



Saddle Up For Instant Encryption

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Outline

Intro

The Plan

Implementation

Challenges

Info



Why Mail Encryption is a Total Failure



Failed Approaches

For over 15 years we tried:

- New features
- Banning of export restrictions
- Getting rid of patents
- Telling spy tales
- Legislative requirements
- Improving user interfaces
- Building crypto appliances
- Using centralized crypto



Automatic Key Generation

- Bind key to the mail address
- Default key parameters
- Generate a key in the background
- Create self-signed certificates for S/MIME



What About the Passphrase

- Personal information management service (PIM service) is required anyway:
 - Appointments, phone numbers, address book, bookmarks, desktop configuration, mail accounts, other profile data.
 - For mobility.
 - All this data is sensitive.
- The private key is just another item to store in a PIM service
- Unify key passphrases and PIM service access
- Temporary solution is needed for now.



Automatic Key Distribution

- Keyservers don't scale
- X.509 LDAP is even worse
- No way to delete a key
- Solution: DNS
 - Decentralized and highly available
 - Mail addresses in the DNS are easy
 - Easy to manage DB
 - DNSSEC improves initial key validity



Opportunistic Encryption

- 25% accidentally sent mail in the clear
- We want security by default
- Filters/agents are too complicated to manage
- MUAs need to implement it directly
- All MUAs either provide S/MIME or PGP/MIME
- We choose a key which best matches the user's mainly used MUA.



TUFC/POP

- PKIX: Ask your parents first
- WoT: Do what your peers suggest
- Our model should better map user's expectations.

- The SSH model is build on this:
 - TUFC = Trust Upon First Contact
 - POP = Persistence Of Pseudonyms
- Revocations are done by removing the key from the DNS.



Infrastructure

- The user must be able to manage the DNS record
- Automation protocol for key generation and storage
(e.g. Extending IMAP)
- Key rollover and revocation mechanism
(phone hot line, SMS based confirmation)



Key Generation

- Automatic key generation if no key is setup for an account
- For X.509 use a dummy CA instead of directly self-signed certificates
- All done in the background
- Notifications by mail
- Integration with PIM service



Changes to GnuPG

- Use GnuPG as the backend
 - Available for all platforms
 - S/MIME and OpenPGP
 - Matured software
- Has almost all required features
- Need to add a local database with observed mail/key associations
- Add API to create a key in the background
- Key backup/restore using QRcodes



MUA Changes

- Automatically create a key
- Tell GnuPG about the sender address
- Configure option to disable the TUFC/POP model
- Extend the backup feature (PIM service?)



Expert Options

- Allow using one key for several accounts
- The PKA protocol uses an indirection and thus allows for it.
- Option to disable TUFC/POP
- Option to weight TUFC/POP and conventional trust schemes



User Interface

- We need high quality feedback
- A few UI elements are still required
- Optional notification that a mail will be sent in the clear
- Initiate a key revocation or rollover
- Restore a backup
- How to show a conflict (key change)



Mail Providers

- We need their support!
- It needs to be tightly integrated
- Implementation of automation protocols
- Key revocation confirmation



Web-mailers

- That is browser based crypto
- Implement using extension modules
- PIM service is important
- A fallback solution would be based on Javascript



Searching

- Searching through encrypted mails is time consuming
- Searching via IMAP even harder (you don't want to decrypt the mails on the server)
- Adding a separate symmetric storage key may speed up things.
- Use an encrypted index database (Prototype implementation for Kontakt)



Future Work

- Find a mail provider for a prototype implementation
- Design protocols for automation
- Write an I-D for PKA
- Implement the contact database
- Change MUAs



More Info



`http://g10code.com/steed.html`

