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                         **Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman Over COSE (EDHOC)**

## **Abstract**

This document specifies Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman Over COSE (EDHOC), a very compact and lightweight authenticated Diffie-Hellman key exchange with ephemeral keys. EDHOC provides mutual authentication, forward secrecy, and identity protection. EDHOC is intended for usage in constrained scenarios and a main use case is to establish an OSCORE security context. By reusing COSE for cryptography, CBOR for encoding, and CoAP for transport, the additional code size can be kept very low.

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## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Motivation**

Many Internet of Things (IoT) deployments require technologies which are highly performant in constrained environments [[RFC7228](#)]. IoT devices may be constrained in various ways, including memory, storage, processing capacity, and power. The connectivity for these settings may also exhibit constraints such as unreliable and lossy channels, highly restricted bandwidth, and dynamic topology. The IETF has acknowledged this problem by standardizing a range of lightweight protocols and enablers designed for the IoT, including the Constrained Application Protocol (CoAP, [[RFC7252](#)]), Concise Binary Object Representation (CBOR, [[RFC8949](#)]), and Static Context Header Compression (SCHC, [[RFC8724](#)]).

The need for special protocols targeting constrained IoT deployments extends also to the security domain [[I-D.ietf-lake-reqs](#)]. Important characteristics in constrained environments are the number of round trips and protocol message sizes, which if kept low can contribute to good performance by enabling transport over a small number of

radio frames, reducing latency due to fragmentation or duty cycles, etc. Another important criteria is code size, which may be prohibitive for certain deployments due to device capabilities or network load during firmware update. Some IoT deployments also need to support a variety of underlying transport technologies, potentially even with a single connection.

Some security solutions for such settings exist already. CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE, [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)]) specifies basic application-layer security services efficiently encoded in CBOR. Another example is Object Security for Constrained RESTful Environments (OSCORE, [[RFC8613](#)]) which is a lightweight communication security extension to CoAP using CBOR and COSE. In order to establish good quality cryptographic keys for security protocols such as COSE and OSCORE, the two endpoints may run an authenticated Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol, from which shared secret key material can be derived. Such a key exchange protocol should also be lightweight; to prevent bad performance in case of repeated use, e.g., due to device rebooting or frequent rekeying for security reasons; or to avoid latencies in a network formation setting with many devices authenticating at the same time.

This document specifies Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman Over COSE (EDHOC), a lightweight authenticated key exchange protocol providing good security properties including forward secrecy, identity protection, and cipher suite negotiation. Authentication can be based on raw public keys (RPK) or public key certificates and requires the application to provide input on how to verify that endpoints are trusted. This specification focuses on referencing instead of transporting credentials to reduce message overhead. EDHOC does currently not support pre-shared key (PSK) authentication as authentication with static Diffie-Hellman public keys by reference produces equally small message sizes but with much simpler key distribution.

EDHOC makes use of known protocol constructions, such as SIGMA [[SIGMA](#)] and Extract-and-Expand [[RFC5869](#)]. COSE also provides crypto agility and enables the use of future algorithms targeting IoT.

## **1.2. Use of EDHOC**

EDHOC is designed for highly constrained settings making it especially suitable for low-power wide area networks [[RFC8376](#)] such as Cellular IoT, 6TiSCH, and LoRaWAN. A main objective for EDHOC is to be a lightweight authenticated key exchange for OSCORE, i.e., to provide authentication and session key establishment for IoT use cases such as those built on CoAP [[RFC7252](#)]. CoAP is a specialized web transfer protocol for use with constrained nodes and networks, providing a request/response interaction model between application

endpoints. As such, EDHOC is targeting a large variety of use cases involving 'things' with embedded microcontrollers, sensors, and actuators.

A typical setting is when one of the endpoints is constrained or in a constrained network, and the other endpoint is a node on the Internet (such as a mobile phone) or at the edge of the constrained network (such as a gateway). Thing-to-thing interactions over constrained networks are also relevant since both endpoints would then benefit from the lightweight properties of the protocol. EDHOC could e.g., be run when a device connects for the first time, or to establish fresh keys which are not revealed by a later compromise of the long-term keys. Further security properties are described in [Section 7.1](#).

EDHOC enables the reuse of the same lightweight primitives as OSCORE: CBOR for encoding, COSE for cryptography, and CoAP for transport. By reusing existing libraries, the additional code size can be kept very low. Note that, while CBOR and COSE primitives are built into the protocol messages, EDHOC is not bound to a particular transport. Transfer of EDHOC messages in CoAP payloads is detailed in [Appendix A.3](#).

### 1.3. Message Size Examples

Compared to the DTLS 1.3 handshake [[I-D.ietf-tls-dtls13](#)] with ECDHE and connection ID, the number of bytes in EDHOC + CoAP can be less than 1/6 when RPK authentication is used, see [[I-D.ietf-lwig-security-protocol-comparison](#)]. [Figure 1](#) shows two examples of message sizes for EDHOC with different kinds of authentication keys and different COSE header parameters for identification: static Diffie-Hellman keys identified by 'kid' [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], and X.509 signature certificates identified by a hash value using 'x5t' [[I-D.ietf-cose-x509](#)].

	kid	x5t
message_1	37	37
message_2	45	116
message_3	19	90
Total	101	243

Figure 1: Example of message sizes in bytes.

## 1.4. Document Structure

The remainder of the document is organized as follows: [Section 2](#) outlines EDHOC authenticated with digital signatures, [Section 3](#) describes the protocol elements of EDHOC, including formatting of the ephemeral public keys, [Section 4](#) specifies the key derivation, [Section 5](#) specifies message processing for EDHOC authenticated with signature keys or static Diffie-Hellman keys, [Section 6](#) describes the error messages, and [Appendix A](#) shows how to transfer EDHOC with CoAP and establish an OSCORE security context.

## 1.5. Terminology and Requirements Language

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.

Readers are expected to be familiar with the terms and concepts described in CBOR [[RFC8949](#)], CBOR Sequences [[RFC8742](#)], COSE structures and process [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], COSE algorithms [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)], and CDDL [[RFC8610](#)]. The Concise Data Definition Language (CDDL) is used to express CBOR data structures [[RFC8949](#)]. Examples of CBOR and CDDL are provided in [Appendix C.1](#). When referring to CBOR, this specification always refers to Deterministically Encoded CBOR as specified in Sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 of [[RFC8949](#)].

The single output from authenticated encryption (including the authentication tag) is called "ciphertext", following [[RFC5116](#)].

We use the term Unprotected CWT Claims Set (UCCS) just as in [[I-D.ietf-rats-uccs](#)] to denote a CBOR Web Token [[RFC8392](#)] without wrapping it into a COSE object, i.e., a CBOR map consisting of claims.

Editor's note: If [[I-D.ietf-rats-uccs](#)] completes before this draft, make it a normative reference.

## 2. EDHOC Outline

EDHOC specifies different authentication methods of the Diffie-Hellman key exchange: digital signatures and static Diffie-Hellman keys. This section outlines the digital signature-based method. Further details of protocol elements and other authentication methods are provided in the remainder of this document.

SIGMA (SIGn-and-MAC) is a family of theoretical protocols with a large number of variants [[SIGMA](#)]. Like IKEv2 [[RFC7296](#)] and (D)TLS

1.3 [RFC8446], EDHOC authenticated with digital signatures is built on a variant of the SIGMA protocol which provides identity protection of the initiator (SIGMA-I), and like IKEv2 [RFC7296], EDHOC implements the SIGMA-I variant as MAC-then-Sign. The SIGMA-I protocol using an authenticated encryption algorithm is shown in Figure 2.

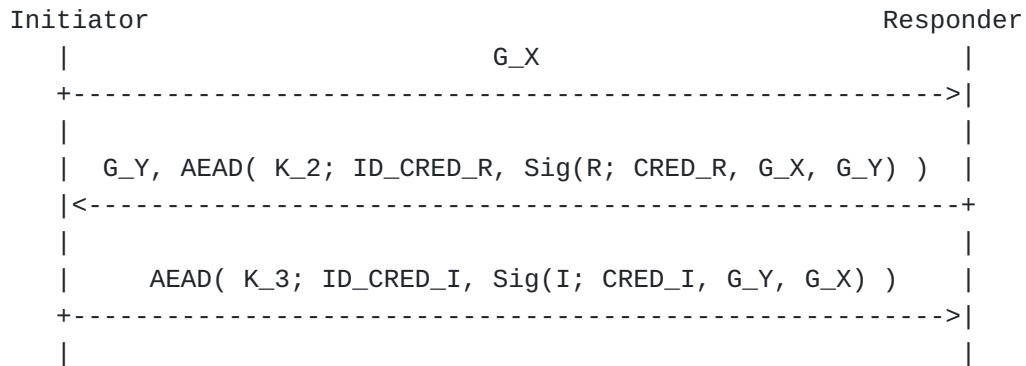


Figure 2: Authenticated encryption variant of the SIGMA-I protocol.

The parties exchanging messages are called Initiator (I) and Responder (R). They exchange ephemeral public keys, compute a shared secret, and derive symmetric application keys used to protect application data.

\* $G_X$  and  $G_Y$  are the ECDH ephemeral public keys of I and R, respectively.

\* $\text{CRED\_I}$  and  $\text{CRED\_R}$  are the credentials containing the public authentication keys of I and R, respectively.

\* $\text{ID\_CRED\_I}$  and  $\text{ID\_CRED\_R}$  are credential identifiers enabling the recipient party to retrieve the credential of I and R, respectively.

\* $\text{Sig}(I; \cdot)$  and  $\text{Sig}(R; \cdot)$  denote signatures made with the private authentication key of I and R, respectively.

\* $\text{AEAD}(K; \cdot)$  denotes authenticated encryption with additional data using a key  $K$  derived from the shared secret.

In order to create a "full-fledged" protocol some additional protocol elements are needed. EDHOC adds:

\*Transcript hashes (hashes of message data)  $\text{TH}_2$ ,  $\text{TH}_3$ ,  $\text{TH}_4$  used for key derivation and as additional authenticated data.

- \*Computationally independent keys derived from the ECDH shared secret and used for authenticated encryption of different messages.
- \*An optional fourth message giving explicit key confirmation to I in deployments where no protected application data is sent from R to I.
- \*A key material exporter and a key update function enabling forward secrecy.
- \*Verification of a common preferred cipher suite:
  - The Initiator lists supported cipher suites in order of preference
  - The Responder verifies that the selected cipher suite is the first supported cipher suite (or else rejects and states supported cipher suites).
- \*Method types and error handling.
- \*Selection of connection identifiers C\_I and C\_R which may be used to identify established keys or protocol state.
- \*Transport of external authorization data.

EDHOC is designed to encrypt and integrity protect as much information as possible, and all symmetric keys are derived using as much previous information as possible. EDHOC is furthermore designed to be as compact and lightweight as possible, in terms of message sizes, processing, and the ability to reuse already existing CBOR, COSE, and CoAP libraries.

To simplify for implementors, the use of CBOR and COSE in EDHOC is summarized in [Appendix C](#) and test vectors including CBOR diagnostic notation are given in [Appendix D](#).

### 3. Protocol Elements

#### 3.1. General

The EDHOC protocol consists of three mandatory messages (message\_1, message\_2, message\_3) between Initiator and Responder, an optional fourth message (message\_4), plus an error message. EDHOC messages are CBOR Sequences [[RFC8742](#)], see [Figure 3](#). The protocol elements in the figure are introduced in the following sections. Message formatting and processing is specified in [Section 5](#) and [Section 6](#). An implementation may support only Initiator or only Responder.



Application data is protected using the agreed application algorithms (AEAD, hash) in the selected cipher suite (see [Section 3.6](#)) and the application can make use of the established connection identifiers C\_I and C\_R (see [Section 3.3](#)). EDHOC may be used with the media type application/edhoc defined in [Section 8](#).

The Initiator can derive symmetric application keys after creating EDHOC message\_3, see [Section 4.3](#). Protected application data can therefore be sent in parallel or together with EDHOC message\_3.

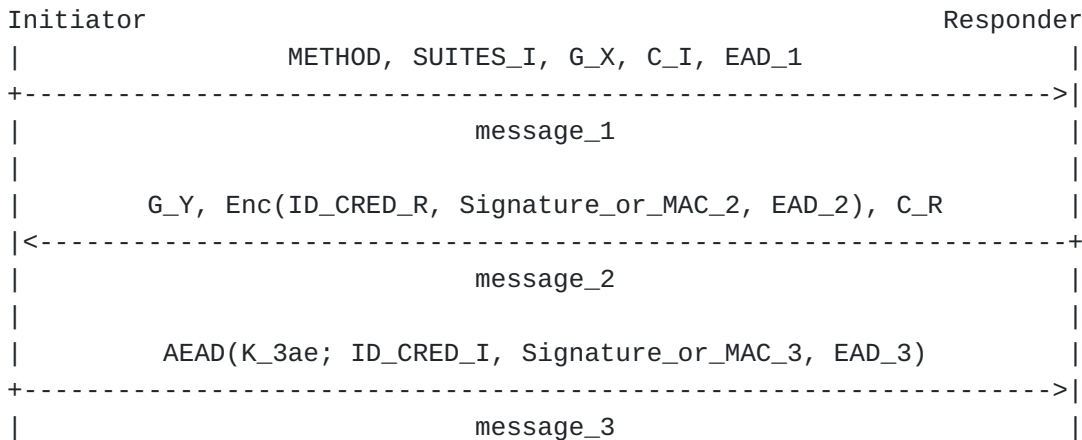


Figure 3: EDHOC Message Flow

### 3.2. Method

The data item METHOD in message\_1 (see [Section 5.2.1](#)), is an integer specifying the authentication method. EDHOC supports authentication with signature or static Diffie-Hellman keys, as defined in the four authentication methods: 0, 1, 2, and 3, see [Figure 4](#). (Method 0 corresponds to the case outlined in [Section 2](#) where both Initiator and Responder authenticate with signature keys.)

An implementation may support only a single method. The Initiator and the Responder need to have agreed on a single method to be used for EDHOC, see [Section 3.9](#).

Value	Initiator	Responder	Reference
0	Signature Key	Signature Key	[[this document]]
1	Signature Key	Static DH Key	[[this document]]
2	Static DH Key	Signature Key	[[this document]]
3	Static DH Key	Static DH Key	[[this document]]

Figure 4: Method Types

### 3.3. Connection Identifiers

EDHOC includes the selection of connection identifiers (C\_I, C\_R) identifying a connection for which keys are agreed. Connection identifiers may be used in the ongoing EDHOC protocol (see [Section 3.3.2](#)) or in a subsequent application protocol, e.g., OSCORE (see [Section 3.3.3](#)). The connection identifiers do not have any cryptographic purpose in EDHOC.

Connection identifiers in EDHOC are byte strings or integers, encoded in CBOR. One byte connection identifiers (the integers -24 to 23 and the empty byte string h'') are realistic in many scenarios as most constrained devices only have a few connections.

#### 3.3.1. Selection of Connection Identifiers

C\_I and C\_R are chosen by I and R, respectively. The Initiator selects C\_I and sends it in message\_1 for the Responder to use as a reference to the connection in communications with the Initiator. The Responder selects C\_R and sends in message\_2 for the Initiator to use as a reference to the connection in communications with the Responder.

If connection identifiers are used by an application protocol for which EDHOC establishes keys then the selected connection identifiers SHALL adhere to the requirements for that protocol, see [Section 3.3.3](#) for an example.

#### 3.3.2. Use of Connection Identifiers with EDHOC

Connection identifiers may be used to correlate EDHOC messages and facilitate the retrieval of protocol state during EDHOC protocol execution. EDHOC transports that do not inherently provide correlation across all messages of an exchange can send connection identifiers along with EDHOC messages to gain that required capability, see [Section 3.4](#). For an example of using connection identifiers when CoAP is used as transport, see [Appendix A.3](#).

#### 3.3.3. Use of Connection Identifiers with OSCORE

For OSCORE, the choice of a connection identifier results in the endpoint selecting its Recipient ID, see Section 3.1 of [\[RFC8613\]](#), for which certain uniqueness requirements apply, see Section 3.3 of [\[RFC8613\]](#). Therefore, the Initiator and the Responder MUST NOT select connection identifiers such that it results in same OSCORE Recipient ID. Since the Recipient ID is a byte string and a EDHOC connection identifier is either a CBOR byte string or a CBOR integer, care must be taken when selecting the connection identifiers and converting them to Recipient IDs. A mapping from

EDHOC connection identifier to OSCORE Recipient ID is specified in [Appendix A.1](#).

### 3.4. Transport

Cryptographically, EDHOC does not put requirements on the lower layers. EDHOC is not bound to a particular transport layer and can even be used in environments without IP. The transport is responsible, where necessary, to handle:

- \*message loss,
- \*message reordering,
- \*message duplication,
- \*fragmentation,
- \*demultiplex EDHOC messages from other types of messages, and
- \*denial-of-service protection.

Besides these common transport-oriented properties, EDHOC transport additionally needs to support the correlation between EDHOC messages, including an indication of a message being message\_1. The correlation may reuse existing mechanisms in the transport protocol. For example, the CoAP Token may be used to correlate EDHOC messages in a CoAP response and an associated CoAP request. In the absence of correlation between a message received and a message previously sent inherent to the transport, the EDHOC connection identifiers may be added, e.g., by prepending the appropriate connection identifier (when available from the EDHOC protocol) to the EDHOC message. Transport of EDHOC in CoAP payloads is described in [Appendix A.3](#), which also shows how to use connection identifiers and message\_1 indication with CoAP.

The Initiator and the Responder need to have agreed on a transport to be used for EDHOC, see [Section 3.9](#).

### 3.5. Authentication Parameters

EDHOC enables public-key based authentication and supports various settings for how the other endpoint's public key is transported, identified, and trusted.

The authentication key (i.e., the public key) appears in different functions:

1. as part of the authentication credential CRED\_x included in the integrity calculation

2. for verification of the Signature\_or\_MAC field in message\_2 and message\_3 (see [Section 5.3.2](#) and [Section 5.4.2](#))
3. in the key derivation (in case of a static Diffie-Hellman key, see [Section 4](#)).

The choice of authentication key has an impact on the message size (see [Section 3.5.1](#)), and even more so the choice of authentication credential (see [Section 3.5.2](#)) in case it is transported within the protocol (see [Section 3.5.4](#)). EDHOC supports authentication credentials for which COSE header parameters are defined, including:

- \*X.509 v3 certificate [[RFC5280](#)]
- \*C509 certificate [[I-D.ietf-cose-cbor-encoded-cert](#)]
- \*CBOR Web Token (CWT, [[RFC8392](#)])
- \*Unprotected CWT Claims Set (UCCS, see [Section 1.5](#))

For CWT and UCCS, the authentication key is represented with a 'cnf' claim [[RFC8747](#)] containing a COSE\_Key [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)]. UCCS can be seen as a generic representation of a raw public key, see [Section 3.5.2](#) for an example. COSE\_Key is omitted from the list above because of limitations to represent the identity (see [Section 3.5.3](#)) and because it can easily be embedded in a UCCS.

Identical authentication credentials need to be established in both endpoints to accomplish item 1 above (see [Section 3.5.2](#)) but for many settings it is not necessary to transport the authentication credential over constrained links. It may, for example, be pre-provisioned or acquired out-of-band over less constrained links. ID\_CRED\_x coincides with the authentication credential CRED\_x in case it is transported, or else contains a reference to the authentication credential to facilitate its retrieval (see [Section 3.5.4](#)).

The choice of authentication credential also depends on the trust model. For example, a certificate or CWT may rely on a trusted third party, whereas a UCCS may be used when trust in the public key can be achieved by other means, or in the case of trust-on-first-use. A UCCS as authentication credential provides essentially the same trustworthiness as a self-signed certificate or CWT but has smaller size.

More details are provided in the following subsections.

### 3.5.1. Authentication Keys

The authentication key MUST be a signature key or static Diffie-Hellman key. The Initiator and the Responder MAY use different types of authentication keys, e.g., one uses a signature key and the other uses a static Diffie-Hellman key. When using a signature key, the authentication is provided by a signature. When using a static Diffie-Hellman key the authentication is provided by a Message Authentication Code (MAC) computed from an ephemeral-static ECDH shared secret which enables significant reductions in message sizes. When using static Diffie-Hellman keys the Initiator's and Responder's private authentication keys are called I and R, respectively, and the public authentication keys are called G\_I and G\_R, respectively.

The authentication key algorithm needs to be specified with enough parameters to make it completely determined. Note that for most signature algorithms, the signature is determined jointly by the signature algorithm and the authentication key algorithm. For example, the curve used in the signature is typically determined by the authentication key parameters.

\*Only the Responder SHALL have access to the Responder's private authentication key.

\*Only the Initiator SHALL have access to the Initiator's private authentication key.

### 3.5.2. Authentication Credentials

The authentication credentials, CRED\_I and CRED\_R, contain the public authentication key of the Initiator and the Responder, respectively. The Initiator and the Responder MAY use different types of credentials, e.g., one uses an UCCS and the other uses an X.509 certificate.

The credentials CRED\_I and CRED\_R are MACed by the Initiator and the Responder, respectively, see [Section 5.4.2](#) and [Section 5.3.2](#), and thus included in the message integrity calculation.

To prevent misbinding attacks in systems where an attacker can register public keys without proving knowledge of the private key, SIGMA [[SIGMA](#)] enforces a MAC to be calculated over the "identity". EDHOC follows SIGMA by calculating a MAC over the whole credential, which in case of a X.509 or C509 certificate includes the "subject" and "subjectAltName" fields, and in the case of CWT or UCCS includes the "sub" claim, see [Section 3.5.3](#). While the SIGMA paper only focuses on the identity, the same principle is true for any information such as policies connected to the public key.

When the credential is a certificate, CRED\_x is an end-entity certificate (i.e., not the certificate chain). In X.509 and C509 certificates, signature keys typically have key usage "digitalSignature" and Diffie-Hellman public keys typically have key usage "keyAgreement".

In case of elliptic curve based credential the claims set for CWT or UCCS includes:

- \*the 'cnf' claim with value COSE\_Key, see [\[RFC8747\]](#), where the public key parameters depend on key type:

- for OKP the CBOR map typically includes the parameters 1 (kty), -1 (crv), and -2 (x-coordinate)

- for EC2 the CBOR map typically includes the parameters 1 (kty), -1 (crv), -2 (x-coordinate), and -3 (y-coordinate)

- \*the 'sub' (subject) claim containing the "identity", if the parties have agreed on an identity besides the public key.

CRED\_x needs to be defined such that it is identical when generated by Initiator or Responder, see [Section 3.9](#). The parameters SHALL be encoded in bitwise lexicographic order of their deterministic encodings as specified in Section 4.2.1 of [\[RFC8949\]](#).

An example of CRED\_x being a UCCS in bitwise lexicographic order containing an X25519 static Diffie-Hellman key and where the parties have agreed on an EUI-64 identity is shown below:

```
{
    /UCCS/
  2 : "42-50-31-FF-EF-37-32-39",
    /sub/
  8 : {
    /cnf/
    1 : {
    /COSE_Key/
      1 : 1,
    /kty/
      -1 : 4,
    /crv/
      -2 : h'b1a3e89460e88d3a8d54211dc95f0b90
          3ff205eb71912d6db8f4af980d2db83a'
    /x/
    }
  }
}
```

### 3.5.3. Identities

EDHOC assumes the existence of mechanisms (certification authority, trusted third party, pre-provisioning, etc.) for specifying and distributing authentication keys and identities. Policies are typically set based on the identity of the other party, and parties typically only allow connections from a specific identity or a small restricted set of identities. For example, in the case of a device

connecting to a network, the network may only allow connections from devices which authenticate with certificates having a particular range of serial numbers in the subject field and signed by a particular CA. On the other side, the device may only be allowed to connect to a network which authenticates with a particular public key (information of which may be provisioned, e.g., out of band or in the external authorization data, see [Section 3.8](#)).

The EDHOC implementation or the application must enforce information about the intended endpoint, and in particular whether it is a specific identity or a set of identities. Either EDHOC passes information about identity to the application for a decision, or EDHOC needs to have access to relevant information and makes the decision on its own.

\*When a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is used with certificates, the trust anchor is a Certification Authority (CA) certificate, and the identity is the subject whose unique name (e.g. a domain name, NAI, or EUI) is included in the endpoint's certificate. Before running EDHOC each party needs at least one CA public key certificate, or just the public key, and a specific identity or set of identities it is allowed to communicate with. Only validated public-key certificates with an allowed subject name, as specified by the application, are to be accepted. EDHOC provides proof that the other party possesses the private authentication key corresponding to the public authentication key in its certificate. The certification path provides proof that the subject of the certificate owns the public key in the certificate.

\*Similarly, when a PKI is used with CWTs, each party needs to have a trusted third party self-signed CWT, or just the UCCS/raw public key, to verify the CWTs, and a specific identity or set of identities in the 'sub'(subject) claim of the CWT to determine if it is allowed to communicate with.

\*When public keys are used but not with a PKI (UCCS, self-signed certificate/CWT), the trust anchor is the authentication key of the other party. In this case, the identity is typically directly associated to the authentication key of the other party. For example, the name of the subject may be a canonical representation of the public key. Alternatively, if identities can be expressed in the form of unique subject names assigned to public keys, then a binding to identity can be achieved by including both public key and associated subject name in the protocol message computation: CRED\_I or CRED\_R may be a self-signed certificate/CWT or UCCS containing the authentication key and the subject name, see [Section 3.5.2](#). Before running EDHOC, each endpoint needs a specific authentication key/unique

associated subject name, or a set of public authentication keys/unique associated subject names, which it is allowed to communicate with. EDHOC provides proof that the other party possesses the private authentication key corresponding to the public authentication key.

#### 3.5.4. Identification of Credentials

ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R are used to identify and optionally transport the public authentication keys of the Initiator and the Responder, respectively. ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R do not have any cryptographic purpose in EDHOC.

\*ID\_CRED\_R is intended to facilitate for the Initiator to retrieve the Responder's public authentication key.

\*ID\_CRED\_I is intended to facilitate for the Responder to retrieve the Initiator's public authentication key.

The identifiers ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R are registered in the "COSE Header Parameters" IANA registry. As such, ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R typically also provide information about the format of authentication credential, CRED\_I and CRED\_R, respectively. ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R MAY be of different types.

Public key certificates can be identified in different ways. COSE header parameters for identifying X.509 or C509 certificates are defined in [[I-D.ietf-cose-x509](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-cose-cbor-encoded-cert](#)], for example:

\*by a hash value with the 'x5t' or 'c5t' parameters, respectively:

-ID\_CRED\_x = { 34 : COSE\_CertHash }, for x = I or R,

-ID\_CRED\_x = { TBD3 : COSE\_CertHash }, for x = I or R;

\*or by a URI with the 'x5u' or 'c5u' parameters, respectively:

-ID\_CRED\_x = { 35 : uri }, for x = I or R,

-ID\_CRED\_x = { TBD4 : uri }, for x = I or R.

ID\_CRED\_x MAY contain the actual credential used for authentication, CRED\_x. For example, a certificate chain can be transported in ID\_CRED\_x with COSE header parameter c5c or x5chain, defined in [[I-D.ietf-cose-cbor-encoded-cert](#)] and [[I-D.ietf-cose-x509](#)].



Credentials of type CWT and UCCS are transported with the COSE header parameter registered in [Section 8.5](#):

\*ID\_CRED\_x = { TBD1 : CWT }, for x = I or R,

\*ID\_CRED\_x = { TBD1 : UCCS }, for x = I or R.

It is RECOMMENDED that ID\_CRED\_x uniquely identify the public authentication key as the recipient may otherwise have to try several keys. ID\_CRED\_I and ID\_CRED\_R are transported in the 'ciphertext', see [Section 5.4.2](#) and [Section 5.3.2](#).

When ID\_CRED\_x does not contain the actual credential, it may be very short, e.g., if the endpoints have agreed to use a key identifier parameter 'kid':

\*ID\_CRED\_x = { 4 : key\_id\_x }, where key\_id\_x : kid, for x = I or R.

Note that 'kid' is extended to support int values to allow more one-byte identifiers (see [Section 8.6](#) and [Section 8.7](#)) which may be useful in many scenarios since constrained devices only have a few keys.

### 3.6. Cipher Suites

An EDHOC cipher suite consists of an ordered set of algorithms from the "COSE Algorithms" and "COSE Elliptic Curves" registries as well as the EDHOC MAC length. Algorithms need to be specified with enough parameters to make them completely determined. Currently, none of the algorithms require parameters. EDHOC is only specified for use with key exchange algorithms of type ECDH curves. Use with other types of key exchange algorithms would likely require a specification updating EDHOC. Note that for most signature algorithms, the signature is determined by the signature algorithm and the authentication key algorithm together, see [Section 3.5.1](#).

\*EDHOC AEAD algorithm

\*EDHOC hash algorithm

\*EDHOC MAC length in bytes (Static DH)

\*EDHOC key exchange algorithm (ECDH curve)

\*EDHOC signature algorithm

\*Application AEAD algorithm

\*Application hash algorithm

Each cipher suite is identified with a pre-defined int label.

EDHOC can be used with all algorithms and curves defined for COSE. Implementation can either use one of the pre-defined cipher suites ([Section 8.2](#)) or use any combination of COSE algorithms and parameters to define their own private cipher suite. Private cipher suites can be identified with any of the four values -24, -23, -22, -21.

The following CCM cipher suites are for constrained IoT where message overhead is a very important factor. Cipher suites 1 and 3 use a larger tag length (128-bit) in the EDHOC AEAD algorithm than the Application AEAD algorithm (64-bit):

- 0. ( 10, -16, 8, 4, -8, 10, -16 )  
(AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, 8, X25519, EdDSA,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256)
- 1. ( 30, -16, 16, 4, -8, 10, -16 )  
(AES-CCM-16-128-128, SHA-256, 16, X25519, EdDSA,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256)
- 2. ( 10, -16, 8, 1, -7, 10, -16 )  
(AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, 8, P-256, ES256,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256)
- 3. ( 30, -16, 16, 1, -7, 10, -16 )  
(AES-CCM-16-128-128, SHA-256, 16, P-256, ES256,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256)

The following ChaCha20 cipher suites are for less constrained applications and only use 128-bit tag lengths.

- 4. ( 24, -16, 16, 4, -8, 24, -16 )  
(ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256, 16, X25519, EdDSA,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256)
- 5. ( 24, -16, 16, 1, -7, 24, -16 )  
(ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256, 16, P-256, ES256,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256)

The following GCM cipher suite is for general non-constrained applications. It uses high performance algorithms that are widely supported:

- 6. ( 1, -16, 16, 4, -7, 1, -16 )  
(A128GCM, SHA-256, 16, X25519, ES256,  
A128GCM, SHA-256)

The following two cipher suites are for high security application such as government use and financial applications. The two cipher suites do not share any algorithms. The first of the two cipher suites is compatible with the CNSA suite [[CNSA](#)].

- 24. ( 3, -43, 16, 2, -35, 3, -43 )  
(A256GCM, SHA-384, 16, P-384, ES384,  
A256GCM, SHA-384)
- 25. ( 24, -45, 16, 5, -8, 24, -45 )  
(ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHAKE256, 16, X448, EdDSA,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHAKE256)

The different methods use the same cipher suites, but some algorithms are not used in some methods. The EDHOC signature algorithm is not used in methods without signature authentication.

The Initiator needs to have a list of cipher suites it supports in order of preference. The Responder needs to have a list of cipher suites it supports. SUITES\_I is a CBOR array containing cipher suites that the Initiator supports. SUITES\_I is formatted and processed as detailed in [Section 5.2.1](#) to secure the cipher suite negotiation. Examples of cipher suite negotiation are given in [Section 6.3.2](#).

### 3.7. Ephemeral Public Keys

EDHOC always uses compact representation of elliptic curve points, see [Appendix B](#). In COSE compact representation is achieved by formatting the ECDH ephemeral public keys as COSE\_Keys of type EC2 or OKP according to Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)], but only including the 'x' parameter in G\_X and G\_Y. For Elliptic Curve Keys of type EC2, compact representation MAY be used also in the COSE\_Key. If the COSE implementation requires an 'y' parameter, the value y = false SHALL be used. COSE always use compact output for Elliptic Curve Keys of type EC2.

### 3.8. External Authorization Data (EAD)

In order to reduce round trips and number of messages or to simplify processing, external security applications may be integrated into EDHOC by transporting authorization related data in the messages. One example is third-party identity and authorization information protected out of scope of EDHOC [[I-D.selander-ace-ake-authz](#)]. Another example is a certificate enrolment request or the resulting issued certificate.

EDHOC allows opaque external authorization data (EAD) to be sent in the EDHOC messages. External authorization data sent in message\_1 (EAD\_1) or message\_2 (EAD\_2) must be considered unprotected by

EDHOC, see [Section 7.4](#). External authorization data sent in message\_3 (EAD\_3) or message\_4 (EAD\_4) is protected between Initiator and Responder.

External authorization data is a CBOR sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) consisting of one or more (type, ext\_authz\_data) pairs as defined below:

```
ead = 1* (  
  type : int,  
  ext_authz_data : any,  
)
```

where ext\_authz\_data is authorization related data defined in a separate specification and its type is an int. Different types of ext\_authz\_data are registered in [Section 8.11](#).

The EAD fields of EDHOC are not intended for generic application data. Since data carried in EAD\_1 and EAD\_2 fields may not be protected, special considerations need to be made such that it does not violate security and privacy requirements of the service which uses this data. Moreover, the content in an EAD field may impact the security properties provided by EDHOC. Security applications making use of the EAD fields must perform the necessary security analysis.

### 3.9. Applicability Statement

EDHOC requires certain parameters to be agreed upon between Initiator and Responder. Some parameters can be agreed through the protocol execution (specifically cipher suite negotiation, see [Section 3.6](#)) but other parameters may need to be known out-of-band (e.g., which authentication method is used, see [Section 3.2](#)).

The purpose of the applicability statement is to describe the intended use of EDHOC to allow for the relevant processing and verifications to be made, including things like:

1. How the endpoint detects that an EDHOC message is received. This includes how EDHOC messages are transported, for example in the payload of a CoAP message with a certain Uri-Path or Content-Format; see [Appendix A.3](#).

\*The method of transporting EDHOC messages may also describe data carried along with the messages that are needed for the transport to satisfy the requirements of [Section 3.4](#), e.g., connection identifiers used with certain messages, see [Appendix A.3](#).

2. Authentication method (METHOD; see [Section 3.2](#)).

3. Profile for authentication credentials (CRED\_I, CRED\_R; see [Section 3.5.2](#)), e.g., profile for certificate or UCCS, including supported authentication key algorithms (subject public key algorithm in X.509 or C509 certificate).
4. Type used to identify authentication credentials (ID\_CRED\_I, ID\_CRED\_R; see [Section 3.5.4](#)).
5. Use and type of external authorization data (EAD\_1, EAD\_2, EAD\_3, EAD\_4; see [Section 3.8](#)).
6. Identifier used as identity of endpoint; see [Section 3.5.3](#).
7. If message\_4 shall be sent/expected, and if not, how to ensure a protected application message is sent from the Responder to the Initiator; see [Section 5.5](#).

The applicability statement may also contain information about supported cipher suites. The procedure for selecting and verifying cipher suite is still performed as specified by the protocol, but it may become simplified by this knowledge.

An example of an applicability statement is shown in [Appendix E](#).

For some parameters, like METHOD, ID\_CRED\_x, type of EAD, the receiver is able to verify compliance with applicability statement, and if it needs to fail because of incompliance, to infer the reason why the protocol failed.

For other parameters, like CRED\_x in the case that it is not transported, it may not be possible to verify that incompliance with applicability statement was the reason for failure: Integrity verification in message\_2 or message\_3 may fail not only because of wrong authentication credential. For example, in case the Initiator uses public key certificate by reference (i.e., not transported within the protocol) then both endpoints need to use an identical data structure as CRED\_I or else the integrity verification will fail.

Note that it is not necessary for the endpoints to specify a single transport for the EDHOC messages. For example, a mix of CoAP and HTTP may be used along the path, and this may still allow correlation between messages.

The applicability statement may be dependent on the identity of the other endpoint, or other information carried in an EDHOC message, but it then applies only to the later phases of the protocol when such information is known. (The Initiator does not know identity of Responder before having verified message\_2, and the Responder does

not know identity of the Initiator before having verified message\_3.)

Other conditions may be part of the applicability statement, such as target application or use (if there is more than one application/use) to the extent that EDHOC can distinguish between them. In case multiple applicability statements are used, the receiver needs to be able to determine which is applicable for a given session, for example based on URI or external authorization data type.

#### 4. Key Derivation

EDHOC uses Extract-and-Expand [[RFC5869](#)] with the EDHOC hash algorithm in the selected cipher suite to derive keys used in EDHOC and in the application. Extract is used to derive fixed-length uniformly pseudorandom keys (PRK) from ECDH shared secrets. Expand is used to derive additional output keying material (OKM) from the PRKs.

This section defines Extract, Expand and other key derivation functions based on these: Expand is used to define EDHOC-KDF and in turn EDHOC-Exporter, whereas Extract is used to define EDHOC-KeyUpdate.

##### 4.1. Extract

The pseudorandom keys (PRKs) are derived using Extract.

```
PRK = Extract( salt, IKM )
```

where the input keying material (IKM) and salt are defined for each PRK below.

The definition of Extract depends on the EDHOC hash algorithm of the selected cipher suite:

```
*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHA-2, then Extract( salt, IKM ) =  
  HKDF-Extract( salt, IKM ) [RFC5869]
```

```
*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHAKE128, then Extract( salt, IKM  
  ) = KMAC128( salt, IKM, 256, "" )
```

```
*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHAKE256, then Extract( salt, IKM  
  ) = KMAC256( salt, IKM, 512, "" )
```

#### 4.1.1. PRK\_2e

PRK\_2e is used to derive a keystream to encrypt message\_2. PRK\_2e is derived with the following input:

\*The salt SHALL be the empty byte string. Note that [[RFC5869](#)] specifies that if the salt is not provided, it is set to a string of zeros (see Section 2.2 of [[RFC5869](#)]). For implementation purposes, not providing the salt is the same as setting the salt to the empty byte string.

\*The IKM SHALL be the ECDH shared secret G\_XY (calculated from G\_X and Y or G\_Y and X) as defined in Section 6.3.1 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)].

Example: Assuming the use of curve25519, the ECDH shared secret G\_XY is the output of the X25519 function [[RFC7748](#)]:

$$G_{XY} = X25519(Y, G_X) = X25519(X, G_Y)$$

Example: Assuming the use of SHA-256 the extract phase of HKDF produces PRK\_2e as follows:

$$PRK_{2e} = \text{HMAC-SHA-256}(\text{salt}, G_{XY})$$

where salt = 0x (the empty byte string).

#### 4.1.2. PRK\_3e2m

PRK\_3e2m is used to produce a MAC in message\_2 and to encrypt message\_3. PRK\_3e2m is derived as follows:

If the Responder authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key, then  $PRK_{3e2m} = \text{Extract}(PRK_{2e}, G_{RX})$ , where  $G_{RX}$  is the ECDH shared secret calculated from  $G_R$  and  $X$ , or  $G_X$  and  $R$ , else  $PRK_{3e2m} = PRK_{2e}$ .

#### 4.1.3. PRK\_4x3m

PRK\_4x3m is used to produce a MAC in message\_3, to encrypt message\_4, and to derive application specific data. PRK\_4x3m is derived as follows:

If the Initiator authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key, then  $PRK_{4x3m} = \text{Extract}(PRK_{3e2m}, G_{IY})$ , where  $G_{IY}$  is the ECDH shared secret calculated from  $G_I$  and  $Y$ , or  $G_Y$  and  $I$ , else  $PRK_{4x3m} = PRK_{3e2m}$ .

## 4.2. Expand

The keys, IVs and MACs used in EDHOC are derived from the PRKs using Expand, and instantiated with the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite.

```
OKM = EDHOC-KDF( PRK, transcript_hash, label, context, length )  
      = Expand( PRK, info, length )
```

where info is the CBOR encoding of

```
info = [  
  edhoc_aead_id : int / tstr,  
  transcript_hash : bstr,  
  label : tstr,  
  * context : any,  
  length : uint,  
]
```

where

\*edhoc\_aead\_id is an int or tstr containing the algorithm identifier of the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite encoded as defined in [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)]. Note that a single fixed edhoc\_aead\_id is used in all invocations of EDHOC-KDF, including the derivation of KEYSTREAM\_2 and invocations of the EDHOC-Exporter (see [Section 4.3](#)).

\*transcript\_hash is a bstr set to one of the transcript hashes TH\_2, TH\_3, or TH\_4 as defined in Sections [5.3.1](#), [5.4.1](#), and [4.3](#).

\*label is a tstr set to the name of the derived key, IV or MAC; i.e., "KEYSTREAM\_2", "MAC\_2", "K\_3ae", "IV\_3ae", or "MAC\_3".

\*context is a CBOR sequence, i.e., zero or more encoded CBOR data items

\*length is the length of output keying material (OKM) in bytes

The definition of Expand depends on the EDHOC hash algorithm of the selected cipher suite:

\*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHA-2, then Expand( PRK, info, length ) = HKDF-Expand( PRK, info, length ) [[RFC5869](#)]

\*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHAKE128, then Expand( PRK, info, length ) = KMAC128( PRK, info, L, "" )

\*if the EDHOC hash algorithm is SHAKE256, then Expand( PRK, info, length ) = KMAC256( PRK, info, L, "" )



where  $L = 8 \times \text{length}$ , the output length in bits.

The keys, IVs and MACs are derived as follows:

- \*KEYSTREAM\_2 is derived using the transcript hash TH\_2 and the pseudorandom key PRK\_2e.

- \*MAC\_2 is derived using the transcript hash TH\_2 and the pseudorandom key PRK\_3e2m.

- \*K\_3ae and IV\_3ae are derived using the transcript hash TH\_3 and the pseudorandom key PRK\_3e2m. IVs are only used if the EDHOC AEAD algorithm uses IVs.

- \*MAC\_3 is derived using the transcript hash TH\_3 and the pseudorandom key PRK\_4x3m.

KEYSTREAM\_2, K\_3ae, and IV\_3ae do not use a context. MAC\_2 and MAC\_3 use context as defined in [Section 5.3.2](#) and [Section 5.4.2](#), respectively.

#### 4.3. EDHOC-Exporter

Application keys and other application specific data can be derived using the EDHOC-Exporter interface defined as:

```
EDHOC-Exporter(label, context, length)
  = EDHOC-KDF(PRK_4x3m, TH_4, label, context, length)
```

where label is a registered tstr from the EDHOC Exporter Label registry ([Section 8.1](#)), context is a CBOR sequence defined by the application, and length is a uint defined by the application. The (label, context) pair must be unique, i.e., a (label, context) MUST NOT be used for two different purposes. However an application can re-derive the same key several times as long as it is done in a secure way. For example, in most encryption algorithms the same (key, nonce) pair must not be reused. The context can for example be the empty (zero-length) sequence or a single CBOR byte string.

The transcript hash TH\_4 is a CBOR encoded bstr and the input to the hash function is a CBOR Sequence.

$$TH_4 = H( TH_3, CIPHERTEXT_3 )$$

where H() is the hash function in the selected cipher suite. Examples of use of the EDHOC-Exporter are given in [Section 5.5.2](#) and [Appendix A](#).

#### 4.4. EDHOC-KeyUpdate

To provide forward secrecy in an even more efficient way than re-running EDHOC, EDHOC provides the function EDHOC-KeyUpdate. When EDHOC-KeyUpdate is called the old PRK\_4x3m is deleted and the new PRK\_4x3m is calculated as a "hash" of the old key using the Extract function as illustrated by the following pseudocode:

```
EDHOC-KeyUpdate( nonce ):  
    PRK_4x3m = Extract( nonce, PRK_4x3m )
```

The EDHOC-KeyUpdate takes a nonce as input to guarantee that there are no short cycles. The Initiator and the Responder need to agree on the nonce, which can e.g., be a counter or a random number. While the KeyUpdate method provides forward secrecy it does not give as strong security properties as re-running EDHOC, see [Section 7](#).

### 5. Message Formatting and Processing

This section specifies formatting of the messages and processing steps. Error messages are specified in [Section 6](#).

An EDHOC message is encoded as a sequence of CBOR data (CBOR Sequence, [\[RFC8742\]](#)). Additional optimizations are made to reduce message overhead.

While EDHOC uses the COSE\_Key, COSE\_Sign1, and COSE\_Encrypt0 structures, only a subset of the parameters is included in the EDHOC messages, see [Appendix C.3](#). The unprotected COSE header in COSE\_Sign1, and COSE\_Encrypt0 (not included in the EDHOC message) MAY contain parameters (e.g., 'alg').

#### 5.1. Message Processing Outline

This section outlines the message processing of EDHOC.

For each session, the endpoints are assumed to keep an associated protocol state containing identifiers, keys, etc. used for subsequent processing of protocol related data. The protocol state is assumed to be associated to an applicability statement ([Section 3.9](#)) which provides the context for how messages are transported, identified, and processed.

EDHOC messages SHALL be processed according to the current protocol state. The following steps are expected to be performed at reception of an EDHOC message:

1. Detect that an EDHOC message has been received, for example by means of port number, URI, or media type ([Section 3.9](#)).

2. Retrieve the protocol state according to the message correlation provided by the transport, see [Section 3.4](#). If there is no protocol state, in the case of message\_1, a new protocol state is created. The Responder endpoint needs to make use of available Denial-of-Service mitigation ([Section 7.5](#)).
3. If the message received is an error message, then process according to [Section 6](#), else process as the expected next message according to the protocol state.

If the processing fails for some reason then, typically, an error message is sent, the protocol is discontinued, and the protocol state erased. Further details are provided in the following subsections and in [Section 6](#).

Different instances of the same message MUST NOT be processed in one session. Note that processing will fail if the same message appears a second time for EDHOC processing because the state of the protocol has moved on and now expects something else. This assumes that message duplication due to re-transmissions is handled by the transport protocol, see [Section 3.4](#). The case when the transport does not support message deduplication is addressed in [Appendix F](#).

## 5.2. EDHOC Message 1

### 5.2.1. Formatting of Message 1

message\_1 SHALL be a CBOR Sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) as defined below

```
message_1 = (  
  METHOD : int,  
  SUITES_I : [ selected : suite, supported : 2* suite ] / suite,  
  G_X : bstr,  
  C_I : bstr / int,  
  ? EAD_1 : ead,  
)
```

suite = int

where:

\*METHOD = 0, 1, 2, or 3 (see [Figure 4](#)).

\*SUITES\_I - cipher suites which the Initiator supports in order of (decreasing) preference. The list of supported cipher suites can be truncated at the end, as is detailed in the processing steps below and [Section 6.3](#). One of the supported cipher suites is selected. The selected suite is the first suite in the SUITES\_I CBOR array. If a single supported cipher suite is conveyed, then

that cipher suite is selected and SUITES\_I is encoded as an int instead of an array.

\*G\_X - the ephemeral public key of the Initiator

\*C\_I - variable length connection identifier

\*EAD\_1 - unprotected external authorization data, see [Section 3.8](#).

### 5.2.2. Initiator Processing of Message 1

The Initiator SHALL compose message\_1 as follows:

\*The supported cipher suites and the order of preference MUST NOT be changed based on previous error messages. However, the list SUITES\_I sent to the Responder MAY be truncated such that cipher suites which are the least preferred are omitted. The amount of truncation MAY be changed between sessions, e.g., based on previous error messages (see next bullet), but all cipher suites which are more preferred than the least preferred cipher suite in the list MUST be included in the list.

\*The Initiator MUST select its most preferred cipher suite, conditioned on what it can assume to be supported by the Responder. If the Initiator previously received from the Responder an error message with error code 2 (see [Section 6.3](#)) indicating cipher suites supported by the Responder which also are supported by the Initiator, then the Initiator SHOULD select the most preferred cipher suite of those (note that error messages are not authenticated and may be forged).

\*Generate an ephemeral ECDH key pair using the curve in the selected cipher suite and format it as a COSE\_Key. Let G\_X be the 'x' parameter of the COSE\_Key.

\*Choose a connection identifier C\_I and store it for the length of the protocol.

\*Encode message\_1 as a sequence of CBOR encoded data items as specified in [Section 5.2.1](#)

### 5.2.3. Responder Processing of Message 1

The Responder SHALL process message\_1 as follows:

\*Decode message\_1 (see [Appendix C.1](#)).

\*Verify that the selected cipher suite is supported and that no prior cipher suite in SUITES\_I is supported.

\*Pass EAD\_1 to the security application.

If any processing step fails, the Responder SHOULD send an EDHOC error message back, formatted as defined in [Section 6](#), and the session MUST be discontinued. Sending error messages is essential for debugging but MAY e.g., be skipped due to denial-of-service reasons, see [Section 7](#).

### 5.3. EDHOC Message 2

#### 5.3.1. Formatting of Message 2

message\_2 SHALL be a CBOR Sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) as defined below

```
message_2 = (  
  G_Y_CIPHERTEXT_2 : bstr,  
  C_R : bstr / int,  
)
```

where:

\*G\_Y\_CIPHERTEXT\_2 - the concatenation of G\_Y, the ephemeral public key of the Responder, and CIPHERTEXT\_2

\*C\_R - variable length connection identifier

#### 5.3.2. Responder Processing of Message 2

The Responder SHALL compose message\_2 as follows:

\*Generate an ephemeral ECDH key pair using the curve in the selected cipher suite and format it as a COSE\_Key. Let G\_Y be the 'x' parameter of the COSE\_Key.

\*Choose a connection identifier C\_R and store it for the length of the protocol.

\*Compute the transcript hash  $TH_2 = H( H(message_1), G_Y, C_R )$  where  $H()$  is the hash function in the selected cipher suite. The transcript hash  $TH_2$  is a CBOR encoded bstr and the input to the hash function is a CBOR Sequence. Note that  $H(message_1)$  can be computed and cached already in the processing of message\_1.

\*Compute  $MAC_2 = EDHOC\text{-}KDF( PRK_{3e2m}, TH_2, "MAC_2", ( ID\_CRED\_R, CRED\_R, ? EAD_2 ), mac\_length )$ . If the Responder authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key (method equals 1 or 3), then  $mac\_length$  is the EDHOC MAC length given by the cipher suite. If the Responder authenticates with a signature key (method equals 0

or 2), then mac\_length is equal to the output size of the EDHOC hash algorithm given by the cipher suite.

- ID\_CRED\_R - identifier to facilitate retrieval of CRED\_R, see [Section 3.5.4](#)

- CRED\_R - CBOR item containing the credential of the Responder, see [Section 3.5.4](#)

- EAD\_2 = unprotected external authorization data, see [Section 3.8](#)

\*If the Responder authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key (method equals 1 or 3), then Signature\_or\_MAC\_2 is MAC\_2. If the Responder authenticates with a signature key (method equals 0 or 2), then Signature\_or\_MAC\_2 is the 'signature' of a COSE\_Sign1 object as defined in Section 4.4 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)] using the signature algorithm in the selected cipher suite, the private authentication key of the Responder, and the following parameters:

- protected = << ID\_CRED\_R >>

- external\_aad = << TH\_2, CRED\_R, ? EAD\_2 >>

- payload = MAC\_2

COSE constructs the input to the Signature Algorithm as:

- The key is the private authentication key of the Responder.

- The message M to be signed =

```
[ "Signature1", << ID_CRED_R >>, << TH_2, CRED_R, ? EAD_2 >>,
  MAC_2 ]
```

\*CIPHERTEXT\_2 is encrypted by using the Expand function as a binary additive stream cipher.

- plaintext = ( ID\_CRED\_R / bstr / int, Signature\_or\_MAC\_2, ? EAD\_2 )

- oNote that if ID\_CRED\_R contains a single 'kid' parameter, i.e., ID\_CRED\_R = { 4 : kid\_R }, only the byte string or integer kid\_R is conveyed in the plaintext encoded as a bstr or int.

- CIPHERTEXT\_2 = plaintext XOR KEYSTREAM\_2

\*Encode message\_2 as a sequence of CBOR encoded data items as specified in [Section 5.3.1](#).

### 5.3.3. Initiator Processing of Message 2

The Initiator SHALL process message\_2 as follows:

\*Decode message\_2 (see [Appendix C.1](#)).

\*Retrieve the protocol state using the message correlation provided by the transport (e.g., the CoAP Token and the 5-tuple as a client, or the prepended C\_I as a server).

\*Decrypt CIPHERTEXT\_2, see [Section 5.3.2](#).

\*Pass EAD\_2 to the security application.

\*Verify that the identity of the Responder is an allowed identity for this connection, see [Section 3.5](#).

\*Verify Signature\_or\_MAC\_2 using the algorithm in the selected cipher suite. The verification process depends on the method, see [Section 5.3.2](#).

If any processing step fails, the Initiator SHOULD send an EDHOC error message back, formatted as defined in [Section 6](#). Sending error messages is essential for debugging but MAY e.g., be skipped if a session cannot be found or due to denial-of-service reasons, see [Section 7](#). If an error message is sent, the session MUST be discontinued.

## 5.4. EDHOC Message 3

### 5.4.1. Formatting of Message 3

message\_3 SHALL be a CBOR Sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) as defined below

```
message_3 = (  
  CIPHERTEXT_3 : bstr,  
)
```

### 5.4.2. Initiator Processing of Message 3

The Initiator SHALL compose message\_3 as follows:

\*Compute the transcript hash  $TH_3 = H(TH_2, CIPHERTEXT_2)$  where  $H()$  is the hash function in the selected cipher suite. The transcript hash  $TH_3$  is a CBOR encoded bstr and the input to the hash function is a CBOR Sequence. Note that  $H(TH_2, CIPHERTEXT_2)$

can be computed and cached already in the processing of message\_2.

\*Compute MAC\_3 = EDHOC-KDF( PRK\_4x3m, TH\_3, "MAC\_3", ( ID\_CRED\_I, CRED\_I, ? EAD\_3 ), mac\_length ). If the Initiator authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key (method equals 2 or 3), then mac\_length is the EDHOC MAC length given by the cipher suite. If the Initiator authenticates with a signature key (method equals 0 or 1), then mac\_length is equal to the output size of the EDHOC hash algorithm given by the cipher suite.

-ID\_CRED\_I - identifier to facilitate retrieval of CRED\_I, see [Section 3.5.4](#)

-CRED\_I - CBOR item containing the credential of the Initiator, see [Section 3.5.4](#)

-EAD\_3 = protected external authorization data, see [Section 3.8](#)

\*If the Initiator authenticates with a static Diffie-Hellman key (method equals 2 or 3), then Signature\_or\_MAC\_3 is MAC\_3. If the Initiator authenticates with a signature key (method equals 0 or 1), then Signature\_or\_MAC\_3 is the 'signature' of a COSE\_Sign1 object as defined in Section 4.4 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)] using the signature algorithm in the selected cipher suite, the private authentication key of the Initiator, and the following parameters:

-protected = << ID\_CRED\_I >>

-external\_aad = << TH\_3, CRED\_I, ? EAD\_3 >>

-payload = MAC\_3

COSE constructs the input to the Signature Algorithm as:

-The key is the private authentication key of the Initiator.

-The message M to be signed =

[ "Signature1", << ID\_CRED\_I >>, << TH\_3, CRED\_I, ? EAD\_3 >>, MAC\_3 ]

\*Compute an outer COSE\_Encrypt0 as defined in Section 5.3 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], with the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite, K\_3ae, IV\_3ae, and the following parameters. The protected header SHALL be empty.

-external\_aad = TH\_3



-plaintext = ( ID\_CRED\_I / bstr / int, Signature\_or\_MAC\_3, ?  
EAD\_3 )

oNote that if ID\_CRED\_I contains a single 'kid' parameter, i.e., ID\_CRED\_I = { 4 : kid\_I }, only the byte string or integer kid\_I is conveyed in the plaintext encoded as a bstr or int.

COSE constructs the input to the AEAD [[RFC5116](#)] as follows:

-Key K = EDHOC-KDF( PRK\_3e2m, TH\_3, "K\_3ae", length )

-Nonce N = EDHOC-KDF( PRK\_3e2m, TH\_3, "IV\_3ae", length )

-Plaintext P = ( ID\_CRED\_I / bstr / int, Signature\_or\_MAC\_3, ?  
EAD\_3 )

-Associated data A = [ "Encrypt0", h'', TH\_3 ]

CIPHERTEXT\_3 is the 'ciphertext' of the outer COSE\_Encrypt0.

\*Encode message\_3 as a sequence of CBOR encoded data items as specified in [Section 5.4.1](#).

Pass the connection identifiers (C\_I, C\_R) and the application algorithms in the selected cipher suite to the application. The application can now derive application keys using the EDHOC-Exporter interface, see [Section 4.3](#).

After sending message\_3, the Initiator is assured that no other party than the Responder can compute the key PRK\_4x3m (implicit key authentication). The Initiator can securely derive application keys and send protected application data. However, the Initiator does not know that the Responder has actually computed the key PRK\_4x3m and therefore the Initiator SHOULD NOT permanently store the keying material PRK\_4x3m and TH\_4, or derived application keys, until the Initiator is assured that the Responder has actually computed the key PRK\_4x3m (explicit key confirmation). This is similar to waiting for acknowledgement (ACK) in a transport protocol. Explicit key confirmation is e.g., assured when the Initiator has verified an OSCORE message or message\_4 from the Responder.

#### 5.4.3. Responder Processing of Message 3

The Responder SHALL process message\_3 as follows:

\*Decode message\_3 (see [Appendix C.1](#)).

- \*Retrieve the protocol state using the message correlation provided by the transport (e.g., the CoAP Token and the 5-tuple as a client, or the prepended C\_R as a server).
- \*Decrypt and verify the outer COSE\_Encrypt0 as defined in Section 5.3 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], with the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite, K\_3ae, and IV\_3ae.
- \*Pass EAD\_3 to the security application.
- \*Verify that the identity of the Initiator is an allowed identity for this connection, see [Section 3.5](#).
- \*Verify Signature\_or\_MAC\_3 using the algorithm in the selected cipher suite. The verification process depends on the method, see [Section 5.4.2](#).
- \*Pass the connection identifiers (C\_I, C\_R), and the application algorithms in the selected cipher suite to the security application. The application can now derive application keys using the EDHOC-Exporter interface.

If any processing step fails, the Responder SHOULD send an EDHOC error message back, formatted as defined in [Section 6](#). Sending error messages is essential for debugging but MAY e.g., be skipped if a session cannot be found or due to denial-of-service reasons, see [Section 7](#). If an error message is sent, the session MUST be discontinued.

After verifying message\_3, the Responder is assured that the Initiator has calculated the key PRK\_4x3m (explicit key confirmation) and that no other party than the Responder can compute the key. The Responder can securely send protected application data and store the keying material PRK\_4x3m and TH\_4.

## 5.5. EDHOC Message 4

This section specifies message\_4 which is OPTIONAL to support. Key confirmation is normally provided by sending an application message from the Responder to the Initiator protected with a key derived with the EDHOC-Exporter, e.g., using OSCORE (see [Appendix A](#)). In deployments where no protected application message is sent from the Responder to the Initiator, the Responder MUST send message\_4. Two examples of such deployments:

1. When EDHOC is only used for authentication and no application data is sent.
2. When application data is only sent from the Initiator to the Responder.

Further considerations are provided in [Section 3.9](#).

#### 5.5.1. Formatting of Message 4

message\_4 SHALL be a CBOR Sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) as defined below

```
message_4 = (  
  CIPHERTEXT_4 : bstr,  
)
```

#### 5.5.2. Responder Processing of Message 4

The Responder SHALL compose message\_4 as follows:

\*Compute a COSE\_Encrypt0 as defined in Section 5.3 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], with the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite, and the following parameters. The protected header SHALL be empty.

-protected = h''

-external\_aad = TH\_4

-plaintext = ( ? EAD\_4 )

where EAD\_4 is protected external authorization data, see [Section 3.8](#). COSE constructs the input to the AEAD [[RFC5116](#)] as follows:

-Key K = EDHOC-Exporter( "EDHOC\_message\_4\_Key", , length )

-Nonce N = EDHOC-Exporter( "EDHOC\_message\_4\_Nonce", , length )

-Plaintext P = ( ? EAD\_4 )

-Associated data A = [ "Encrypt0", h'', TH\_4 ]

CIPHERTEXT\_4 is the ciphertext of the COSE\_Encrypt0.

\*Encode message\_4 as a sequence of CBOR encoded data items as specified in [Section 5.5.1](#).

#### 5.5.3. Initiator Processing of Message 4

The Initiator SHALL process message\_4 as follows:

\*Decode message\_4 (see [Appendix C.1](#)).

\*Retrieve the protocol state using the message correlation provided by the transport (e.g., the CoAP Token and the 5-tuple as a client, or the prepended C\_I as a server).

\*Decrypt and verify the outer COSE\_Encrypt0 as defined in Section 5.3 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)], with the EDHOC AEAD algorithm in the selected cipher suite, and the parameters defined in [Section 5.5.2](#).

\*Pass EAD\_4 to the security application.

If any processing step fails, the Responder SHOULD send an EDHOC error message back, formatted as defined in [Section 6](#). Sending error messages is essential for debugging but MAY e.g., be skipped if a session cannot be found or due to denial-of-service reasons, see [Section 7](#). If an error message is sent, the session MUST be discontinued.

## 6. Error Handling

This section defines the format for error messages.

An EDHOC error message can be sent by either endpoint as a reply to any non-error EDHOC message. How errors at the EDHOC layer are transported depends on lower layers, which need to enable error messages to be sent and processed as intended.

Errors in EDHOC are fatal. After sending an error message, the sender MUST discontinue the protocol. The receiver SHOULD treat an error message as an indication that the other party likely has discontinued the protocol. But as the error message is not authenticated, a received error message might also have been sent by an attacker and the receiver MAY therefore try to continue the protocol.

error SHALL be a CBOR Sequence (see [Appendix C.1](#)) as defined below

```
error = (  
  ERR_CODE : int,  
  ERR_INFO : any,  
)
```

Figure 5: EDHOC Error Message

where:

\*ERR\_CODE - error code encoded as an integer. The value 0 is used for success, all other values (negative or positive) indicate errors.

\*ERR\_INFO - error information. Content and encoding depend on error code.

The remainder of this section specifies the currently defined error codes, see [Figure 6](#). Error codes 1 and 2 MUST be supported. Additional error codes and corresponding error information may be specified.

ERR_CODE	ERR_INFO Type	Description
0	any	Success
1	tstr	Unspecified
2	SUITES_R	Wrong selected cipher suite

Figure 6: Error Codes and Error Information

### 6.1. Success

Error code 0 MAY be used internally in an application to indicate success, e.g., in log files. ERR\_INFO can contain any type of CBOR item. Error code 0 MUST NOT be used as part of the EDHOC message exchange flow.

### 6.2. Unspecified

Error code 1 is used for errors that do not have a specific error code defined. ERR\_INFO MUST be a text string containing a human-readable diagnostic message written in English. The diagnostic text message is mainly intended for software engineers that during debugging need to interpret it in the context of the EDHOC specification. The diagnostic message SHOULD be provided to the calling application where it SHOULD be logged.

### 6.3. Wrong Selected Cipher Suite

Error code 2 MUST only be used in a response to message\_1 in case the cipher suite selected by the Initiator is not supported by the Responder, or if the Responder supports a cipher suite more preferred by the Initiator than the selected cipher suite, see [Section 5.2.3](#). ERR\_INFO is of type SUITES\_R:

SUITES\_R : [ supported : 2\* suite ] / suite

If the Responder does not support the selected cipher suite, then SUITES\_R MUST include one or more supported cipher suites. If the Responder does not support the selected cipher suite, but supports another cipher suite in SUITES\_I, then SUITES\_R MUST include the first supported cipher suite in SUITES\_I.

### 6.3.1. Cipher Suite Negotiation

After receiving `SUITES_R`, the Initiator can determine which cipher suite to select for the next EDHOC run with the Responder.

If the Initiator intends to contact the Responder in the future, the Initiator **SHOULD** remember which selected cipher suite to use until the next `message_1` has been sent, otherwise the Initiator and Responder will likely run into an infinite loop. After a successful run of EDHOC, the Initiator **MAY** remember the selected cipher suite to use in future EDHOC runs. Note that if the Initiator or Responder is updated with new cipher suite policies, any cached information may be outdated.

### 6.3.2. Examples

Assume that the Initiator supports the five cipher suites 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in decreasing order of preference. Figures 7 and 8 show examples of how the Initiator can truncate `SUITES_I` and how `SUITES_R` is used by Responders to give the Initiator information about the cipher suites that the Responder supports.

In the first example (Figure 7), the Responder supports cipher suite 6 but not the initially selected cipher suite 5.

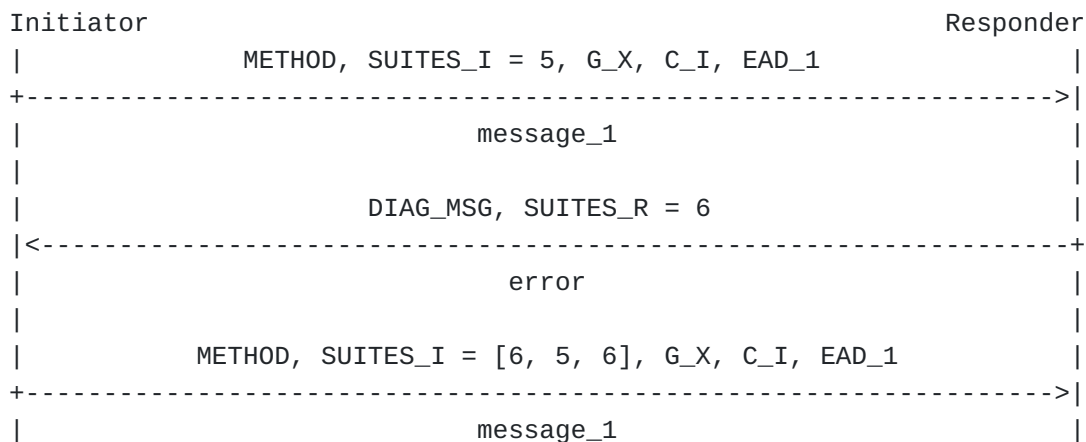


Figure 7: Example of Responder supporting suite 6 but not suite 5.

In the second example (Figure 8), the Responder supports cipher suites 8 and 9 but not the more preferred (by the Initiator) cipher suites 5, 6 or 7. To illustrate the negotiation mechanics we let the Initiator first make a guess that the Responder supports suite 6 but not suite 5. Since the Responder supports neither 5 nor 6, it responds with an error and `SUITES_R`, after which the Initiator selects its most preferred supported suite. The order of cipher suites in `SUITES_R` does not matter. (If the Responder had supported suite 5, it would include it in `SUITES_R` of the response, and it

would in that case have become the selected suite in the second message\_1.)

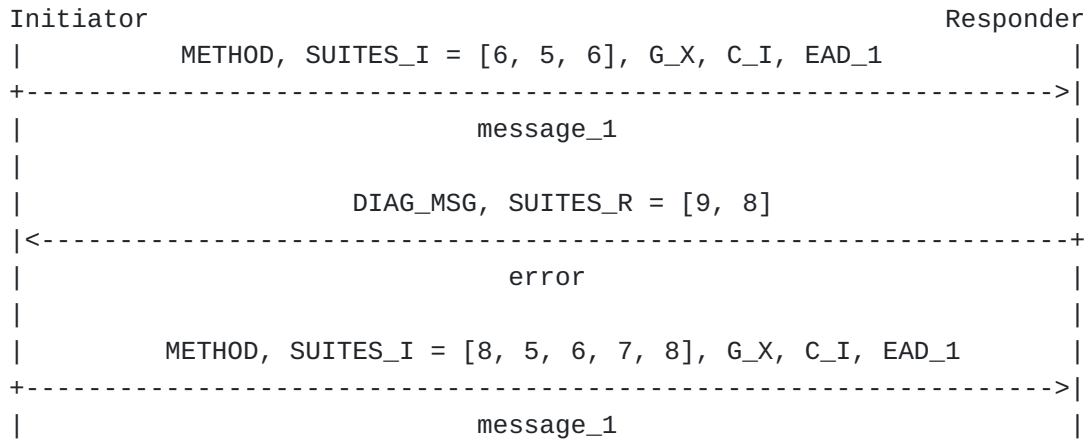


Figure 8: Example of Responder supporting suites 8 and 9 but not 5, 6 or 7.

Note that the Initiator's list of supported cipher suites and order of preference is fixed (see [Section 5.2.1](#) and [Section 5.2.2](#)). Furthermore, the Responder shall only accept message\_1 if the selected cipher suite is the first cipher suite in SUITES\_I that the Responder supports (see [Section 5.2.3](#)). Following this procedure ensures that the selected cipher suite is the most preferred (by the Initiator) cipher suite supported by both parties.

If the selected cipher suite is not the first cipher suite which the Responder supports in SUITES\_I received in message\_1, then Responder MUST discontinue the protocol, see [Section 5.2.3](#). If SUITES\_I in message\_1 is manipulated, then the integrity verification of message\_2 containing the transcript hash TH\_2 will fail and the Initiator will discontinue the protocol.

## 7. Security Considerations

### 7.1. Security Properties

EDHOC inherits its security properties from the theoretical SIGMA-I protocol [[SIGMA](#)]. Using the terminology from [[SIGMA](#)], EDHOC provides forward secrecy, mutual authentication with aliveness, consistency, and peer awareness. As described in [[SIGMA](#)], peer awareness is provided to the Responder, but not to the Initiator.

EDHOC protects the credential identifier of the Initiator against active attacks and the credential identifier of the Responder against passive attacks. The roles should be assigned to protect the most sensitive identity/identifier, typically that which is not possible to infer from routing information in the lower layers.

Compared to [\[SIGMA\]](#), EDHOC adds an explicit method type and expands the message authentication coverage to additional elements such as algorithms, external authorization data, and previous messages. This protects against an attacker replaying messages or injecting messages from another session.

EDHOC also adds selection of connection identifiers and downgrade protected negotiation of cryptographic parameters, i.e., an attacker cannot affect the negotiated parameters. A single session of EDHOC does not include negotiation of cipher suites, but it enables the Responder to verify that the selected cipher suite is the most preferred cipher suite by the Initiator which is supported by both the Initiator and the Responder.

As required by [\[RFC7258\]](#), IETF protocols need to mitigate pervasive monitoring when possible. EDHOC therefore only supports methods with ephemeral Diffie-Hellman and provides a KeyUpdate function for lightweight application protocol rekeying with forward secrecy, in the sense that compromise of the private authentication keys does not compromise past session keys, and compromise of a session key does not compromise past session keys.

While the KeyUpdate method can be used to meet cryptographic limits and provide partial protection against key leakage, it provides significantly weaker security properties than re-running EDHOC with ephemeral Diffie-Hellman. Even with frequent use of KeyUpdate, compromise of one session key compromises all future session keys, and an attacker therefore only needs to perform static key exfiltration [\[RFC7624\]](#). Frequently re-running EDHOC with ephemeral Diffie-Hellman forces attackers to perform dynamic key exfiltration instead of static key exfiltration [\[RFC7624\]](#). In the dynamic case, the attacker must have continuous interactions with the collaborator, which is more complicated and has a higher risk profile than the static case.

To limit the effect of breaches, it is important to limit the use of symmetrical group keys for bootstrapping. EDHOC therefore strives to make the additional cost of using raw public keys and self-signed certificates as small as possible. Raw public keys and self-signed certificates are not a replacement for a public key infrastructure but SHOULD be used instead of symmetrical group keys for bootstrapping.

Compromise of the long-term keys (private signature or static DH keys) does not compromise the security of completed EDHOC exchanges. Compromising the private authentication keys of one party lets an active attacker impersonate that compromised party in EDHOC exchanges with other parties but does not let the attacker impersonate other parties in EDHOC exchanges with the compromised



party. Compromise of the long-term keys does not enable a passive attacker to compromise future session keys. Compromise of the HDKF input parameters (ECDH shared secret) leads to compromise of all session keys derived from that compromised shared secret. Compromise of one session key does not compromise other session keys. Compromise of PRK\_4x3m leads to compromise of all exported keying material derived after the last invocation of the EDHOC-KeyUpdate function.

EDHOC provides a minimum of 64-bit security against online brute force attacks and a minimum of 128-bit security against offline brute force attacks. This is in line with IPsec, TLS, and COSE. To break 64-bit security against online brute force an attacker would on average have to send 4.3 billion messages per second for 68 years, which is infeasible in constrained IoT radio technologies.

After sending message\_3, the Initiator is assured that no other party than the Responder can compute the key PRK\_4x3m (implicit key authentication). The Initiator does however not know that the Responder has actually computed the key PRK\_4x3m. While the Initiator can securely send protected application data, the Initiator SHOULD NOT permanently store the keying material PRK\_4x3m and TH\_4 until the Initiator is assured that the Responder has actually computed the key PRK\_4x3m (explicit key confirmation). Explicit key confirmation is e.g., assured when the Initiator has verified an OSCORE message or message\_4 from the Responder. After verifying message\_3, the Responder is assured that the Initiator has calculated the key PRK\_4x3m (explicit key confirmation) and that no other party than the Responder can compute the key. The Responder can securely send protected application data and store the keying material PRK\_4x3m and TH\_4.

Key compromise impersonation (KCI): In EDHOC authenticated with signature keys, EDHOC provides KCI protection against an attacker having access to the long-term key or the ephemeral secret key. With static Diffie-Hellman key authentication, KCI protection would be provided against an attacker having access to the long-term Diffie-Hellman key, but not to an attacker having access to the ephemeral secret key. Note that the term KCI has typically been used for compromise of long-term keys, and that an attacker with access to the ephemeral secret key can only attack that specific protocol run.

Repudiation: In EDHOC authenticated with signature keys, the Initiator could theoretically prove that the Responder performed a run of the protocol by presenting the private ephemeral key, and vice versa. Note that storing the private ephemeral keys violates the protocol requirements. With static Diffie-Hellman key authentication, both parties can always deny having participated in the protocol.

Two earlier versions of EDHOC have been formally analyzed [[Norrman20](#)] [[Bruni18](#)] and the specification has been updated based on the analysis.

## 7.2. Cryptographic Considerations

The SIGMA protocol requires that the encryption of message\_3 provides confidentiality against active attackers and EDHOC message\_4 relies on the use of authenticated encryption. Hence the message authenticating functionality of the authenticated encryption in EDHOC is critical: authenticated encryption MUST NOT be replaced by plain encryption only, even if authentication is provided at another level or through a different mechanism.

To reduce message overhead EDHOC does not use explicit nonces and instead rely on the ephemeral public keys to provide randomness to each session. A good amount of randomness is important for the key generation, to provide liveness, and to protect against interleaving attacks. For this reason, the ephemeral keys MUST NOT be reused, and both parties SHALL generate fresh random ephemeral key pairs.

As discussed, the [[SIGMA](#)], the encryption of message\_2 does only need to protect against passive attacker as active attackers can always get the Responders identity by sending their own message\_1. EDHOC uses the Expand function (typically HKDF-Expand) as a binary additive stream cipher. HKDF-Expand provides better confidentiality than AES-CTR but is not often used as it is slow on long messages, and most applications require both IND-CCA confidentiality as well as integrity protection. For the encryption of message\_2, any speed difference is negligible, IND-CCA does not increase security, and integrity is provided by the inner MAC (and signature depending on method).

Requirement for how to securely generate, validate, and process the ephemeral public keys depend on the elliptic curve. For X25519 and X448, the requirements are defined in [[RFC7748](#)]. For secp256r1, secp384r1, and secp521r1, the requirements are defined in Section 5 of [[SP-800-56A](#)]. For secp256r1, secp384r1, and secp521r1, at least partial public-key validation MUST be done.

## 7.3. Cipher Suites and Cryptographic Algorithms

For many constrained IoT devices it is problematic to support more than one cipher suite. Existing devices can be expected to support either ECDSA or EdDSA. To enable as much interoperability as we can reasonably achieve, less constrained devices SHOULD implement both cipher suite 0 (AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, X25519, EdDSA, AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256) and cipher suite 2 (AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, P-256, ES256, AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256). Constrained

endpoints SHOULD implement cipher suite 0 or cipher suite 2. Implementations only need to implement the algorithms needed for their supported methods.

When using private cipher suite or registering new cipher suites, the choice of key length used in the different algorithms needs to be harmonized, so that a sufficient security level is maintained for certificates, EDHOC, and the protection of application data. The Initiator and the Responder should enforce a minimum security level.

The hash algorithms SHA-1 and SHA-256/64 (256-bit Hash truncated to 64-bits) SHALL NOT be supported for use in EDHOC except for certificate identification with x5u and c5u. Note that secp256k1 is only defined for use with ECDSA and not for ECDH.

#### **7.4. Unprotected Data**

The Initiator and the Responder must make sure that unprotected data and metadata do not reveal any sensitive information. This also applies for encrypted data sent to an unauthenticated party. In particular, it applies to EAD\_1, ID\_CRED\_R, EAD\_2, and error messages. Using the same EAD\_1 in several EDHOC sessions allows passive eavesdroppers to correlate the different sessions. Another consideration is that the list of supported cipher suites may potentially be used to identify the application.

The Initiator and the Responder must also make sure that unauthenticated data does not trigger any harmful actions. In particular, this applies to EAD\_1 and error messages.

#### **7.5. Denial-of-Service**

EDHOC itself does not provide countermeasures against Denial-of-Service attacks. By sending a number of new or replayed message\_1 an attacker may cause the Responder to allocate state, perform cryptographic operations, and amplify messages. To mitigate such attacks, an implementation SHOULD rely on lower layer mechanisms such as the Echo option in CoAP [[I-D.ietf-core-echo-request-tag](#)] that forces the initiator to demonstrate reachability at its apparent network address.

An attacker can also send faked message\_2, message\_3, message\_4, or error in an attempt to trick the receiving party to send an error message and discontinue the session. EDHOC implementations MAY evaluate if a received message is likely to have been forged by an attacker and ignore it without sending an error message or discontinuing the session.

## 7.6. Implementation Considerations

The availability of a secure random number generator is essential for the security of EDHOC. If no true random number generator is available, a truly random seed **MUST** be provided from an external source and used with a cryptographically secure pseudorandom number generator. As each pseudorandom number must only be used once, an implementation needs to get a new truly random seed after reboot, or continuously store state in nonvolatile memory, see ([[RFC8613](#)], Appendix B.1.1) for issues and solution approaches for writing to nonvolatile memory. Intentionally or unintentionally weak or predictable pseudorandom number generators can be abused or exploited for malicious purposes. [[RFC8937](#)] describes a way for security protocol implementations to augment their (pseudo)random number generators using a long-term private key and a deterministic signature function. This improves randomness from broken or otherwise subverted random number generators. The same idea can be used with other secrets and functions such as a Diffie-Hellman function or a symmetric secret and a PRF like HMAC or KMAC. It is **RECOMMENDED** to not trust a single source of randomness and to not put unaugmented random numbers on the wire.

If ECDSA is supported, "deterministic ECDSA" as specified in [[RFC6979](#)] **MAY** be used. Pure deterministic elliptic-curve signatures such as deterministic ECDSA and EdDSA have gained popularity over randomized ECDSA as their security do not depend on a source of high-quality randomness. Recent research has however found that implementations of these signature algorithms may be vulnerable to certain side-channel and fault injection attacks due to their determinism. See e.g., Section 1 of [[I-D.mattsson-cfrg-det-sigs-with-noise](#)] for a list of attack papers. As suggested in Section 6.1.2 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)] this can be addressed by combining randomness and determinism.

All private keys, symmetric keys, and IVs **MUST** be secret. Implementations should provide countermeasures to side-channel attacks such as timing attacks. Intermediate computed values such as ephemeral ECDH keys and ECDH shared secrets **MUST** be deleted after key derivation is completed.

The Initiator and the Responder are responsible for verifying the integrity of certificates. The selection of trusted CAs should be done very carefully and certificate revocation should be supported. The private authentication keys **MUST** be kept secret.

The Initiator and the Responder are allowed to select the connection identifiers C\_I and C\_R, respectively, for the other party to use in the ongoing EDHOC protocol as well as in a subsequent application protocol (e.g., OSCORE [[RFC8613](#)]). The choice of connection

identifier is not security critical in EDHOC but intended to simplify the retrieval of the right security context in combination with using short identifiers. If the wrong connection identifier of the other party is used in a protocol message it will result in the receiving party not being able to retrieve a security context (which will terminate the protocol) or retrieve the wrong security context (which also terminates the protocol as the message cannot be verified).

If two nodes unintentionally initiate two simultaneous EDHOC message exchanges with each other even if they only want to complete a single EDHOC message exchange, they MAY terminate the exchange with the lexicographically smallest G\_X. If the two G\_X values are equal, the received message\_1 MUST be discarded to mitigate reflection attacks. Note that in the case of two simultaneous EDHOC exchanges where the nodes only complete one and where the nodes have different preferred cipher suites, an attacker can affect which of the two nodes' preferred cipher suites will be used by blocking the other exchange.

If supported by the device, it is RECOMMENDED that at least the long-term private keys are stored in a Trusted Execution Environment (TEE) and that sensitive operations using these keys are performed inside the TEE. To achieve even higher security, it is RECOMMENDED that in additional operations such as ephemeral key generation, all computations of shared secrets, and storage of the pseudorandom keys (PRK) can be done inside the TEE. The use of a TEE enforces that code within that environment cannot be tampered with, and that any data used by such code cannot be read or tampered with by code outside that environment. Note that non-EDHOC code inside the TEE might still be able to read EDHOC data and tamper with EDHOC code, to protect against such attacks EDHOC needs to be in its own zone. To provide better protection against some forms of physical attacks, sensitive EDHOC data should be stored inside the SoC or encrypted and integrity protected when sent on a data bus (e.g., between the CPU and RAM or Flash). Secure boot can be used to increase the security of code and data in the Rich Execution Environment (REE) by validating the REE image.

## **8. IANA Considerations**

### **8.1. EDHOC Exporter Label**

IANA has created a new registry titled "EDHOC Exporter Label" under the new heading "EDHOC". The registration procedure is "Expert Review". The columns of the registry are Label, Description, and Reference. All columns are text strings. The initial contents of the registry are:

Label: EDHOC\_message\_4\_Key  
Description: Key used to protect EDHOC message\_4  
Reference: [[this document]]

Label: EDHOC\_message\_4\_Nonce  
Description: Nonce used to protect EDHOC message\_4  
Reference: [[this document]]

Label: OSCORE Master Secret  
Description: Derived OSCORE Master Secret  
Reference: [[this document]]

Label: OSCORE Master Salt  
Description: Derived OSCORE Master Salt  
Reference: [[this document]]

## 8.2. EDHOC Cipher Suites Registry

IANA has created a new registry titled "EDHOC Cipher Suites" under the new heading "EDHOC". The registration procedure is "Expert Review". The columns of the registry are Value, Array, Description, and Reference, where Value is an integer and the other columns are text strings. The initial contents of the registry are:

Value: -24  
Algorithms: N/A  
Desc: Reserved for Private Use  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: -23  
Algorithms: N/A  
Desc: Reserved for Private Use  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: -22  
Algorithms: N/A  
Desc: Reserved for Private Use  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: -21  
Algorithms: N/A  
Desc: Reserved for Private Use  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 0  
Array: 10, -16, 4, -8, 10, -16  
Desc: AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, X25519, EdDSA,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 1  
Array: 30, -16, 4, -8, 10, -16  
Desc: AES-CCM-16-128-128, SHA-256, X25519, EdDSA,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 2  
Array: 10, -16, 1, -7, 10, -16  
Desc: AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256, P-256, ES256,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 3  
Array: 30, -16, 1, -7, 10, -16  
Desc: AES-CCM-16-128-128, SHA-256, P-256, ES256,  
AES-CCM-16-64-128, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 4  
Array: 24, -16, 4, -8, 24, -16  
Desc: ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256, X25519, EdDSA,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 5  
Array: 24, -16, 1, -7, 24, -16  
Desc: ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256, P-256, ES256,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 6  
Array: 1, -16, 4, -7, 1, -16  
Desc: A128GCM, SHA-256, X25519, ES256,  
A128GCM, SHA-256  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 24  
Array: 3, -43, 2, -35, 3, -43  
Desc: A256GCM, SHA-384, P-384, ES384,  
A256GCM, SHA-384  
Reference: [[this document]]

Value: 25  
Array: 24, -45, 5, -8, 24, -45  
Desc: ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHAKE256, X448, EdDSA,  
ChaCha20/Poly1305, SHAKE256  
Reference: [[this document]]

### 8.3. EDHOC Method Type Registry

IANA has created a new registry entitled "EDHOC Method Type" under the new heading "EDHOC". The registration procedure is "Expert Review". The columns of the registry are Value, Description, and Reference, where Value is an integer and the other columns are text strings. The initial contents of the registry are shown in [Figure 4](#).

### 8.4. EDHOC Error Codes Registry

IANA has created a new registry entitled "EDHOC Error Codes" under the new heading "EDHOC". The registration procedure is "Specification Required". The columns of the registry are ERR\_CODE, ERR\_INFO Type and Description, where ERR\_CODE is an integer, ERR\_INFO is a CDDL defined type, and Description is a text string. The initial contents of the registry are shown in [Figure 6](#).

### 8.5. COSE Header Parameters Registry

This document registers the following entries in the "COSE Header Parameters" registry under the "CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE)" heading. The value of the 'cwt' header parameter is a CWT [[RFC8392](#)] or an Unprotected CWT Claims Set, see [Section 1.5](#).

Name	Label	Value Type	Description
cwt	TBD1	COSE_Messages / map	A CBOR Web Token (CWT) or an Unprotected CWT Claims Set

### 8.6. COSE Header Parameters Registry

IANA has extended the Value Type of the COSE Header Parameter 'kid' to also allow the Value Type int. The resulting Value Type is bstr / int. The 'kid' parameter can be used to identify a key stored in a UCCS, in a CWT, or in a public key certificate. (The Value Registry for this item is empty and omitted from the table below.)

Name	Label	Value Type	Description	Reference
kid	4	bstr / int	Key identifier	[RFC9052] [[This document]]

### 8.7. COSE Key Common Parameters Registry

IANA has extended the Value Type of the COSE Key Common Parameter 'kid' to the COSE Key Value Type int. The resulting Value Type is



bstr / int. (The Value Registry for this item is empty and omitted from the table below.)

Name	Label	Value Type	Description	Reference
kid	2	bstr / int	Key identification value - match to kid in message	[RFC9052] [[This document]]

## 8.8. The Well-Known URI Registry

IANA has added the well-known URI "edhoc" to the Well-Known URIs registry.

\*URI suffix: edhoc

\*Change controller: IETF

\*Specification document(s): [[this document]]

\*Related information: None

## 8.9. Media Types Registry

IANA has added the media type "application/edhoc" to the Media Types registry.

\*Type name: application

\*Subtype name: edhoc

\*Required parameters: N/A

\*Optional parameters: N/A

\*Encoding considerations: binary

\*Security considerations: See Section 7 of this document.

\*Interoperability considerations: N/A

\*Published specification: [[this document]] (this document)

\*Applications that use this media type: To be identified

\*Fragment identifier considerations: N/A

\*Additional information:

-Magic number(s): N/A

-File extension(s): N/A

-Macintosh file type code(s): N/A

\*Person & email address to contact for further information: See "Authors' Addresses" section.

\*Intended usage: COMMON

\*Restrictions on usage: N/A

\*Author: See "Authors' Addresses" section.

\*Change Controller: IESG

#### **8.10. CoAP Content-Formats Registry**

IANA has added the media type "application/edhoc" to the CoAP Content-Formats registry.

\*Media Type: application/edhoc

\*Encoding:

\*ID: TBD42

\*Reference: [[this document]]

#### **8.11. EDHOC External Authorization Data**

IANA has created a new registry entitled "EDHOC External Authorization Data" under the new heading "EDHOC". The registration procedure is "Expert Review". The columns of the registry are Value, Description, and Reference, where Value is an integer and the other columns are text strings.

#### **8.12. Expert Review Instructions**

The IANA Registries established in this document is defined as "Expert Review". This section gives some general guidelines for what the experts should be looking for, but they are being designated as experts for a reason so they should be given substantial latitude.

Expert reviewers should take into consideration the following points:

- \*Clarity and correctness of registrations. Experts are expected to check the clarity of purpose and use of the requested entries. Expert needs to make sure the values of algorithms are taken from the right registry, when that is required. Expert should consider requesting an opinion on the correctness of registered parameters from relevant IETF working groups. Encodings that do not meet these objective of clarity and completeness should not be registered.

- \*Experts should take into account the expected usage of fields when approving point assignment. The length of the encoded value should be weighed against how many code points of that length are left, the size of device it will be used on, and the number of code points left that encode to that size.

- \*Specifications are recommended. When specifications are not provided, the description provided needs to have sufficient information to verify the points above.

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## **Appendix A. Use with OSCORE and Transfer over CoAP**

This appendix describes how to select EDHOC connection identifiers and derive an OSCORE security context when OSCORE is used with EDHOC, and how to transfer EDHOC messages over CoAP.

### **A.1. Selecting EDHOC Connection Identifier**

This section specifies a rule for converting from EDHOC connection identifier to OSCORE Sender/Recipient ID. (An identifier is Sender ID or Recipient ID depending on from which endpoint is the point of view, see Section 3.1 of [[RFC8613](#)].)

\*If the EDHOC connection identifier is numeric, i.e., encoded as a CBOR integer on the wire, it is converted to a (naturally byte-string shaped) OSCORE Sender/Recipient ID equal to its CBOR encoded form.

For example, a numeric C\_R equal to 10 (0x0A in CBOR encoding) is converted to a (typically client) Sender ID equal to 0x0A, while a numeric C\_I equal to -12 (0x2B in CBOR encoding) is converted to a (typically client) Sender ID equal to 0x2B.

\*If the EDHOC connection identifier is byte-valued, hence encoded as a CBOR byte string on the wire, it is converted to an OSCORE Sender/Recipient ID equal to the byte string.

For example, a byte-string valued C\_R equal to 0xFF (0x41FF in CBOR encoding) is converted to a (typically client) Sender ID equal to 0xFF.



Two EDHOC connection identifiers are called "equivalent" if and only if, by applying the conversion above, they both result in the same OSCORE Sender/Recipient ID. For example, the two EDHOC connection identifiers with CBOR encoding 0x0A (numeric) and 0x410A (byte-valued) are equivalent since they both result in the same OSCORE Sender/Recipient ID 0x0A.

When EDHOC is used to establish an OSCORE security context, the connection identifiers C\_I and C\_R MUST NOT be equivalent. Furthermore, in case of multiple OSCORE security contexts with potentially different endpoints, to facilitate retrieval of the correct OSCORE security context, an endpoint SHOULD select an EDHOC connection identifier that when converted to OSCORE Recipient ID does not coincide with its other Recipient IDs.

## A.2. Deriving the OSCORE Security Context

This section specifies how to use EDHOC output to derive the OSCORE security context.

After successful processing of EDHOC message\_3, Client and Server derive Security Context parameters for OSCORE as follows (see Section 3.2 of [[RFC8613](#)]):

\*The Master Secret and Master Salt are derived by using the EDHOC-Exporter interface, see [Section 4.3](#).

The EDHOC Exporter Labels for deriving the OSCORE Master Secret and the OSCORE Master Salt, are "OSCORE Master Secret" and "OSCORE Master Salt", respectively.

The context parameter is h'' (0x40), the empty CBOR byte string.

By default, key\_length is the key length (in bytes) of the application AEAD Algorithm of the selected cipher suite for the EDHOC session. Also by default, salt\_length has value 8. The Initiator and Responder MAY agree out-of-band on a longer key\_length than the default and on a different salt\_length.

```
Master Secret = EDHOC-Exporter( "OSCORE Master Secret", , key_length )
Master Salt   = EDHOC-Exporter( "OSCORE Master Salt", , salt_length )
```

\*The AEAD Algorithm is the application AEAD algorithm of the selected cipher suite for the EDHOC session.

\*The HKDF Algorithm is the one based on the application hash algorithm of the selected cipher suite for the EDHOC session. For example, if SHA-256 is the application hash algorithm of the selected ciphersuite, HKDF SHA-256 is used as HKDF Algorithm in the OSCORE Security Context.

\*In case the Client is Initiator and the Server is Responder, the Client's OSCORE Sender ID and the Server's OSCORE Sender ID are determined from the EDHOC connection identifiers C\_R and C\_I for the EDHOC session, respectively, by applying the conversion in [Appendix A.1](#). The reverse applies in case the Client is the Responder and the Server is the Initiator.

Client and Server use the parameters above to establish an OSCORE Security Context, as per Section 3.2.1 of [[RFC8613](#)].

From then on, Client and Server retrieve the OSCORE protocol state using the Recipient ID, and optionally other transport information such as the 5-tuple.

### **A.3. Transferring EDHOC over CoAP**

This section specifies one instance for how EDHOC can be transferred as an exchange of CoAP [[RFC7252](#)] messages. CoAP is a reliable transport that can preserve packet ordering and handle message duplication. CoAP can also perform fragmentation and protect against denial-of-service attacks. According to this specification, EDHOC messages are carried in Confirmable messages, which is beneficial especially if fragmentation is used.

By default, the CoAP client is the Initiator and the CoAP server is the Responder, but the roles SHOULD be chosen to protect the most sensitive identity, see [Section 7](#). According to this specification, EDHOC is transferred in POST requests and 2.04 (Changed) responses to the Uri-Path: `"/.well-known/edhoc"`. An application may define its own path that can be discovered, e.g., using resource directory [[I-D.ietf-core-resource-directory](#)].

By default, the message flow is as follows: EDHOC message\_1 is sent in the payload of a POST request from the client to the server's resource for EDHOC. EDHOC message\_2 or the EDHOC error message is sent from the server to the client in the payload of a 2.04 (Changed) response. EDHOC message\_3 or the EDHOC error message is sent from the client to the server's resource in the payload of a POST request. If needed, an EDHOC error message is sent from the server to the client in the payload of a 2.04 (Changed) response. Alternatively, if EDHOC message\_4 is used, it is sent from the server to the client in the payload of a 2.04 (Changed) response analogously to message\_2.

In order to correlate a message received from a client to a message previously sent by the server, messages sent by the client are prepended with the CBOR serialization of the connection identifier which the server has chosen. This applies independently of if the CoAP server is Responder or Initiator. For the default case when the

server is Responder, the prepended connection identifier is C\_R, and C\_I if the server is Initiator. If message\_1 is sent to the server, the CBOR simple value "true" (0xf5) is sent in its place (given that the server has not selected C\_R yet).

These identifiers are encoded in CBOR and thus self-delimiting. They are sent in front of the actual EDHOC message, and only the part of the body following the identifier is used for EDHOC processing.

Consequently, the application/edhoc media type does not apply to these messages; their media type is unnamed.

An example of a successful EDHOC exchange using CoAP is shown in [Figure 9](#). In this case the CoAP Token enables correlation on the Initiator side, and the prepended C\_R enables correlation on the Responder (server) side.

Client	Server
+----->	Header: POST (Code=0.02)
POST	Uri-Path: "/.well-known/edhoc"
	Payload: true, EDHOC message_1
<-----+	Header: 2.04 Changed
2.04	Content-Format: application/edhoc
	Payload: EDHOC message_2
+----->	Header: POST (Code=0.02)
POST	Uri-Path: "/.well-known/edhoc"
	Payload: C_R, EDHOC message_3
<-----+	Header: 2.04 Changed
2.04	

Figure 9: Transferring EDHOC in CoAP when the Initiator is CoAP Client

The exchange in [Figure 9](#) protects the client identity against active attackers and the server identity against passive attackers.

An alternative exchange that protects the server identity against active attackers and the client identity against passive attackers is shown in [Figure 10](#). In this case the CoAP Token enables the Responder to correlate message\_2 and message\_3, and the prepended C\_I enables correlation on the Initiator (server) side. If EDHOC message\_4 is used, C\_I is prepended, and it is transported with CoAP in the payload of a POST request with a 2.04 (Changed) response.

Client	Server
+----->	Header: POST (Code=0.02)
POST	Uri-Path: "/.well-known/edhoc"
<-----+	Header: 2.04 Changed
2.04	Content-Format: application/edhoc
	Payload: EDHOC message_1
+----->	Header: POST (Code=0.02)
POST	Uri-Path: "/.well-known/edhoc"
	Payload: C_I, EDHOC message_2
<-----+	Header: 2.04 Changed
2.04	Content-Format: application/edhoc
	Payload: EDHOC message_3

Figure 10: Transferring EDHOC in CoAP when the Initiator is CoAP Server

To protect against denial-of-service attacks, the CoAP server MAY respond to the first POST request with a 4.01 (Unauthorized) containing an Echo option [[I-D.ietf-core-echo-request-tag](#)]. This forces the initiator to demonstrate its reachability at its apparent network address. If message fragmentation is needed, the EDHOC messages may be fragmented using the CoAP Block-Wise Transfer mechanism [[RFC7959](#)].

EDHOC does not restrict how error messages are transported with CoAP, as long as the appropriate error message can to be transported in response to a message that failed (see [Section 6](#)). EDHOC error messages transported with CoAP are carried in the payload.

#### A.3.1. Transferring EDHOC and OSCORE over CoAP

When using EDHOC over CoAP for establishing an OSCORE Security Context, EDHOC error messages sent as CoAP responses MUST be sent in the payload of error responses, i.e., they MUST specify a CoAP error response code. In particular, it is RECOMMENDED that such error responses have response code either 4.00 (Bad Request) in case of client error (e.g., due to a malformed EDHOC message), or 5.00 (Internal Server Error) in case of server error (e.g., due to failure in deriving EDHOC key material). The Content-Format of the error response MUST be set to application/edhoc.

A method for combining EDHOC and OSCORE protocols in two round-trips is specified in [[I-D.ietf-core-oscore-edhoc](#)].

## Appendix B. Compact Representation

As described in Section 4.2 of [\[RFC6090\]](#) the x-coordinate of an elliptic curve public key is a suitable representative for the entire point whenever scalar multiplication is used as a one-way function. One example is ECDH with compact output, where only the x-coordinate of the computed value is used as the shared secret.

This section defines a format for compact representation based on the Elliptic-Curve-Point-to-Octet-String Conversion defined in Section 2.3.3 of [\[SECG\]](#). Using the notation from [\[SECG\]](#), the output is an octet string of length  $\text{ceil}(\log_2 q) / 8$ . See [\[SECG\]](#) for a definition of  $q$ ,  $M$ ,  $X$ ,  $x_p$ , and  $\sim y_p$ . The steps in Section 2.3.3 of [\[SECG\]](#) are replaced by:

1. Convert the field element  $x_p$  to an octet string  $X$  of length  $\text{ceil}(\log_2 q) / 8$  octets using the conversion routine specified in Section 2.3.5 of [\[SECG\]](#).
2. Output  $M = X$

The encoding of the point at infinity is not supported. Compact representation does not change any requirements on validation. If a y-coordinate is required for validation or compatibility with APIs the value  $\sim y_p$  SHALL be set to zero. For such use, the compact representation can be transformed into the SECG point compressed format by prepending it with the single byte 0x02 (i.e.,  $M = 0x02 || X$ ).

Using compact representation have some security benefits. An implementation does not need to check that the point is not the point at infinity (the identity element). Similarly, as not even the sign of the y-coordinate is encoded, compact representation trivially avoids so called "benign malleability" attacks where an attacker changes the sign, see [\[SECG\]](#).

## Appendix C. Use of CBOR, CDDL and COSE in EDHOC

This Appendix is intended to simplify for implementors not familiar with CBOR [\[RFC8949\]](#), CDDL [\[RFC8610\]](#), COSE [\[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct\]](#), and HKDF [\[RFC5869\]](#).

### C.1. CBOR and CDDL

The Concise Binary Object Representation (CBOR) [\[RFC8949\]](#) is a data format designed for small code size and small message size. CBOR builds on the JSON data model but extends it by e.g., encoding binary data directly without base64 conversion. In addition to the binary CBOR encoding, CBOR also has a diagnostic notation that is readable and editable by humans. The Concise Data Definition

Language (CDDL) [[RFC8610](#)] provides a way to express structures for protocol messages and APIs that use CBOR. [[RFC8610](#)] also extends the diagnostic notation.

CBOR data items are encoded to or decoded from byte strings using a type-length-value encoding scheme, where the three highest order bits of the initial byte contain information about the major type. CBOR supports several different types of data items, in addition to integers (int, uint), simple values, byte strings (bstr), and text strings (tstr), CBOR also supports arrays [] of data items, maps {} of pairs of data items, and sequences [[RFC8742](#)] of data items. Some examples are given below.

For a complete specification and more examples, see [[RFC8949](#)] and [[RFC8610](#)]. We recommend implementors to get used to CBOR by using the CBOR playground [[CborMe](#)].

Diagnostic	Encoded	Type
-----	-----	-----
1	0x01	unsigned integer
24	0x1818	unsigned integer
-24	0x37	negative integer
-25	0x3818	negative integer
true	0xf5	simple value
h'12cd'	0x4212cd	byte string
'12cd'	0x4431326364	byte string
"12cd"	0x6431326364	text string
{ 4 : h'cd' }	0xa10441cd	map
<< 1, 2, true >>	0x430102f5	byte string
[ 1, 2, true ]	0x830102f5	array
( 1, 2, true )	0x0102f5	sequence
1, 2, true	0x0102f5	sequence
-----	-----	-----

## C.2. CDDL Definitions

This sections compiles the CDDL definitions for ease of reference.

```

suite = int

ead = 1* (
    type : int,
    ext_authz_data : any,
)

message_1 = (
    METHOD : int,
    SUITES_I : [ selected : suite, supported : 2* suite ] / suite,
    G_X : bstr,
    C_I : bstr / int,
    ? EAD_1 : ead,
)

message_2 = (
    G_Y_CIPHERTEXT_2 : bstr,
    C_R : bstr / int,
)

message_3 = (
    CIPHERTEXT_3 : bstr,
)

message_4 = (
    CIPHERTEXT_4 : bstr,
)

SUITES_R : [ supported : 2* suite ] / suite

error = (
    ERR_CODE : int,
    ERR_INFO : any,
)

info = [
    edhoc_aead_id : int / tstr,
    transcript_hash : bstr,
    label : tstr,
    * context : any,
    length : uint,
]

```

### C.3. COSE

CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)] describes how to create and process signatures, message authentication codes, and encryption using CBOR. COSE builds on JOSE, but is adapted to allow more efficient processing in

constrained devices. EDHOC makes use of COSE\_Key, COSE\_Encrypt0, and COSE\_Sign1 objects in the message processing:

\*ECDH ephemeral public keys of type EC2 or OKP in message\_1 and message\_2 consist of the COSE\_Key parameter named 'x', see Section 7.1 and 7.2 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-algs](#)]

\*Certain ciphertexts in message\_2 and message\_3 consist of a subset of the single recipient encrypted data object COSE\_Encrypt0, which is described in Sections 5.2-5.3 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)]. The ciphertext is computed over the plaintext and associated data, using an encryption key and a nonce. The associated data is an Enc\_structure consisting of protected headers and externally supplied data (external\_aad).

\*Signatures in message\_2 of method 0 and 2, and in message\_3 of method 0 and 1, consist of a subset of the single signer data object COSE\_Sign1, which is described in Sections 4.2-4.4 of [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)]. The signature is computed over a Sig\_structure containing payload, protected headers and externally supplied data (external\_aad) using a private signature key and verified using the corresponding public signature key.

## Appendix D. Test Vectors

TBD

## Appendix E. Applicability Template

This appendix contains a rudimentary example of an applicability statement, see [Section 3.9](#).

For use of EDHOC in the XX protocol, the following assumptions are made:

1. Transfer in CoAP as specified in [Appendix A.3](#) with requests expected by the CoAP server (= Responder) at /app1-edh, no Content-Format needed.
2. METHOD = 1 (I uses signature key, R uses static DH key.)
3. CRED\_I is an IEEE 802.1AR IDevID encoded as a C509 certificate of type 0 [[I-D.ietf-cose-cbor-encoded-cert](#)].

\*R acquires CRED\_I out-of-band, indicated in EAD\_1.

\*ID\_CRED\_I = {4: h''} is a 'kid' with value empty byte string.



4. CRED\_R is a UCCS of type OKP as specified in [Section 3.5.2](#).

\*The CBOR map has parameters 1 (kty), -1 (crv), and -2 (x-coordinate).

\*ID\_CRED\_R = CRED\_R

5. External authorization data is defined and processed as specified in [[I-D.selander-ace-ake-authz](#)].

6. EUI-64 used as identity of endpoint.

7. No use of message\_4: the application sends protected messages from R to I.

## Appendix F. EDHOC Message Deduplication

EDHOC by default assumes that message duplication is handled by the transport, in this section exemplified with CoAP.

Deduplication of CoAP messages is described in Section 4.5 of [[RFC7252](#)]. This handles the case when the same Confirmable (CON) message is received multiple times due to missing acknowledgement on CoAP messaging layer. The recommended processing in [[RFC7252](#)] is that the duplicate message is acknowledged (ACK), but the received message is only processed once by the CoAP stack.

Message deduplication is resource demanding and therefore not supported in all CoAP implementations. Since EDHOC is targeting constrained environments, it is desirable that EDHOC can optionally support transport layers which does not handle message duplication. Special care is needed to avoid issues with duplicate messages, see [Section 5.1](#).

The guiding principle here is similar to the deduplication processing on CoAP messaging layer: a received duplicate EDHOC message SHALL NOT result in a response consisting of another instance of the next EDHOC message. The result MAY be that a duplicate EDHOC response is sent, provided it is still relevant with respect the current protocol state. In any case, the received message MUST NOT be processed more than once in the same EDHOC session. This is called "EDHOC message deduplication".

An EDHOC implementation MAY store the previously sent EDHOC message to be able to resend it. An EDHOC implementation MAY keep the protocol state to be able to recreate the previously sent EDHOC message and resend it. The previous message or protocol state MUST NOT be kept longer than what is required for retransmission, for example, in the case of CoAP transport, no longer than the EXCHANGE\_LIFETIME (see Section 4.8.2 of [[RFC7252](#)]).

Note that the requirements in [Section 5.1](#) still apply because duplicate messages are not processed by the EDHOC state machine:

\*EDHOC messages SHALL be processed according to the current protocol state.

\*Different instances of the same message MUST NOT be processed in one session.

## **Appendix G. Transports Not Natively Providing Correlation**

Protocols that do not natively provide full correlation between a series of messages can send the C\_I and C\_R identifiers along as needed.

The transport over CoAP ([Appendix A.3](#)) can serve as a blueprint for other server-client protocols: The client prepends the C\_x which the server selected (or, for message 1, the CBOR simple value 'true' which is not a valid C\_x) to any request message it sends. The server does not send any such indicator, as responses are matched to request by the client-server protocol design.

Protocols that do not provide any correlation at all can prescribe prepending of the peer's chosen C\_x to all messages.

## **Appendix H. Change Log**

RFC Editor: Please remove this appendix.

Main changes:

\*From -08 to -09:

- G\_Y and CIPHERTEXT\_2 are now included in one CBOR bstr
- MAC\_2 and MAC\_3 are now generated with EDHOC-KDF
- Info field "context" is now general and explicit in EDHOC-KDF
- Restructured Section 4, Key Derivation
- Added EDHOC MAC length to cipher suite for use with static DH
- More details on the use of CWT and UCCS
- Restructured and clarified Section 3.5, Authentication Parameters
- Replaced 'kid2' with extension of 'kid'

- EAD encoding now supports multiple ead types in one message
- Clarified EAD type
- Updated message sizes
- Replaced "perfect forward secrecy" with "forward secrecy"
- Updated security considerations
- Replaced prepended 'null' with 'true' in the CoAP transport of message\_1
- Updated CDDL definitions
- Expanded on the use of COSE

\*From -07 to -08:

- Prepended C\_x moved from the EDHOC protocol itself to the transport mapping
- METHOD\_CORR renamed to METHOD, corr removed
- Removed bstr\_identifier and use bstr / int instead; C\_x can now be int without any implied bstr semantics
- Defined COSE header parameter 'kid2' with value type bstr / int for use with ID\_CRED\_x
- Updated message sizes
- New cipher suites with AES-GCM and ChaCha20 / Poly1305
- Changed from one- to two-byte identifier of CNSA compliant suite
- Separate sections on transport and connection id with further sub-structure
- Moved back key derivation for OSCORE from draft-ietf-core-oscore-edhoc
- OSCORE and CoAP specific processing moved to new appendix
- Message 4 section moved to message processing section

\*From -06 to -07:

- Changed transcript hash definition for TH\_2 and TH\_3

- Removed "EDHOC signature algorithm curve" from cipher suite
- New IANA registry "EDHOC Exporter Label"
- New application defined parameter "context" in EDHOC-Exporter
- Changed normative language for failure from MUST to SHOULD send error
- Made error codes non-negative and 0 for success
- Added detail on success error code
- Aligned terminology "protocol instance" -> "session"
- New appendix on compact EC point representation
- Added detail on use of ephemeral public keys
- Moved key derivation for OSCORE to draft-ietf-core-oscore-edhoc
- Additional security considerations
- Renamed "Auxiliary Data" as "External Authorization Data"
- Added encrypted EAD\_4 to message\_4

\*From -05 to -06:

- New section 5.2 "Message Processing Outline"
- Optional initial byte C\_1 = null in message\_1
- New format of error messages, table of error codes, IANA registry
- Change of recommendation transport of error in CoAP
- Merge of content in 3.7 and appendix C into new section 3.7 "Applicability Statement"
- Requiring use of deterministic CBOR
- New section on message deduplication
- New appendix containin all CDDL definitions
- New appendix with change log
- Removed section "Other Documents Referencing EDHOC"

- Clarifications based on review comments

\*From -04 to -05:

- EDHOC-Rekey-FS -> EDHOC-KeyUpdate
- Clarification of cipher suite negotiation
- Updated security considerations
- Updated test vectors
- Updated applicability statement template

\*From -03 to -04:

- Restructure of section 1
- Added references to C509 Certificates
- Change in CIPHERTEXT\_2 -> plaintext XOR KEYSTREAM\_2 (test vector not updated)
- "K\_2e", "IV\_2e" -> KEYSTREAM\_2
- Specified optional message 4
- EDHOC-Exporter-FS -> EDHOC-Rekey-FS
- Less constrained devices SHOULD implement both suite 0 and 2
- Clarification of error message
- Added exporter interface test vector

\*From -02 to -03:

- Rearrangements of section 3 and beginning of section 4
- Key derivation new section 4
- Cipher suites 4 and 5 added
- EDHOC-EXPORTER-FS - generate a new PRK\_4x3m from an old one
- Change in CIPHERTEXT\_2 -> COSE\_Encrypt0 without tag (no change to test vector)
- Clarification of error message
- New appendix C applicability statement

\*From -01 to -02:

- New section 1.2 Use of EDHOC
- Clarification of identities
- New section 4.3 clarifying bstr\_identifier
- Updated security considerations
- Updated text on cipher suite negotiation and key confirmation
- Test vector for static DH

\*From -00 to -01:

- Removed PSK method
- Removed references to certificate by value

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