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**CCNx Key Exchange Protocol Version 1.0**  
**draft-wood-icnrg-ccnxkeyexchange-01**

Abstract

This document specifies Version 1.0 of the CCNx Key Exchange (CCNxKE) protocol. The CCNxKE protocol allows two peers to establish a shared, forward-secure key for secure and confidential communication. The protocol is designed to prevent eavesdropping, tampering, and message forgery between two peers. It is also designed to minimize the number of rounds required to establish a shared key. In the worst case, it requires two RTTs between a consumer and producer to establish a shared key. In the best case, one RTT is required before sending any application data. This document outlines how to derive the keys used to encrypt traffic. An annex provides an example peer-to-peer transport protocol for exchanging encrypted CCNx communications.

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## **1. Introduction**

DISCLAIMER: This is a WIP draft of CCNxKE and has not yet seen rigorous security analysis.

CCNx Key Exchange (CCNxKE) establishes ephemeral forward secure keys between two peers, called the consumer (client) and producer (server). The underlying cryptography of CCNxKE is similar to TLS 1.3, though there are some protocol changes due to the ICN nature of CCNxKE. CCNxKE also supports the concept of a MoveToken, which allows the authenticating producer to shift a session to one (or more) co-operating replicas.

CCNxKE does not specify how the keys are used. It only specifies how to derive the traffic secret that could be used to encrypt/decrypt data. The draft [[draft-wood-icnrg-tlvencap](#)] specifies one way to use the traffic secret to carry out communications in a session. Annex A also sketches out an example CCNx protocol for exchanging encrypted messages, though it is not part of this standard. Other protocols may use CCNxKE.

For example, a producer and replica may use CCNxKE to establish a shared key to use in Move Tokens. Two routers may use CCNxKE to establish MACSEC keys. A consumer and publisher could establish a symmetric key while on-line then publish content later for an off-line consumer. In short, the use of CCNxKE is not limited to a TLS-like transport protocol.

CCNxKE allows upper-layer data to be returned in Round 3, like TLS 1.3. In this sense, one can achieve 3 RTT (worst case) or 1 RTT (best case) communications. The data put in this response is up to the protocol using CCNxKE and may or may not be used.

CCNxKE is not a substitute for data authenticity, such as Content Object provenance via signatures, group encryption of cached objects, or DRM protections. CCNxKE only creates a private, ephemeral tunnel between a consumer and a producer. CCNxKE expects that the encrypted communications protocol still carries normal CCNx packets with normal CCNx attributes such as signatures.

Some types of ICN communications require ephemeral, forward secure encryption. Typical examples are on-line banking, real-time voice, or on-line shopping. Other applications may need different types of encryption and thus not use CCNxKE. There is currently no standard way for CCNx peers to exchange ephemeral, forward secure keys, thus this RFC specifies the standard mechanism that should be used by all CCNx peers for such keys. CCNxKE is built on the CCNx 1.0 protocol and only relies upon standard Interest and Content Objects as a vehicle for communication.



In this document, the term 'CCNxKE session' refers to the key exchange session. It does not refer to a transport protocol session (like TLS) that uses the derived keys.

This protocol has the following four main properties:

- Each peer's identity can be authenticated using asymmetric, or public key, cryptography (e.g., RSA [RSA], ECDSA [ECDSA], etc.). Server authentication is mandatory whereas mutual authentication is optional.
- The negotiation of a forward-secure shared secret is protected from eavesdroppers and man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks.
- The negotiation is reliable: no attacker can modify the negotiation communication without being detected by the parties to the communication.
- The state of a CCNxKE session can be securely migrated between an endpoint performing authentication and that which provides content using a "move token." This allows authentication and authorization to be separated from encryption for a session, enabling different systems to complete these steps.

Usage of CCNxKE is entirely independent of upper-layer application protocols. CCNxKE may be used for any purpose that requires producer authentication and shared ephemeral forward-secure keys.

CCNxKE also introduces a new type of cookie based on reverse hash chains [HASHCHAIN] to help limit the amount of significant server work done in response to a client or consumer Interest. TCP-based protocols, such as TLS [TLS13], use the TCP 3-way handshake for such proof. UDP-based protocols, such as QUIC [QUIC] and DTLS 1.2 [DTLS12], use an optional session address token or cookie that must be presented by the client (consumer) to prove ownership of an address during a key exchange procedure. Without source addresses, our cookie technique ensures that the same entity which requested server information, e.g., the public configuration data, is the same entity that wishes to complete a key exchange.

The main contribution of this work is adapting key exchange principles to the pull-based CCNx communication model. CCNxKE only assumes that a consumer knows a first name prefix to initiate the key exchange. The first Interest does not need to be a CCNxKE packet -- the producer can signal back to the consumer that it requires a transport protocol using CCNxKE in the response.



This specification does not subsume other ICN-compliant key exchange protocols. Nor does its existence imply that all encryption in an ICN must be based on sessions. It was designed specifically to solve the problem of session-based encryption in ICN.

### **1.1. Conventions and 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 [RFC 2119](#) [[RFC2119](#)].

The following terms are used:

**Consumer/Client:** The CCN consumer initiating the CCNxKE key exchange via a first Interest.

**Producer/Server:** The CCN producer receiving or accepting the CCNxKE key exchange request request Interest.

**Sender:** An endpoint that originates a message.

**Receiver:** An endpoint that is receiving messages.

**Peer:** An endpoint. When discussing a particular endpoint, "peer" refers to the endpoint that is remote to the primary subject of discussion.

**Connection:** A network path of  $n \geq 1$  hops between the consumer and producer.

**Endpoint:** Either the consumer or producer of the connection.

**Handshake:** A series of message exchanges between two peers that is used to perform a task (e.g., perform key exchange and derivation).

**Session:** An association between a consumer and a producer resulting from a CCNxKE handshake.

**DH:** A Diffie Hellman key exchange procedure [[RFC2631](#)] [[DH](#)].

**Key Share:** One half of the shared-secret provided by one peer performing a DH key exchange.

**Forward-secure:** The property that compromising any long-term secrets (e.g., cryptographic keys) does not compromise any session keys derived from those long-term secrets.





**CONFIG information:** A data structure created by a producer which contains long-term cryptographic material and associated information needed by a client to initiate a key-exchange with the producer.

**HELLO exchange:** An exchange between a consumer and producer wherein the consumer retrieves the CONFIG information from the producer.

**Payload:** The payload section of a CCNxMessage as defined in [[CCNxMessages](#)].

**KEPayload:** A payload for information used in the CCNxKE protocol which is a generic key-value store. The KEPayload is not the CCNxMessage payload.

**CCNxName:** A CCNxName as defined in [[CCNxMessages](#)].

**Semi-static:** Short-term.

**Short-term Secret (SS):** A secret which is derived from the server's semi-static DH share and the client's fresh DH share.

**Forward-secure Secret (FSK):** A secret which is derived from fresh (i.e., generated on demand at random) DH shares from both the consumer and producer for the given connection.

**HKDF:** Hash-based key-derivation function [[RFC5869](#)].

## 2. Goals

The goals of the CCNxKE protocol, in order of priority, are as follows:

1. **Cryptographic security:** CCNxKE should be used to securely establish a session and all related shared secrets between two peers. Cryptographic properties of interest include: (a) forward-secure session key derivation and (b) (state and computational) denial-of-service prevention at the producer (see [[RFC4987](#)]) that is no worse than DTLS 1.2 [[DTLS12](#)]). For property (a), different keys (and relevant algorithm parameters such as IVs) are established for each communication direction, i.e., from consumer to producer and producer to consumer. For property (b), we use a new type of stateless cookie inspired by that of DTLS 1.2.
2. **Interoperability:** Independent programmers should be able to develop applications utilizing CCNxKE that can successfully exchange cryptographic parameters without knowledge of one another's code.



3. Extensibility: CCNxKE seeks to provide a framework into which new public key and symmetric key methods and algorithms can be incorporated without breaking backwards compatibility or requiring all clients to implement new functionality. Moreover, the protocol should be able to support a variety of peer authentication protocols, e.g., EAP-TLS, EAP-PWD, or a simple challenge-response protocol.
4. Relative efficiency: CCNxKE tries to create sessions with minimal computation, bandwidth, and message complexity. In particular, it seeks to create sessions with as few end-to-end round trips as possible, and also provide support for accelerated session establishment and resumption when appropriate. At most 2 round-trip-times (RTTs) should be used to establish a session key, with the possibility of 1-RTT accelerated starts and resumption.

### **3. Scope**

This document and the CCNxKE protocol are influenced by the TLS 1.3 [[TLS13](#)], QUIC [[QUIC](#)], and DTLS 1.2 [[DTLS12](#)] protocols. The reader, however, does not need a detailed understanding of those protocols to understand this document. Moreover, where appropriate, references to related protocols are made for brevity and technical clarity. This document is intended primarily for readers who will be implementing the protocol and for those doing cryptographic analysis of it. The specification has been written with this in mind and it is intended to reflect the needs of those two groups.

Unlike TLS, this document does not specify the transport protocol. It specifies the establishment of a session ID and shared keys. Other documents specify the use of CCKxKE within a transport protocol.

This document is not intended to supply any details of service definition or of interface definition, although it does cover select areas of policy as they are required for the maintenance of solid security.

### **4. Presentation Language**

This document uses a presentation language of remote calls (i.e. packet messages) similar to the format used by TLS [[TLS13](#)].

### **5. CCNxKE Overview**



### **5.1. Connection Establishment Latency**

CCNxKE operates in three rounds, where each round requires a single RTT to complete. The full execution of the protocol therefore requires 2 RTTs before a session is fully established. The full version is used when consumers have no a priori information about the producer. An accelerated one round version is used when the consumer has valid configuration information and a source cookie from the producer; this variant requires 1 RTT before a session is established.

### **5.2. Connection Migration and Resumption**

CCN end hosts lack the notion of addresses. Thus, the producer endpoint for a given execution of the CCNxKE protocol is one which can authoritatively serve as the owner of a particular namespace. For example, a consumer may wish to establish a session with a producer who owns the /company/foo namespace. The specific end host which partakes in the protocol instance is not specified, by virtue of the fact that all CCNxKE messages are based on well-defined names. This enables the producer end-host which partakes in the protocol to change based on the name of the CCNxKE messages. Consequently, to maintain correctness, it is important that a single execution of the protocol operates within the same trusted context; this does not mean that the same producer end-host is required to participate in all three steps of the protocol. Rather, it means that the end-host responding to a CCNxKE message must be trusted by the consumer to complete the exchange. CCNxKE is designed to enable this sort of producer migration.

For example, a consumer may use an initial name like '/parc/index.html' that works like an IP any cast address and could get to one of several systems. CCNxKE allows the responding endpoint to include a localized name to ensure that subsequent messages from the consumer come back to the same producer. CCNxKE also allows the key exchange peer to securely hand-off the session to a content producer peer via another name and session token once the client is authenticated and keying material is exchanged.

### **5.3. Re-Transmissions, Timeouts, and Replay Prevention**

CCNxKE timeouts and retransmissions are handled using the approach in [[RFC6347](#)]. One primary difference is that timer values may need to be adjusted (elongated) due to prefix shifts and the need for a producer to transfer security information between different machines.



Replay attack prevention is also an optional feature, and if used, MAY be done using one of the following two approaches at the receiver (producer):

- IPsec AH [[RFC4302](#)] and ESP [[RFC4303](#)] style replay detection based on sliding windows and monotonically increasing sequence numbers for windows. Note that the sliding window inherently limits the performance of the protocol to the window size, since only a finite number of messages may be received within a given window (based on the window size).
- The optimized anti-replay algorithm of [[RFC6479](#)].

#### 5.4. Loss Sensitivity

CCNxKE messages are transferred using standard CCN Interest and Content Objects and are therefore subject to loss as any datagram. This means that traffic encrypted with keys derived from CCNxKE must be stateless. They cannot depend on in-order arrival. This problem is solved by two mechanisms: (1) by prohibiting stream ciphers of any kind and (2) adding sequence numbers to each message that allow the receiver to identify and use the correct cryptographic state to decrypt the message. Moreover, sequence numbers permit anti-replay mechanisms similar to those used in DTLS [[DTLS12](#)] as mentioned above.

#### 6. The CCNxKE Protocol

This section describes the CCNxKE protocol in detail at the message level. The specific encoding of those messages is given later. CCNxKE could be adapted to different wire format encodings, such as those used by the NDN protocol.

The following assumptions are made about peers participating in the CCNxKE protocol:

- Consumers know the namespace prefix of the producer for which they wish to execute the CCNxKE protocol.
- CCNxKE protocol information is carried in a distinguished field outside of the payload of CCN messages. This is done to distinguish key exchange material with application data in a message. This is necessary for 1 RTT packets that carry both keying material and application payload.
- CCNxKE does not require any special behavior of intermediate systems to forward packets.





- CCNxKE packets generally should not be cached for significant periods of time, as use normal protocol methods to limit caching. Part of this is achieved through the use of consumer-specific nonces in names.

### 6.1. Round Overview

CCNxKE is composed of three rounds. The purpose of each round is described below.

- Round 1: Perform a bare HELLO exchange to obtain the extensions (parameters) for the key exchange provided by the producer and a source cookie to prove ownership of the "source" of the request.
- Round 2: Perform the initial FULL-HELLO exchange to establish a forward-secure key used for future communication, i.e., Interest and Content Object exchanges in the context of the newly established session.
- Round 3: Send the first bit of application data and (optionally) transfer resumption cookie(s) from the producer to the consumer.

Conceptually, there are two secrets established during a single execution of CCNxKE:

- Static Secret (SS): A secret which is derived in one of two ways: (a) from the client and server ephemeral key shares and (b) from the server's semi-static share and the client's ephemeral key share. Keying material derived from SS in option (a) is not forward secure.
- Ephemeral Secret (ES): A secret which is derived from both the client and server ephemeral key shares.

Depending on the mode in which CCNxKE is used, these secrets can be established in a variety of ways. Key derivation details are outlined in [Section 9](#).

All secrets are derived with the appropriate amount of randomness [[RFC4086](#)]. An overview of the messages sent in each of the three rounds to establish and use these secrets is shown in [Figure 1](#) below. This diagram omits some parts of each message for brevity.

Consumer

Producer

HELLO:

+ SourceChallenge

I[/prefix/random-1]



```

----->
                                HELLO-REJECT:
                                + Timestamp
                                + SourceCookie
                                + pinned-prefix*
                                + ServerChallenge*
                                + ServerConfiguration*

                                CO[/prefix/random-1]
                                <-----
FULL-HELLO:
+ ClientKeyShare
+ SourceCookie
+ SourceProof
+ Timestamp

                                I[/pinned-prefix/random-2]
                                ----->
                                HELLO-ACCEPT:
                                + ServerKeyShare
                                + SessionID
                                + [CertificateRequest*]
                                + [CertificateVerify*]
                                + [MovePrefix*, MoveToken)*]
                                + [Finished]

                                CO[/pinned-prefix/random-2]
                                <-----
                                **key exchange complete**

Payload:
+ MoveToken*
+ MoveProof*
+ [ConsumerData]

                                I[/prefix/SessionID/[...]]
                                ----->
                                + NewSessionID*
                                + NewSessionIDTag*
                                Payload:
                                [ProducerData]

                                CO[/prefix/SessionID/[...]]
                                <-----

Repeat with data    <----->    Repeat with data

```

\* Indicates optional or situation-dependent messages that are not always sent.

{ } Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the short-term secret (SS).



- ( ) Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the ephemeral secret (ES).
- [ ] Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the traffic secret (TS).

Figure 1: High-level message flow for full CCNxKE protocol with a maximum 2-RTT delay.

In the following sections, we will describe the format of each round in this protocol in more detail.

We do not specify the encoding of CCNxKE data sent in Interest and Content Object payloads. Any viable encoding will suffice, so long as both parties agree upon the type. For example, the payload could be structured and encoded as a JSON object, e.g.,

```
{ "ClientKeyShare" : 0xaa, "SourceCookie" : 0xbb, "SourceProof" :
0xbb, ... }
```

For now, we assume some valid encoding mechanism is used to give structure to message payloads. Moreover, we assume that these payloads are carried in a distinguished CCNxKE payload field contained in the Interest and Content Objects.

6.2. Round 1

The purpose of Round 1 is to acquire a cookie to binding the exchange to the initial consumer and the public configuration information contained in the ServerConfiguration structure. This information is used in the second round when performing the actual key exchange. To that end, the format of the Round 1 message is trivial. First, the client issues an Interest with the following name

```
/prefix/random-1
```

where random-1 is a randomly generated 64-bit nonce. This interest carries a KEPayload with the following information:

HELLO Field	Description	Optional?
SourceChallenge	A random value generated to prove ownership of the consumer's "source"	No



Upon receipt of this interest, the producer responds with a HELLO-REJECT Content Object whose KEPayload has the following fields:

HELLO-REJECT Field	Description	Optional?
Timestamp	Current server timestamp	No
SourceCookie	A cookie that binds the consumer's challenge to the current timestamp	No
PinnedPrefix	A new prefix that pins the key exchange to a particular server	Yes
ServerConfiguration	The public server configuration information	Yes
ServerChallenge	A random value for the consumer to include in its CertificateVerify if the server requires client authentication	Yes

The Timestamp and SourceCookie are used in Round 2. Their derivation is described later. If the server provides a PinnedPrefix then the consumer must use this prefix in Round 2 in lieu of the Round 1 name prefix. (This is because the PinnedPrefix identifies a particular endpoint that is capable of completing the key exchange.)

The ServerConfiguration information is a semi-static catalog of information that consumers may use to complete future key exchanges with the producer. The fields of the ServerConfiguration information are shown below.





ServerConfiguration Field	Description	Optional?
KEXS	Supported elliptic-curve key-exchange algorithms	No
AEAD	Supported AEAD algorithms	No
PUBS	List of public values (for key exchange algorithm) encoded appropriately for the given group	No
EXPRY	Expiration timestamp (i.e., longevity of the ServerConfiguration structure)	No
VER	Version of the CONFIG structure	Yes
CERT	Server certificate	No
SIG	Signature produced by the server over the entire ServerConfiguration message	No

The KEXS is a data structure that enumerates the elliptic curve key-exchange algorithms that are supported by the producer (see [QUIC] for more details). Currently, only the following curves are supported:

- Curve25519
- P-256

Selection criteria for these curves is given at <http://safecurves.cr.yp.to/>.

The AEAD structure enumerates the supported AEAD algorithms used for symmetric-key authenticated encryption after the session has been established. Currently, the only supported algorithms are:

- AES-GCM-(128,192,256) [GCM]: a 12-byte tag is used, where the first four bytes are taken from the FSK key-derivation step and the last eight are taken from the initial consumer nonce.
- Salsa20 [SALSA20] (stream cipher) with Poly1305 (MAC).



The key sizes and related parameters are provided with the AEAD tag in the CONFIG structure.

The PUBS structure contains the public values for the initial key exchange. Both Curve25519 and P-256 provide their own set of accepted parameters. Thus, the only values provided here are the random curve elements used in the DH operation.

The EXPRY value is an absolute timestamp that indicates the longevity of the ServerConfiguration.

The CERT and SIG values contain the server's certificate and a signature generated over the entire ServerConfiguration field. This signature is generated with the corresponding private key.

**6.3. Round 2**

The purpose of Round 2 is to perform the initial FULL-HELLO exchange to establish a forward-secure key used for future communication. It is assumed that the consumer already has the ServerConfiguration information that is provided from the producer in Round 1. It is also assumed that the consumer has a

Moreover, assume that nonce2 is a ephemeral nonce provided by the producer in Round 1. Then, the consumer issues an Interest with the following name:

/prefix/random-2

and a KEPayload with the following information:

FULL-HELLO Field	Description	Optional?
ClientKeyShare	The client's key share for the key exchange	No
SourceCookie	SourceCookie provided by the server in Round 1	No
SourceProof	The SourceCookie construction proof provided by the client	No
Timestamp	The timestamp provided by the server in Round 1	No
ConsumerPrefix	The consumer's prefix that can be used for the producer to	Yes



	send interests to the consumer	
PreSharedKey	A pre-shared key that can be configured between a consumer and producer	Yes
ResumptionCookie	The ResumptionCookie derived from a past session	Yes
{MoveChallenge}	A move challenge generated identically to the SourceChallenge	Yes
{AlgChoice}	Algorithm (KEXS and AEAD) options choice (a list of tags echoed from the ServerConfiguration)	No
{Proof}	Proof of demand (i.e., a sorted list of types of proof the consumer will expect)	No
{CCS}	Compressed certificate set that the consumer possesses	No
{ConsumerData}	Application data encrypted under a key derived from SS (in a 1-RTT exchange)	Yes
ServerNameIndication	A server name indication (as a CCNxName) defined in <a href="#">Section 3</a> of [ <a href="#">RFC6066</a> ]	Yes
Certificate	The client's certificate	Yes
CertificateVerify	A signature generated over the entire FULL-HELLO message	Yes

((TODO: provide more details about each of these fields))

Upon receipt of this interest, the producer performs the DH computation to compute ES and SS, decrypts all protected fields in the consumer's KEPayload, and validates the algorithm choice selection (AlgChoice). If any of these steps fail, the producer replies with with a HELLO-REJECT Content Object whose KEPayload contains a REJ flag and the reason of the error. The REJ flag and value are encrypted by the SS (if possible).



If the above steps complete without failure or error, then the producer responds with a Content Object whose KEPayload has the following fields:

HELLO-ACCEPT Field	Description	Optional?
SessionID	Cleartext session identifier	No
ServerKeyShare	Server's key share for the ES derivation	No
{ServerExtensions}	Additional extensions provided by the server, encrypted under ES	Yes
[ResumptionCookie]	Resumption cookie encrypted under a TS-derived key	Yes
{(MovePrefix, MoveToken)}	Third CCNxName prefix and token to use when moving to session establishment	Yes
CertificateRequest*	Server certificate that matches the type of proof provided by the client	Yes
CertificateVerify*	Signature generated over the entire HELLO-ACCEPT message	Yes

If a MovePrefix and MoveToken tuple is provided then in the HELLO-ACCEPT message then a CertificateVerify (signature) MUST also be provided in the response.

### 6.4. Round 3

In Round 3, the consumer sends interests whose name and optional Payload are encrypted using one of the forward-secure keys derived after Round 2. In normal operation, the producer will respond with Content Objects whose Payloads are encrypted using a different forward-secure key. That is, interests and Content Objects are encrypted and authenticated using two separate keys. The producer may also optionally provide a new resumption cookie (RC) with a Content Object response. This is used to keep the consumer's





resumption cookie fresh and to also support 0 RTT resumption. In this case, the producer's Content Object response has the following fields:

- Payload: the actual Content Object payload data encrypted with the producer's forward-secure key.
- ResumptionCookie: A new resumption cookie to be used for resuming this session in the future.

The producer is free to choose the frequency at which new resumption cookies are issued to the consumer.

The producer may also reply with a new SessionID. This is done if the client presented a MoveToken and MoveProof. A NewSessionID must be accompanied with a NewSessionIDTag, which is equal to the HMAC of NewSessionID computed with the traffic-secret key. A client MUST then use NewSessionID instead of SessionID after verifying the NewSessionIDTag.

### 7. Alternative Exchanges

CCNxKE also supports one-round key exchange and session resumption. These variants are outlined below. The key material differences are described later. In these variants, we use message ExchangeSourceCookie to denote the following exchange:

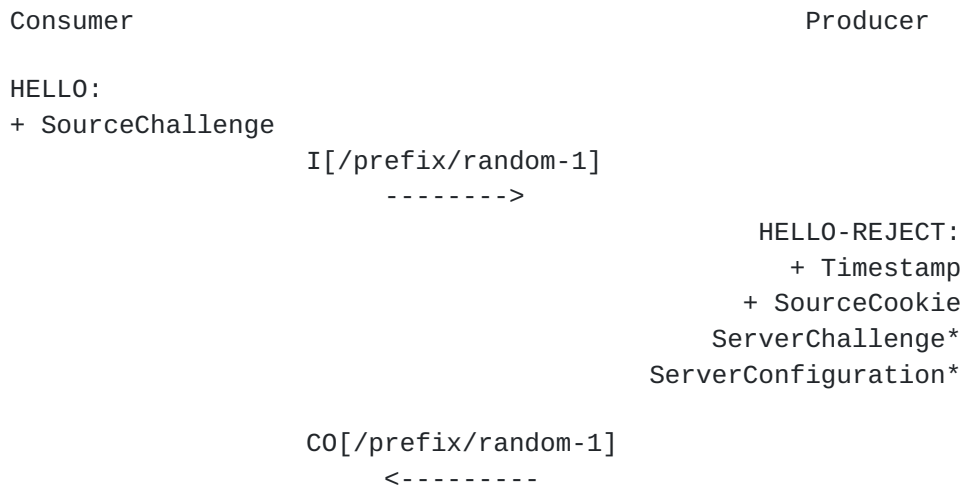


Figure 2: SourceCookie exchange -- ExchangeSourceCookie.



**7.1. One-RTT Exchange**



\* Indicates optional or situation-dependent messages that are not always sent.

{ } Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the short-term secret (SS).

() Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the ephemeral secret (ES).

[] Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the traffic secret (TS).

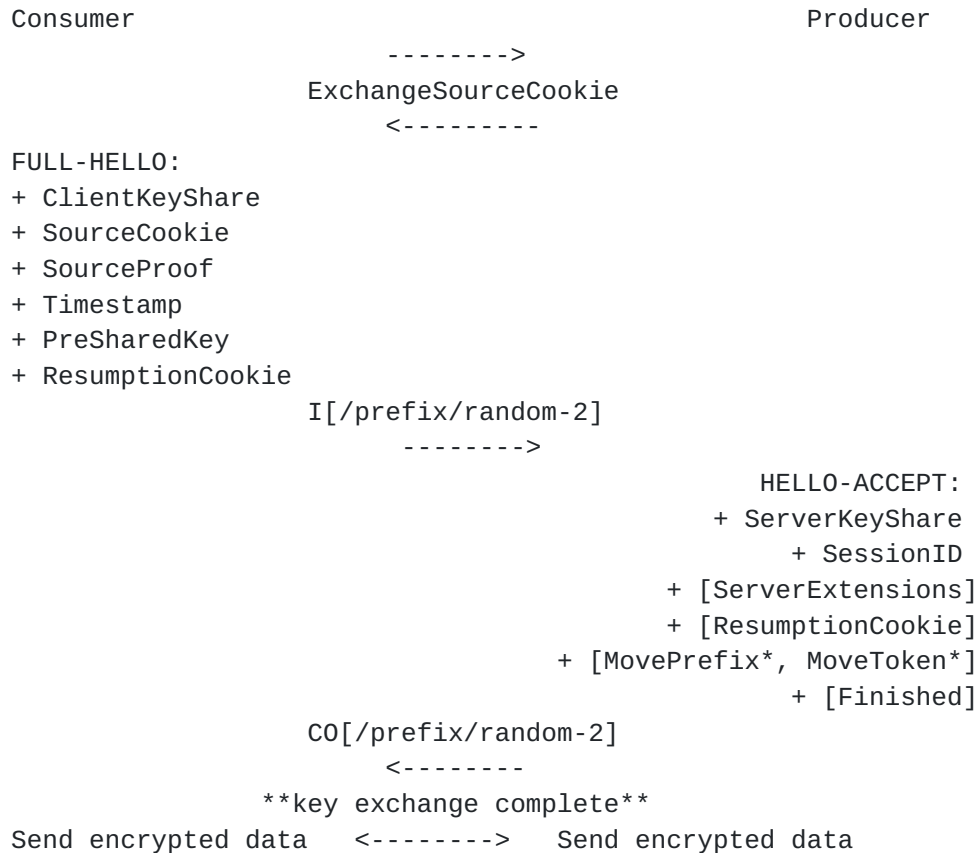
Figure 3: Exchange with 1 RTT.

As with TLS, the initial application data is protected with the



**8. Resumption and PSK Mode**

In this mode, the client uses its ResumptionCookie to re-create a previous session. The client also provides a key share in case the server opts to fall back and establish a fresh key. If the server accepts the ResumptionCookie then it MUST issue a new SessionID and ResumptionCookie for future use with the client.



\* Indicates optional or situation-dependent messages that are not always sent.

{ } Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the short-term secret (SS).

() Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the ephemeral secret (ES).

[ ] Indicates messages protected using keys derived from the traffic secret (TS).

Figure 4: Exchange with 1 RTT.



## **9. Secret Derivation**

In this section we describe how secrets used in the protocol are derived. We cover the SourceCookie, MoveToken, SessionID, ResumptionCookie, and the actual traffic keys.

### **9.1. SourceCookie Derivation**

The intention of the SourceCookie is to prove that a client is sending interests from a legitimate location before any server computation is done. Without this, a Denial of Service attack could be carried out by sending interests to the server with the intention of triggering wasted computation. TCP-based protocols prevent this with the SYN-flood cookie mechanism. Protocols based on UDP use cookies that bind to the client address [[DTLS12](#)]. Since CCN lacks any notion of a source address, these cookie mechanisms do not apply. Instead, we need a way for clients to prove that they initiated a key exchange from the "same origin." We now describe the cookie mechanism that gives us this guarantee.

Instead of a source address, a SourceCookie is computed using a challenge provided by a consumer. To create this challenge, a consumer first generates a randomly generated 256-bit string X. The consumer then computes SourceChallenge = SHA256(X). Upon receipt of this challenge, the producer generates a SourceCookie as follows:

$$\text{SourceCookie} = \text{HMAC}(k, \text{SourceChallenge} \parallel \text{timestamp})$$

where timestamp is the current server timestamp and k is the server's secret key. To prove ownership of the "source," the consumer then provides the SourceCookie and a SourceProof in the round 2 Interest. The SourceProof is set to the value X used to derive the SourceChallenge. Upon receipt of the SourceProof, the server verifies the following equality:

$$\text{SourceCookie} = \text{HMAC}(k, \text{SHA256}(\text{SourceProof}) \parallel \text{timestamp})$$

If this check passes, then the server continues with the computationally expensive part of the key exchange protocol.

### **9.2. Move Derivation**

The MoveChallenge and MoveProof are computed identically to the SourceChallenge and SourceProof. The MoveToken, however, is left as an opaque bit string. Extensions may be specified to describe how to compute this value.





### 9.3. SessionID and ResumptionCookie Properties, Derivation, and Usage

The purpose of the session identifier SessionID is to uniquely identify a single session for the producer and consumer. A Producer MAY use a random bit string or MAY use the method described in this section or MAY use another proprietary method to distinguish clients.

We provide a more secure creation of the SessionID since it is used with the ResumptionCookie derivation (defined later). Specifically, the SessionID is derived as the encryption of the hash digest of a server secret, TS, and an optional prefix (e.g., MovePrefix).

Encryption is done by the using a long-term secret key owned by the server used for only this purpose, i.e., it is not used for consumer traffic encryption. Mechanically, this derivation is:

$$\text{SessionID} = \text{Enc}(k_1, H(\text{TS} \parallel (\text{Prefix}_3))),$$

where  $k_1$  is the long-term producer key.

For the resumption cookie, we require that it must be able to be used to recover the TS for a given session. Without TS, correct session communication is not possible. We derive it as the encryption of the hash digest of the server secret, TS, and the optional (MovePrefix, MoveToken) tuple (if created for the session). The producer must use a long-term secret key for this encryption. Mechanically, this derivation is:

$$\text{ResumptionCookie} = \text{Enc}(k_2, \text{TS} \parallel ( (\text{Prefix}_3 \parallel \text{MoveToken}) )),$$

where  $k_2$  is again a long-term producer key. Note that it may be the case that  $k_1 = k_2$  (see above), though this is not required.

With this SessionID and ResumptionCookie, the consumer then resumes a session by providing both the SessionID and ResumptionCookie to the producer. This is done to prove to the producer that the consumer who knows the SessionID is also in possession of the correct ResumptionCookie. The producer verifies this by computing

$$(\text{TS} \parallel ( (\text{Prefix}_3 \parallel \text{MoveToken}) )) = \text{Dec}(k_2, \text{ResumptionCookie})$$

and checking the following equality

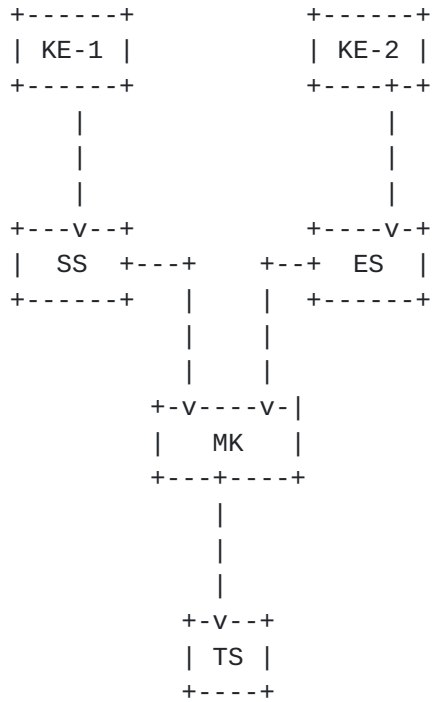
$$\text{SessionID} = \text{Enc}(k_1, H(\text{TS} \parallel (\text{Prefix}_3)))$$

If equality holds, the producer uses the TS recovered from ResumptionCookie to re-initialize the previous session with the consumer.



**9.4. Key Derivation**

CCNxKE adopts the key schedule and derivation techniques defined in TLS 1.3 [TLS13]. Specifically, it uses the SS and ES to establish a common master secret (MS) and, from that, the traffic secret (TS). These dependencies are shown below.



In this figure, KE-1 and KE-2 are two "sources" of keying material. The following table shows what these two sources are in different key exchange scenarios.

Key Exchange	KE-1	KE-2
Full handshake	ClientKeyShare and ServerKeyShare DH	ClientKeyShare and ServerKeyShare DH
Handshake with 1-RTT	ClientKeyShare and ServerConfiguration public share DH	ClientKeyShare and ServerKeyShare DH
PSK	Pre-shared key	Pre-shared key

Given the values for SS and ES, the remaining derivation steps are below as defined in [TLS13]. They are repeated here for posterity.



1. `xSS = HKDF-Extract(0, SS)`. Note that HKDF-Extract always produces a value the same length as the underlying hash function.
2. `xES = HKDF-Extract(0, ES)`
3. `mSS = HKDF-Expand-Label(xSS, "expanded static secret", handshake_hash, L)`
4. `mES = HKDF-Expand-Label(xES, "expanded ephemeral secret", handshake_hash, L)`
5. `master_secret = HKDF-Extract(mSS, mES)`
6. `traffic_secret_0 = HKDF-Expand-Label(master_secret, "traffic secret", handshake_hash, L)`

In all computations, the value "handshake\_hash" is defined as the SHA256 hash digest of all CCNxKE messages contained up to the point of derivation. More details are given in Section 7.3.1 of [[TLS13](#)].

Updating the traffic secret using the re-key message (defined later) increments `traffic_secret_N` to `traffic_secret_(N+1)`. This update procedure works as follows:

```
traffic_secret_N+1 = HKDF-Expand-Label(traffic_secret_N, "traffic
secret", "", L)
```

### **[9.5. Secret Generation and Lifecycle](#)**

The secrets (keys and IVs) used to encrypt and authenticate traffic are derived from the traffic secret. The explicit derivation formula, as is defined in [[TLS13](#)], is as follows:

```
secret = HKDF-Expand-Label(Secret, phase + ", " + purpose,
handshake_context, key_length)
```

In this context, secret can be a key or IV. This formula is used when deriving keys based on a non-forward-secure SS and the forward-secure TS. The following table enumerates the values for "phase", and "handshake\_context" to be used when defining keys for different purposes.



Record Type	Secret	Phase	Handshake Context
1-RTT Handshake	xSS	"early handshake key expansion"	HELLO + ServerConfiguration + Server Certificate
1-RTT Data	xSS	"early application data key expansion"	HELLO + ServerConfiguration + Server Certificate
Application Data	TS	"application data key expansion"	HELLO ... Finished

Moreover, the following table indicates the values of "purpose" used in the generation of each secret.

Secret	Purpose
Client Write Key	"client write key"
Server Write Key	"server write key"
Client Write IV	"client write IV"
Server Write IV	"server write IV"

(( TODO: should we add examples for each of the above variants? ))

**10. Re-Key Message**

Either the client and server can trigger a key update by sending an Interest or Content Object with a KEPayload field containing the flag KeyUpdate. The KEPayload will be encrypted by the traffic key. Upon receipt, the recipient MUST update the traffic secret as defined above and re-compute the traffic encryption and authentication keys. The previous traffic key must be securely discarded.

**11. Application Data Protocol**

Once traffic keys and the associated IVs are derived from the CCNxKE protocol, all subsequent Interest and Content Object messages are encrypted. Packet encryption uses the TLV encapsulation mechanism specified in [TLVENCAP]. For Interest encryption, the Salt in





[TLVENCAP] is set to the packet sequence number. The same substitution is done for Content Object encryption. Similarly, the KeyId field is substituted with the SessionID derived by the CCNxKE protocol. Packet sequence numbers are 64-bit numbers initialized to 0 when after the traffic secret is calculated. Each message increments and uses the sequence number when sending a new datagram (Interest). The sequence number for an Interest matches that of the Content Object response.

## **12. Security Considerations**

For CCNxKE to be able to provide a secure connection, both the consumer and producer systems, keys, and applications must be secure. In addition, the implementation must be free of security errors.

The system is only as strong as the weakest key exchange and authentication algorithm supported, and only trustworthy cryptographic functions should be used. Short public keys and anonymous servers should be used with great caution. Implementations and users must be careful when deciding which certificates and certificate authorities are acceptable; a dishonest certificate authority can do tremendous damage.

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