

A Comprehensive Study of the Signal Handshake Protocol: Bundled Authenticated Key Exchange

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The Signal protocol

The Signal protocol powers messaging for billions of users:

- Signal app
- WhatsApp
- Google RCS
- Facebook Messenger

Relies on **handshake protocol** to set up **secure conversations**:

- X3DH (2016 – classically secure)
- PQXDH (2023 – HNDL secure)
- Fully Post-Quantum proposals: Bre+22; Col+24; Has+22

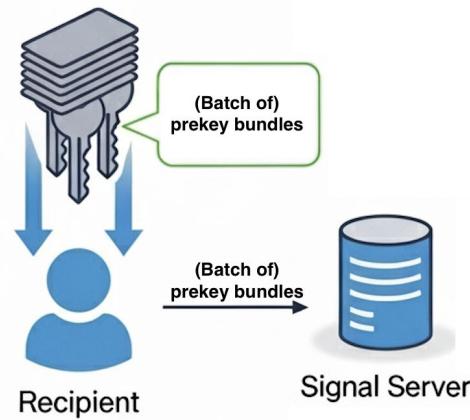
Choosing a fully PQ protocol requires comparing proposals.

Analyses use **ad-hoc models** tailored to individual protocols, making **comparisons difficult**.



Prekey Bundles: where tailored models fall short

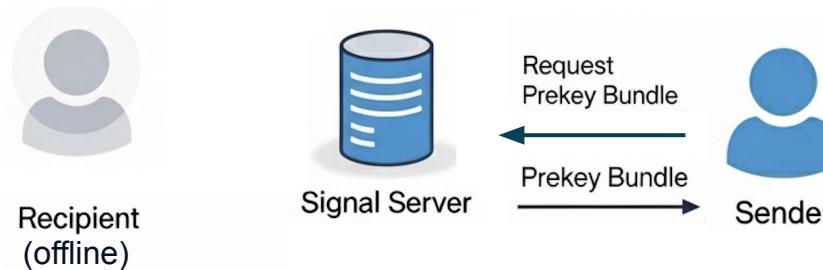
- Distinct component of Signal handshake protocols
- Users upload (batches of) key material onto the server





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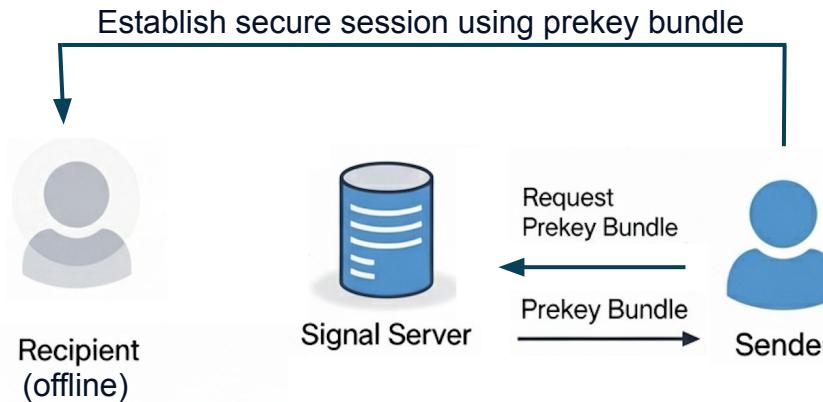
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- Senders can establish communication even when recipients are offline.





Prekey Bundles: where tailored models fall short

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Prekey Bundles: where tailored models fall short

Existing analyses of Signal handshake protocols (ad-hoc tailored models):

- Treat prekey bundles differently in each model
- Do not fully treat uploading of prekey bundles
- Don't capture all relevant adversaries
- Attained security **hard to compare**

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Contributions: framework for Signal handshake protocols

- **Bundled AKE** protocols (**BAKE**)
 - Formally model **prekey bundles** and their **states**
 - **Unified framework** for Signal handshake protocols
 - Establish various levels of **security**
 - Framework for analyzing **deniability**
 - Novel metric → relaxed, pragmatic guarantees for deniability
- **RingXKEM**: new efficient PQ Signal handshake protocol
 - Not captured by previous models
 - From Ring Signatures
- **FalconRS**: compact, post-quantum, and **deniable** RS from Falcon
 - Novel metric for **deniability** of RSs

Bundled Authenticated Key Exchange (BAKE)



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Syntax

- $\text{BAKE.IDKeyGen}(1^\lambda) \rightarrow (\text{ik}, \text{isk})$ identity key generation algorithm
- $\text{BAKE.PreKeyBundleGen}(\text{isk}_u) \rightarrow (\xrightarrow{\text{prek}}, \text{st}_u)$ prekey bundle generation algorithm
- $\text{BAKE.Send}(\text{isk}_s, \text{ik}_r, \text{prek}_{r,t}) \rightarrow (K, \rho)$ sender algorithm
- $\text{BAKE.Receive}(\text{isk}_r, \text{st}_r, \text{ik}_s, t, \rho) \rightarrow (K', \text{st}_r)$ (deterministic) receiver algorithm

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Single state for all uploaded prekey bundles

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Refreshes prekey bundles and state

Ensuring availability: last resort prekeys

Batch of prekey bundles contains:

- **One-time** prekey bundles ($\text{prek}_1, \text{prek}_2, \dots, \text{prek}_L$)
 - **Used once** – prekey bundle and associated state **deleted after use**
- A single **last resort** prekey bundle prek_{\perp}
 - **Used if one-time prekey bundles run out**
 - **Re-used** until the next call to [PreKeyBundleGen](#)

Consequence:

- Exchanges using **last-resort** prekey bundle are vulnerable to **state compromise**
 - even after the handshake completes
 - until the next call of [PreKeyBundleGen](#)



Correctness and Security of BAKE

Correctness

Users **honestly execute the BAKE protocol** → derive **identical session key**.

Security (game based)

- Extend **AKE** definitions to capture **(last-resort) prekey bundles**
- Model the security of a BAKE protocol via:
 - **Match soundness** game
 - Parties have a consistent view of who they are talking to
 - **Key indistinguishability** game
 - Established session keys look random to the adversary.

Deniability of BAKE: unified & modular framework

Setting:

- **Accuser** collects evidence relative to **accused user** which is provided to a **distinguisher**
- **Distinguisher** decides if evidence could have been simulated by the accuser

Modular framework:

- Differentiate who provides information to the **distinguisher** (accusers / accused)
- **Accuser capabilities : standard** (honest-but-curious) / **strong** (malicious)
- **Classical / quantum accuser** and **distinguisher**
- **Scopes:**
 - **Local** – accuser is sender or receiver
 - **Global** – both sender and receiver deny participation

Deniability of BAKE: pragmatic metric

Prior Work:

- Real & simulated evidence **indistinguishable by D.**
 - Statistical distance between distributions is close
 - Conservative (simulator outputs evidence **with same probability** as accused user)

Our approach:

- Accused user only needs to prove that **evidence could have been simulated**
- Inspired by differential privacy and differential indistinguishability
- **Distributions close** in terms of **hockey-stick divergence**



RingXKEM

new efficient
fully PQ Signal handshake protocol





RingXKEM: birds eye view

- Inspired by deniable AKE protocol by Hashimoto et al. [Has+21; Has+22]
 - ◆ Based on Ring Signatures (RS)
- Extended to BAKE syntax
- Optimization using Merkle trees:
 - ◆ ↓ Receiver bandwidth
 - ◆ ↓ Server storage

RingXKEM: without Merkle Tree Optimization

```

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2:    $(\text{ek}, \text{dk}) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
3:    $(\text{rvk}, \text{rsk}) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
4:   return ( $\text{ik} := (\text{ek}, \text{rvk}), \text{isk} := (\text{dk}, \text{rsk})$ )
5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\text{isk}_u$ )
6:    $(\text{dk}_u, \text{rsk}_u) \leftarrow \text{isk}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$  ▷ Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \widehat{\text{dk}}_{u,t}) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
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13:       $\text{prek}_{u,t} := (\text{ek}_{u,t}, \sigma_{u,t}, \text{rvk})$ 
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4:   require  $\llbracket \text{RS.Verify}(\{rvk_r\}, \widehat{ek}_r, \sigma_r) = 1 \rrbracket$ 
5:    $(ss_r, ct_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
6:    $(\widehat{ss}_r, \widehat{ct}_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
7:    $\text{content} := \underline{ik}_s \parallel \underline{ik}_r \parallel \underline{\text{prek}}_r \parallel ct_r \parallel \widehat{ct}_r$ 
8:    $K \parallel K_{\text{ske}} \leftarrow \text{KDF}(ss_r \parallel \widehat{ss}_r, \text{content})$ 
9:    $\sigma \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(rsk_s, \text{content}, \{rvk_s, rvk\})$ 
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4:   require  $\llbracket \text{RS.Verify}(\{rvk_r\}, \widehat{ek}_r, \sigma_r) = 1 \rrbracket$ 
5:    $(\underline{ss}_r, ct_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
6:    $(\widehat{\underline{ss}}_r, \widehat{ct}_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
7:    $\text{content} := \underline{ik}_r \parallel \underline{ik}_r \parallel \underline{\text{prek}}_r \parallel ct_r \parallel \widehat{ct}_r$ 
8:    $K \parallel K_{\text{ske}} := \text{KDF}(\underline{ss}_r \parallel \widehat{\underline{ss}}_r, \text{content})$ 
9:    $\sigma \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(rsk_s, \text{content}, \{rvk_s, rvk\})$ 
10:   $\underline{ct}_{\text{ske}} \leftarrow \text{SKE.Enc}(K_{\text{ske}}, \sigma)$   $\triangleright$  Mask ring sig
11:   $\rho := (ct_r, \widehat{ct}_r, \underline{ct}_{\text{ske}})$ 
12:  return  $(K, \rho)$ 

```

RingXKEM: without Merkle Tree Optimization

```

1: function RingXKEM.IdKeyGen( $1^\lambda$ )
2:    $(\underline{ek}, \underline{dk}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
3:    $(rvk, rsk) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
4:   return ( $\underline{ik} := (\underline{ek}, rvk)$ ,  $\underline{isk} := (\underline{dk}, rsk)$ )

5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\underline{isk}_u$ )
6:    $(\underline{dk}_u, rsk_u) \leftarrow \underline{isk}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$  ▷ Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{ek}_{u,t}, \widehat{dk}_{u,t}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
10:     $\sigma_{u,t} \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(rsk_u, \widehat{ek}_{u,t}, \{rvk_u\})$ 
11:     $(rvk, \_) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$  ▷ Discard rsk
12:    for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do ▷ One-time prekey bundles
13:       $\text{prek}_{u,t} := (\underline{ek}_{u,t}, \sigma_{u,t}, rvk)$ 
14:       $D_{\text{kem}}[t] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,t}, \widehat{dk}_{u,t})$ 
15:    return  $\left( \begin{array}{l} \text{prek}_u := (\text{prek}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}, \\ \underline{st}_u := (D_{\text{kem}}, rvk, D_{\rho_\perp}) \end{array} \right)$ 

```

```

1: function RingXKEM.Send( $\underline{isk}_s, \underline{ik}_r, \underline{prek}_r$ )
2:    $(\widehat{dk}_s, rsk_s) \leftarrow \underline{isk}_s; (\underline{ek}_r, rvk_r) \leftarrow \underline{ik}_r$ 
3:    $(\underline{ek}_r, \sigma_r, rvk) \leftarrow \underline{prek}_r$ 
4:   require  $\llbracket \text{RS.Verify}(\{rvk_r\}, \widehat{ek}_r, \sigma_r) = 1 \rrbracket$ 
5:    $(ss_r, ct_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
6:    $(\widehat{ss}_r, \widehat{ct}_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{ek}_r)$ 
7:    $\text{content} := \underline{ik}_s \parallel \underline{ik}_r \parallel \underline{prek}_r \parallel ct_r \parallel \widehat{ct}_r$ 
8:    $K \parallel K_{\text{ske}} := \text{KDF}(ss_r \parallel \widehat{ss}_r, \text{content})$ 
9:    $\sigma \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(rsk_s, \text{content}, \{rvk_s, rvk\})$ 
10:   $\text{ct}_{\text{ske}} \leftarrow \text{SKE.Enc}(K_{\text{ske}}, \sigma)$  ▷ Mask ring sig
11:   $\rho := (ct_r, \widehat{ct}_r, \text{ct}_{\text{ske}})$ 
12:  return  $(K, \rho)$ 

```

RingXKEM: without Merkle Tree Optimization

```

1: function RingXKEM.IdKeyGen( $1^\lambda$ )
2:    $(\underline{\text{ek}}, \underline{\text{dk}}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
3:    $(\underline{\text{rvk}}, \underline{\text{rsk}}) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
4:   return ( $\underline{\text{ik}} := (\underline{\text{ek}}, \underline{\text{rvk}})$ ,  $\underline{\text{isk}} := (\underline{\text{dk}}, \underline{\text{rsk}})$ )
5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\underline{\text{isk}}_u$ )
6:    $(\underline{\text{dk}}_u, \underline{\text{rsk}}_u) \leftarrow \underline{\text{isk}}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$  ▷ Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \widehat{\text{dk}}_{u,t}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
10:     $\sigma_{u,t} \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(\underline{\text{rsk}}_u, \widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \{ \underline{\text{rvk}}_u \})$ 
11:     $(\underline{\text{rvk}}, \_) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$  ▷ Discard rsk
12:    for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do ▷ One-time prekey bundles
13:       $\underline{\text{prek}}_{u,t} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \sigma_{u,t}, \underline{\text{rvk}})$ 
14:       $D_{\text{kem}}[t] \leftarrow (\underline{\text{prek}}_{u,t}, \widehat{\text{dk}}_{u,t})$ 
15:   return  $\left( \begin{array}{l} \widehat{\text{prek}}_u := (\underline{\text{prek}}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}, \\ \underline{\text{st}}_u := (D_{\text{kem}}, \underline{\text{rvk}}, D_{\rho_\perp}) \end{array} \right)$ 

```

```

1: function RingXKEM.Send( $\underline{\text{isk}}_s, \underline{\text{ik}}_r, \underline{\text{prek}}_r$ )
2:    $(\widehat{\text{dk}}_s, \underline{\text{rsk}}_s) \leftarrow \underline{\text{isk}}_s; (\underline{\text{ek}}_r, \underline{\text{rvk}}_r) \leftarrow \underline{\text{ik}}_r$ 
3:    $(\underline{\text{ek}}_r, \sigma_r, \underline{\text{rvk}}) \leftarrow \underline{\text{prek}}_r$ 
4:   require  $\llbracket \text{RS.Verify}(\{ \underline{\text{rvk}}_r \}, \widehat{\text{ek}}_r, \sigma_r) = 1 \rrbracket$ 
5:    $(\underline{\text{ss}}_r, \underline{\text{ct}}_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\underline{\text{ek}}_r)$ 
6:    $(\widehat{\underline{\text{ss}}}_r, \widehat{\underline{\text{ct}}}_r) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(\widehat{\text{ek}}_r)$ 
7:    $\text{content} := \underline{\text{ik}}_s \parallel \underline{\text{ik}}_r \parallel \underline{\text{prek}}_r \parallel \underline{\text{ct}}_r \parallel \widehat{\underline{\text{ct}}}_r$ 
8:    $K \parallel K_{\text{ske}} := \text{KDF}(\underline{\text{ss}}_r \parallel \widehat{\underline{\text{ss}}}_r, \text{content})$ 
9:    $\sigma \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(\underline{\text{rsk}}_s, \text{content}, \{ \underline{\text{rvk}}_s, \underline{\text{rvk}} \})$ 
10:   $\underline{\text{ct}}_{\text{ske}} \leftarrow \text{SKE.Enc}(K_{\text{ske}}, \sigma)$  ▷ Mask ring sig
11:   $\rho := (\underline{\text{ct}}_r, \widehat{\underline{\text{ct}}}_r, \underline{\text{ct}}_{\text{ske}})$ 
12:  return  $(K, \rho)$ 

```

RingXKEM: the Merkle Tree Optimization

```

5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\text{isk}_u$ )
6:    $(\text{dk}_u, \text{rsk}_u) \leftarrow \text{isk}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$   $\triangleright$  Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
10:     $\sigma_{u,t} \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(\text{rsk}_u, \widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \{\text{rvk}_u\})$ 
11:     $(\text{rvk}, \_) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$   $\triangleright$  Discard rsk
12:    for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
13:       $\text{prek}_{u,t} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \sigma_{u,t}, \text{rvk})$ 
14:       $D_{\text{kem}}[t] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t})$ 
15:    return  $\left( \stackrel{\rightarrow}{\text{prek}}_u := (\text{prek}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}, \text{st}_u := (D_{\text{kem}}, \text{rvk}, D_{\rho_\perp}) \right)$ 

```

Observation

- Users upload $L + 1$ ring signatures to server
- PQ (ring) signatures are **big**
- Prekey bundles are **large**

RingXKEM: the Merkle Tree Optimization

```

5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\text{isk}_u$ )
6:    $(\text{dk}_u, \text{rsk}_u) \leftarrow \text{isk}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$   $\triangleright$  Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
10:     $\triangleright$  Create and sign Merkle tree
11:     $(\text{root}_u, \text{tree}_u) \leftarrow \text{MerkleTree}((\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}})$ 
12:     $\sigma_{u,\text{root}} \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(\text{rsk}_u, \text{root}_u, \{\text{rvk}_u\})$ 
13:     $(\text{rvk}, \_) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$   $\triangleright$  Discard rsk
14:    for  $t \in [L]$  do  $\triangleright$  One-time prekey bundles
15:       $\text{path}_{u,t} \leftarrow \text{getMerklePath}(\text{tree}_u, t)$ 
16:       $\text{prek}_{u,t} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \text{path}_{u,t}, \text{root}_u, \sigma_{u,\text{root}}, \text{rvk})$ 
17:       $D_{\text{kem}}[t] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t})$ 
18:     $\triangleright$  Last-resort prekey bundle  $t = \perp$ 
19:     $\text{path}_{u,\perp} \leftarrow \text{getMerklePath}(\text{tree}_u, L + 1)$ 
20:     $\text{prek}_{u,\perp} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,\perp}, \text{path}_{u,\perp}, \text{root}_u, \sigma_{u,\text{root}}, \text{rvk})$ 
21:     $D_{\text{kem}}[\perp] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,\perp}, \text{dk}_{u,\perp})$ 
22:    return  $(\text{prek}_u := (\text{prek}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}, \text{st}_u := (D_{\text{kem}}, \text{rvk}, D_{\rho_\perp}))$ 

```

Merkle tree optimization

→ Only upload a single signature

- ◆ accumulate KEM keys $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}$
- ◆ only sign digest root

RingXKEM: the Merkle Tree Optimization

```

5: function RingXKEM.PreKeyBundleGen( $\text{isk}_u$ )
6:    $(\text{dk}_u, \text{rsk}_u) \leftarrow \text{isk}_u$ 
7:    $D_{\text{kem}}, D_{\rho_\perp} := \emptyset$  Initialize empty lists
8:   for  $t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}$  do
9:      $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$ 
10:    Create and sign Merkle tree
11:     $(\text{root}_u, \text{tree}_u) \leftarrow \text{MerkleTree}((\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}})$ 
12:     $\sigma_{u,\text{root}} \leftarrow \text{RS.Sign}(\text{rsk}_u, \text{root}_u, \{\text{rvk}_u\})$ 
13:     $(\text{rvk}, \_) \leftarrow \text{RS.KeyGen}(1^\lambda)$  Discard rsk
14:    for  $t \in [L]$  do One-time prekey bundles
15:       $\boxed{\quad}$ 
16:       $\text{prek}_{u,t} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t}, \boxed{\quad}, \text{root}_u, \sigma_{u,\text{root}}, \text{rvk})$ 
17:       $D_{\text{kem}}[t] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,t}, \text{dk}_{u,t})$ 
18:    Last-resort prekey bundle  $t = \perp$ 
19:       $\boxed{\quad}$ 
20:       $\text{prek}_{u,\perp} := (\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,\perp}, \boxed{\quad}, \text{root}_u, \sigma_{u,\text{root}}, \text{rvk})$ 
21:       $D_{\text{kem}}[\perp] \leftarrow (\text{prek}_{u,\perp}, \text{dk}_{u,\perp})$ 
22:      return  $\left( \text{prek}_u := (\text{prek}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}, \text{st}_u := (D_{\text{kem}}, \text{rvk}, D_{\rho_\perp}) \right)$ 

```

Merkle tree optimization

→ Only **upload a single signature**

- ◆ accumulate KEM keys $(\widehat{\text{ek}}_{u,t})_{t \in [L] \cup \{\perp\}}$
- ◆ only sign digest root

→ Server can compute **path** on the fly

- ◆ ↴ server storage



RingXKEM: Key Indistinguishability

Key Indistinguishability against quantum adversaries:

- If KDF is pseudorandom,
- KEM is IND-CCA secure,
- and RS is unforgeable against quantum adversaries.

RingXKEM: Deniability

- By properties of RS , $\sigma := \text{RS.Sign}(\text{rsk}_s, \text{content}, \{\text{rkv}_s, \widehat{\text{rvk}}_r\})$ in handshake message:
 - **Authenticates** the sender (to receiver), RS unforgeable
 - Does not reveal **which** key was used to sign RS anonymous
 - Either sender or receiver could have signed

RS anonymous against quantum adversaries → Accuser and Distinguisher can be quantum

RingXKEM: Comparison to X3DH / PQXDH

RingXKEM

- **Stronger security guarantees** than X3DH / PQXDH
- At least **as deniable as PQXDH** (for setting of concern to Signal)

Full post-quantum security

Requires RS **unforgeable and anonymous** against **quantum adversaries**.



PQ Ring Signatures: Instantiating RingXKEM

- Ideally from **standardized** PQ signatures
- 😬 Inefficient
 - PQ + **anonymous** + compact : **difficult** to construct

Deniable Ring Signatures

Deniability: Weakening anonymity

- **Anonymity**: signatures produced using two secret keys are **indistinguishable**.
- New relaxation: **Deniability**
 - Signature gives no **hard evidence** about which key was used to sign

Design deniable PQ RS schemes for small ring sizes

- From **Standardized Falcon [Pre+22, GJK24b]** – **FalconRS**
- From **MAYO [Beu+24]** – **MayORS**

Deniable PQ Ring Signatures: FalconRS and MayoRS

Scheme	PK	2-RSig	Negligible anonymity
FalconRS (from Falcon-512)	897 B	1288 B	✗
MayoRS ₁ (from MAYO ₁)	1168 B	650 B	✗
MayoRS ₂ (from MAYO ₂)	5488 B	368 B	✗
Gandalf [GJK24b]	896 B	1236 B	✗
Raptor [LAZ19b]	900 B	2532 B	✗
Calamari [BKP20]	64 B	3662 B	✓
DualRing-LB [Yue+21]	2496 B	3877 B	✓
Falafl [BKP20]	4096 B	30 016 B	✓

Scheme	Keygen	Sign 2-ring	Verify 2-ring
Falcon-512	6.2 Mc	0.74 Mc	0.04 Mc
MAYO ₁	0.24 Mc	1.1 Mc	0.28 Mc
MAYO ₂	0.65 Mc	1.5 Mc	0.16 Mc
Raptor	27.1 Mc	5 Mc	2 Mc
Calamari	119.5 Mc	46 581 Mc	41 250 Mc
Falafl	0.1 Mc	163 Mc	76 Mc

FalconRS:

- From **standardized Falcon**
- **Compact** + implementations **outperforming prior work**





Ongoing / Future work

Collaboration with Felix Günther¹, Vadim Lyubashevsky¹, and Rolfe Schmidt²

- Designing fully PQ handshake protocol for Signal
- Space/bandwidth optimizations for Falcon-based signatures and RSs
- Considering the use of RingXKEM for the next fully PQ Signal protocol

Other applications of RS where deniability is sufficient?

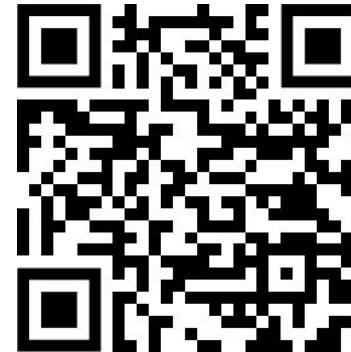
- Use *efficient & compact* FalconRS based on *standardized* Falcon

1. IBM Research Europe, Zurich
2. Signal Messenger

Full versions



“Bundled Authenticated Key Exchange: A Concrete Treatment of (Post-Quantum) Signal’s Handshake Protocol.”
By Hashimoto, Katsumata, and Wiggers.
In: USENIX Security 2025
eprint.iacr.org/2025/040



“Comprehensive Deniability Analysis of Signal Handshake Protocols: X3DH, PQXDH to Fully Post-Quantum with Deniable Ring Signatures.” By Katsumata, Niot, Tucker, Wiggers.
In: USENIX Security 2025
eprint.iacr.org/2025/1090