MIECT: Security 2017-18

Practical Exercise: Digital Signatures with the Portuguese Citizen Card

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Changelog

- v1.0 - Initial Version.
- v1.1 - Added some notes regarding operating systems other than Linux (MacOS, Windows).

Introduction

In order to elaborate this laboratory guide it is required to install the Java Development Environment (JDK). This is provided by `openjdk-6-jdk` or `openjdk-7-jdk`. If you use the virtual machine provided this should be already installed.

For practicing with digital signatures we will make use of the capabilities of the Portuguese Citizen Card (Cartão de Cidadão, CC). The middleware required to use the CC is available here.

1 Relevant CC middleware

The CC middleware that is relevant for this work is formed by two main components:

- A PKCS #11 library.

  In Linux systems this file is has the basename `libpteidpkcs11` and is located in `/usr/local/lib`. There are both static (extension `.a`) and dynamic (extension `.so`) versions of this library. In Windows systems this file is has the name `pteidpkcs11.dll` and is located in the subdirectory `System32` of the Windows root directory (usually `C:\Windows`).

- A set of public key certificates that create a certification chain from the certificates contained in a CC and the root certification authority (GTE CyberTrust Global Root or Baltimore CyberTrust Global Root).

  In Linux these files are stored in `/usr/local/bin/eidstore/certs`. In Windows system these files are stored in `eidstore\certs` under the directory where all CC middleware files are stored (e.g. `C:\Programa Files\Cartão de Cidadão`).

2 Exploitation of a PKCS #11 device from Java

There are basically two ways to explore a PKCS #11 device from a Java program:

1. Using the native Sun PKCS #11 provider functionalities of Java. We will explore this one in this guide.
2. Using a PKCS #11 wrapper package (e.g. the IAIK wrapper) .

2.1 PKCS #11 provider

A PKCS #11 provider a a piece of software that provides cryptographic functionalities through a PKCS #11 API. This is a standard API that was designed to normalize the access to cryptographic functionalities provided by hardware devices (or tokens) to applications. For each device one should have a PKCS #11 library with a subset of the relevant API functions for the device.

The definition of a PKCS #11 provider follows the general rules of the definition of another security provider: it has to be added to the list of security providers recognized by the JVM. This can be done statically, through JVM configuration files, or programatically by an application. To make it programatically one has to associate a configuration file for the provider to the ones already used by providers of the same type. In our case, since we want to explore a PKCS #11 provider, if `CitizenCard.cfg` is the name of the configuration file for exploring a CC, we would do:

```
String f = "CitizenCard.cfg";
Provider p = new sun.security.pkcs11.SunPKCS11( f );
Security.addProvider( p );
```

The configuration file has to contain enough information to allow the Sun PKCS #11 provider to explore another provider using the same API. This information is provided in textual `key = value` pairs, where the keys `name` and `library` are mandatory (see section 2.2 of this Web page for other keys that can be used).

The configuration presented below associates the name `PTeID` (an arbitrary name) to the path of the CC's PKCS #11 shared library path. The name is useful to refer to this particular PKCS #11 provider (there may be many). The library path will loaded and used by the JVM to access the CC through a PKCS #11 API.

```
name = PTeID
library = /usr/local/lib/libpteidpkcs11.so
```

NOTE: on MacOS X systems use the extension `.dylib` instead of `.so`.
NOTE: on Windows systems use `\\` as path separator. The library path should be `c:\\Windows\\System32\\pteidpkcs11.dll`.

Since cryptographic operations require some kind of key, in Java a PKCS #11 provider is first of all viewed as a java.security.**KeyStore**, i.e., as a piece of software capable of providing cryptographic keys. However, this is a special case of KeyStore where its contents are not copied into memory (and this is why the parameters of the `load` method below are both null:

```
KeyStore ks = KeyStore.getInstance( "PKCS11", "SunPKCS11-PTeID" );
ks.load( null, null );
```

Another option is to use the class java.security.**KeyStore.Builder**. This is almost equivalent to the former but allows the application to handle callbacks from the PKCS #11 provider (e.g. for asking for a PIN to authorize a particular signing operation).

```
KeyStore.CallbackHandlerProtection func =
    new KeyStore.CallbackHandlerProtection( new MyCallbackHandler() );
KeyStore.Builder builder =
    KeyStore.Builder.newInstance( "PKCS11", "SunPKCS11-PTeID", func);
KeyStore ks = builder.getKeyStore();
```

Note: some times the JVM throws a java.security.**KeyStoreException** exception reporting that PKCS #11 was not found. In this case run the JVM with the following option: `-Djava.security.debug=sunpkcs11`. This produces a long list of debug messages but runs as expected.

2.2 Provider objects

A PKCS #11 provider manages a set of objects, usually keys and certificates. With the following code we can list the names of all the objects inside a CC (note that objects of different type can have the same name, but only one is displayed):

```
Enumeration<String> aliases = ks.aliases();
while (aliases.hasMoreElements()) {
    System.out.println( aliases.nextElement() );
}
```

For some reason this code does not list all the objects that exist in the CC (or otherwise presented as such by the CC middleware).

For making signatures with the CC the objects of interest are the two private keys with the following names:

- CITIZEN AUTHENTICATION CERTIFICATE
- CITIZEN SIGNATURE CERTIFICATE

For validating those signatures, the objects of interest are the two public key certificates with exactly the same names.

3 Digital signatures with the CC

Use the class java.security.**Signature** to create a digital signature of a data buffer using the methods `signInit`, `update` and `sign`. The CC only supports `SHA1withRSA` signatures.

Try the signatures with both the private keys of the CC. These can be "obtained" with the java.security.**KeyStore** method `getKey`. The PIN will be asked through a graphical interface.

Verify the signature with the same class, but now using the methods `verifyInit`, `update` and `verify`. The certificates required for the validation can be obtained with the java.security.**KeyStore** method `getCertificate`.

4 Validation of certification chains

Usually digital signatures are accompanied by a set of certificates. This set includes two different types of certificates, all of them part of a single certification chain:

- The personal certificate of the signer (usually a person);
- The certificate of the intermediate Certification Authority the issued the personal certificate, and the successive Certification Authorities thereafter until the last one, immediately under a root Certification Authority.

The validation of a certification chain must be performed for a particular date, namely the date where a particular operation (e.g. a signature) was performed with the private key corresponding to the (personal) certified public key. The validation can also use downloaded CRL lists or query OCSP services to check possible certificate revocations at the referred date.

To validate a certification path we need first to define it. A path is no more than a set of certificates, where one certifies the public key that signs the other, from a trusted root (trust anchor) until the certificate that we want ultimately to validate.

For a signature performed with a CC, and in the absence of any certification chain provided along with the signature, we can use the following process:

- Fetch all certificates used by CC's intermediate CAs (check this Web page) and build a keystore with them for facilitating their usage. Add to the keystore the certificates distributed with the CC middleware (there may be some repeated ones). This Makefile shows how this can be done.
- From a Java program, open the keystore, and go through all the certificates, separating them in two Java java.util.**Collection**s: one for the trusted anchors (formed only by self-certified certificates), another for intermediate certificates. Self-certified certificates can be easily detected because their signature can be validated with their own public key.

```
PublicKey key = cert.getPublicKey();
cert.verify( key );
```

- Define a set of parameters (with a java.security.cert.**PKIXBuilderParameters** object) for guiding the search of a certification path from a target certificate until some anchor. These parameters should include:
  - a selector, which is a java.security.cert.**X509CertSelector** object with the certificate to validate;
  - a java.util.**Set** of acceptable anchors (a subset of all known self-certified certificates);
  - rules to validate or not revocations of certificates; and
  - a java.security.cert.**CertStore** containing all known intermediate certificates.

```
X509CertSelector selector = new X509CertSelector();
selector.setCertificate( cert );
PKIXBuilderParameters pkixParams =
    new PKIXBuilderParameters( anchors, selector );
pkixParams.setRevocationEnabled(false); // No CRL checking
pkixParams.addCertStore( intermediateCertStore );
```

- One having all these parameters set, we create a PKIX java.security.cert.**CertPathBuilder** object and we build a java.security.cert.**PKIXCertPathBuilderResult** using those parameters.

```
CertPathBuilder builder =
    CertPathBuilder.getInstance( "PKIX" );
PKIXCertPathBuilderResult path =
    (PKIXCertPathBuilderResult) builder.build( pkixParams );
```

Once having a certification path to validate, we can use the PKIX (Public Key Infrastructure for X.509 certificates) certification validation rules as follows. First we create a java.security.cert.**CertPathValidator** for implementing a PKIX validation policy. Then we define the parameters for the validation (e.g. date), and we ask for a validation.

```
CertPathValidator cpv = CertPathValidator.getInstance( "PKIX" );
PKIXParameters validationParams = new PKIXParameters( anchors );
validationParams.setRevocationEnabled( true );
validationParams.setDate( date );
cpv.validate( path.getCertPath(), validationParams );
```

As an exercise, validate the certification chain for both certificates in a CC using different dates (e.g. one before their issuing, another with the current date, and yet another after their expiration date). Check also what happens when CRL validation is used.

References

- Portuguese Citizen Card web site: `http://www.cartaodecidadao.pt`
- Java PKCS #11 Reference Guide: `http://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/technotes/guides/security/p11guide.html`