Trick or Tweak

On the (In)security of OTR's Tweaks

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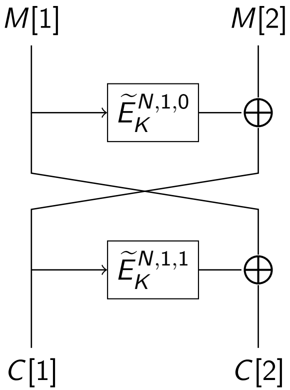
Offset Two Rounds (OTR)

- CAESAR submission by K. Minematsu (Eurocrypt '14)
- Rate-1 AE
- Tweakable blockcipher based
- Inverse-free version of OCB (only needs E, not E^{-1})
- Two rounds Feistel construction
- Defined for any block size n.



Tweakable Blockcipher (TBC) [LRW02]

Add a public input to a blockcipher – the tweak – to add variability.

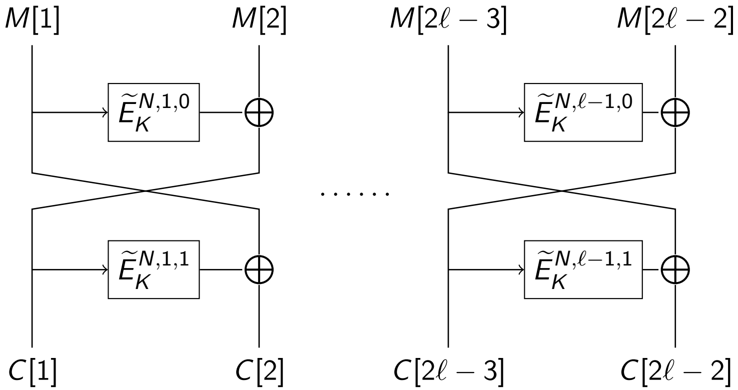
Each tweak $T \in \mathcal{T}$ (the tweak space) yields an independent pseudo-random permutation.

Tweakable Blockcipher (a.k.a tweakable PRP)

The $T \in \mathcal{T}$ indexed permutation family $\widetilde{E}_K(T,.)$ is indistinguishable from a random permutation family $\pi(T,.)$

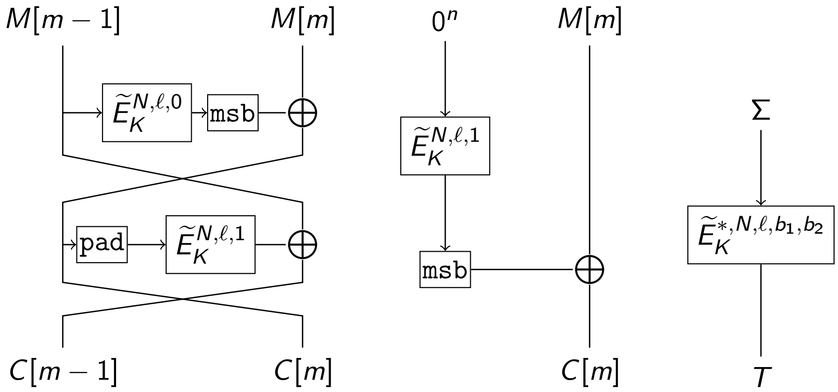
$$\mathbb{P}[K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K} : \mathcal{A}^{\widetilde{E}_K(.,.)} \Rightarrow 1] - \mathbb{P}[\widetilde{\pi} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathsf{Perm}(\mathcal{T}, n) : \mathcal{A}^{\widetilde{\pi}(.,.)} \Rightarrow 1] \leq \operatorname{negl}(\lambda)$$

OTR Encryption (1/2)



OTR Encryption (2/2)

if m is even — if m is odd — Tag



$$\Sigma = M[2] \oplus \ldots \oplus M[m-2] \oplus Z \oplus \underline{C[m]}$$

$$\Sigma = M[2] \oplus \ldots \oplus M[m-1] \oplus \underline{M[m]}$$

OTR's security

Theorem (Theorem 3 of [Min14])

If $\widetilde{E}$ is a tweakable PRP, OTR is CPA-secure (confidentiality) and INT-CTXT-secure (unforgeability).

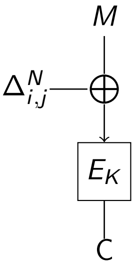
Instantiating the TBC

Remark

We are working in $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ represented as $\mathbb{F}_2[X]/(P(X))$ with P is a degree n primitive polynomial in $\mathbb{F}_2$.

- Use the XE construction: $\widetilde{E}_K^{N,i,j}(M) = E_K(M + \Delta_{i,j}^N)$
- In [Rog04]: $\Delta_{i,j}^N = X^i(X+1)^j\delta$ with $\delta = E_K(N)$

$$\Delta_{i+1,j}^N = X \cdot \Delta_{i,j}^N$$
$$\Delta_{i,j+1}^N = (X+1) \cdot \Delta_{i,j}^N$$



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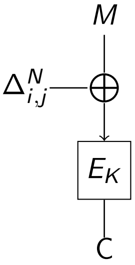
In OTRv1-v2 [Min14], for efficiency, an other masking scheme is used:

$$\Delta^N_{i,b} = (X^{i+1} + b)\delta$$
$$\Delta^{*,N}_{\ell,b_1,b_2} = [(X+1)X^{\ell+1} + X \cdot b_1 + b_1 + b_2]\delta$$

$$\Delta^N_{i+1,0} = X \cdot \Delta^N_{i,0}$$
$$\Delta^N_{i,1} = \Delta^N_{i,0} + \delta$$



The flaw

Lemma (Lemma 1 of [Min14])

The TBC is indistinguishable from a tweakable PRP.

The proof of this lemma relies on the following claim

Claim

$$\text{Let } \mathcal{S}_1(\delta) = \left\{X^{i+1}\delta, (X^{i+1}+1)\delta, \right\} \cup \left\{(X^{i+2}+X^{i+1}+b_1X+b_2)\delta\right\}_{i=1,b_1\in\{0,1\},b_2\in\{0,1\}}$$

The elements of $\mathcal{S}_1(\delta)$ are pairwise different.

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Our attack

This is not true in general!

The trick

- In [Rog04], bound i and j, so that $i + \alpha j$ are all different, with $\alpha = \log_X(X+1)$
  $\Rightarrow \{X^i(X+1)^j\}$ are pairwise distinct.

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- For more than half of $n \leq 10000$, there is an irreducible trinomial P.

For actual block sizes ($n = 64, 128$)?

- If $8|n$, $\mathbb{F}_{2^n} = \mathbb{F}_2[X]/(P(X))$ with P with at least 5 non-zero coefficient ($P(X) = X^n + X^{j_1} + X^{j_2} + X^{j_3} + 1$).
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- For SW/HW efficiency, we usually choose P such that its non-zero coefficients are close to each other, preferably in the least significant bytes.

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- For $n = 64$ with the usual P, we have a collision of the type $X^i = X^{j+1} + X^j + X + 1$:

$$X^{64} = X^4 + X^3 + X + 1$$

Consequences

Problem

There is a flaw in the proof of OTR, even for practical parameters.

Does the confidentiality of OTR break?
Does the unforgeability of OTR break?

Typology of collisions

$$\left\{X^{i+1}, X^{i+1}+1\right\}_{1 \leq i \leq q} \cup \left\{X^{i+2}+X^{i+1}+b_1X+b_2\right\}_{1 \leq i \leq q, (b_1,b_2) \in \{0,1\}^2}$$

There are three types of collision among the tweaks' polynomials:

$$X^i = X^j + 1 \tag{1}$$

$$X^i = X^{j+1} + X^j + r(X) \tag{2}$$

$$X^{i+1} + X^i = X^{j+1} + X^j + r(X) \tag{3}$$

with $r(X) \in \{0, 1, X, X+1\}$.

Attacks

Out attack

Type 1 ($X^i = X^j + 1$)

Break confidentiality *and* unforgeability.

Type 2 ($X^i = X^{j+1} + X^j + r(X)$)

Break confidentiality if $i < j$. Break unforgeability o/w.

Type 3 ($X^{i+1} + X^i = X^{j+1} + X^j + r(X)$)

Break unforgeability.

Idea: use the collision to have relations between block cipher's inputs and create collisions on the outputs.
Only *one* query to the encryption oracle, with a message of $\max(i, j)$ blocks.
For $n = 64$: $1kB$ message.

$n = 128$ in practice

Usually, for $n = 128$, we choose

$$P(X) = X^{128} + X^7 + X^2 + X + 1.$$

There is no trivial collision.

Remark

This is not true for all irreducible P of degree 128.
Ex: $P(X) = X^{128} + X^{127} + X^{61} + X^{60} + 1$

Can we find a collision among tweaks polynomial?

In search for lost collision

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- Generate, sort and match tweak polynomials (Embarrassingly parallelizable).
- Problem: requires $O(n2^n)$ memory and $O(n2^n)$ time ...

In search for lost collision

We used time/memory tradeoffs to search for any collision with $i, j < 2^{45}$.

Theorem

There is no collision among the tweaks polynomials for $i, j < 2^{45}$ when $F_{2^{128}}$ is defined as $F_2[X]/(X^{128} + X^7 + X^2 + X + 1)$.

The exhaustive search took 15 CPU-years using 3TB of RAM.

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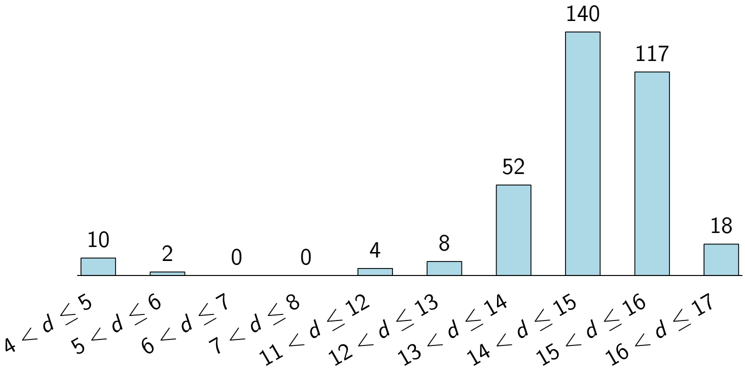
Question

What about $2^{45} \leq i, j$?

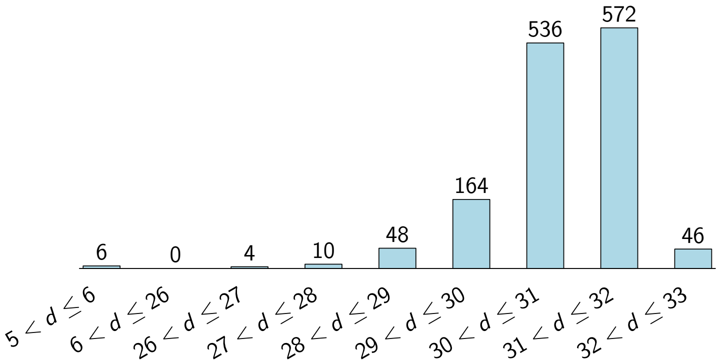
Probable collision before the birthday bound

- If tweak polynomials behaved like random polynomials, we should have a collision just before the birthday bound.
- For $n = 32, 64$, we enumerated the irreducible polynomials over $\mathbb{F}_2$ of degree n and search for the lowest degree colliding polynomials.

First collision for $n = 32$



First collision for $n = 64$



Conjecture for $n = 128$

Conjecture

There is no collision among the tweaks polynomials for $i, j < 2^{60}$ when $F_{2^{128}}$ is defined as $F_2[X]/(X^{128} + X^7 + X^2 + X + 1)$.

Conclusion

- OTRv2 is insecure for many block sizes.
- OTRv2 is secure for $n = 128$ when the message length is limited to 2^{45} blocks.
- OTRv2 is probably secure for $n = 128$ almost up to the birthday bound.
- OTRv3 fixes the issue (using masks from [Rog04]).

Thank you!

Paper: ia.cr/2016/234