TLS Working Group
Internet Draft
Expires: January 2007

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July 19, 2006

Pre-Shared Key Cipher Suite with NULL Encryption for Transport Layer Security

draft-ietf-tls-psk-null-00.txt

Status of this Memo

Abstract

This document specifies authentication-only cipher suites for the Pre-Shared Key based [TLS-PSK] Transport Layer Security (TLS) [TLS] protocol to support null encryption. These cipher suites are useful for countries and places with cryptography-related restrictions.

Conventions used in this document

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

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1. Introduction

The RFC for Pre-Shared Key based TLS [TLS-PSK] specifies cipher suites for supporting TLS using pre-shared symmetric keys. However all the cipher suites defined in [TLS-PSK] require encryption. There is a need for a cipher suite that supports no encryption. This is required for implementations to meet import restrictions in some countries. Even though no encryption is used, this cipher suite supports authentication of the client and server to each other, and message integrity. This document augments [TLS-PSK] by adding three more cipher suites (PSK, DHE, RSA) with authentication and integrity only - no encryption.

2. Cipher Usage

The new cipher suites proposed here is very similar to cipher suites defined in [TLS-PSK], except that they define null encryption.

The cipher suites defined here uses the following options for key exchange and hash part of the protocol:

CipherSuite	Key Exchange	Cipher	Hash
TLS_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA	PSK	NULL	SHA
TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA	DHE_PSK	NULL	SHA
TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA	RSA_PSK	NULL	SHA

For the meaning of the terms PSK please refer to section 1 in [TLS-PSK]. For the meaning of the terms DHE and RSA please refer to section 7.4.2 in [TLS].

3. Security Considerations

As with all schemes involving shared keys, special care should be taken to protect the shared values and to limit their exposure over time. As this document augments [TLS-PSK], everything stated in its Security Consideration section applies here. In addition, as cipher suites defined here do not support confidentiality - care should be taken not to send confidential information (such as passwords) over TLS-PSK connection with no encryption.

4. IANA Considerations

This document defines three new cipher suites, whose values are to be assigned from the TLS Cipher Suite registry defined in [TLS].

```
CipherSuite   TLS_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA      = { 0x00, 0xTBD1 };
CipherSuite   TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA  = { 0x00, 0xTBD2 };
CipherSuite   TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA  = { 0x00, 0xTBD3 };
```

5. Acknowledgments

The cipher suite defined in this document is an augmentation to and based on [TLS-PSK].

6. References

6.1. Normative References

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.

[TLS] Dierks, T. and Rescorla, E., "The TLS Protocol Version 1.1", RFC 4346, April 2006.

[TLS-PSK] Eronen, P., Tschofenig, H., "Pre-Shared Key CipherSuites for Transport Layer Security (TLS)", RFC 4279, December 2005.

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Acknowledgment

Funding for the RFC Editor function is currently provided by the Internet Society.