# **ASN.1:**

# Introduction

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### ASN.1



- Abstract Syntax Notation 1
- notation for describing abstract types and values
- Defined in ITU-T X.680 ... X.695
- Used in many file formats, including crypto
  - Public keys, private keys
  - Certificate requests, certificates
  - Digital signatures, padding, encrypted files

#### ASN.1



- Allows format/storage/transmission of data
  - Compatible among many applications
  - Not dependent on HW platform
    - E.g. little/big endian
  - Not dependent on operating system
- Simple & Structured types
- Multiple encoding rules (methods)

# **ASN.1** – Types



Type	Tag number	Tag number
	(decimal)	(hexadecimal)
INTEGER	2	02
BIT STRING	3	03
OCTET STRING	4	04
NULL	5	05
OBJECT IDENTIFIER	6	06
SEQUENCE and SEQUENCE OF	16	10
SET and SET OF	17	11
PrintableString	19	13
IA5String	22	16
UTCTime	23	17



# **ASN.1** – simple types

- Integer
  - signed integer (there's no unsigned integer)
- Bit string
  - The number of bits does not have to be a multiple of 8
- Octet string
  - an arbitrary string of octets
- NULL
  - No data (used in parameters)
- PringtableString, IA5String, UTF8String, ...
  - Strings the sets of characters are various
- UTCTime
  - Time

### ASN.1 – OID type



- Object identifier (OID)
  - Sequence of integer components that identify an object
  - Assigned in a hierarchical way
- Example
  - sha-1WithRSAEncryption = 1.2.840.113549.1.1.5
  - iso(1) member-body(2)
     us(840) rsadsi(113549)
     pkcs(1) pkcs-1(1) 5

- 1.2.840.113549.1.1 PKCS-1
- 1.2.840.113549.1 PKCS
- 1.2.840.113549 RSADSI
- 1.2.840 USA
- 1.2 ISO member body
- 1 ISO assigned OIDs
- Top of OID tree

# ASN.1 – structured types

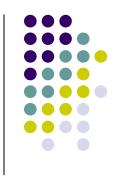


- SEQUENCE
  - an ordered collection of one or more types
- SEQUENCE OF
  - an ordered collection of zero or more occurrences of a given type
- SET
  - an unordered collection of one or more types
- SET OF
  - an unordered collection of zero or more occurrences of a given type

# **ASN.1 Encoding Rules**

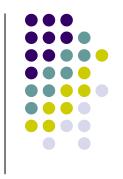
- XML oriented formats
  - XER (XML Encoding Rules)
- Byte-oriented formats
  - BER (Basic Encoding Rules)
  - CER (Canonical Encoding Rules) subset of BER
  - DER (Distinguished Encoding Rules) subset of BER
    - Used for crypto files
- Bit-oriented formats
  - PER (Packed Encoding Rules)
- Verbose, human readable formats
  - GSER (Generic String Encoding Rules)

### **BER encoding**



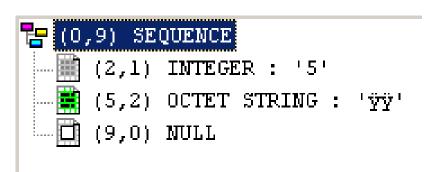
- TLV Tag Length Value
  - All the data is encoded using a simple TLV format
  - Tag what kind of data it is
  - Length the length of the data
  - Value the data itself
- Example
  - 02 01 05 [hexadecimal values]
    - Tag Integer
    - Length of data 1 byte
    - Data: (positive integer) 5

#### **Nested data**

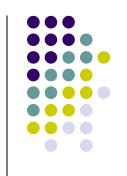


- SEQUENCE is similar to struct/record
- 30 09 02 01 05 04 02 FF FF 05 00
  - 30 09 sequence of length 9 bytes
  - 02 01 05 integer 5
  - 04 02 FF FF octet string FF FF
  - 05 00 NULL (no data)





### **BER tags**



Tag encoding



Class

Class	Bit 8	Bit 7
universal	0	0
application	0	1
context-specific	1	0
private	1	1

- Tag number
  - Bits 1-5
  - If all bits are 1 then the tag continues in the following byte(s)

### **BER length**



- length >=0 && length <= 127</li>
  - The length is coded directly
    - E.g. '05'
- Otherwise the bit 8 is set, bits 1-7 code the number of bytes that specify the length
  - E.g. 255 -> '81' 'FF'
  - E.g. 256 -> '82' '01' '00' or also '83' '00' '01' '00'
    - BER x DER
- '80' is "indefinite" length
  - Not allowed in DER

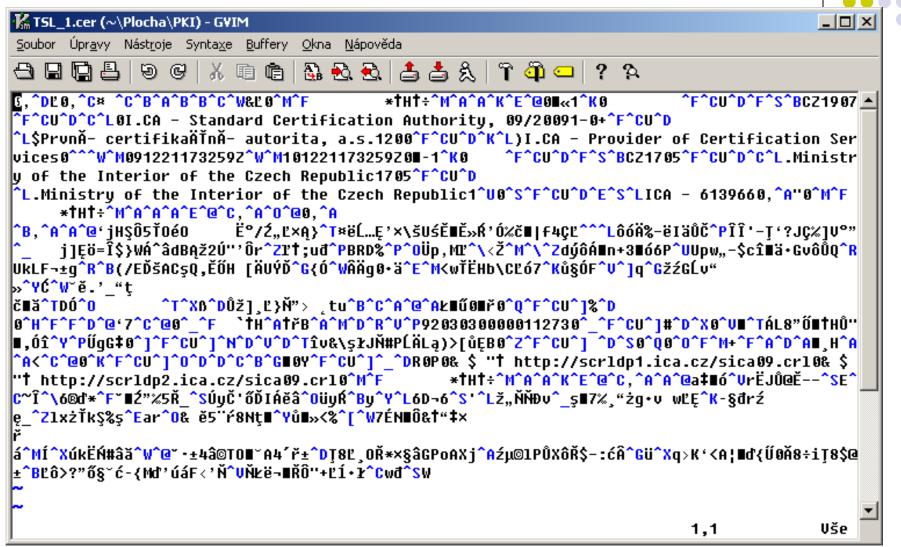
#### **BER value**

- The data itself
- Dependent on data type
  - Integer: signed e.g. 128 -> '00 80'
  - Octet string: directly the data
  - Bit string: number of unused bits + padded bit string to a multiple of 8 bits (padding is at the end)
  - UTCTime: string of one of the forms

YYMMDDhhmmZ
YYMMDDhhmm+hh'mm'
YYMMDDhhmm-hh'mm'
YYMMDDhhmmssZ
YYMMDDhhmmss+hh'mm'
YYMMDDhhmmss-hh'mm'

### First look at the binary DER file



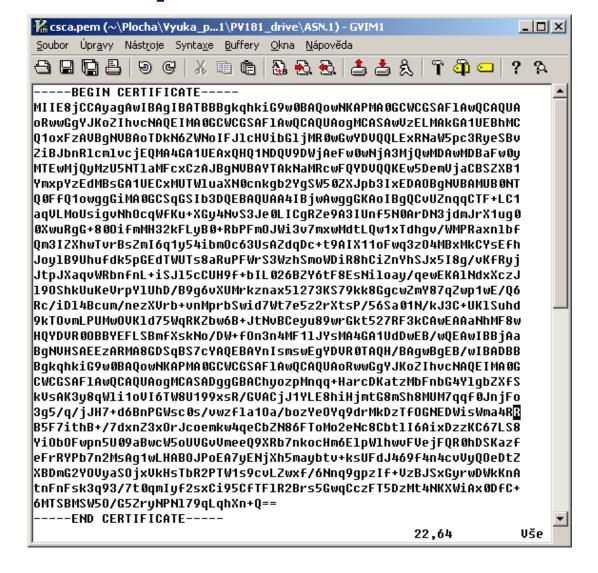


#### DER vs. PEM



- PEM
  - Privacy Enhanced Mail
- PEM as such not used, but formats still used
- Textual formats
  - Practical for transport channels where full 8bit data can be damaged
- PEM is base64 coded DER enveloped with
  - ----BEGIN SOMETHING-----
  - ----END SOMETHING-----
  - Where SOMETHING is CERTIFICATE/PKCS7/KEY...

### Sample PEM file





#### **ASN.1** viewers

- Unber (part of asn1c)
- Openssl asn1parse
- ASN.1 Editor

• ...



### OpenSSL asn1parse

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
              C:\Program Files\OpenSSL\bin>openssl.exe asn1parse -inform DER -in CZE CSCA 2009
             0113.der
                    0:d=0 h1=4 1=1266 cons: SEQUENCE
4:d=1 h1=4 1= 806 cons: SEQUENCE
8:d=2 h1=2 1= 3 cons: cont [ 0 ]
                  8:d=2 hl=2 l= 3 cons: cont [ 0 ]
10:d=3 hl=2 l= 1 prim: INTEGER
13:d=2 hl=2 l= 65 cons: SEQUENCE
18:d=3 hl=2 l= 9 prim: OBJECT
29:d=3 hl=2 l= 15 cons: SEQUENCE
31:d=4 hl=2 l= 15 cons: cont [ 0 ]
33:d=5 hl=2 l= 13 cons: SEQUENCE
35:d=6 hl=2 l= 9 prim: OBJECT
46:d=6 hl=2 l= 9 prim: OBJECT
46:d=6 hl=2 l= 0 prim: NULL
48:d=4 bl=2 l= 28 cons: cont [ 1 ]
:1.2.840.113549.1.1.10
                                                                                                   :sha256
                                                                                                   :1.2.840.113549.1.1.8
                                                                                                   :sha256
                                                                                                   :20
                                                                                                   :countryName
                                :organizationName
                                                                                                   :Czech Republic
                                          1= 27 cons: SEQUENCE

1= 3 prim: OBJECT

1= 20 prim: PRINTABLESTRING

1= 16 cons: SET

1= 14 cons: SEQUENCE
                                                                                                   organizationalUnitName:Ministry of Interior
                 156:d=4
                158:d=5
163:d=5
172:d=2
174:d=3
                                                3 prim: OBJECT
7 prim: T61STRING
                                                                                                   :commonName
                                          ĩ=
                                                                                                   :CSCA_CZ
                                          1= 30 cons: SEQUENCE
                                         l= 13 prim: UTCTIME
l= 13 prim: UTCTIME
l= 87 cons: SEQUENCE
                                 h1=2
                                                                                                   :090113000000Z
                                h1=2
h1=2
h1=2
h1=2
h1=2
                 189:d=3
                                                                                                   :240413000000Z
                 204:d=2
                 206:d=3
                                          1= 11 cons: SET
                                          1=
1=
1=
                                        ? l= 2 prim: OBJECT
l= 2 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
l= 23 cons: SET
l= 21 cons: OFF
                                                   9 cons: SEQUENCE
                 210:d=5
215:d=5
                                                                                                   :countryName
                                 h1=2
                 219:d=3
                                 h1=2
                                                21 cons: SEQUENCE
3 prim: OBJECT
                                 h1=2
                 223:d=5
228:d=5
                                 h1=2
                                                                                                   :organizationName
                                                 14 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
29 cons: SET
27 cons: SEQUENCE
                                 h1=2
                                          1=
                                                                                                   :Czech Republic
```





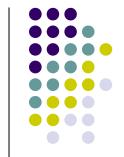
#### unber

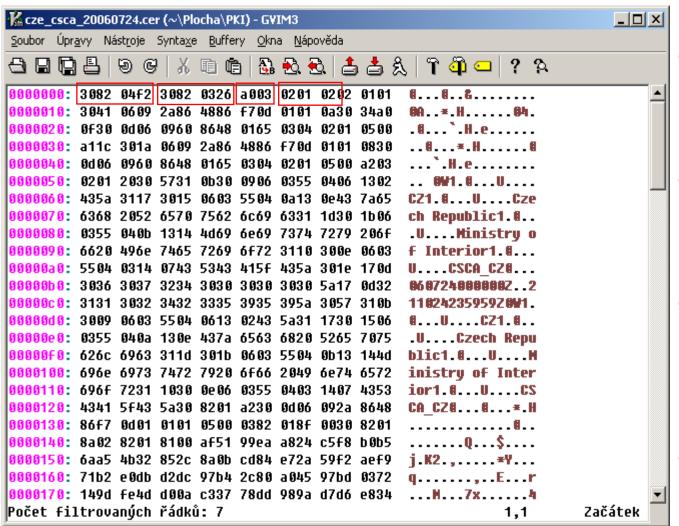




```
🚰 anxur.fi.muni.cz - PuTTY
labak:~$ unber /usr/share/doc/dirmngr-1.0.3/examples/extra-certs/bnetza-10r-ocsp-2.crt
<C 0="0" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="4" V="952" A="SEQUENCE">
    <C 0="4" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="4" V="804" A="SEQUENCE">
        <C 0="8" T="[0]" TL="2" V="3">
            <P 0="10" T="[UNIVERSAL 2]" TL="2" V="1" A="INTEGER" F>2</P>
        </C 0="13" T="[0]" L="5">
        <P 0="13" T="[UNIVERSAL 2]" TL="2" V="1" A="INTEGER" F>53</P>
       <C 0="16" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="10" A="SEQUENCE">
            <P 0="18" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="6" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>1.3.36.3.3.1.2
            <P 0="26" T="[UNIVERSAL 5]" TL="2" V="0" A="NULL"></P>
       </c 0="28" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="12">
       <C 0="28" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="63" A="SEQUENCE">
            <C 0="30" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="11" A="SET">
                <C 0="32" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="9" A="SEQUENCE">
                    <P 0="34" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.6</P>
                    <P 0="39" T="[UNIVERSAL 19]" TL="2" V="2" A="PrintableString">DE</P>
                </C 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="11">
            </c 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="13">
            <C 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="26" A="SET">
                <C 0="45" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="24" A="SEQUENCE">
                    <P 0="47" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="OBJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.10
                    <P 0="52" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" V="17" A="UTF8String">Bundesnetzagentur</P>
                </C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="26">
            </C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="28">
            <C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="20" A="SET">
                <C 0="73" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="18" A="SEQUENCE">
                    <P 0="75" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.3</P>
                    <P 0="80" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" U="11" A="UTF8Strinq">10R-CA 1:PN</P>
                </C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="20">
            </C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="22">
       </c 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="65">
       <C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="30" A="SEQUENCE">
            <P 0="95" T="[UNIVERSAL 23]" TL="2" V="13" A="UTCTime">0508040827092
            <P 0="110" T="[UNIVERSAL 23]" TL="2" V="13" A="UTCTime">071231082349Z</P>
        </C 0="125" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="32">
       <C 0="125" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="65" A="SEQUENCE">
            <C 0="127" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="11" A="SET">
                <C 0="129" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="9" A="SEQUENCE">
                    <P 0="131" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" U="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.6</P>
                    <P O="136" T="[UNIVERSAL 19]" TL="2" V="2" A="PrintableString">DE</P>
                </c>
</c o="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="11">
            </C 0="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="13">
            <C 0="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="26" A="SET">
                <C 0="142" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="24" A="SEQUENCE">
                    <P 0="144" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="OBJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.10
                    <P 0="149" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" V="17" A="UTF8String">Bundesnetzagentur</P>
                </C 0="168" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="26">
```







- 30 82 04 f2
  - SEQUENCE
  - length 1266B
- 30 82 03 26
  - SEQUENCE
  - length 806B
- A0 03
  - CONTEXT
     SPECIFIC 0
  - Length 3B
- 02 01 02
  - INTEGER: 2

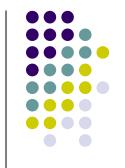
#### **ASN.1** Editor





```
ASN.1 Editor - Opening File: CZE CSCA 20090113.der
File View Tools Help
👺 (0,1266) SEQUENCE
Ė-№ (4,806) SEQUENCE
  ± C (8,3) CONTEXT SPECIFIC (0)
    (13,1) INTEGER : '58'
  🖶 👺 (16,65) SEQUENCE
  🖮 👺 (83,87) SEQUENCE
    Ė-- 🖺 (85,11) SET
       🖆 👺 (87,9) SEQUENCE
           🐧 (89,3) OBJECT IDENTIFIER : countryName : '2.5.4.6'
           🛗 (94,2) PRINTABLE STRING : 'CZ'
    Ė…🖺 (98,23) SET
       는 📴 🚼 (100,21) SEQUENCE
           🏚 (102,3) OBJECT IDENTIFIER : organizationName : '2.5.4.10'
           🛗 (107,14) PRINTABLE STRING : 'Czech Republic'
    🚊 🖺 (123,29) SET
       는 👺 (125,27) SEQUENCE
           🐧 (127,3) OBJECT IDENTIFIER : organizationalUnitName : '2.5.4.11'
           - III (132,20) PRINTABLE STRING : 'Ministry of Interior'
    ⊟-- 🖺 (154,16) SET
       🚊 👺 (156,14) SEQUENCE
           🏚 (158,3) OBJECT IDENTIFIER : commonName : '2.5.4.3'
           🛗 (163,7) T61 STRING : 'CSCA_CZ'
  亩-👺 (172,30) SEQUENCE
  🛨 👺 (204,87) SEQUENCE
  🖮 👺 (293,418) SEQUENCE
  ⊕ C (715,97) CONTEXT SPECIFIC (3)
⊕ 👺 (814,65) SEQUENCE
File Name: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Plocha\PKI\CZE_CSCA_20090113.der
                                                                                                         Size: 1270 (bytes)
```





 To understand the structure (what is the meaning of particular fields) we need ASN.1 grammar

```
TBSCertList ::=
                 SEQUENCE {
                             Version OPTIONAL,
    version
                                  -- if present, MUST be v2
    signature
                             AlgorithmIdentifier,
                             Name,
    issuer
    thisUpdate
                             Time,
                             Time OPTIONAL.
    nextUpdate
                             SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {
     revokedCertificates
                                  CertificateSerialNumber,
          userCertificate
          revocationDate
                                  Time.
         crlEntryExtensions
                                  Extensions OPTIONAL
                                        -- if present, MUST be v2
                                  OPTIONAL,
    crlExtensions
                                  EXPLICIT Extensions OPTIONAL
                                        -- if present, MUST be v2
```