

Deprecating Obsolete Key Exchange Methods in TLS
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Abstract

This document deprecates the use of RSA key exchange in TLS, and limits the use of Diffie Hellman key exchange over a finite field such as to avoid known vulnerabilities or improper security properties.

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Author's Address

1. Introduction

TLS supports a variety of key exchange algorithms, including RSA and Diffie Hellman over a finite field, as well as elliptic curve Diffie Hellman (ECDH). Diffie Hellman key exchange, over any group, may use either long-lived or ephemeral secrets. Diffie Hellman key exchange with long-lived secrets over a finite field is already deprecated in [[deprecate-ffdh](#)]. This document focuses on Diffie Hellman over a finite field with ephemeral secrets (FFDHE), as well as RSA key exchange.

Recent years have brought to light several security concerns regarding FFDHE key exchange that stem from implementation choices. Additionally, RSA key exchange suffers from security problems that are independent of implementation choices, as well as problems that stem purely from the difficulty of implementing security countermeasures correctly.

At a rough glance, the problems affecting FFDHE are as follows:

1. FFDHE suffers from interoperability problems, because there is no mechanism for negotiating the group size, and some implementations only support small group sizes; see [[RFC7919](#)], [Section 1](#).
2. In practice, some operators use 1024 bit FFDHE groups, since this is the maximum size that ensures wide support; see [[RFC7919](#)], [Section 1](#). This size leaves only a small security margin vs. the current discrete log record, which stands at 795 bits [[DLOG795](#)].
3. Expanding on the previous point, a handful of very large computations would allow cheaply decrypting a relatively large fraction of FFDHE traffic [[weak-dh](#)].
4. When secrets are not fully ephemeral, FFDHE suffers from the [[Raccoon](#)] side channel attack.
5. FFDHE groups may have small subgroups, which may enable several attacks [[subgroups](#)].

And the problems affecting RSA key exchange are as follows:

1. RSA key exchange offers no forward secrecy, by construction.

2. RSA key exchange may be vulnerable to Bleichenbacher's attack [BLEI]. Experience shows that variants of this attack arise every few years, because implementing the relevant countermeasure correctly is difficult; see [ROBOT], [NEW-BLEI], [DROWN].
3. In addition to the above point, there is no convenient mechanism in TLS for domain separation of keys. Therefore, a single endpoint that is vulnerable to Bleichenbacher's attack would affect all endpoints sharing the same RSA key; see [XPROT], [DROWN].

Given these problems, this document updates [RFC4346], [RFC5246], [RFC4162], [RFC6347], [RFC5932], [RFC5288], [RFC6209], [RFC6367], [RFC8422], [RFC5289], and [RFC5469] to deprecate RSA key exchange in TLS, and limit use of FFDHE such that it provides acceptable security properties.

1.1. Requirements

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

2. RSA

Clients and servers MUST NOT offer RSA cipher suites in TLS 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2 connections. This includes all cipher suites listed in the following table. Note that these cipher suites are already marked as not recommended in the "TLS Cipher Suites" registry.

+-----+ +-----+ Ciphersuite Reference	
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_MD5	[RFC5246]
+-----+ +-----+ TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA	
+-----+ +-----+ TLS_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_RC4_40_MD5	
[RFC6347]	[RFC4346]

TLS_RSA_WITH_RC4_128_MD5	[RFC5246]
[RFC6347]	
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	[RFC5246]
[RFC6347]	
+-----	
TLS_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_RC2_CBC_40_MD5	[RFC4346]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_IDEA_CBC_SHA	[RFC5469][SC-tls-des-idea-ciphers-to-historic]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_DES40_CBC_SHA	[RFC4346]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_DES_CBC_SHA	[RFC5469][SC-tls-des-idea-ciphers-to-historic]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA	[RFC4785]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	

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+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_RC4_128_SHA | [RFC4279]
[RFC6347] |
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_SEED_CBC_SHA | [RFC4162]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|

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+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_ARIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6367]

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+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384 [RFC6367]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256 [RFC6367]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384 [RFC6367]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256 [RFC6367]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384 [RFC6367]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM [RFC6655]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM [RFC6655]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM_8 [RFC6655]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM_8 [RFC6655]
+-----
+-----+
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256 [RFC7905]
+-----
+-----+

Table 1

3. Ephemeral Finite Field Diffie Hellman

Clients and servers MAY offer fully ephemeral FFDHE cipher suites in TLS 1.0, 1.1, and 1.2 connections, under the following conditions:

1. The secret DH key is fully ephemeral, that is, a fresh DH exponent is generated for each TLS connection. Note that this requirement is also specified in [\[deprecate-ffdh\]](#).
2. The group is one of the following well-known groups described in [\[RFC7919\]](#): ffdhe2048, ffdhe3072, ffdhe4096, ffdhe6144, ffdhe8192.

We note that previously, supporting the broadest range of clients would have required supporting either RSA key exchange, or 1024-bit FFDHE. This is no longer the case, and it is possible to support most clients released since circa 2015 using 2048-bit FFDHE, or more modern key exchange methods, and without RSA key exchange [\[server_side_tls\]](#).

The above requirements apply to all cipher suites listed in the following table.

+-----		
+-----+		
Ciphersuite		
Reference		
+=====+		
TLS_DHE_DSS_EXPORT_WITH_DES40_CBC_SHA		[RFC4346]
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_DES_CBC_SHA		[RFC5469] [SC-tls-des-idea-
ciphers-to-historic]		
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA		[RFC5246]
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_DES40_CBC_SHA		[RFC4346]
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_DES_CBC_SHA		[RFC5469] [SC-tls-des-idea-
ciphers-to-historic]		
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA		[RFC5246]
+-----		
+-----+		
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA		[RFC4785]
+-----		
+-----+		

TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA	[RFC5932]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA	[RFC5932]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256	[RFC5246]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	[RFC5932]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	[RFC5932]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	[RFC4279]
[RFC6347]	
+-----	

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+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA | [RFC4279]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_SEED_CBC_SHA | [RFC4162]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_SEED_CBC_SHA | [RFC4162]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC5288]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|
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+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA256 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA384 | [RFC5487]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC5932]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
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|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_ARIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6209]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
| TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256 | [RFC6367]
|
+-----+
+-----+
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TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384	[RFC6367]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM_8	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM_8	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CCM	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_256_CCM	[RFC6655]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256	[RFC7905]
+-----	
+-----	
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256	[RFC7905]
+-----	
+-----	

Table 2

Note that FFDH cipher suites are already deprecated in [\[deprecate-ffdh\]](#).

4. IANA Considerations

This document makes no requests to IANA. Note that all cipher suites listed in [Section 2](#) are already marked as not recommended in the "TLS Cipher Suites" registry.

5. Security Considerations

This document is entirely about security.

6. Acknowledgments

This document was inspired by discussion on the TLS WG mailing list and a suggestion by Filippo Valsorda following the release of the [Raccoon] attack. Thanks to Christopher A. Wood and Carrick D. Bartle for useful feedback, discussions, and ideas.

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Author's Address

Nimrod Aviram

Email: nimrod.aviram@gmail.com