) being generated by",ul.identity,"#####")
   go u1.genDHparam(channel bigint, channel int)
   wg.Wait()
   u2.dh p = <-channel bigint
   u2.dh g = <-channel int
    fmt.Println("##### DH (p,g) successfully shared with ",u2.identity,"#####")
func initializeDH (u1 *User, u2 *User) {
    channel_digest := make(chan []byte,1)
    channel_sig := make(chan []byte,1)
    channel_bool := make(chan bool,1)
    channel_bigint := make(chan *big.Int,1)
   wa.Add(3)
    fmt.Println("\n\n##### DH (Public, Secret) exponents being generated
by",u1.identity,"####")
    go u1.genDHkeys(channel bigint)
    go u1.genSHA256(<-channel bigint, channel digest, channel bigint)</pre>
    go u1.genRSAsig(<-channel digest, channel sig)</pre>
    fmt.Println("\n\n>>>> Sharing",u1.identity,"'s public exponent with
",u2.identity,"<<<<")
    wg.Add(2)
    go u2.genSHA256(<-channel bigint, channel digest, channel bigint)
```

```
go u2.verifyRSAsig(<-channel digest,<-channel sig, channel bool)</pre>
   wq.Wait()
   if (<-channel bool) {
          fmt.Println("\n*** RSA Signature verification successful.
Accepting",ul.identity,"'s public exponent ***")
          u2.dh public partner = <-channel bigint</pre>
   } else {
           fmt.Println("\n*** RSA Signature verification successful.
Rejecting", u1.identity, "'s public exponent ***")
   }
}
/***********************************
/******** RSA
***********************************
func (u *User) genRSAkeys (bits int, channel chan *rsa.PublicKey) {
   private key, err := rsa.GenerateKey(rand.Reader, bits)
   if err != nil {
          fmt.Println(err)
   fmt.Println("*** Successfully generated RSA key pair for", u.identity," ***")
   public_key := private_key.PublicKey
   u.rsaKey = private key
   u.rsaPubKey = &public key
   channel <- u.rsaPubKey</pre>
   wg.Done()
func (u *User) genRSAsig (digest []byte, channel chan []byte) {
   signature, err := rsa.SignPKCS1v15(rand.Reader, u.rsaKey, crypto.SHA256, digest)
   if err != nil {
          fmt.Println(err)
   channel <- signature
   fmt.Printf("\n*** Generated RSA Signature ***")
}
func (u *User) verifyRSAsig (digest []byte, signature []byte, channel chan bool) {
   err := rsa.VerifyPKCSlv15(u.rsaPubKey partner, crypto.SHA256, digest, signature)
   if err != nil {
          fmt.Println(err)
          channel <- false
   channel <- true
   wg.Done()
}
func initializeRSA(u1 *User, u2 *User) {
   channel rsaPubKey := make(chan *rsa.PublicKey, 2)
   fmt.Println("##### RSA Initialization being done for users #####")
   wg.Add(1)
   go u1.genRSAkeys(2048,channel rsaPubKey)
   wg.Wait()
   wg.Add(1)
   go u2.genRSAkeys(2048,channel rsaPubKey)
   wq.Wait()
   u2.rsaPubKey partner = <-channel rsaPubKey
       ul.rsaPubKey partner = <-channel rsaPubKey
```

```
fmt.Println("*** RSA Public key exchange successfully completed between",u1.identity,"<<-
-->>",u2.identity,"***")
/****** SHA256 Digest
*******************************
func (u *User) genSHA256 (b *big.Int, channel chan []byte, ch int chan *big.Int) {
       digest := sha256.Sum256([]byte(b.String()))
   fmt.Printf("*** Generated SHA256 Digest ***")
   channel <- digest[:]</pre>
   ch int <- b
   wg.Done()
func (u *User) genMACkey (message []byte, channel chan []byte) {
  fmt.Printf("\n*** Generated HMAC ***")
  mac := hmac.New(sha256.New, u.mk)
  mac.Write(message)
  messageMAC := mac.Sum(nil)
  channel <- messageMAC[:]</pre>
  wq.Done()
}
func (u *User) checkMACkey(message []byte, messageMAC []byte, channel chan bool) {
  fmt.Printf("\n*** Checking HMAC integrity ***")
  mac := hmac.New(sha256.New, u.mk)
  mac.Write(message)
  expectedMAC := mac.Sum(nil)
  channel <- hmac.Equal(messageMAC, expectedMAC)</pre>
  wq.Done()
}
func (u *User) genMACmsg (message string, channel chan []byte, channel string chan string) {
  fmt.Printf("\n*** Generated HMAC ***")
  mac := hmac.New(sha256.New, u.mk)
  mac.Write([]byte(message))
  messageMAC := mac.Sum(nil)
  channel <- messageMAC[:]</pre>
  channel_string <- message</pre>
  wq.Done()
}
func (u *User) checkMACmsg(message string, messageMAC []byte, channel chan bool,
channel string chan string) {
   fmt.Printf("\n*** Checking HMAC integrity ***")
  mac := hmac.New(sha256.New, u.mk)
  mac.Write([]byte(message))
   expectedMAC := mac.Sum(nil)
   channel <- hmac.Equal(messageMAC, expectedMAC)</pre>
   channel string <- message
   wq.Done()
}
```

```
func addBase64Padding(value string) string {
  m := len(value) % 4
   if m != 0 {
      value += strings.Repeat("=", 4-m)
   return value
}
func removeBase64Padding(value string) string {
  return strings.Replace(value, "=", "", -1)
func Pad(src []byte) []byte {
   padding := aes.BlockSize - len(src)%aes.BlockSize
   padtext := bytes.Repeat([]byte{byte(padding)}, padding)
   return append(src, padtext...)
func Unpad(src []byte) ([]byte) {
   length := len(src)
   unpadding := int(src[length-1])
   if unpadding > length {
      fmt.Println("Unpadding Error !!")
   return src[:(length - unpadding)]
}
func (u *User) encrypt(text string, channel chan string) {
   fmt.Println("++++++++++++ Encrypting using AES ++++++++++++")
   block, err := aes.NewCipher(u.ek)
   if err != nil {
      fmt.Println(err)
   msg := Pad([]byte(text))
   ciphertext := make([]byte, aes.BlockSize+len(msg))
   iv := ciphertext[:aes.BlockSize]
   if , err := io.ReadFull(rand.Reader, iv); err != nil {
      fmt.Println(err)
   }
   cfb := cipher.NewCFBEncrypter(block, iv)
   cfb.XORKeyStream(ciphertext[aes.BlockSize:], []byte(msg))
   finalMsg := removeBase64Padding(base64.URLEncoding.EncodeToString(ciphertext))
   channel <- finalMsg
   fmt.Println("|| Encrypted Message:", finalMsg,"||")
   wg.Done()
func (u *User) decrypt(text string) {
   fmt.Println("+++++++++ Decrypting using AES ++++++++++")
   block, err := aes.NewCipher(u.ek)
   if err != nil {
      fmt.Println(err)
```

```
}
   decodedMsg, err := base64.URLEncoding.DecodeString(addBase64Padding(text))
   if err != nil {
      fmt.Println(err)
   if (len(decodedMsg) % aes.BlockSize) != 0 {
      fmt.Println("Blocksize must be multiple of decoded message length")
   }
   iv := decodedMsg[:aes.BlockSize]
   msg := decodedMsg[aes.BlockSize:]
   cfb := cipher.NewCFBDecrypter(block, iv)
   cfb.XORKeyStream(msg, msg)
   unpadMsg := Unpad(msg)
   fmt.Println("|| Message Received by",u.identity,": \"", string(unpadMsg[:]),"\" ||")
   wq.Done()
***/
func (u *User) genEKMK () {
  ek := sha256.Sum256([]byte(u.dh_shared.String()))
  mk := sha256.Sum256(ek[:])
  u.ek = ek[:]
  u.mk = mk[:]
   wq.Done()
}
func genKeys(u1 *User, u2 *User){
   fmt.Println("##### Generating DH shared secret #####")
   wg.Add(2)
   go u1.genSharedkey()
   go u2.genSharedkey()
   wq.Wait()
   fmt.Println("##### Generating EK and MK #####")
   wg.Add(2)
   go u1.genEKMK()
   go u2.genEKMK()
   wq.Wait()
}
func reKeying (u1 *User, u2 *User) {
   channel bigint := make(chan *big.Int,1)
   channel digest := make(chan []byte,1)
   channel mac := make(chan []byte,1)
   channel bool := make(chan bool,1)
   wg.Add(3)
   fmt.Println("##### DH (Public, Secret) exponents being generated by",u1.identity,"#####")
   go u1.genDHkeys(channel bigint)
   go u1.genSHA256(<-channel bigint, channel digest, channel bigint)</pre>
   go u1.genMACkey(<-channel digest, channel mac)</pre>
   wg.Wait()
```

```
fmt.Println("\n\n>>>> Sharing",u1.identity,"'s public exponent with
",u2.identity,"<<<<")
  wg.Add(2)
  go u2.genSHA256(<-channel bigint, channel digest, channel bigint)</pre>
  go u1.checkMACkey(<-channel digest, <-channel mac, channel bool)</pre>
  wg.Wait()
  if (<-channel bool) {</pre>
       fmt.Println("\n*** MAC verification successful. Accepting",u1.identity,"'s public
exponent ***\n\n")
       u2.dh_public_partner = <-channel_bigint</pre>
  } else {
       fmt.Println("\n*** MAC verification failed. Rejecting",u1.identity,"'s public
exponent ***\n\n")
  }
}
func reKey (u1 *User, u2 *User) {
  fmt.Println("\n----")
  fmt.Println("<<<<< RE-KEYING REQUEST BY : ",u1.identity,">>>>>>>>)")
  fmt.Println("-----")
  reKeying(u1, u2)
  reKeying(u2, u1)
  genKeys(u1, u2)
  fmt.Println("-----")
func commMsg(u1 *User, u2 *User, i int) {
  fmt.Println("
                      MESSAGE CONSOLE
  fmt.Println("\n-----")
  fmt.Println(">>->>->> SENDING MESSAGE >>->>->>")
  fmt.Println("----")
  fmt.Println("||",ul.identity,": \"",ul.messages[i],"\" || \n")
  channel string := make(chan string, 1)
  channel mac := make(chan []byte, 1)
  channel bool := make(chan bool, 1)
  go ul.encrypt(ul.messages[i],channel string)
  go u1.genMACmsg(<-channel string, channel mac, channel string)</pre>
  wg.Wait()
  fmt.Println("\n\n-----")
  fmt.Println("<<-<<- RECEIVING MESSAGE <<--<<")
  fmt.Println("----")
  go u2.checkMACmsg(<-channel string,<-channel mac,channel bool,channel string)</pre>
  wg.Wait()
  if (<-channel bool) {</pre>
        fmt.Println("\n*** MAC verification successful. Accepting received message
***\n\n")
       wg.Add(1)
       go u2.decrypt(<-channel string)</pre>
       wg.Wait()
  } else {
       fmt.Println("\n*** MAC verification failed. Rejecting received message ***\n\n")
  ***/
```

```
type User struct {
   identity string // User's Name
   messages []string // User's Messages to send
   rsaPubKey *rsa.PublicKey // RSA Public key of user
   rsaPubKey partner *rsa.PublicKey // RSA Public key of partner
   rsaKey *rsa.PrivateKey // RSA private key of user
   dh p *big.Int // Value of DH prime
   dh g int // Value of DH group
   dh_secret *big.Int // Value of user's selected secret DH exponent e.g. x
   dh_public *big.Int // Value of user's public key i.e. (g)^x mod p
   dh_public_partner *big.Int // Value of partner's public key i.e. (g)^y mod p
   dh_shared *big.Int // Value of shared key (g)^xy mod p
   ek []byte // Encryption Key
   mk []byte // Key for HMAC
var wg sync.WaitGroup
func main() {
   mathr.Seed(time.Now().UTC().UnixNano())
   u1 := User{identity: "Alice", messages: []string {"Lights on", "Forward drift?", "413 is
in","The Eagle has landed"}}
   u2 := User{identity: "Bob", messages: []string {"30 seconds", "Yes", "Houston,
Tranquility base here", "A small step for a student, a giant leap for the group"}}
   initializeRSA(&u1,&u2)
   initializeDHparams(&u1,&u2)
   initializeDH(&u1,&u2)
   initializeDH(&u2,&u1)
   genKeys(&u1, &u2)
   j:= 0
   for i:=0;i<8; i++ {
           if (i%2==0) {
                  commMsg(&u1,&u2,j)
                  reKey(&u2,&u1)
           } else {
                  commMsg(&u2,&u1,j)
                   reKey(&u2,&u1)
                   j++
           }
   }
}
```