

Classical Protocols

Needham-Schroeder Public-Key Protocol

Design and Verification of Security Protocols and Security
Ceremonies

Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciências da Computação
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- The handshake done by many public key cryptographic protocols are derived from NSPKP;
- NSPKP is a public-key authentication protocol designed to generate and propagate a session key which is used for subsequent symmetrically encrypted communication;
- There is no public key infrastructure in place, but the identities related to public keys are an assumption.

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- This adversary can not learn the private keys of principals.

Freshness Concepts of NSPKP

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- If a nonce is generated and sent by one agent in one step and returned by another in a later step, the generator knows that the message is fresh and not a replay from an earlier exchange;
- Note that a nonce is not anchored in time. The only assumption is that it has not been used in any earlier interchange, with high probability because it is random and not used twice.

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Needham-Schroeder Public Key Protocol Assumptions

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Only Alice knows N_a before message 1
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Only Bob knows N_b before message 2
Bob knows N_a because he can decrypt
Only Alice can decrypt message 2

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3. $A \rightarrow B: \{|N_b|\}_{K_b}$
Alice knows N_b because she can decrypt
Only Bob can decrypt message 3

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Alice knows N_b because she can decrypt
Only Bob can decrypt message 3
Why do we need message 3?

Needham-Schroeder Public Key Protocol Interpretation

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3. $A \rightarrow B: \{|N_b|\}_{K_b}$

Alice already authenticated Bob. Now she wants to authenticate

When receiving message 3 Bob knows that only Alice could
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Needham-Schroeder Public Key Protocol Objectives

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- By the usage of fresh Nonces, we obtain the aliveness property in the protocols;
- But, Is it secure?

Almighty Attack - Rules of the Game

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 - Guess random numbers.

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- Bob believes to be talking to Alice , while he is talking to Charlie;
- Charlie uses Alice as an oracle to answers Bob's challenges;
- Charlie can use N_b to prove to Bob he is Alice.

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- The attack looks easy, but it took 15 years to be found;
- The attack works because of a change on the threat model;
- But his attack is important because it was only discovered with the help of a formal verification tool.

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- This tool has able to saturate the protocol execution;
- The idea is to explore all the reachable states of the model;
- This verification is considered bound to the amount of peers and parallel runs tested.

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- Theoretical tool are a good breakthrough for any area;
- Event very simple and well studied protocols may contain hidden failures;
- We learned to be diligent and somewhat paranoid on protocols and how they achieve their goals.

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- How do we correct Lowe's attack on NSPKP?
- Is formally prove a protocol enough to claim it is secure?
- What if a user drop an assumption of the protocol? Is it still secure?
- How secure is formally secure?

Questions????



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