

Smoke

An Android Echo Software Application

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About

Smoke is an Android communications project. The software is composed of a single multi-threaded application. A companion application, SmokeStack, provides mobile server services.

Software sources are available at <https://github.com/textbrowser/smoke> and <https://github.com/textbrowser/smokestack>.

Activity Authenticate

After launching a prepared Smoke installation, the Authenticate activity is displayed. The original password must be provided. If the correct password is provided, essential containers are populated and the kernel is activated. The previously-accessed activity is also activated.

Smoke may also be reset within the Authenticate activity.

Activity Chat

The Chat activity is one of three messaging activities. From this activity, one may message one or more defined participants. If Smoke is connected to at least one network peer, a green network icon is displayed. Otherwise, a red network icon is displayed.

Before a messaging session may begin between two participants, the parties must exchange private key material. Exchanging private key material may be achieved via the Call and Custom Session mechanisms.

A context menu may be activated by pressing and holding on the right-hand Participants widget. Context-menu items are described below.

Custom Session

Private key material may be generated per the selected participant. The generated material is not transferred on the network.

New Window

Display a new Member Chat activity.

Optional Signatures

Messaging and status messages are digitally signed. Signatures may be disabled per participant. Please note that if one party requires signatures and signatures are not provided by the other party, messages will be ignored by the receiving party.

Purge Session

Discard private key material for the specified participant.

Refresh Participants Table

Refresh the Participants widget.

Retrieve Messages

Retrieve messages from SmokeStack instances. An Ozone and an active network must be present for this option to be enabled.

Show Details

Disable or enable various Participants details.

Show Icons

Disable or enable participant presence icons.

Activity Fire

The Fire activity is one of three messaging activities. From this activity, one may communicate with one or more groups of anonymous participants. If Smoke is connected to at least one network peer, a green network icon is displayed. Otherwise, a red network icon is displayed. Fire is compatible with Spot-On's Buzz. 256-bit AES-CBC along with SHA-384 HMAC address the encryption and authentication requirements.

Activity Member Chat

The Member Chat activity is one of three messaging activities. From this activity, one may message one participant. If Smoke is connected to at least one network peer, a green network icon is displayed. Otherwise, a red network icon is displayed.

Before a messaging session may begin between two participants, the parties must exchange private key material. Exchanging private key material may be achieved via the Call and Custom Session mechanisms.

Context menus may be activated by pressing and holding either the Messages widget or the Status widget. Context-menu items are described below.

Call via McEliece

Exchange private key material via an ephemeral ($m = 11$, $t = 50$) McEliece public key.

Call via RSA

Exchange private key material via an ephemeral (2048-bit) RSA public key.

Copy Text

Place the selected message's text in the clipboard buffer.

Delete All Messages

If confirmed, all messages associated with the specified member are deleted.

Delete Message

If confirmed, the selected message is deleted.

Custom Session

Private key material may be generated. The generated material is not transferred on the network.

Retrieve Messages

Retrieve messages from SmokeStack instances. An Ozone and an active network must be present for this option to be enabled.

Save Attachment

If the selected message contains an image, this option is enabled. Once activated, the attached bitmap is saved. The bitmap is saved to Smoke's data path.

Activity Settings

The Settings activity contains various configurable items. Smoke may also be reset from this activity. This page will describe miscellaneous portions.

About

Describes software information, including the Android version of the device. Log clearing may also be performed in this section. The Prefer Active CPU option, if enabled, ensures that the CPU remains active if the screen is turned off.

Ozone

One Ozone address may be defined in this section. Please refer to the Ozone page for more details.

Password

Generate new local authentication and encryption keys as well as a public and private key pair. If confirmed, all existing data will be purged.

Public Data

Contains the Smoke Chat ID. A Smoke Identity is synonymous to an e-mail address. Basic public-key data is also displayed in this section.

Share Smoke ID

Share the Smoke ID with a SmokeStack instance via the defined Ozone.

Android

Smoke has been successfully tested on Android versions 4.4, 5.0, 5.1, 6.0, 7.0, and 7.1. Android versions 4.4, 5.0, and 5.1 are not officially supported.

According to <https://developer.android.com/about/dashboards/index.html>, Smoke supports 92.7% of all Android versions.

Congestion Control

Smoke implements a software-based congestion control mechanism. The SipHash algorithm is used for computing digests. Computed digests are stored in an SQLite database table.

Congestion-control items are inspected every 5 seconds. Items older than 60 seconds are discarded.

Corrupted Database Values

Encrypted database values pose an interesting design problem. How should an application depict a faulty database value to the user if the application is unable to properly decrypt an encrypted value? Some software packages ignore the potential problem altogether. Others delete or hide the corrupted entries; logging the failures in squandered logs. Smoke offers an exceptionally-transparent solution. Damaged database entries are depicted in various containers. These depictions offer insight into potential system failures.

Database Containers

Most of the database fields contain authentically-encrypted values. Some fields contain keyed digests, including keyed digests of binary (false / true) values. Values are stored as $E(\text{Data}, K_e) \parallel \text{HMAC}(E(\text{Data}, K_e), K_a)$ and $\text{HMAC}(\text{Data}, K_a)$. 256-bit AES-CBC is used for encrypting data. SHA-512 HMAC is used for data authentication.

Developers

Android Studio is required for development. Please download the application from <https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html>. Building Smoke may be performed via Studio or a terminal. Please refer to the included Makefile and Makefile.linux for guidance.

Discovery via Cryptography

Cryptographic discovery is a mechanism which allows servers to lighten the computational and data responsibilities of mobile devices.

Shortly after a Smoke instance connects to a SmokeStack service, the Smoke instance shares some non-private material. The material allows a SmokeStack server to transfer messages to their correct destinations. SmokeStack instances routinely distribute gathered, non-expired material to other SmokeStack services, thus creating a network of cooperative SmokeStack faculties.

Cryptographic Discovery assumes a trustworthy network.

To mitigate replay attacks, Smoke offers SmokeStack instances random identity streams during message-retrieval requests. The identity streams self-expire.

Please note that a SmokeStack instance limits the number of client identities to 512.

Exchanging Private Credentials

The Calling feature allows two parties to exchange private key material. Please note that messages which have been recorded in a SmokeStack instance via one set of credentials will not be available if new credentials are established. The process of exchanging private credentials is as follows:

1. A participant issues a Call via a selected participant. A new ephemeral McEliece or RSA public-key pair is generated. A signature binding the two participants is computed. The bundle is then transferred to the recipient.
2. A participant receives the bundle, verifies the included signature, and generates private authentication and encryption keys. The private key material is bundled via the included public RSA key. The participant transfers the signed private key material bundle to the initial participant.
3. The initiating participant receives the private key material, verifies the included signature, and unpackages the private key material via the ephemeral private key. The two participants are now paired.

Fiasco Keys

Authentication and encryption key data which are established via the so-called calling mechanism are recorded within the participants_keys database table. Whenever a message from a SmokeStack instance is received, the message's digest is verified using each of the recorded authentication keys until a correct authentication key is discovered or the search is exhausted. If a key is recovered, the message is decrypted and delivered locally. Newer keys are tested first.

A key pair has a lifetime of 864,000 seconds.

Fire

Fire introduces communication networks between Smoke and Spot-On. Key generation is described below.

```
authentication_key = pbkdf2(sha512(Digest || "sha384"), // Salt
                             Digest,
                             10000,
                             896)                      // Bits (112 Bytes)
authentication_key, destination_key := authentication_key[0 ... 48], authentication_key[48 ... ]
encryption_key := pbkdf2(Salt,
                          Channel || "aes256" || "sha384",
                          10000,      // Iteration Count
                          2304)       // Bits (288 Bytes)
encryption_key := encryption_key[0 ... 31]
```

Forward Secrecy and SmokeStack

Smoke includes a mechanism for establishing session-based authentication and encryption keys. This key material is exchanged via ephemeral and permanent public keys. Forward secrecy is constituted by the use of ephemeral public keys.

The Forward Fiasco release provides a mechanism for storing secret key pairs for some period of time. After a message-retrieval request has been initiated, a Smoke instance will attempt to uncover the received content using previously-established secret keys.

Inflate

Smoke expands text-messaging data to 8192 bytes. If the provided data exceeds 8192 bytes, Smoke expands the provided data by $1024 + \text{mod}(\text{data length}, 2)$ bytes. Inflation does not apply to Fire as Fire must remain compatible with Spot-On.

Local Broadcast Manager

Communications between the Kernel and the user interface utilize the Local Broadcast Manager.

McEliece CCA2

As of version Drooling Dragon, Smoke supports McEliece-Fujisaki via BouncyCastle. Parameters are SHA-256, $m = 12$, $t = 68$. Some discussions:

- Authentication process may require several minutes to complete.
- Communications between McEliece and RSA are fully functional.
- Degraded performance is expected.
- During the key-sharing process, McEliece signatures are not provided and therefore are not verified.
- Initialization processes may require several minutes to complete.

Message Structures

This page will detail the various message structures.

CALL-HALF-AND-HALF-A

[PK] (1) McEliece 352, 608 Bytes, RSA Key Size / 8 Bytes

```
{
    AES-256 Key (1)
    SHA-512 Key (2)
}
```

[AES-256] (2)

```
{
    0x00 (1) 1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2) 8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Ephemeral Public Key (3) Variable (Base-64)
    Ephemeral Public Key Type (4) 1 Byte (Base-64)
    Sender's Identity (5) 8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Sender's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (6) 64 Bytes (Base-64)
    [PK Signature] (7) Variable (Base-64)
    {
        [PK] (1 ... 2) || [AES-256] (1 ... 6) ||
        Recipient's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1)
    }
}
```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (3) 64 Bytes

```
{
    [PK] || [AES-256] (1)
}
```

/*

** The destination is created via the recipient's Smoke identity.

*/

[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (4) 64 Bytes

```
{
```

```

    [PK] || [AES-256] || [SHA-512] (1)
}

CALL-HALF-AND-HALF-B
[PK] (1)                                McEliece 352, 608 Bytes, RSA Key Size / 8 Bytes
{
    AES-256 Key (1)
    SHA-512 Key (2)
}

[AES-256] (2)
{
    0x01 (1)                            1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2)                      8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Ephemeral Public Key (3)             Variable (Base-64)
    {
        AES-256 Key (1)
        SHA-512 Key (2)
    }
    Ephemeral Public Key Type (4)        1 Byte (Base-64)
    Sender's Identity (5)                8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Sender's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (6) 64 Bytes (Base-64)
    [PK Signature] (7)                   Variable (Base-64)
    {
        [PK] (1 ... 2) || [AES-256] (1 ... 6) ||
        Recipient's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1)
    }
}

[SHA-512 HMAC] (3)                      64 Bytes
{
    [PK] || [AES-256] (1)
}

/*
** The destination is created via the recipient's Smoke identity.

```

*/

[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (4) 64 Bytes

```
{
    [PK] || [AES-256] || [SHA-512] (1)
}
```

CHAT

[PK] (1) McEliece 320, 576 Bytes, RSA Key Size / 8 Bytes

```
{
    Sender's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1)          64 Bytes
}
```

[AES-256] (2)

```
{
    0x00 (1)                                  1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2)                          8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Message (3)                              Variable (Base-64)
    Sequence (4)                              8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Attachment (5)                           Variable (Compressed) (Base-64)
    [PK Signature] (6)                       Variable (Base-64)
    {
        [PK] (1) || [AES-256] (1 ... 5) ||
        Recipient's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1)
    }
}
```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (3) 64 Bytes

```
{
    [PK] || [AES-256] (1)
}
```

/*

** The destination is created via the recipient's identity.

*/


```

[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (4)      64 Bytes
{
    [PK] || [AES-256] || [SHA-512 HMAC] (1)
}

```

CHAT-RETRIEVAL (Via Ozone)

```

[AES-256] (1)
{
    0x00 (1)                                1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2)                        8 Bytes
    An Identity (3)                        64 Bytes
    Sender's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (4) 64 Bytes
    [PK Signature] (5)                    Variable
    {
        [AES-256] (1 ... 4) (1)
    }
}

```

```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (2)                        64 Bytes
{
    [AES-256] (1)
}

```

CHAT-STATUS

```

[PK] (1)                                McEliece 320, 576 Bytes, RSA Key Size / 8 Bytes
{
    Sender's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1) 64 Bytes
}

[AES-256] (2)
{
    0x01 (1)                                1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2)                        8 Bytes
    Status (3)                            1 Byte (Ignored)
    [PK Signature] (4)                    Variable
}

```

```

    {
        [PK] (1) || [AES-256] (1 ... 3) ||
        Recipient's Public Encryption Key SHA-512 Digest (1)
    }
}

```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (3) 64 Bytes

```

{
    [PK] || [AES-256] (1)
}

```

```

/*
** The destination is created via the recipient's identity.
*/

```

[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (4) 64 Bytes

```

{
    [PK] || [AES-256] || [SHA-512 HMAC] (1)
}

```

EPKS

[AES-256] (1)

```

{
    A Timestamp (1) 8 Bytes (Base-64)
    Key Type (2) 1 Byte (Base-64)
    Public Key (3) Variable (Base-64)
    Public Key Signature (4) Variable (Base-64)
    Signature Public Key (5) Variable (Base-64)
    Signature Public Key Signature (6) Variable (Base-64)
}

```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (2) 64 Bytes

```

{
    [AES-256] (1)
}

```

```
/*
** The destination is created via the recipient's Smoke identity.
*/
```

```
[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (3)          64 Bytes
{
    [AES-256] || [SHA-512 HMAC] (1)
}
```

FIRE-CHAT

```
[AES-256] (1)
{
    0040b (1)          Base-64
    \n
    Name (2)           Base-64
    \n
    ID (3)             Base-64
    \n
    Message (4)        Base-64
    \n
    UTC Date (5)       Base-64
}
```

```
[SHA-384 HMAC] (2)          Base-64
{
    [AES-256] (1)
}
```

```
[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (3)      Base-64
{
    [AES-256] || [SHA-384 HMAC] (1)
}
```

FIRE-STATUS

```
[AES-256] (1)
```

```

{
    0040a (1)          Base-64
    \n
    Name (2)           Base-64
    \n
    ID (3)             Base-64
    \n
    UTC Date (4)       Base-64
}

```

```

[SHA-384 HMAC] (2)          Base-64
{
    [AES-256] (1)
}

```

```

[Destination SHA-512 HMAC] (3)      Base-64
{
    [AES-256] || [SHA-384 HMAC] (1)
}

```

PKP-REQUEST (Via Ozone)

```

[AES-256] (1)
{
    0x01 (1)          1 Byte
    A Timestamp (2)    8 Bytes
    Destination Smoke Identity (3)  19 Bytes
    Requested Smoke Identity (4)    19 Bytes
}

```

```

[SHA-512 HMAC] (2)          64 Bytes
{
    [AES-256] (1)
}

```

SHARE-SMOKE-ID (Via Ozone)

[AES-256] (1)

{

0x02 (1)

1 Byte

A Timestamp (2)

8 Bytes

Smoke Identity (3)

19 Bytes

}

[SHA-512 HMAC] (2)

64 Bytes

{

[AES-256] (1)

}

Neighbors

New neighbors may be defined via the Settings activity. This page will describe the various nuances of network peers.

Smoke offers infinitely-many IPv4 and IPv6 TCP and UDP client definitions. Each network peer includes dedicated and independent data-parsing, socket-reading, socket-writing threads. TCP neighbors support HTTP and SOCKS proxies. Please note that host translations are not performed via assigned proxies.

A pull-down menu accompanies each defined neighbor.

Connect

Instruct Smoke to place the specified neighbor in a connect status. Connection attempts are performed every 2.5 seconds. TCP sockets are required to connect within 10 seconds. After connections are established, SSL/TLS handshakes must be completed within 10 seconds.

Delete

Display a confirmation prompt. If confirmed, the specified neighbor is scheduled for deletion.

Disconnect

Instruct Smoke to place the specified neighbor in a disconnect status.

Purge Queue

Purge the outbound queue of the specified neighbor.

Reset SSL/TLS Credentials

Reset the locally-stored SSL/TLS credentials of TCP neighbors.

A connected neighbor attempts to read 1 MiB of data from its socket every 100 milliseconds. The read request blocks indefinitely. If data is successfully read, it is appended to an internal buffer. The internal buffer may accumulate at most 32 MiB of data, with the potential of overflow. Parsing of data occurs every 100 milliseconds. Because the parsing and read threads are independent, it's possible that the internal buffer may temporarily overflow.

Each neighbor object includes two internal queues, Echo and real-time queues. Echo queues allow Smoke to echo internal data from local neighbor to local neighbor. This mechanism must be enabled via the Echo option. Each Echo queue may contain at most 256 messages. Please note that the Echo mechanism may burden a device. A neighbor will echo data if it discovers that the data is not intended for it. Calling, Chat statuses, Fire statuses, and SmokeStack message-retrieval requests utilize real-time queues. Real-time queues are not bound.

Various per-neighbor statistics are included in the Settings activity. Also included are per-neighbor descriptive errors.

New Installation

After launching a new installation of Smoke, some initial settings are required.

Encryption

Public-key algorithm. McEliece-Fujisaki and 3072-bit RSA are supported.

Iteration Count

Local authentication and encryption keys are generated via PBKDF2. The function requires an iteration count. If the selected value exceeds 7500, a confirmation prompt is displayed.

Password

At least one character is required.

Signature

Public-key digital signatures. 384-bit ECDSA and 3072-bit RSA are supported.

Outbound Queues

Smoke offers near-real-time communications. As network services may be unreliable, certain outbound messages are enqueued in an SQLite database table. Each network peer is assigned a separate queue. Messages are dequeued in a timely manner and placed onto the network. Calling messages, retrieval of offline messages, and status messages are considered expendable and are therefore written to network sockets regardless of network availability.

Please note that peers which are in disconnected status-control states are ignored during the enqueue processes.

Ozone Address

An Ozone address may be assigned via the Settings activity. If an Ozone address is defined and the network is available, Smoke will request external messages once per minute.

An Ozone address is a pseudo-private string which identifies a virtual entity. Smoke and SmokeStack utilize Ozones as a means of retrieving and storing offline messages and public-key pairs. Smoke supports one Ozone while SmokeStack supports infinitely many. Ozone addresses must be exchanged separately. Retrieved messages are only meaningful within the context of a session. It is possible for multiple Smoke parties to house distinct Ozones if common SmokeStack instances are aware of the distinct Ozone addresses.

Please note that public Ozone addresses will introduce denial of service vulnerabilities.

Participants

Participant Smoke Identities may be defined within the Participants section of the Settings activity. After defining a participant, local public-key pairs may be shared manually. An automatic process distributes key pairs to participants which have not been paired. A context menu may also be activated by pressing and holding on the Participants widget. The contents of the context menu are described below.

Delete (Smoke Identity)

Delete the selected participant. A confirmation dialog is displayed.

New Name (Smoke Identity)

Assign a new name to the selected participant.

Request Keys via Ozone (Smoke Identity)

Submit a public-key request to SmokeStack instances via the selected Smoke Identity. An Ozone address must be defined for this option to be enabled.

Share Keys (Smoke Identity)

The selected participant's public-key pair is distributed using the specified Smoke Identity. If a public-key pair does not exist for the specified participant, the option is disabled.

Private Public-Key Server

In addition to housing messages, SmokeStack also serves as a private public-key server. A SmokeStack administrator is responsible for coordinating the storage of public-key pairs of participants. Participants may request public-key pairs of specific participants via Ozone addresses.

Smoke Identities

Exchanging public-key pairs is often an involved process. Smoke implements the pseudo-random function SipHash so as to simplify the process. The SipHash function generates outputs of 8 bytes (16 characters hexadecimal). These short strings are easily memorized and/or distributed via other communications applications. Smoke identities are generated as follows:

```
id := siphash(public-encryption-key || public-signature-key,  
              pbkdf2(sha512(public-encryption-key || public-signature-key), // Salt  
                    public-encryption-key || public-signature-key,  
                    4096, // Iteration Count  
                    128)) // Bits (16 Bytes)
```

Non-confidential authentication and encryption key streams from Smoke identities are generated as follows:

```
keystream1 := pbkdf2(sha512(id), // Salt  
                    id,  
                    4096,          // Iteration Count  
                    160)          // Bits (20 Bytes)  
keystream2 := pbkdf2(sha512(id), // Salt  
                    keystream1,  
                    1,            // Iteration Count  
                    768)          // Bits (96 Bytes)
```

The transport keys which are generated from Smoke identities may be used for exchanging public-key data via the Echo Public-Key Share (EPKS) protocol.

It is impossible to avoid SipHash collisions as there are infinitely-many inputs and a limited number of outputs.

Software Distribution

Smoke is distributed in debug (smoke-debug.apk) and release (smoke.apk) forms. The release bundle is signed and includes the source.

TCP, UDP Protocols

Smoke supports both the TCP and UDP network protocols. Multicast and unicast UDP varieties are provided. Multiple clients may be defined via the Settings activity. A limit on the number of clients is not imposed. When defining neighbors, one may define SmokeStack and/or Spot-On neighbors. SmokeStack, the companion application of Smoke, offers mobile server services as well as message and public-key storage.

Example UDP multicast address: 239.255.43.21.

Thread Utilization

Smoke is an extremely-threaded application. For example, the Kernel object utilizes 7 threads while a single Neighbor object spawns 3 threads. Various threads are also defined in the activities.

Time

Time references are included in various message structures. Therefore, it is important that the local clock is correct. Smoke also performs numerous internal processes which are time-sensitive.

UDP Datagrams

Outbound UDP messages are partitioned into 576-byte datagrams. For example, a 15000-byte message will be partitioned into 27 datagrams.

Verifying Public-Key Ownership

Before initiating an exchange of public-key pairs, Smoke generates digital signatures using the private keys of the encryption and signature public keys. The signatures are included in the EPKS bundle. A receiving Smoke instance verifies the signatures and accepts the public-key pairs if the signatures are valid. McEliece signatures are not included and are therefore not verified.