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A Simple Anonymous GSS-API Mechanism
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Abstract

This document defines protocols, procedures and conventions for a Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) security mechanism that provides key agreement without authentication of either party.

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[1.](#) Introduction

The Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) [[RFC2743](#)] provides a framework for authentication and message protection services through a common programming interface.

The Simple Anonymous mechanism (hereafter SAnon) described in this document is a simple protocol based on the X25519 elliptic curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDH) key agreement scheme defined in [[RFC7748](#)]. No authentication of initiator or acceptor is provided. A potential use of SAnon is to provide a degree of privacy when bootstrapping unkeyed entities.

[2.](#) Requirements notation

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [[RFC2119](#)].

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3. Discovery and Negotiation

The SAnon mechanism is identified by the following OID:

```
sanon-x25519 OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::=
    {iso(1)org(3)dod(6)internet(1)
     security(5)mechanisms(5)sanon-x25519(tbd)}
```

The means of discovering GSS-API peers and their supported mechanisms is out of this specification's scope. To avoid multiple layers of negotiation, SAnon is not crypto-agile; a future variant using a different algorithm would be assigned a different OID.

If anonymity is not desired then SAnon MUST NOT be used. Either party can test for anon_state (GSS_C_ANON_FLAG) to check if anonymous authentication was performed.

4. Naming

4.1. Mechanism Names

A SAnon mechanism name is abstractly a boolean indicating whether it represents an anonymous identity. Anonymous identities are names imported with the GSS_C_NT_ANONYMOUS name type. Implementations MAY map other names to anonymous identities according to local policy. Names representing non-anonymous identities MUST be importable so that initiators with non-default credentials can engage SAnon by setting anon_req_flag (GSS_C_ANON_FLAG).

4.2. Display Name Format

When GSS_Display_name() is called on a mechanism name representing an anonymous identity, the display string is WELLKNOWN/ANONYMOUS@WELLKNOWN:ANONYMOUS [[RFC8062](#)] and the name type is GSS_C_NT_ANONYMOUS. This is always the name observed by a SAnon peer. All context APIs that return peer names MUST return this name for both parties if the context is established.

4.3. Exported Name Format

SAnon uses the mechanism-independent exported name object format defined in [[RFC2743](#)] [Section 3.2](#). All lengths are encoded as big-endian integers. The export of non-anonymous mechanism names MUST fail with GSS_S_BAD_NAME.

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Length	Name	Description
2	TOK_ID	04 01
2	MECH_OID_LEN	Length of the mechanism OID
MECH_OID_LEN	MECH_OID	The SAnon mechanism OID, in DER
4	NAME_LEN	00 00 00 01
1	NAME	01

5. Definitions and Token Formats

5.1. Context Establishment Tokens

5.1.1. Initial context token

The initial context token is framed per [Section 1 of \[RFC2743\]](#):

```
GSS-API DEFINITIONS ::=
    BEGIN

    MechType ::= OBJECT IDENTIFIER -- TBD
    GSSAPI-Token ::=
    [APPLICATION 0] IMPLICIT SEQUENCE {
        thisMech MechType,
        innerToken ANY DEFINED BY thisMech
        -- 32 byte initiator public key
        -- 8 byte protocol flags (optional)
    }
    END
```

On the first call to `GSS_Init_sec_context()`, the mechanism checks if one or more of the following are true:

The caller set `anon_req_flag` (`GSS_C_ANON_FLAG`)

The claimant credential identity is anonymous (see [Section 4.1](#))

The claimant credential is the default one and target identity is anonymous

If none of these are the case, the call MUST fail with `GSS_S_UNAVAILABLE`.

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If proceeding, the initiator generates a fresh secret and public key pair per [\[RFC7748\] Section 6.1](#) and returns `GSS_S_CONTINUE_NEEDED`, indicating that a subsequent context token from the acceptor is expected. The `innerToken` field of the `output_token` contains the initiator's 32 byte public key, optionally concatenated with a 64-bit big-endian integer containing flags that are not optional and the acceptor would be otherwise be unable to infer (such as those defined in [\[RFC4757\] Section 7.1](#)).

Portable initiators are RECOMMENDED to use default credentials whenever possible and request anonymity only through `anon_req_flag` (see [\[RFC8062\] Section 6](#)).

5.1.2. Acceptor context token

Upon receiving a context token from the initiator, the acceptor validates that the token is well formed. The acceptor generates a fresh secret and public key pair. The context session key is computed as specified in [Section 6](#).

The acceptor constructs an `output_token` by concatenating its public key with the token emitted by calling `GSS_GetMIC()` with the default QOP and zero-length octet string. The output token is sent to the initiator without additional framing.

The acceptor then returns `GSS_S_COMPLETE`, setting `src_name` to the canonical anonymous name. The `reply_det_state` (`GSS_C_REPLAY_FLAG`), `sequence_state` (`GSS_C_SEQUENCE_FLAG`), `conf_avail` (`GSS_C_CONF_FLAG`), `integ_avail` (`GSS_C_INTEG_FLAG`) and `anon_state` (`GSS_C_ANON_FLAG`) security context flags are set, along with any additional flags received from the initiator that are supported by the acceptor. The context is ready to use.

5.1.3. Initiator context completion

Upon receiving the acceptor context token and verifying it is well formed, the initiator extracts the acceptor's public key (being the first 32 bytes of the input token) and computes the context session key per [Section 6](#).

The initiator calls `GSS_VerifyMIC()` with the MIC extracted from the context token and the zero-length octet string. If successful, the initiator returns `GSS_S_COMPLETE` to the caller, to indicate the initiator is authenticated and the context is ready for use. No output token is emitted. The security context flags are set as for the acceptor, including any additional flags sent in the initial context token.

5.2. Per-Message Tokens

The per-message tokens definitions are imported from [\[RFC4121\] Section 4.2](#). The base key used to derive specific keys for signing and sealing messages is defined in [Section 6](#). The [\[RFC3961\]](#) encryption and checksum algorithms use the aes128-cts-hmac-sha256-128 encryption type defined in [\[RFC8009\]](#). The AcceptorSubkey flag as defined in [\[RFC4121\] Section 4.2.2](#) MUST be set.

5.3. Context Deletion Tokens

Context deletion tokens are empty in this mechanism. The behavior of `GSS_Delete_sec_context()` [\[RFC2743\]](#) is as specified in [\[RFC4121\] Section 4.3](#).

6. Key derivation

The context session key is known as the base key, and is computed using a key derivation function from [\[SP800-108\] Section 5.1](#) (using HMAC as the PRF):

$$\text{base key} = \text{HMAC-SHA-256}(K1, i \mid \text{label} \mid 0x00 \mid \text{context} \mid L)$$

where:

K1	the output of X25519(local secret key, peer public key) as specified in [RFC7748] Section 6.1
i	the constant 0x00000001, representing the iteration count expressed in big-endian binary representation of 4 bytes
label	the string "sanon-x25519" (without quotation marks)
context	initiator public key acceptor public key flags channel binding application data (if present)
L	the constant 0x00000080, being length in bits of the key to be outputted expressed in big-endian binary representation of 4 bytes

The flags input to the context contains any flags sent by the initiator, defaulting to zero if none were sent, expressed in big-endian binary representation of 8 bytes.

The inclusion of channel bindings in the key derivation function means that the acceptor cannot ignore initiator channel bindings; this differs from some other mechanisms. Being the only variable

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length input to the key derivation function, the length is not included.

The base key provides the acceptor-asserted subkey defined in [\[RFC4121\] Section 2](#) and is used to generate keys for per-message tokens and the GSS-API PRF. Its encryption type is aes128-cts-hmac-sha256-128 per [\[RFC8009\]](#). The [\[RFC3961\]](#) algorithm protocol parameters are as given in [\[RFC8009\] Section 5](#).

[7.](#) Pseudo-Random Function

The [\[RFC4401\]](#) GSS-API pseudo-random function for this mechanism imports the definitions from [\[RFC8009\]](#), using the base key for both GSS_C_PRF_KEY_FULLL and GSS_C_PRF_KEY_PARTIAL usages.

[8.](#) Security Considerations

This document defines a GSS-API security mechanism, and therefore deals in security and has security considerations text embedded throughout. This section only addresses security considerations associated with the SAnon mechanism described in this document. It does not address security considerations associated with the GSS-API itself.

This mechanism provides only for key agreement. It does not authenticate the identity of either party. It MUST NOT be selected if either party requires identification of its peer.

SAnon mechanism names are not unary: there may be many real identities that map to either the anonymous or non-anonymous mechanism name. As such, implementations MUST ensure that GSS_Compare_name() always sets name_equal to FALSE when comparing mechanism names.

[9.](#) Acknowledgements

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Chen, L., "Recommendation for Key Derivation Using Pseudorandom Functions (Revised)", October 2009.

[Appendix A](#). Test Vectors

The example exchange below contains no additional flags or channel binding information.

[[CREF1: These test vectors will need to be regenerated once an OID is assigned by IANA. --LH]]

initiator secret key	83 33 f2 ea 2a 22 eb aa 05 39 c6 06 1d 6a 99 05 84 24 49 9e 2c 16 c1 b1 34 d9 22 27 f3 f4 5e bd
initiator public key	5f 40 66 22 5a 3c fd 72 57 23 c1 8f ae 71 3e 8c ab 32 a7 2c 93 b9 76 66 04 4b 8f e4 a0 c9 69 19
initiator token	60 2c 06 0a 2b 06 01 04 01 a9 4a 1a 01 6e 5f 40 66 22 5a 3c fd 72 57 23 c1 8f ae 71 3e 8c ab 32 a7 2c 93 b9 76 66 04 4b 8f e4 a0 c9 69 19
acceptor secret key	b0 db 16 32 39 0a dd 93 1e f7 62 bc d3 c9 1d 03 e8 d9 59 52 48 eb e2 f2 b5 f7 d8 06 ec dd 50 60
acceptor public key	2f 81 51 9f a8 9c 07 f8 eb b2 95 6c 0c c3 22 77 ae a1 0e 62 0c 79 33 81 ef 9a c5 b2 f0 d9 1e 06
base key	80 76 2c 43 32 6a 95 f5 be 30 6d ea 10 ba f3 d0
acceptor token	2f 81 51 9f a8 9c 07 f8 eb b2 95 6c 0c c3 22 77 ae a1 0e 62 0c 79 33 81 ef 9a c5 b2 f0 d9 1e 06 04 04 05 ff ff ff ff ff 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 4d 5e a9 e0 e1 9c 7a 61 c2 6a 9a c5 e8 17 5f 04

initiator negoex key 2a c8 f9 d0 31 87 40 42 cb d4 50 07 ce db c2 c2

acceptor negoex key 73 9f 4d a2 f1 2d f7 f7 d7 ea e4 9d a4 08 62 5b

[Appendix B](#). Mechanism Attributes

The [[RFC5587](#)] mechanism attributes for this mechanism are:

GSS_C_MA_MECH_CONCRETE

GSS_C_MA_ITOK_FRAMED

GSS_C_MA_AUTH_INIT_ANON

GSS_C_MA_AUTH_TARG_ANON

GSS_C_MA_INTEG_PROT

GSS_C_MA_CONF_PROT

GSS_C_MA_MIC

GSS_C_MA_WRAP

GSS_C_MA_REPLAY_DET

GSS_C_MA_OOS_DET

GSS_C_MA_CBINDINGS

GSS_C_MA_PFS

GSS_C_MA_CTX_TRANS

[Appendix C](#). NegoEx

When SAnon is negotiated by [[I-D.zhu-negoex](#)], the authentication scheme identifier is DEE384FF-1086-4E86-BE78-B94170BFD376.

The initiator and acceptor keys for NegoEx checksum generation and verification are derived using the GSS-API PRF (see [Section 7](#)), with the input data "sanon-x25519-initiator-negoex-key" and "sanon-x25519-acceptor-negoex-key" respectively (without quotation marks). No metadata is defined and any, if present, SHOULD be ignored.

It is RECOMMENDED that GSS-API implementations supporting both SPNEGO [[RFC4178](#)] and NegoEx advertise SAnon under both to maximise interoperability.

[Appendix D](#). IANA Considerations

The IANA is requested to assign a new entry for the sanon-x25519 mechanism in the sub-registry for SMI Security for Mechanism Codes, and to reference this specification in the registry. [Section 3](#) and [Appendix A](#) should be updated accordingly.

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