CS458: Introduction to Information Security

Notes 6: Cryptographic Hash Functions

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Outline

- Hash Functions and Cryptographic Hash Functions
- Requirements and Security of Cryptographic Hash Functions
- Popular Hash Functions (MD5 and SHA)

Hash Functions

• Hash Functions H

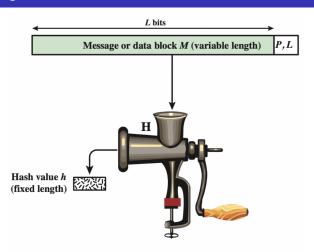
- \bullet Input: variable-length block of data M
- Output: fixed-size hash value h = H(M)
- Applying H to large set of inputs should produce evenly distributed and random looking outputs
- Values returned by a hash function are called message digest or simply hash values.

• Cryptographic hash function:

- An algorithm for which it is computationally infeasible to find either:
 - a data object that maps to a pre-specified hash result (the one-way property)
 - i.e., it should be computationally hard to reverse a hash function
 - two data objects that map to the same hash result (the collision-free property)
 - i.e., it should be hard to find two different inputs messages that produce the same hash value
- Used to determine whether or not data has changed
 - Examples: message authentication, digital signatures, one-way password file, intrusion/virus detection, PRNG

¹ infeasible means it would take too long to do that.

Cryptographic Hash Function: h = H(M)



P, L =padding plus length field

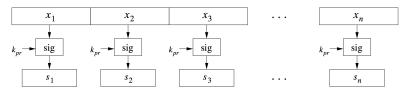
Hash function maps from input of some length L bits and produce a fixed small length output

Motivation: Signing Long Messages

- \bullet Suppose Bob signs \boldsymbol{x}
- Bob sends x and $s = sig_{K_{vr,B}}(x)$ to Alice.
- Alice verifies that $ver_{K_{vub,B}}(x,s)$.
- Problem:
 - x is restricted in length, e.g., |x| < 256 Bytes (N is 2048 bits)
 - \bullet In practice the plaintext \boldsymbol{x} will often be large.
- Q: How can we efficiently compute signatures of large messages?
 - Divide the message x into blocks x_i of size less than the allowed input size of the signature algorithm, and sign each block separately

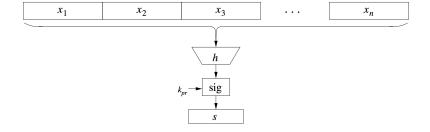
Motivation: Signing Long Messages: Problem

• Naïve signing of long messages generates a signature of same length.



- This is Bad. Three Problems
 - Computational overhead
 - DSs are based on computationally intensive asymmetric operations
 - Message overhead
 - Double the message overhead
 - Security limitations
 - Attacker can remove individuals messages/signatures, reorder messages/signatures, or reassemble new messages/signatures, etc
- Solution: Instead of signing the whole message, sign only a digest (hash). Also secure, but much faster
 - i.e., somehow "compress" the message x prior to signing
- Needed: Hash Functions

Signing of long messages with a hash function



Message Authentication

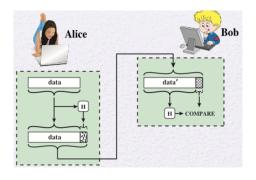
- Protects against active attacks
- Provide services to ensure the integrity of a message.
 - Ensure data received are exactly as sent (data Integrity)
 - ullet i.e., contain no modification, insertion, deletion, or replay
 - Assure identity of the sender is valid (authentic)
- When a hash function is used to provide message authentication, the hash function value is often referred to as a message digest²

² Message digest is a fixed size numeric representation of the contents of a message, computed by a hash function. A message digest can be encrypted forming a digital signature.

Use Hash Function to Check Data Integrity

- The essence of the use of a hash function for message authentication is as follows.
 - Alice computes a hash value as a function of the bits in the message
 - ② Alice transmits both the hash value and the message.
 - 3 Bob performs the same hash calculation on the message bits
 - Bob compares this value with the incoming hash value.
 - If there is a mismatch, Bob knows that the message (or possibly the hash value) has been altered

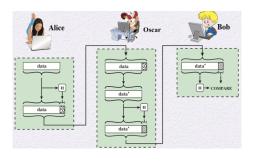
Use Hash Function to Check Data Integrity



Attack against Hash Function

- The hash function must be transmitted in a secure fashion.
- The hash function must be protected so that if an adversary alters or replaces the message, it is not feasible to also alter the hash value to fool the receiver
- Man-in-Middle Attack
 - 4 Alice transmits a data block and attaches a hash value.
 - Oscar intercepts the message, alters or replaces the data block, and calculates and attaches a new hash value.
 - Bob receives the altered data with the new hash value and does not detect the change.
- To prevent this attack, the hash value generated by Alice must be protected.

Attack against Hash Function

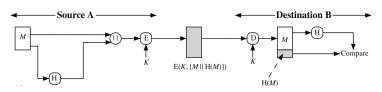


Message Authentication using Hash Function

- Hash function does not take a secret key as input.
- To authenticate a message, the message digest is sent with the message in such a way that the message digest is authentic.
- Next: illustrate different ways in which the message can be authenticated using a hash code

Message Authentication Example (a)

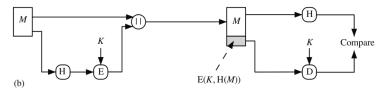
• Encrypt the message and hash code using symmetric encryption



- || denotes concatenation.
- The hash code provides the structure or redundancy required to achieve authentication.
- Confidentiality is also provided
- Q) Do we have nonrepudiation here?

Message Authentication Example (b)

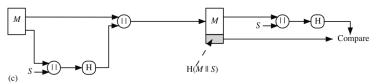
- Encrypt only hash code using symmetric encryption
- Reduces computation overhead when confidentiality not required



- Desired property of the Hash Function: two different messages produce different hash values.
- Q) Do we need to have the hash function?

Message Authentication Example (c)

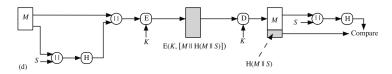
- It is possible to use a hash function but no encryption for message authentication
 - Shared secret S is hashed
 - No encryption needed



• Q) Can attacker find the shared secret S?

Message Authentication Example (d)

- Confidentiality can be added to the approach of method (c) by encrypting the entire message plus the hash code
 - Shared secret combined with confidentiality



Message Authentication Without Confidentiality

- It is possible to combine authentication and confidentiality in a single algorithm by encrypting a message plus its authentication tag
- Typically message authentication is provided as a separate function from message encryption
- Situations in which message authentication without confidentiality may be preferable include:
 - There are a number of applications in which the same message is broadcast to a number of destinations
 - An exchange in which one side has a heavy load and cannot afford the time to decrypt all incoming messages
 - Authentication of a computer program in plaintext is an attractive service
- Thus, there is a place for both authentication and encryption in meeting security requirements

Authentication and Encryption

- Sometimes desirable to avoid encryption when performing authentication
 - Encryption in software can be slow
 - Encryption in hardware has financial costs
 - Encryption hardware can be inefficient for small amount of data
 - Encryption algorithms may be patented, need to pay license to use it, increasing costs to use
- More commonly, message authentication is achieved using a Message Authentication Codes (MAC)

Message Authentication Codes (MAC)

- Message Authentication Codes (or keyed hash function)
- Typically used between two parties that share a secret key to authenticate information exchanged between those parties
 - \bullet Take secret key K and a data block M as input; produce hash value (or MAC) which is associated with the protected message as output
 - If the integrity of the message needs to be checked, the MAC function can be applied to the message and the result compared with the associated MAC value
 - An attacker who alters the message will be unable to alter the associated MAC value without knowledge of the secret key
 - Combining hash function and encryption produces same result as MAC;
 but MAC algorithms can be more efficient than encryption algorithms
 - MAC covered in next topic

Digital Signatures

- Another important application, which is similar to the message authentication application, is the digital signature
- Hash value of message encrypted with user's private key
- Anyone who knows the user's public key can verify integrity of message and author
- An attacker who wishes to alter the message would need to know the user's private key
- Implications of digital signatures go beyond just message authentication

Digital Signature Operations (Concept)

- Signing
 - Bob signs a message by encrypting with own private key
 - Bob attaches signature to message
- Verification
 - Alice verifies a message by decrypting signature with signer's (Bob) public key
 - $x' = D_{k_{pub},B}(s)$
 - Alice then
 - compares received message x with decrypted x'
 - if identical, signature is verified

Digital Signature Operations (Practice)

No need to encrypt entire message; encrypt hash of message

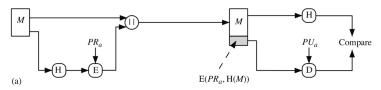
- Signing
 - Bob signs a message by encrypting hash of message with own private key

•
$$s = E_{k_{pr,B}}(H(x))$$

- Bob attaches signature to message
- Verification
 - \bullet $\tt Alice$ verifies a message by decrypting signature with signer's (Bob) public key
 - $h' = D_{k_{pub,B}}(s)$
 - Alice then
 - compares hash of received message, H(x), with decrypted h';
 - if identical, signature is verified

Simplified Examples of Digital Signatures

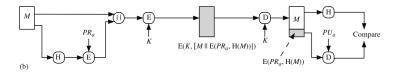
• The hash code is encrypted, using public-key encryption with the sender's private key.



• Q) Can the attacker have the hash value?

Simplified Examples of Digital Signatures

- If confidentiality as well as a digital signature is desired, then the message plus the private-key-encrypted hash code can be encrypted using a symmetric secret key.
- This is a common technique.



Other Hash Function Uses

- Commonly used to create a one-way password file
 - When a user enters a password, the hash of that password is compared to the stored hash value for verification
 - This approach to password protection is used by most operating systems
- Can be used for intrusion and virus detection
 - Store H(F) for each file on a system and secure the hash values
 - One can later determine if a file has been modified by recomputing H(F)
 - ullet An intruder would need to change F without changing H(F)

Simple Hash Functions

- All hash functions operate using the following general principles.
 - \bullet The input (message, file, etc.) is viewed as a sequence of n-bit blocks.
 - The input is processed one block at a time in an iterative fashion to produce an n-bit hash function.
- One of the simplest hash functions is the bit-by-bit exclusive-OR (XOR) of every block.

Bit-by-Bit Exclusive OR

- $\bullet \ C_i = b_{i1} \oplus b_{i2} \oplus \ldots \oplus b_{im}$
 - C_i is i^{th} bit of hash code, $1 \le i \le n$
 - m is number of n-bit blocks in input
 - b_{ij} is i^{th} bit in j^{th} block

	Bit 1	Bit 2		Bit n
Block 1	b ₁₁	b ₂₁		b_{n1}
Block 2	b ₁₂	b ₂₂		b_{n2}
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
	•	•	•	•
Block m	b_{1m}	b_{2m}		b_{nm}
Hash code	C_1	C_2		C_n

Requirements and Security

• Preimage

- For a hash value z = H(x), x is the pre-image of z
 - ullet That is, $oldsymbol{x}$ is a data block whose hash function, using the function H, is $oldsymbol{z}$
- Because H is a many-to-one mapping, for any given hash value z, there will in general be multiple pre-images

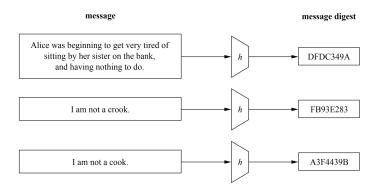
Collision

- Occurs if we have $x_1 \neq x_2$ and $H(x_1) = H(x_2)$
- Because we are using hash functions for data integrity, collisions are clearly undesirable
- How many pre-images for given hash value?
 - \bullet If H takes $b{-}bit$ input block, 2^b possible messages
 - \bullet For n-bit hash code, where $b \, > \, n \,, \, 2^n$ possible hash codes
 - \bullet On average, if uniformly distributed hash values, then each hash value has 2^{b-n} pre-images

Requirements of Cryptographic Hash Function

- Crypto hash function *H* must provide:
 - 1. Variable input size: H can be applied to input block of any size
 - 2. Fixed output size: H produces fixed length output
 - 3. Efficiency of operation
 - H(x) is relatively easy/fast to compute for any given x
 - Computationally hash functions are much faster than a symmetric encryption.
 - 4. Pre-image resistance (One-way property)
 - For a given hash value z, it is computationally infeasible to find any input x such that H(x) = z, i.e., H(x) is one-way
 - 5. Second pre-image resistance (Weak collision resistance)
 - For any given block x_1 , and thus $H(x_1)$, it is computationally infeasible to find any $x_2 \neq x_1$ with $H(x_1) = H(x_2)$.
 - 6. Collision resistance (Strong collision resistance)
 - It is computationally infeasible to find any pairs $x_1 \neq x_2$, s.t., $H(x_1) = H(x_2)$.
- Actually, lots of collisions exist, but hard to find any

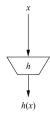
Principal input-output behavior of hash functions



- Able to apply a hash function to messages \boldsymbol{x} of any size
- Output of a hash function must be of fixed length, independent of the input size
- Computed hash value should be highly sensitive to all input bits.
 - \Rightarrow minor modifications to the input x, hash value should look very different

1st Security properties of hash functions

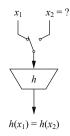
- 1. Preimage resistance (One-way property)
 - For a given output z, it is impossible to find any input x such that h(x)=z, i.e., h(x) is one-way
 - This property protects against an attacker who only has a hash value and is trying to find the input.
 - Bob sends $(E_K(x), sig_{K_{pr,B}}(z))$
 - Encrypts with AES and signs with RSA: $s = sig_{K_{pr,B}}(y) \equiv z^d \mod n$
 - \bullet Oscar uses Bob's public key to calculate $s^e \equiv z \mod n$
 - If h(x) is not one-way then $x = h^{-1}(z)$
 - Thus, the symmetric encryption of x is circumvented by the signature, which leaks the plaintext. $\Rightarrow h(x)$ should be a one-way function



preimage resistance

2nd Security properties of hash functions

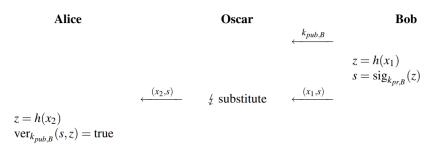
- 2. Second preimage resistance (Weak collision resistance)
 - Given x_1 , and thus $h(x_1)$, it is computationally infeasible to find any other input value x_2 s.t., $h(x_1) = h(x_2)$.
 - This property protects against an attacker who has an input value and its hash, and wants to substitute a different value as legitimate value in place of the original input value.



second preimage resistance

2nd Preimage Attack

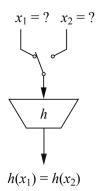
- Assume Bob hashes and signs a message x_1 .
- If Oscar is capable of finding a second message x_2 such that $h(x_1) = h(x_2)$, he can run the following substitution attack



- There is always x_2 such that $h(x_1) = h(x_2)$ but it should be difficult to find
- "weak" collision, requires exhaustive search

3rd Security properties of hash functions

- 3. Collision resistance (Strong collision resistance)
 - It is computationally infeasible to find any pairs $x_1 \neq x_2$ such that $h(x_1) = h(x_2)$.
 - This property makes it very difficult for an attacker to find two input values with the same hash.



collision resistance

Collision Attack

• Oscar starts with two messages:

```
x_1 = Transfer $10 into Oscar's account x_2 = Transfer $10,000 into Oscar's account
```

- He alters x_1 and x_2 at "non-visible" locations and continues until the condition $h(x_1) = h(x_2)$ is fulfilled.
- With the two messages, he can launch the following attack

Alice		Oscar		Bob
			$\leftarrow k_{pub,B}$	
			$\xrightarrow{x_1}$	
	(x_2,s)		$\leftarrow \overset{(x_1,s)}{-}$	$z = h(x_1)$ $s = \operatorname{sig}_{k_{pr,B}}(z)$
$z = h(x_2)$ $\operatorname{ver}_{k_{pub,B}}(s,z) = \operatorname{true}$				

Required Hash Properties for Different Applications

- Weak hash function: Satisfies 5 requirements listed in *slide 30* (but not collision resistant)
- Strong hash function: Also collision resistant
- Hash Function Resistance Properties Required for Various Data Integrity Applications

	Preimage Resistant	Second Preimage Resistant	Collision Resistant	
Hash + digital signature	yes	yes	yes*	
Intrusion detection and virus detection		yes		
Hash + symmetric encryption				
One-way password file	yes			
MAC	yes	yes	yes*	

^{*} Resistance required if attacker is able to mount a chosen message attack

Security of Hash Functions

• There are two approaches to attacking a secure hash function:

1. Cryptanalysis

- An attack based on weaknesses in a particular cryptographic algorithm
- Seek to exploit some property of the algorithm to perform some attack other than an exhaustive search

2. Brute-force attack

- Does not depend on the specific algorithm, only depends on bit length
- In the case of a hash function, attack depends only on the bit length of the hash value
- Method is to pick values at random and try each one until a collision occurs
- Strength of hash function depends solely on the length of the hash code produced by the algorithm.

Brute Attacks on Hash Functions

- Pre-image and Second Pre-image Attack
 - Find a x that gives specific z; try all possible values of x
 - With n-bit hash code, effort required proportional to 2^n
- Collision Resistant Brute Attack
 - Find any two messages that have same hash values
 - Effort required is proportional to $2^{n/2}$
 - Due to birthday paradox, easier than pre-image attacks
- Brute force attack can be applied against any hash algorithm.
- Practical Effort (other attacks take advantage of the algorithm design)
 - Cryptanalysis attacks possible in theory; complex
 - Collision resistance desirable for general hash algorithms
 - \bullet MD5 uses 128-bits: collision attacks possible (2^{60}) (not much better than brute force attack)

Collision Attacks and the Birthday Paradox

- It turns out that collision resistance causes most problems and more difficult
- Collision attacks are much harder to prevent than 2nd preimage attack.
- Q: Can we have hash function without collisions?
 - Since |X| >> |Z| ⇒ collision must exist. ("Pigeonhole Principle")
 ⇒ We must make collision very hard to find!
- Q: How difficult it is to find collisions?

2nd preimage attack with brute-force

- Q: How difficult it is to find collisions?
- Probably this is as difficult as finding second preimages
- If $|Z| = 2^{80}$, where |h(x)| = n = 80 \Rightarrow attack requires $\approx 2^{80}$ steps until to find a collision

Birthday Attacks

- For a collision resistant attack, an adversary wishes to find two messages or data blocks that yield the same hash function
 - The effort required is explained by a mathematical result referred to as the birthday paradox
- The Birthday Attack exploits the birthday paradox
 - The chance that in a group of people two will share the same birthday
 - Only 23 people are needed for a Probability > 0.5 of this.
 - Can generalize the problem to one wanting a matching pair from any two sets, and show need $2^{\frac{n}{2}}$ in each to get a matching n-bit hash.

Collision Attack

- It turns out that collision resistance causes most problems and more difficult to achieve
 - How hard is it to find a collision with a probability of 0.5?
 - Related Problem: How many people are needed such that two of them have the same birthday with a probability of 0.5?

$$P(\text{no collision among 2 people}) = 1 - \frac{1}{365}$$

$$P(\text{no collision among 3 people}) = (1 - \frac{1}{365})(1 - \frac{2}{365})$$

$$\dots$$

$$P(\text{no collision among t people}) = \prod_{i=1}^{t-1} (1 - \frac{i}{365})$$

- for t = 23, $\prod_{i=1}^{22} (1 \frac{i}{365}) = 0.507 \approx 50\%$
- No! Not $\frac{365}{2}$ =183. 23 are enough! This is called the **birthday paradox** (Search takes $\approx \sqrt{2^n}$ steps for 50% probability collision)
- To deal with this paradox, hash functions need a output size of at least 224 bits

How Long Should Hash Be

- Many input messages yield the same hash
 - ullet e.g., 1024-bit message, 128-bit hash
 - \bullet On average, 2^{896} messages map into one hash
- \bullet With $n{=}64,$ it takes 2^{32} trails to find a collision (doable in very little time)
- \bullet Today, need at least $n{=}160,$ requiring about 2^{80} trails

Popular Crypto Hashes

- MD5: message-digest algorithm 5
 - MD5 was most popular and widely used hash function for quite some years.
 - The MD family comprises of hash functions MD2, MD4, MD5 and MD6.
 - Developed by Ron Rivest in 1991
 - Generates 128-bit hash
 - Was commonly used by applications, passwords, file integrity; no longer recommended
 - e.g., file servers often provide a pre-computed MD5 checksum for the files, so that a user can compare the checksum of the downloaded file to it.
 - Collision and other attacks possible; tools publicly available to attack MD5, so it's broken

Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA)

- Family of SHA comprise of four SHA algorithms; SHA-0, SHA-1, SHA-2, and SHA-3.
- SHA-0:
 - Produces 160-bit hash values.
 - It had few weaknesses and did not become very popular.
 - Was revised in 1995 as SHA-1.
- SHA-1:
 - Most widely used of the existing SHA hash functions.
 - Employed in several widely used applications and protocols.
 - No longer considered secure against well-funded opponents³
- SHA-2:
 - In 2002, NIST produced a revised version of the standard that defined three new versions of SHA with hash value lengths of 224, 256, 384, and 512.
 - Collectively known as SHA-2
 - No successful attacks have yet been reported.

Announcing the first SHA1 collision

SHA-3

- SHA-2 shares same structure and mathematical operations as its predecessors and causes concern
- Due to time required to replace SHA-2 should it become vulnerable, NIST announced in 2007 a competition to produce SHA-3
- SHA-3 Requirements:
 - Must support hash value lengths of 224, 256, 384, and 512 bits
 - Algorithm must process small blocks at a time instead of requiring the entire message to be buffered in memory before processing it
- \bullet SHA-3 standard was released by NIST as FIPS 202 (SHA-3 Standard: Permutation-Based Hash and Extendable-Output Functions)^4 on August 5, 2015

⁴SHA-3 Standard: Permutation-Based Hash and Extendable-Output Functions

Comparison of SHA Parameters

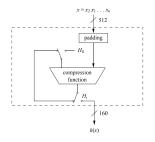
	SHA-1	SHA-224	SHA-256	SHA-384	SHA-512	SHA- 512/224	SHA- 512/256
Message size	< 2 ⁶⁴	< 2 ⁶⁴	< 2 ⁶⁴	< 2128	< 2 ¹²⁸	< 2128	< 2 ¹²⁸
Word size	32	32	32	64	64	64	64
Block size	512	512	512	1024	1024	1024	1024
Message digest size	160	224	256	384	512	224	256
Number of steps	80	64	64	80	80	80	80
Security	80	112	128	192	256	112	128

Notes:

- 1. All sizes are measured in bits.
- 2. Security refers to the fact that a birthday attack on a message digest of size n produces a collision with a work factor of approximately $2^{n/2}$.

SHA-1 High Level Diagram

 \bullet Compression function consists of 80 rounds which are divided into four stages of 20 rounds each

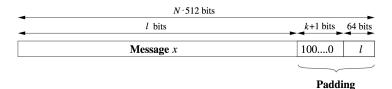


Merkle-Damgård Construction for Hash Functions

- Message is divided into fixed-size blocks and padded.
 - ullet The input is viewed as a sequence of 512-bit blocks
- \bullet The initial value H_0 is set to a predefined constant.
- The input is processed one block at a time in an iterative fashion to produce an 160-bit hash function.

Example: SHA-1: Padding

- Message \boldsymbol{x} has to be padded to fit a size of a multiple of 512 bit.
 - Let x with a length of l bit
 - To obtain an overall message size of a multiple of 512 bits
 - Append a single 1 followed by k zero bits and the binary 64-bit representation of l.
 - Consequently, the number of required zeros k is given by $k \equiv 512 64 1 1 = 448 (1 + 1) \mod 512$



SHA-1: Padding: Example

• Given is the message abc consisting of three 8-bit ASCII characters with a total length of l=24 bits:

$$\underbrace{01100001}_{a} \quad \underbrace{01100010}_{b} \quad \underbrace{01100011}_{c}.$$

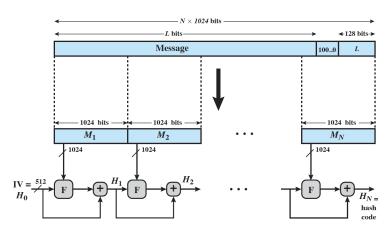
We append a "1" followed by k = 423 zero bits, where k is determined by

$$k \equiv 448 - (l+1) = 448 - 25 = 423 \mod 512$$
.

Finally, we append the 64-bit value which contains the binary representation of the length $l = 24_{10} = 11000_2$. The padded message is then given by

$$\underbrace{01100001}_{\text{a}} \quad \underbrace{01100010}_{\text{b}} \quad \underbrace{01100011}_{\text{c}} \quad 1 \quad \underbrace{00...0}_{\text{423 zeros}} \quad \underbrace{00...011000}_{l=24}.$$

Message Digest Generation Using SHA-512



+ = word-by-word addition mod 264

Message Digest Generation Using SHA-512

- Step 1: Append padding bits: message length is congruent to 896 modulo 1024
- Step 2: Append length: as a block of 128 bits being an unsigned 128-bit integer length of the original message (before padding).
- Step 3: Initialize hash buffer: 512-bit buffer is used to hold intermediate and final results of the hash function. The buffer can be represented as eight 64-bit registers
- Step 4: Process the message in 1024-bit (128-word) blocks: The heart of the algorithm is a module that consists of 80 rounds; this module is labeled F in Figure in next slide.
- Step 5: Output: After all N 1024-bit blocks have been processed, the output from the N^{th} stage is the 512-bit message digest.

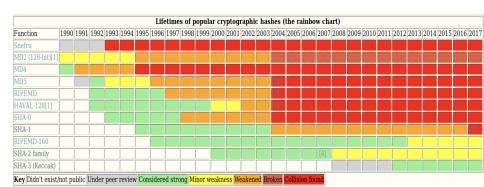
Choosing the length of Hash outputs

- The Weakest Link Principle:
 - A system is only as secure as its weakest link.
- Hence all links in a system should have similar levels of security.
- Because of the birthday attack, the length of hash outputs in general should double the key length of block ciphers
 - SHA-224 matches the 112-bit strength of triple-DES (encryption 3 times using DES)
 - SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512 match the new key lengths (128,192,256) in AES

Summary

- Hash functions are keyless.
- Applications of cryptographic hash functions
 - Message authentication
 - Digital signatures
 - Other applications
- Requirements and security
 - Security requirements for cryptographic hash functions
 - Brute-force attacks
 - Cryptanalysis
- Secure hash algorithm (SHA)

Hash function life cycles¹



• Historically, popular cryptographic hash functions have a useful lifetime of around 10 years

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Reading

- Computer Security: Principles and Practice
 - Chapters 2 and 21
- Understanding Cryptography: A Textbook for Students and Practitioners - available online
 - Chapter 11: Hash Functions