Crypto for Go Developers

George Tankersley (@_gtank)
CoreOS

Don't write your own crypto

This is Daniel J. Bernstein. He designs the algorithms.



You don't need to write your own crypto

Building blocks



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lego_dublo_arto_alanenpaa_2.JPG

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TLS for data in motion

GPG for data at rest

As a client

```
var minimalTLSConfig = &tls.Config{
    MinVersion: tls.VersionTLS12,
var tlsTransport = &http.Transport{
    TLSClientConfig: minimalTLSConfig,
var httpClient = &http.Client{
    Transport: tlsTransport,
    Timeout: 10 * time.Second,
func MakeRequest() error {
    resp, err := httpClient.Get("https://www.google.com")
    if err != nil {
         return err
    // have fun
```

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As a server

```
var minimalTLSConfig = &tls.Config{
    MinVersion:
                              tls.VersionTLS12,
    PreferServerCipherSuites: true,
var srv = &http.Server{
    Addr: "localhost:8080",
    TLSConfig: minimalTLSConfig,
func handleReq(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {
    fmt.Fprintf(w, "Hello, world")
func main() {
    http.HandleFunc("/", handleReq)
    err := srv.ListenAndServeTLS("cert.pem","key.pem")
    if err != nil {
         log.Fatal(err)
```

As a server

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func handleReq(w http.ResponseWriter, r *http.Request) {
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func main() {
    http.HandleFunc("/", handleReq)
    err := srv.ListenAndServeTLS("cert.pem","key.pem")
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TLS for data in motion

GPG for data at rest

How to use GPG

NAME

gpg - OpenPGP encryption and signing tool

Please don't use GPG

SYNOPSIS

gpg [--homedir dir] [--options file] [options]
command [args]

DESCRIPTION

gpg is the OpenPGP only version of the GNU Privacy Guard (GnuPG). It is a tool to provide digital encryption and signing services using the OpenPGP standard. gpg features complete key management and all bells and whistles you can expect from a decent OpenPGP implementation.

This is the standalone version of gpg. For desktop use you should consider using gpg2 from the GnuPG-2 package ([On some platforms gpg2 is installed under the name gpg]).

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How to use GPG

Please don't use GPG

\$ man gpg | wc -1
3227

\$ man gpg | wc -w 16721

This is not a talk about TLS and GPG

Everyday cryptography that isn't TLS

Hashing files

Generating random IDs

API authentication

Password storage for websites

Signed / encrypted cookies

JWTs

Signing updates

Just because it's in crypto/ doesn't mean it's good

Encryption

- DES
- 3DES
- RC4
- TEA
- XTEA
- Blowfish
- Twofish
- CAST5
- Salsa20
- AES

Hashes

- MD4
- MD5
- RIPEMD160
- SHA1
- SHA2
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- RSA
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```
import
    "crypto/aes"
    "crypto/rand"
     "fmt"
func main() {
    buf := []byte("The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy
dog")
    // Generate highly secure random AES key
    key := make([]byte, 32)
    _, err := rand.Read(key)
    if err != nil {
         panic(err)
     }
    aesCipher, _ := aes.NewCipher(key)
    // Encrypt in-place.
    aesCipher.Encrypt(buf, buf)
    fmt.Printf("%s\n", buf)
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Recall: the purpose of encryption is to hide the content of your data.

Input: The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

\$ go run encrypt.go ws) ���efox jumps over the lazy dog.

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Expect: �) ����G1e���BQ���c�R+t5�60� �

\$ go run encrypt.go ws) �� efox jumps over the lazy dog.

Never use a cipher.Block directly

Instead, use a block cipher mode

Go offers CBC, CFB, CTR, OFB, and GCM modes.

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                                   if err != nil {
                                       return nil, err
                                   gcm, err := cipher.NewGCM(block)
    Choose a block cipher mode
                                   if err != nil {
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                                   }
                                  nonce := make([]byte, gcm.NonceSize())
  Generate a randomized nonce
                                   , err = rand.Read(nonce)
                                   if err != nil {
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                                   return gcm.Seal(nonce, nonce, data, nil), nil
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import
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                              func Decrypt(ciphertext []byte, key [32]byte) (plaintext []
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                                   gcm, err := cipher.NewGCM(block)
    Choose a block cipher mode
                                   if err != nil {
                                        return nil, err
                                   return gcm.Open(nil,
     We stored the nonce at the
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Hashes

The crypto/ package is vast and full of legacy

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A word about hashes

Using hash functions directly is fraught with peril

- Length extension
- Rainbow tables
- Small number of possibilities (phone numbers)
- Salt? Pepper?

Like encryption, we use a construction on top of the basic algorithm

Instead of hash you should think HMAC

```
import
    "crypto/hmac"
     "crypto/sha512"
func Hash(tag string, data []byte) []byte {
    h := hmac.New(sha512.New512 256, []byte(tag))
    h.Write(data)
    return h.Sum(nil)
func ExampleHash() error {
        tag := "hashing file for storage key"
        contents, err := ioutil.ReadFile("testfile")
        if err != nil {
                Return error
        digest := Hash(tag, contents)
        fmt.Println(hex.EncodeToString(digest))
// Output:
  9f4c795d8ae5c207f19184ccebee6a606c1fdfe509c793614066d613580f03e1
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You can treat output from different tags as independent hash functions!

```
fileDigest := Hash("fileNode", []byte("hello, world"))
metaDigest := Hash("metadataNode", []byte("hello, world"))
fmt.Printf("%x\n%x\n", fileDigest, metaDigest)
```

```
$ go run example.go
e7332dd5f5b8f6b5af2403677805acaeca4820a7e319afc8951823de3d5ff25e
fe8894f9b7c9f0111680a3f85d94929e6d3c6f1ac379aeea1992023d277a4555
```

Hashing passwords

How to hash passwords

Passwords are a completely different situation.

Never use SHA2 or HMAC for passwords.

Use bcrypt. Use bcrypt. Use bcrypt.

```
import
    "golang.org/x/crypto/bcrypt"
func HashPassword(password []byte) ([]byte, error) {
    return bcrypt.GenerateFromPassword(password, 14)
func CheckPasswordHash(hash, password []byte) error {
    return bcrypt.CompareHashAndPassword(hash, password)
func Example() {
    myPassword := []byte("password")
    hashed, err := HashPassword(myPassword)
    if err != nil {
         return
    fmt.Println(string(hashed))
  Output:
  $2a$14$pCOIhZBzlW7URPHjZ8AFqu2DjsJ1LapFZaHq3mDksYzrgP3q6p400
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 - PKCS1v15
 - o PSS
- ECDSA
 - o P256
 - o **P384**
 - o P521
- Ed25519

Generate an ECDSA key

Math is happening

```
import (
    "crypto/ecdsa"
    "crypto/elliptic"
    "crypto/rand"
)

func NewSigningKey() (*ecdsa.PrivateKey, error) {
    key, err := ecdsa.GenerateKey(elliptic.P256(), rand.
Reader)
    return key, err
}
```

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```

How to sign data

Hash the data and sign the hash using the package-level Sign

For compatibility with JWTs, store signatures as a big-endian array of two large integers in R,S order

```
func Sign(data []byte, priv *ecdsa.PrivateKey) ([]byte,
error) {
    digest := sha256.Sum256(data)
    r, s, err := ecdsa.Sign(rand.Reader, priv, digest[:])
    if err != nil {
         return nil, err
    // encode the signature {R, S}
    params := priv.Curve.Params()
    curveByteSize := params.P.BitLen() / 8
    rBytes, sBytes := r.Bytes(), s.Bytes()
    signature := make([]byte, curveByteSize*2)
    copy(signature[curveByteSize-len(rBytes):], rBytes)
    copy(signature[curveByteSize*2-len(sBytes):], sBytes)
    return signature, nil
```

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```
"crypto/ecdsa"
                                   "crypto/sha256"
                                   "math/big"
How to verify data
                                Returns true if it's valid and false if not.
                              func Verify(data, sig []byte, pub *ecdsa.PublicKey) bool {
                                  digest := sha256.Sum256(data)
 Again, we have to hash the data
                                  curveByteSize := pub.Curve.Params().P.BitLen() / 8
                                  r, s := new(big.Int), new(big.Int)
                                  r.SetBytes(signature[:curveByteSize])
      This is the same signature
                                  s.SetBytes(signature[curveByteSize:])
       marshaling we just used.
                                  return ecdsa.Verify(pub, digest[:], r, s)
```

```
How to verify data
```

```
Again, we have to hash the data
```

This is the same signature marshaling we just used.

```
import
    "crypto/ecdsa"
    "crypto/sha256"
    "math/big"
  Returns true if it's valid and false if not.
func Verify(data, sig []byte, pub *ecdsa.PublicKey) bool {
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    curveByteSize := pub.Curve.Params().P.BitLen() / 8
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```

The crypto/ package is vast and full of legacy

Encryption

- DES
- 3DES
- RC4
- TEA
- XTEA
- Blowfish
- Twofish
- CAST5
- Salsa20
- AES

Hashes

- MD4
- MD5
- RIPEMD160
- SHA1
- SHA2
- SHA3

- RSA
 - PKCS1v15
 - o PSS
- ECDSA
 - o P256
 - o **P384**
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- Ed25519

The crypto/ package is vast and full of legacy

Encryption Hashes Signatures

ECDSA

P256

• SHA2

AES

Did you get all that?

Because there's more!

```
"crypto/aes"
                                "crypto/cipher"
Bonus:
                                "crypto/rand"
Random numbers
                                "io"
You want crypto/rand
                            func DontDoThisAnymore() [32]byte {
                                key := [32]byte{}
                                _, err := rand.Read(key[:])
                                if err != nil {
                                     panic(err)
As of Go 1.6, be
                                return key
careful with
goimports!
                            func NewEncryptionKey() [32]byte {
                                key := [32]byte{}
                                _, err := io.ReadFull(rand.Reader, key[:])
                                if err != nil {
                                     panic(err)
                                return key
```

```
"crypto/aes"
                                "crypto/cipher"
Bonus:
                                "crypto/rand"
Random numbers
                                "io"
You want crypto/rand
                            func DontDoThisAnymore() [32]byte {
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goimports!
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                                key := [32]byte{}
                                _, err := io.ReadFull(rand.Reader, key[:])
                                if err != nil {
                                    panic(err)
                                return key
```

Now available as a library (surprise!)

All of the stuff in the presentation, optimized for safe copy & paste

https://github.com/gtank/cryptopasta

Questions?