

Title: Implementation of Diffie-Hellman key exchange

Problem Definition: Implementation of Diffie-Hellman key exchange

Software Requirements:

Python 3.7, Colab

Hardware Requirement:

8GB RAM, 500 GB HDD, Keyboard, Mouse

Learning Objectives:

Learn Diffie-Hellman key exchange

Theory :

1. Diffie Hellman (DH) key exchange algorithm is a method for securely exchanging cryptographic keys over a public communications channel. Keys are not actually exchanged – they are jointly derived. It is named after their inventors Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman.
2. Working of Diffie-Hellman Algorithm:
 1. In Public key encryption schemes are secure only if authenticity of the public key is assured.
 2. Diffie-Hellman key exchange is a simple public key algorithm.
 3. The protocol enables 2 users to establish a secret key using a public key scheme based on discrete algorithms.
 4. The protocol is secure only if the authenticity of the 2 participants can be established.
 5. There are 2 publicly known numbers : A prime number q and an integer α that is a primitive root of q .

For example:

2 is a primitive root mod 5, because for every number a relatively prime to 5, there is an integer z

such that $2^z \equiv a$.

All the numbers relatively prime to 5 are 1, 2, 3, 4, and each of these (mod 5) is itself (for instance $2 \pmod{5} = 2$):

- $2^0=1, 1 \pmod{5}=1$, so $2^0 \equiv 1$
- $2^1=2, 2 \pmod{5}=2$, so $2^1 \equiv 2$
- $2^3=8, 8 \pmod{5}=3$, so $2^3 \equiv 3$
- $2^2=4, 4 \pmod{5}=4$, so $2^2 \equiv 4$.

4 is not a primitive root mod 5, because for every number relatively prime to 5 (again, 1, 2, 3, 4) there is not a power of 4 that is congruent. Powers of 4 (mod 5) are only congruent to 1 or 4. There is no power of 4 that is congruent to 2 or 3.

The Diffie-Hellman algorithm is being used to establish a shared secret that can be used for secret communications while exchanging data over a public network using the elliptic curve to generate points and get the secret key using the parameters.

- For the sake of simplicity and practical implementation of the algorithm, we will consider only 4 variables, one prime P and G (a primitive root of P) and two private values a and b .
- P and G are both publicly available numbers. Users (say Alice and Bob) pick private values a and b and they generate a key and exchange it publicly. The opposite person receives the key and that generates a secret key, after which they have the same secret key to encrypt.

Step 1: Alice and Bob get public numbers $P = 23, G = 9$

Step 2: Alice selected a private key $a = 4$ and
Bob selected a private key $b = 3$

Step 3: Alice and Bob compute public values
Alice: $x = (9^4 \pmod{23}) = (6561 \pmod{23}) = 6$
Bob: $y = (9^3 \pmod{23}) = (729 \pmod{23}) = 16$

Step 4: Alice and Bob exchange public numbers

Step 5: Alice receives public key $y = 16$ and
Bob receives public key $x = 6$

Step 6: Alice and Bob compute symmetric keys
Alice: $k_a = y^a \pmod{p} = 6^{5536} \pmod{23} = 9$
Bob: $k_b = x^b \pmod{p} = 6^{216} \pmod{23} = 9$

Step 7: 9 is the shared secret.

Conclusion : Successfully learned and implemented DH key exchange