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A Pseudo-Random Function (PRF) for the Kerberos V Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) Mechanism
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Abstract

This document defines the Pseudo-Random Function (PRF) for the Kerberos V mechanism for the Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API), based on the PRF defined for the Kerberos V cryptographic framework, for keying application protocols given an established Kerberos V GSS-API security context.

This document obsoletes [RFC 4402](#) and reclassifies that document as historic. [RFC 4402](#) starts the PRF+ counter at 1, however a number of implementations starts the counter at 0. As a result, the original specification would not be interoperable with existing implementations.

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Conventions Used in This Document	2
3. Kerberos V GSS Mechanism PRF	2
4. IANA Considerations	3
5. Security Considerations	3
6. Acknowledgements	4
7. Normative References	4
Appendix A. Test Vectors	6
Authors' Addresses	8

[1. Introduction](#)

This document specifies the Kerberos V GSS-API mechanism's [[RFC4121](#)] pseudo-random function corresponding to [[RFC4401](#)]. The function is a "PRF+" style construction. For more information see [[RFC4401](#)], [[RFC2743](#)], [[RFC2744](#)] and [[RFC4121](#)].

This document obsoletes [RFC 4402](#) and reclassifies that document as historic. [RFC 4402](#) starts the PRF+ counter at 1, however a number of implementations starts the counter at 0. As a result, the original specification would not be interoperable with existing implementations.

[2. Conventions Used in This Document](#)

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](#)].

[3. Kerberos V GSS Mechanism PRF](#)

The GSS-API PRF [[RFC4401](#)] function for the Kerberos V mechanism [[RFC4121](#)] shall be the output of a PRF+ function based on the encryption type's PRF function keyed with the negotiated session key of the security context corresponding to the 'prf_key' input parameter of `GSS_Pseudo_random()`.

Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 2]

This PRF+ MUST be keyed with the key indicated by the 'prf_key' input parameter as follows:

- o GSS_C_PRF_KEY_FULL -- use the sub-session key asserted by the acceptor, if any exists, or the sub-session asserted by the initiator, if any exists, or the Ticket's session key
- o GSS_C_PRF_KEY_PARTIAL -- use the sub-session key asserted by the initiator, if any exists, or the Ticket's session key

The PRF+ function is a simple counter-based extension of the Kerberos V pseudo-random function [[RFC3961](#)] for the encryption type of the security context's keys:

$$\text{PRF+}(K, L, S) = \text{truncate}(L, T_0 || T_1 || \dots || T_n)$$

$$T_n = \text{pseudo-random}(K, n || S)$$

where K is the key indicated by the 'prf_key' parameter, where '||' is the concatenation operator, 'n' is encoded as a network byte order 32-bit unsigned binary number, `truncate(L, S)` truncates the input octet string S to length L, and `pseudo-random()` is the Kerberos V pseudo-random function [[RFC3961](#)].

The maximum output size of the Kerberos V mechanism's GSS-API PRF then is, necessarily, 2^{32} times the output size of the pseudo-random() function for the encryption type of the given key.

When the input size is longer than 2^{14} octets as per [[RFC4401](#)] and exceeds an implementation's resources, then the mechanism MUST return `GSS_S_FAILURE` and `GSS_KRB5_S_KG_INPUT_TOO_LONG` as the minor status code.

[4. IANA Considerations](#)

This document has no IANA considerations currently. If and when a relevant IANA registry of GSS-API symbols and constants is created, then the `GSS_KRB5_S_KG_INPUT_TOO_LONG` minor status code should be added to such a registry.

[5. Security Considerations](#)

Kerberos V encryption types' PRF functions use a key derived from contexts' session keys and should preserve the forward security properties of the mechanisms' key exchanges.

Legacy Kerberos V encryption types may be weak, particularly the single-DES encryption types.

Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 3]

See also [[RFC4401](#)] for generic security considerations of GSS_Pseudo_random().

See also [[RFC3961](#)] for generic security considerations of the Kerberos V cryptographic framework.

Use of Ticket session keys, rather than sub-session keys, when initiators and acceptors fail to assert sub-session keys, is dangerous as ticket reuse can lead to key reuse; therefore, initiators should assert sub-session keys always, and acceptors should assert sub-session keys at least when initiators fail to do so.

The computational cost of computing this PRF+ may vary depending on the Kerberos V encryption types being used, but generally the computation of this PRF+ gets more expensive as the input and output octet string lengths grow (note that the use of a counter in the PRF+ construction allows for parallelization).

[6. Acknowledgements](#)

This document is an update to Nico Williams' RFC. Greg Hudson has provided the test vectors based on MIT's implementation.

[7. Normative References](#)

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Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 4]

[RFC4121] Zhu, L., Jaganathan, K., and S. Hartman, "The Kerberos Version 5 Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API) Mechanism: Version 2", [RFC 4121](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4121, July 2005, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4121>>.

[RFC4401] Williams, N., "A Pseudo-Random Function (PRF) API Extension for the Generic Security Service Application Program Interface (GSS-API)", [RFC 4401](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4401, February 2006, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4401>>.

Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 5]

[Appendix A. Test Vectors](#)

Here are some test vectors from the MIT implementation provided by Greg Hudson. Test cases used include input string lengths of 0 and 61 bytes, and an output length of 44 bytes. 61 bytes of input is just enough to produce a partial second MD5 or SHA1 hash block with the four-byte counter prefix. 44 bytes of output requires two full and one partial [RFC 3961](#) PRF output for all existing enctypes. All keys were randomly generated.

Enctype: des-cbc-crc

Key: E607FE9DABB57AE0

Input: (empty string)

Output: 803C4121379FC4B87CE413B67707C4632EBED2C6D6B7
2A55E878836E35E21600D915D590DED5B6D77BB30A1F

Enctype: des-cbc-crc

Key: 54758316B6257A75

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: 279E4105F7ADC9BD6EF28ABE31D89B442FE0058388BA
33264ACB5729562DC637950F6BD144B654BE7700B2D6

Enctype: des3-cbc-sha1

Key: 70378A19CD64134580C27C0115D6B34A1CF2FEECEF9886A2

Input: (empty string)

Output: 9F8D127C520BB826BFF3E0FE5EF352389C17E0C073D9
AC4A333D644D21BA3EF24F4A886D143F85AC9F6377FB

Enctype: des3-cbc-sha1

Key: 3452A167DF1094BA1089E0A20E9E51ABEF1525922558B69E

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: 6BF24FABC858F8DD9752E4FCD331BB831F238B5BE190
4EEA42E38F7A60C588F075C5C96A67E7F8B7BD0AECF4

Enctype: rc4-hmac

Key: 3BB3AE288C12B3B9D06B208A4151B3B6

Input: (empty string)

Output: 9AEA11A3BCF3C53F1F91F5A0BA2132E2501ADF5F3C28
3C8A983AB88757CE865A22132D6100EAD63E9E291AFA

Enctype: rc4-hmac

Key: 6DB7B33A01BD2B72F7655CB7B3D5FA0B

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: CDA9A544869FC84873B692663A82AFDA101C8611498B
A46138B01E927C9B95EEC953B562807434037837DDDF

Enctype: aes128-cts-hmac-sha1-96

Key: 6C742096EB896230312B73972FA28B5D

Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 6]

Input: (empty string)

Output: 94208D982FC1BB7778128BDD77904420B45C9DA699F3
117BCE66E39602128EF0296611A6D191A5828530F20F

Enctype: aes128-cts-hmac-sha1-96

Key: FA61138C109D834A477D24C7311BE6DA

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: 0FAEDF0F842CC834FEE750487E1B622739286B975FE5
B7F45AB053143C75CA0DF5D3D4BBB80F6A616C7C9027

Enctype: aes256-cts-hmac-sha1-96

Key: 08FCDAFD5832611B73BA7B497FEBFF8C954B4B58031CAD9B977C3B8C25192FD6

Input: (empty string)

Output: E627EFC14EF5B6D629F830C7109DEA0D3D7D36E8CD57
A1F301C5452494A1928F05AFFBEE3360232209D3BE0D

Enctype: aes256-cts-hmac-sha1-96

Key: F5B68B7823D8944F33F41541B4E4D38C9B2934F8D16334A796645B066152B4BE

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: 112F2B2D878590653CCC7DE278E9F0AA46FA5A380B62
59F774CB7C134FCD37F61A50FD0D9F89BF8FE1A6B593

Enctype: camellia128-cts-cmac

Key: 866E0466A178279A32AC0BDA92B72AEB

Input: (empty string)

Output: 97FBB354BF341C3A160DCC86A7A910FDA824601DF677
68797BACEEBF5D250AE929DEC9760772084267F50A54

Enctype: camellia128-cts-cmac

Key: D4893FD37DA1A211E12DD1E03E0F03B7

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: 1DEE2FF126CA563A2A2326B9DD3F0095013257414C83
FAD4398901013D55F367C82681186B7B2FE62F746BA4

Enctype: camellia256-cts-cmac

Key: 203071B1AE77BD3D6FCE70174AF95C225B1CED46B35CF52B6479EFEB47E6B063

Input: (empty string)

Output: 9B30020634C10FDA28420CEE7B96B70A90A771CED43A
D8346554163E5949CBAE2FB8EF36AFB6B32CE75116A0

Enctype: camellia256-cts-cmac

Key: A171AD582C1AFBBAD52ABD622EE6B6A14D19BF95C6914B2BA40FFD99A88EC660

Input: ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZabcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz123456789

Output: A47CBB6E104DCC77E4DB48A7A474B977F2FB6A7A1AB6
52317D50508AE72B7BE2E4E4BA24164E029CBACF786B

Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 7]

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Emery & Williams

Expires June 13, 2016

[Page 8]