

Question 1

Network structure:

The sender A wants to send a message securely to receiver B through a sequence of mix nodes: $M1 \rightarrow M2 \rightarrow M3 \rightarrow M4$. Each mix will decrypt only one layer of encryption and will forward the message to the next hop (onion encryption)

The Keys:

First, the sender A receives the public keys of all mixes:

For $M1 \rightarrow PK(1)$

For $M2 \rightarrow PK(2)$

For $M3 \rightarrow PK(3)$

For $M4 \rightarrow PK(4)$

Only the specific mix knows its corresponding private key:

$M1$ knows $\rightarrow SK(1)$

$M2$ knows $\rightarrow SK(2)$

$M3$ knows $\rightarrow SK(3)$

$M4$ knows $\rightarrow SK(4)$

The sender A will use these keys to build the encryption like an onion. The innermost layer is meant for $M4$, then wrapped for $M3$, then wrapped for $M2$ and then lastly wrapped for $M1$.

The Onion Encrypted Message:

We will say that m is the message that sender A wants to send to recipient B.

We will say that $Encryption_PK(n)$ is the function which will encrypt based on the public key of mix $M(n)$

The message sent by A will look something like this:

```
Encryption_PK(1)(  
  ADDRESS = M(2) ||  
  Encryption_PK(2)(  
    Address = M3 ||  
    Encryption_PK3(  
      Address=M4 ||  
      Encryption_PK4(  
        Address = B ||  
        M  
      ))))
```

In this encryption:

1. $M1$ decrypts with $SK(1) \rightarrow$ see $M2$'s address \rightarrow forwards the rest
2. $M2$ decrypts with $SK(2) \rightarrow$ see $M3$'s address \rightarrow forwards the rest
3. Only $M4$ sees the final destination, B and the message

Question 2

Unlinkability is the property which ensures that an observer can not determine whether 2 or more items of “interest” like: messages, actions or sessions originate from the same user.

Unlinkability is different from anonymity because anonymity only ensures that a single action or message cannot be tracked back to a specific identity. Anonymity only protects identity in one instance while unlinkability protects it in multiple instances or cases.

Unlinkability is critical because even if each individual interaction is anonymous, an attacker could correlate multiple actions to build a user profile or reveal identity over time if those actions are linkable.

Question 3

In a mix network, message reordering prevents an observer from linking incoming message to outgoing ones based on order, breaking timing correlations.

Padding in a mix network ensures that all messages are in the same size, preventing size based correlation between senders and receivers.

Onion routing relies primarily on multiple layers of encryption to conceal the path of the message through the network. Each node decrypts one layer to reveal the next hop but messages typically maintain order and may vary in size. This is why onion routing protects against content and path disclosure but provides weaker protection against traffic analysis compared to mix networks.