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## GSS Algorithm for TSIG (GSS-TSIG)

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### Abstract

The TSIG protocol provides transaction level authentication for DNS. TSIG is extensible through the definition of new algorithms. This document specifies an algorithm based on the Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) ([RFC2743](#)).

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## [1](#). Introduction

The Secret Key Transaction Signature for DNS (TSIG) [[RFC2845](#)] protocol was developed to provide a lightweight end to end authentication and integrity of messages between two DNS entities, such as client and server or server and server. TSIG can be used to protect dynamic update messages, authenticate regular message or to off-load complicated DNSSEC [[RFC2535](#)] processing from a client to a server and still allow the client to be assured of the integrity off the answers.

The TSIG protocol [[RFC2845](#)] is extensible through the definition of new

algorithms. This document specifies an algorithm based on the Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) [[RFC2743](#)]. GSS-API is a framework that provides an abstraction of security to the application protocol developer. The security services offered can include authentication, integrity, and confidentiality.

The GSS-API framework has several benefits:

- \* Mechanism and protocol independence. The underlying mechanisms that realize the security services can be negotiated on the fly and varied over time. For example, a client and server may use Kerberos [[RFC1964](#)] for one transaction, whereas that same server may use SPKM [[RFC2025](#)] with a different client.

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- \* The protocol developer is removed from the responsibility of creating and managing a security infrastructure. For example, the developer does not need to create new key distribution or key management systems. Instead the developer relies on the security service mechanism to manage this on its behalf.

The scope of this document is limited to the description of an authentication mechanism only. It does not discuss and/or propose an authorization mechanism. Readers that are unfamiliar with GSS-API concepts are encouraged to read the characteristics and concepts section of [[RFC2743](#)] before examining this protocol in detail. It is also assumed that the reader is familiar with [[RFC2845](#)], [[RFC2930](#)], [[RFC1034](#)] and [[RFC1035](#)].

The key words "MUST", "REQUIRED", "SHOULD", "RECOMMENDED", and "MAY" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

## [2. Algorithm Overview](#)

In GSS, client and server interact to create a "security context". The security context can be used to create and verify transaction signatures on messages between the two parties. A unique security context is required for each unique connection between client and server.

Creating a security context involves a negotiation between client and server. Once a context has been established, it has a finite lifetime for which it can be used to secure messages. Thus there are three states of a context associated with a connection:



### [3.](#) Client Protocol Details

A unique context is required for each server to which the client sends secure messages. A context is identified by a context handle. A client maintains a mapping of servers to handles,

(target\_name, key\_name, context\_handle)

The value key\_name also identifies a context handle. The key\_name is the owner name of the TKEY and TSIG records sent between a client and a server to indicate to each other which context MUST be used to process the current request.

#### [3.1](#) Negotiating Context

In GSS, establishing a security context involves the passing of opaque tokens between the client and the server. The client generates the initial token and sends it to the server. The server processes the token and if necessary, returns a subsequent token to the client. The client processes this token, and so on, until the negotiation is complete. The number of times the client and server exchange tokens depends on the underlying security mechanism. A completed negotiation results in a context handle.

The TKEY resource record [[RFC2930](#)] is used as the vehicle to transfer tokens between client and server. The TKEY record is a general mechanism for establishing secret keys for use with TSIG. For more information, see [[RFC2930](#)].

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##### [3.1.1](#) Call GSS\_Init\_sec\_context

To obtain the first token to be sent to a server, a client MUST call GSS\_Init\_sec\_context API.

The following input parameters MUST be used. The outcome of the call is indicated with the output values below. Consult Sections [2.2.1](#) "GSS\_Init\_sec\_context call" of [[RFC2743](#)] for syntax definitions.

###### INPUTS

CREDENTIAL HANDLE claimant\_cred\_handle = NULL (NULL specifies "use default"). Client MAY instead specify some other valid handle to its credentials.

CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle = 0

INTERNAL NAME targ\_name = "DNS@<target\_server\_name>"

OBJECT IDENTIFIER mech\_type = Underlying security mechanism chosen by implementers. To guarantee interoperability of the implementations of the GSS-TSIG mechanism client MUST specify a valid underlying security mechanism that enables use of Kerberos v5 (see [Section 9](#) for more information).

OCTET STRING input\_token = NULL

BOOLEAN replay\_det\_req\_flag = TRUE

BOOLEAN mutual\_req\_flag = TRUE

BOOLEAN deleg\_req\_flag = TRUE

BOOLEAN sequence\_req\_flag = TRUE

BOOLEAN anon\_req\_flag = FALSE

BOOLEAN conf\_req\_flag = TRUE

BOOLEAN integ\_req\_flag = TRUE

INTEGER lifetime\_req = 0 (0 requests a default value). Client MAY instead specify another upper bound for the lifetime of the context to be established in seconds.

OCTET STRING chan\_bindings = Any valid channel bindings as specified in [Section 1.1.6](#) "Channel Bindings" in [[RFC2734](#)]

#### OUTPUTS

INTEGER major\_status

CONTEXT HANDLE output\_context\_handle

OCTET STRING output\_token

BOOLEAN replay\_det\_state

BOOLEAN mutual\_state

INTEGER minor\_status

OBJECT IDENTIFIER mech\_type

BOOLEAN deleg\_state

BOOLEAN sequence\_state

BOOLEAN anon\_state

BOOLEAN trans\_state

BOOLEAN prot\_ready\_state

BOOLEAN conf\_avail

BOOLEAN integ\_avail

INTEGER lifetime\_rec

The client MUST abandon the algorithm if returned major\_status is set to one of the following errors:

GSS\_S\_DEFECTIVE\_TOKEN

GSS\_S\_DEFECTIVE\_CREDENTIAL  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_SIG (GSS\_S\_BAD\_MIC)  
GSS\_S\_NO\_CRED  
GSS\_S\_CREDENTIALS\_EXPIRED  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_BINDINGS  
GSS\_S\_OLD\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_DUPLICATE\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_NO\_CONTEXT  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_NAMETYPE  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_NAME  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_MECH  
GSS\_S\_FAILURE

Success values of `major_status` are `GSS_S_CONTINUE_NEEDED` and `GSS_S_COMPLETE`. The exact success code is important during later processing.

The values of `replay_det_state` and `mutual_state` indicate if the security package provides replay detection and mutual authentication, respectively. If returned `major_status` is `GSS_S_COMPLETE` AND one or both of these values are `FALSE`, the client **MUST** abandon this algorithm.

Client's behavior **MAY** depend on other `OUTPUT` parameters according to the policy local to the client.

The handle `output_context_handle` is unique to this negotiation and is stored in the client's mapping table as the `context_handle` that maps to `target_name`.

### [3.1.2](#) Send TKEY Query to Server

An opaque `output_token` returned by `GSS_Init_sec_context` is transmitted to the server in a query request with `QTYPE=TKEY`. The token itself will be placed in a Key Data field of the `RDATA` field in the TKEY resource record in the additional records section of the query. The owner name of the TKEY resource record set queried for and the owner name of the supplied TKEY resource record in the additional records section **MUST** be the same. This name uniquely identifies the security context to both the client and server, and thus the client **SHOULD** use a value which is globally unique as described in [[RFC2930](#)]. To achieve global uniqueness, the name **MAY** contain a UUID/GUID [[ISO11578](#)].

## TKEY Record

NAME = client-generated globally unique domain name string  
(as described in [[RFC2930](#)])

## RDATA

Algorithm Name	= gss-tsig
Mode	= 3 (GSS-API negotiation - per [ <a href="#">RFC2930</a> ])
Key Size	= size of output_token in octets
Key Data	= output_token

The remaining fields in the TKEY RDATA, i.e. Inception, Expiration, Error, Other Size and Data Fields, MUST be set according to [[RFC2930](#)].

The query is transmitted to the server.

Note: if the original client call to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context returned any major\_status other than GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED or GSS\_S\_COMPLETE, then the client MUST NOT send TKEY query.

### [3.1.3](#) Receive TKEY Query-Response from Server

Upon the reception of the TKEY query DNS server MUST respond according to the description in [Section 4](#). This Section specifies the behavior of the client after it receives the matching response to its query.

The next processing step depends on the value of major\_status from the most recent call that client performed to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context: either GSS\_S\_COMPLETE or GSS\_S\_CONTINUE.

#### [3.1.3.1](#) Value of major\_status == GSS\_S\_COMPLETE

If the last call to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context yielded a major\_status value of GSS\_S\_COMPLETE and a non-NULL output\_token was sent to the server, then the client side component of the negotiation is complete and the client is awaiting confirmation from the server.

Confirmation is in the form of a query response with RCODE=NOERROR and with the last client supplied TKEY record in the answer section of the query. The response MUST be signed with a TSIG record. The signature in the TSIG record MUST be verified using the procedure detailed in [section 5](#), Sending and Verifying Signed Messages. If the response is not signed, OR if the response is signed but signature is invalid, then an attacker has tampered with the message in transit or has attempted to send the client a false response. The client MUST continue waiting for a response to its last TKEY query until the time

period since the client sent last TKEY query expires. Such a time period is specified by the policy local to the client.

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If the signature is verified the context state is advanced to Context Established. Proceed to [section 3.2](#) for usage of the security context.

### [3.1.3.2](#) Value of major\_status == GSS\_S\_CONTINUE

If the last call to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context yielded a major\_status value of GSS\_S\_CONTINUE, then the negotiation is not yet complete. The server will return to the client a query-response with a TKEY record in the Answer section. If the DNS message error is not NO\_ERROR or error field in the TKEY record is not 0 (i.e. no error), then the client MUST abandon this negotiation sequence. The client MUST delete an active context by calling GSS\_Delete\_sec\_context providing the associated context\_handle. The client MAY repeat the negotiation sequence starting with the uninitialized state as described in [section 3.1](#). To prevent infinite looping the number of attempts to establish a security context must be limited.

If the DNS message error is NO\_ERROR and error field in the TKEY record is 0 (i.e. no error), then the client MUST pass a token specified in the Key Data field in the TKEY resource record to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context using the same parameters values as in previous call except values for CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle and OCTET STRING input\_token as described below:

#### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle = context\_handle (this is the context\_handle corresponding to the key\_name which is the owner name of the TKEY record in the answer section in the TKEY query response)  
OCTET STRING input\_token = token from Key field of TKEY record

Depending on the following OUTPUT values of GSS\_Init\_sec\_context

INTEGER major\_status  
OCTET STRING output\_token

the client MUST take one of the following actions:

If OUTPUT major\_status is set to one of the following values

GSS\_S\_DEFECTIVE\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_DEFECTIVE\_CREDENTIAL  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_SIG (GSS\_S\_BAD\_MIC)  
GSS\_S\_NO\_CRED  
GSS\_S\_CREDENTIALS\_EXPIRED  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_BINDINGS  
GSS\_S\_OLD\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_DUPLICATE\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_NO\_CONTEXT  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_NAMETYPE  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_NAME  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_MECH  
GSS\_S\_FAILURE

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the client MUST abandon this negotiation sequence. The client MUST delete an active context by calling GSS\_Delete\_sec\_context providing the associated context\_handle. The client MAY repeat the negotiation sequence starting with the uninitialized state as described in section [3.1](#). To prevent infinite looping the number of attempts to establish a security context must be limited.

If OUTPUT major\_status is GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED OR GSS\_S\_COMPLETE then client MUST act as described below.

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED the negotiation is not yet finished. The token output\_token MUST be passed to the server in a TKEY record by repeating the negotiation sequence beginning with section [3.1.2](#). The client MUST place a limit on the number of continuations in a context negotiation to prevent endless looping. Such limit SHOULD NOT exceed value of 10.

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE and output\_token is non-NULL, the client-side component of the negotiation is complete but the token output\_token MUST be passed to the server by repeating the negotiation sequence beginning with [section 3.1.2](#).

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE and output\_token is NULL, context negotiation is complete. The context state is advanced to Context Established. Proceed to [section 3.2](#) for usage of the security context.

### [3.2](#) Context Established

When context negotiation is complete, the handle context\_handle MUST be used for the generation and verification of transaction signatures.

The procedures for sending and receiving signed messages are described in [section 5](#), Sending and Verifying Signed Messages.

### [3.2.1](#) Terminating a Context

When the client is not intended to continue using the established security context, the client SHOULD delete an active context by calling GSS\_Delete\_sec\_context providing the associated context\_handle, AND client SHOULD delete the established context on the DNS server by using TKEY RR with the Mode field set to 5, i.e. "key deletion" [[RFC2930](#)].

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## [4.](#) Server Protocol Details

As on the client-side, the result of a successful context negotiation is a context handle used in future generation and verification of the transaction signatures.

A server MAY be managing several contexts with several clients. Clients identify their contexts by providing a key name in their request. The server maintains a mapping of key names to handles:

(key\_name, context\_handle)

### [4.1](#) Negotiating Context

A server MUST recognize TKEY queries as security context negotiation messages.

#### [4.1.1](#) Receive TKEY Query from Client

Upon receiving a query with QTYPE = TKEY, the server MUST examine whether the Mode and Algorithm Name fields of the TKEY record in the additional records section of the message contain values of 3 and gss-tsig, respectively. If they do, then the (key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table is searched for the key\_name matching the owner name of the TKEY record in the additional records section of the query. If the name is found in the table and the security context for this name is established and not expired, then the server MUST respond to the query with BADNAME error in the TKEY error field. If the name is found in the table and the security context is not established, the corresponding context\_handle is used in subsequent GSS operations. If the name is not found, then the server interprets this query as a start of new security context negotiation.

#### [4.1.2](#) Call GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context

The server performs its side of a context negotiation by calling GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context. The following input parameters MUST be used. The outcome of the call is indicated with the output values below. Consult Sections [2.2.2](#) "GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context call" of the [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] for syntax definitions.

##### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle = 0 if new negotiation,  
context\_handle matching  
key\_name if ongoing negotiation

OCTET STRING input\_token = token specified in the Key  
field from TKEY RR (from Additional records Section of  
the client's query)

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CREDENTIAL HANDLE acceptor\_cred\_handle = NULL (NULL specifies "use default"). Server MAY instead specify some other valid handle to its credentials.

OCTET STRING chan\_bindings = Any valid channel bindings as specified in [Section 1.1.6](#) "Channel Bindings" in [[RFC2743](#)]

##### OUTPUTS

INTEGER major\_status  
CONTEXT\_HANDLE output\_context\_handle  
OCTET STRING output\_token

```
INTEGER      minor_status
INTERNAL NAME src_name
OBJECT IDENTIFIER mech_type
BOOLEAN      deleg_state
BOOLEAN      mutual_state
BOOLEAN      replay_det_state
BOOLEAN      sequence_state
BOOLEAN      anon_state
BOOLEAN      trans_state
BOOLEAN      prot_ready_state
BOOLEAN      conf_avail
BOOLEAN      integ_avail
INTEGER      lifetime_rec
CONTEXT_HANDLE delegated_cred_handle
```

If this is the first call to `GSS_Accept_sec_context` in a new negotiation, then `output_context_handle` is stored in the server's key-mapping table as the `context_handle` that maps to the name of the TKEY record.

#### [4.1.3](#) Send TKEY Query-Response to Client

The server MUST respond to the client with a TKEY query response with `RCODE = NOERROR`, that contains a TKEY record in the answer section.

If `OUTPUT major_status` is one of the following errors the error field in the TKEY record set to `BADKEY`.

```
GSS_S_DEFECTIVE_TOKEN
GSS_S_DEFECTIVE_CREDENTIAL
GSS_S_BAD_SIG (GSS_S_BAD_MIC)
GSS_S_DUPLICATE_TOKEN
GSS_S_OLD_TOKEN
GSS_S_NO_CRED
GSS_S_CREDENTIALS_EXPIRED
GSS_S_BAD_BINDINGS
GSS_S_NO_CONTEXT
GSS_S_BAD_MECH
GSS_S_FAILURE
```

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If `OUTPUT major_status` is set to `GSS_S_COMPLETE` or

GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED then server MUST act as described below.

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE the server component of the negotiation is finished. If output\_token is non-NULL, then it MUST be returned to the client in a Key Data field of the RDATA in TKEY. The error field in the TKEY record is set to NOERROR.

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE and output\_token is NULL, then the TKEY record received from the client MUST be returned in the Answer section of the response. The message MUST be signed with a TSIG record as described in [section 5](#), Sending and Verifying Signed Messages. The context state is advanced to Context Established. [Section 4.2](#) discusses the usage of the security context.

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_CONTINUE, the server component of the negotiation is not yet finished. The server responds to the TKEY query with a standard query response, placing in the answer section a TKEY record containing output\_token in the Key Data RDATA field. The error field in the TKEY record is set to NOERROR. The server MUST limit the number of times that a given context is allowed to repeat, to prevent endless looping. Such limit SHOULD NOT exceed value of 10.

In all cases except if major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE and output\_token is NULL other TKEY record fields MUST contain the following values:

NAME = key\_name

RDATA

Algorithm Name = gss-tsig

Mode = 3 (GSS-API negotiation - per [\[RFC2930\]](#))

Key Size = size of output\_token in octets

The remaining fields in the TKEY RDATA, i.e. Inception, Expiration, Error, Other Size and Data Fields, MUST be set according to [\[RFC2930\]](#).

## [4.2](#) Context Established

When context negotiation is complete, the handle context\_handle is used for the generation and verification of transaction signatures. The handle is valid for a finite amount of time determined by the underlying security mechanism. A server MAY unilaterally terminate a context at any time (see [section 4.2.1](#)).

Server SHOULD limit the amount of memory used to cache established contexts.

The procedures for sending and receiving signed messages are given in [section 5](#), Sending and Verifying Signed Messages.

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#### [4.2.1](#) Terminating a Context

A server can terminate any established context at any time. The server MAY hint to the client that the context is being deleted by including a TKEY RR in a response with the Mode field set to 5, i.e. "key deletion" [[RFC2930](#)].

An active context is deleted by calling `GSS_Delete_sec_context` providing the associated `context_handle`.

### [5.](#) Sending and Verifying Signed Messages

#### [5.1](#) Sending a Signed Message - Call `GSS_GetMIC`

The procedure for sending a signature-protected message is specified in [[RFC2845](#)]. The data to be passed to the signature routine includes the whole DNS message with specific TSIG variables appended. For the exact format, see [[RFC2845](#)]. For this protocol, use the following TSIG variable values:

##### TSIG Record

NAME = `key_name` that identifies this context

RDATA

Algorithm Name = `gss-tsig`

Assign the remaining fields in the TSIG RDATA appropriate values as described in [[RFC2845](#)].

The signature is generated by calling `GSS_GetMIC`. The following input parameters MUST be used. The outcome of the call is indicated with the output values specified below. Consult Sections [2.3.1](#) "GSS\_GetMIC call" of the [RFC 2743](#) [[RFC2743](#)] for syntax definitions.

##### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE `context_handle` = `context_handle` for `key_name`

OCTET STRING `message` = outgoing message plus TSIG variables (per [[RFC2845](#)])

INTEGER `qop_req` = 0 (0 requests a default value). Caller MAY instead specify other valid value (for details see [Section 1.2.4 in \[RFC2743\]](#))

##### OUTPUTS

INTEGER           major\_status  
INTEGER           minor\_status  
OCTET STRING     per\_msg\_token

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE, then signature generation succeeded. The signature in per\_msg\_token is inserted into the Signature field of the TSIG RR and the message is transmitted.

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If major\_status is GSS\_S\_CONTEXT\_EXPIRED, GSS\_S\_CREDENTIALS\_EXPIRED or GSS\_S\_FAILURE the caller MUST delete the security context, return to the uninitialized state and SHOULD negotiate a new security context, as described above in [Section 3.1](#)

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_NO\_CONTEXT, the caller MUST remove the entry for key\_name from the (target\_name, key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table, return to the uninitialized state and SHOULD negotiate a new security context, as described above in [Section 3.1](#)

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_BAD\_QOP, the caller SHOULD repeat the GSS\_GetMIC call with allowed QOP value. The number of such repetitions MUST be limited to prevent infinite loops.

## [5.2](#) Verifying a Signed Message - Call GSS\_VerifyMIC

The procedure for verifying a signature-protected message is specified in [\[RFC2845\]](#).

The NAME of the TSIG record determines which context\_handle maps to the context that MUST be used to verify the signature. If the NAME does not map to an established context, the server MUST send a standard TSIG error response to the client indicating BADKEY in the TSIG error field (as described in [\[RFC2845\]](#)).

For the GSS algorithm, a signature is verified by using GSS\_VerifyMIC:

### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE context\_handle = context\_handle for key\_name  
OCTET STRING   message        = incoming message plus TSIG  
                                  variables (per [\[RFC2845\]](#))  
OCTET STRING   per\_msg\_token = Signature field from TSIG RR

### OUTPUTS

INTEGER           major\_status  
INTEGER           minor\_status  
INTEGER           qop\_state

If major\_status is GSS\_S\_COMPLETE, the signature is authentic and the message was delivered intact. Per [[RFC2845](#)], the timer values of the TSIG record MUST also be valid before considering the message to be authentic. The caller MUST not act on the request or response in the message until these checks are verified.

When a server is processing a client request, the server MUST send a standard TSIG error response to the client indicating BADKEY in the TSIG error field as described in [[RFC2845](#)], if major\_status is set to one of the following values

GSS\_S\_DEFECTIVE\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_BAD\_SIG (GSS\_S\_BAD\_MIC)  
GSS\_S\_DUPLICATE\_TOKEN

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GSS\_S\_OLD\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_UNSEQ\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_GAP\_TOKEN  
GSS\_S\_CONTEXT\_EXPIRED  
GSS\_S\_NO\_CONTEXT  
GSS\_S\_FAILURE

If the timer values of the TSIG record are invalid, the message MUST NOT be considered authentic. If this error checking fails when a server is processing a client request, the appropriate error response MUST be sent to the client according to [[RFC2845](#)].

## 6. Example usage of GSS-TSIG algorithm

This Section describes an example where a Client, client.example.com, and a Server, server.example.com, establish a security context according to the algorithm described above.

### I. Client initializes security context negotiation

To establish a security context with a server, server.example.com, the Client calls GSS\_Init\_sec\_context with the following parameters (Note that some INPUT and OUTPUT parameters not critical for this

algorithm are not described in this example)

```
CONTEXT HANDLE input_context_handle = 0
INTERNAL NAME  targ_name             = "DNS/ server.example.com"
OCTET STRING  input_token           = NULL
BOOLEAN       replay_det_req_flag   = TRUE
BOOLEAN       mutual_req_flag       = TRUE
```

The OUTPUTS parameters returned by GSS\_Init\_sec\_context include

```
INTEGER       major_status = GSS_S_CONTINUE_NEEDED
CONTEXT HANDLE output_context_handle context_handle
OCTET STRING  output_token output_token
BOOLEAN       replay_det_state = TRUE
BOOLEAN       mutual_state = TRUE
```

Client verifies that replay\_det\_state and mutual\_state values are TRUE. Since the major\_status is GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED, which is a success OUTPUT major\_status value, client stores context\_handle that maps to "DNS/server.example.com" and proceeds to the next step.

II. Client sends a query with QTYPE = TKEY to server

Client sends a query with QTYPE = TKEY for a client-generated globally unique domain name string, 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. Query contains a TKEY record in its Additional records section with the following fields (Note that some fields not specific to this algorithm are not specified)

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NAME = 789.client.example.com.server.example.com.

RDATA

```
Algorithm Name    = gss-tsig
Mode              = 3 (GSS-API negotiation - per [RFC2930])
Key Size          = size of output_token in octets
Key Data          = output_token
```

After the key\_name 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. is generated it is stored in the client's (target\_name, key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table.

III. Server receives a query with QTYPE = TKEY

When server receives a query with QTYPE = TKEY, the server verifies that Mode and Algorithm fields in the TKEY record in the Additional records section of the query are set to 3 and "gss-tsig" respectively.

It finds that the key\_name 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. is not listed in its (key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table.

#### IV. Server calls GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context

To continue security context negotiation server calls GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context with the following parameters (Note that some INPUT and OUTPUT parameters not critical for this algorithm are not described in this example)

##### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle = 0  
OCTET STRING input\_token = token specified in the Key field from TKEY RR (from Additional records section of the client's query)

The OUTPUTS parameters returned by GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context include

INTEGER major\_status = GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED  
CONTEXT\_HANDLE output\_context\_handle context\_handle  
OCTET STRING output\_token output\_token

Server stores the mapping of the 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. to OUTPUT context\_handle in its (key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table.

#### V. Server responds to the TKEY query

Since the major\_status = GSS\_S\_CONTINUE\_NEEDED in the last server's call to GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context, the server responds to the TKEY query placing in the answer section a TKEY record containing output\_token in the Key Data RDATA field. The error field in the TKEY record is set to 0. The RCODE in the query response is set to NOERROR.

#### VI. Client processes token returned by server

When the client receives the TKEY query response from the server, the client calls GSS\_Init\_sec\_context with the following parameters (Note that some INPUT and OUTPUT parameters not critical for this algorithm are not described in this example)

CONTEXT\_HANDLE input\_context\_handle = the context\_handle stored in the client's mapping table entry (DNS/server.example.com.,

```
789.client.example.com.server.example.com., context_handle)
INTERNAL NAME  targ_name          = "DNS/server.example.com"
OCTET STRING  input_token        = token from Key field of TKEY
              record from the Answer section of the server's response
BOOLEAN      replay_det_req_flag = TRUE
BOOLEAN      mutual_req_flag     = TRUE
```

The OUTPUTS parameters returned by GSS\_Init\_sec\_context include

```
INTEGER      major_status = GSS_S_COMPLETE
CONTEXT HANDLE output_context_handle = context_handle
OCTET STRING  output_token = output_token
BOOLEAN      replay_det_state = TRUE
BOOLEAN      mutual_state = TRUE
```

Since the major\_status is set to GSS\_S\_COMPLETE the client side security context is established, but since the output\_token is not NULL client MUST send a TKEY query to the server as described below.

VII. Client sends a query with QTYPE = TKEY to server

Client sends to the server a TKEY query for the 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. name. Query contains a TKEY record in its Additional records section with the following fields (Note that some INPUT and OUTPUT parameters not critical to this algorithm are not described in this example)

```
NAME = 789.client.example.com.server.example.com.
RDATA
  Algorithm Name    = gss-tsig
  Mode              = 3 (GSS-API negotiation - per RFC2930)
  Key Size          = size of output_token in octets
  Key Data          = output_token
```

VIII. Server receives a TKEY query

When the server receives a TKEY query, the server verifies that Mode and Algorithm fields in the TKEY record in the Additional records section of the query are set to 3 and gss-tsig, respectively. It finds that the key\_name 789.client.example.com.server.example.com. is listed in its (key\_name, context\_handle) mapping table.

## IX. Server calls GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context

To continue security context negotiation server calls GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context with the following parameters (Note that some INPUT and OUTPUT parameters not critical for this algorithm are not described in this example)

### INPUTS

CONTEXT HANDLE input\_context\_handle = context\_handle from the (789.client.example.com.server.example.com., context\_handle) entry in the server's mapping table  
OCTET STRING input\_token = token specified in the Key field of TKEY RR (from Additional records Section of the client's query)

The OUTPUTS parameters returned by GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context include

INTEGER major\_status = GSS\_S\_COMPLETE  
CONTEXT\_HANDLE output\_context\_handle = context\_handle  
OCTET STRING output\_token = NULL

Since major\_status = GSS\_S\_COMPLETE, the security context on the server side is established, but the server still needs to respond to the client's TKEY query, as described below. The security context state is advanced to Context Established.

## X. Server responds to the TKEY query

Since the major\_status = GSS\_S\_COMPLETE in the last server's call to GSS\_Accept\_sec\_context and the output\_token is NULL, the server responds to the TKEY query placing in the answer section a TKEY record that was sent by the client in the Additional records section of the client's latest TKEY query. In addition to this server places a TSIG record in additional records section of its response. Server calls GSS\_GetMIC to generate a signature to include it in the TSIG record. The server specifies the following GSS\_GetMIC INPUT parameters:

CONTEXT HANDLE context\_handle = context\_handle from the (789.client.example.com.server.example.com., context\_handle) entry in the server's mapping table  
OCTET STRING message = outgoing message plus TSIG variables (as described in [[RFC2845](#)])

The OUTPUTS parameters returned by GSS\_GetMIC include

INTEGER major\_status = GSS\_S\_COMPLETE  
OCTET STRING per\_msg\_token

Signature field in the TSIG record is set to per\_msg\_token.

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XI. Client processes token returned by server  
Client receives the TKEY query response from the server. Since the major\_status was GSS\_S\_COMPLETE in the last client's call to GSS\_Init\_sec\_context, the client verifies that the server's response is signed. To validate the signature client calls GSS\_VerifyMIC with the following parameters:

**INPUTS**

```
CONTEXT HANDLE context_handle = context_handle for
                               789.client.example.com.server.example.com. key_name
OCTET STRING   message        = incoming message plus TSIG
                               variables (as described in [RFC2845])
OCTET STRING   per_msg_token   = Signature field from TSIG RR
                               included in the server's query response
```

Since the OUTPUTS parameter major\_status = GSS\_S\_COMPLETE, the signature is validated, security negotiation is complete and the security context state is advanced to Context Established. These client and server will use the established security context to sign and validate the signatures when they exchange packets with each other until the context expires.

## 7. Security Considerations

This document describes a protocol for DNS security using GSS-API. The security provided by this protocol is only as effective as the security provided by the underlying GSS mechanisms.

## 8. IANA Considerations

The authors request that the IANA reserve the TSIG Algorithm name gss-tsig for the use in the Algorithm fields of TKEY and TSIG resource records. This Algorithm name refers to the algorithm described in this document. The requirement to have this name registered with IANA is specified in [RFC 2845](#).

## 9. Conformance

The GSS API using SPNEGO [[RFC2478](#)] provides maximum flexibility to choose the underlying security mechanisms that enables security context negotiation. GSS API using SPNEGO [[RFC2478](#)] enables client and server to negotiate and choose such underlying security mechanisms on the fly. To support such flexibility, DNS clients and servers SHOULD specify SPNEGO mech\_type in their GSS API calls. At the same time, in order to guarantee interoperability between DNS clients and servers that support GSS-TSIG it is required that

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- DNS servers specify SPNEGO mech\_type
- GSS APIs called by DNS client support Kerberos v5
- GSS APIs called by DNS server support SPNEGO [[RFC2478](#)] and Kerberos v5.

In addition to these, GSS APIs used by DNS client and server MAY also support other underlying security mechanisms.

## [10](#). Acknowledgements

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