



BitFlip: Determine a Data's Signature Coverage from within the Application

OWASP
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<http://www.owasp.org>

me, myself and this talk

- ▶ M.Sc. Information Security from Royal Holloway
- ▶ Diplom Informatik from University of Hamburg
- ▶ currently PhD student at University of Passau



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ReSCUE IT:

- ▶ General: IT supported robust & secure Supply Chains
- ▶ Our Goal: Legally compliant & manageable integrity and authenticity statements for the data



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OWASP 

Outline

- Problem & Motivation
- BitFlip Approach
- What BitFlip is not ...
- What BitFlip can do ... example XML-wrapping
- Conclusion



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Problem: Message Security Layer vs. Application Layer

Design is layered

- Application Layer
 - ▶ Application logic works on data
- Data comes in by message
 - ▶ Application extracts data from message
- Security layer protects message (or part thereof)
 - ▶ Signed messages are verified before given to app.

Layered Security:

interlinking between layers must stay “in-sync”



Example: XML SOAP message security

Available security mechanism for SOAP messages:

- WS-Security (Tokens ...)
- XML Signature (and Encryption)

Security checks considered “good practice”:

- well defined XML schema
- rigorous schema validation
- validity check of signing public-key
- enforce strict security policies



Example: XML SOAP message security

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- WS-Security (Tokens ...)
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Security checks considered “good practice”:

- well defined XML schema
 - rigorous schema validation
 - validity check of signing public-key
 - enforce strict security policies
- ... but attacks on real world web services happen.



*Authenticate not just the message,
but everything that is used to determine
the meaning of the message.*

Ferguson and Schneier



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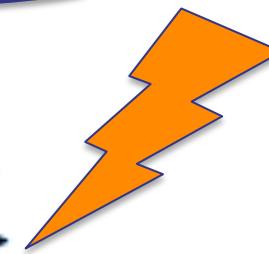


```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds=
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-ws:
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nbs:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
<nbs:name>?ffffd g</nbs:name>
</nbs:return_hash>
</soap:Body>
</soap:Header>
<soap:Body>
<nbs:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
<nbs:name>evilHomer</nbs:name>
</nbs:return_hash>
</soap:Body>
<Signature xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#"><SignedInfo>
<CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xml-c14n-20010405">
<SignatureMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
<Reference URI="#xpointer(id('1'))"><Transforms>
<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/>
<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zci495E3P6F
```

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds=
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</soap:Header>
<soap:Body>
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</nbs:return_hash>
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<SignatureMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
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<soap:Body Id="1">
<nbs:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
<nbs:name>?ffffd g</nbs:name>
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<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/>
<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zci495E3P6F
```

*SOAP message example
is from:*

*Meiko Jensen
Ruhr Universität Bochum*

BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature">
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-ws-security-1.1.xsd">
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nds:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
</n
</nc
</so
</so
<soi
<nd
<nd
</nc
</so
<Sig
<Ca
<SignatureValue Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1" />
<Reference URI="#xpointer(id('1'))"><Transforms>
<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/></T
<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zCj495F3P6R1C
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5mRp5GvriDk/659Nu+xk=</SignatureValue><KeyInfo><X509Data><X509SubjectName>
CBMDYfMsMoQsCQYDVfVQQwJYTEQYMA4GA1UEChMhKpdmfU
BAMTBMTBG1hdHOwHheNMTAwNT4MATEA1MDAwHhNMTAwOQE2MTA1MDAw
BAMTBMTBG1hdHOwHheNMTAwNT4MATEA1MDAwHhNMTAwOQE2MTA1MDAw
```



BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors



BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors

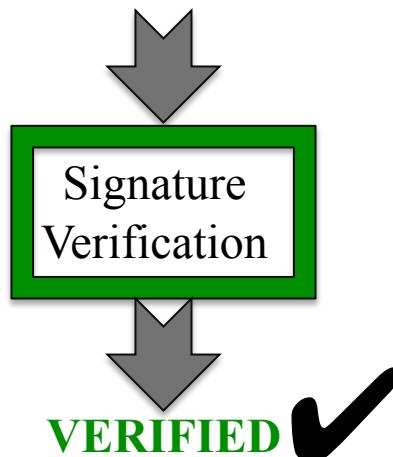


BitFlip:
controlled
change of
single
character

BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors

An orange arrow pointing to the right, indicating the direction of the next section.

BitFlip:
controlled
change of
single
character

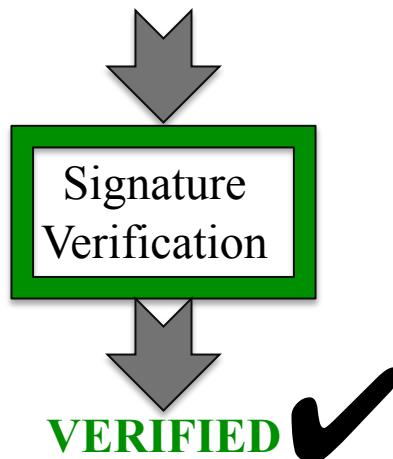


A large, solid grey arrow pointing downwards, positioned above a green-bordered box. The box contains the text "Signature Verification".

BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors

An orange arrow pointing to the right, indicating the direction of the next section.

BitFlip:
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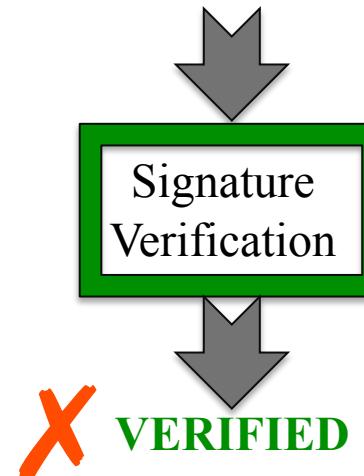


Signature
Verification

BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors



BitFlip:
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character

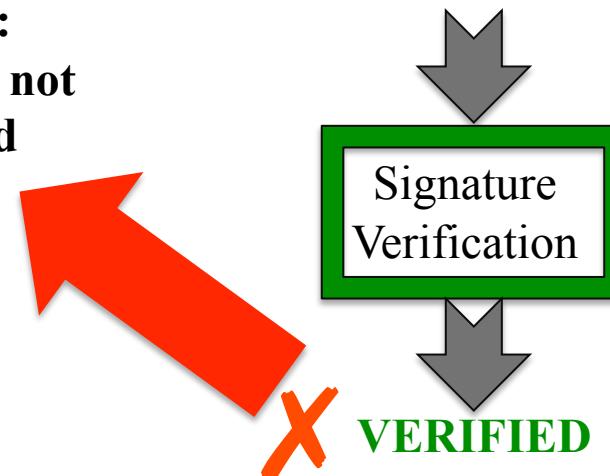


BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors



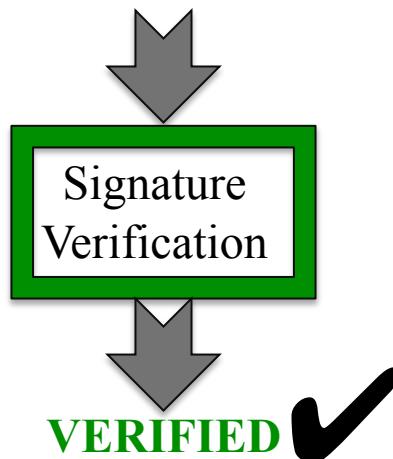
BitFlip:
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single
character

Result: character not covered



BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope/nds">
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-ws-security-1.1.xsd">
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nds:return_hash><!--Optional:-->
<nd>
</nc
</so>
</soi
<nd>
<nd>
</nd
</nc
</so
<Sig>
<Ca>
<Ca>
<SignatureValue>-----</SignatureValue>
<Reference URI="#xpointer(id('1'))"><Transforms>
<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/></Transforms>
<DigestMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/>
<KeyInfo>
<SignatureName>X509Name</SignatureName>
<X509SubjectName>CN=www.w3.org</X509SubjectName>
<X509IssuerName>CN=www.w3.org</X509IssuerName>
<X509SerialNumber>-----</X509SerialNumber>
<X509NotBefore>-----</X509NotBefore>
<X509NotAfter>-----</X509NotAfter>
<X509Certificate>-----</X509Certificate>
</KeyInfo>
<CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/10/xml-exc-c14n#"/>
<SignatureMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
<KeyExchangeAlgorithm Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-exchange"/>
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<Recipient>
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<EncryptionMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#aes128-cbc"/>
<KeyWrapAlgorithm Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#key-wrap"/>
<KeyDerivationAlgorithm Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2001/04/xmlenc#pbkdf2-hmac-sha1"/>
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<Nonce>-----</Nonce>
<KeyingMaterial>-----</KeyingMaterial>
</Recipient>
</RecipientList>
<SignatureValue>-----</SignatureValue>
</Signature>
</Ca>
</Ca>
</nds:return_hash>
<return_value>-----</return_value>
</Body>
</Envelope>
-----<br/>-2001
```



BitFlip:
controlled
change of
single
character



BitFlip: Observing the Signature Verification Outcome on Application Induced Errors



BitFlip:
controlled
change of
single
character

Result: character covered

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds="h
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-w
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nds:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
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</nc>
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<nd
<nc
</so
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<Sis
<Cs
<Si>
<R>
<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/></T
<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zcj495F3P6R1c
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5mRp5GrvDk659Nu+xx=</SignatureValue><KeyInfo><X509Data><X509SubjectName>
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BAMTBG1hdHQwHhcNMTAwNTNE4MTA1MDA4WhcNMTawODE2MTA1MDA4
BAMTBG1hdHQwHhcNMTAwNTNE4MTA1MDA4WhcNMTawODE2MTA1MDA4
```



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<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
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<soap:Body Id="1">
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<nbs:name>?ffffd g</nbs:name>
</nbs:return_hash>
</soap:Body>
</soap:Header>
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<CanonicalizationMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/TR/2001/REC-xml-c14n-20010405">
<SignatureMethod Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#rsa-sha1"/>
<Reference URI="#xpointer(id('1'))"><Transforms>
<Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/>
<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zci495E3P6F
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<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds=
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nds:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
<nds:name>?ffff g</nds:name>
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<DigestMethod
Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zci495F3P6R
```

Not covered by Signature

Covered by Signature

XML file is corrupt

Signature couldn't be found

Internals from JAVA verify process:

javax.xml.crypto.dsig.XMLSignature

Marshal Exception

**Nullpointer while
unmarshaling**

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/ndsig"
<soap:Header>
<wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-01"
<soap:Body Id="1">
<nbs:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
<nbs:name>?ffff g</nbs:name>
</nbs:return_hash>
</soap:Body>
</soap:Header>
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<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no"?>
<soap:Envelope xmlns:soap="http://www.w3.org/2003/05/soap-envelope" xmlns:nds="http://www.w3.org/2005/08/addressing">
  <soap:Header>
    <wsse:Security xmlns:wsse="http://docs.oasis-open.org/wss/2004/01/oasis-200401-wss-01/"/>
    <soap:Body Id="1">
      <nds:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
      <nds:name>?ffff g</nds:name>
    </nds:return_hash>
  </soap:Body>
  </soap:Header>
  <soap:Body>
    <nds:return_hash> <!--Optional:-->
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  </soap:Body>
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    <Reference URI="#xpointer(id('1'))"><Transforms>
      <Transform Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#enveloped-signature"/>
    <DigestMethod
      Algorithm="http://www.w3.org/2000/09/xmldsig#sha1"/><DigestValue>zci495F3P6R
```

Application logic extracts:
soap:Envelope\soap:Body
\nds:return_hash\nds:name
= "evilHomer"

BitFlip Test on:
soap:Envelope\soap:Body
\nds:return_hash\nds:name
= not covered

What BitFlip does NOT and can NOT offer ...

BitFlip does not do “positive verification”:

- no assurance that the parts that seem covered are secured against all kinds of attacks
- does not check for exploits in the signature verification process
- is not a “fuzzer”



What BitFlip does ...

- detects absence of integrity protection (“white spots”)
- works independently of signature verification process (“black-box”)
- implemented on application level
 - ▶ application controlled
 - ▶ use same “parser logic” to select flipping data
- absence can be detected by a single “flip”
 - ▶ overhead of one additional signature verification

BitFlip: Conclusion

- Allows Applications to test if Signature Verification Process covers the data the application logic extracted
- Independent of Verification Process (black-box)
 - ▶ Full Verification not necessary if no black-box
- Tool to evaluate the Verification Process
 - ▶ detect errors during application design
 - ▶ testing the layers below before application roll-out
 - ▶ re-run tests after changes to the policy or the verification process

