01-Web_Cryptography_API

Introduction This note gather information obtained during my discovery of the Web Cryptography API. Security attention points All element marked with ⚠ are points that must taken in account from a security point of view. Misc • Table were generated with this tool. Study roadmap □ Search and explore documentation and tutorials. □ Implement the labs.

Sources

- RFC
- MDN DOCS
- MDN SAMPLES
- CHROMIUM

Note for the blog post

The blog post will have the following section:

☐ Create a XLM blog post about all this study.

- 1. What is the Web Cryptography API?
- 2. Browser support level?
- 3. Why it is interesting to use it (pro/con)?
- 4. Global overview of its capabilities

For the point 4:

Demonstration of usage for the different kind of crypto operations:

Hash

- HMAC
- Signature
- Key handling
- Security random number generation (PRNG)
- Symetric encryption
- · Asymetric encryption

If possible for each crypto operation compare it <u>CryptoJS</u> with the same context: The risk it t cause a debate/drama...so let's see during the lab/research...

Research

What is the Web Cryptography API?

Information below are taken from the RFC.

JavaScript API for performing basic cryptographic operations in web applications, such as hashing, signature generation and verification, and encryption and decryption.

Additionally, it describes an API for applications to generate and/or manage the keying material necessary to perform these operations.

Cryptographic transformations are exposed via the SubtleCrypto interface, which defines a set of methods for performing common cryptographic operations.

This specification does not dictate a mandatory set of algorithms that MUST be implemented (see the reason here) however it provides descriptions for a variety of algorithms that authors may wish to use and that User Agents may choose to implement.

This API does not deal with or address the discovery of cryptographic modules (see the reason here).

This specification does not define any specific mechanisms for the storage of cryptographic keys:

By default, unless specific effort is taken by the author to persist keys, such as through the use of the Indexed Database API, keys created with this API will only be valid for the duration of the current page (e.g. until a navigation event). Authors that wish to use the same key across different pages or multiple browsing sessions must employ existing web storage technologies

The only requirement for the API is that key material is not exposed to script, except through the use of the <code>exportKey</code> and <code>wrapKey</code> operations.

⚠ In particular, the API does not guarantee that the underlying cryptographic key material will not be persisted to disk, possibly unencrypted, nor that it will be inaccessible to users or other applications running with the same privileges as the User Agent.

 \triangle Any application or user that has access to the device storage may be able to recover the key material, even through scripts may be prohibited.

⚠ This specification places no normative requirements on how implementations handle key material once all references to it go away. That is, conforming user agents are not required to zeroize key material, and it may still be accessible on device storage or device memory, even after all references to the CryptoKey have gone away.

⚠ Developers making use of the SubtleCrypto interface are expected to be aware of the security concerns associated with both the design and implementation of the various algorithms provided.

⚠ This specification includes several algorithms which, in their default usage, can result in cryptographic vulnerabilities. While these concerns may be mitigated, such as through the combination and composition with additional algorithms provided by this specification, authors should proceed with caution and review the relevant cryptographic literature before using a given algorithm: See here.

<u>Security considerations.</u>

Supported operations, see here and here and here and here

- Get random bytes
- Encrypt / Decrypt using symetric/asymetric algorithm/key
- Sign and verify signature using symetric/asymetric algorithm/key
- Hash
- Generate symetric/asymetric key
- Derive key symetric/asymetric key
- Import/export symetric/asymetric key
- wrap/unwrap symetric/asymetric key

Supported key format, see here:

- raw: An unformatted sequence of bytes. Intended for secret keys.
- pkcs8: The DER encoding of the PrivateKeyInfo structure.
- **spki**: The DER encoding of the <code>SubjectPublicKeyInfo</code> structure.
- jwk: The key is a JsonWebKey dictionary encoded as a JavaScript object.

Browser support level?

Support on June 2021:

Source: https://caniuse.com/cryptography



IE	Edge *	Firefox	Chrome	Safari	Safari on*	Opera Mini	Chrome for Android	UC Browser for Android	Samsung Internet
			89		13.7				
	90	88	90	14	14.4				
11 -	91	89	91	14.1	14.6	all	91	12.12	14.0
		90	92	TP					
		91	93						
			94						

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-

US/docs/Web/API/Web Crypto API#browser compatibility

Browser compatibility

Crypto

Report problems with this compatibility data on GitHub

	-				٥								
	Ohrome	P Edge	Firefox	(a) Internet Explorer	O Opera	Safari	■ WebView Android	Ohrome Android	E Firefox for Android	O Opera Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet	• Node js
Crypto	11	12	26	11	15	6.1	37	18	26	14	6.1	1.0	15.0.0 *
<pre>getRandomValues()</pre>	11	12	26	11	15	6.1	37	18	26	14	6.1	1.0	15.0.0
subtle <u></u> <u>subtle</u>	37	12	34	11	24	11	37	37	34	24	11	3.0	15.0.0
Secure context required	60	79	75	No	47	No	60	60	No	47	No	8.0	?

	Full support	Partial support
\geq	No support	Compatibility unknowr

Why it is interesting to use it (pro/con)?

The list below present some pros and cons of the using this API.

Pros:

- Ensure that implementation of the algorithms is done by crypto specialists.
- Ensure that security issues on implementation of the algorithms are automatically patched during the browser update process.
- Ensure that the maintenance/update of the API/implementation of the algorithms is done by the browser provider (no abrupt stop of the support).
- Provide, in theory, a "portability" across all browsers supporting the API.

Cons:

- As patching of security issues on implementation of the algorithms is handled by browsers so user must upgrade it browsers itself (warning is possible using JS with browser version info).
- The API support vulnerable algorithms so care must be taken on the algorithms used.
- Security of the key storage is not covered by the API so it must be managed by the app.

- The API RFC places no normative requirements on how implementations handle key material once all references to it go away so exposure of the key is possible in case of memory handling issue.
- As the API provide low level operations, it's up to the developer to ensure a correct usage of the target algorithm according to its specificities (ex: in AES-GCM, requirement of a unique NONCE for each encryption operation).

Even if cons exists, usage of this API is desirable over custom JS libraries if only for the fact it ensure that implementation of the crypto algorithm is performed by specialist in the domain as well the consistent process of patchning provided by the browser. Indeed, most of modern browsers like Firefox, Chrome, Opera and Edge provide auto-update process.

Global overview of its capabilities

Base references used in all code snippets:

```
//See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Window/crypto
const CRYPTO_OBJ = window.crypto;
//See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/TextEncoder
const TEXT_ENCODER = new TextEncoder("utf8");
//See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/TextDecoder
const TEXT_DECODER = new TextDecoder("utf8");
```

Conversion to HEX function used in some code snippets (credits):

```
//Credits: https://stackoverflow.com/a/40031979/451455
function toHex(buffer) {
   return [...new Uint8Array(buffer)]
     .map(x => x.toString(16).padStart(2, "0"))
     .join("");
}
```

Reference to **Secure Context** means, to simplify, that the protocol used is HTTPS:

SubtleCrypto

△ Secure context

This feature is available only in secure contexts (HTTPS), in some or all supporting browsers.

The following error is raised when the HTTP protocol (non secure context) is used but it is not supported due to the requirement of a **Secure Context** (subtle attribute member of the crypto object is not defined):



Everytime it was possible, the strongest algorithms and key lengths were used in order to evaluate the browser supports as well as behavior.

Random values generation

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Crypto/getRandomValues

⚠ Don't use <code>getRandomValues()</code> to generate encryption keys. Instead, use the <code>generateKey()</code> method. There are a few reasons for this; for example, <code>getRandomValues()</code> is not guaranteed to be running in a secure context.

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

- HTTP: ✓
- HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
function performRandomValuesGeneration(wantedLength) {
   let buffer = new Int32Array(wantedLength);
   cryptoObj.getRandomValues(buffer);
   return toHex(buffer);
}
```

Hashing

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/digest

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

- HTTP: X
- HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
async function performSha512Hash(sourceData) {
   let dataEncoded = TEXT_ENCODER.encode(sourceData);
   let hashBytes = await CRYPTO_OBJ.subtle.digest("SHA-512",
   dataEncoded);
```

```
return toHex(hashBytes);
}
```

Symmetric key handling

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/AesKeyGenParams

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

• HTTP: X

• HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
async function
performSymmetricKeyGenerationForEncryptionDecryptionUsageWithAESGCM() {
    //Generate a 256 bits key for AES-GCM symmetric encryption algorithm
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/AesKeyGenParams
    let aesKeyGenParams = {
        name: "AES-GCM",
        length: 256
    };
    let keyUsages = ["encrypt", "decrypt"];
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey
    let cryptoKey = await CRYPTO_OBJ.subtle.generateKey(aesKeyGenParams,
true, keyUsages);
    return cryptoKey;
}
```

Symmetric encryption and decryption

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/encrypt

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/decrypt

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/AesGcmParams

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

• HTTP: X

HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
async function performEncryptionDecryptionWithAESGCM(sourceData,
cryptoKey) {
   let nonce = new Int32Array(12); //96 bits
   CRYPTO OBJ.getRandomValues(nonce);
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/AesGcmParams
   let additData = new Int32Array(16); //128 bits
   CRYPTO OBJ.getRandomValues(additData);
   let aesGcmParams = {
       name: "AES-GCM",
       iv: nonce,
        additionalData: additData,
        tagLength: 128 //16 bytes
   };
    let dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode(sourceData);
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/encrypt
   let encryptedData = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.encrypt(aesGcmParams,
cryptoKey, dataEncoded)
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/decrypt
   let decryptedData = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.decrypt(aesGcmParams,
cryptoKey, encryptedData)
   let plainText = TEXT DECODER.decode(decryptedData);
   let result = {
        encryptedData: toHex(encryptedData),
        cycleSucceed: (sourceData === plainText)
   return result;
}
```

HMAC

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/HmacKeyGenParams

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/sign

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/verify

⚠ For the generation of the secret, specifiy the member **length** of the **HmacKeyGenParams** object, only if **you know what you are doing** from a cryptograpghy point of view.

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

• HTTP: X

• HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

i This include the **secret** generation for signature operation.

```
async function performSecretGenerationForSignVerifyUsageWithHMAC() {
    //Generate a secret (cryptoKey) for HMAC operation with SHA-512
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/HmacKeyGenParams
    let hmacKeyGenParams = {
       name: "HMAC",
       hash: "SHA-512"
   };
    let keyUsages = ["sign", "verify"];
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey
    let cryptoKey = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.generateKey(hmacKeyGenParams,
true, keyUsages);
   return cryptoKey;
}
async function performSignVerifyWithHMAC(sourceData, cryptoKey) {
   let algorithm = "HMAC";
   let dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode(sourceData);
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/sign
    let signature = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.sign(algorithm, cryptoKey,
dataEncoded);
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/verify
    let isValid = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.verify(algorithm, cryptoKey,
signature, dataEncoded);
    let result = {
        signature: toHex(signature),
        cycleSucceed: isValid
   return result;
}
```

Asymmetric key handling

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/RsaHashedKeyGenParams

Source: https://www.keylength.com/en/3/

For the generation of the key pair, specifiy for the member **publicExponent** of the **RsaHashedKeyGenParams** object another value than 65537 ([new Uint8Array([1, 0, 1])]), only if **you know what you are doing** from a cryptograpghy point of view.

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

- HTTP: X
- HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
async function
performAsymmetricKeyGenerationForEncryptionDecryptionUsageWithRSAOAEP() {
    //RSA was chosen because EC was not supported by the "algorithm"
parameter at the time of the POC (June 2021):
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/encrypt#parameters
    //Generate a RSA-OAEP key pair with a size of 4096 bits
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/RsaHashedKeyGenParams
    //See https://www.keylength.com/en/3/
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/RsaHashedKeyGenParams#properties
    let rsaHashedKeyGenParams = {
        name: "RSA-OAEP",
        modulusLength: 4096,
        publicExponent: new Uint8Array([1, 0, 1]),
        hash: "SHA-512"
    };
    let keyUsages = ["encrypt", "decrypt"];
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey
    let cryptoKeyPair = await
CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.generateKey(rsaHashedKeyGenParams, true, keyUsages);
    return cryptoKeyPair;
```

Asymmetric encryption and decryption

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/encrypt

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/RsaOaepParams

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

- HTTP: X
- HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

```
async function performEncryptionDecryptionWithRSAOAEP(sourceData,
cryptoKeyPairPublicKey, cryptoKeyPairPrivateKey) {
    let labelData = new Int32Array(32); //256 bits
   CRYPTO OBJ.getRandomValues(labelData);
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/RsaOaepParams
   let rsaOaepParams = {
       name: "RSA-OAEP",
        label: labelData
    };
    let dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode(sourceData);
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/encrypt
   let encryptedData = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.encrypt(rsaOaepParams,
cryptoKeyPairPublicKey, dataEncoded)
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/decrypt
   let decryptedData = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.decrypt(rsaOaepParams,
cryptoKeyPairPrivateKey, encryptedData)
   let plainText = TEXT DECODER.decode(decryptedData);
   let result = {
        encryptedData: toHex(encryptedData),
        cycleSucceed: (sourceData === plainText)
   return result;
```

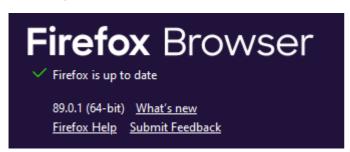
Observations:

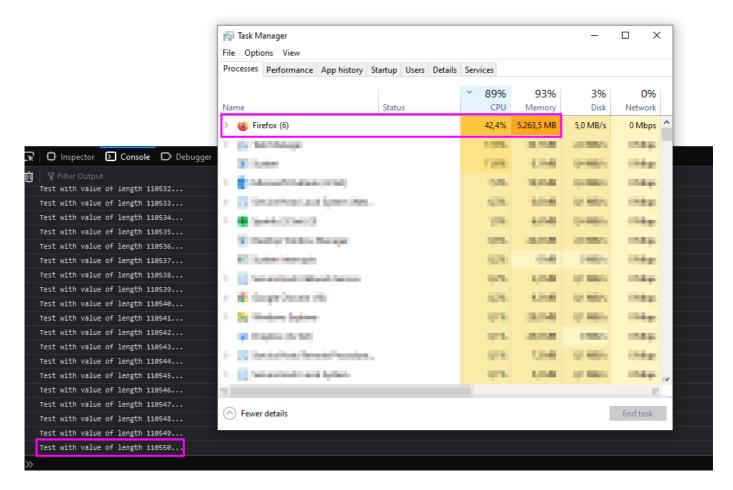
- For the test cases above "100", the browser raise an operation specific error. This error is consitent because the amount of data is big for a asymmetric encryption operation. This behavior prevent the browser to hang or crash due to the launching of a huge processing.
- Asymmetric encryption is targeted for a small data like the protection of a symmetric key during the exchange for later symmetric encryption operation.
- If the following code is used, on Firefox (last version on June 2021) it continue to encrypt the data provided whatever the size and made the browser unstable:

function performIdentificationOfContentLengthLimitForEncryptionWithRSAOAEP(cryptoKe

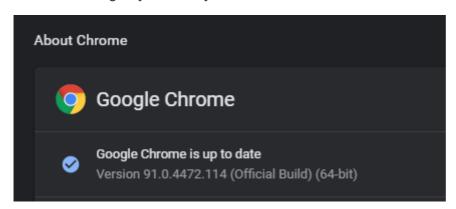
```
yPairPublicKey) {
    let labelData = new Int32Array(32);
   CRYPTO OBJ.getRandomValues(labelData);
   let rsaOaepParams = {
        name: "RSA-OAEP",
        label: labelData
   };
   let dataEncoded = null;
   for (let i = 100; i < 1000000; i++) {
        console.debug("Test with value of length " + i + "...");
        dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode("T".repeat(i));
        CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.encrypt(rsaOaepParams, cryptoKeyPairPublicKey,
dataEncoded).catch(err => {
            console.warn(err);
           return i;
       });
}
```

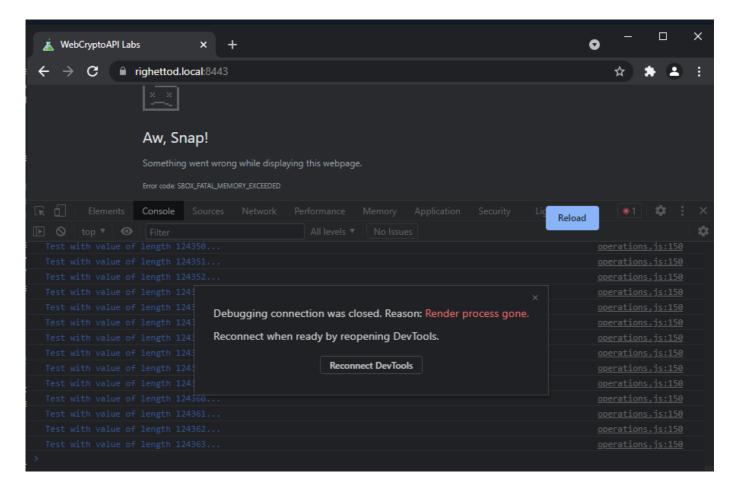
Run on Firefox my laptop, catch clause was not invoked and browser became unstable (kill of the tab required):



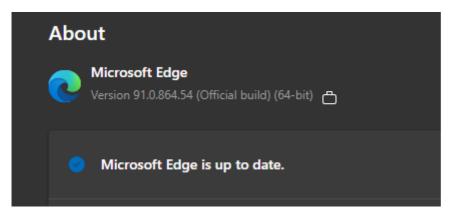


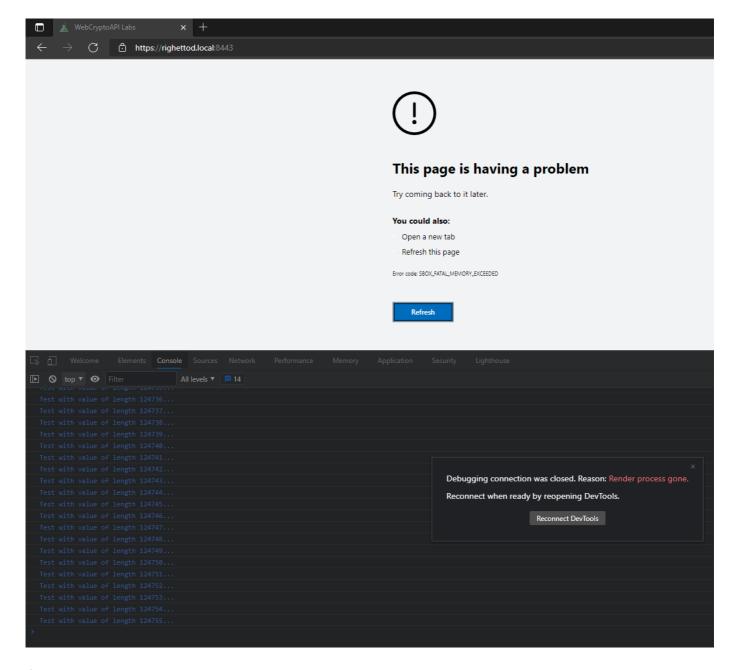
Same test on Chrome (last version on June 2021), browser stay stable and raise the following error without causing any instability:





Same behavior than Chrome on Edge (last version on June 2021):





Signature

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/EcKeyGenParams

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/EcdsaParams

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/sign

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/verify

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

• HTTP: X

• HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

i This include the **key pair** generation for signature operation.

```
async function performAsymmetricKeyGenerationForSignVerifyUsageWithECDSA()
{
   //Generate a ECDSA key pair with the P-521 elliptic curve
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/EcKeyGenParams
   let ecKeyGenParams = {
       name: "ECDSA",
        namedCurve: "P-521"
   };
   let keyUsages = ["sign", "verify"];
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/generateKey
   let cryptoKeyPair = await
CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.generateKey(ecKeyGenParams, true, keyUsages);
   return cryptoKeyPair;
}
async function performSignVerifyWithECDSA(sourceData,
cryptoKeyPairPublicKey, cryptoKeyPairPrivateKey) {
   //Generate a ECDSA with SHA-512 signature and verify it
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/EcdsaParams
   let ecdsaParams = {
       name: "ECDSA",
       hash: "SHA-512"
   };
   let dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode(sourceData);
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/sign
   let signature = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.sign(ecdsaParams,
cryptoKeyPairPrivateKey, dataEncoded);
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/verify
    let isValid = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.verify(ecdsaParams,
cryptoKeyPairPublicKey, signature, dataEncoded);
   let result = {
        signature: toHex(signature),
        cycleSucceed: isValid
   return result;
```

Key derivation

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Pbkdf2Params

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/importKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/deriveKey

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/wrapKey#aes-kw

Source: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/CryptoKey

Source: https://cryptosense.com/blog/parameter-choice-for-pbkdf2

<u>∧ Security note about usage of the different derivation algorithms</u> based on the type of input data provided.

Can be used in the context of the following protocols:

• HTTP: X

HTTPS: ✓

Code snippet:

i Here a common case was chosen, i.e. derivate a key from a provided password by the user.

```
async function performKeyDerivationFromPassword(iterationCount,
basePassword) {
   let saltData = new Int32Array(16);
   CRYPTO OBJ.getRandomValues(saltData);
    //PBKDF2 algorithm will be used
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/deriveKey#supported algorithms
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Pbkdf2Params
    //See https://cryptosense.com/blog/parameter-choice-for-pbkdf2
    let pbkdf2Params = {
       name: "PBKDF2",
       hash: "SHA-512",
        salt: saltData,
        iterations: iterationCount
    //Use the importKey() function to import the initial password as
CryptoKey
    //Flag it as not exportable and for Key/Bits derivation usages in
order it can only be used
   //to obtain a derivated CryptoKey
   let dataEncoded = TEXT ENCODER.encode(basePassword);
    let baseCryptoKeyUsages = ["deriveBits", "deriveKey"];
    //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/importKey
    let baseCryptoKey = await CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.importKey("raw",
```

```
dataEncoded, "PBKDF2", false, baseCryptoKeyUsages);
   //Obtain a derivated key
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/wrapKey#aes-kw
   let aesKeyGenParams = {
       name: "AES-KW",
       length: 256
    }
   let derivatedCryptoKeyUsages = ["wrapKey", "unwrapKey"];
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-
US/docs/Web/API/SubtleCrypto/deriveKey
   let derivatedCryptoKey = await
CRYPTO OBJ.subtle.deriveKey(pbkdf2Params, baseCryptoKey, aesKeyGenParams,
true, derivatedCryptoKeyUsages);
   //See https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/CryptoKey
   return derivatedCryptoKey;
```

Key secure import/export

