

Analysis and design of cryptographic protocols

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Preliminaries

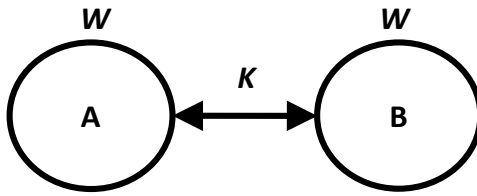
ESTABLISHING A SESSION KEY

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Establishing a session key



- A and B a priori share a long term key W
- A and B wants to establish a **session key** K

- Session key is used for bulk encryption
- A session key is used for one communication session
- Long term key is used for many runs of the key establishment protocols; in each run, the key encrypts a small amount of data

In order to reduce the amount of data available to a crypto-analyst, we strive for reducing the amount of data encrypted by means of the same key. For this reason we distinguish long term keys from *session keys*.

A session key is used once to encrypt a possible large amount of data. A long-term key is used to many times to encrypt small amounts of data.

Establishing a session key

one-pass

M1 $A \rightarrow B: E(W, t_A \parallel "B, A" \parallel K)$

- t_A is a **timestamp** (a “fresh” quantity) requires **synchronized** clocks

with challenge-response

M1 $A \rightarrow B: n_B$

M2 $A \rightarrow B: E_W(W, n_B \parallel "A, B" \parallel K)$

- n_B is a **nonce** (a “fresh” quantity) e.g. a counter or a random number

both parties contribute to the session key

M1 $A \rightarrow B: n_B$

M2 $A \rightarrow B: E(W, K_A \parallel n_B \parallel n_A \parallel "A, B")$

M3 $A \rightarrow B: E(W, K_B \parallel n_A \parallel n_B \parallel "B, A")$

- n_A and n_B are **nonces**
- K_A and K_B are **keying** materials
- $K = K_A \oplus K_B$

Security Protocols

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PROTOCOLLO ONE-PASS. Upon receiving message M1, Bobs believes that the message *is coming from* Alice because it is encrypted by means of the shared key W. Is that always true? Reasoning about shared keys (or digital signatures) we can make conjectures about the originator of a message. However, sender and originator may not always coincide. 1) Message M1 may reach Alice from Bob through an intermediary Carol: 2) Message M1 may not come from its originator if the message is a replay.

1. The timestamp t_A avoids replay but requires *synchronized clocks* (monotonic non-decreasing clocks). Without the timestamp, the message could be *replayed* and the adversary could impersonate Alice and force Bob to re-use key K. In practice all the traffic encrypted by K could be be replied.

This is itself a vulnerability. However, it becomes particularly dangerous if the adversary has obtained a session key K. In that case, the adversary would be able to impersonate Alice with respect to Bob and force the former to accept key K as session key. *The adversary could do this as many times as he wishes.*

It is always a good practice to assume that a session key may get compromised and that the adversary holds it as well as the sequence of messages that led to the establishment of that key.

It follows that a freshness proofs allows Bob to believe that the message is “recent”, it is not a replay, and thus is coming from the legitimate originator.

2. The string “B, A” means that the key is for B to communicate with A. This avoids, for example, that the message can be reused for different communications.

3. This protocol requires *secure clock synchronization* which is very hard in a distributed system. In particular, secure clock synchronization requires authenticated messages, that is, it requires a secure protocol, namely, exactly what we are trying to do.

PROTOCOL WITH CHALLENGE-RESPONSE. This protocol avoids clock synchronization but uses *nonces*, i.e., *quantities that are used just once*. It follows that a nonce must be generated fresh, i.e., it can be never used in two different instances of the protocol. A nonce can be implemented as a counter, a timestamp, or a random number. The former two are foreseeable, whereas the latter is not. In certain situations, this difference matters. Differently from a timestamp, the freshness of a nonce can be verified by the nonce generator only. In general a nonce is transmitted in the clear because it does not carry any confidential information.

PROTOCOL WHERE BOTH PARTIES CONTRIBUTE TO THE SESSION KEY. In the first two protocols, the session key is generated by one party. This assume that Bob has to trust Alice about key generation. This protocol allows each party to contribute with his own piece of key. Is it possible to reason in more formal way?

Remember

Security protocols are three-line programs that people still manage to get wrong.

[Roger M. Needham](#)



Design and verification of security protocols

THE BAN LOGIC – FORMALISM AND POSTULATES

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Main topics

- The BAN logic
- Design principles
- Case studies
 - Needham-Schroeder → Kerberos
 - Otway-Rees
 - SSL (an old version)
 - ...

The BAN logic

- After its inventors: Burrows, Abadi, Needham
- Logic based on *belief* and *action*
- How to use the logic
 - The logic cannot prove that a protocol is wrong
 - However, if you cannot prove a protocol correct, then consider that protocol with great suspicion

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It's a logic, a formal method, but it is intuitive. It allows you to formalize a protocol and then check whether the protocol satisfies certain properties.

It does not make miracles. You don't give the logic the protocol and then the logic tells you whether it is wrong and where it is bugged. Rather it is a tool to reason upon a security protocol. The rationale is: use the Logic to reason upon the protocol, namely to check whether the protocol satisfies certain properties. If you get to the end you cannot say anything. If you get stuck somewhere, then your protocol, and that point in particular, needs attention.

Finally, notice that here we work at specification level. Then you have plentiful of opportunities to put mistakes in design and implementation/coding phase.

Google Scholar – all versions

- M. Burrows, M. Abadi, R.M, Needham, A Logic of Authentication, Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, 1989
- M. Burrows, M. Abadi, R.M, Needham, A Logic of Authentication, ACM Transactions on Computer Systems, 1990

Formalism

$P \models X$ **P believes X.** P behaves as if X were true

$P \triangleleft X$ **P sees X.** P has received/read a message/file containing X, either in the past or in the present execution of the protocol. P can read X and repeat it

$P \sim X$ **P once said X.** P sent/wrote X in a message/file. P believed X when P sent/wrote it.

$P \Rightarrow X$ **P controls X.** P is an authority on X and we should trust P on this regard

$\#(X)$ **X is fresh**

$P \stackrel{K}{\leftrightarrow} Q$ **K is a shared key between P e Q**

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- **P believes X.** P behaves as if X were true
- **P sees X.** P has received a message containing X, either in the past or in the present execution of the protocol. P can read X and repeat it.
- **P once said X.** P sent a message containing X; P *believed* X when P sent X.
- **P controls X.** P is an authority on X and we should trust P on this regard.

Formalism

$P \stackrel{K}{\leftrightarrow} Q$ X is a shared secret between P e Q

$\stackrel{K}{\mapsto} P$ K is P's public key

$\langle X \rangle_Y$ X is a combined with Y

$\{X\}_K$ X has been encrypted with K

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- **P believes X.** P behaves as if X were true
- **P sees X.** P has received a message containing X, either in the past or in the present execution of the protocol. P can read X and repeat it.
- **P once said X.** P sent a message containing X; P *believed* X when P sent X.
- **P controls X.** P is an authority on X and we should trust P on this regard.

Examples

$A \models \#(N_a)$ A believes that N_a is fresh

$A \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$ A believes K to be a shared key with B

$T \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$ T believes that K is a shared key between A and B

$A \models T \Rightarrow A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$ A believes T an authority on generating session keys

$A \models T \Rightarrow \# \left(A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B \right)$ A believes that T is competent in generating fresh session keys

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We can use the formalism to build «sentences».

Preliminaries

- BAN logic considers two epochs: the **present** and the **past**
- The present begins with the start of the protocol
- Beliefs achieved in the present are stable for all the protocol duration
- Assumption: If P says X then P believes X
- Beliefs of the past may not hold in the present

Postulates: message meaning rule

$$\frac{P \models \overset{K}{Q \leftrightarrow P}, P \triangleleft \{X\}_K}{P \models Q \sim X}$$

If K is a shared key between P and Q , and P sees a message encrypted by K containing X (and P did not send that message), then P believes that X was sent by Q

$$\frac{P \models \overset{K}{\mapsto Q}, P \triangleleft \{X\}_{K^{-1}}}{P \models Q \sim X}$$

If K is Q 's public key, and P sees a message signed by $\text{con } K^{-1}$ containing X , then P believes that X was sent by Q

$$\frac{P \models \overset{Y}{Q \rightleftharpoons P}, P \triangleleft \langle X \rangle_Y}{P \models Q \sim X}$$

If Y is a shared secrete between P and Q , and P sees a message where Y is combined with X (and P did not send the message), then P believes that X was sent by Q

Postulates: nonce verification rule

$$\frac{P \mid \equiv \#(X), P \mid \equiv Q \mid \sim X}{P \mid \equiv Q \mid \equiv X}$$

- If P believes Q said X and P believes X is *fresh*, then P believes Q believes X (now, in this protocol execution)
- If P believes X was sent by Q , and P believes X is *fresh*, then P believes Q has sent X in this protocol execution instance

Postulates: jurisdiction rule

$$\frac{P \mid \equiv Q \mid \equiv X, P \mid \equiv Q \Rightarrow X}{P \mid \equiv X}$$

- If P believes Q believes X and P believes Q is an authority on X , then P believes X too
- If P believes Q says X and P trusts Q on X , then P believes X too

More postulates

$$\frac{P \models X, P \models Y}{P \models (X, Y)} \quad \frac{P \models (X, Y)}{P \models X, P \models Y} \quad \frac{P \models Q \models (X, Y)}{P \models Q \models X} \quad \frac{P \models Q \models \sim (X, Y)}{P \models Q \models \sim X}$$

$$\frac{P \models \#(X)}{P \models \#(X, Y)}$$

$$\frac{P \triangleleft (X, Y)}{P \triangleleft X}$$

$$\frac{P \triangleleft \langle X \rangle_y}{P \triangleleft X}$$

$$\frac{P \models Q \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} P, P \triangleleft \{X\}_K}{P \triangleleft X}$$

$$\frac{P \models \mapsto P, P \triangleleft \{X\}_K}{P \triangleleft X}$$

$$\frac{P \models \mapsto Q, P \triangleleft \{X\}_{K^{-1}}}{P \triangleleft X}$$

$$\frac{P \models R \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} R'}{P \models R' \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} R} \quad \frac{P \models Q \models R \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} R'}{P \models Q \models R' \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} R} \quad \frac{P \models R \overset{K}{\rightleftharpoons} R'}{P \models R' \overset{K}{\rightleftharpoons} R} \quad \frac{P \models Q \models R \overset{K}{\rightleftharpoons} R'}{P \models Q \models R' \overset{K}{\rightleftharpoons} R}$$

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Idealized protocol

In the *real protocol*, each protocol step is represented as

$$A \rightarrow B : message$$

For example:

$$A \rightarrow B : \{A, K_{ab}\}_{K_{bs}}$$

This notation is ambiguous. Thus the protocol has to be *idealized*

$$A \rightarrow B : \left\{ \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right\}_{K_{bs}}$$

The resulting specification is more clear and you can deduce the formula

$$B \triangleleft \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$$

Protocol analysis

- Protocol analysis consists in the following steps
 1. Derive the idealized protocol from the real one
 2. Determine assumptions
 3. Apply postulates to each protocol step and determine beliefs achieved by principals at the step
 4. Draw conclusions

Protocol analysis

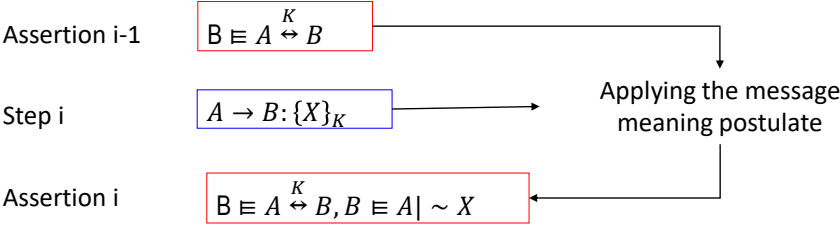
[assumption] S_1 [assertion 1]

....

[assertion i-1] S_i [assertion i]

...

[assertion n-1] S_n [conclusions]



Objectives of a protocol

Objectives depend on the context

▪ **Typical objectives**

	$A \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$	$B \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$	(key authentication)
often	$A \models B \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$	$B \models A \models A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B$	(key confirmation)
also	$A \models \# \left(A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B \right)$	$B \models \# \left(A \overset{K}{\leftrightarrow} B \right)$	(key freshness)

▪ **Interaction with a certification authority**

$$A \overset{e_b}{\models} \vdash B$$

BAN Logics

THE NEEDHAM-SCHROEDER PROTOCOL

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Needham-Schroeder (1978)

Real protocol

M1	$A \rightarrow T$	A, B, N_a
M2	$T \rightarrow A$	$E_{K_a}(N_a, B, K_{ab}, E_{K_b}(K_{ab}, A))$
M3	$A \rightarrow B$	$E_{K_b}(K_{ab}, A)$
M4	$B \rightarrow A$	$E_{K_{ab}}(N_b)$
M5	$A \rightarrow B$	$E_{K_{ab}}(N_b - 1)$

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This protocol was invented in 1978.

After a few modifications, it became the basis for Kerberos and Active Directory.

Idealized protocol

- The idealized protocol may contain implicit statements

$$\begin{array}{ll}
M2 & T \rightarrow A \quad \left\{ N_a, \left(A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right), \# \left(A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right), \left\{ A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_b} \right\}_{K_a} \\
M3 & A \rightarrow B \quad \left\{ A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_b} \\
M4 & B \rightarrow A \quad \left\{ N_b, A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_{ab}} \quad \text{from } B \\
M5 & A \rightarrow B \quad \left\{ N_b, A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_{ab}} \quad \text{from } A
\end{array}$$

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Needham-Schroeder (%)

$M2 \quad T \rightarrow A \quad \left\{ N_a, \left(A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right), \# \left(A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right), \left\{ A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_b} \right\}_{K_a}$

After receiving N_a , T said K_{ab} is "good" to talk to Bob

$M3 \quad A \rightarrow B \quad \left\{ A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_b}$

T said K_{ab} is good to talk to $Alice$

$M4 \quad B \rightarrow A \quad \left\{ N_b, A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_{ab}} \quad \text{from } B$

After receiving K_{ab} , B has said K_{ab} is good to talk to A

$M5 \quad A \rightarrow B \quad \left\{ N_b, A \overset{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \right\}_{K_{ab}} \quad \text{from } A$

After receiving N_b , A has said K_{ab} is good to talk to Bob

Principle 1. We have to specify the meaning of each message; specification must depend on the message contents; it must be possible to write a sentence describing such a meaning

It is a good analysis practice to write down a sentence that explains the meaning (semantics) of a message.
It is a good design practice to design protocol whose messages are self-contained, that is, their messages do not depend on the context.

Needham-Schroeder

Assumptions

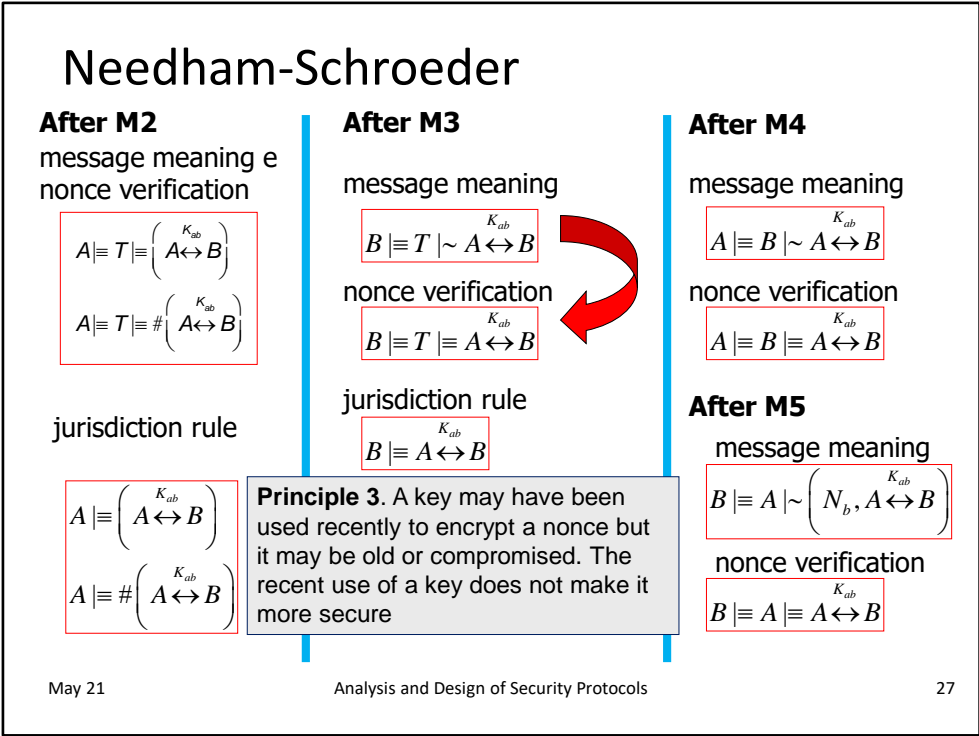
$A \models \overset{K_a}{A \leftrightarrow T}$	$B \models \overset{K_b}{B \leftrightarrow T}$
$T \models \overset{K_a}{A \leftrightarrow T}$	$T \models \overset{K_b}{B \leftrightarrow T}$
$T \models \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$	
$A \models \left(T \Rightarrow \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right)$	$B \models \left(T \Rightarrow \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right)$
$A \models \left(T \Rightarrow \# \left(\overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right) \right)$	
$A \models \#(N_a)$	$B \models \#(N_b)$
$T \models \# \left(\overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right)$	$B \models \# \left(\overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B} \right)$

Objectives

$A \models \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$
$B \models \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$
$A \models B \models \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$
$B \models A \models \overset{K_{ab}}{A \leftrightarrow B}$

Principle 2. Designer must know the trust relationships upon which the protocol is based. He/she must know why they are necessary. Such reasons must be made explicit.





Needham-Schroeder: replay attack

- As Bob blindly believes that any key he receives in M3 is fresh then
- If the adversary is able to obtain a session key K_{ab}
- If the adversary records the messages that lead to establish K_{ab} , in particular M3
- Then, the adversary is able to impersonate A w.r.t. B and establish K_{ab} at his/her will

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VULNERABILITY of the PROTOCOL – REPLAY ATTACK. The replay attack exploits the assumption that B believes K_{ab} fresh. Let us suppose that an adversary, somehow, gets to know a session key K_{ab} and, contextually, manages to record the protocol instance that led to the establishment of such a key. In particular, let us assume that the adversary has recorded the related message M3. It follows that the adversary gets able to impersonate A w.r.t. B whenever (s)he likes by replaying message M3 and performing the subsequent protocol steps using the compromised key K_{ab} . So doing, the adversary can (re)use K_{ab} as session key. A possible countermeasure consists in using timestamps instead of nonces. This amendment has been done in the variation of the NSP that was implemented in Kerberos. However, timestamps require secure clock synchronization which, in turn, requires that authentication has been already solved.

A good design practice

- It is always a *good design practice* to analyse the consequences from a situation in which a session key gets compromised and the adversary recorded the protocol run that led to that key establishment

In this case, session encrypted by means of the compromised session key gets completely lost. This is inevitable. However, we should have no further side effects.

BAN Logics

THE OTWAY-REES PROTOCOL

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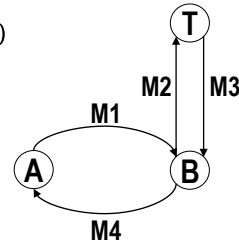
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Otway-Rees protocol

Real protocol

- M1. $A \rightarrow B$: $M, A, B, E_{K_A}(N_A, M, A, B)$
 M2. $B \rightarrow T$: $M, A, B, E_{K_A}(N_A, M, A, B), E_{K_B}(N_B, M, A, B)$
 M3. $T \rightarrow B$: $M, E_{K_A}(N_A, K_{ab}), E_{K_B}(N_B, K_{ab})$
 M4. $B \rightarrow A$: $M, E_{K_A}(N_A, K_{ab})$



Idealized protocol

- M1. $A \rightarrow B$: $\{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_a}$
 M2. $B \rightarrow T$: $\{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_a}, \{N_B, M, A, B\}_{K_b}$
 M3. $T \rightarrow B$: $\{N_a, A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B, B | \sim M\}_{K_a}, \{N_b, A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B, A | \sim M\}_{K_b}$
 M4. $B \rightarrow A$: $\{N_b, A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B, A | \sim M\}_{K_a}$

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Centralized model with Trusted-Third Party (T). Each principal shares a long-term secret key with T. The protocol allows principals A and B to establish a session key K_{ab} . The protocol is structured as two nested RPCs. In the protocol, M represents the protocol instance identifier. It is a fresh quantity generated by A (the initiator). The protocol shows odd issues:

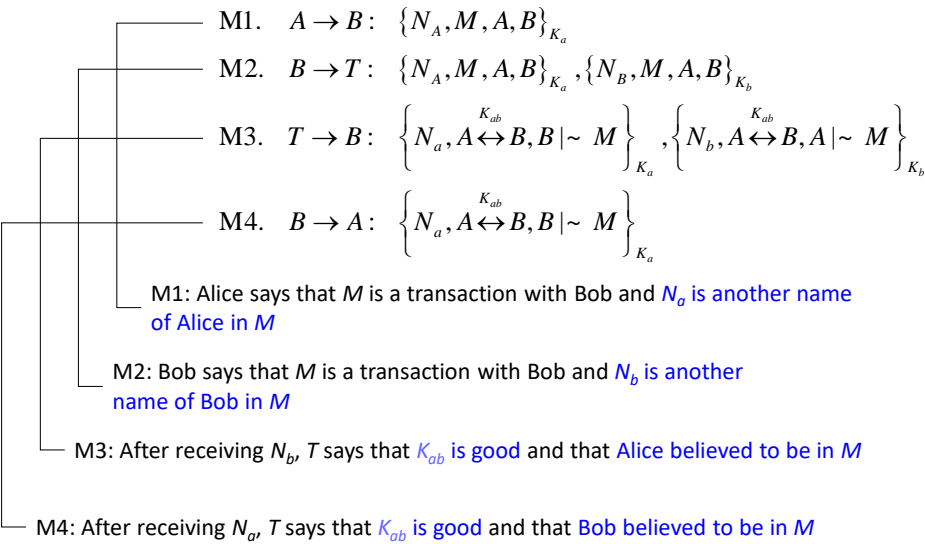
1. Why is M necessary in addition to N_a and N_b ? After all N_a and N_b guarantee freshness.
2. Why is M going to disappear after message M2?
3. Why are N_a and N_b transmitted in their encrypted format in M1 and M2? All in all, they are nonces, they don't carry any secret information, encrypting them in M1 and M2 would seem unnecessary at a first sight.

The answer is that N_a and N_b are used as alternative names for M. More precisely, N_a is another name of Alice in (protocol instance) M whereas N_b is another name of Bob in (protocol instance) M. N_a and N_b are local names whereas M is a global name. Encryption in M1 and M2 is to link M to N_a and N_b , respectively

Otway-Rees

- The protocol presents odd aspects
 - N_a and N_b are nonces, they are supposed to prove freshness. Then, why are they encrypted in messages M_1 and M_2 ?
 - Why do we need M in addition to N_a and N_b ?
 - Why does M disappear after M_2 ?
 - Actually, N_a and N_b are alternative names for M
 - N_a is Alice's name for M
 - N_b is Bob's name for M
 - N_a and N_b are a sort of "local" names

Otway-Rees



Otway-Rees protocol

Assumptions

$$\begin{array}{ll} A| \equiv A \stackrel{K_a}{\leftrightarrow} T & B| \equiv A \stackrel{K_b}{\leftrightarrow} T \\ T| \equiv A \stackrel{K_a}{\leftrightarrow} T & T| \equiv A \stackrel{K_b}{\leftrightarrow} T \\ T| \equiv A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B & \\ A| \equiv (T \Rightarrow A \stackrel{K}{\leftrightarrow} B) & B| \equiv (T \Rightarrow A \stackrel{K}{\leftrightarrow} B) \\ A| \equiv (T \Rightarrow B| \sim M) & B| \equiv (T \Rightarrow A| \sim M) \\ A| \equiv \#(N_a) & B| \equiv \#(N_b) \\ A| \equiv \#(M) & \end{array}$$

Goals

$$\begin{array}{l} A| \equiv A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \\ B| \equiv A \stackrel{K_{ab}}{\leftrightarrow} B \\ A| \equiv B| \equiv M \\ B| \equiv A| \sim M \end{array}$$

ASSUMPTIONS

About keys and secrets. Trivial

About freshness. Trivial

About trust.

- 1) T is an authority on Kab: trivial
- 2) A and B trust T to correctly relay what the other peer said (not necessarily in the same instance of the protocol).

Protocollo di Otway-Rees

After M2

$$T \models A \sim (N_a, M, A, B) \quad T \models B \sim (N_b, M, A, B)$$

After M3

$$B \models T \sim \left(N_b, A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, A \sim M \right)$$

Given Bob's belief in N_b freshness

$$B \models T \models \left(N_b, A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, A \sim M \right)$$

Given Bob's trust in T about keys and its capability to relay

$$B \models A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, \quad B \models A \sim M$$

After M4

$$A \models T \sim \left(N_a, A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, B \sim M \right)$$

Given Alice's belief in N_a

$$A \models T \models \left(N_a, A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, B \sim M \right)$$

Given Alice's trust in T about keys and its capability to relay and given Alice's belief in M freshness

$$A \models A \xleftrightarrow{K_{ab}} B, \quad A \models B \models M$$

Otway-Rees Protocol

- Nonces N_a and N_b are for freshness but also to link messages M1 and M2 to messages M3 and M4, respectively
 - Nonce N_a (N_b) is a reference to Alice (Bob) within M or, equivalently,
 - nonce N_a (N_b) is another name for Alice (Bob) in M
- In M1 (M2), encryption is not for secrecy but to indissolubly link Alice (Bob), N_a (N_b) and M together

Principle 4. Properties required to nonces must be clear. What it is fine to guarantee freshness might not be to guarantee an association between parts

Principles 5. The reason why encryption is used must be clear

Otway-Rees modified

- If nonces have to guarantee freshness only, then messages M1 and M2 could be modified as follows

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{M1. } A \rightarrow B: M, A, B, N_A, E_{K_A}(M, A, B) \\ \text{M2. } B \rightarrow T: M, A, B, N_A, E_{K_A}(M, A, B), N_B, E_{K_B}(M, A, B) \end{array}$$

- M1 and M3 (M2 and M4) are not linked anymore =>

The resulting protocol is subject to a man-in-the-middle attack

- An adversary may impersonate Bob (Alice) with respect to Alice (Bob)

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This attack requires that C performed an instance of the protocol with A in the past.
Notice that messages M3 and M4 are not linked to message M1 and M2 anymore.

Otway-Rees modified – the MITM attack

- The Attack assumptions
 - Carol (the adversary) has already carried out a protocol instance with Alice (M')
 - Carol holds an "old" ciphertext $E_{k_a}(M', A, C)$

Otway-Rees modified – The MITM attack

The Attack

- M1. $A \rightarrow B[C]:$ $M, A, B, N_a, E_{K_A}(M, A, B)$
 M2. $C \rightarrow T:$ $M', A, C, N_a, E_{K_A}(M', A, C), N_c, E_{K_C}(M', A, C)$
 M3. $T \rightarrow C:$ $M', E_{K_a}(N_a, K_{ac}), E_{K_c}(N_c, K_{ac})$
 M4. $[C]B \rightarrow A:$ $E_{K_a}(N_a, K_{ac})$

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A sends M1 to B but C intercepts it. In M2, C replays the old cyphertext to T. T generates a session key K_{ac} for A and C and returns it to C in M3. C forwards A the portion of M3 encrypted by K_A pretending to be B. Upon receiving this message, A believes to be able to communicate with B by means of key K_{ac} . So doing, C is able to impersonate B w.r.t. to A anytime (s)he likes.

Otway-Rees protocol: an improvement

- If we need to insert references to Alice and Bob in M3 and M4, then the protocol can be modified as follows

M1. $A \rightarrow B: A, B, N_a$

M2. $B \rightarrow T: A, B, N_a, N_b$

M3. $T \rightarrow B: E_{K_A}(N_a, \textcircled{A, B}, K_{ab}), E_{K_B}(N_b, \textcircled{A, B}, K_{ab})$

M4. $B \rightarrow A: E_{K_A}(N_a, \textcircled{A, B}, K_{ab})$

Principle 6. If an identifier is necessary to complete the meaning of a message, it is prudent to explicitly mention such an identifier in the message

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In the new version of the protocol, the previous attack is not feasible anymore because T would put «A, C» in message M3 so now C cannot forward it A in M4. On the other hand, C cannot violate the integrity of the message.

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SSL PROTOCOL (OLD VERSION)

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The protocol

Protocol objectives:

- establish a shared key K_{ab}
- mutual authentication

M1.	$A \rightarrow B: \{K_{ab}\}_{K_b}$
M2.	$B \rightarrow A: \{N_b\}_{K_{ab}}$
M3.	$A \rightarrow B: \{C_A, \{N_b\}_{K_a^{-1}}\}_{K_{ab}}$

M1: Bob sees key K_{ab}

M2: After receiving it, Bob says N_b

M3: After receiving it, Alice says she saw N_b

In the protocol there is no link between A and key K_{ab}

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INFORMAL REASONING. In M3 Bob sees N_b signed by Alice, so Bob gets convinced that N_b comes from Alice. As Bob transmitted N_b in M2 encrypted by K_{ab} , then Bob thinks that Alice holds K_{ab} : i.e., Alice has K_{ab} , decrypts M2, obtains N_b and thus signs N_b . This informal reasoning is wrong! The reason is that M3 only proves that Alice saw N_b . The protocol provides no evidence that Alice has seen K_{ab} as well. Consequences may be serious/dangerous. See the next attack.

Analysis

Assumptions

- Alice believes that K_{ab} is shared with Bob
- Alice believes that K_{ab} is fresh
- Alice believes that K_b is for communicating with Bob

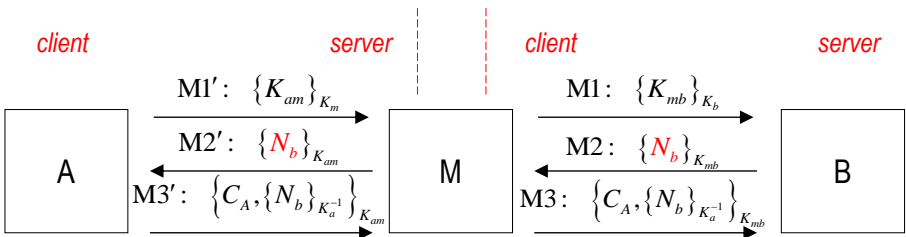
Idealized protocol

- After M1, B sees K_{ab}
- After M2, A sees N_b , A believes that
 1. B said N_b and K_{ab} ;
 2. B believes N_b because K_{ab} is fresh for Alice;
 3. B believes K_{ab} because K_{ab} is fresh for Alice.
- After M3, B believes A believes N_b .

However there is no proof for B to believe that Alice has seen K_{ab} .

The MiM attack

The adversary plays a MIM attack and impersonates A with respect to B



The adversary M starts an SSL session with Alice (M1'-M3') and Bob (M1-M3), playing the role of server and client, respectively. The crucial step is message M2. M forwards A the same nonce N_b it received from B. Such a nonce is digitally signed by A (message M3'). M forwards B such a digital signature in M3. It follows that M impersonates A w.r.t. to B.

A possible countermeasure

- The attack may be avoided by modifying M3 as follows

$$\mathbf{M3} \quad A \rightarrow B: \quad \{C_A, \{A, B, K_{ab}, N_b\}_{K_a^{-1}}\}_{K_{ab}}$$

after receiving N_b , Alice says that K_{ab} is a good key to communicate with Bob

- Important
 - In message M3, it's necessary to introduce identifiers A and B in addition to K_{ab} because, otherwise, the attack would be still possible by setting $K_{am} = K_{bm}$

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By digitally signing K_{ab} in M3, B has the proof that actually A saw K_{ab} . However, this is not sufficient. Actually, the digital signature in M3 must also involve identifiers A and B as well. K_{ab} only is not sufficient because an adversary could choose $K_{am} = K_{mb} = K$. By doing so, $M3 = M3' = \{C_A, \{K, Nb\}_{\text{priv}KA}\}_{K_{ab}}$. The previous attack now fails because M3' becomes: $M3' = \{C_A, \{A, M, K, Nb\}_{\text{priv}KA}\}_{K_{ab}}$. Mallet cannot forge it.

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OTHER ISSUES

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Sign encrypted data

Principle 7.

- If an entity signs an encrypted message, it is not possible to infer that such an entity knows the message contents
- In contrast, if an entity signs a message and then encrypts it, then it is possible to infer that the entity knows the message contents

Esempio: X.509

$$A \rightarrow B: A, \left\{ T_a, N_a, B, X_a, \{Y_a\}_{K_b} \right\}_{K_a^{-1}}$$

The message contains no proof that the sender (Alice) knows Y_a

Predictable nonces

Principle 8. A predictable quantity can be used as a nonce in a challenge-response protocol. In such a case, the nonce must be protected by a replay attack

Example: Alice receives a time stamp from a Time Server
(ex. Alice uses the time stamp to synchronize her clock)

- $M1 \quad A \rightarrow S \quad A, N_a$

$M2 \quad S \rightarrow A \quad \{T_s, N_a\}_{K_{as}}$
- N_a : predictable nonce
 - (M2): After receiving N_a , S said T_s

Ipotesi	Risultati
$A \equiv S \stackrel{K_{as}}{\leftrightarrow} A$	$A \equiv S \mid \sim T_s$
$A \equiv S \Rightarrow T_s$	$A \equiv S \mid \equiv T_s$
$A \equiv \#(N_a)$	$A \equiv T_s$

By definition, a nonce is a quantity that has never been used in a previous instance of the protocol. A nonce can be a timestamp, a counter or a random number. Timestamp and counters are predictable. Predictability may be exploited in replay attacks.
Consider the clock synchronization protocol. As N_a is predictable, a replay attack aimed at turn back the clock is possible.

Predictable nonces

An attack

At time T_s , M predicts the next value of N_a

$M1 \quad M \rightarrow S \quad A, N_a$

$M2 \quad S \rightarrow M \quad \{T_s, N_a\}_{K_{as}} \quad (S \text{ receives } M2 \text{ at time } T_s)$

At time $T'_s > T_s$, Alice initiates a protocol instance using N_a

$M1 \quad A \rightarrow S[M] \quad A, N_a$

$M2 \quad S[M] \rightarrow A \quad \{T_s, N_a\}_{K_{as}}$

Alice is led to believe that the current time is T_s and not T'_s

Since N_a is predictable then it must be protected

$M1 \quad A \rightarrow S \quad A, \{N_a\}_{K_{as}}$

$M2 \quad S \rightarrow A \quad \{T_s, \{N_a\}_{K_{as}}\}_{K_{as}}$

At a given time T_s , Adversary M predicts a future value for N_a and sends it to S pretending to be A . S returns M the N_a timestamped by T_a .

Later, a $T'_s > T_s$, A performs the protocol to synchronize its clock using N_a . M replies A by sending the message M it received at time T_s . It follows that A turns back its own clock at T_s .

A possible countermeasure consists in encrypting N_a . Such an encryption «randomizes» N_a so making the result unpredictable.

Nonce: timestamp

Principle 9. If freshness is guaranteed by time stamp, then the difference between the local clock and that of other machines must be largely smaller than the message validity. Furthermore, the clock synchronization mechanisms is part of the Trusted Computing Base (TCB)

Example

- Kerberos. If the server clock can be turned back, then authenticators can be reused
- Kerberos. If the server clock can be set ahead, then it is possible to generate post-dated authenticators

On coding messages

Principle 10. The contents of a message must allow us to determine: (i) the protocol the message belongs to, (ii) the execution instance of the protocol, (iii) the number of the message within the protocol

Example Needham-Schroeder

$M4$	$B \rightarrow A$	$E_{K_{ab}}(N_b)$	$N_b - 1$ distinguishes challenge from response
$M5$	$A \rightarrow B$	$E_{K_{ab}}(N_b - 1)$	

It would be more clear

$M4$	$B \rightarrow A$	$E_{K_{ab}}(\text{N-S Message 4}, N_b)$
$M5$	$A \rightarrow B$	$E_{K_{ab}}(\text{N-S Message 5}, N_b)$

On hash functions

For efficiency, we sign the hash of a message rather than the message itself

$$A \rightarrow B: \{X\}_{K_b}, \{h(X)\}_{K_a^{-1}}$$

- The message does not contain any proof that the signer Alice actually knows X
- However, the signer Alice expects that the receiver Bob behaves as if the sender Alice knew the message
- Therefore, unless the signer Alice is *unwary**, signing the hash is equivalent to sign the message

* Metaphore: a manager who signs without reading

BAN postulates for hash functions

$$\frac{P \models Q \sim h(X), \quad P \triangleleft X}{P \models Q \sim X}$$

The postulate can be generalized to composite messages

$$\frac{P \models Q \sim h(X_1, \dots, X_n), \quad P \triangleleft X_1, \dots, P \triangleleft X_n}{P \models Q \sim (X_1, \dots, X_n)}$$

Notice that P may receive X_i from different channels in different moments

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ON SECURE CHANNELS

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Esempio di una smart card

Secure and timely channels

- Let L be a secure and timely channel
 - Keyword **on**
- $$\frac{Q \text{ sees}_L X, Q \text{ believes } \prec_L P}{Q \text{ believe } P \text{ said } X}$$
- $$\frac{Q \text{ believes } P \text{ said}_L X, Q \text{ believes timely } (L)}{Q \text{ believe } P \text{ believes } X}$$
- Input channel, output channel