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CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE): Additional Algorithms

Abstract

The CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) syntax [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)] allows for adding additional algorithms to the registries. This document adds one additional key wrap algorithm to the registry using the AES Wrap with Padding Algorithm [RFC5649].

Contributing to this document

This note is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

The source for this draft is being maintained in GitHub. Suggested changes should be submitted as pull requests at <https://github.com/cose-wg/X509> Editorial changes can be managed in GitHub, but any substantial issues need to be discussed on the COSE mailing list.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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1. Introduction

The CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) syntax [[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct](#)] is defined to have an object based set of security primitives using CBOR [[I-D.ietf-cbor-7049bis](#)] for use in constrained environments. COSE has algorithm agility so that documents like this one can register algorithms which are needed.

In this document we add the AES Wrap with Padding algorithm to the registry and describe how to use it.

1.1. Requirements Terminology

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.

1.2. Open Issues

This section is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

*A desire has been expressed to all for the use of AES Key Wrap with Padding as a content encryption algorithm. This is not

compatible with the requirement that all content encryption algorithms "support authentication of both the content and additional data." AES Key Wrap is an AE not an AEAD algorithm.

2. AES Key Wrap with Padding

The AES Key Wrap with Padding is defined in [RFC5649]. This algorithm uses an AES key to wrap a value that is a multiple of 8 bits. As such, it can be used to wrap not only the key sizes for the content encryption algorithms, but additionally it can be used to encrypt off size keys that can be used with the keyed hash functions or key derivation functions. The algorithm uses a single fixed parameter, the initial value. This value is fixed in section 3 of [RFC5649], this is a different value from that used for the AES Key Wrap algorithm of [RFC3394]. There are no public parameters that vary on a per-invocation bases. This algorithm does not support additional data and thus the protected header field MUST be empty.

When using a COSE key for this algorithm, the following checks are made:

- *The 'kty' field MUST be present, and it MUST be 'Symmetric'.
- *If the 'alg' field is present, it MUST match the AES Key Wrap algorithm being used.
- *If the 'key_ops' field is present, it MUST include 'encrypt' or 'wrap key' when encrypting.
- *If the 'key_ops' field is present, it MUST include 'decrypt' or 'unwrap key' when decrypting.

Name	Value	Key Size	Description
A128KW-Pad	TBD1	128	AES Key Wrap w/padding and a 128-bit key
A192KW-Pad	TBD2	192	AES Key Wrap w/padding and a 192-bit key
A256KW-Pad	TBD3	256	AES Key Wrap w/padding and a 256-bit key

Table 1: AES Key Wrap Algorithm Values

2.1. Security Considerations for AES-KW with Padding

The shared secret needs to have some method to be regularly updated over time. The shared secret is the basis of trust.

3. References

3.1. Normative References

[I-D.ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct]

Schaad, J., "CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE): Structures and Process", Work in Progress, Internet-Draft, draft-ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct-06, 11 September 2019, <<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-cose-rfc8152bis-struct-06>>.

[I-D.ietf-cbor-7049bis]

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