

[Docs](#) » [Primitives](#) » [Message authentication codes](#) »

Cipher-based message authentication code (CMAC)

⚠ Danger

This is a “Hazardous Materials” module. You should **ONLY** use it if you’re 100% absolutely sure that you know what you’re doing because this module is full of land mines, dragons, and dinosaurs with laser guns.

Cipher-based message authentication code (CMAC)

[Cipher-based message authentication codes](#) (or CMACs) are a tool for calculating message authentication codes using a block cipher coupled with a secret key. You can use an CMAC to verify both the integrity and authenticity of a message.

A subset of CMAC with the AES-128 algorithm is described in [RFC 4493](#).

```
class cryptography.hazmat.primitives.cmac.CMAC(algorithm, backend=None)
```

New in version 0.4.

CMAC objects take a `BlockCipherAlgorithm` instance.

```
>>> from cryptography.hazmat.primitives import cmac
>>> from cryptography.hazmat.primitives.ciphers import algorithms
>>> c = cmac.CMAC(algorithms.AES(key))
>>> c.update(b"message to authenticate")
>>> c.finalize()
b'CT\x1d\xc8\x0e\x15\xbe4e\xdb\xb6\x84\xca\xd9Xk'
```

If the backend doesn’t support the requested `algorithm` an `UnsupportedAlgorithm` exception will be raised.

If `algorithm` isn’t a `BlockCipherAlgorithm` instance then `TypeError` will be raised.

To check that a given signature is correct use the `verify()` method. You will receive an exception if the signature is wrong:

```
>>> c = cmac.CMAC(algorithms.AES(key))
>>> c.update(b"message to authenticate")
>>> c.verify(b"an incorrect signature")
Traceback (most recent call last):
...
cryptography.exceptions.InvalidSignature: Signature did not match digest.
```

Parameters:

- **algorithm** – An instance of `BlockCipherAlgorithm`.
- **backend** – An optional instance of `CMACBackend`.

Raises:

- **`TypeError`** – This is raised if the provided `algorithm` is not an instance of `BlockCipherAlgorithm`.
- **`cryptography.exceptions.UnsupportedAlgorithm`** – This is raised if the provided `backend` does not implement `CMACBackend`.

`update(data)`**Parameters:**

data (*bytes*) – The bytes to hash and authenticate.

Raises:

- **`cryptography.exceptions.AlreadyFinalized`** – See `finalize()`.
- **`TypeError`** – This exception is raised if `data` is not `bytes`.

`copy()`

Copy this `CMAC` instance, usually so that we may call `finalize()` to get an intermediate value while we continue to call `update()` on the original instance.

Returns:

A new instance of `CMAC` that can be updated and finalized independently of the original instance.

Raises:

`cryptography.exceptions.AlreadyFinalized` – See `finalize()`.

`verify(signature)`

Finalize the current context and securely compare the MAC to `signature`.

Parameters:

signature (*bytes*) – The bytes to compare the current CMAC against.

Raises:

- [cryptography.exceptions.AlreadyFinalized](#) – See `finalize()`
- [cryptography.exceptions.InvalidSignature](#) – If signature does not match digest
- [TypeError](#) – This exception is raised if `signature` is not `bytes`.

finalize()

Finalize the current context and return the message authentication code as bytes.

After `finalize` has been called this object can no longer be used and `update()`, `copy()`, `verify()` and `finalize()` will raise an `AlreadyFinalized` exception.

Return bytes: The message authentication code as bytes.

Raises: [cryptography.exceptions.AlreadyFinalized](#) –