

TLS Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Informational  
Expires: January 16, 2013

D. McGrew  
Cisco Systems  
D. Bailey  
RSA/EMC  
M. Campagna  
R. Dugal  
Certicom Corp.  
July 15, 2012

AES-CCM ECC Cipher Suites for TLS  
draft-mcgrew-tls-aes-ccm-ecc-05

## Abstract

This memo describes the use of the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) in the Counter and CBC-MAC Mode (CCM) of operation within Transport Layer Security (TLS) to provide confidentiality and data origin authentication. The AES-CCM algorithm is amenable to compact implementations, making it suitable for constrained environments. The ciphersuites defined in this document use Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC), and are advantageous in networks with limited bandwidth.

## Status of this Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <http://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on January 16, 2013.

## Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2012 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents

(<http://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in Section 4.e of the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

## Table of Contents

<a href="#">1.</a>	Introduction . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">1.1.</a>	Conventions Used In This Document . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2.</a>	ECC based AES-CCM Cipher Suites . . . . .	<a href="#">3</a>
<a href="#">2.1.</a>	AEAD algorithms . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">2.2.</a>	Required algorithms for each CipherSuite . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">3.</a>	TLS Versions . . . . .	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">4.</a>	History . . . . .	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">5.</a>	IANA Considerations . . . . .	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">6.</a>	Security Considerations . . . . .	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">6.1.</a>	Perfect Forward Secrecy . . . . .	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">6.2.</a>	Counter Reuse . . . . .	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">7.</a>	Acknowledgements . . . . .	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">8.</a>	References . . . . .	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">8.1.</a>	Normative References . . . . .	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">8.2.</a>	Informative References . . . . .	<a href="#">8</a>
	Authors' Addresses . . . . .	<a href="#">8</a>

## 1. Introduction

This document describes the use of Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) [[AES](#)] in Counter with CBC-MAC Mode (CCM) [[CCM](#)] in several TLS ciphersuites. AES-CCM provides both authentication and confidentiality and uses as its only primitive the AES encrypt operation (the AES decrypt operation is not needed). This makes it amenable to compact implementations, which is advantageous in constrained environments. Of course, adoption outside of constrained environments is necessary to enable interoperability, such as that between web clients and embedded servers, or between embedded clients and web servers. The use of AES-CCM has been specified for IPsec ESP [[RFC4309](#)] and 802.15.4 wireless networks [[IEEE802154](#)].

Authenticated encryption, in addition to providing confidentiality for the plaintext that is encrypted, provides a way to check its integrity and authenticity. Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data, or AEAD [[RFC5116](#)], adds the ability to check the integrity and authenticity of some associated data that is not encrypted. This note utilizes the AEAD facility within TLS 1.2 [[RFC5246](#)] and the AES-CCM-based AEAD algorithms defined in [[RFC5116](#)] and [[I-D.mcgregw-tls-aes-ccm](#)]. All of these algorithms use AES-CCM; some have shorter authentication tags, and are therefore more suitable for use across networks in which bandwidth is constrained and message sizes may be small.

The ciphersuites defined in this document use Ephemeral Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (ECDHE) as their key establishment mechanism; these ciphersuites can be used with DTLS [[RFC6347](#)].

### 1.1. 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](#)]

## [2.](#) ECC based AES-CCM Cipher Suites

The ciphersuites defined in this document are based on the AES-CCM authenticated encryption with associated data (AEAD) algorithms AEAD\_AES\_128\_CCM and AEAD\_AES\_256\_CCM described in [[RFC5116](#)]. The following ciphersuites are defined:

McGrew, et al.

Expires January 16, 2013

[Page 3]

---

Internet-Draft

AES-CCM ECC TLS

July 2012

```
CipherSuite TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM = {TBD1,TBD1}  
CipherSuite TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM = {TBD2,TBD2}  
CipherSuite TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM_8 = {TBD3,TBD3}  
CipherSuite TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CCM_8 = {TBD4,TBD4}
```

These ciphersuites make use of the AEAD capability in TLS 1.2 [[RFC5246](#)]. Note that each of these AEAD algorithms uses AES-CCM. Ciphersuites ending with "8" use eight-octet authentication tags; the other ciphersuites have 16 octet authentication tags.

The HMAC truncation option described in [Section 3.5 of \[RFC4366\]](#) (which negotiates the "truncated\_hmac" TLS extension) does not have an effect on the cipher suites defined in this note, because they do not use HMAC to protect TLS records.

The "nonce" input to the AEAD algorithm is as defined in [[I-D.mcgreww-tls-aes-ccm](#)].

In DTLS, the 64-bit seq\_num field is the 16-bit DTLS epoch field concatenated with the 48-bit sequence\_number field. The epoch and sequence\_number appear in the DTLS record layer.

This construction allows the internal counter to be 32-bits long, which is a convenient size for use with CCM.

These ciphersuites make use of the default TLS 1.2 Pseudorandom Function (PRF), which uses HMAC with the SHA-256 hash function.

The ECDHE\_ECDSA key exchange is performed as defined in [[RFC4492](#)],

with the following additional stipulations:

- o The curve secp256r1 MUST be supported, and the curves secp384r1 and secp521r1 MAY be supported; these curves are equivalent to the NIST P-256, P-384, and P-521 curves. Note that all of these curves have cofactor equal to one, which simplifies their use.
- o The server's certificate MUST contain an ECDSA-capable public key, it MUST be signed with ECDSA, and it MUST use SHA-256, SHA-384, or SHA-512. The Signature Algorithms extension ([Section 7.4.1.4.1 of \[RFC5246\]](#)) MUST be used to indicate support of those signature and hash algorithms. If a client certificate is used, the same conditions apply to it. The acceptable choices of hashes and curves that can be used with each ciphersuite are detailed in [Section 2.2](#).
- o The uncompressed point format MUST be supported. Other point formats MAY be used.
- o The client SHOULD offer the elliptic\_curves extension and the server SHOULD expect to receive it.

McGrew, et al.

Expires January 16, 2013

[Page 4]

---

Internet-Draft

AES-CCM ECC TLS

July 2012

- o The client MAY offer the ec\_point\_formats extension, but the server need not expect to receive it.
- o [\[RFC6090\]](#) MAY be used as an implementation method.

Implementations of these ciphersuites will interoperate with [\[RFC4492\]](#), but can be more compact than a full implementation of that RFC.

## [2.1](#). AEAD algorithms

The following AEAD algorithms are used:

AEAD\_AES\_128\_CCM is used in the TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CCM ciphersuite,

AEAD\_AES\_256\_CCM is used in the TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_CCM ciphersuite,

AEAD\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8 is used in the TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8 ciphersuite, and

AEAD\_AES\_256\_CCM\_8 is used in the

TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_CCM\_8 ciphersuite.

## [2.2.](#) Required algorithms for each CipherSuite

The curves and hash algorithms that can be used with each ciphersuite are as follows. The ciphersuites TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CCM and TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8 MUST be used with one of the following combinations:

secp256r1 and SHA-256, or  
secp384r1 and SHA-384, or  
secp521r1 and SHA-512.

The ciphersuites TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_CCM and TLS\_ECDHE\_ECDSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_CCM\_8 MUST be used with one of the following combinations:

secp384r1 and SHA-384, or  
secp521r1 and SHA-512.

## [3.](#) TLS Versions

These ciphersuites make use of the authenticated encryption with additional data defined in TLS 1.2 [[RFC5288](#)]. They MUST NOT be negotiated in older versions of TLS. Clients MUST NOT offer these

cipher suites if they do not offer TLS 1.2 or later. Servers which select an earlier version of TLS MUST NOT select one of these cipher suites. Earlier versions do not have support for AEAD; for instance, the TLSCiphertext structure does not have the "aead" option in TLS 1.1. Because TLS has no way for the client to indicate that it supports TLS 1.2 but not earlier, a non-compliant server might potentially negotiate TLS 1.1 or earlier and select one of the cipher suites in this document. Clients MUST check the TLS version and generate a fatal "illegal\_parameter" alert if they detect an incorrect version.

## [4.](#) History

The 05 version updated the IANA considerations.

The 04 version changed the intended status to "Informational", and removed the redundant definition of the AEAD nonce and replaced it with a reference to [draft-mcgrew-tls-aes-ccm](#), to avoid incompatible descriptions.

The 03 version removed materials that are redundant with [draft-mcgrew-tls-aes-ccm](#), and replaced them with references to that draft. That draft has been approved for RFC and will be a suitable stable normative reference.

The 02 version removed the AEAD\_AES\_128\_CCM\_12 and AEAD\_AES\_256\_CCM\_12 AEAD algorithms, because they were not needed in any ciphersuites. The AES-256 ciphersuites were retained, however, to provide a secure cipher for use with the higher security curves secp384r1 and secp521r1.

This section is to be removed by the RFC editor upon publication.

## [5.](#) IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to assign the values for the ciphersuites defined in Section [Section 2](#) from the TLS and DTLS CipherSuite registries. IANA, please note that the DTLS-OK column should be marked as "Y" for each of these algorithms.

## [6.](#) Security Considerations

### [6.1.](#) Perfect Forward Secrecy

The perfect forward secrecy properties of ephemeral Diffie-Hellman ciphersuites are discussed in the security analysis of [\[RFC4346\]](#). This analysis applies to the ECDHE ciphersuites.

### [6.2.](#) Counter Reuse

AES-CCM security requires that the counter is never reused. The IV construction in [Section 2](#) is designed to prevent counter reuse.

## [7.](#) Acknowledgements

This draft borrows heavily from [[RFC5288](#)]. Thanks are due to Robert Cragie.

This draft is motivated by the considerations raised in the Zigbee Smart Energy 2.0 working group.

## [8.](#) References

### [8.1.](#) Normative References

- [AES] National Institute of Standards and Technology, "Specification for the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)", FIPS 197, November 2001.
- [CCM] National Institute of Standards and Technology, "Recommendation for Block Cipher Modes of Operation: The CCM Mode for Authentication and Confidentiality", SP 800-38C, May 2004.
- [I-D.mcgrew-tls-aes-ccm] McGrew, D. and D. Bailey, "AES-CCM Cipher Suites for TLS", [draft-mcgrew-tls-aes-ccm-03](#) (work in progress), February 2012.
- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), March 1997.
- [RFC4366] Blake-Wilson, S., Nystrom, M., Hopwood, D., Mikkelsen, J., and T. Wright, "Transport Layer Security (TLS) Extensions", [RFC 4366](#), April 2006.
- [RFC4492] Blake-Wilson, S., Bolyard, N., Gupta, V., Hawk, C., and B. Moeller, "Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) Cipher Suites



- [RFC5116] McGrew, D., "An Interface and Algorithms for Authenticated Encryption", [RFC 5116](#), January 2008.
- [RFC5246] Dierks, T. and E. Rescorla, "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2", [RFC 5246](#), August 2008.
- [RFC5288] Salowey, J., Choudhury, A., and D. McGrew, "AES Galois Counter Mode (GCM) Cipher Suites for TLS", [RFC 5288](#), August 2008.
- [RFC6090] McGrew, D., Igoe, K., and M. Salter, "Fundamental Elliptic Curve Cryptography Algorithms", [RFC 6090](#), February 2011.
- [RFC6347] Rescorla, E. and N. Modadugu, "Datagram Transport Layer Security Version 1.2", [RFC 6347](#), January 2012.

## [8.2](#). Informative References

- [IEEE802154]  
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers,  
"Wireless Personal Area Networks", IEEE Standard 802.15.4-2006, 2006.
- [RFC4309] Housley, R., "Using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) CCM Mode with IPsec Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP)", [RFC 4309](#), December 2005.
- [RFC4346] Dierks, T. and E. Rescorla, "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.1", [RFC 4346](#), April 2006.

## Authors' Addresses

David McGrew  
Cisco Systems  
13600 Dulles Technology Drive  
Herndon, VA 20171  
USA

Email: [mcgrew@cisco.com](mailto:mcgrew@cisco.com)

Daniel V. Bailey  
RSA/EMC  
174 Middlesex Tpke.  
Bedford, MA 01463  
USA

Email: [dbailey@rsa.com](mailto:dbailey@rsa.com)

Matthew Campagna  
Certicom Corp.  
5520 Explorer Drive #400  
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L1  
Canada

Email: [mcampagna@certicom.com](mailto:mcampagna@certicom.com)

Robert Dugal  
Certicom Corp.  
5520 Explorer Drive #400  
Mississauga, Ontario L4W 5L1  
Canada

Email: [rdugal@certicom.com](mailto:rdugal@certicom.com)

