

Chapter 6 The RSA Algorithm

Introduction

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- A major advance in symmetric cryptography occurred with the development of the rotor encryption/decryption machine.
- With the availability of computers, even more complex systems were devised (most prominently, LUCIFER which led to DES)
- Both the rotor machines and DES, although representing significant advances, still relied on the tools of substitution and permutation.

Public-Key Encryption

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- The use of two keys has profound consequences in the area of confidentiality, key distribution and authentication.

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- Key distribution is trivial when using public-key encryption, compared to the rather cumbersome hand-shaking involved with key distribution centers for symmetric encryption.
 - some form of protocol is needed, generally involving a central agent
 - the procedures involved are not simpler nor any more efficient than those required for symmetric encryption

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Asymmetric Keys

Two related keys, a public key and a private key, that are used to perform complementary operations, such as encryption and decryption or signature generation and signature verification.

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Public Key Certificate

A digital document issued and digitally signed by the private key of a certification authority that binds the name of the subscriber to a public key. The certificate indicates that the subscriber identified in the certificate has sole control and access to the corresponding private key.

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Public Key (Asymmetric) Cryptographic Algorithm

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Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

A set of policies, processes, server platforms, software and work stations used the purpose of administering certificates and public-private key pairs, including the ability to issue, maintain and revoke public key certificates.

Principles of Public-Key Cryptosystems

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Whitfield Diffie (who discovered public-key encryption along with Martin Hellman while both were at Stanford) reasoned that this second requirement negated the very essence of cryptography; the ability to maintain total secrecy over your own communications.

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- Needed electronic signatures to be equivalent of those on documents
- Needed to be sure signature was sent by a particular person and satisfactory to both parties

Diffie and Hellman

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Asymmetric algorithms, such as the RSA, rely on two different but related keys (one for encryption and one for decryption) and these algorithms have a very important characteristic: it is computationally infeasible to determine the decryption key given only the knowledge of the cryptographical algorithm and the encryption key.

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Another property is that either key can be used for encryption and the other for decryption.

- Plaintext

Ingredients

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- Encryption algorithm

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- Public and private keys

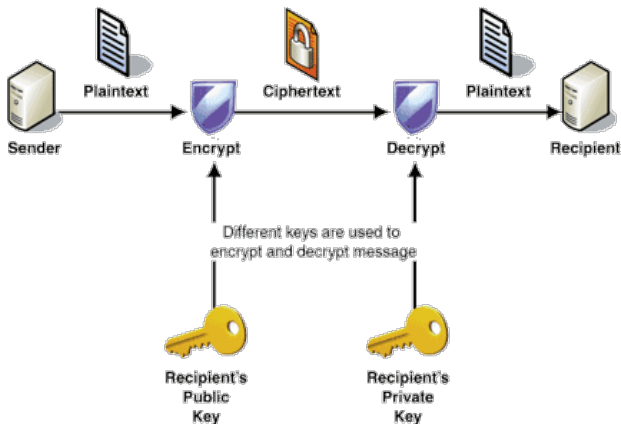
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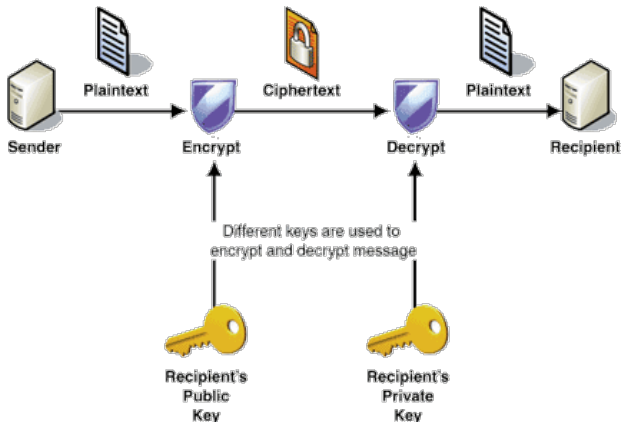
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Public-Key Encryption Scheme



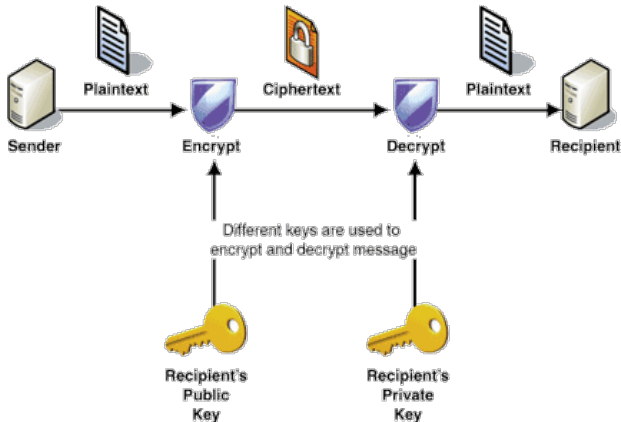
1. Each user generates a pair of keys to be used for the encryption and decryption of messages.

Public-Key Encryption Scheme



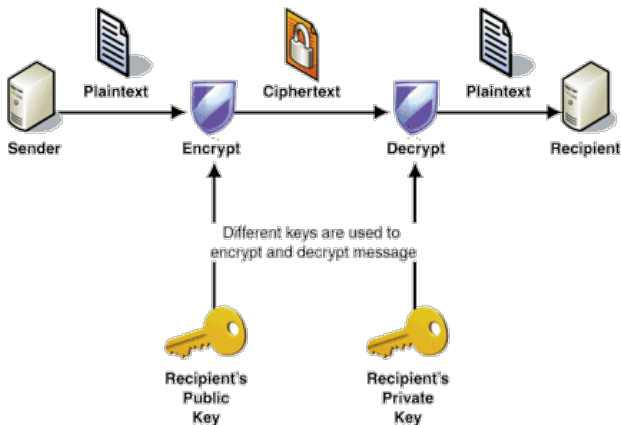
2. Each of the users places one of the keys in a public key register or other accessible file. This is the public key. The companion key is kept private. Each user maintains a collection of public keys obtained from others.

Public-Key Encryption Scheme



3. If I want to send a confidential message to you, I encrypt with your public key.

Public-Key Encryption Scheme



4. When you receive the ciphertext, you decrypt with your private key. No other recipient can decrypt the message because only you know your private key.

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One of the first successful attempts to the challenge was developed at MIT in 1977 by Rivest, Shamir and Adleman and was first published in 1978. Since that time, the RSA algorithm has reigned supreme as the most widely accepted public-key scheme.

RSA Scheme

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- In practice, the block size is i bits, where $2^i < n \leq 2^{i+1}$.

Encryption and decryption are of the following form, for some plaintext block M and ciphertext block C .

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

$$M \equiv C^d \pmod{n} \text{equiv} (M^e)^d \pmod{n} \equiv M^{ed} \pmod{n}$$

- Both the sender and receiver must know the value of n .

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- Both the sender and receiver must know the value of n .
- Only the sender knows the value of e .
- Only the receiver knows the value of d .
- This is a public-key encryption algorithm with a public key of $PU = \{e, n\}$ and a private key of $PR = \{d, n\}$.

Requirements

For this algorithm to be satisfactory for public-key encryption, the following requirements must be met:

- 1 It is possible to find values of e, d, n such that $M^{ed} \pmod{n} \equiv M$ for all $M < n$

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- 3 It is infeasible to determine d given e and n

First Requirement

We need to find a relationship of the form

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The preceding relationship holds if d and e are multiplicative inverses of each other, modulo $\phi(n)$, where $\phi(n)$ is the Euler totient function.

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Euler Totient Function

$\phi(n)$ of a positive integer n is defined to be the number of positive integers less than or equal to n that are relatively prime to n .

When p is prime, however, this reduces to

$$\phi(p) = p \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) = p \left(\frac{p-1}{p}\right) = p-1$$

So, for our situation we have

$$n = pq \Rightarrow \phi(n) = \phi(pq) = (p-1)(q-1)$$

Euler Totient Function

Example

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How the function works: If $n = p_1^{k_1} \cdot p_2^{k_2} \dots p_m^{k_m}$, then

$$\phi(n) = n \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_1}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_2}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{1}{p_m}\right)$$

So in our example, we have

$$\phi(10) = 10 \left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) = 10 \left(\frac{1}{2}\right) \left(\frac{4}{5}\right) = 4$$

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Note that this is only true if d (and therefore e as well) are relatively prime to $\phi(n)$. Equivalently, $(\phi(n), d) = 1$.

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On receipt of this ciphertext, User A decrypts by calculating $M \equiv C^d \pmod{\phi(n)}$.

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

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- 4 Select e such that $(e, 160) = 1$ and $e < 160$ - choose $e = 7$

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- 4 Select e such that $(e, 160) = 1$ and $e < 160$ - choose $e = 7$
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The resulting keys are the public key $\{7, 187\}$ and the private key $\{23, 187\}$.

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$$88^1 \pmod{187} \equiv 88$$

$$88^2 \pmod{187} \equiv 7744 \pmod{187} \equiv 77$$

$$88^4 \pmod{187} \equiv 77^2 \pmod{187} \equiv 132$$

$$88^7 \pmod{187} \equiv (88 \times 77 \times 132) \pmod{187} \equiv 11$$

RSA Example - Decryption

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$$11^{23} = 11^1 \times 11^2 \times 11^4 \times 11^8 \times 11^8$$

$$11^1 \pmod{187} \equiv 11$$

$$11^2 \pmod{187} \equiv 121$$

$$11^4 \pmod{187} \equiv 14641 \pmod{187} \equiv 55$$

$$11^8 \pmod{187} \equiv 55^2 \pmod{187} \equiv 33$$

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So,

$$11^{23} \pmod{187} \equiv (11 \times 121 \times 55 \times 33^2) \pmod{187} \equiv 88$$

RSA Security

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The reason that difficulty of factorization makes RSA secure is that for n the product of two big primes (with the primes being secret), it seems hard to compute $\phi(n)$ when only n is given.

Finding p and q

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$$x^2 - (p+q)x + pq = 0$$

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Already, $pq = n$, so we can express $p+q$ in terms of n and $\phi(n)$.
Since

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(n) &= (p-1)(q-1) \\ &= pq - (p+q) + 1 \\ &= n - (p+q) + 1\end{aligned}$$

we can rearrange to get $p+q = n - \phi(n) + 1$.

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Since

$$\begin{aligned}\phi(n) &= (p-1)(q-1) \\ &= pq - (p+q) + 1 \\ &= n - (p+q) + 1\end{aligned}$$

we can rearrange to get $p+q = n - \phi(n) + 1$.

Therefore, p and q are the roots of

$$x^2 - (n - \phi(n) + 1)x + n = 0$$

Which can be solved using the quadratic formula.

Key Generation and Management

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For there to be a corresponding encryption key e it must be that d is relatively prime to $(p - 1)(q - 1)$, and the Euclidean Algorithm gives an efficient means to compute e . If $\gcd > 1$, we can guess another d .

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Notes

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- 7 $\gcd(p - 1, q - 1)$ should be small.

Attacking RSA

At present, it seems that attacks on RSA will succeed only when RSA is improperly implemented, for example, with too small modulus. That is, there seems to be exploitable weaknesses when certain avoidable mistakes are made.

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If the key size $n = pq$ is too small, a brute force attack to factor n may succeed in a smaller time than one would want.

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- 2 Determine $\phi(n)$ directly without determining p or q .
- 3 Determine d directly without first determining $\phi(n)$.

Timing Attack

This is analagous to a burglar guessing a combination for a safe by observing how long it takes for someone to turn the dial from number to number. This would be a computer attack where we measure how long it takes for exponentiation.

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Steps against this kind of attack:

- 1 Constant exponentiation time
- 2 Random delay
- 3 Blinding: multiply the ciphertext by a random number before exponentiation. This prevents bit by bit analysis since the attacker won't know the true cipher bits.

Chosen Ciphertext Attack

An adversary chooses a number of ciphertexts and is given corresponding plaintexts decrypted by the private key.

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Not feasible if a real situation where a hacker is trying to defeat RSA.