

Woo and Lam Mutual Authentication

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Summary: Key distribution and mutual authentication with trusted server and symmetric keys.

Protocol specification (in common syntax)

P, Q, S : principal

Kps, Kqs, Kpq : key

N1, N2 : number

1. P → Q : P, N1
2. Q → P : Q, N2
3. P → Q : {P, Q, N1, N2}Kps
4. Q → S : {P, Q, N1, N2}Kps, {P, Q, N1, N2}Kqs
5. S → Q : {Q, N1, N2, Kpq}Kps, {P, N1, N2, Kpq}Kqs
6. Q → P : {Q, N1, N2, Kpq}Kps, {N1, N2}Kpq
7. P → Q : {N2}Kpq

Description of the protocol rules

Kpq is a fresh symmetric key created at message 5 by the server S.

N1 and N2 are nonces.

Kps and Kqs are symmetric keys whose values are initially known only by P and S, respectively P and S.

Requirements

The protocol must guaranty the secrecy of Kpq: in every session, the value of Kpq must be known only by the participants playing the roles of P, Q and S.

The protocol must also ensures mutual authentication of P and Q.

References

[WL94]

Claimed attacks

1. Parallel session replay attack, [CJ], and [CJ97]. In this attack, the intruder I initiates a session ii in order to make P accept a non-fresh key.

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i.1.      P  ->  I   :   P, N1
ii.1.     I  ->  P   :   I, N1
ii.2.     P  ->  I   :   P, N2
i.2.      I  ->  P   :   I, N2
i.3.      P  ->  I   :   {P, I, N1, N2}Kps
i.4.      I  ->  S   :   {P, I, N1, N2}Kps, {P, I, N1, N2}Kis
i.5.      S  ->  I   :   {I, N1, N2, Kpi}Kps, {P, N1, N2, Kpi}Kis
i.6.      I  ->  P   :   {I, N1, N2, Kpi}Kps, {N1, N2}Kpi
i.7.      P  ->  I   :   {N2}Kpi
ii.3.     I  ->  P   :   {I, P, N1, N2}Kis
ii.4.     P  ->  I(S) :   {I, P, N1, N2}Kis, {I, P, N1, N2}Kps
ii.5.     I(S) -> P   :   {I, N1, N2, Kpi}Kis, {I, N1, N2, Kpi}Kps
ii.6.     P  ->  I   :   {P, N1, N2, Kpi}Kis, {N1, N2}Kpi
ii.7.     I  ->  P   :   {N2}Kpi

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2. [Low96]. bit-string represent an arbitrary number.

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i.1.      I(P) -> Q   :   P, Q
i.2.      Q   -> I(P) :   Q, N2
i.3.      I(P) -> Q   :   bit-string
i.4.      Q   -> I(S) :   bit-string, {P, Q, Q, N2}Kps
ii.1.     I(P) -> Q   :   P, N2
ii.2.     Q   -> I(P) :   Q, N3
ii.3.     I(P) -> Q   :   bit-string'
ii.4.     Q   -> I(S) :   bit-string', {P, Q, N2, N3}Kps
i.5.      I(S) -> Q   :   bit-string'', {P, Q, N2, N3}Kps
i.6.      Q   -> I(P) :   bit-string'', {Q, N2}N3
i.7.      I(P) -> Q   :   {N2}N3

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Citations

[CJ] John Clark and Jeremy Jacob. Freshness is not enough : Note on trusted nonce generation and malicious principals. attack on a mutual authentication protocol by Woo and Lam.

[CJ97] John Clark and Jeremy Jacob. A survey of authentication protocol literature : Version 1.0., November 1997.

- [Low96] Gavin Lowe. Some new attacks upon security protocols. In IEEE Computer Society Press, editor, *In Proceedings of the Computer Security Foundations Workshop VIII*, 1996.
- [WL94] T. Y. C. Woo and S. S. Lam. A lesson on authentication protocol design. *Operating Systems Review*, 1994.