The NaCl library

Peter Schwabe

中央研究院

Joint work with Daniel J. Bernstein, Tanja Lange

July 11, 2012

Africacrypt 2012 Rump Session

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)
- Remote timing attack finds OpenSSL ECDSA key (Brumley, Tuveri, 2011)

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)
- Remote timing attack finds OpenSSL ECDSA key (Brumley, Tuveri, 2011)
- For more than one year Debian GNU/Linux generated OpenSSL keys with just 15 bits of entropy (fixed 2008)

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)
- Remote timing attack finds OpenSSL ECDSA key (Brumley, Tuveri, 2011)
- For more than one year Debian GNU/Linux generated OpenSSL keys with just 15 bits of entropy (fixed 2008)
- Sony PlayStation 3 security system ...

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)
- Remote timing attack finds OpenSSL ECDSA key (Brumley, Tuveri, 2011)
- For more than one year Debian GNU/Linux generated OpenSSL keys with just 15 bits of entropy (fixed 2008)
- Sony PlayStation 3 security system ...
- Crypto is just very complicated to use, so many ways to get things wrong
- Proper crypto is just too slow to be used in practice

Crypto is a disaster!

- Flame used MD5 weakness to infect computers through Windows update
- Padding oracles keep appearing (most recently: Bardou, Focardi, Kawamoto, Simionato, Steel, Tsay, 2012)
- Timing attack steals Linux harddisk encryption key in just 65ms (Osvik, Shamir, Tromer, 2006)
- Remote timing attack finds OpenSSL ECDSA key (Brumley, Tuveri, 2011)
- For more than one year Debian GNU/Linux generated OpenSSL keys with just 15 bits of entropy (fixed 2008)
- Sony PlayStation 3 security system ...
- Crypto is just very complicated to use, so many ways to get things wrong
- Proper crypto is just too slow to be used in practice

Let's fix this. Let's take a look at the NaCl library

Usability of NaCl

Authenticated encryption

```
c = crypto_box(m,n,pkR,skS)
```

Verification and decrypt

```
m = crypto_box_open(c,n,pkS,skR)
```

Before that: key generation on each side

```
pk = crypto_box_keypair(&sk)
```

Usability of NaCl

- All inputs and outputs are C++ `std::string` variables, sequences of bytes
- `m`: plaintext message (packet)
- `n`: 24-byte nonce
- `skS`/`pkS`: sender's secret key/public key (both 32 bytes)
- `skR`/`pkR`: recipient's secret key/public key (both 32 bytes)
- `c`: Authenticated ciphertext, 16 bytes longer than `m`

Usability of NaCl

- All inputs and outputs are C++ `std::string` variables, sequences of bytes
- `m`: plaintext message (packet)
- `n`: 24-byte nonce
- `skS`/`pkS`: sender's secret key/public key (both 32 bytes)
- `skR`/`pkR`: recipient's secret key/public key (both 32 bytes)
- `c`: Authenticated ciphertext, 16 bytes longer than `m`
- Similarly simple API for cryptographic signatures

Security of NaCl

- No low-security primitives: 128-bit security level for all primitives

Security of NaCl

- No low-security primitives: 128-bit security level for all primitives
- Timing attacks are impossible: No data flow from secret data into addresses or branch conditions

Security of NaCl

- No low-security primitives: 128-bit security level for all primitives
- Timing attacks are impossible: No data flow from secret data into addresses or branch conditions
- No padding oracles: Always authenticate, then decrypt

Security of NaCl

- No low-security primitives: 128-bit security level for all primitives
- Timing attacks are impossible: No data flow from secret data into addresses or branch conditions
- No padding oracles: Always authenticate, then decrypt
- No randomness if unnecessary, e.g. deterministic signing
- Centralize randomness: use `/dev/urandom`

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not!

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second
- Keeps up with the network
- Connection flooded with 50-byte packets: 32 Mbits per second

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second
- Keeps up with the network
- Connection flooded with 50-byte packets: 32 Mbits per second
- NaCl is much faster for larger packets

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second
- Keeps up with the network
- Connection flooded with 50-byte packets: 32 Mbits per second
- NaCl is much faster for larger packets
- NaCl is even faster for multiple packets sent to the same public key

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second
- Keeps up with the network
- Connection flooded with 50-byte packets: 32 Mbits per second
- NaCl is much faster for larger packets
- NaCl is even faster for multiple packets sent to the same public key
- NaCl is even faster when verifying signatures in batches

Speed of NaCl

Wow, that has to be slow then!

- It's not! For example on a single AMD Phenom II X6 1100T CPU:
- More than 80000 crypto_box operations per second
- More than 80000 crypto_box_open operations per second
- More than 70000 crypto_sign_open per second
- More than 180000 crypto_sign operations per second
- Keeps up with the network
- Connection flooded with 50-byte packets: 32 Mbits per second
- NaCl is much faster for larger packets
- NaCl is even faster for multiple packets sent to the same public key
- NaCl is even faster when verifying signatures in batches
- NaCl uses encrypt-then-MAC: Forged packets get dropped before decryption

NaCl online

http://nacl.cr.yp.to

- NaCl is in the public domain
- NaCl steers clear of all patents that we have investigated and has not received any claims of patent infringement