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**End-to-End Object Encryption for the Extensible Messaging and Presence
Protocol (XMPP)
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Abstract

This document defines a method of end-to-end object encryption for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP).

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[1.](#) Introduction

End-to-end encryption of traffic sent over the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol [[RFC6120](#)] is a desirable goal. Requirements and a threat analysis for XMPP encryption are provided in [[E2E-REQ](#)]. Many possible approaches to meet those (or similar) requirements have been proposed over the years, including methods based on PGP, S/MIME, SIGMA, and TLS.

Most proposals have not been able to support multiple end-points for a given recipient. As more devices support XMPP, it becomes more desirable to allow an entity to communicate with another in a more secure manner, regardless of the number of agents the entity is employing. This document specifies an approach for encrypting

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communications between two entities which each might have multiple end-points.

2. Terminology

This document inherits XMPP-related terminology from [RFC6120], JSON Web Algorithms (JWA)-related terminology from [JOSE-JWA], JSON Web Encryption (JWE)-related terminology from [JOSE-JWE], and JSON Web Key (JWK)-related terminology from [JOSE-JWK]. Security-related terms are to be understood in the sense defined in [RFC4949].

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

3. Determining Support

If an agent supports end-to-end object encryption, it MUST advertize that fact in its responses to [XEP-0030] information ("disco#info") requests by returning a feature of "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5".

```
<iq xmlns='jabber:client'
  id='disco1'
  to='romeo@montegue.lit/garden'
  type='result'>
  <query xmlns='http://jabber.org/protocol/disco#info'>
    ...
    <feature xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5' />
    ...
  </query>
</iq>
```

To help facilitate discovery, an agent SHOULD also include [XEP-0115] information in any directed or broadcast presence updates.

4. Encrypting XMPP Stanzas

The process that a sending agent follows for securing stanzas is the same regardless of the form of stanza (i.e., <iq/>, <message/>, or <presence/>).

4.1. Prerequisites

First, the sending agent prepares and retains the following:

- o The JID of the sender (i.e. its own JID). This SHOULD be the bare JID (localpart@domainpart).
- o The JID of the recipient. This SHOULD be the bare JID (localpart@domainpart).
- o A Session Master Key (SMK). The SMK MUST have a length at least equal to that required by the key wrapping algorithm in use and MUST be generated randomly. See [[RFC4086](#)] for considerations on generating random values.
- o A SMK identifier (SID). The SID MUST be unique for a given (sender, recipient, SMK) tuple, and MUST NOT be derived from SMK itself.

[4.2.](#) Process

For a given plaintext stanza (S), the sending agent performs the following:

1. Ensures the plaintext stanza is fully qualified, including the proper namespace declarations (e.g., contains the attribute 'xmlns' set to the value "jabber:client" for 'jabber:client' stanzas defined in [[RFC6120](#)]).
2. Notes the current UTC date and time (N) when this stanza is constructed, formatted as described under [Section 7](#).
3. Constructs a forwarding envelope (M) using a <forwarded/> element qualified by the "urn:xmpp:forward:0" namespace (as defined in [[XEP-0297](#)]) as follows:
 - * The child element <delay/> qualified by the "urn:xmpp:delay" namespace (as defined in [[XEP-0203](#)]) with the attribute 'stamp' set to the UTC date and time value N
 - * The plaintext stanza S

4. Converts the forwarding envelope (M) to a UTF-8 encoded string (M'), optionally removing line breaks and other insignificant whitespace between elements and attributes, i.e. M' = UTF8-encode(M). We call M' a "stanza-string" because for purposes of encryption and decryption it is treated not as XML but as an opaque string (this avoids the need for complex canonicalization of the XML input).
5. Generates a Content Master Key (CMK). The CMK MUST have a length at least equal to that required by the content encryption algorithm in use and MUST be generated randomly. See [\[RFC4086\]](#) for considerations on generating random values.
6. Generates any additional unprotected block cipher factors (IV); e.g., initialization vector/nonce. A sending agent MUST ensure that no two sets of factors are used with the same CMK, and SHOULD NOT reuse such factors for other stanzas.
7. Performs the message encryption steps from [\[JOSE-JWE\]](#) to generate the JWE Header (H), JWE Encrypted Key (E), JWE Ciphertext (C), and JWE Integrity Value (I); using the following inputs:
 - * The 'alg' property is set to an appropriate key wrapping algorithm (e.g., "A256KW" or "A128KW"); recipients use 'keyreq' in [Section 6](#) to obtain the SMK.
 - * The 'enc' property is set to the intended content encryption algorithm.
 - * SMK as the key for CMK Encryption.
 - * CMK as the JWE Content Master Key.
 - * IV as the JWE Initialization Vector.
 - * M' as the plaintext content to encrypt.

8. Constructs an `<e2e/>` element qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace as follows:
 - * The attribute 'id' set to the identifier value SID.
 - * The child element `<header/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as H, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<cmk/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character as E, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<iv/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character as IV, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<data/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as C, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<mac/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:4" namespace and with XML character data as I, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
9. Sends the `<e2e/>` element as the payload of a stanza that SHOULD match the stanza from step 1 in kind (e.g., `<message/>`), type (e.g., "chat"), and addressing (e.g., `to="romeo@montague.net"` `from="juliet@capulet.net/balcony"`). If the original stanza (S) has a value for the "id" attribute, this stanza MUST NOT use the same value for its "id" attribute.

[4.3.](#) Example - Securing a Message

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated, all line breaks are included for readability.

The sending agent begins with the plaintext version of the `<message/>` stanza 'S':


```
<message xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  to='romeo@montegue.lit'
  type='chat'>
  <thread>35740be5-b5a4-4c4e-962a-a03b14ed92f4</thread>
  <body>
    But to be frank, and give it thee again.
    And yet I wish but for the thing I have.
    My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
    My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
    The more I have, for both are infinite.
  </body>
</message>
```

and the following prerequisites:

- o Sender JID as "juliet@capulet.lit/balcony"
- o Recipient JID as "romeo@montegue.lit"
- o Session Master Key 'SMK' as (base64 encoded)
"xWtdjhYsH4Va_9SfYSeFsJfZu03m5RrbXo_UavxxeU8"
- o SMK identifier SID as "835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92"

The sending agent performs steps 1, 2, and 3 to generate the envelope:

```
<forwarded xmlns='urn:xmpp:forward:0'>
  <delay xmlns='urn:xmpp:delay'
    stamp='1492-05-12T20:07:37.012Z' />
  <message xmlns='jabber:client'
    from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
    to='romeo@montegue.lit'
    type='chat'>
    <thread>35740be5-b5a4-4c4e-962a-a03b14ed92f4</thread>
    <body>
      But to be frank, and give it thee again.
      And yet I wish but for the thing I have.
      My bounty is as boundless as the sea,
      My love as deep; the more I give to thee,
      The more I have, for both are infinite.
    </body>
```



```
</message>
</forwarded>
```

Then the sending agent performs steps 4 through 7 (with Content Master Key as "upIjc_ePSomSETgi0DEnXsoT8ZEGf0QxsSHr_eDZRnlkJAJBFyenb6tm1WDAoqFD7-BHBtWq05h0Jlj2oxlDwQ", base64url encoded) to generate the [JOSE-JWE] outputs:

JWE Header

```
{
  "alg": "A256KW",
  "enc": "A256CBC+HS512",
  "kid": "835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92"
}
```

JWE Encrypted Key

```
4ui5xwE1gEYjuptNgSIaMFlwWrA0xMqBkaplTxeJ6b2iT8kQP2HHy5PYpqqmDx1
QgT5I5r09mgAD7AUJ9Lx35fGdi5CMiRww
```

JWE Initialization Vector

```
B7waCj2vF_sLaJfe-1GHrA
```

JWE Ciphertext

```
UYbe-zINGBL74581rynr9MWu0Ble_6M5LFCH9x0YXgAlt1Dih28IImf-Rs68uaZ
sOND-7Ii9zK4H4XBWJjxaU1DGChZPdwotRZdQKt9ZLpiQmjkrQgKVQqyexP6m
qhfwRHuteEKgs6vR3202P98J-4LAWoUza5qYCZHP5NCogLUBVKi-v-vGpHDKBG_S
w3ejHSXuZ0EZtyXShL2d6EX0hEzft8ViaTUKhiBCLz1q39hI5TsPdS7NPHGQDUX
Db_gSw8yVCiJgxcSbfWJKj9v_zIZgxawZby6-qif7vTIizluirSTR0-5-2xM_n
sJEpG7Z0qofzp_WKLPk0Qfa8roYGp61R5BK2M3q9LKM6y1XlMrtYFyPWH70bVPC
S_k0Mrrn_48G7zmPEl-2SZWrBj4llu0oPz02EU4uh3ipb_xUwkPPQfTkwxEdcdl
Cbi4FFIQtW81_7bPwZ3m7990_-aPspkk4uFn_cKayeN3XKf8T-i9pYPWYE0ugGq
GU3H0I-jfwvqt2K6GGctoXWD6-d56Wf1Lhv4v6qGPT5C30v0-xM22BU9nwc-rff
4Q7cFBBM_7ciZrrTQf_PBjBhWS_pTYsmIUL-h7dwhcgQ1LEdgpqAWbZ23aMDWx-
RSQSkRY60lPYKkbrXUbXHWx1gb5B76eA
```


JWE Integrity Value

G5csTEYKIXipYM1Ey4_4JSUeHpgpd8lMvYxTHwPvSd7w916w0Q8VQekY1tz8VnA
DJ751V6YiJ295_3jQUphxmQ

Then the sending agent performs steps 8 and 9, and sends the following:

```
<message xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  id='fJZd9WFIiwNjFctT'
  to='romeo@montague.lit'
  type='chat'>
  <e2e xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
    id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
    <header>
      eyJhbGciOiJBbmJyU2S1ciLCJlbmMiOiJBbmJyU2Q0JDk0hTNTeyIiwia2lkI
      joiODM1YzkyYTgtOTRjZC00ZTk2LWlZzZjMtYjJlNzVhNDM4ZjkyIn0
    </header>
    <cmk>
      4ui5xwE1gEYjuptNgSIAmFlwWrA0xMqBkaplTxeJ6b2iT8kQP2HHy5PYp
      qqmDxlQgT5I5r09mgAD7AUJ9Lx35fGdi5CMiRww
    </cmk>
    <iv>
      B7waCj2vF_sLaJfe-1GHRa
    </iv>
    <data>
      UYbe-ziNGBL74581rynr9MWu0Ble_6M5LFCH9x0YXgAlt1Dih28IImf-R
      s68uaZsOND-7Ii9zK4H4XBWjJxaU1DGChZPdwotRZdQKt9ZLpiQmjkr
      QgKVQyqyexP6mqhfWRHutEKgs6vR3202P98J-4LAWoUza5qYCZHP5NCogL
      UBVKi-v-vGpHDKBG_Sw3ejHSXuZ0EZtyXShL2d6EX0hEzft8ViaTUKhiB
      CLz1q39hI5TsPdS7NPHGQDUXDb_gSw8yVCiJgxcSbfWJKj9v_zIZgxawZ
      by6-qif7vTIizluirnrSTR0-5-2xM_nsJEpG7Z0qofzp_WKLPk0Qfa8roY
      Gp61R5BK2M3q9LKM6y1XlMrtyFyPWH70bVPCS_kOMrrn_48G7zmPEl-2S
      ZWrBj4llu0oPz02EU4uh3ipb_xUwkPPQfTkwxEdcdlCbi4FFIQtW81_7b
      PwZ3m7990_-aPspkk4uFn_cKayeN3XKf8T-i9pYPWYE0ugGqGU3H0I-jf
      wvqt2K6GGctoXWD6-d56WF1Lhv4v6qGPT5C30v0-xM22BU9nwc-rff4Q7
      cFBBM_7ciZrrTQf_PBjBhWS_pTYsmIUL-h7dwhcgQ1LEdgpqAWbZ23aMD
      Wx-RSQSkRY60lPYKkbrXUbXHWxlgb5B76eA
    </data>
    <mac>
      G5csTEYKIXipYM1Ey4_4JSUeHpgpd8lMvYxTHwPvSd7w916w0Q8VQekY1
      tz8VnADJ751V6YiJ295_3jQUphxmQ
    </mac>
  </e2e>
</message>
```


5. Decrypting XMPP Stanzas

5.1. Protocol Not Understood

If the receiving agent does not understand the protocol, it MUST do one and only one of the following: (1) ignore the <e2e/> extension, (2) ignore the entire stanza, or (3) return a <service-unavailable/> error to the sender, as described in [[RFC6120](#)].

NOTE: If the inbound stanza is an <iq/>, the receiving agent MUST return an error to the sending agent, to comply with the exchanging of IQ stanzas in [[RFC6121](#)].

5.2. Process

Upon receipt of an encrypted stanza, the receiving agent performs the following:

1. Determines if a valid SMK is available, associated with the SID specified by the 'id' attribute value of the <e2e/> element and the sending agent JID specified by the 'from' attribute of the wrapping stanza. If the receiving agent does not already have the CMK, it requests it according to [Section 6](#).
2. Performs the message decryption steps from [[JOSE-JWE](#)] to generate the plaintext forwarding envelope string M', using the following inputs:
 - * The JWE Header H from the <header/> element's character data content.
 - * The JWE Encrypted Key from the <cmk/> element's character data content.
 - * The JWE Initialization Vector/Nonce from the <iv/> element's character data content.
 - * The JWE Ciphertext C from the <data/> element's character data content.
 - * The JWE Integrity Value I from the <mac/> element's character data content.

3. Converts the forwarding envelope UTF-8 encoded string M' into XML element M.
4. Obtains the UTC date and time N from the <delay/> child element, and verifies it is within the accepted range, as specified in [Section 7](#).
5. Obtains the plaintext stanza S, which is a child element node of M; the stanza MUST be fully qualified with proper namespace declarations for XMPP stanzas, to help distinguish it from other content within M.

.

5.3. Insufficient Information

At step 1, if the receiving agent is unable to obtain the CMK, or the receiving agent could not otherwise determine the additional information, it MAY return a <bad-request/> error to the sending agent (as described in [\[RFC6120\]](#)), optionally supplemented by an application-specific error condition element of <insufficient-information/>:

```
<message xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  id='fJZd9WFIiwNjFctT'
  to='romeo@montegue.lit/garden'
  type='chat'>
  <e2e xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
    id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
    <header>[XML character data]</header>
    <cmk>[XML character data]</cmk>
    <iv>[XML character data]</iv>
    <data>[XML character data]</data>
    <mac>[XML character data]</mac>
  </e2e>
  <error type='modify'>
    <bad-request
      xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-stanzas' />
    <insufficient-information
      xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5' />
  </error>
</message>
```


In addition to returning an error, the receiving agent SHOULD NOT present the stanza to the intended recipient (human or application) and SHOULD provide some explicit alternate processing of the stanza (which MAY be to display a message informing the recipient that it has received a stanza that cannot be decrypted).

5.4. Failed Decryption

At step 2, if the receiving agent is unable to successfully decrypt the stanza, the receiving agent SHOULD return a <bad-request/> error to the sending agent (as described in [RFC6120]), optionally supplemented by an application-specific error condition element of <decryption-failed/> (previously defined in [RFC3923]):

```
<message xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  id='fJZd9WFIiWnJfctT'
  to='romeo@montague.lit/garden'
  type='chat'>
  <e2e xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
    id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
    <header>[XML character data]</header>
    <cmk>[XML character data]</cmk>
    <iv>[XML character data]</iv>
    <data>[XML character data]</data>
    <mac>[XML character data]</mac>
  </e2e>
  <error type='modify'>
    <bad-request xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-stanzas'/>
    <decryption-failed xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'/>
  </error>
</message>
```

In addition to returning an error, the receiving agent SHOULD NOT present the stanza to the intended recipient (human or application) and SHOULD provide some explicit alternate processing of the stanza (which MAY be to display a message informing the recipient that it has received a stanza that cannot be decrypted).

5.5. Timestamp Not Acceptable

At step 4, if the stanza is successfully decrypted but the timestamp fails the checks outlined in [Section 7](#), the receiving agent MAY return a <not-acceptable/> error to the sender (as described in [RFC6120]), optionally supplemented by an application-specific error condition element of <bad-timestamp/> (previously defined in [RFC3923]):


```
<message xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  id='fJZd9WFIwNjFctT'
  to='romeo@montegue.lit/garden'
  type='chat'>
  <e2e xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
    id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
    <header>[XML character data]</header>
    <cmk>[XML character data]</cmk>
    <iv>[XML character data]</iv>
    <data>[XML character data]</data>
    <mac>[XML character data]</mac>
  </e2e>
  <error type='modify'>
    <bad-request xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-stanzas' />
    <bad-timestamp xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5' />
  </error>
</message>
```

5.6. Successful Decryption

If the receiving agent successfully decrypted the payload, it MUST NOT return a stanza error.

If the payload is an <iq/> of type "get" or "set", and the response to this <iq/> is of type "error", the receiving agent MUST send the encrypted response wrapped in an <iq/> of type "result", to prevent exposing information about the payload.

6. Requesting Session Keys

Because of the dynamic nature of XMPP stanza routing, the protocol does not exchange session keys as part of the encrypted stanza. Instead, a separate protocol is used by receiving agents to request a particular session key from the sending agent.

6.1. Request Process

Before a SMK can be requested, the receiving agent MUST have at least one public key for which it also has the private key.

To request a SMK, the receiving agent performs the following:

1. Constructs a [[JOSE-JWK](#)] JWK Set (KS), containing information about each public key the requesting agent wishes to use. Each key SHOULD include a value for the property 'kid' which uniquely

identifies it within the context of all provided keys. Each key MUST include a value for the property 'kid' if any two keys use the same algorithm.

2. Constructs a <keyreq/> element qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace as follows:
 - * The attribute 'id' set to the SMK identifier value SID.
 - * The child element <pkey/> qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as KS, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
3. Sends the <keyreq/> element as the payload of an <iq/> stanza with the attribute 'type' set to "get", the attribute 'to' set to the full JID of the original encrypted stanza's sender, and the attribute 'id' set to an opaque string value the receiving agent uses to track the <iq/> response.

[6.2.](#) Accept Process

If the sending agent approves the request, it performs the following steps:

1. Generate a JSON Web Key (JWK) representing the SMK (according to [[JOSE-JPSK](#)]):
 - * The "kty" parameter MUST be "oct".
 - * The "kid" parameter MUST be the SID.
 - * The "k" parameter MUST be the SMK, encoded as base64url.
 - * The "use" parameter, if present, MUST be set to the algorithm in use for encrypting messages from [Section 4](#).
 - * The "use" parameter, if present, MUST be set to "enc".

2. Chooses a key (PK) from the keys provided via KS, and notes its identifier value 'kid'.
3. Protects the SMK using the process outlined in [[JOSE-KEYPROTECT](#)] to generate the JWE Header (H), JWE Encrypted Key (E), JWE Initialization Vector (IV), JWE Ciphertext (C), and JWE Integrity Value (I); using the following inputs:
 - * The 'alg' property is set to an algorithm appropriate for the chosen PK (e.g., "RSA-OAEP" for a "RSA" key).
 - * The 'enc' property is set to the intended content encryption algorithm.
 - * A randomly generated CMK. See [[RFC4086](#)] for considerations on generating random values.
 - * A randomly generated initialization vector. See [[RFC4086](#)] for considerations on generating random values.
 - * SMK, formatted as a JWK as above.
4. Constructs a <keyreq/> element qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace as follows:
 - * The attribute 'id' set to the SMK identifier SID.
 - * The child element <header/> qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as H, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element <cmk/> qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as E, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].

- * The child element `<iv/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as IV, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<data/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as C, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
 - * The child element `<mac/>` qualified by the "urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5" namespace and with XML character data as I, encoded base64url as per [[RFC4648](#)].
5. Sends the `<keyreq/>` element as the payload of an `<iq/>` stanza with the attribute 'type' set to "result", the attribute 'to' set to the full JID from the request `<iq/>`'s 'from' attribute, and the attribute 'id' set to the value of the request `<iq/>`'s 'id' attribute.

[6.3.](#) Error Conditions

If the sending agent does not approve the request, it sends an `<iq/>` stanza of type "error" and containing the reason for denying the request:

- o `<forbidden/>`: the key request is made by an entity that is not authorized to decrypt stanzas from the sending agent and/or for the indicated SID.
- o `<item-not-found/>`: the requested SID is no longer valid.
- o `<not-acceptable/>`: the key request did not contain any keys the sending agent understands.

[6.4.](#) Example of Successful Key Request

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated, all line breaks are included for readability.

To begin a key request, the receiving agent performs step 1 from [Section 6.1](#) to generate the [[JOSE-JWK](#)]:


```
{
  "keys": [{
    "kty": "RSA",
    "kid": "romeo@montegue.lit/garden",
    "n": "vtqejkMF01h8oKEaHfHEY00C2jM7eISbbSvNs0SNItYW06GbjpJf
N4ldXw2vpVRdysnwU3zk6o2_SD0YCH1WgeuI0QK1knMTDdNSXx52e1c4BTw
h1A8iHuutTWmpBqesn1GNZmqB3jYsJ0kVBYwCJtkB9APaBvk0itlRtizjCf
1HHnau7nGStyshgu8-srxi_d8rC5TTLSB_zT1i6fP8fwdloemX0tC0U65by
5P-1ZHxaf_bD8fpjps6gwSgdkZKMJAI0b0WZwuMpp2ntqa0wLB7Ndx2Ijr
eog_s5ssAoSiXDVdoswSbp36ZP-1lnCk2j-vZ4qbhaFg5bZtgt-gwQ",
    "e": "AQAB"
  }]
}
```

Then the receiving agent performs step 2 to generate the <keyreq/>:

```
<keyreq xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
  id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
  <pkey>
    eyJrZXlziJpbeyJrdHkiOiJSU0EiLCJrawQiOiJyb21lb0Btb250ZWd1ZS5
    saXQvZ2FyZGVuIiwibiI6InZ0cWVqa01GMDFoOG9LRWFIZkhFWU8wQzJqTT
    d1SVNiYlN2TnMwU05JdFlXTZzZHYmpwSmZONGxkWHcydnBWUmR5c253VTN6a
    zZvMl9TRDBZQ0gxV2dldUkwUUsxa25NVERkTlNYeDUyZTFjNEJUd2hsQThp
    SHV1dFRxbXBCCwVzbjFHTlptcUIza1lZSk9rVkJZd0NKdGtCOUFQYUJ2azB
    pdGxSdG16akNmMUhIbmF1N25HU3R5c2hndTgtc3J4aV9kOHJDNRUTFCNX3
    pUMWk2ZlA4ZndEbG9lbVhPdEMwVTY1Ynk1UC0xwkh4YWZfYkQ4ZnBqcHM2Z
    3dTZ2RrWktNSkFJMGJpV1pXdU1wcDJudHFhMHdMQjd0ZHhiMklqcmVvZ19z
    NXNzQW9TaVhEVmRvc3dTYnAzNlplQLTFsbkNrMmotdlo0cwJoYUZnNWJadGd
    0LWd3USIsImUiOiJBUEFCIn1dfQ
  </pkey>
</keyreq>
```

Then the receiving agent performs step 3 and sends the following:

```
<iq xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='romeo@montegue.lit/garden'
  id='xdJbWMA+'
  to='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  type='get'>
  <keyreq xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
    id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
    <pkey>
      eyJrZXlziJpbeyJrdHkiOiJSU0EiLCJrawQiOiJyb21lb0Btb250ZWd1Z
      S5saXQvZ2FyZGVuIiwibiI6InZ0cWVqa01GMDFoOG9LRWFIZkhFWU8wQz
      JqTTd1SVNiYlN2TnMwU05JdFlXTZzZHYmpwSmZONGxkWHcydnBWUmR5c25
      3VTN6azZvMl9TRDBZQ0gxV2dldUkwUUsxa25NVERkTlNYeDUyZTFjNEJU
```



```
      d2hsQThpSHV1dFRxbXBCcWVzbjFHTlptcUIza1lzSk9rVkJZd0NKdGtCO
      UFQYUJ2azBpdGxSdGl6akNmMUhIbmF1N25HU3R5c2hndTgtc3J4aV9kOH
      JDNVRUTFNCX3pUMWk2ZlA4ZndEbG9lbVhPdEMwVTY1Ynk1UC0xWkh4YWZ
      fYkQ4ZnBqcHM2Z3dTZ2RrWktNSkFJMGJpV1pXdU1wcDJudHFhMHdMQjdO
      ZHhiMklqcmVvZ19zNXNzQW9TaVhEVmRvc3dTynAzNlpQLTFsbkNrMmotd
      lo0cwJoYUZNWJadGd0LWd3USIsImUiOiJBuUFCIn1dfQ
    </pkey>
  </keyreq>
</iq>
```

If the sending agent accepts this key request, it performs step 1 from [Section 6.2](#) to generate JWK representation of the SMK:

```
{
  "kty": "oct",
  "kid": "835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92",
  "oct": "xWtdjhYsH4Va_9SfYsefsJfZu03m5RrbXo_UavxxeU8"
}
```

Then the sending agent performs steps 2 and 3 to generate the protected SMK:

JWE Header (before base64url encoding)

```
{
  "alg": "RSA-OAEP",
  "enc": "A256CBC+HS512",
  "kid": "romeo@montegue.lit/garden"
}
```

JWE Encrypted Key

```
UeoVeGcZP-VsLu1PVj3NNWkmmEF7H2N1_mHWsc0uT_vYn-4ub2NEnRy4dzyycgx
ny6jmRPPniGJB6AfI4TYZvrjig5dubv4uG7phCvKYVI3uaUU58Fc9H_o-BTmNv2
rUT-RGt6YYLW97ZJp5ZcA2l-KxykcxaRYC4Sv_U0S3Kqo0sVx5u7to1E6SbMnUH
etg91Gc9pVva1XX-wz4ZrcA6V8zf8pCtmc4WyDMFx8RYYXR_5Qvax-Tz0JUL2eA
r30Qsf3KNh58WvvzcwAKTmR214QmZCxi_A5mIqoog0H0uV987P9yw1wFfsmg7z-
Y2Ed7Blp-zLOvXEQKU9FM-vjBnA
```

JWE Initialization Vector

```
eiXT021DNqFnCTQkLAoAtA
```


JWE Ciphertext

e8sZiRvKLP0UjmFw0YhvrZMQYzW1yglg6mTnazJU_rF7mXTBIieNZCd7hDr1rdG
SxqqUgh6N102QBLygf2PtWdMHHjn1aLncx6qlGf0U0xCCXUBfBIhZgFH5YX1i3_
VSsNUDEoIKTGA21Enam0qa1A

JWE Integrity Value

WQzHj3j30Qo7VakMM42t-X1omQVGyebd3No9ZFGPQNUwEWONjIcZ89_wFBhZFdd
kc8i_qtXi-9XPmSvei3A_Jw

Then the sending agent performs step 4 to generate the <keyreq/> response:

```
<keyreq xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
  id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
  <header>
    eyJhbGciOiJSU0EtT0FFUCIsImVuYyI6IkEyNTZDQkMrSFM1MTIiLCJraWQiOiJyb21lb0Btb250ZWd1ZS5saXQvZ2FyZGVuIn0
  </header>
  <cmk>
    UeoVeGcZP-VsLu1PVj3NNWkmmEF7H2N1_mHWsc0uT_vYn-4ub2NEnRy4dzy
    ycgxny6jmRPPniGJB6AfI4TYZvrjig5dubv4uG7phCvKYVI3uaUU58Fc9H_
    o-BTmNv2rUT-RGt6YYLW97ZJp5ZcA2l-KxykcxarYC4Sv_UOS3Kqo0sVx5u
    7to1E6SbMnUHetg91Gc9pVva1XX-wz4ZrcA6V8zf8pCtmc4WyDMFx8RYYXR
    _5Qvax-Tz0JUL2eAr30Qsf3KNh58WvvzcwAKTmR214QmZCxi_A5mIqoog0H
    0uV987P9yw1wFfsmg7z-Y2Ed7Blp-zL0vXEQU9FM-vjBnA
  </cmk>
  <iv>
    eiXT021DNqFnCTQkLAoAtA
  </iv>
  <data>
    e8sZiRvKLP0UjmFw0YhvrZMQYzW1yglg6mTnazJU_rF7mXTBIieNZCd7hDr
    lrdGSxqqUgh6N102QBLygf2PtWdMHHjn1aLncx6qlGf0U0xCCXUBfBIhZgF
    H5YX1i3_VSsNUDEoIKTGA21Enam0qa1A
  </data>
  <mac>
    WQzHj3j30Qo7VakMM42t-X1omQVGyebd3No9ZFGPQNUwEWONjIcZ89_wFBh
    ZFddkc8i_qtXi-9XPmSvei3A_Jw
  </mac>
</keyreq>
```

Then the sending agent performs step 5 and sends the following:


```

<iq xmlns='jabber:client'
  from='juliet@capulet.lit/balcony'
  id='xdJbWMA+'
  to='romeo@montegue.lit/garden'
  type='result'>
<keyreq xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
  id='835c92a8-94cd-4e96-b3f3-b2e75a438f92'>
  <header>
    eyJhbGciOiJSU0EtT0FFUCIsImVuYyI6IkeYNTZDQkMrSFM1MTIiLCJraWQ
    iOiJyb21lb0Btb250ZWd1ZS5saXQvZ2FyZGVuIn0
  </header>
  <cmk>
    UeoVeGcZP-VsLu1PVj3NNWkmmEF7H2Nl_mHWsc0uT_vYn-4ub2NEnRy4dzy
    ycgxny6jmRPPNiGJB6AfI4TYZvrjig5dubv4uG7phCvKYVI3uaUU58Fc9H_
    o-BTMnv2rUT-RGt6YYLW97ZJp5ZcA2l-KxykcxarYC4Sv_UOS3Kqo0sVx5u
    7toIE6SbMnUHetg91Gc9pVva1XX-wz4ZrcA6V8zf8pCtmc4WyDMFx8RYYXR
    _5Qvax-TzOJUL2eAr30Qsf3KNh58WvvzcwAKTmR214QmZCxi_A5mIqoog0H
    0uV987P9yw1wFfsmg7z-Y2Ed7Blp-zL0vXEQU9FM-vjBnA
  </cmk>
  <iv>
    eiXT021DNqFnCTQkLAoAtA
  </iv>
  <data>
    e8sZiRvKLP0UjmFw0YhvrZMQYzW1yglg6mTnazJU_rF7mXTBIieNZCd7hDr
    lrdGSxqqUgh6N102QBLygf2PtWdMHj1aLncx6qlGf0U0xCCXUBfBIhZgF
    H5YX1i3_VSsNUDEoIKTGA21Enam0qa1A
  </data>
  <mac>
    WQzHj3j30Qo7VakMM42t-X1omQVGyebd3No9ZFGPQNUwEWONjIcZ89_wFBh
    ZFddkc8i_qtXi-9XPmSveI3A_Jw
  </mac>
</keyreq>
</iq>

```

7. Inclusion and Checking of Timestamps

Timestamps are included to help prevent replay attacks. All timestamps MUST conform to [\[XEP-0082\]](#) and be presented as UTC with no offset, and SHOULD include the seconds and fractions of a second to three digits. Absent a local adjustment to the sending agent's perceived time or the underlying clock time, the sending agent MUST ensure that the timestamps it sends to the receiver increase monotonically (if necessary by incrementing the seconds fraction in the timestamp if the clock returns the same time for multiple requests). The following rules apply to the receiving agent:

- o It **MUST** verify that the timestamp received is within five minutes of the current time, except as described below for offline messages.
- o It **SHOULD** verify that the timestamp received is greater than any timestamp received in the last 10 minutes which passed the previous check.
- o If any of the foregoing checks fails, the timestamp **SHOULD** be presented to the receiving entity (human or application) marked as "old timestamp", "future timestamp", or "decreasing timestamp", and the receiving entity **MAY** return a stanza error to the sender.

The foregoing timestamp checks assume that the recipient is online when the message is received. However, if the recipient is offline then the server might store the message for delivery when the recipient is next online (offline storage does not apply to <iq/> or <presence/> stanzas, only <message/> stanzas). As described in [[XEP-0160](#)], when sending an offline message to the recipient, the server **SHOULD** include delayed delivery data as specified in [[XEP-0203](#)] so that the recipient knows that this is an offline message and also knows the original time of receipt at the server. In this case, the recipient **SHOULD** verify that the timestamp received in the encrypted message is within five minutes of the time stamped by the recipient's server in the <delay/> element.

8. Interaction with Stanza Semantics

The following limitations and caveats apply:

- o Undirected <presence/> stanzas **SHOULD NOT** be encrypted. Such stanzas are delivered to anyone the sender has authorized, and can generate a large volume of key requests.
- o Stanzas directed to multiplexing services (e.g., multi-user chat) **SHOULD NOT** be encrypted, unless the sender has established an acceptable trust relationship with the multiplexing service.

9. Mandatory-to-Implement Cryptographic Algorithms

All algorithms that **MUST** be implemented for [[JOSE-JWE](#)] also **MUST** be implemented for this specification.

10. Security Considerations

10.1. Storage of Encrypted Stanzas

The recipient's server might store any <message/> stanzas received until the recipient is next available; this duration could be anywhere from a few minutes to several months.

10.2. Re-use of Session Master Keys

A sender SHOULD NOT use the same SMK for stanzas intended for different recipients, as determined by the localpart and domainpart of the recipient's JID.

A sender MAY re-use a SMK for several stanzas to the same recipient. In this case, the SID remains the same, but the sending agent MUST generate a new CMK and IV for each encrypted stanza. The sender SHOULD periodically generate a new SMK; however, this specification does not mandate any specific algorithms or processes.

In the case of <message/> stanzas, a sending agent might generate a new SMK each time it generates a new ThreadID, as outlined in [[XEP-0201](#)].

11. IANA Considerations

11.1. XML Namespace Name for e2e Data in XMPP

A URN sub-namespace of encrypted content for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) is defined as follows.

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5

Specification: RFC XXXX

Description: This is an XML namespace name of encrypted content for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol as defined by RFC XXXX.

Registrant Contact: IESG, <iesg@ietf.org>

12. References

12.1. Normative References

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[XEP-0297]

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12.2. Informative References

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[RFC3923] Saint-Andre, P., "End-to-End Signing and Object Encryption for the Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP)", [RFC 3923](#), October 2004.

[RFC4086] Eastlake, D., Schiller, J., and S. Crocker, "Randomness Requirements for Security", [RFC 4086](#), June 2005.

[XEP-0160]

Saint-Andre, P., "Best Practices for Handling Offline Messages", XSF XEP 0160, January 2006.

[XEP-0201]

Saint-Andre, P., Paterson, I., and K. Smith, "Best Practices for Message Threads", XSF XEP 0203, November 2010.

Appendix A. Schema for urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5

The following XML schema is descriptive, not normative.

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?>
```

```
<xs:schema
  xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
```



```
targetNamespace='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
xmlns='urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:xmpp-e2e:5'
elementFormDefault='qualified'>

<xs:element name='e2e'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:attribute name='id' type='xs:string' use='required'/>
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element ref='header' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='cmk' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='iv' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='data' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='mac' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='keyreq'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:attribute name='id' type='xs:string' use='required'/>
    <xs:sequence>
      <xs:element ref='pkey' minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='header' minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='cmk' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='iv' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='data' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
      <xs:element ref='mac' minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
    </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='cmk'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='iv'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>
```



```
<xs:element name='data'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='header'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='mac'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='pkey'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='smk'>
  <xs:complexType>
    <xs:simpleType>
      <xs:extension base='xs:string'>
      </xs:extension>
    </xs:simpleType>
  </xs:complexType>
</xs:element>

<xs:element name='bad-timestamp' type='empty'/>
<xs:element name='decryption-failed' type='empty'/>
<xs:element name='insufficient-information' type='empty'/>
```



```
<xs:simpleType name='empty'>
  <xs:restriction base='xs:string'>
    <xs:enumeration value=''/>
  </xs:restriction>
</xs:simpleType>

</xs:schema>
```

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