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Edwards-Curve Digital Security Algorithm (EdDSA) for DNSSEC

Abstract

This document describes how to specify Edwards-curve Digital Security Algorithm (EdDSA) keys and signatures in DNS Security (DNSSEC). It uses EdDSA with the choice of two curves: Ed25519 and Ed448.

Status of This Memo

This is an Internet Standards Track document.

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1. Introduction

DNSSEC, which is broadly defined in [RFC4033], [RFC4034], and [RFC4035], uses cryptographic keys and digital signatures to provide authentication of DNS data. Currently, the most popular signature algorithm in use is RSA. GOST [RFC5933] and NIST-specified elliptic curve cryptography [RFC6605] are also standardized.

[RFC8032] describes the elliptic curve signature system Edwards-curve Digital Signature Algorithm (EdDSA) and recommends two curves, Ed25519 and Ed448.

This document defines the use of DNSSEC's DS, DNSKEY, and RRSIG resource records (RRs) with a new signing algorithm, EdDSA, using a choice of two curves: Ed25519 and Ed448.

2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

3. DNSKEY Resource Records

An Ed25519 public key consists of a 32-octet value, which is encoded into the Public Key field of a DNSKEY resource record as a simple bit string. The generation of a public key is defined in [Section 5.1.5 of \[RFC8032\]](#).

An Ed448 public key consists of a 57-octet value, which is encoded into the Public Key field of a DNSKEY resource record as a simple bit string. The generation of a public key is defined in [Section 5.2.5 of \[RFC8032\]](#).

4. RRSIG Resource Records

An Ed25519 signature consists of a 64-octet value, which is encoded into the Signature field of an RRSIG resource record as a simple bit string. The Ed25519 signature algorithm and verification of the Ed25519 signature are described in [Sections 5.1.6 and 5.1.7 of \[RFC8032\]](#), respectively.

An Ed448 signature consists of a 114-octet value, which is encoded into the Signature field of an RRSIG resource record as a simple bit string. The Ed448 signature algorithm and verification of the Ed448 signature are described in [Sections 5.2.6 and 5.2.7 of \[RFC8032\]](#), respectively.

5. Algorithm Number for DS, DNSKEY, and RRSIG Resource Records

The algorithm number associated with the use of Ed25519 in DS, DNSKEY, and RRSIG resource records is 15. The algorithm number associated with the use of Ed448 in DS, DNSKEY, and RRSIG resource records is 16. This registration is fully defined in the IANA Considerations section.

6. Examples

6.1. Ed25519 Examples

Private-key-format: v1.2

Algorithm: 15 (ED25519)

PrivateKey: ODIyNjAzODQ2MjgwODAxMjI2NDUxOTAYMDQxNDIyNjI=

example.com. 3600 IN DNSKEY 257 3 15 (
102Woi0iS8Aa25FQkUd9RMzZHJpBoRQwAQEX1SxZJA4=)

example.com. 3600 IN DS 3613 15 2 (
3aa5ab37efce57f737fc1627013fee07bdf241bd10f3b1964ab55c78e79
a304b)

example.com. 3600 IN MX 10 mail.example.com.

example.com. 3600 IN RRSIG MX 3 3600 (
1440021600 1438207200 3613 example.com. (
Edk+IB9KNNWg0HAjm7FazXyrd5m3Rk8zNZbvNpAcM+eysqcUOMIjWoevFkj
H5GaMWeG96GUVZu6ECKOQmemHDg==)

```
Private-key-format: v1.2
Algorithm: 15 (ED25519)
PrivateKey: DSSF3o0s0f+ElWzj9E/Osxw8hLpk55chkmx0LYN5WiY=

example.com. 3600 IN DNSKEY 257 3 15 (
    zPnZ/QwEe7S8C5SPz2OfS5RR40ATk2/rYnE9xHIEijs= )

example.com. 3600 IN DS 35217 15 2 (
    401781b934e392de492ec77ae2e15d70f6575a1c0bc59c5275c04ebe80c
    6614c )

example.com. 3600 IN MX 10 mail.example.com.

example.com. 3600 IN RRSIG MX 3 3600 (
    1440021600 1438207200 35217 example.com. (
    5LL2obmzdqjWI+Xto5eP5adXt/T5tMhasWvwcyW4L3SzfcRawOle9bodhC+
    oip9ayUGjY9T/rL4rN3bOuESGDA== )
```

6.2. Ed448 Examples

```
Private-key-format: v1.2
Algorithm: 16 (ED448)
PrivateKey: xZ+5Cgm463xugtkY5B0Jx6erFTXpl3rYegst0qRtNsOYnaVpMx0Z/c5EiA9x
    8wWbDDct/U3FhYWA

example.com. 3600 IN DNSKEY 257 3 16 (
    3kgROaDjrh0H2iuixWBrc8g2EpBBLCDgZHmn+G2MpTPhpj/OiBVHHSfPodx
    1FYYUcJKm1MDpJtIA )

example.com. 3600 IN DS 9713 16 2 (
    6ccf18d5bc5d7fc2fceb1d59d17321402f2aa8d368048db93dd811f5cb2
    b19c7 )

example.com. 3600 IN MX 10 mail.example.com.

example.com. 3600 IN RRSIG MX 3 3600 (
    1440021600 1438207200 9713 example.com. (
    Nmc0rgGKpr3GKYXcB1JmqgS4NYwhmechvJTqVzt3jR+Qy/1SLFoIk1L+9e3
    9GPL+5tVzDPN3f9kAwiu8KCuPPjtl227ayaCZtRKZuJax7n9NuYlZJIusX0
    SOIOKBGzG+yWYtz1/jjbzl5GGkWvREUCUA )
```

```

Private-key-format: v1.2
Algorithm: 16 (ED448)
PrivateKey: WEyKD3ht3MHkU8iH4uVOLz8JLwtRBSqiBoM6fF72+Mrp/u5gjxuB1DV6NnPO
          2BlZdz4hdSTkOdOA

example.com. 3600 IN DNSKEY 257 3 16 (
          kkreGWoccSDmUBGAe7+zsbG6ZAFQp+syPmYUurBRQc3tDjeMCJcVMRDmgcN
          Lp5HlHAMyl2VoISsa )

example.com. 3600 IN DS 38353 16 2 (
          645ff078b3568f5852b70cb60e8e696cc77b75bfaaffc118cf79cbdalba
          28af4 )

example.com. 3600 IN MX 10 mail.example.com.

example.com. 3600 IN RRSIG MX 3 3600 (
          1440021600 1438207200 38353 example.com. (
          +JjANio/LIzp7osmMYE5XD3H/YES8kXs5Vb9H8MjPS8OAGZMD37+LsCIcjg
          5ivt0d4Om/UaqETEAsJjaYe56CEQP5lhRWuD2ivBqE0zfwJTyp4WqvpULbp
          vauksvvv/WNEFxzEYQEIm9+xDlXj4pMAMA )

```

7. IANA Considerations

This document updates the IANA registry "Domain Name System Security (DNSSEC) Algorithm Numbers". The following entries have been added to the registry:

Number	15	16
Description	Ed25519	Ed448
Mnemonic	ED25519	ED448
Zone Signing	Y	Y
Trans. Sec.	*	*
Reference	RFC 8080	RFC 8080

- * There has been no determination of standardization of the use of this algorithm with Transaction Security.

8. Security Considerations

The security considerations of [\[RFC8032\]](#) and [\[RFC7748\]](#) are inherited in the usage of Ed25519 and Ed448 in DNSSEC.

Ed25519 is intended to operate at around the 128-bit security level and Ed448 at around the 224-bit security level. A sufficiently large quantum computer would be able to break both. Reasonable projections of the abilities of classical computers conclude that Ed25519 is

perfectly safe. Ed448 is provided for those applications with relaxed performance requirements and where there is a desire to hedge against analytical attacks on elliptic curves.

These assessments could, of course, change in the future if new attacks that work better than the ones known today are found.

A private key used for a DNSSEC zone MUST NOT be used for any other purpose than for that zone. Otherwise, cross-protocol or cross-application attacks are possible.

9. References

9.1. Normative References

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