

Post-Quantum

Cryptography Conference

The PQC Landscape: Protocols and Standards



David Hook

VP Software Engineering at Keyfactor



KEYFACTOR

CRYPTO4A

SSL.com

ENTRUST

HID

October 28 - 30, 2025 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

PKI Consortium Inc. is registered as a 501(c)(6) non-profit entity ("business league") under Utah law (10462204-0140) | pkic.org

KEYFACTOR

KEYFACTOR

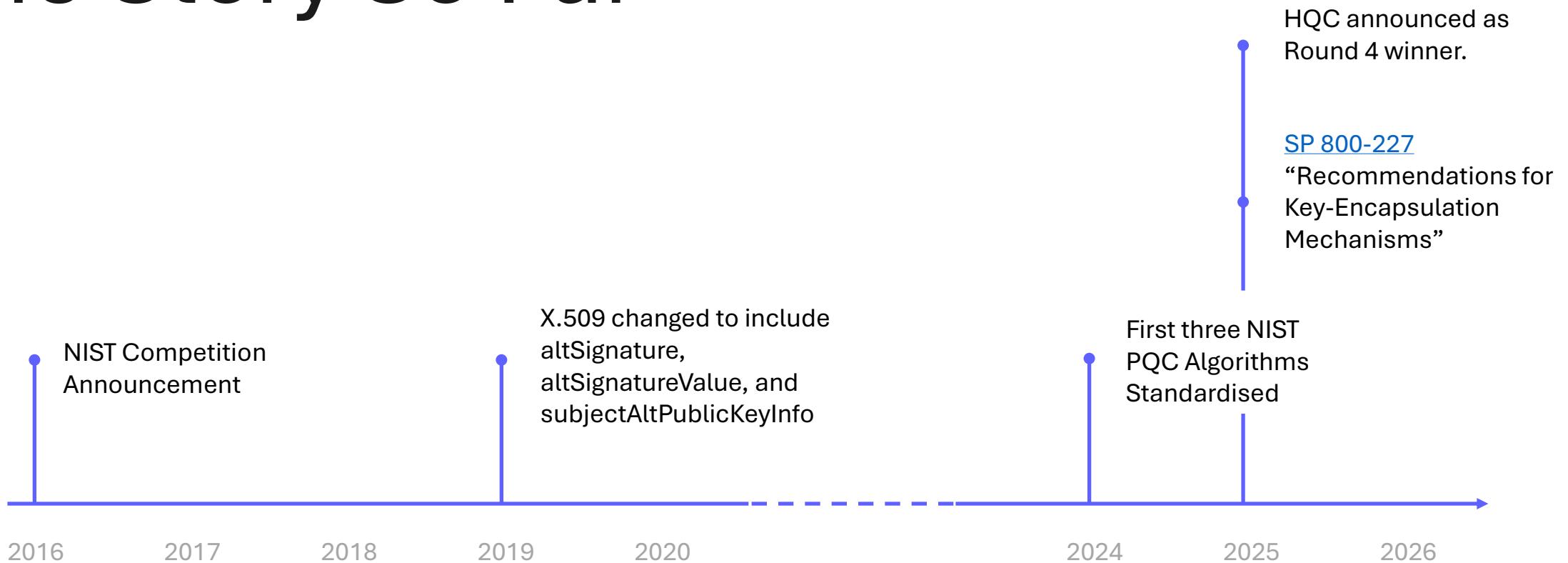
The PQC Landscape: protocols and standards.

David Hook

VP Software Engineering, Keyfactor



The Story So Far



Other Algorithms

- FN-DSA (Falcon) Initial Public Draft coming (FIPS PUB 206).
- HQC KEM continues to evolve.
- Still no clear “front runners” with the PQC signature process.
- FrodoKEM - [BSI TR-02102-1](#), ISO.
- Classic McEliece – IETF [draft-josefsson-mceliece](#), [BSI TR-02102-1](#), ISO.
- NTRU – IEEE 1636.1-2008, IETF [draft-fluhrer-cfrg-ntru](#) [Nippon Telecom](#)
- SNTRUPrime – IETF [draft-ietf-ssh-ntruprime-ssh](#)



KEYFACTOR

ML-KEM

- FIPS: NIST FIPS PUB 203
- IETF: [draft-ietf-lamps-kyber-certificates-11](https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-lamps-kyber-certificates-11)
- Key Encodings provide options with private keys

ML-KEM-512/768/1024-PublicKey ::= OCTET STRING (SIZE (800/1184/1568))

ML-KEM-512/768/1024-PrivateKey ::= CHOICE {
 seed [0] OCTET STRING (SIZE (64)),
 expandedKey OCTET STRING (SIZE (1632/2400/3168)),
 both SEQUENCE {
 seed OCTET STRING (SIZE (64)),
 expandedKey OCTET STRING (SIZE (1632/2400/3168))
 }
}

ML-DSA

- FIPS: NIST FIPS PUB 204
- IETF: [draft-ietf-lamps-dilithium-certificates](#)
- Key Encodings provide options with private keys

ML-DSA-44/65/87-PublicKey ::= OCTET STRING (SIZE (800/1952/2592))

ML-DSA-44/65/87-PrivateKey ::= CHOICE {
 seed [0] OCTET STRING (SIZE (32)),
 expandedKey OCTET STRING (SIZE (2560/4032/4896)),
 both SEQUENCE {
 seed OCTET STRING (SIZE (32)),
 expandedKey OCTET STRING (SIZE (2560/4032/4896))
 }
}

SLH-DSA

- FIPS: NIST FIPS PUB 205
- IETF: [draft-ietf-lamps-x509-slhdsa](#)
- Also NIST: SP 800-230 - Alternative Parameter Sets.
- Key Encodings simple octet strings in both cases.

SLH-DSA-???-PublicKey ::= OCTET STRING (SIZE (32...64))

SLH-???-PrivateKey ::= OCTET STRING (SIZE (64...128))

Certification Requests



ML-DSA and SLH-DSA

- PKCS#10
- CRMF.



ML-KEM

- CRMF only (POP requires use of certEncr)
- Proposals for Dual Key PKCS10, even Dual Usage PKCS10

Chimera Certificates

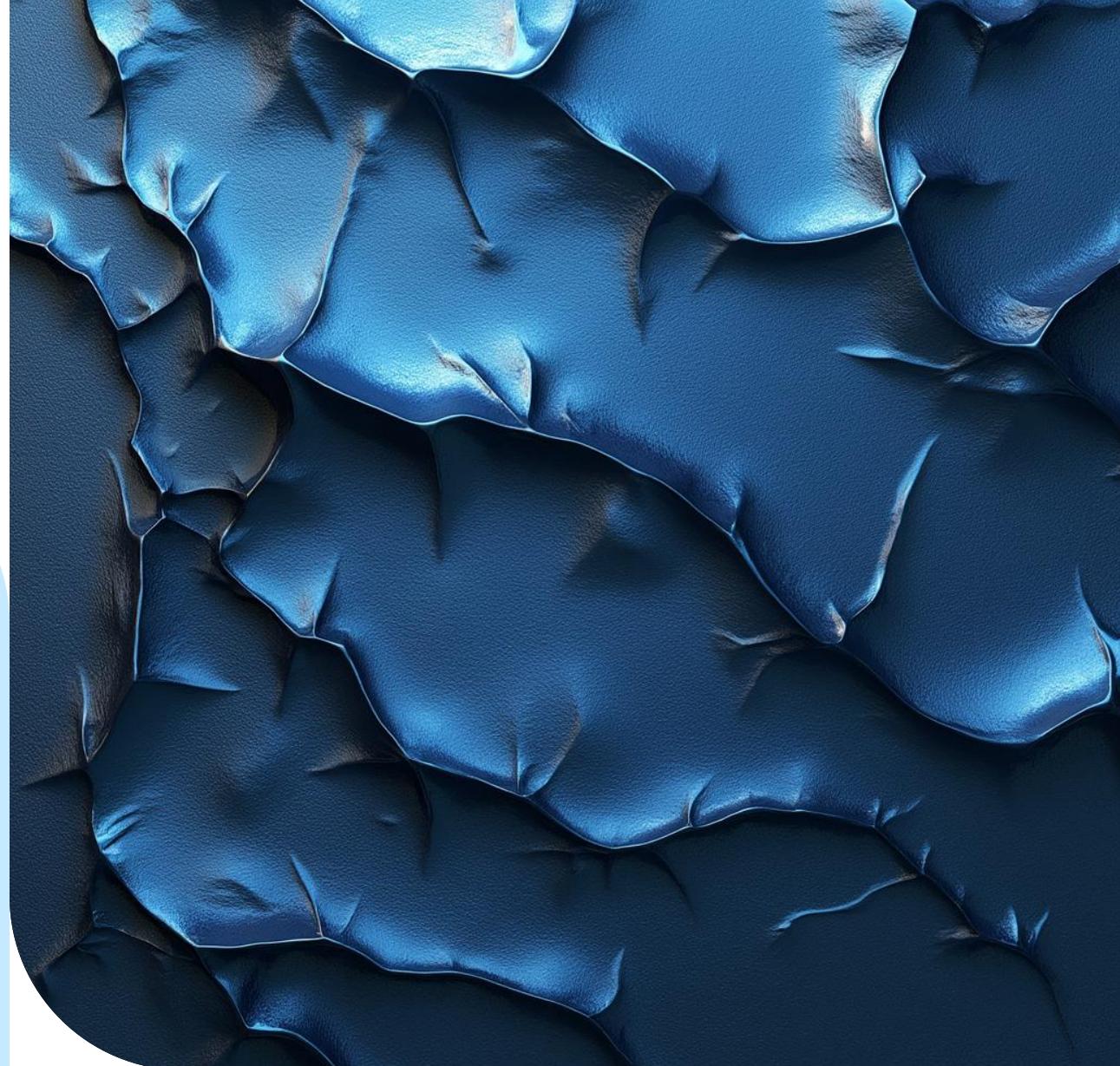
- Standardized in [X.509 2019](#).
- Allows for 2 keys and 2 signatures in a certificate.
- Early IPR issues held up usage.
- Second key and signature appear in extension block.
- Requires “preTBSCertificate” calculation for dealing second signature.
- Proposal for CSR message currently being discussed in X9.



KEYFACTOR

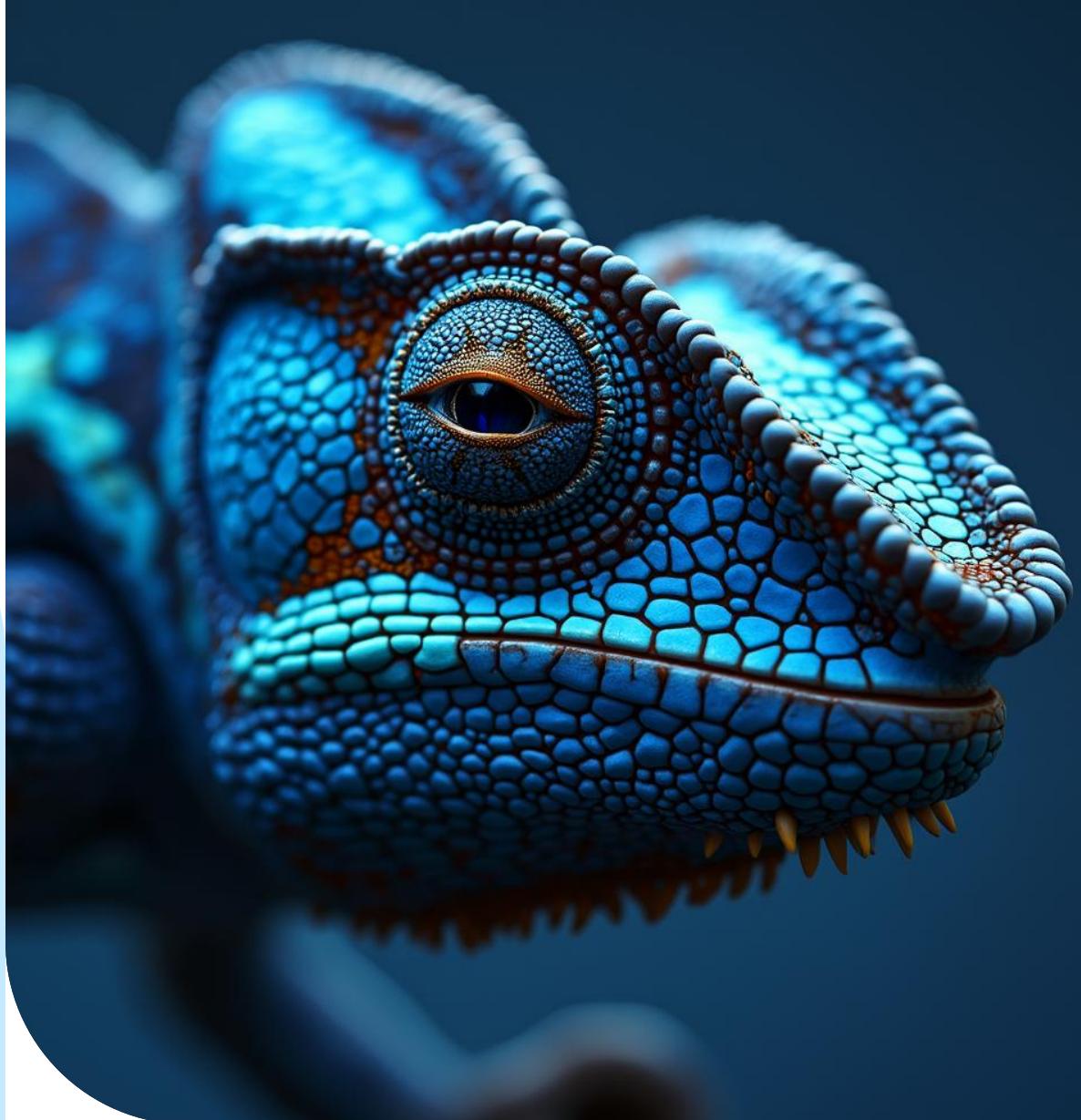
Composite Certificates

- IETF: [draft-ietf-lamps-pq-composite-sigs](#)
- Dual Signature format using ML-DSA and an associated classical algorithm.
- Requires evaluation of both signatures.
- Not so much a migration thing as a “hedge your bets” thing.
- Driven by IETF, now in final call.



Chameleon Certificates

- IETF: [draft-bonnell-lamps-chameleon-certs](#)
- Allows nesting of a template for a second certificate within the extension block of a carrier certificate.
- Other than processing of extension, no extra certificate processing required.
- Can be used for forward migration, with the nested certificate replacing the carrier one.



Dual Usage Certificates

- Another approach which provides a signing and KEM key in a single certificate.
- Main certificate key is a signing key.
- KEM key associated with holder of the signing key provided in an extension.
- Allows for a PKCS#10 CSR to be used, with a certEncr style response to allow POP for both signing and KEM key.





The PQC Landscape: protocols and standards.

Unsigned X.509 Certificates

- Written up in [draft-ietf-lamps-x509-alg-none](#)
- For trust anchors – theory is they're self-signed, signature usually ignored
- Deals with the increase in signature size nicely, by leaving it out
- Now in last call, so likely coming to a trust store near you soon.

CMS

KEYFACTOR

[RFC 9629](#)

Using Key Encapsulation Mechanism (KEM)
Algorithms in the Cryptographic Message Syntax
(CMS)

[draft-ietf-lamps-cms-ml-dsa](#)

Use of the ML-DSA Signature Algorithm in the
Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)

[RFC 9814:](#)

Use of the SLH-DSA Signature Algorithm in the
Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)



TLS

KEYFACTOR

ML-KEM

[draft-ietf-tls-mlkem](#) ML-KEM Post-Quantum Key Agreement for TLS 1.3

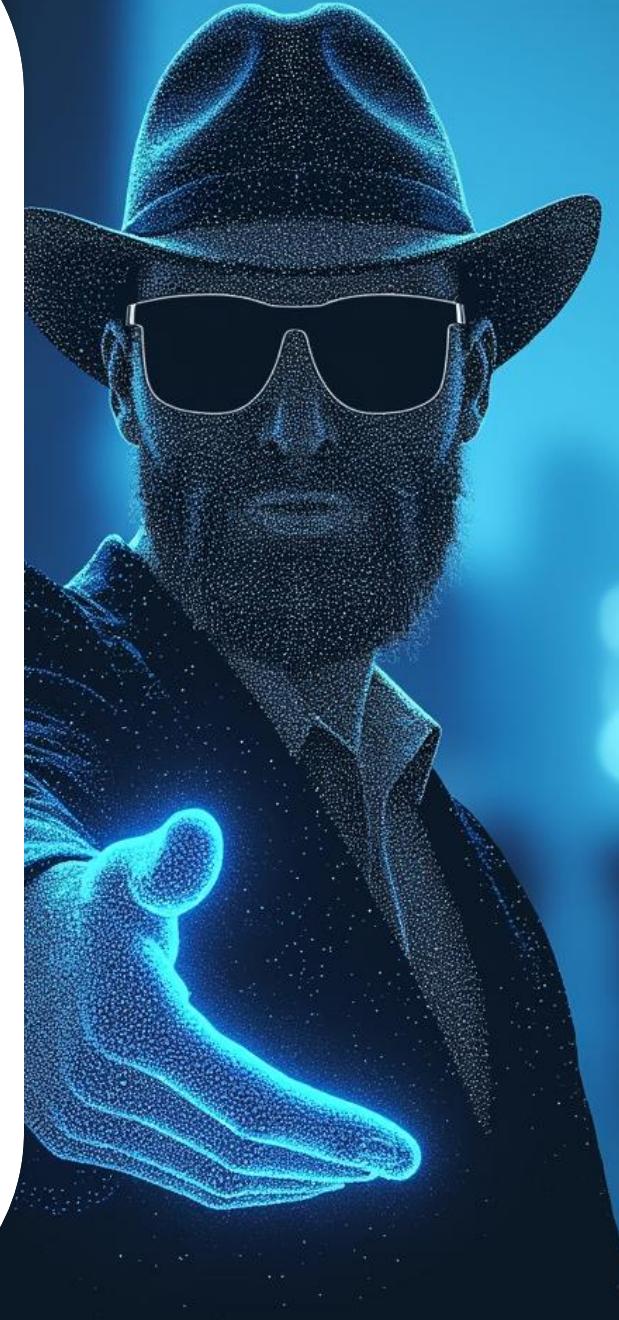
[draft-ietf-tls-ecdhe-mlkem](#) Post-quantum hybrid ECDHE-MLKEM Key Agreement for TLSv1.3

ML-DSA

[draft-ietf-tls-mldsa](#) Use of ML-DSA in TLS 1.3

SLH-DSA

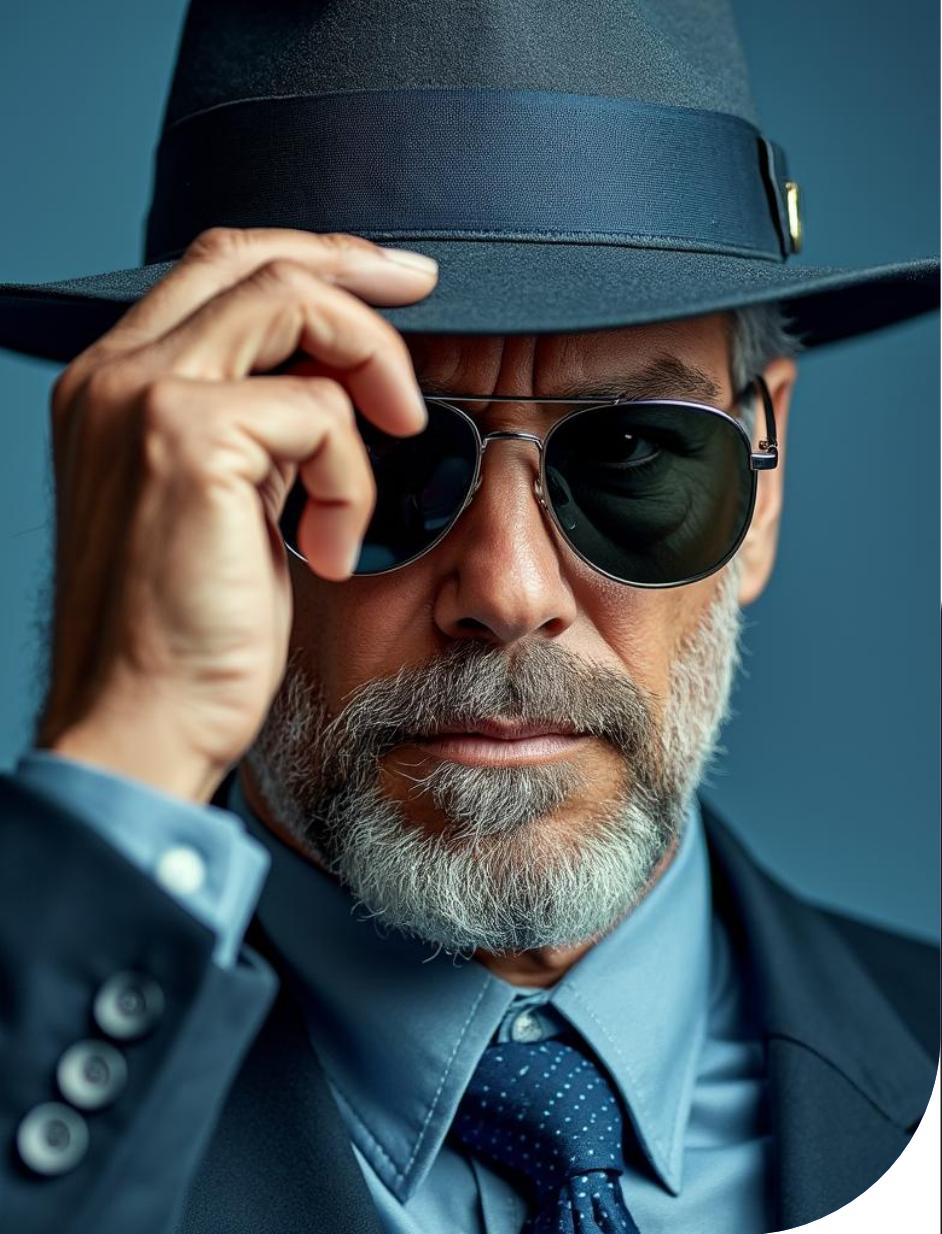
[draft-reddy-tls-slhdsa](#) Use of SLH-DSA in TLS 1.3



General references

- [draft-ietf-pquip-pqc-engineers](#) Post-Quantum Cryptography for Engineers
- [RFC 9794](#): Terminology for Post-Quantum Traditional Hybrid Schemes
- [PQC Almanac For C# and Java](#)
- [ACSC: Planning for PQC](#)
- [BSI: Quantum-Safe Cryptography](#)
- [ETSI: Quantum Safe Cryptography](#)
- [NIST: Post-Quantum Cryptography](#)





Thanks for Listening

Any Questions?

KEYFACTOR