

## Diffie-Hellman key exchange

Diffie-Hellman algorithm is used to establish a shared secret between two parties which can be used for secret communication for exchanging data over a public network.

The algorithm in itself is very simple. Let's assume that Alice wants to establish a shared secret with Bob. Here is an example of the protocol with secret values (6 and 15).

- 1) Alice and Bob agree to use a prime number  $p = 23$  and base  $g = 5$ . (These two values are chosen in this way to ensure that the resulting shared secret can take on any value from 1 to  $p-1$ ).
- 2) Alice chooses a secret integer  $a = 6$ , then sends Bob  $A = g^a \bmod p$  ( $A = 5^6 \bmod 23 = 8$ )
- 3) Bob chooses a secret integer  $b = 15$ , then sends Alice  $B = g^b \bmod p$  ( $B = 5^{15} \bmod 23 = 19$ )
- 4) Alice computes  $s = B^a \bmod p$  ( $s = 19^6 \bmod 23 = 2$ )
- 5) Bob computes  $s = A^b \bmod p$  ( $s = 8^{15} \bmod 23 = 2$ )
- 6) Alice and Bob now share a secret (the number 2).

The number Alice get at step 4 is same as Bob got at step 5.

Bob computes:

$$A^b \bmod p = (g^a \bmod p)^b \bmod p = g^{ab} \bmod p$$

Alice computes:

$$B^a \bmod p = (g^b \bmod p)^a \bmod p = g^{ba} \bmod p$$

Diffie-Hellman algorithm is primarily used as a method of exchanging cryptography keys for use in symmetric encryption algorithms like AES. Please note that information is not shared during the key exchange. Here the two parties are creating a key together.

Fill in the missing gaps in order for this algorithm to work!

### Sample output

Alice's Secret Key is 2 Bob's Secret Key is 2
--