

# PB173 - Tématický vývoj aplikací v C/C++

## Domain specific development in C/C++

Skupina: Aplikovaná kryptografie a bezpečné programování

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# Portability and memory restrictions

# Memory restrictions

- Size of the code vs. runtime memory requirements
- Depends on the target platform
  - usually of little concern (RAM is big enough)
  - sometimes critical factor for algorithms selection
    - embedded devices, e.g., sensor nodes
- Algorithms usually provides possibility for optimization
  - precomputed tables – speed vs. memory
  - key schedule vs. on-the-fly key schedule
  - optimizations may increase risk for side channel attacks
- **Write correct code first, then optimize**
  - especially true in security

# Portability – different operating systems

- Usually no problems with algorithms
  - plain C code
- Problems with additional functionality
  - read file, directory listing, user input, GUI
  - often cannot be solved by standardized functions or POSIX
  - abstract and separate platform-dependent functions
    - move them into distinct modules
    - easy to replace/extend for target platform later
- Data generated by your application should be portable
  - ASN.1 encoding
  - TLV encoding
  - binary vs. text formats
  - Base64 encoding

# Portability – different hardware platforms

- Little vs. big endian architecture
  - usually problem with bit-based operations
    - e.g., bit rotation
  - problem with interpretation of binary formats
- Highly optimized implementations
  - may use architecture specific operations and behavior
  - multiple byte operations in single tick
  - special representation of memory data
  - may use macros heavily

## Reference vs. optimized version

- Double meaning of “reference” word
  - reference implementation from algorithm designers (Rijndael)
  - reference == code you should use
- Reference implementation (e.g., Rijndael)
  - usually simple and understandable API
  - lower performance
  - may not protect against implementation attacks
  - typical usage is as supplementary material to algorithm description document
  - is used to create test vectors

## Reference vs. optimized version (2)

- Optimized version of algorithm
  - same results as reference implementation
  - portability may be impacted
- Techniques used
  - pre-computed tables often
  - may use whole size of the architecture registers
    - e.g., AES is byte oriented, but x64 can perform eight xor of single byte per tick
  - may use special instruction of particular CPU
  - may use specifics of target architecture (e.g., cache size)
- Typically for the production environment

# Choosing the right length



## Length of keys/block/hashes

- Choose length with some reserve
  - many things can go wrong
- Choose algorithms with corresponding lengths
  - key derivation by SHA-1 of keys for AES256?
- Do not protect keys distribution by keys with lower entropy
  - AES key (128b) encrypted by simple DES key (56b)
- Asymmetric keys length needs to be much longer
  - space of possible values is not dense

Bits of security	Symmetric key algorithms	FFC (e.g., DSA, D-H)	IFC (e.g., RSA)	ECC (e.g., ECDSA)
80	2TDEA <sup>19</sup>	$L = 1024$ $N = 160$	$k = 1024$	$f = 160-223$
112	3TDEA	$L = 2048$ $N = 224$	$k = 2048$	$f = 224-255$
128	AES-128	$L = 3072$ $N = 256$	$k = 3072$	$f = 256-383$
192	AES-192	$L = 7680$ $N = 384$	$k = 7680$	$f = 384-511$
256	AES-256	$L = 15360$ $N = 512$	$k = 15360$	$f = 512+$

Source:  
NIST SP800

# Recommended key sizes

Algorithm security lifetimes	Symmetric key algorithms (Encryption & MAC)	FFC (e.g., DSA, D-H)	IFC (e.g., RSA)	ECC e.g., ECDSA)
Through 2010 (min. of 80 bits of strength)	2TDEA <sup>23</sup> 3TDEA AES-128 AES-192 AES-256	Min.: $L = 1024$ ; $N = 160$	Min.: $k = 1024$	Min.: $f = 160$
Through 2030 (min. of 112 bits of strength)	3TDEA AES-128 AES-192 AES-256	Min.: $L = 2048$ $N = 224$	Min.: $k = 2048$	Min.: $f = 224$
Beyond 2030 (min. of 128 bits of strength)	AES-128 AES-192 AES-256	Min.: $L = 3072$ $N = 256$	Min.: $k = 3072$	Min.: $f = 256$

Source:  
NIST SP800

# Symmetric key cryptography

- Key length for symmetric cryptography
  - 80 bits now not secure enough against brute-force
  - always good to have some reserve for algorithm flaws
    - flaw => key can be found faster than by brute-force
    - AES-128 is still OK
    - AES-256 do not have full 256 bits of security, slightly less
- Quantum computers should be able to decrease the search space from  $2^n$  to  $2^{n/2}$  (for symmetric crypto)
  - AES-128 =>  $2^{64}$  => will be broken by bruteforce
  - AES-256 =>  $2^{128}$  => should be OK even with quantum computers
- Take your application needs into account!

## Making the keys

- From what are you making the keys?
  - password must have entropy equivalent to derived key
  - e.g., AES-128 key derived from “hello” will not have 128 bits security
- What if you create two keys from one with 128 bits of entropy?
- Do you really have perfect random generator?
  - 128 generated bits will not have 128 bits of entropy
  - generate more bits and use hash function to condense into 128 bits
- *Seems (Snowden) that NSA was involved in intentional crippling of random generators (Dual\_EC\_DRBG) – implementation and even standards*

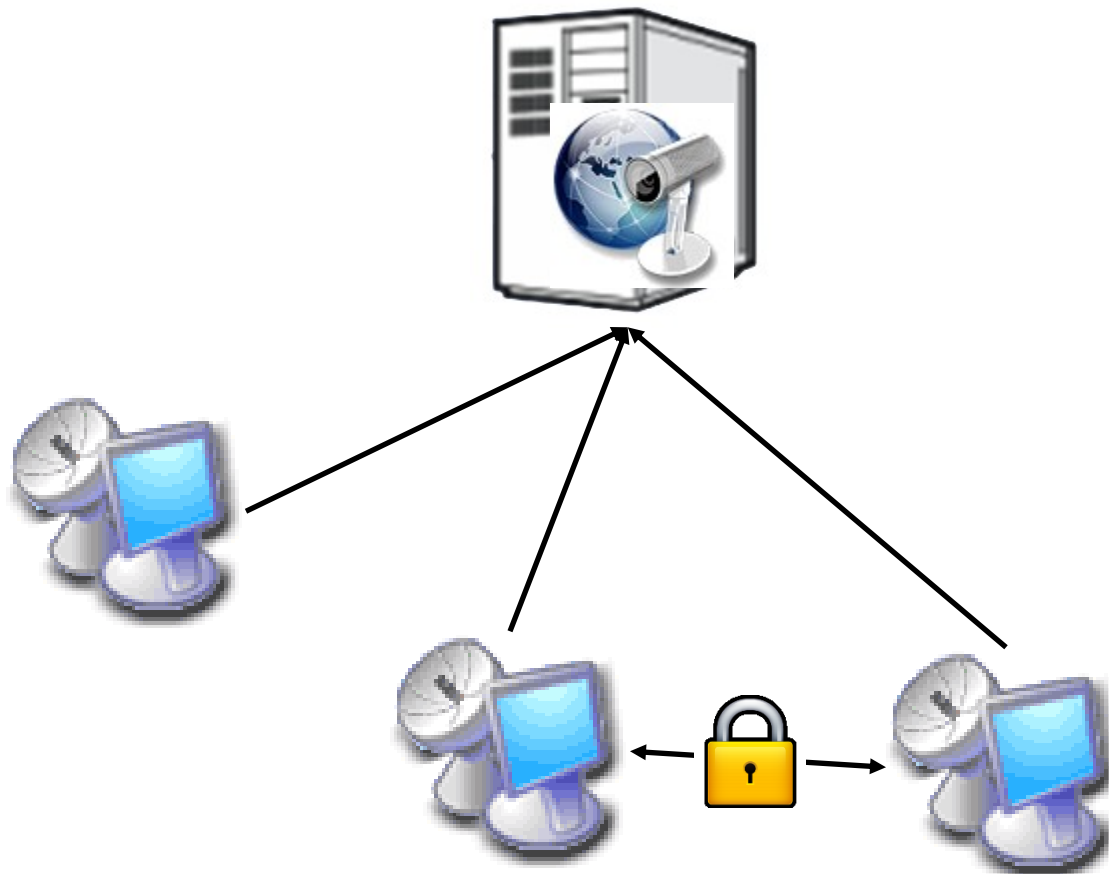
# Asymmetric cryptography

- RSA is still “gold” standard
  - use (at least) 2048 bits keys, preferably 4086b
  - regular 768b and special 1024b broken by brute-force
  - regular 1024 bits not broken yet, but...
- Elliptic curve cryptography (ECC) now widely used
  - Shorter key lengths, faster operation
  - Who and how generated the curve you are using is (security) critical
- But:
  - TLS1.3 dropped support for RSA
  - NSA now (2015) discourage use of ECC “...elliptic curve cryptography is not the long term solution many once hoped it would be.”
- Post-quantum cryptography
  - Should withstand quantum computers, not mature yet

# THE PROJECT

# "Theme" project – Secure IM

- Secure instant messaging and data sharing





## "Theme" project – Secure IM

- IM server
  - register and facilitate connection between users
- Client
  - provides operations related to end user usage
- Expected at the end: working networking application with security features

# Teams

- 3 persons
- Joint work, but every one presents its contribution
  - Presentation on next seminar
- Use GitHub + Travis CI
- Form the teams now!
  - Team A: ???
  - Team B: ???

# Practical assignment

1. Select great name for your group
2. Setup development workflow for your group
  - New Github repository (separate folder for client&server), license
  - Add proper developer rights
  - Initial version of code/tests (just copy from last lecture)
  - Try to pull/commits together and create conflict (intentionally)
3. Send me link to your repo (+ members of the group)
4. Plan your work together
  - Design based on requirements gathered now
  - Add initial issues into separate milestones

## Practical assignment – cont.

4. Prepare document and presentation with design decisions
  - 2-3xA4 document (overview, functions, crypto used...)
  - 4-5 slides (presentation)
  - UML diagrams?
- Your design will be presented and discussed next week (13.3.)

# Practical assignment

- Design and document API to:
  - new user registration
  - user authentication to server
  - obtain list of other users
  - establish secure channel to other (online) users (ENC, MAC)
  - exchange instant messages (small data packets) with other user
  - close secure channel
  - disconnect user from server
  - ...?
- Document functions in JavaDoc-style (Doxygen)
- Client/IM Server are separate processes
  - Plan for (later) communication over sockets or http requests

# Principles of good API

1. Be minimal
  2. Be complete
  3. Have clear and simple semantics
  4. Be intuitive
  5. Be easy to memorize
  6. Lead to readable code
- read more at e.g., <http://doc.trolltech.com/qq/qq13-apis.html>
  - security API even harder:  
<http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/~rja14/Papers/SEv2-c18.pdf>
  - <http://blog.apigee.com/taglist/security>

# Submissions, deadlines

- Upload application source codes as single zip file into IS Homework vault (Crypto - 3. homework (UT))
  - Initial version of project at GitHub, structure, initial code&tests
  - Design documents (doc folder)
  - Header files with documented (Doxygen) function headers (API)
  - Slides for presentation (will take place 13.3.)
- **DEADLINE 13.3. 12:00**
  - Up to 10 points assigned

# Questions?