



Rekey protocol

David McGrew/Cisco

mcgrew@cisco.com

Lakshminath Dondeti/Nortel

ldondeti@nortelnetworks.com



Introduction to rekey protocol

- Part of the GKM architecture
- Updates Rekey and Data Security SAs
- Used for fast rekeying of large and dynamic groups via key tree algms
- Our work independent of GSAKMP and GDOI
- KDC → member messages



Rekey protocol issues

- Rekey message format(s)
- Key tree node numbering
- Optional secure back channel
- Subgroup communication to descendants of a sub-tree
- Others??



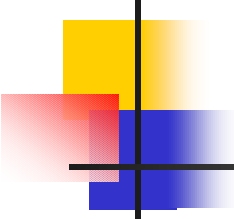
Rekey messages

- From the KDC to the members
- Sent via multicast or multi-unicast
- Reliable transport
 - External reliable channel
 - ALC/FEC
 - Repetition of messages
- May use key trees for efficiency
 - LKH/OFT/OFC and variations thereof



One or multiple messages?

- Group based rekeying
 - Send all rekeyed keys in one message
- Key based rekeying
 - Send each rekeyed key separately
- Tradeoffs
 - Not all members need all keys
 - KDC needs to sign multiple messages



Key tree node numbering

- Natural number encoding
 - Numbering proceeds top to bottom and left to right
 - Root's ID is 1
- Binary string encoding
 - Parent's ID suffixed with 0 and 1 is given to left and right children



Rekey messages: our goals

- Rekey message should be able to handle
 - Group and key-based rekeying
 - Payloads for reliable transport
 - Transport of key tree related payloads
 - Key node ID changes
 - Different node numbering algorithms



Member status messages

- Unicast from member to KDC
- Analogous to RTCP receiver reports
- KDC does not need to process or change state
- KDC processes as many as it can



Optional back channel

- Usage
 - Member status messages (for FEC/ALC)
 - Leave/Renew notifications
 - DeRegistration protocol
- Optional !
 - When using external reliable transport
 - How do we secure retransmissions?
 - DeRegistration via an upper layer protocol
- How to **secure** the back channel
 - Do we keep SA1 (Reg. SA) around?
 - Other solutions?



Subgroup communication

- Consider descendants of an internal node in the key tree
 - They all share a key
 - Could be considered as a subgroup for secure communication
- Issues
 - SA maintenance
 - Others?



Summary and Conclusion

- Rekey protocol is part of GKMArch
- Current model is to send a single message
 - using repetition for reliability
 - over external reliable channel
- We propose a rekey protocol that/with
 - supports group and key-based rekeying
 - provides increased support for reliable transport of rekey messages
 - support for key tree management



Open issues

- Should we have an optional back channel?
 - What should it be used for?
- Should we allow subgroup communication?
- Rekey message encoding and compatibility with GSAKMP and GDOI