Key Update for OSCORE (KUDOS)

draft-ietf-core-oscore-key-update-10

Rikard Höglund, RISE
Marco Tiloca, RISE

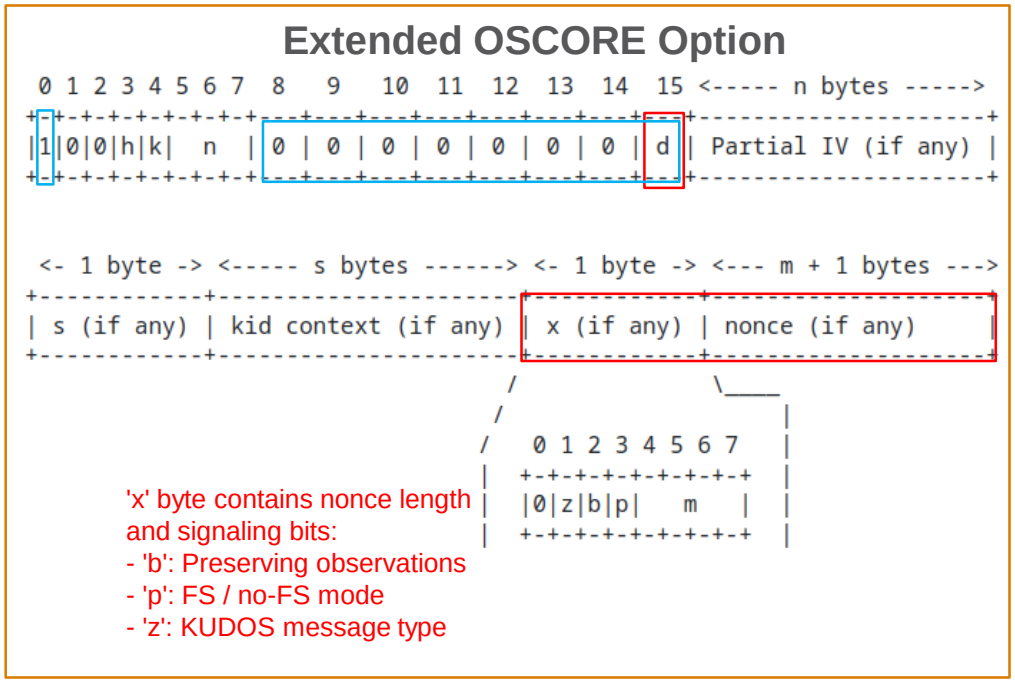
IETF CoRE WG meeting – IETF 122 – March 18th, 2025

Recap

- Key Update for OSCORE (KUDOS)
  - Renew the Master Secret and Master Salt; derive new Sender/Recipient keys
  - No change to the ID Context; can achieve Forward Secrecy
  - Agnostic of the key establishment method originally used
  - Loosely inspired by Appendix B.2 of OSCORE
  - The peers update their current context CTX_OLD, deriving a new context CTX_NEW
  - Now re-designed using a more flexible and simpler approach – Thanks Christian!

Rekeying Procedure

- **Key Update for OSCORE (KUDOS)**
  - Message exchange to share two nonces N1 and N2
    - Decoupled from request/response and client/server concepts
  - Nonces are placed in new fields in OSCORE CoAP option
  - *UpdateCtx()* function for deriving new OSCORE Security Context using the two nonces, two ‘x’ bytes and CTX_OLD
  - Two modes
    - FS mode providing forward secrecy
    - No-FS mode for very constrained devices
  - No change of OSCORE identifiers
  - Expected to complete in 1 round trip

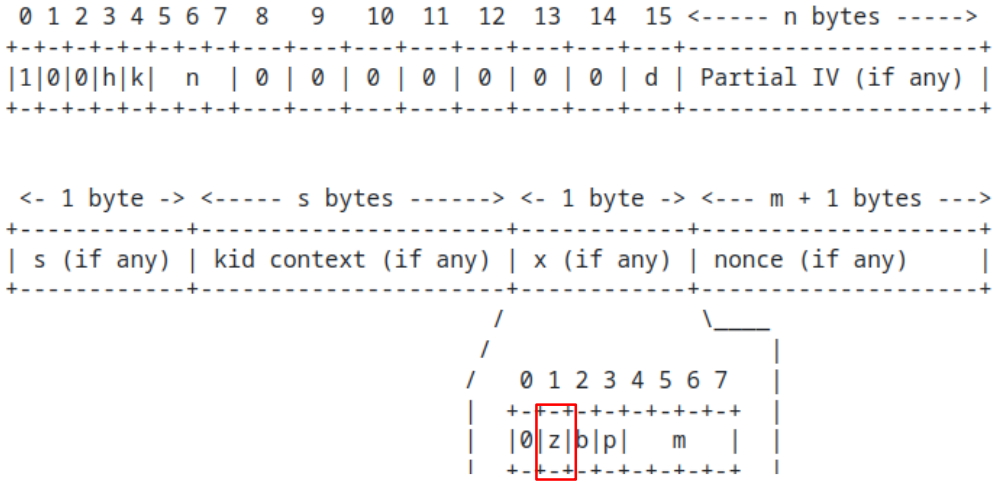


Main changes for v-10

- **Major re-design based on an updated state machine**
- **More flexible design**
  - Removed concept of forward/reverse message flow
  - Removed "first" and "second" KUDOS message
  - Removed rigid roles of "Initiator" and "Responder"
  - Removed ordering of nonces by time of arrival/transmission
  - No need to send the other peer's nonce on the wire
- **Less aspects and potential issues to think/worry about**
  - More adaptive to different types of message exchanges
  - Simpler to ensure the absence of deadlocks
- **Formally defined CTX_BOOTSTRAP**
  - Relevant for non-CAPABLE devices, unable to write in persistent memory
  - The context built from the Bootstrap Master Secret/Salt and used in the no-FS mode
    - Always used as "baseline" Security Context to derive the new one with updateCtx()

KUDOS Message Types

- **Two types of KUDOS messages, distinguished by the 7th least significant bit 'z' in the 'x' byte**
  - Indicates if only one or both nonces have been exchanged



Note: The z bit used to have another meaning

- **z = 0: “divergent message”**
- This message is protected with the temporary Security Context CTX_TEMP (was CTX_1)
- The sender peer is offering its own nonce in the message and waiting to receive the other peer’s nonce.

- **z = 1: “convergent message”**
- This message is protected with the final Security Context CTX_NEW.
- The sender peer is offering its own nonce in the message, has received the other peer’s nonce, and is going to wait for key confirmation

Main changes for v-10

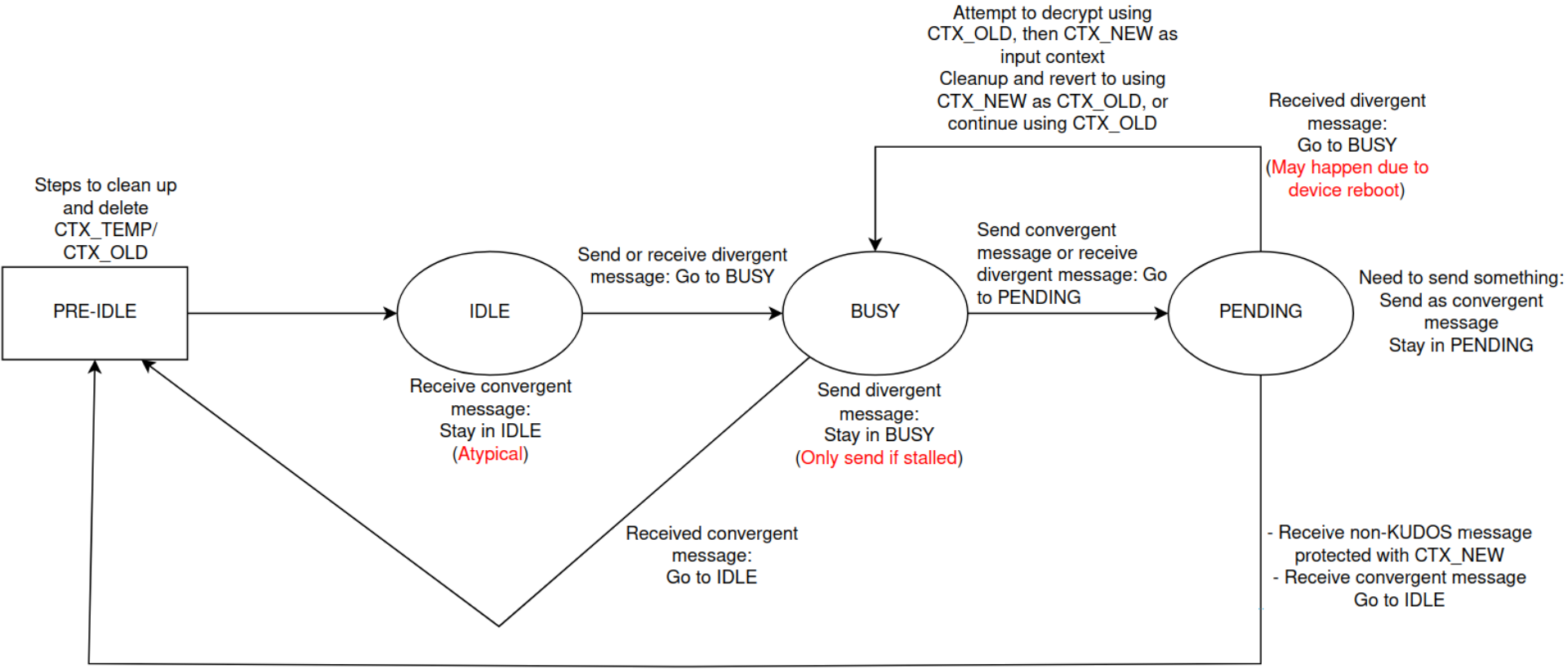
- **A pair (X, Nonce) offered by a peer is bound to CTX_OLD**
  - ...with the intent to use the same pair until a successful KUDOS execution completes
  - This pair is generated before invoking updateCtx(), in case a pair is not already associated with the CTX_OLD
  - The pair is deleted upon deletion of CTX_OLD

- **Lexicographical sorting of the input in updateCtx()**
  - ...to make the solution agnostic of the nonces sending/arrival time
  - Same output for updateCtx(X1 | N1, X2 | N2, CTX_OLD) and updateCtx(X2 | N2, X1 | N1, CTX_OLD).
  - The peers get the same output regardless of which nonce they consider to be "first" and "second"

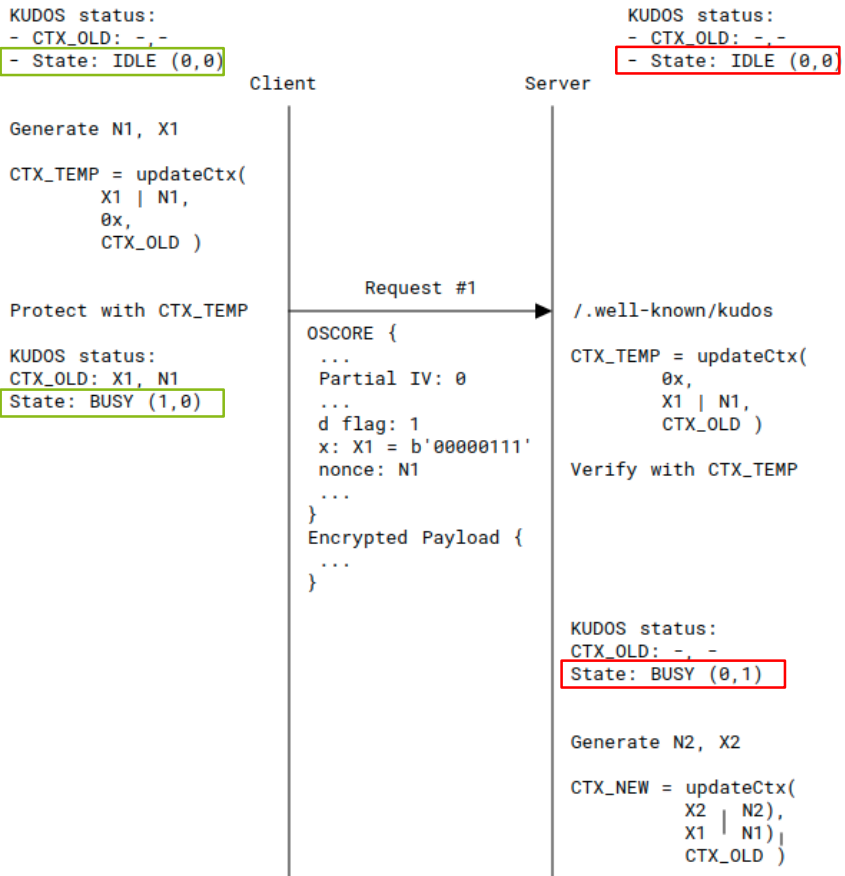
KUDOS States

- **Three possible states: IDLE, BUSY, and PENDING**
  - Normally, the peer is in the IDLE state, i.e., in "equilibrium“
- **A peer starts a KUDOS execution upon entering the BUSY state**
- **A peer successfully completes a KUDOS execution by entering the IDLE state**
  - At which point the peer has the OSCORE Security Context CTX_NEW and has achieved key confirmation
- **A peer can locally represent its current state using 2 bits**
  - (00) IDLE - The peer is not running KUDOS
  - (01) BUSY - The peer has not offered a nonce, but has received the nonce from the other peer
  - (10) BUSY - The peer has offered a nonce, but has not received the nonce from the other peer
  - (11) PENDING: The peer is running KUDOS, has offered its nonce, has received the nonce from the other peer, and is waiting for key confirmation

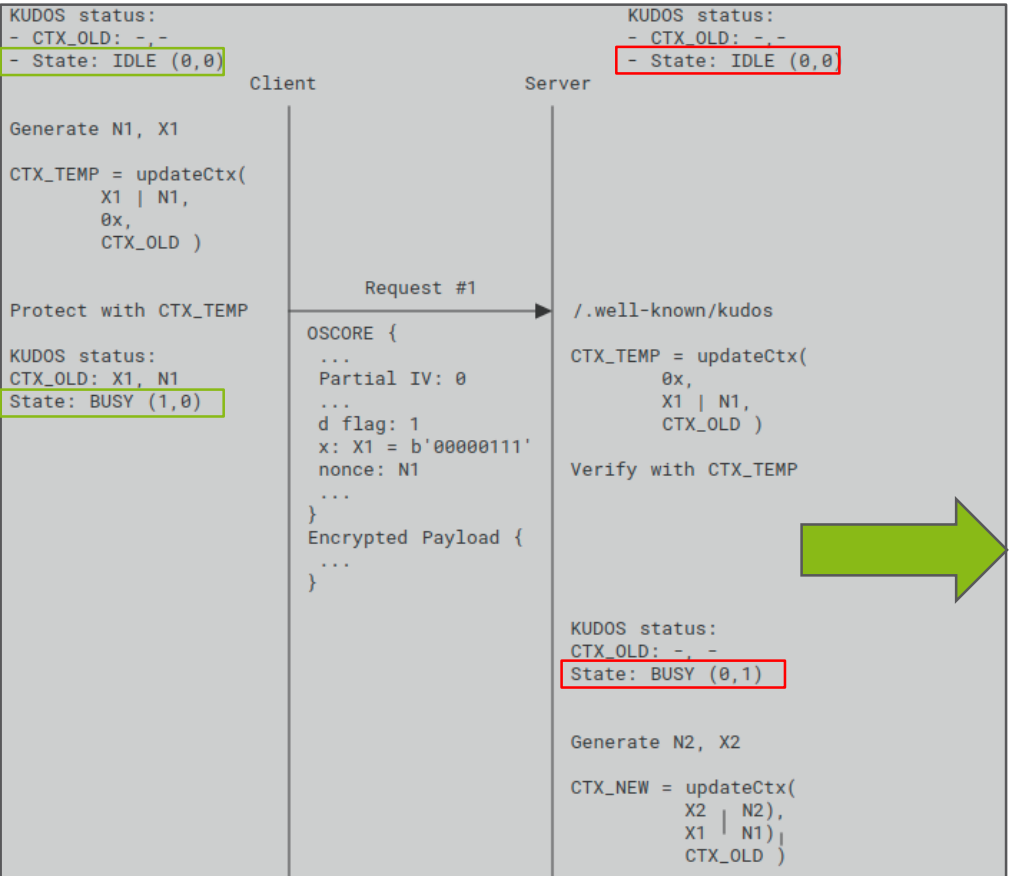
KUDOS State Machine

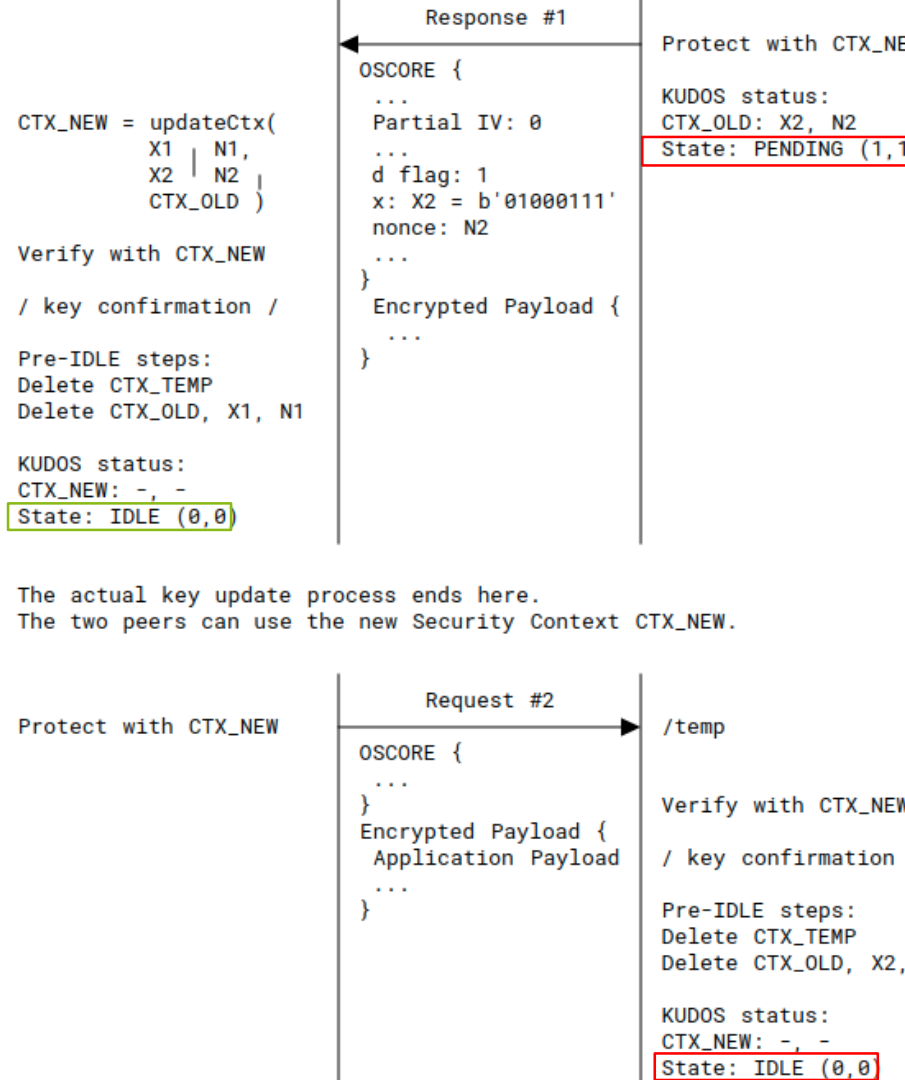


Example Execution



Example Execution





Key Usage Limits & ID Update

- **ID Update (draft-ietf-core-oscore-id-update)**
  - **Recap**: Method for updating peers' OSCORE Sender/Recipient IDs. Can be initiated by a client or by a server
  - Submitted new version in January with main change to split overly long sections
  - Next steps
    - Re-consider its design, to be in the same spirit of the new KUDOS design
    - Add more examples including failure cases

- **Key Usage Limits (draft-ietf-core-oscore-key-limits)**
  - **Recap**: OSCORE-specific safe limits for Sender/Recipient Key usage
    - Safe number of encryptions using the Sender Key
    - Safe number of failed decryptions using the Recipient Key
  - Next steps: Align to the document from CFRG as it develops [1]
    - There is ongoing discussion in the CFRG mailing list [2]

[1] https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-irtf-cfrg-aead-limits/
[2] https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/msg/cfrg/CQ6MaMX1t96qxzxJK8cpTPVA46g/

Summary and next steps

- **Consider simplifications and improvements to the state machine**
  - E.g., avoiding complex and resource-intensive paths when determined not needed
- **KUDOS implementations**
  - Update the implementation in Java [1] to be aligned with the latest design
  - Update the implementation in C for Contiki-NG to be aligned with the latest design
- **Process a few remaining minor issues captured in the Github repo**
- **Comments and reviews are welcome!**

[1] https://github.com/rikard-sics/californium/blob/oscore_cmd/cf-oscore/

Thank you!

Comments/questions?

https://github.com/core-wg/oscore-key-update

https://github.com/core-wg/oscore-id-update

https://github.com/core-wg/oscore-key-limits

Backup

Key Usage Limits Overview

- **Working group document**
  - Content split out from *Key Update for OSCORE (KUDOS)* (draft-ietf-core-oscore-key-update)
  - Discussed during previous core interim on 2022-09-28 [1]
  - Also discussed and confirmed during IETF 115 [2]

- **Content of the draft: AEAD Key Usage Limits in OSCORE**
  - Excessive use of the same key can enable breaking security properties of the AEAD algorithm*
  - Defining appropriate limits for OSCORE, for a variety of algorithms
  - Defining counters for key usage; message processing details; steps when limits are reached

[1] https://datatracker.ietf.org/meeting/interim-2022-core-13/session/core
[2] https://datatracker.ietf.org/meeting/115/session/core

*See also *draft-irtf-cfrg-aead-limits*

Update of Sender/Recipient IDs

- **Recap: Method for updating peers' OSCORE Sender/Recipient IDs**
  - This procedure can be initiated by a client or by a server

No.	C	U	N	R	Name	Format	Length	Default
TBD24					Recipient-ID	opaque	any	(none)

Table 1: The Recipient-ID Option.
C=Critical, U=Unsafe, N=NoCacheKey, R=Repeatable

- **Properties**
  - The message sender indicates its new wished Recipient ID, in the new Recipient-ID Option (class E)
  - Both peers have to opt-in and agree in order for the IDs to be updated
  - Changing IDs practically triggers derivation of new OSCORE Security Context
  - Must not be done immediately following a reboot if run standalone (e.g., KUDOS must be run first)
  - Offered Recipient ID must not be used yet under the same (Master Secret, Master Salt, ID Context)
  - Received Recipient ID must not be used yet as own Sender ID under the same triple

- **Examples are provided in Sections 2.1.1 and 2.1.2**