

Verification-Friendly ECDSA

draft-struik-secdispatch-verify-friendly-ecdsa-00

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Outline

1. ECC Signature Schemes:
 - ECDSA, EdDSA
 - Implementation details
 - ECDSA*
2. Speed-ups:
 - Verification with ECDSA vs. with ECDSA*
 - How to get from ECDSA to ECDSA*?
4. ECDSA* with reuse of existing ECDSA standards
5. Conclusions, next steps

ECC Signature Algorithms (1)

NIST curves:

Curve model:	Weierstrass curve
Curve equation:	$y^2 = x^3 + a \cdot x + b \pmod{p}$
Base point:	$G=(G_x, G_y)$
Scalar multiplication:	addition formulae using, e.g., mixed Jacobian coordinates
Point representation:	both coordinates of point $P=(X, Y)$ (affine coordinates) $0x04 \underline{X} \underline{Y}$ in most-significant-bit/octet first order
Examples:	NIST P-256 (ANSI X9.62, NIST SP 800-56a, SECG, etc.); Brainpool256r1 (RFC 5639)

ECDSA:

Signature:	$\underline{r} \underline{s}$ in most-significant-bit/octet first order
Signing equation:	$e = s \cdot k - d \cdot r \pmod{n}$, where $e=\text{Hash}(m)$, $R=k G$, $R \rightarrow r$
Verification:	$R' = (e/s) G + (r/s) Q$, where $Q= d G$; check that $R' \rightarrow r$
Example:	ECDSA, w/ P-256 and SHA-256 (FIPS 186-4, ANSI X9.62, etc.)
Note:	message m pre-hashed

ECC Signature Algorithms (2)

CFRG curves:

Curve model:	twisted Edwards curve
Curve equation:	$a \cdot x^2 + y^2 = 1 + d \cdot x^2 \cdot y^2 \pmod{p}$
Base point:	$G=(G_x, G_y)$
Scalar multiplication:	Dawson formulae, using extended coordinates $(X: Y: T: Z)$
Point representation:	compressed point $P=(Y, X')$, where $X'=\text{lsb}(X)$ $\underline{Y} \underline{X}'$
Examples:	Edwards25519, Edwards448 (RFC 7748)

EdDSA:

Signature:	$\underline{R} \underline{s}$
Signing equation:	$s = k + e \cdot d \pmod{n}$, where $e=\text{Hash}(\underline{Q} \underline{R} m)$, $R=k G$
Verification:	$s G = R + e Q$, where $Q=d G$
Example:	Ed25519-SHA-512, Ed448-SHAKE-256 (RFC 8032)
Notes:	Deterministic Schnorr signature, where $k=\text{Hash}(d' m)$ Variant w/ pre-hashing uses $\text{Hash}(m)$ instead of m

Implementation Detail (1)

Aspect:	ECDSA	EdDSA
Curve model:	Weierstrass	Edwards
Base point:	affine	affine
Internal coord:	Jacobian	extended
Formulae:	Jacobian	Dawson
Wire format:	(r, s)	(R, s)
@signing:		
#message passes:	once	twice
eph. signing key R :	offline	inline
inversions mod n :	once	none
@verification:		
single verification	no speed-ups	speed-ups
batch verification	no speed-ups	speed-ups

NOTE:

EdDSA is full-Schnorr signature, which are also defined for Weierstrass curves

- Not standardized with IETF ☹️
- Standardized with BSI (as short-Schnorr Signature (e,s))

APPLICATION NOTE:

- Batch verification of certificate chains (and any other batch)
- Batch sanity checks

Implementation Detail (2)

Aspect:	ECDSA	EdDSA	ECDSA*
Curve model:	Weierstrass	Edwards	Weierstrass
Base point:	affine	affine	affine
Internal coord:	Jacobian	extended	Jacobian
Formulae:	Jacobian	Dawson	Jacobian
Wire format:	$(\underline{r}, \underline{s})$	$(\underline{R}, \underline{s})$	$(\underline{R}, \underline{s})$
@signing:			
#message passes:	once	twice	once
eph. signing key R :	offline	inline	offline
inversions mod n :	once	none	once
@verification:			
single verification	no speed-ups	speed-ups	speed-ups 😊
batch verification	no speed-ups	speed-ups	speed-ups 😊

Verification Detail (1)

ECDSA:

Signature: $\underline{r} || \underline{s}$ in most-significant-bit/octet first order
Signing equation: $e = s \cdot k - d \cdot r \pmod{n}$, where $e = \text{Hash}(m)$, $R = k G$, $R \rightarrow r$
Verification: compute $R' = (e/s) G + (r/s) Q$;
check that $R' \rightarrow r$

ECDSA*:

Signature: $\underline{R} || \underline{s}$ in most-significant-bit/octet first order
Signing equation: $e = s \cdot k - d \cdot r \pmod{n}$, where $e = \text{Hash}(m)$, $R = k G$, $R \rightarrow r$
Verification: compute $\underline{R} \rightarrow r$;
compute $\underline{R} \rightarrow R$
check that $R = (e/s) G + (r/s) Q$, where $Q = d G$

Alternative verify: $\lambda (-R + (e/s) G + (r/s) Q) = O$ for any $\lambda \neq 0$
speed-ups: $\sim 1.3x$ make scalars small, which halves ECC doubles (single verify)
up to $\sim 6x$ amortize ECC doubles and common terms (batch verify)

ECDSA and ECDSA* the same if one could reverse $R' \rightarrow r$ mapping, but $\pm R' \rightarrow r$

How to Get from ECDSA to ECDSA*?

ECDSA and ECDSA* the same if one could reverse $R' \rightarrow r$ mapping, but $\pm R' \rightarrow r$

This follows from the fact that $R' \rightarrow r$ is defined as $r := x(R) \pmod n$

For all prime-order curves, these pre-images come in pairs $\{R, -R\}$ in practice

Modified ECDSA signing procedure:

- Step 1: Generate ECDSA signature (r, s) of message m , as usual;
- Step 2: Change (r, s) to $(r, -s)$ if ephemeral key R has y-coordinate with odd parity

Notes:

- If (r, s) is a valid ECDSA signature, then so is $(r, -s)$ — the so-called malleability
- Any party can perform Step 2, since for valid signatures $R := (e/s)G + (r/s)Q$
This party does not have to be the signer and this can be done retroactively
- If verifier knows that modified signing procedure was used, $R' \rightarrow r$ has unique preimage in practice for all prime-order curves (implicit point compression R)

Transitioning towards ECDSA* (1)

ECDSA with modified signing procedure allows implementation of ECDSA* with existing ECDSA standards (for prime-order curves), provided the verifying device knows this modified signing procedure was indeed used

Option #1: "Big Bang"

- Implement modified signing procedure retroactively for all existing ECDSA signatures;
- Generate all new ECDSA signatures with the modified signing procedure (i.e., mothball the old way of generating ECDSA signatures)

Option #2: mandate in specifications

- This has same effect as Option #1, for a particular protocol

Question: does this entice implementors enough to adopt speed-ups en masse?

Option #3: define new label for ECDSA*

- New devices who recognize label can uniquely recover R from r
- Old devices that have parser that replaces label ECDSA* with label ECDSA as pre-processing step can still process ECDSA signatures as usual

NOTE: no changes to old ECDSA processing of triples $(h(m), (r,s), Q)$

Transitioning towards ECDSA* (2)

Applications with IETF protocols:

[Everywhere](#), e.g., PKIX, CMS, Certificate Transparency, OpenPGP, COSE, JOSE, lake, etc.

Example w/ PKIX:

```
include id-ecdsa-star-with-sha256 ::=
    {iso(1) identified-organization(3) thawte (101) (100) 81}
```

(for consideration of old devices (if any), see draft, Section 4)

Example w/ OpenPGP:

include ECDSA* as Suite #25 in Table 15 of `draft-ietf-openpgp-crypto-refresh`

Example w/ lake:

use ECDSA* instead of ECDSA with `draft-ietf-lake-edhoc-08`

What about other deployed signature schemes similar to ECDSA?

[Richer definition](#) allows speed-ups to apply also to other signature schemes, e.g., Chinese SM2, German ECGDSA scheme, Russian GOST R34.10-2012 (RFC 7091)

Conclusions & Question to Group

Summary:

- ECDSA verification can take advantage of ECDSA* speed-ups, similarly to EdDSA, both in single verify and batch verify case
- Techniques trivial to use with all prime-order curves (roughly all existing deployments), for those verifying devices that wish this
- Techniques compatible with existing ECDSA for prime-order curves
- Speed-ups deployed in V2V (P1609.2); useful for servers with more widespread use client certificates

Techniques known since 1994 (batch), resp. since Jan 2005 (single)

Question to Group:

- Discussed w/ lamps @IETF-110, but not yet in revised charter
- Useful throughout IETF; do in lamps, elsewhere?
- **Should be quick project (mainly definition of code points)**