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# Transport Layer Security Protocol For Internet Of Things

Illya Gerasymchuk  
illya.gerasymchuk@tecnico.ulboa.pt,  
WWW home page: <https://iluxonchik.github.io/>

Instituto Superior Tcnico  
Supervisors: Ricardo Chaves, Aleksandar Ilic

**Abstract.** The abstract should summarize the contents of the paper using at least 70 and at most 150 words. It will be set in 9-point font size and be inset 1.0 cm from the right and left margins. There will be two blank lines before and after the Abstract. ...

**Keywords:** TLS, IoT, cryptography, protocol, lightweight cryptography

## 1 Introduction

TODO: Intruduce the topic: explain what is IoT; what is TLS; what are the issues with using RAW TLS with IoT(power, computation, limited resources).

### 1.1 Goals

## 2 Symmetric vs Asymmetric Cryptography (Background Section)

Asymmetrical Cryptography (AC) more expensive than Symmetrical Cryptography (SC) in terms of performance. This is mainly due to two facts: larger key sizes are required for AC system to achieved the same level of security as in a SC system and CPUs are slower at performing the underlying mathematical operations involved in AC, namely exponentiation requires  $O(\log e)$  multiplications for an exponent  $e$ . For example, the 2016 NIST report [2] suggests that an AC would need to use a secret key with size of 15360 bits to have equivalent security to a 256-bit secret key for a SC algorithm. This situation is ameliorated by Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC), which requires keys of 512 bits, it is still slower than SC, though. The 2017 BSI report [1] (from the German federal office for information security) suggests similar numbers.

Another argument for avoiding as much as possible of the AC functionality is that it requires extra storage space to be used and this might be a problem for some Internet Of Things (IoT) devices, like class 1 devices according to the

terminology of constrained-code networks [?] which have about **10KB** of RAM and **100KB** of persistent memory. I measured the resulting size of the compiled mbedTLS 2.6.0 library [?] when compiled with and without the **RSA** module (located in the **rsa.c** file), from which I concluded that using that module adds an extra of **32KB**.

### 3 Background

**TODO:** Tell that first I describe the parts of TLS that are common to both and then specialize for TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3

### 4 The TLS Protocol

TLS stands for Transport Layer Security, it's a **client-server** protocol that runs on top a **connection-oriented and reliable transport protocol**, such as **TCP**. Its main goal is to provide **privacy** and **integrity** between the two communicating peers. Privacy implies that a third party will not be able to read the data, while integrity means that a third party will not be able to alter the data.

In the TCP/IP Protocol Stack, Transport Layer Security (TLS) is placed between the **Transport** and **Application** layers. It's designed to make the application developer's life easier: all the developer has to do is create a "secure" connection, instead of a "normal" one.

**TODO:** Re-write what's below. It's good to include something like this, but I need to work on the wording. From the top-level view, in a typical connection, there are three basic steps that TLS is responsible for:

1. **Negotiate security parameters** - the communicating peers agree on a set of security parameters to be used in a TLS connection, such as the algorithm used for bulk data encryption, as well as the secret keys.
2. **Authenticate one to another** - usually only the server authenticates to the client.
3. **Communicate securely** - use the negotiated security parameters to encrypt and authenticate the data, communicating securely one with another.

**SSL vs TLS: What's The Difference?** You will find the names Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) and TLS used interchangeably in the literature, so I think it's important to distinguish both. TLS is an evolution of the SSL protocol. The protocol changed its name from SSL to TLS when it was standardized by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). SSL was a proprietary protocol owned by Netscape Communications, and The IETF decided that it was a good idea to standardize it, which resulted in **RFC 2246** [7], specifying TLS 1.0, which was nothing more than a new version SSL 3.0, very few changes were made. In this document, I'll be concentrating on TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3 protocols. The first

one is the most recently standardized version of TLS and the latter is currently and in-draft version with many improvements and optimizations relevant for the topic of this dissertation. Despite the protocol name not suggesting it TLS 1.3 is very different from TLS 1.2, in fact, it should've probably been called TLS 2.0 instead. For this reason, I will first describe what is common to both protocols and then go into the relevant details about each one.

**TODO: Explain what RFCs are?**

#### 4.1 Security Services

TLS provides the following 3 security services:

- **authentication** - both, **peer entity** and **data origin** (or **integrity**) authentication.
  - **peer entity authentication** - we can be sure that we're talking to certain entity, for example, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). This is achieved through the use of **asymmetrical** or Public Key Cryptography (PKC) (for example, [RSA](#) and [DSA](#)) or **symmetric key cryptography**, using a Pre-Shared Key (PSK).
- **confidentiality** - the data transmitted between the communicating entities (the client and the server) is encrypted. Symmetric cryptography is used for data encryption (for example, [AES](#)).
- **integrity** (also called **data origin authentication**) - we can be sure that the data was not modified or forged, *i.e.*, be sure that the data that we're receiving is coming from the expected entity (for example, we can be sure that the [index.html](#) file sent to us when we connected to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) in fact came from [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and that it was not modified (i.e. tampered with) en route by an attacker (**data integrity**). This is achieved through the use of a keyed Message Authentication Code (MAC) or an Authenticated Encryption With Associated Data (AEAD) cipher.

Despite using PKC, TLS does **not** provide **non-repudiation services**: neither **non-repudiation with proof of origin**, which addresses the user denying having sent a message, nor **non-repudiation with proof of delivery**, which addresses the user denying the receipt of a message. This is due to the fact, that instead of using **digital signatures**, either a keyed MAC or an AEAD cipher is used, both of which require a **shared secret** to be used.

You are not required to use all of the 3 security services in every situation. You can think of TLS as a framework that allows you to select which security services you want to use for a communication session. As an example, you might ignore certificate validation, which means you're ignoring the **authentication** guarantee. There are some differences regarding this claim between TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3, for example, while in the first you have a [null](#) cipher (no authentication, no confidentiality, no integrity), in the latter this is not true, since it deprecated all non-AEAD ciphers in favor of AEAD ones.

**Cipher Spec vs Cipher Suite** The meaning of these terms differs in TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3. For TLS 1.2, **cipher spec** defines the message encryption algorithm and the message authentication algorithm, while the **cipher suite** is the **cipher spec**, alongside the definition of the **key exchange** algorithm and the Pseudo-Random Function (PRF) (used in key generation). In TLS 1.3, the **cipher spec** has been removed altogether, since the **ChangeCipherSpec** protocol has been removed. The concept of **cipher suite** has been updated to define the pair of AEAD algorithm and hash function to be used with HMAC-based Extract-and-Expand Key Derivation Function (HKDF): in TLS 1.3 the **key exchange** algorithm is negotiated via extensions. You'll find more details on this below.

## 4.2 TLS (Sub)Protocols

In reality TLS is composed of several protocols(illustrated in 2), a brief description of each one of which follows:

- **TLS Record Protocol** - the lowest layer in TLS. It's the layer that runs directly on top of **TCP/IP** and it serves as an **encapsulation for the remaining sub-protocols** (4 in case of TLS 1.2 and 3 in case of TLS 1.3). To the **Record Protocol**, the remaining sub-protocols are what **TCP/IP** is to **HTTP**. A TLS Record is comprised of 4 fields, with the first 3 comprising the TLS Record header: a 1-byte record **type**, specifying the type of record that's encapsulated (ex: value **0x16** for the handshake protocol), a 2-byte **TLS version** field, a 2-byte **length** field (which means that a maximum TLS Record size is of **16384** bytes), specifying the length of the data in the record, excluding the header itself and a **fragment** field whose size in bytes is specified by the **length** field, which contains data that's transparent to the Record layer and should be dealt by a higher-level protocol, specified by the **type** field. This is illustrated in figure ??.
- **TLS Handshake Protocol** - the core protocol of TLS. Allows the communicating peers to **authenticate** one to another and negotiate a **cipher suite** (**cipher suite** and key exchange algorithm in case of TLS 1.3) which will be used to provide the security services. For TLS 1.2, **compression** method is also negotiated here.
- **TLS Alert Protocol** - allows the communicating peers to signal potential problems.
- **TLS Application Data Protocol** - used to transmit data securely.
- **TLS Change Cipher Spec Protocol** (removed in TLS 1.3) - used to activate the initial **cipher spec** or change it during the connection.

*TLS Connections and Sessions* **TODO: define what it means to be cryptographically protected?**

It's important to distinguish between a **TLS session** and a **TLS connection**.

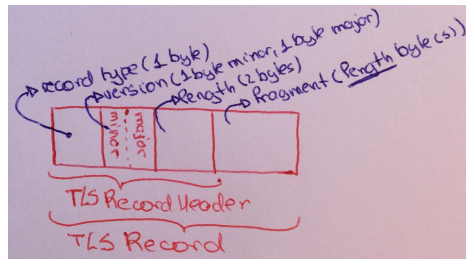


Fig. 1. TLS Record header

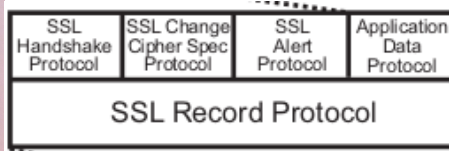


Fig. 2. TLS (Sub)protocols and Layers

- **TLS session** - association between two communicating peers that's created by the **TLS Handshake Protocol**, which defines a set of negotiated parameters (cryptographic and others, depending on the TLS version, such as the compression algorithm) that are used by the **TLS connections associated with that session**. A single **TLS session** can be shared among multiple **TLS connections** and its main purpose is to avoid the expensive negotiation of new parameters for each **TLS connection**. For example, let's say you download an Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) page over Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) and that page references some images from that same server, also using HTTPS, instead of your web browser negotiating a new TLS session again, it can re-use the one you established to download the HTML page in the first place, saving time and computational resources. Session resumption can be done using various approaches, such as **session identifiers**, described throughout [Section 7.4](#) of [RFC 5246](#) [6], **session tickets**, defined in [RFC 5077](#) [?]. **TODO: Re-write example better.**
- **TLS connection** - used to actually transmit the cryptographically protected data. For the data to be cryptographically protected, some parameters, such as the **secret keys** used to encrypt and authenticate the transmitted data need to be established; this is done when a **TLS session** is created, during the **TLS Handshake Protocol**.

**TLS Record Processing** A TLS record must go through some processing before it can be sent over the network. This processing involves the following steps (4 for TLS 1.2 and 3 for TLS 1.3):

1. **Fragmentation** - the **TLS Record Layer** takes arbitrary-length data and **fragments** it into manageable pieces: each one of the resulting fragments is called a **TLS Plaintext**. Client message boundaries are not preserved, which means that multiple messages of the same type may be placed into the same fragment or a single message may be fragmented across several records.
2. **Compression** (removed in TLS 1.3) - the **TLS Record Layer** compresses the **TLS Plaintext** structure according to the negotiated compression method,

outputting **TLSCompressed**. Compression is optional. If the negotiated compression method is **null**, **TLSCompressed** is the same as **TLSPlaintext**.

3. **Cryptographic Protection** - in case of TLS 1.2, either an AEAD cipher or a separate encryption and MAC functions transform a **TLSCompressed** fragment into a **TLSCipherText** fragment. In case of TLS 1.3, the **TLSPlaintext** fragment is transformed into a **TLSCipherText** by applying an AEAD cipher.
4. Append the **TLS Record Header** - encapsulate **TLSCipherText** in a **TLS Record**.

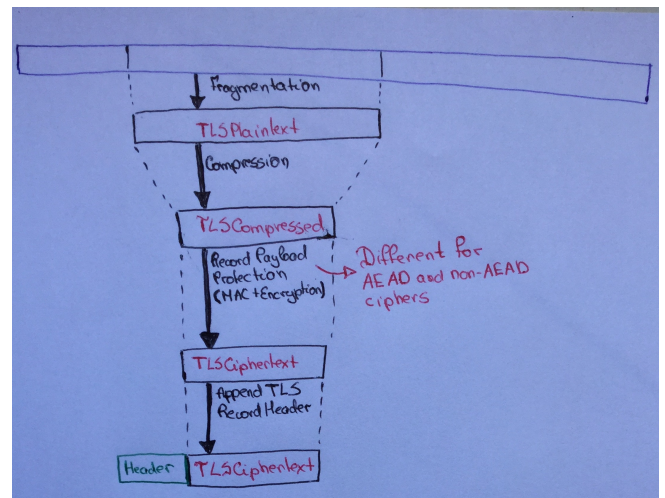
The process described above, as well as the structure names are depicted in figure 3. Step 2 is not present in TLS 1.3. The structure names are exactly as they appear in the TLS specifications.

### 4.3 TLS Keying Material

Secret keys are at the base of most cryptographic operations. In order for both communicating peers to be able to encrypt and decrypt data using symmetric algorithms, they need to **share** the same key somehow. In TLS, both, the client and a server derive the **same set of keys** independently, through the exchanged messages in the TLS Handshake Protocol.

When communicating with one another, the client uses one key to encrypt the data to be sent to the server and another different key to decrypt the data that it receives from the server. This means that in order to deal with data encryption and decryption, both of the communicating entities have two keys: one to encrypt the outgoing data and one to decrypt the incoming data. Those keys have different names in TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3, but they serve the same basic purpose. In this general description, I'll refer to them as **client\_write\_key** (used by the client to encrypt the data to be sent), **client\_read\_key** (used by the client to decrypt the incoming data from the server), **server\_write\_key** (used by the server to encrypt the data to be sent) and **server\_read\_key** (used by the server to decrypt the incoming data from the client). Note, that the following relationships must hold: **client\_write\_key == server\_write\_key** and **client\_read\_key == server\_read\_key**.

Besides the secret keys mentioned previously, in TLS 1.2 you might also have other ones, depending on the cipher suite in use. **TODO: Describe this in a little more detail, giving examples, when describing TLS 1.2 Key Management.**



**Fig. 3.** TLS Record Processing



TLS 1.3's keying material generation is a little more complex, since different keys are used to encrypt data throughout the Handshake Protocol, as well as a new key is generated for the Application Data protocol. This can be explained by the fact that while in TLS 1.2 the data only begins to be encrypted after the handshake is complete, in the Application Data protocol, the encryption begins earlier, TLS 1.3, with some of the Handshake messages encrypted, as well as features such as **early client/server data** and **0-RTT Data**.

With this the common description of the TLS of protocols ends and we'll jump into the specifics of the two versions. I'll be mostly concentrating on the **Handshake Protocol**, since this is where my work will be concentrated and it's the main part, where the most interesting and important things happen.

#### 4.4 TLS 1.2

The latest standardized version of TLS is 1.2 and it's defined in [RFC 5246](#) [6]. **TODO: DESCRIBE TLS 1.2 in genreal, put images of handshakes here, later refer to them in the specific parts, just like the tls RFCs do.**

### 5 TLS 1.2 Keying Material Generation

The generation of secret keys, used for various cryptographic operations involves the following steps (in order):

- Generate the **premaster secret**
- From the **premaster secret** generate the **master secret**
- From the **master secret** generate the various secret keys, which will be used in the cryptographic operations.

**TODO: talk about all of the keys present in TLS 1.2 HERE**

### 6 TLS 1.2 Key Exchange Methods

The way the **premaster secret** is generated depends on the key exchange method used. In fact, this is the only phase of the keying material generation phase that is variable for a fixed cipher suite (because a cipher suite defines the PRF function to be used), the rest remains exactly the same. The derivation of the **master secret** from the **premaster secret**, as well as the derivation of the bulk encryption keys, MAC keys and Initialization Vector (IV)s from the **master secret** that follows **is not impacted by the key exchange method** in use.

You have quite a few choices when it comes to key exchange methods. Some of them are defined in the base spec ([RFC5246](#) [6]), while others in separate [RFCs](#) (such as the ECC based key exchange, specified in [RFC4492](#) [4]).

The base spec specifies 4 key exchange methods, one using Rivest-Shamir-Ableman (RSA) and 3 using Diffie-Hellman (DH):

- static RSA ([RSA](#)) [removed in TLS 1.3] - the client generates the premaster secret (PMS), encrypts it with the server's Public Key (PubK) (which it obtained from the server's [X.509](#) certificate), sending it to the server, which decrypts it using the corresponding Private Key (PrivK). This key exchange method offers authenticity, but does not offer Perfect Forward Secrecy (PFS).
- anonymous DH ([DH\\_anon](#)) [removed in TLS 1.3] - a DH key exchange is performed and an **ephemeral** key is generated, but the exchanged DH parameters are **not authenticated**, making the resulting key exchange vulnerable to Man In The Middle (MITM) attacks. TLS 1.2 spec states that cipher suites using [DH\\_anon](#) **must not** be used, unless the application layer explicitly requests so. This key exchange offers PFS, but no authenticity.
- fixed/static DH ([DH](#)) [removed in TLS 1.3] - the server's/client's public DH parameter is embedded in its certificate. This key exchange method offers authenticity, but does not offer PFS.
- ephemeral DH ([DHE](#)) - each run of the protocol, uses different public DH parameters, which are generated dynamically. This results in a different, ephemeral key being generated every time. The public parameters are then digitally signed in some way, usually using the sender's private RSA ([DHE\\_RSA](#)) or `\gls{dsa}` [DHE\\_DSS](#) key. This key exchange offers both authenticity and PFS.

When either of the DH variants is used, the value resulting from the exchange is used as the PMS (without the leading 0's). Usually, only the server's authenticity is desired, but client's can also be achieved if it provides the server its certificate. Whenever the server is authenticated, the server is secure against MITM attacks. Table ?? summarizes the security properties offered by each key exchange method.

**Table 1.** Key exchange methods and security properties

Key Exch Meth	Authentication	PFS
RSA	X	
DH_anon		X
DH	X	
DHE	X	X

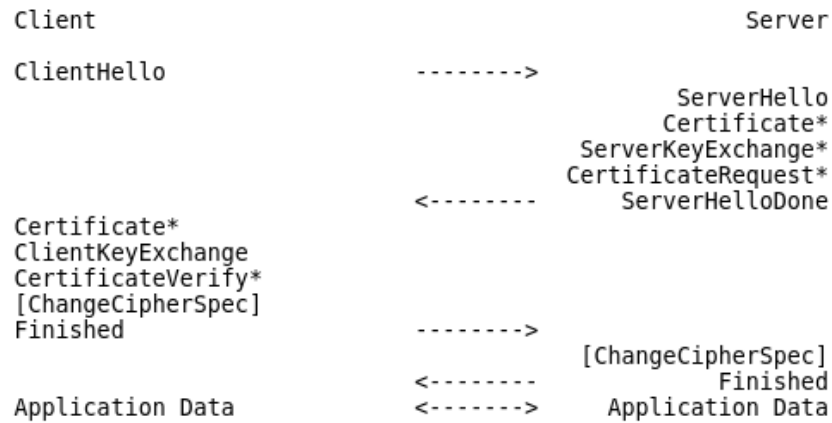
Note that in TLS 1.3, all of static RSA and DH cipher suites have been removed: all of the PubK exchange methods now provide PFS. Even though, anonymous DH has also been removed from TLS 1.3, you can still have unauthenticated connections by either using **raw public keys** [11] or by not verifying the certificate chain and any of its contents.

**TODO: NOTE: I didn't cover specifics of how the client generates the premaster secret, etc**

The ECC-based key exchange (Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDH) and Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral (ECDHE)) and authentication (Elliptic

Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA)) algorithms are defined in [RFC4292](#) [?], which is also referenced in [RFC5246](#) [?]. The document introduces five new ECC-based key exchange algorithms, all of which use ECC to compute the **pre-master secret**, differing only in whether the negotiated keys are ephemeral (ECDH) or long-term (ECDHE), as well as the mechanism (if any) used to authenticate them. Three new ECDSA **client authentication** mechanisms are also defined, differing in the algorithms that the certificate must be signed with, as well as the key exchange algorithms that they can be used with. Those features are negotiated through the TLS Extension Mechanism.

### 6.1 TLS 1.2 Handshake Protocol



**Fig. 4.** TLS 1.2 message flow for a full handshake

In this phase the client and the server agree on which version of the TLS protocol to use, authenticate one to another and negotiate items like the cipher suites and the compression method to use. Figure 4 shows the message flow for the full TLS 1.2 handshake. Note that \* indicates situation-dependent messages that are not always sent, while [ChangeCipherSpec](#) is a separate protocol, rather than a message type.

As I explained before every TLS Handshake message is encapsulated within a TLS Record. The actual Handshake message is contained within the **fragment** of the TLS Record. The Record type for a Handshake message is **0x16**. The Handshake message has the following structure: a 1-byte **msg\_type** field (specifies the Handshake message type), a 2-byte **length** field (specifies the length of the **body**) and a **body** field, which contains a structure depending on the **msg\_type** (similar to **fragment** field in a TLS Record).

Now, I will describe a typical handshake message flow. I will only be mentioning the most important field of each message.

TODO: I don't have space to put all of the structures and things sent in every handshake message type (ex: ClientHello.session\_id)

The connections begins with the client sending a **ClientHello**, containing **.random**, **cipher\_suites** and **compression\_methods**, among other fields. A 32-byte **random** (3-bytes gmt unix time + 27 cryptographically random bytes) value that are used as an input to the PRF when generating the **master secret**, which will cause to contains a **list** of cipher suites (**cipher\_suites**) and compression methods (**compression\_methods**) that the client supports, ordered by preference, with the most preferred one appearing first.

## 6.2 Do We Really Need Two Randoms: One From Client and One From Server?

TODO: YES, replay attacks.

TODO: Mention HelloRequest

*Notes and Comments.* This is an example of a paragraph. Note the styling.

## 6.3 TLS 1.3

Despite the protocol name not suggesting it TLS 1.3 is very different from TLS 1.2, in fact, it should've probably been called TLS 2.0 instead.

**How Do Peers Distinguish Different TLS Versions?** TODO: Talk about version numbers

## 6.4 TLS Extension Mechanism

TODO: Describe the Extended ClientHello/ServerHello. Use one description for both, TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3

## 6.5 The Problem With Compression In TLS

TODO: explain why compression was removed (BEAST and CRIME attacks) and how it can be fixed.

## 6.6 Theory

TODO: Explain: public key crypto, certificates, AEAD ciphers

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# Glossary

AC	Asymmetrical Cryptography. 1
AEAD	Authenticated Encryption With Associated Data. 3, 4, 6
DH	Diffie-Hellman. 7, 8
ECC	Elliptic Curve Cryptography. 1, 7–9
ECDH	Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman. 8, 9
ECDHE	Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral. 8, 9
ECDSA	Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm. 8, 9
HKDF	HMAC-based Extract-and-Expand Key Derivation Function. 4
HTML	Hypertext Markup Language. 5
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure. 5
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force. 2
IoT	Internet Of Things. 1
IV	Initialization Vector. 7
MAC	Message Authentication Code. 3, 6, 7
MITM	Man In The Middle. 8
PFS	Perfect Forward Secrecy. 8
PKC	Public Key Cryptography. 3
PMS	premaster secret. 8
PRF	Pseudo-Random Function. 4, 7, 10
PrivK	Private Key. 8
PSK	Pre-Shared Key. 3
PubK	Public Key. 8
RSA	Rivest-Shamir-Adleman. 7, 8
SC	Symmetrical Cryptography. 1
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer. 2
TLS	Transport Layer Security. 2–10