

## Attested Key-Pair Generation with “Key Escrow”

Occasionally credential issuers want (or require) that encryption private keys are backedup in order to be able to restore data (AKA “key escrow”) in case an encryption-key is lost or is replaced.

This document describes how KeyGen2’s key-attestation scheme has been augmented by an end-to-end-secured escrow mechanism as well. The concept is as follows: An issuer sends a key-generation request to a client presumably having an SE (Security Element) for keeping user-keys in. The SE responds with attested public keys where each attest consists of a signature over the *generated public key*, *key-usage*, *key-exportability*, and a *nonce*, using an embedded SE device-key as the signature key. A key-attest vouches for that the key-pair actually was generated *inside of the SE*.

By also including a key-escrow public key (supplied by the issuer during the request), in the attest signature hash, the issuer gets a cryptographically strong evidence enabling it to detect if something in the transport layer or in the SE middleware temporarily swapped the escrow-key in order to steal the private key and then changed it back to cover-up the operation.

A prerequisite for this to be trustworthy is that the entire operation (*key-pair generation*, *private-key escrow-key encryption*, and *device-key attest-signing*) is carried out inside of the SE *in a fully atomic fashion*. In addition to successful attest-signature validation, the issuer (of course) also has to recognize and trust the SE *device type* identified by the public key certificate received in the response.

For details on the original key-attestation scheme see: <http://webpki.org/papers/keygen2/keygen2-fips140-2.pdf>

Note that although the referred document exploits KeyGen2’s DIAS (Device Internal Attestation Signature) single device-key scheme, the core principle is equally applicable to designs relying on separate device-keys for attestations, authentications, and encryptions performed by an SE.

### Request Phase

The following is a slightly simplified version of a KeyGen2 key generation request where the issuer asks for two keys; an encryption key with escrow and an authentication without escrow (actually KeyGen2 only allows escrow for encryption keys).

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<KeyOperationRequest ... >
  <CreateObject>

    <KeyPair ID="Key.1" KeyUsage="encryption">
      <RSA KeySize="2048"/>
      <EscrowKey>
        <ds:X509Data>
          <ds:X509Certificate>MIIB2TCCAUKg ... FLlck8kmFSX</ds:X509Certificate>
        </ds:X509Data>
      </EscrowKey>
    </KeyPair>

    <KeyPair ID="Key.2" KeyUsage="authentication">
      <RSA KeySize="2048"/>
    </KeyPair>

  </CreateObject>
</KeyOperationRequest>
```

#### IPR Declaration

*This specification is hereby put in the public domain.  
It does to the author’s knowledge not infringe on any  
existing patent.*

## Response Phase

Below is a condensed version of the anticipated KeyGen2 response. The only thing that differs from a regular response is the element `EncryptedPrivateKey` which contains a copy of the generated private key in PKCS #8 `PrivateKeyInfo` format, wrapped by a 128-bit random AES key, which in turn is wrapped by the issuer-supplied escrow public key. The `EndorsementKey` contains the device public key as well as an enveloped signature over the entire response.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<KeyOperationResponse ... >

  <GeneratedPublicKey ID="Key.1" KeyAttestation="H8USgM2aQG7 ... ZixaYB5lymZ4YVw==">
    <ds:KeyInfo>
      <ds:KeyValue>
        <ds:RSAKeyValue>
          <ds:Modulus>AKu4uVZ8nYvgf ... 4mjS422CqwxAt</ds:Modulus>
          <ds:Exponent>AQAB</ds:Exponent>
        </ds:RSAKeyValue>
      </ds:KeyValue>
    </ds:KeyInfo>
    <EncryptedPrivateKey Format="http://xmlns.webpki.org/keygen2/1.0#format.pkcs8">
      <xenc:EncryptedKey>
        <xenc:EncryptionMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#aes128-cbc"/>
        <ds:KeyInfo>
          <ds:KeyName>Key.1.Private</ds:KeyName>
        </ds:KeyInfo>
        <xenc:CipherData>
          <xenc:CipherValue>mWi94IJvPipsM ... Xk/HbWM2w6do=</xenc:CipherValue>
        </xenc:CipherData>
      </xenc:EncryptedKey>
      <xenc:EncryptedKey>
        <xenc:EncryptionMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#rsa-1_5"/>
        <xenc:CipherData>
          <xenc:CipherValue>RbDx5WbNn6 ... D3GjL7qlhD59s=</xenc:CipherValue>
        </xenc:CipherData>
        <xenc:CarriedKeyName>Key.1.Private</xenc:CarriedKeyName>
      </xenc:EncryptedKey>
    </EncryptedPrivateKey>
  </GeneratedPublicKey>

  <GeneratedPublicKey ID="Key.2" KeyAttestation="k6QNThjqMu2 ... dUpRfazW+5lyTA==">
    <ds:KeyInfo>
      <ds:KeyValue>
        <ds:RSAKeyValue>
          <ds:Modulus>AIOwQTjSE8qyZ ... Dfi2WeJdgLQ2k=</ds:Modulus>
          <ds:Exponent>AQAB</ds:Exponent>
        </ds:RSAKeyValue>
      </ds:KeyValue>
    </ds:KeyInfo>
  </GeneratedPublicKey>

  <EndorsementKey KeyAttestationAlgorithm="http://xmlns.webpki.org/keygen2/1.0#algorithm.key-attestation-1">
    <ds:Signature>
      .
      .
    </ds:Signature>
  </EndorsementKey>
</KeyOperationResponse>
```