



Week 3 – Problem Set

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1 / 1
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1.

Suppose a MAC system (S, V) is used to protect files in a file system

by appending a MAC tag to each file. The MAC signing algorithm S

is applied to the file contents and nothing else. What tampering attacks

are not prevented by this system?



Changing the last modification time of a file.

Correct

The MAC signing algorithm is only applied to the file contents and

does not protect the file meta data.



Replacing the contents of a file with the concatenation of two files
on the file system.



Changing the first byte of the file contents.



Replacing the tag and contents of one file with the tag and contents of a file
from another computer protected by the same MAC system, but a different key.

1 / 1
points

2.

Let (S, V) be a secure MAC defined over (K, M, T) where $M = \{0, 1\}^n$ and $T = \{0, 1\}^{128}$.That is, the key space is K , message space is $\{0, 1\}^n$, and tag space is $\{0, 1\}^{128}$.Which of the following is a secure MAC: (as usual, we use \parallel to denote string concatenation) $S'(k, m) = [t \leftarrow S(k, m), \text{output}(t, t)]$ and

$$V'(k, m, (t_1, t_2)) = \begin{cases} V(k, m, t_1) & \text{if } t_1 = t_2 \\ "0" & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

(i.e., $V'(k, m, (t_1, t_2))$ only outputs "1"if t_1 and t_2 are equal and valid)

Correct

a forger for (S', V') gives a forger for (S, V) . $S'(k, m) = S(k, m \oplus m)$ and

$$V'(k, m, t) = V(k, m \oplus m, t)$$



Un-selected is correct

 $S'(k, m) = (S(k, m), S(k, 0^n))$ and

$$V'(k, m, (t_1, t_2)) = [V(k, m, t_1) \text{ and } V(k, 0^n, t_2)]$$

(i.e., $V'(k, m, (t_1, t_2))$ outputs "1" if both t_1 and t_2 are valid tags)

Un-selected is correct

 $S'(k, m) = S(k, m[0, \dots, n-2] \parallel 0)$ and

$$V'(k, m, t) = V(k, m[0, \dots, n-2] \parallel 0, t)$$



Un-selected is correct

 $S'(k, m) = S(k, m \parallel m)$ and

$$V'(k, m, t) = V(k, m \parallel m, t).$$



Correct

a forger for (S', V') gives a forger for (S, V) . $S'(k, m) = S(k, m \oplus 1^n)$ and

1 / 1
points

3.

Recall that the ECBC-MAC uses a fixed IV (in the lecture we simply set the IV to 0). Suppose instead we chose a random IV for every message being signed and include the IV in the tag. In other words, $S(k, m) := (r, \text{ECBC}_r(k, m))$

where $\text{ECBC}_r(k, m)$ refers to the ECBC function using r as

the IV. The verification algorithm V given key k , message m ,

and tag (r, t) outputs "1" if $t = \text{ECBC}_r(k, m)$ and outputs

"0" otherwise.

The resulting MAC system is insecure.

An attacker can query for the tag of the 1-block message m

and obtain the tag (r, t) . He can then generate the following

existential forgery: (we assume that the underlying block cipher

operates on n -bit blocks)



The tag $(r \oplus 1^n, t)$ is a valid tag for the 1-block

message $m \oplus 1^n$.



Correct

The CBC chain initiated with the IV $r \oplus m$ and applied

to the message 0^n will produce exactly the same output

as the CBC chain initiated with the IV r and applied to the

message m . Therefore, the tag $(r \oplus 1^n, t)$ is a valid

existential forgery for the message $m \oplus 1^n$.



The tag $(r, t \oplus r)$ is a valid tag for the 1-block message 0^n .



The tag $(r \oplus t, m)$ is a valid tag for the 1-block message 0^n .



The tag $(m \oplus t, t)$ is a valid tag for the 1-block message 0^n .

0 / 1
points

4.

Suppose Alice is broadcasting packets to 6 recipients

B_1, \dots, B_6 . Privacy is not important but integrity is.

In other words, each of B_1, \dots, B_6 should be assured that the packets he is receiving were sent by Alice.

Alice decides to use a MAC. Suppose Alice and B_1, \dots, B_6 all share a secret key k . Alice computes a tag for every packet she sends using key k . Each user B_i verifies the tag when receiving the packet and drops the packet if the tag is invalid.

Alice notices that this scheme is insecure because user B_1 can use the key k to send packets with a valid tag to users B_2, \dots, B_6 and they will all be fooled into thinking that these packets are from Alice.

Instead, Alice sets up a set of 4 secret keys $S = \{k_1, \dots, k_4\}$.

She gives each user B_i some subset $S_i \subseteq S$ of the keys. When Alice transmits a packet she appends 4 tags to it by computing the tag with each of her 4 keys. When user B_i receives a packet he accepts it as valid only if all tags corresponding

to his keys in S_i are valid. For example, if user B_1 is given keys $\{k_1, k_2\}$ he will accept an incoming packet only if the first and second tags are valid. Note that B_1 cannot validate the 3rd and 4th tags because he does not have k_3 or k_4 .

How should Alice assign keys to the 6 users so that no single user can forge packets on behalf of Alice and fool some other user?



$S_1 = \{k_1, k_2\}, S_2 = \{k_1, k_3\}, S_3 = \{k_1, k_4\}, S_4 = \{k_2, k_3, k_4\}, S_5 = \{k_2, k_3\}, S_6 = \{k_3, k_4\}$



Un-selected is correct



$S_1 = \{k_1, k_2\}, S_2 = \{k_1, k_3\}, S_3 = \{k_1, k_4\}, S_4 = \{k_2, k_3\}, S_5 = \{k_2, k_4\}, S_6 = \{k_3, k_4\}$



This should be selected



$S_1 = \{k_1, k_2\}, S_2 = \{k_2, k_3\}, S_3 = \{k_3, k_4\}, S_4 = \{k_1, k_3\}, S_5 = \{k_1, k_2\}, S_6 = \{k_1, k_4\}$





1 / 1
points

5.

Consider the encrypted CBC MAC built from AES. Suppose we

compute the tag for a long message m comprising of n AES blocks.

Let m' be the n -block message obtained from m by flipping the

last bit of m (i.e. if the last bit of m is b then the last bit

of m' is $b \oplus 1$). How many calls to AES would it take

to compute the tag for m' from the tag for m and the MAC key? (in this question please ignore message padding and simply assume that the message length is always a multiple of the AES block size)

☐ 3

☒ 4



Correct

You would decrypt the final CBC MAC encryption step done using k_2 ,

the decrypt the last CBC MAC encryption step done using k_1 ,

flip the last bit of the result, and re-apply the two encryptions.

☐ $n + 1$

☐ 2

1 / 1
points

6.

Let $H: M \rightarrow T$ be a collision resistant hash function.

Which of the following is collision resistant:

(as usual, we use \parallel to denote string concatenation)

☐ $H'(m) = H(m \parallel m)$



Correct

a collision finder for H' gives a collision finder for H .

☐ $H'(m) = H(m) \oplus H(m)$



Un-selected is correct

☐ $H'(m) = H(0)$



Un-selected is correct

☐ $H'(m) = H(m) \oplus H(m \oplus 1^{|m|})$

(where $m \oplus 1^{|m|}$ is the complement of m)

Un-selected is correct

☐ $H'(m) = H(m) \parallel H(m)$



Correct

a collision finder for H' gives a collision finder for H .

☐ $H'(m) = H(H(m))$



Correct

a collision finder for H' gives a collision finder for H .

☐ $H'(m) = H(|m|)$

(i.e. hash the length of m)

Un-selected is correct

1 / 1
points

7.

Suppose H_1 and H_2 are collision resistant

hash functions mapping inputs in a set M to $\{0, 1\}^{256}$.

Our goal is to show that the function $H_2(H_1(m))$ is also

collision resistant. We prove the contra-positive:

suppose $H_2(H_1(\cdot))$ is not collision resistant, that is, we are

given $x \neq y$ such that $H_2(H_1(x)) = H_2(H_1(y))$.

We build a collision for either H_1 or for H_2 .

This will prove that if H_1 and H_2 are collision resistant

then so is $H_2(H_1(\cdot))$. Which of the following must be true:



Either x, y are a collision for H_2 or

$H_1(x), H_1(y)$ are a collision for H_1 .



Either x, y are a collision for H_1 or

$H_1(x), H_1(y)$ are a collision for H_2 .



Correct

If $H_2(H_1(x)) = H_2(H_1(y))$ then

either $H_1(x) = H_1(y)$ and $x \neq y$, thereby giving us

a collision on H_1 . Or $H_1(x) \neq H_1(y)$ but

$H_2(H_1(x)) = H_2(H_1(y))$ giving us a collision on H_2 .

Either way we obtain a collision on H_1 or H_2 as required.



Either x, y are a collision for H_1 or

x, y are a collision for H_2 .



Either $H_2(x), H_2(y)$ are a collision for H_1 or

x, y are a collision for H_2 .

0 / 1
points

8.

In this question you are asked to find a collision for the compression function:

$$f_1(x, y) = \text{AES}(y, x) \oplus y,$$

where $\text{AES}(x, y)$ is the AES-128 encryption of y under key x .

Your goal is to find two distinct pairs (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) such that

$$f_1(x_1, y_1) = f_1(x_2, y_2).$$

Which of the following methods finds the required (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) ?



Choose x_1, y_1, x_2 arbitrarily (with $x_1 \neq x_2$) and let $v := \text{AES}(y_1, x_1)$.

$$\text{Set } y_2 = \text{AES}^{-1}(x_2, v \oplus y_1 \oplus x_2)$$



This should not be selected
This does not work.



Choose x_1, y_1, y_2 arbitrarily (with $y_1 \neq y_2$) and let $v := \text{AES}(y_1, x_1)$.

$$\text{Set } x_2 = \text{AES}^{-1}(y_2, v \oplus y_1 \oplus y_2)$$



Choose x_1, y_1, y_2 arbitrarily (with $y_1 \neq y_2$) and let $v := \text{AES}(y_1, x_1)$.

$$\text{Set } x_2 = \text{AES}^{-1}(y_2, v \oplus y_1)$$



Choose x_1, y_1, y_2 arbitrarily (with $y_1 \neq y_2$) and let $v := \text{AES}(y_1, x_1)$.

$$\text{Set } x_2 = \text{AES}^{-1}(y_2, v \oplus y_2)$$

1 / 1
points

9.

Repeat the previous question, but now to find a collision for the compression function

$$f_2(x, y) = \text{AES}(x, x) \oplus y.$$

Which of the following methods finds the required (x_1, y_1) and (x_2, y_2) ?Choose x_1, x_2, y_1 arbitrarily (with $x_1 \neq x_2$) and set

$$y_2 = y_1 \oplus \text{AES}(x_1, x_1) \oplus \text{AES}(x_2, x_2)$$



Correct

Awesome!

Choose x_1, x_2, y_1 arbitrarily (with $x_1 \neq x_2$) and set

$$y_2 = y_1 \oplus x_1 \oplus \text{AES}(x_2, x_2)$$

Choose x_1, x_2, y_1 arbitrarily (with $x_1 \neq x_2$) and set

$$y_2 = y_1 \oplus \text{AES}(x_1, x_1)$$

Choose x_1, x_2, y_1 arbitrarily (with $x_1 \neq x_2$) and set

$$y_2 = \text{AES}(x_1, x_1) \oplus \text{AES}(x_2, x_2)$$

1 / 1
points

10.

Let $H: M \rightarrow T$ be a random hash function where $|M| \gg |T|$ (i.e. the size of M is much larger than the size of T).

In lecture we showed

that finding a collision on H can be done with $O(|T|^{1/2})$

random samples of H . How many random samples would it take

until we obtain a three way collision, namely distinct strings x, y, z

in M such that $H(x) = H(y) = H(z)$?

☒ $O(|T|^{2/3})$



Correct

An informal argument for this is as follows: suppose we

collect n random samples. The number of triples among the n

samples is n choose 3 which is $O(n^3)$. For a particular

triple x, y, z to be a 3-way collision we need $H(x) = H(y)$

and $H(x) = H(z)$. Since each one of these two events happens

with probability $1/|T|$ (assuming H behaves like a random

function) the probability that a particular triple is a 3-way

collision is $O(1/|T|^2)$. Using the union bound, the probability

that some triple is a 3-way collision is $O(n^3/|T|^2)$ and since

we want this probability to be close to 1, the bound on n

follows.

☐ $O(|T|^{3/4})$

☐ $O(|T|)$

☐ $O(|T|^{1/4})$



