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Deprecating MD5 and SHA-1 signature hashes in TLS 1.2
draft-lvelvindron-tls-md5-sha1-deprecate-05

Abstract

The MD5 and SHA-1 hashing algorithms are steadily weakening in strength and their deprecation process should begin for their use in TLS 1.2 digital signatures. However, this document does not deprecate SHA-1 in HMAC for record protection.

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[1.](#) Introduction

The usage of MD5 and SHA-1 for signature hashing in TLS 1.2 is specified in [RFC 5246](#) [[RFC5246](#)]. MD5 and SHA-1 have been proven to be insecure, subject to collision attacks. [RFC 6151](#) [[RFC6151](#)] details the security considerations, including collision attacks for MD5, published in 2011. NIST formally deprecated use of SHA-1 in 2011 [[NISTSP800-131A-R2](#)] and disallowed its use for digital signatures at the end of 2013, based on both the Wang, et. al, attack and the potential for brute-force attack. Further, in 2017, researchers from Google and CWI Amsterdam [[SHA-1-Collision](#)] proved SHA-1 collision attacks were practical. This document updates [RFC 5246](#) [[RFC5246](#)] and [RFC7525](#) [[RFC7525](#)] in such a way that MD5 and SHA1 MUST NOT be used for digital signatures. However, this document does not deprecate SHA-1 in HMAC for record protection.

[1.1.](#) Requirements Language

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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

[2.](#) Signature Algorithms

Clients SHOULD NOT include MD5 and SHA-1 in signature_algorithms extension. If a client does not send a signature_algorithms extension, then the server MUST abort the handshake and send a handshake_failure alert.

[3.](#) Certificate Request

Servers SHOULD NOT include MD5 and SHA-1 in CertificateRequest message.

[4.](#) Server Key Exchange

Servers MUST NOT include MD5 and SHA-1 in ServerKeyExchange message. If client does receive a MD5 or SHA-1 signature in the ServerKeyExchange message it MUST abort the connection with handshake_failure or insufficient_security alert.

[5.](#) Certificate Verify

Clients MUST NOT include MD5 and SHA-1 in CertificateVerify message.

[6.](#) Updates to [RFC5246](#)

OLD:

In [Section 7.4.1.4.1](#): the text should be revised from " Note: this is a change from TLS 1.1 where there are no explicit rules, but as a practical matter one can assume that the peer supports MD5 and SHA-1."

NEW:

"Note: This is a change from TLS 1.1 where there are no explicit rules, but as a practical matter one can assume that the peer supports SHA-256."

[7.](#) Updates to [RFC7525](#)

[RFC7525](#) [[RFC7525](#)], Recommendations for Secure Use of Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) recommends use of SHA-256 as a minimum requirement. This update

moves the minimum recommendation to use stronger language deprecating use of both SHA-1 and MD5. The prior text did not explicitly include MD5 and this text adds it to ensure it is understood as having been deprecated.

Section 4.3:

OLD:

When using RSA, servers SHOULD authenticate using certificates with at least a 2048-bit modulus for the public key. In addition, the use of the SHA-256 hash algorithm is RECOMMENDED (see [[CAB-Baseline](#)] for

more details). Clients SHOULD indicate to servers that they request SHA-256, by using the "Signature Algorithms" extension defined in TLS 1.2.

NEW:

servers SHOULD authenticate using certificates with at least a 2048-bit modulus for the public key.

In addition, the use of the SHA-256 hash algorithm is RECOMMENDED, SHA-1 or MD5 MUST not be used (see [[CAB-Baseline](#)] for more details). Clients MUST indicate to servers that they request SHA-256, by using the "Signature Algorithms" extension defined in TLS 1.2.

8. Security Considerations

Concerns with TLS 1.2 implementations falling back to SHA-1 is an issue. This draft updates the TLS 1.2 specification to deprecate support for MD5 and SHA-1 for digital signatures. However, this document does not deprecate SHA-1 in HMAC for record protection.

9. Acknowledgement

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10. References

10.1. Normative References

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- [RFC7525] Sheffer, Y., Holz, R., and P. Saint-Andre, "Recommendations for Secure Use of Transport Layer Security (TLS) and Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS)", [BCP 195](#), [RFC 7525](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7525, May 2015, <<https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7525>>.

10.2. Informative References

- [CAB-Baseline]
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