

Using Collision resistant hash function to build H-MACs (Theory)

HMAC or Hash-Based Message Authentication code is the industry standard since CBC-MAC is considered to be very slow. We will discuss how to create it using the already available api's in our crypto library.

Sketches/Ideas:

HMAC using hashing

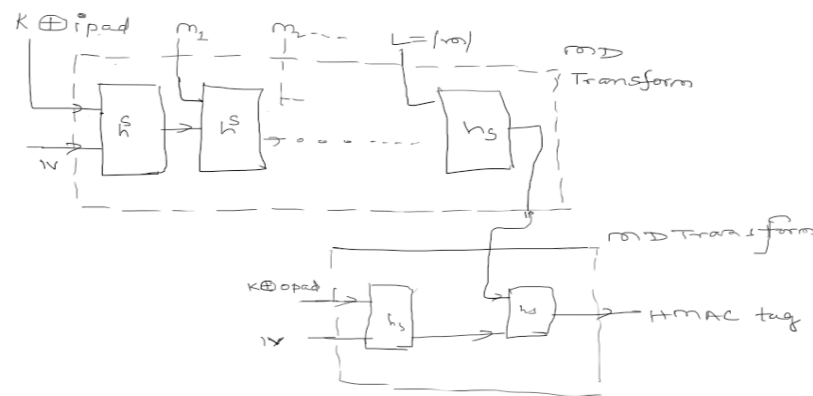
HMAC

$(Gen, h) \rightarrow$ Fixed length hash function

$(Gen, H) \rightarrow$ Applying MD Transform to Hash function

Constants: IV , $opad$, $ipad$

HMAC tag for $m = H_{IV}^s((K \oplus opad) || (H_{IV}^s(K \oplus ipad) || m))$



Construction:

CONSTRUCTION 4.15 HMAC.

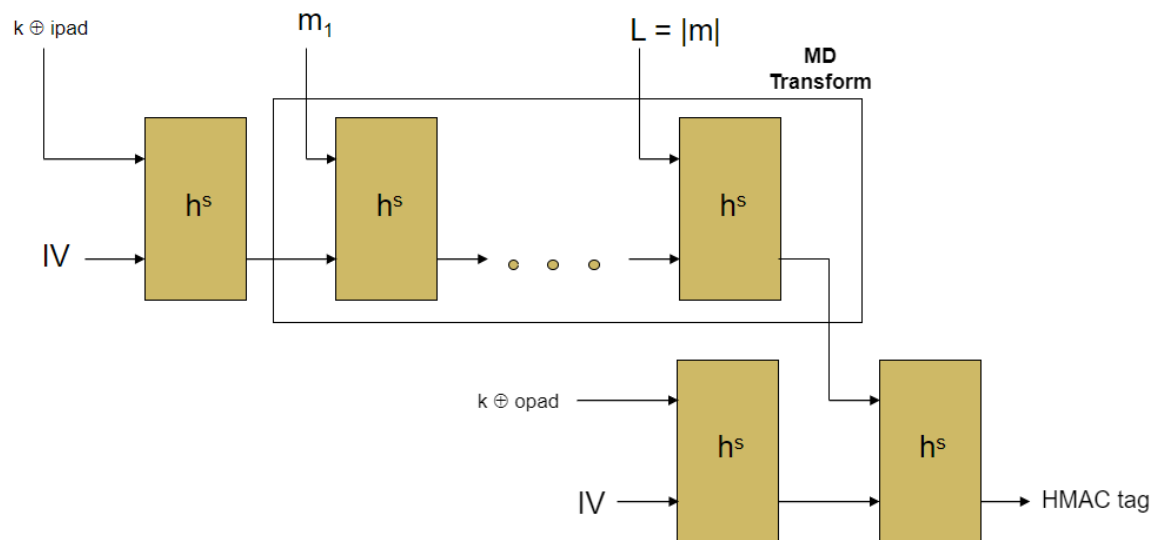
The HMAC construction is as follows:

- $Gen(1^n)$: upon input 1^n , run the key-generation for the hash function obtaining s , and choose $k \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$.
- $Mac_k(m)$: upon input (s, k) and $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$, compute

$$HMAC_k^s(x) = H_{IV}^s(k \oplus opad || H_{IV}^s(k \oplus ipad || x))$$

and output the result.

- $Vrfy_k(m, t)$: output 1 if and only if $t = Mac_k(m)$.



Constructing HMAC is relatively easy.

Firstly we have two binary strings `ipad` and `opad` equal to `0x36H` and `0x5cH`. Our HMAC takes 3 inputs `k`, `iv`, message. `k` is the key, `iv` is the initialization vector and message is our message on which we will apply HMAC to find the tag.

Here we will extrapolate our `ipad` and `opad` strings by repeating their sequences such that their length is equal to the key size.

The initial hash will be calculated using the `iv` and `k` xored with `ipad`. Lets call this `h1`. We will also calculate the same with `k` xored with `opad` and then hash using `iv` and lets call it `h2`.

My implementation uses the merkle damgard api in our `crypto` library to abstract and simplify some of our working. We will feed `h1` and the message to merkle damgard. The result will then go with the calculated hash `h2` in the last stage. This will give us our final hash, which will be our message authentication code tag.

We can then simply use the verification algorithm at the receiver end to verify our generated hash.