Unpicking PLAID A Cryptographic Analysis of an ISO-standardstrack Authentication Protocol



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Jean Paul Degabriele Kenneth G. Paterson Victoria Fehr Marc Fischlin Tommaso Gagliardoni Felix Günther Giorgia Azzurra Marson Arno Mittelbach



Information Security Group, Royal Holloway, University of London



Cryptoplexity, TU Darmstadt

Outline of this Talk



Introduction

Description of PLAID

Keyset Fingerprinting

Tracing Cards

General Security Concerns



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 contactless authentication protocol



Card (ICC)



Terminal (IFD)

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 contactless authentication protocol





 contactless authentication protocol

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- contactless authentication protocol
- developed by Centrelink

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- Building blocks: 2048-bit RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding, AES-128 in CBC mode and SHA-256.
- A keyset is a triple comprising of a 2-byte Keyset ID, an RSA key (encryption or decryption) and an AES key.
- A keyset corresponds to a capability (a token providing access to some object(s)).
- Keysets are preloaded in cards and terminals during initialisation.



- For each keyset there corresponds an AES master key K_i which is given to the terminals (IFDs).
- For a specific keyset each card will be assigned a different AES key and a unique card identifier called **Diversification Data** (DivData).



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- For a specific keyset each card will be assigned a different AES key and a unique card identifier called **Diversification Data** (DivData).
- A terminal can derive a card's AES key K_i^{DD} from the master key and DivData, $K_i^{DD} = AES_{K_i}$ (DivData).
- Each card is additionally preloaded with an extra set of Shillkeys, the use of which will be explained later.

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ICC



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The PLAID Protocol



ICC



index	RSA	AES
7	sk7	K_7
34	sk ₃₄	K ₃₄
	:	





ICC

index	RSA	AES
2	pk ₂	K_2^{DD}
7	pk7	K_7^{DD}
	÷	



index	RSA	AES
7	sk7	K_7
34	<i>sk</i> ₃₄	K ₃₄
	:	
	•	







(34, 7, ...) ICC IFD index RSA AES index RSA AES K_2^{DD} 7 sk7 K_7 2 pk₂ 34 sk₃₄ K₃₄ K_7^{DD} pk7 7

















 $K_7^{DD} = AES_{K_7}$ (DivData) $k_{session} = SHA(RND1||RND2)$





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The Security of PLAID

"PLAID [...] is cryptographically stronger, faster and more private [...]" Centrelink PLAID Specification v8.0, 2009



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"[...] strong authentication [...] in a fast, highly secure and private fashion without the exposure of [...] identifying information or any other information which is useful to an attacker."

ISO/IEC 25185-1.2, 2014



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"[...] **strong authentication** [...] in a fast, **highly secure and private** fashion without the exposure of [...] identifying information or any other information which is useful to an attacker."

ISO/IEC 25185-1.2, 2014

But no formal security analysis is provided!

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Anonymity





 Protocol does not reveal personal identification data of cardholders









 Protocol does not reveal personal identification data of cardholders







 Protocol does not reveal personal identification data of cardholders It should not be possible to trace the card's activity.



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When Access is Denied...




What if none of the presented keysets are supported by the card?



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- ► The Card will encrypt a randomly generated string using its ShillKey.

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- What if none of the presented keysets are supported by the card?
- ► The Card will encrypt a randomly generated string using its ShillKey.
- At the IFD side, if no plaintext ending in RND1||RND1 is found, authentication fails (abort).



The PLAID Design and Anonymity

- Recall that in PLAID the RSA encryption keys are kept private.
- The terminal's (inefficient) strategy to sequentially attempt decryption under all of its keys appears to be intended to hide the card's set of keysets, since it could easily be avoided by including the Keyset ID in the clear.



The PLAID Design and Anonymity

- Recall that in PLAID the RSA encryption keys are kept private.
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- Similarly the Shill key helps to prevent leaking the supported keysets to a probing device.
- The above design factors indicate that PLAID aims to hide a card's set of keysets, i.e. its capabilities.



A Keyset Fingerprinting Attack

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AES_{ksession} (AuthResp, payload, DivData)

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A Keyset Fingerprinting Attack





Pick one Keyset ID in the first message and remove all others.

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- Pick one Keyset ID in the first message and remove all others.
- Card uses either the listed key or the ShillKey

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- Pick one Keyset ID in the first message and remove all others.
- ► Card uses either the listed key or the ShillKey ⇒ check whether the terminal responds with a third message.
- ▶ Repeat for all other keysets in the original set ⇒ determine all supported keysets in the original set.

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Prepend the original set in the first message with a newKeyset ID.

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- Prepend the original set in the first message with a newKeyset ID.
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- Prepend the original set in the first message with a newKeyset ID.
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- ► If the new keyset is supported then the terminal will not be able to decrypt it ⇒ No third message.
- ▶ Repeat for all keysets NOT in the original set ⇒ determine all supported keysets.

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Tracing Cards

- In RSA even if the encryption key is kept secret, ciphertexts still leak a small amount of information about the encryption key.
- Ciphertexts produced under different keys are distributed differently according to the RSA modulus (*e* is usually fixed).



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- In RSA even if the encryption key is kept secret, ciphertexts still leak a small amount of information about the encryption key.
- Ciphertexts produced under different keys are distributed differently according to the RSA modulus (*e* is usually fixed).
- The RSA Shill Key is generated randomly during the card's initialisation and is essentially unique to that card.
- Moreover we can easily sample encryptions under the Shill Key by probing a card with an empty set of Keyset IDs.



▶ It is reasonable to assume ciphertexts are uniformly distributed over [0, N - 1], where N is the modulus.



- ► It is reasonable to assume ciphertexts are uniformly distributed over [0, N 1], where N is the modulus.
- A naive estimate of the modulus would be to take twice the mean value of the ciphertext samples.



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- This turns out to be a well studied statistical problem known as the German tank problem, due to its application in WWII to estimate the number of German tanks.





- ▶ It is reasonable to assume ciphertexts are uniformly distributed over [0, N 1], where N is the modulus.
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$$\tilde{M} = m + \frac{m}{k} - 1$$

- \tilde{M} = Estimated maximum.
- m = Sampled maximum value.
- k = No of samples.











PLAID system





Phase 1 – Identification Phase:

for every card i receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pki}* (\$)



- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
 - for every card i receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pki}* (\$)
 - estimate N_i according to samples



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- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
 - for every card *i* receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pk_i}* (\$)
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 $N_1 N_2 N_3$

- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
 - ▶ for every card *i* receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pk_i}* (\$)
 - estimate N_i according to samples
- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:

keySetID = ("") keySetID = ("") $RSA_{pk^*}(\$)$ $N_1 N_2 N_3$

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 - for every card *i* receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pki}* (\$)
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 - estimate N^{*} as in Phase 1





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- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:
 - receive k₂ encryptions RSA_{pk*} (\$)
 - estimate N* as in Phase 1
 - guess card *j* with min_{*j*} $|N^* N_j|$



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 $k_1 = 1000$

ShillKey Fingerprinting – Scenario 1 – Results



 $k_2 = 1000 - k_2 = 500 - k_2 = 100 - k_2 = 50 - k_2 = 10$ baseline



- In the previous scenario we had the ability to interact k₁ times with each card, which may not always be realistic.
- We now consider a setting where we are given a mixed set of ciphertexts, without knowing which ciphertexts come from the same key.



- In the previous scenario we had the ability to interact k₁ times with each card, which may not always be realistic.
- We now consider a setting where we are given a **mixed set** of ciphertexts, without knowing which ciphertexts come from the same key.
- This scenario can arise for instance if the attacker manages to install a fake terminal or to 'skim' a terminal.



Let t = Number of cards in the system.

- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
 - for every card *i* receive k₁ encryptions RSA_{pk}^{*} (\$)
 - estimate N_i according to samples.
- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:
 - receive k₂ encryptions RSA_{pk*} (\$)
 - estimate N^* from the k_2 samples.
 - guess card *j* with min_{*j*} $|N^* N_j|$.



Let t = Number of cards in the system.

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Let t = Number of cards in the system.

- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
 - receive $k_1 \cdot t$ random samples $RSA_{pk^*}(\$)$
 - estimate N_i according to samples.
- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:
 - receive k₂ encryptions RSA_{pk*} (\$)
 - estimate N* from the k₂ samples.
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We use a heuristic clustering technique from machine learning to sort the ciphertext samples, and then get an estimate from each cluster.



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ShillKey Fingerprinting – Scenario 2

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standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm

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standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm





standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm



$p_{N_i} = (N_{i_i}, C_{i_j})$

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standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm





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ShillKey Fingerprinting – Scenario 2

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standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm





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standard clustering technique based on k-means algorithm





ShillKey Fingerprinting – Scenario 2 – Results



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- ► We now further restrict the identification phase to only obtain k₁ ciphertexts from only one target card.
- ► In the challenge phase we will be given k₂ ciphertexts coming either from the target card or a randomly generated card. The **goal** is to distinguish the two.
- Note that while the challenge phase looks simpler, it is also the case that now we have no information about the other cards to aid the challenge phase.



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$$\sigma^2 = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{(N-k)(N+1)}{k+2}$$



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 - estimate N_t using the GTE.
 - estimate the variance of N_t.
- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:
 - receive k₂ encryptions RSA_{pk*} (\$) from on one card.
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$$\sigma^{2} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{(N-k)(N+1)}{k+2} \qquad k = \min(k_{1}, k_{2})$$



- Phase 1 Identification Phase:
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 - estimate the **variance** of N_t .
- Phase 2 Challenge Phase:
 - receive k₂ encryptions RSA_{pk*} (\$) from on one card.
 - estimate N* using GTE.
 - guess card is the target card iff $|N^* N_t| < 3\sigma$

$$\sigma^{2} = \frac{1}{k} \cdot \frac{(N-k)(N+1)}{k+2} \qquad k = \min(k_{1}, k_{2}) \qquad \begin{array}{c} \text{FRR} = 2\% \\ k = 100 \rightarrow \text{FAR} = 5\%, \\ k = 100 \rightarrow \text{FAR} = 0.5\% \end{array}$$



ShillKey Fingerprinting – Scenario 1 – Results













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- No Forward security: a compromise of the long-term keys of either party, immediately results in a compromise of past session keys.



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- Remember that at the end of a PLAID protocol run the card and the terminal share a session key.
- No Forward security: a compromise of the long-term keys of either party, immediately results in a compromise of past session keys.
- For RSA, PLAID uses PKCS#1 v1.5 instead of OAEP, which is widely known to be vulnerabe to Bleichenbacher's attack.
- While we didn't see a direct way of exploiting it, the designers claim that Bleichenbacher's attack does not apply to PLAID simply because the RSA moduli are not public!.



- For symmetric encryption PLAID uses AES in CBC mode with a fixed IV of zeros.
- ► Thus encryption is deterministic and therefore not IND-CPA secure.


Other Issues with PLAID

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- The CBC padding is based on ISO/IEC 9797-1, but is incorrectly specified so that it is not uniquely decodable.
- ▶ No authentication (MAC) is applied to CBC encryption.
- The list goes on....



Timeline

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Timeline



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