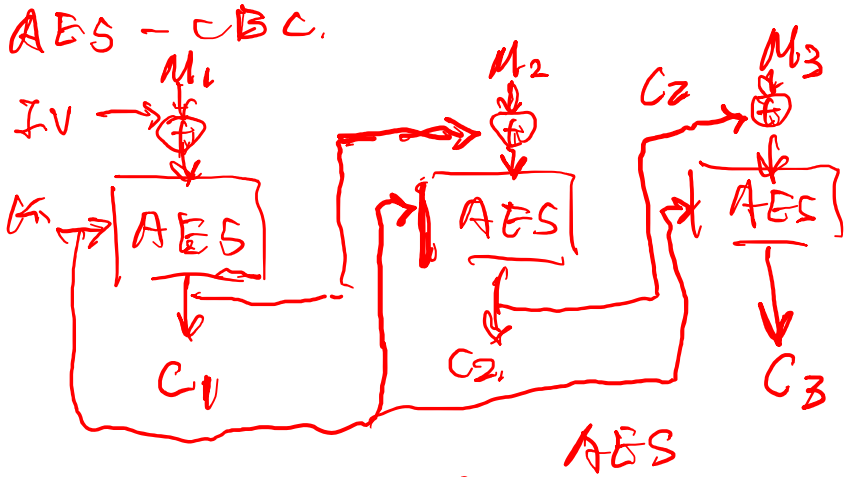
MAC-then-Encrypt or Encrypt-then-MAC?

- Method 1: Encrypt-then-MAC
  - First compute Enc(K_1, M)
  - Then MAC the ciphertext: MAC(K_2, Enc(K_1, M))
- Method 2: MAC-then-encrypt
  - First compute MAC(K_2, M)
  - Then encrypt the message and the MAC together: Enc(k_1, M || MAC(K_2, M))
- Which is better?
  - In theory, both are secure if applied properly
  - MAC-then-encrypt has a flaw: You don't know if tampering has occurred until after decrypting
    - Attacker can supply arbitrary tampered input, and you always have to decrypt it
    - Passing attacker-chosen input through the decryption function can cause side-channel leaks
- **Always use encrypt-then-MAC** because it's more robust to mistakes

TLS 1.0 "Lucky 13" Attack

- TLS: A protocol for sending encrypted and authenticated messages over the Internet
- TLS 1.0 uses MAC-then-encrypt; Enc(k_1, M || MAC(k_2, M))
  - The encryption algorithm is AES-CBC
- The Lucky 13 attack abuses MAC-then-encrypt to read encrypted messages
  - Guess a byte of plaintext and change the ciphertext accordingly
  - The MAC will error, but the time it takes to error is different depending on if the guess is correct
  - Attacker measures how long it takes to error in order to learn information about plaintext
  - TLS will send the message again if the MAC errors, so the attacker can guess repeatedly
- Takeaways
  - Side channel attack: The algorithm is proved secure, but poor implementation made it vulnerable
  - Always encrypt-then-MAC

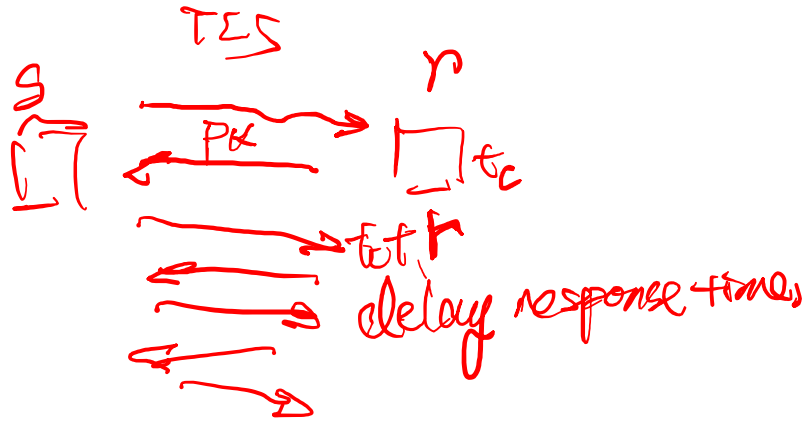


No timing attack

Defense:

(1) fixed comparison time

(2) random comparison time



Authenticated Encryption: Summary

- Authenticated encryption: A scheme that simultaneously guarantees confidentiality and integrity (and authenticity) on a message
- Approach: Combine schemes that provide confidentiality with schemes that provide integrity and authenticity
  - MAC-then-encrypt: Enc(K_1, M || MAC(K_2, M))
  - Encrypt-then-MAC: MAC(K_2, Enc(K_1, M))
  - Always use Encrypt-then-MAC because it's more robust to mistakes