

# Stream ciphers

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# Symmetric encryption schemes

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A symmetric cipher consists of two algorithms

- ▶ encryption algorithm  $E : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
- ▶ decryption algorithm  $D : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$

st.  $\forall k \in \mathcal{K}$ , and  $\forall m \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $D(k, E(k, m)) = m$

## Kerckhoff's principle

- ▶ The encryption ( $E$ ) and decryption ( $D$ ) algorithms are public
- ▶ The security relies entirely on the secrecy of the key

# Adversarie's capabilities - threat model

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The attacker may have access to :

- ▶ some **ciphertexts**  $c_1, \dots, c_n$
  - ▶ some **plaintext/ciphertext pairs**  $(m_1, c_1), \dots, (m_n, c_n)$   
st.  $c_i = E(k, m_i)$
  - ▶ an **encryption oracle** - he can maybe trick a user to encrypt messages  $m_1, \dots, m_n$  of his choice
  - ▶ a **decryption oracle** - he can maybe trick a user to decrypt ciphertexts  $c_1, \dots, c_n$  of his choice
  - ▶ unlimited, or polynomial, or realistic ( $\leq 2^{80}$ ) **computational power**
- 
- A cryptographic scheme is secure under some assumptions, that is against a certain type of attacker
  - A cryptographic scheme may be vulnerable to certain types of attacks but not others

# What is a good encryption scheme?

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An encryption scheme is secure against a given adversary, if this adversary cannot

- ▶ recover the secret key  $k$
- ▶ recover the plaintext  $m$  underlying a ciphertext  $c$
- ▶ recover any bits of the plaintext  $m$  underlying a ciphertext  $c$
- ▶ ...

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- ▶ Consistency:  $D(k, E(k, m)) = k \oplus (k \oplus m) = m$

# Perfect secrecy

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## Definition

A cipher  $(E, D)$  over  $(\mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{K})$  satisfies perfect secrecy if for all messages  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathcal{M}$  of same length ( $|m_1| = |m_2|$ ), and for all ciphertexts  $c \in \mathcal{C}$

$$|Pr(E(k, m_1) = c) - Pr(E(k, m_2) = c)| \leq \epsilon$$

where  $k \xleftarrow{r} \mathcal{K}$  and  $\epsilon$  is some “negligible quantity”.

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$$|\Pr(E(k, m_1) = c) - \Pr(E(k, m_2) = c)| \leq \left| \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{K}} - \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{K}} \right| = 0$$

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given  $m_1 \oplus k$  and  $m_2 \oplus k$ , we can compute  
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  - ▶ OTP is malleable  
given the ciphertext  $c = E(k, m)$  with  $m = \text{to bob} : m_0$ , it is possible to compute the ciphertext  $c' = E(k, m')$  with  
 $m' = \text{to eve} : m_0$   
 $c' := c \oplus \text{"to bob : 00...00"} \oplus \text{"to eve : 00...00"}$

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- ▶ Stream ciphers are malleable

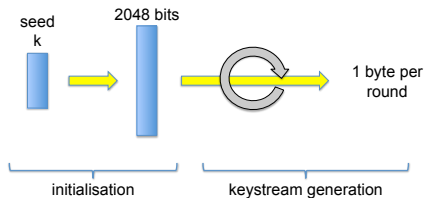
# RC4

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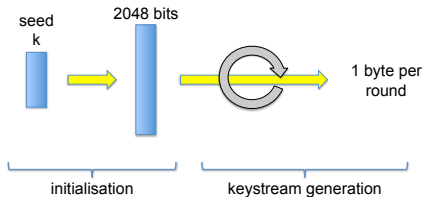
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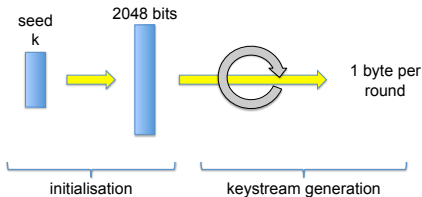
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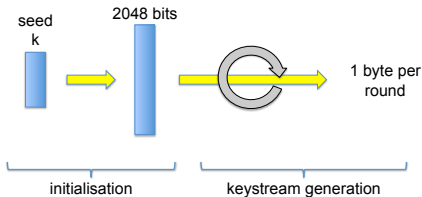
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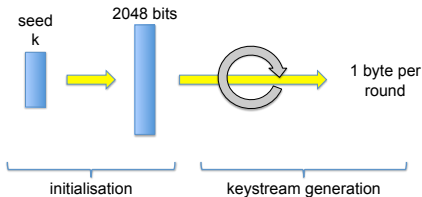
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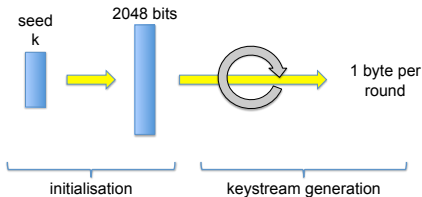
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→ drop the first to 256 generated bytes
  - ▶ subject to related keys attacks  
→ choose randomly generated keys as seeds



## RC4: initialisation

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```
for  $i := 0$  to 255 do
     $S[i] := i$ 
end
 $j := 0$ 
for  $i := 0$  to 255 do
     $j := (j + S[i] + K[i(\bmod |K|)])(\bmod 256)$ 
    swap( $S[i], S[j]$ )
end
 $i := 0$ 
 $j := 0$ 
```

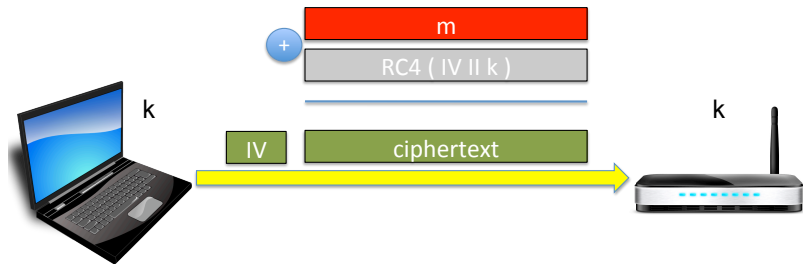
## RC4: key stream generation

---

```
while generatingOutput
   $i := i + 1 \pmod{256}$ 
   $j := j + S[i] \pmod{256}$ 
  swap( $S[i]$ ,  $S[j]$ )
  output( $S[S[i] + S[j] \pmod{256}]$ )
end
```

# WEP uses RC4

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Initialisation Vector (IV): 24-bits long string

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  - for certain IVs knowing  $m$  bytes of key and keystream means you can deduce byte  $m + 1$  of key  
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# Weaknesses of TLS

MUST READ **THESE TEN CITIES ARE HOME TO THE BIGGEST BOTNETS**

## RC4 NOMORE crypto exploit used to decrypt user cookies in mere hours

Websites using RC4 encryption need to change their protocols as exploits using design flaws are now far easier to perform.



By [Charlie Osborne](#) for [Zero Day](#) | July 20, 2015 -- 10:21 GMT (11:21 BST) | Topic: [Security](#)

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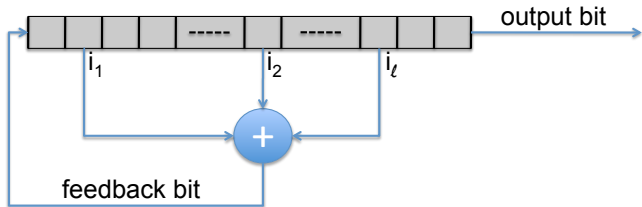
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taps:  $i_1, i_2, \dots, i_\ell$

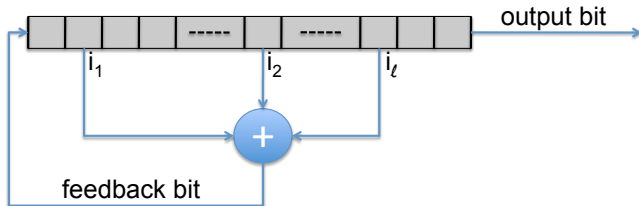
feedback bit:  $R[i_1] \oplus R[i_2] \oplus \dots \oplus R[i_\ell]$

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- ▶ Broken LFSR-based stream ciphers:
  - ▶ DVD encryption: CSS (2 LFSRs)
  - ▶ GSM encryption: A5 (3 LFSRs)
  - ▶ Bluetooth encryption: E0 (4 LFSRs)

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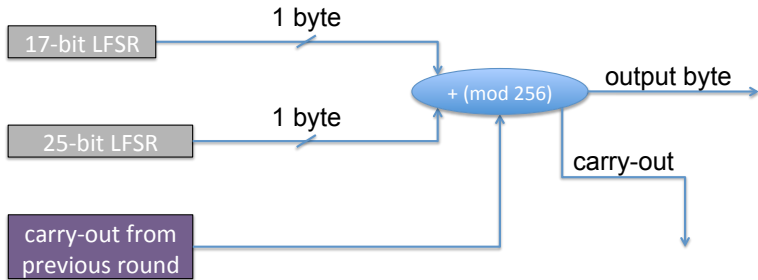
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- ▶ Given output of 17 bit LFSR, can deduce output of 25 bit LFSR by subtraction

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- ▶ Because of structure of MPEG-2, first 20 bytes of plaintext are known
- ▶ Hence also first 20 bytes of keystream are known
- ▶ Given output of 17 bit LFSR, can deduce output of 25 bit LFSR by subtraction
- ▶ Hence try all  $2^{17}$  possibilities for 17 bit LFSR and if generated 25 bit LFSR produces observed keystream, cipher is cracked



# Android Bitcoin attack

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RANDOM THEFT

## All Android-created Bitcoin wallets vulnerable to theft

Android Java SecureRandom function flaw undermines security of Android wallets.

LEE HUTCHINSON - 8/12/2013, 3:15 PM



Bitcoin.org released a [security advisory](#) over the weekend warning the Bitcoin community that any Bitcoin wallet generated on any Android device is insecure and open to theft. The insecurity appears to stem from a flaw in the Android Java SecureRandom class, which under certain circumstances can

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→ HC-128, Rabbit, Salsa20/12, SOSEMANUK,  
Grain v1, MICKEY 2.0, Trivium

# Modern stream ciphers

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**Project eStream:** project to “identify new stream ciphers suitable for widespread adoption”, organised by the EU ECRYPT network  
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## Conjecture

These eStream stream ciphers are “secure”

# Concluding remarks

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⇒ Stream ciphers do not satisfy perfect secrecy because the keys in  $\mathcal{K}$  are smaller than the messages in  $\mathcal{M}$   
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- ▶ Many attacks due to poor implementations of cryptography