**Security Technology Tools II**

**ITM437 Information Security and Technology**

**Professor: Dr. Abbas Yousefi**

**By Odiscious Dozier**

**Trident University**

INTRODUCTION

BODY

Symmetric encryption is the first type of cryptographic techniques that is used to, securely, store and transmit data. Confidentiality is assured through the use of a secret key. This key combined with a mathematical algorithm converts data to an encrypted form which is unintelligible. The data can then be decrypted by applying the same key to a reversed version of the algorithm; thus, the resultant is the reconstitution of the original data. This algorithm is also known as a two-way algorithm (Slaviero, 2010).

Asymmetric encryption is also known as, public-key cryptography. This type of encryption is defined by a pair of secret keys that are used to encrypt, decrypt data and can be used interchangeably. This data can then be, securely, stored or transmitted over unsecured communication mediums like the internet (“What is asymmetric”, 2008).

One example of this type of encryption occurs when a user receives a public and private key pair from a certificate authority. In the instance that any other user chooses to send an encrypted message to the user, the public key can be obtained from a public directory. The message is then encrypted by the public key and the intended recipient has the message decrypted by the use of their private key (“What is asymmetric”, 2008).

DEFINITION OF ALGORITHMS

Skipjack is an algorithm that uses an 80-bit key and was designed to run on “tamper-proof” hardware (“Encryption And Its Importance To Device Networking”, n.d.). This algorithm is a classified symmetric key encryption algorithm that was developed by the National Security Agency (NSA). The intention of the NSA, in this regard, was to enable law enforcement to access secure voice and data communications that have been encrypted using Skipjack (“Safeguarding Networked Information”, 1994).

• Data Encryption Standard (DES) – uses a 56-bit key to encrypt the data. DES is now considered to be insecure for many applications. This is chiefly due to the 56-bit key size being too small; DES keys have been broken in less than 24 hours.

• Triple-DES – uses three successive DES operations to provide stronger encryption than DES. The algorithm is believed to be practically secure, although it is theoretically susceptible to some attacks. In recent years, Triple-DES has been superseded by the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES).

• Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) – also known as Rijndael, it can use 128, 192 or 256-bits to encrypt and decrypt data in blocks of 128- bits. As of 2004, there have been no successful attacks against AES.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF EACH ALGORITHM

EXAMPLES OF CHRIPTOGRAPHIC SYSTEMS THAT USE HYBRID TECHNOLOGIES

CONCLUSION

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