

Question 1:

Show that the size of the state space of the RC4 cipher is bounded by $2^{16} * 256! \approx 2^{1700}$

Answer:

-Two 8-bit sized indices i and j $\rightarrow (2^8)^2$

-Total amount of 256! permutations for S-box of length 256

\rightarrow Together size of $(2^8)^2 * 256!$

Question 2:

In the RC4 attack, suppose that 60 IVs of the form (3,255,V) are available. Empirically determine the probability that the key byte K_3 can be distinguished.

What is the smallest number of IVs for which this probability is greater than $\frac{1}{2}$?

Answer:

See added Python Code for logic. Probability: Ca 5 %, at least 14 IVs needed

Question 3:

Assuming, that the key bytes K_3 through K_{n-1} have been recovered, what is the desired form of the IVs that will be used to recover K_n ?

Answer: $IV = (n, 255, V)$

For K_n what is the formula corresponding to 3.11?

Answer:

$$KB_n = k_n - \sum_1^n x - V - (\sum_3^{n-1} K_n)$$

Question 4:

What is the probability that 3.13 holds?

Answer:

$$K_4: \left(\frac{253}{256}\right)^{251} = 0.0518$$

What is the probability that the corresponding equation for K_n holds?

Answer:

$$\left(\frac{253}{256}\right)^{256-(n+1)}$$

Question 5:

What is another useful IV for recovering K_3 ?

Answer::

(3,253,254)

Question 6:

What are other secure methods to employ RC4 when a long-term key is combined with an IV?

Answer:

Increase key size and increase IV size to at least 32-bit (64-bit would be best). Or send the IV encrypted as well.