Cryptographic Hashes and MACs

ITIS 6200/8200 Fall 2023

Last Time: Block Ciphers

- Encryption: input a *k*-bit key and *n*-bit plaintext, receive *n*-bit ciphertext
- Decryption: input a *k*-bit key and *n*-bit ciphertext, receive *n*-bit plaintext
- Correctness: when the key is fixed, $E\kappa(M)$ should be bijective
- Security
 - \circ Without the key, $E_K(m)$ is computationally indistinguishable from a random permutation
 - o Brute-force attacks take astronomically long and are not possible
- Efficiency: algorithms use XORs and bit-shifting (very fast)
- Implementation: AES is the modern standard
- Issues
 - Not IND-CPA secure because they're deterministic
 - Can only encrypt *n*-bit messages

Last Time: Block Cipher Modes of Operation

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- ECB mode: Deterministic, so not IND-CPA secure
- CBC mode
 - IND-CPA secure, assuming no IV reuse
 - Encryption is not parallelizable
 - Decryption is parallelizable
 - Must pad plaintext to a multiple of the block size
 - IV reuse leads to leaking the existence of identical blocks at the start of the message

CTR mode

- IND-CPA secure, assuming no IV reuse
- Encryption and decryption are parallelizable
- Plaintext does not need to be padded
- Nonce reuse leads to losing all security
- Lack of integrity and authenticity

- Block ciphers are designed for confidentiality (IND-CPA)
- If an attacker tampers with the ciphertext, we are not guaranteed to detect it
- Remember Mallory: An active manipulator who wants to tamper with the message

- Consider CTR mode
- What if Mallory tampers with the ciphertext using XOR?

	P	a	y		M	a	1		\$	1	0	0
М	0 x 50	0x61	0x79	0x20	0x4d	0x61	0x6c	0 x 20	0x24	0 x 31	0 x 30	0 x 30
						ϵ	Э					
Eκ(i)	0x8a	0xe3	0x5e	0xcf	0x3b	0 x 40	0 x 46	0 x 57	0xb8	0 x 69	0xd2	0 x 96
	=											
С	0xda	0x82	0x27	0xef	0x76	0x21	0x2a	0x77	0x9c	0x58	0xe2	0xa6

- Suppose Mallory knows the message M
- How can Mallory change the M to say Pay Mal \$900?

	P	a	У		M	a	1		\$	1	0	0
М	0x50	0x61	0x79	0x20	0x4d	0x61	0x6c	0x20	0x24	0 x 31	0x30	0x30
	\oplus											
Eκ(i)	0x8a	0xe3	0x5e	0xcf	0x3b	0x40	0x46	0x57	0xb8	0 x 69	0xd2	0x96
						=	=					
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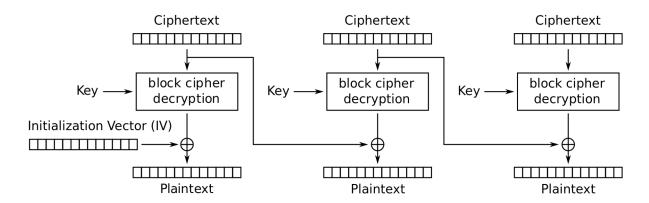
Ci = Mi ⊕ Padi	0 x 58 = 0 x 31 ⊕ Pad <i>i</i>	Definition of CTR
Pad <i>i</i> = <i>Mi</i> ⊕ <i>Ci</i>	Padi = 0x58 + 0x31	Solve for the <i>i</i> th byte of the pad
	= 0 x 69	
$C'_i = M'_i \oplus Pad_i$	$C'_i = 0x39 \oplus 0x69$	Compute the changed <i>i</i> th byte
	= 0 x 50	

С	0xda	0x82	0x27	0xef	0x76	0x21	0x2a	0x77	0x9c	0x58	0xe2	0xa6
C'	0xda	0x82	0x27	0xef	0x76	0x21	0x2a	0x77	0x9c	0 x 50	0xe2	0 x a6

- What happens when we decrypt C'?
 - The message looks like "Pay Mal \$900" now!
 - Note: Mallory didn't have to know the key; no integrity or authenticity for CTR mode!

C'	0xda	0x82	0x27	0xef	0x76	0x21	0x2a	0x77	0x9c	0 x 50	0xe2	0xa6
	\oplus											
Eκ(i)	0x8a	0xe3	0x5e	0xcf	0x3b	0x40	0x46	0x57	0xb8	0x69	0xd2	0x96
	=											
P'	0x50	0x61	0x79	0x20	0x4d	0x61	0x6c	0x20	0x24	0 x 39	0x30	0x30
	P	a	У		М	a	1		\$	9	0	0

- What about CBC?
 - Altering a bit of the ciphertext causes some blocks to become random gibberish
 - However, Bob cannot prove that Alice did not send random gibberish, so it still does not provide integrity or authenticity



Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode decryption

Today: Cryptography Hashes and MACs

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Hashing

- Definition
- Security: one-way, second preimage resistant, collision resistant
- Examples
- Length extension attacks
- Application: Lowest-hash scheme
- Do hashes provide integrity?

MACs

- Definition
- Security: unforgeability
- Example: HMAC
- Do MACs provide integrity?

Authenticated Encryption

- Definition
- Key Reuse
- MAC-then-Encrypt or Encrypt-then-MAC?
- AEAD Encryption Modes

Cryptographic Hashes

Cryptography Roadmap

	Symmetric-key	Asymmetric-key
Confidentiality	 One-time pads Block ciphers with chaining modes (e.g. AES-CBC) 	RSA encryptionElGamal encryption
Integrity, Authentication	MACs (e.g. HMAC)	 Digital signatures (e.g. RSA signatures)

- Hash functions
- Pseudorandom number generators
- Public key exchange (e.g. Diffie-Hellman)

- Key management (certificates)
- Password management

Cryptographic Hash Function: Definition

- Hash function: H(M)
 - Input: Arbitrary length message M
 - Output: Fixed length, n-bit hash
 - Sometimes written as $\{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$
- Properties
 - Correctness: Deterministic
 - Hashing the same input always produces the same output
 - Efficiency: Efficient to compute
 - Security: One-way-ness ("preimage resistance")
 - Security: Collision-resistance
 - Security: Random/unpredictability, no predictable patterns for how changing the input affects the output
 - Changing 1 bit in the input causes the output to be completely different
 - Also called "random oracle" assumption

Hash Function: Intuition

- A hash function provides a fixed-length "fingerprint" over a sequence of bits
- Example: Document comparison
 - If Alice and Bob both have a 1 GB document, they can both compute a hash over the document and (securely) communicate the hashes to each other
 - If the hashes are the same, the files must be the same, since they have the same "fingerprint"
 - If the hashes are different, the files must be different

Hash Function: One-way-ness or Preimage Resistance

- **Informal:** Given an output y, it is infeasible to find any input x such that H(x) = y
- Intuition: Here's an output. Can you find an input that hashes to this output?
 - Note: The adversary just needs to find any input, not necessarily the input that was actually used to generate the hash
- Example: Is H(x) = 1 one-way?
 - No, because given output 1, an attacker can return any number x

Hash Function: Collision Resistance

- Collision: Two different inputs with the same output
 - \circ $x \neq x'$ and H(x) = H(x')
 - Can we design a hash function with no collisions?
 - No, because there are more inputs than outputs (pigeonhole principle)
 - However, we want to make finding collisions infeasible for an attacker
- Collision resistance: It is infeasible to (i.e. no polynomial time attacker can) find any pair of inputs $x' \neq x$ such that H(x) = H(x')
- Intuition: Can you find any two inputs that collide with the same hash output for any output?

Hash Function: Collision Resistance

- **Birthday attack**: Finding a collision on an n-bit output requires only $2^{n/2}$ tries on average
 - This is why a group of 23 people are >50% likely to have at least one birthday in common

Hash Function: Examples

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MD5

- Output: 128 bits
- Security: Completely broken

SHA-1

- Output: 160 bits
- Security: Completely broken in 2017
- Was known to be weak before 2017, but still used sometimes

• SHA-2

- Output: 256, 384, or 512 bits (sometimes labeled SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512)
- Not currently broken, but some variants are vulnerable to a length extension attack
- Current standard

SHA-3 (Keccak)

- Output: 256, 384, or 512 bits
- Current standard (not meant to replace SHA-2, just a different construction)



A GIF that displays its own MD5 hash

Length Extension Attacks

- Length extension attack: Given H(x) and the length of x, but not x, an attacker can create $H(x \mid\mid m)$ for any m of the attacker's choosing
 - Note: This doesn't violate any property of hash functions but is undesirable in some circumstances
- SHA-256 (256-bit version of SHA-2) is vulnerable
- SHA-3 is not vulnerable

Do hashes provide integrity?

- It depends on your threat model
- Scenario
 - Mozilla publishes a new version of Firefox on some download servers
 - Alice downloads the program binary
 - How can she be sure that nobody tampered with the program?
- Idea: use cryptographic hashes
 - Mozilla hashes the program binary and publishes the hash on its website
 - Alice hashes the binary she downloaded and checks that it matches the hash on the website
 - If Alice downloaded a malicious program, the hash would not match (tampering detected!)
 - An attacker can't create a malicious program with the same hash (collision resistance)
- Threat model: We assume the attacker cannot modify the hash on the website
 - We have integrity, as long as we can communicate the hash securely

Do hashes provide integrity?

- It depends on your threat model
- Scenario
 - Alice and Bob want to communicate over an insecure channel
 - Mallory might tamper with messages
- Idea: Use cryptographic hashes
 - Alice sends her message with a cryptographic hash over the channel
 - Bob receives the message and computes a hash on the message
 - Bob checks that the hash he computed matches the hash sent by Alice
- Threat model: Mallory can modify the message and the hash
 - No integrity!

Do hashes provide integrity?

- It depends on your threat model
- If the attacker can modify the hash, hashes don't provide integrity
- Main issue: Hashes are unkeyed functions
 - There is no secret key being used as input, so any attacker can compute a hash on any value
- Next: Use hashes to design schemes that provide integrity

Message Authentication Codes (MACs)

Cryptography Roadmap

	Symmetric-key	Asymmetric-key
Confidentiality	 One-time pads Block ciphers with chaining modes (e.g. AES-CBC) 	RSA encryptionElGamal encryption
Integrity, Authentication	MACs (e.g. HMAC)	Digital signatures (e.g. RSA signatures)

- Hash functions
- Pseudorandom number generators
- Public key exchange (e.g. Diffie-Hellman)

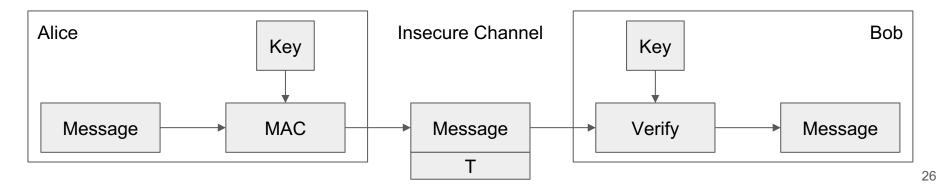
- Key management (certificates)
- Password management

How to Provide Integrity

- Reminder: We're still in the symmetric-key setting
 - Assume that Alice and Bob share a secret key, and attackers don't know the key
- We want to attach some piece of information to prove that someone with the key sent this message
 - This piece of information can only be generated by someone with the key

MACs: Usage

- Alice wants to send M to Bob, but doesn't want Mallory to tamper with it
- Alice sends M and T = MAC(K, M) to Bob
- Bob receives M and T
- Bob computes MAC(K, M) and checks that it matches T
- If the MACs match, Bob is confident the message has not been tampered with (integrity)



MACs: Definition

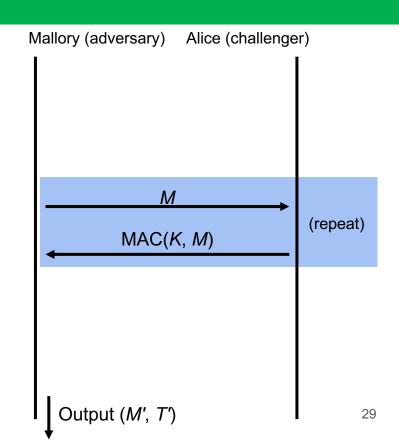
- Two parts:
 - KeyGen() → K: Generate a key K
 - MAC(K, M) → T: Generate a tag T for the message M using key K
 - Inputs: A secret key and an arbitrary-length message
 - Output: A fixed-length tag on the message
- Properties
 - Correctness: Determinism
 - Note: Some more complicated MAC schemes have an additional Verify(*K*, *M*, *T*) function that don't require determinism, but this is out of scope
 - Efficiency: Computing a MAC should be efficient
 - Security: EU-CPA (existentially unforgeable under chosen plaintext attack)

Defining Integrity: EU-CPA

- A secure MAC is existentially unforgeable: without the key, an attacker cannot create a valid tag on a message
 - Mallory cannot generate MAC(K, M') without K
 - Mallory cannot find any $M' \neq M$ such that MAC(K, M') = MAC(K, M)
- Formally defined by a security game: existential unforgeability under chosenplaintext attack, or EU-CPA
- MACs should be unforgeable under chosen plaintext attack
 - Intuition: Like IND-CPA, but for integrity and authenticity
 - Even if Mallory can trick Alice into creating MACs for messages that Mallory chooses, Mallory cannot create a valid MAC on a message that she hasn't seen before

Defining Integrity: EU-CPA

- Mallory may send messages to Alice and receive their tags
- 2. Eventually, Mallory creates a message-tag pair (*M'*, *T'*)
 - M' cannot be a message that Mallory requested earlier
 - If T' is a valid tag for M', then Mallory wins.
 Otherwise, she loses.
 - A scheme is EU-CPA secure if for all polynomial time adversaries, the probability of winning is 0 or negligible



Example: NMAC

- Can we use secure cryptographic hashes to build a secure MAC?
 - Intuition: Hash output is unpredictable and looks random, so let's hash the key and the message together
- KeyGen():
 - \circ Output two random, *n*-bit keys K_1 and K_2 , where *n* is the length of the hash output
- NMAC(K₁, K₂, M):
 - Output H(K₁ || H(K₂ || M))
- NMAC is EU-CPA secure if the two keys are different
 - Provably secure if the underlying hash function is secure
- Intuition: Using two hashes prevents a length extension attack
 - Otherwise, an attacker who sees a tag for *M* could generate a tag for *M* || *M*'

Example: HMAC

- Issues with NMAC:
 - Recall: NMAC(K_1, K_2, M) = $H(K_1 || H(K_2 || M))$
 - We need two different keys
 - NMAC requires the keys to be the same length as the hash output (n bits)
 - Can we use NMAC to design a scheme that uses one key?
- HMAC(*K*, *M*):
 - Compute K' as a version of K that is the length of the hash output
 - If *K* is too short, pad *K* with 0's to make it *n* bits (be careful with keys that are too short and lack randomness)
 - If *K* is too long, hash it so it's *n* bits
 - Output $H((K' \oplus opad) || H((K' \oplus ipad) || M))$

Example: HMAC

- HMAC(*K*, *M*):
 - Compute *K*' as a version of *K* that is the length of the hash output
 - If *K* is too short, pad *K* with 0's to make it *n* bits (be careful with keys that are too short and lack randomness)
 - If *K* is too long, hash it so it's *n* bits
 - \circ Output $H((K' \oplus opad) || H((K' \oplus ipad) || M))$
- Use *K'* to derive two different keys
 - opad (outer pad) is the hard-coded byte 0x5c repeated until it's the same length as K'
 - ipad (inner pad) is the hard-coded byte 0x36 repeated until it's the same length as K'
 - As long as opad and ipad are different, you'll get two different keys
 - For paranoia, the designers chose two very different bit patterns, even though they theoretically need only differ in one bit

HMAC Properties

- $\mathsf{HMAC}(K, M) = H((K' \oplus opad) \mid\mid \mathsf{H}((K' \oplus ipad) \mid\mid M))$
- HMAC is a hash function, so it has the properties of the underlying hash too
 - It is collision resistant
 - Given HMAC(K, M) and K, an attacker can't learn M
 - If the underlying hash is secure, HMAC doesn't reveal M, but it is still deterministic
- You can't verify a tag T if you don't have K
 - This means that an attacker can't brute-force the message M without knowing K

Do MACs provide integrity?

- Do MACs provide integrity?
 - Yes. An attacker cannot tamper with the message without being detected
- Do MACs provide authenticity?
 - It depends on your threat model
 - If a message has a valid MAC, you can be sure it came from someone with the secret key, but you can't narrow it down to one person
 - If only two people have the secret key, MACs provide authenticity: it has a valid MAC, and it's not from me, so it must be from the other person
- Do MACs provide confidentiality?
 - MACs are deterministic ⇒ No IND-CPA security
 - MACs in general have no confidentiality guarantees; they can leak information about the message
 - HMAC doesn't leak information about the message, but it's still deterministic, so it's not IND-CPA secure

Authenticated Encryption

Cryptography Roadmap

	Symmetric-key	Asymmetric-key
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- Hash functions
- Pseudorandom number generators
- Public key exchange (e.g. Diffie-Hellman)

- Key management (certificates)
- Password management

Authenticated Encryption: Definition

- Authenticated encryption (AE): A scheme that simultaneously guarantees confidentiality and integrity (and authenticity, depending on your threat model) on a message
- Two ways of achieving authenticated encryption:
 - Combine schemes that provide confidentiality with schemes that provide integrity
 - Use a scheme that is designed to provide confidentiality and integrity

Combining Schemes: Let's design it together

- You can use:
 - An IND-CPA encryption scheme (e.g. AES-CBC): Enc(K, M) and Dec(K, M)
 - An unforgeable MAC scheme (e.g. HMAC): MAC(K, M)
- First attempt: Alice sends Enc(K₁, M) and MAC(K₂, M)
 - Integrity? Yes, attacker can't tamper with the MAC
 - Confidentiality? No, the MAC is not IND-CPA secure
- Idea: Let's compute the MAC on the ciphertext instead of the plaintext:

```
Enc(K_1, M) and MAC(k_2, Enc(K_1, M))
```

- Integrity? Yes, attacker can't tamper with the MAC
- Confidentiality? Yes, the MAC might leak info about the ciphertext, but that's okay
- Idea: Let's encrypt the MAC too: Enc(K₁, M || MAC(K₂, M))
 - Integrity? Yes, attacker can't tamper with the MAC
 - Confidentiality? Yes, everything is encrypted

MAC-then-Encrypt or Encrypt-then-MAC?

- MAC-then-encrypt
 - First compute MAC(K₂, M)
 - \circ Then encrypt the message and the MAC together: Enc(K_1 , $M \parallel MAC(K_2, M)$)
- Encrypt-then-MAC
 - First compute Enc(K₁, M)
 - Then MAC the ciphertext: MAC(K₂, Enc(K₁, M))
- Which is better?
 - In theory, both are IND-CPA and EU-CPA secure if applied properly
 - MAC-then-encrypt has a flaw: You don't know if tampering has occurred until after decrypting
 - Attacker can supply arbitrary tampered input, and you always have to decrypt it
 - Passing attacker-chosen input through the decryption function can cause side-channel leaks
- Always use encrypt-then-MAC because it's more robust to mistakes

Key Reuse

- Key reuse: Using the same key in two different use cases
 - Note: Using the same key multiple times for the same use (e.g. computing HMACs on different messages in the same context with the same key) is not key reuse
- Reusing keys can cause the underlying algorithms to interfere with each other and affect security guarantees
 - Example: If you use a block-cipher-based MAC algorithm and a block cipher chaining mode,
 the underlying block ciphers may no longer be secure
 - Thinking about these attacks is hard

Key Reuse

- Simplest solution: Do not reuse keys! One key per use.
 - Encrypt a piece of data and MAC a piece of data?
 - Different use; different key
 - MAC one of Alice's messages to Bob and MAC one of Bob's messages to Alice?
 - Different use; different key
 - Encrypt one of Alice's files and encrypt another one of Alice's files?
 - It's probably fine to use the same key, but cryptographic design is tricky to get right!

TLS 1.0 "Lucky 13" Attack

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- TLS: A protocol for sending encrypted and authenticated messages over the Internet (we'll study it more in the networking unit)
- TLS 1.0 uses MAC-then-encrypt: Enc(K₁, M || MAC(K₂, M))
 - The encryption algorithm is AES-CBC
- The Lucky 13 attack abuses MAC-then-encrypt to read encrypted messages
 - Guess a byte of plaintext and change the ciphertext accordingly
 - The MAC will error, but the time it takes to error is different depending on if the guess is correct
 - Attacker measures how long it takes to error in order to learn information about plaintext
 - TLS will send the message again if the MAC errors, so the attacker can guess repeatedly

Takeaways

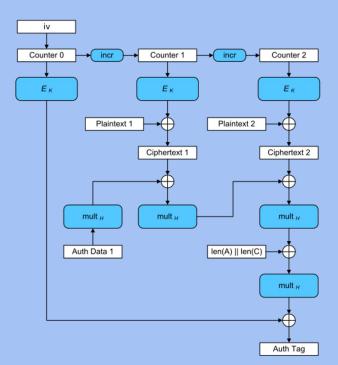
- Side channel attack (timing channel): The algorithm is proved secure, but poor implementation made it vulnerable
- Always encrypt-then-MAC

AEAD Encryption

- Second method for authenticated encryption: Use a scheme that is designed to provide confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity
- Authenticated encryption with additional data (AEAD): An algorithm that
 provides both confidentiality and integrity over the plaintext and integrity over
 additional data
 - Additional data is usually context (e.g. memory address), so you can't change the context without breaking the MAC
- Great if used correctly: No more worrying about MAC-then-encrypt
 - If you use AEAD incorrectly, you lose both confidentiality and integrity/authentication
 - Example of correct usage: Using a crypto library with AEAD

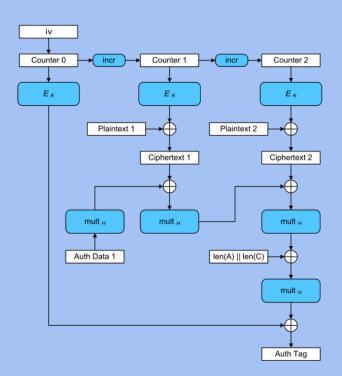
AEAD Example: Galois Counter Mode (GCM)

- Galois Counter Mode (GCM): An AEAD block cipher mode of operation
- Εκ is standard block cipher encryption
- mult_H is 128-bit multiplication over a special field (Galois multiplication)
 - Don't worry about the math



AEAD Example: Galois Counter Mode (GCM)

- Very fast mode of operation
 - Fully parallel encryption
 - Galois multiplication isn't parallelizable, but it's very fast
- Drawbacks
 - IV reuse leads to loss of confidentiality, integrity, and authentication
 - This wouldn't happen if you used AES-CTR and HMAC-SHA256
 - Implementing Galois implementation is difficult and easy to screw up
- Takeaway: GCM provides integrity and confidentiality, but if you misuse it, it's even worse than CTR mode



Hashes: Summary

- Map arbitrary-length input to fixed-length output
- Output is deterministic and unpredictable
- Security properties
 - One way: Given an output y, it is infeasible to find any input x such that H(x) = y.
 - Second preimage resistant: Given an input x, it is infeasible to find another input $x' \neq x$ such that H(x) = H(x').
 - Collision resistant: It is infeasible to find another any pair of inputs $x' \neq x$ such that H(x) = H(x').
- Some hashes are vulnerable to length extension attacks
- Application: Lowest hash scheme
- Hashes don't provide integrity (unless you can publish the hash securely)

MACs: Summary

- Inputs: a secret key and a message
- Output: a tag on the message
- A secure MAC is unforgeable: Even if Mallory can trick Alice into creating MACs for messages that Mallory chooses, Mallory cannot create a valid MAC on a message that she hasn't seen before
 - Example: $HMAC(K, M) = H((K' \oplus opad) || H((K' \oplus ipad) || M))$
- MACs do not provide confidentiality

Authenticated Encryption: Summary

- Authenticated encryption: A scheme that simultaneously guarantees confidentiality and integrity (and authenticity) on a message
- First approach: Combine schemes that provide confidentiality with schemes that provide integrity and authenticity
 - MAC-then-encrypt: Enc(K₁, M || MAC(K₂, M))
 - Encrypt-then-MAC: Enc(K₁, M) || MAC(K₂, Enc(K₁, M))
 - Always use Encrypt-then-MAC because it's more robust to mistakes
- Second approach: Use AEAD encryption modes designed to provide confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity
 - Drawback: Incorrectly using AEAD modes leads to losing both confidentiality and integrity/authentication

Next Time

- Symmetric-key encryption schemes need randomness. How do we securely generate random numbers?
- When discussing symmetric-key schemes, we assumed Alice and Bob managed to share a secret key. How can Alice and Bob share a symmetric key over an insecure channel?