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## **Updates to the Cipher Suites in Secure Syslog**

### **Abstract**

This document updates the cipher suites in RFC 5425, Transport Layer Security (TLS) Transport Mapping for Syslog, and RFC 6012, Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) Transport Mapping for Syslog. It also updates the transport protocol in RFC 6012.

### **Status of This Memo**

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### 1. Introduction

The Syslog Working Group produced [Transport Layer Security \(TLS\) Transport Mapping for Syslog \[RFC5425\]](#) and [Datagram Transport Layer Security \(DTLS\) Transport Mapping for Syslog \[RFC6012\]](#).

Both [\[RFC5425\]](#) and [\[RFC6012\]](#) **MUST** support certificates as defined in [\[RFC5280\]](#).

[\[RFC5425\]](#) requires that implementations "**MUST**" support TLS 1.2 [\[RFC5246\]](#) and are "**REQUIRED**" to support the mandatory to implement cipher suite TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA (Section 4.2).

[\[RFC6012\]](#) requires that implementations "**MUST**" support DTLS 1.0 [\[RFC4347\]](#) and are also "**REQUIRED**" to support the mandatory to implement cipher suite TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA (Section 5.2).

The TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA cipher suite has been found to be weak and the community is moving away from it and towards more robust suites.

The DTLS 1.0 transport [\[RFC4347\]](#) has been deprecated and the community is moving to DTLS 1.2 [\[RFC6347\]](#).

This document updates [\[RFC5425\]](#) and [\[RFC6012\]](#) to deprecate the use of TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA and to make new recommendations to a mandatory to implement cipher suite to be used for implementations. This document also updates [\[RFC6012\]](#) to deprecate the use of DTLS 1.0 and to make a recommendation of a mandatory to implement secure datagram transport.

## 2. Terminology

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.

## 3. Support for Updating

[[I-D.salowey-tls-rfc8447bis](#)] generally reminds us that cryptographic algorithms and parameters will be broken or weakened over time. Blindly implementing the cryptographic algorithms listed in any specification is not advised. Implementers and users need to check that the cryptographic algorithms specified continue to provide the expected level of security.

As the Syslog Working Group determined, Syslog clients and servers **MUST** use certificates as defined in [[RFC5280](#)]. Since both [[RFC5425](#)] and [[RFC6012](#)] **REQUIRE** the use of TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA, it is very likely that RSA certificates have been implemented in devices adhering to those specifications. [[BCP195](#)] notes that ECDHE cipher suites exist for both RSA and ECDSA certificates, so moving to an ECDHE cipher suite will not require replacing or moving away from any currently installed RSA-based certificates.

[[I-D.saviram-tls-deprecate-obsolete-kex](#)] documents that the cipher suite TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA has been found to be weak. As such, the community is moving away from that and other weak suites and towards more robust suites such as TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256, which is also listed as a currently Recommended algorithm in [[I-D.salowey-tls-rfc8447bis](#)].

Along those lines, [[I-D.ietf-uta-rfc7525bis](#)] notes that TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA does not provide forward secrecy, a feature that is highly desirable in securing event messages. That document also goes on to recommend TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256 as a cipher suite that does provide forward secrecy.

Therefore, the mandatory to implement cipher suites listed in [[RFC5425](#)] and [[RFC6012](#)] must be updated so that implementations of secure syslog are still considered to provide an acceptable and expected level of security.

Additionally, [[BCP195](#)] [[RFC8996](#)] deprecates the use of DTLS 1.0 [[RFC4347](#)], which is the mandatory to implement transport protocol for [[RFC6012](#)]. Therefore, the transport protocol for [[RFC6012](#)] must be updated.

#### 4. Updates to RFC 5425

Implementations of [\[RFC5425\]](#) **MUST NOT** offer TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA. The mandatory to implement cipher suite is **REQUIRED** to be TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256.

Implementations of [\[RFC5425\]](#) **MUST** continue to use TLS 1.2 [\[RFC5246\]](#) as the mandatory to implement transport protocol.

Implementations of [\[RFC5425\]](#) **MAY** use TLS 1.3 [\[RFC8446\]](#) as a transport as long as they support the currently recommended cipher suites.

EDITOR's NOTE: Need to address 0-RTT considerations.

#### 5. Updates to RFC 6012

Implementations of [\[RFC6012\]](#) **MUST NOT** offer TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA. The mandatory to implement cipher suite is **REQUIRED** to be TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256.

Implementations of [\[RFC6012\]](#) **MUST NOT** use DTLS 1.0 [\[RFC4347\]](#). Implementations **MUST** use DTLS 1.2 [\[RFC6347\]](#).

DTLS 1.2 [\[RFC6347\]](#) implementations are **REQUIRED** to support the mandatory to implement cipher suite, which is TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256.

Implementations of [\[RFC6012\]](#) **MAY** use DTLS 1.3 [\[I-D.ietf-tls-dtls13\]](#) as a transport as long as they support the currently recommended cipher suites.

EDITOR's NOTE: Need to address 0-RTT considerations.

#### 6. Authors Notes

This section will be removed prior to publication.

This is version -00. Comments welcome.

Some members of the now closed Syslog Working Group were recently contacted by a member of the IEC 62351 TC 57 WG15 with the following message:

For the development of an IEC cybersecurity standard for electrical power system, we (WG15) are trying to reference RFC 5425 and adopt its specifications. However, since RFC 5425 specifies TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA, which is currently insecure and depreciated cipher suite. Therefore, we are trying to adopt stronger cipher suites in accordance with IEC 62351-3. IEC 62351-3 specifies

a set of stronger state of the art cipher suites and thus defines a profile on how to apply TLS, addressing authentication, cipher suite requirements, renegotiation, etc. Therefore, we would like to use the state of the art cipher suites as specified in IEC 62351-3 and also mandatorily refer RFC 5425 including the usage of its port number 6514 for transporting secure syslog traffic. Our understanding would be that it does not violate RFC 5425, as it allows in section 4.2 of RFC 5425 that also stronger cipher suites may be used.

This prompted the authors of this specification to draft it and propose it as an RFC.

WG15 has also proposed the following text to be inserted into their documents.

The selection of TLS connection parameters such as cipher suites, session resumption and renegotiation shall be reused from IEC 62351-3 specification. Note that port TCP/6514 is assigned by IANA to RFC 5425 (syslog-tls). The RFC requires the support of TLS1.2 and a SHA-1 based cipher suite, but does not mandate its use. The cipher does not align with IEC 62351-3 Ed.2 for profiling TLS. Nevertheless, RFC 5425 does not rule out to use stronger cipher suites. With this, clients and server supporting the selection of cipher suites stated in IEC 62351-3 Ed2 will not experience interoperability problems. Caution has to be taken in environments in which interworking with existing services utilizing syslog over TLS is intended. For these, the syslog server needs to be enabled to support the required cipher suites. This ensures connectivity with clients complying to this document and others complying to RFC 5425. Note that meanwhile the work on an update of RFC 5425 and RFC 6012 has started. It targets the adoption of stronger cipher suites for TLS and DTLS to protect syslog communication.

Comments on this text are also welcome.

## **7. Acknowledgments**

The authors would like to thank Arijit Kumar Bose, Steffen Fries and the members of IEC TC57 WG15 for their review, comments, and suggestions.

## **8. IANA Considerations**

This document makes no requests to IANA.

## **9. Security Considerations**

This document deprecates an insecure DTLS transport protocol from [[RFC6012](#)] and deprecates insecure cipher suits from [[RFC5425](#)] and

[RFC6012]. This document also specifies mandatory to implement cipher suites to those RFCs and the latest version of the DTLS protocol to [RFC6012].

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