ACK / NACK / Re-sync

MLS Interim Jan 2019

ACK

- How to acknowledge successful receipt and decryption of messages?
- Should these be used within the protocol?
 - If retransmits are included in MLS, should we track per-client delivery?
 - Avoid retransmit when already acked.
 - Would this scale to 100s, 1000s, 10,000s participants?
- Whether / how to authenticate ACKs?
 - Signatures?
 - Is recipient deniability something we care about?
 - What do we gain from authenticating ACKs?

NACK

- Missed messages?
- Failed decryptions?
- Include retransmit within protocol?
 - Many providers will do this anyway. Safer to include, and prove.
 - Might loosen security guarantees e.g. weaker notion of PCS.
 - Proof complexity!?!?
- Might require tie-in with application layer.
 - o E.g. ephemeral messages.
- Authentication?
 - Signatures?
 - If none, then how does this affect PCS?

Re-sync

- What if the session is borked?
- How to detect this?
- Individual messages failed to decrypt.
 - Session may still work, might be recoverable.
- Session is broken.
 - Maybe clients' current state is broken.
 - Possibly some shared recent state that might be usable for recovery.
 - How would this affect FS / PCS / formal analysis?
- Session is totally broken.
 - Globally, or just for one client?
 - Fetch new init secrets and re-establish?
 - Might explicitly break a strong notion of PCS.
 - Might maintain a weaker notion of PCS?
- Retransmit missed messages?