

Practical Privacy-Preserving Authentication for SSH

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Stanislav Lyakhov
Yeongjin Jang
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Oregon State University

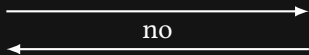
To appear at USENIX 2022
ia.cr/2022/740

presentation for IETF 114; 2022-07-25

SSH client

SSH server

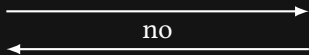
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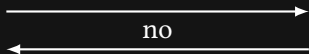
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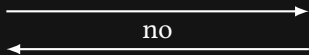
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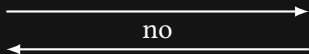
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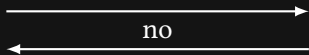
⋮



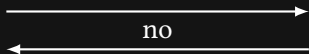
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⋮

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signature
→

problem: server can fingerprint client:

- ▶ refuse all advertisements \Rightarrow learn all keys

SSH client

show
with p



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with p



Jun 2 2015

Auditing GitHub users' SSH key quality

...

A little known feature of GitHub is the ability to look at the public SSH keys that other users have set to be authorised on their account (for example <https://github.com/torvalds.keys>)

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However one of the other side effects of this is that it means that *everyone* can see your public keys, and if someone cares enough, collect a massive database of everyone's SSH keys.

Ben Cox <https://blog.benjojo.co.uk/post/auditing-github-users-keys>

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l keys

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SSH server

problem: server can't find private key

ssh-keygen

l keys

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04 Aug 2015

SSH WHOAMI.FILIPPO.IO

Here's a fun PoC I built thanks to Ben's dataset.

I don't want to ruin the surprise, so just try this command. (It's harmless.)

```
ssh whoami.filippo.io
```

For the security crowd: don't worry, I don't have any OpenSSH oday and even if I did I wouldn't burn them on my blog. Also, ssh is designed to log into untrusted servers.

Filippo Valsorda <https://words.filippo.io/ssh-whoami-filippo-io/>

SSH client

show
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```
[[kochanski:~]$ ssh whoami.filippo.io
```

```
_o/ Hello Mike Rosulek!
```

```
Did you know that ssh sends all your public keys to any server  
it tries to authenticate to?
```

```
That's how we know you are @rosulek on GitHub!
```

```
Ah, maybe what you didn't know is that GitHub publishes all users'  
ssh public keys. Myself, I learned it from Ben (benjojo.co.uk).
```

```
That's pretty handy at times :) for example your key is at  
https://github.com/rosulek.keys
```

```
-- @FiloSottile (https://twitter.com/FiloSottile)
```

```
P.S. The source of this server is at  
https://github.com/FiloSottile/whoami.filippo.io
```

```
Connection to whoami.filippo.io closed.
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l keys

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- ▶ offer someone else’s pub key, observe response
- ▶ SSH supports *pre-emptive* signature from client

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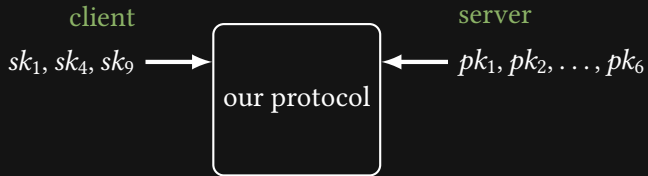
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problem: server can act as honeypot:

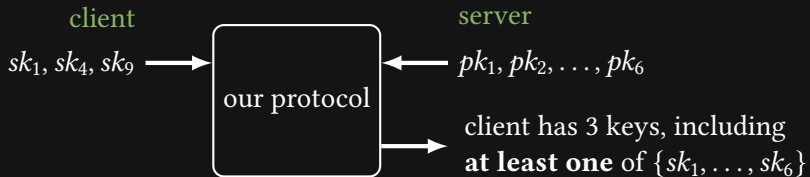
- ▶ accept *any* key, even ones never seen before
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our new authentication method: big picture



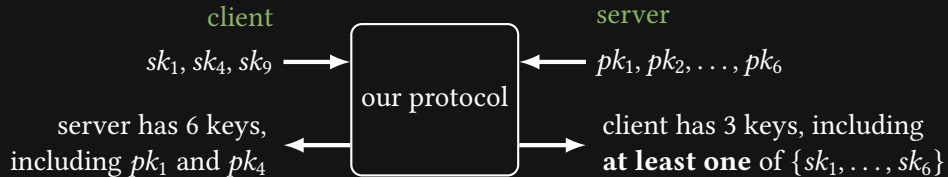
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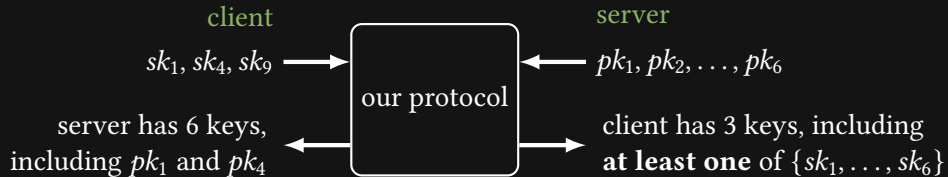
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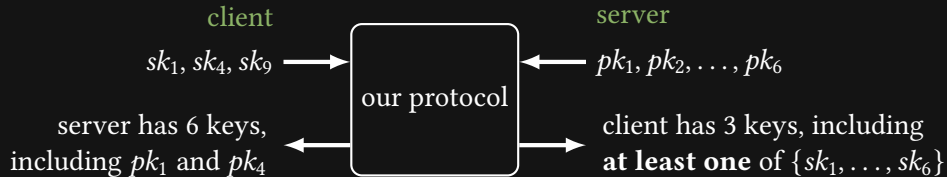
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our new authentication method: big picture



- ▶ can include any mixture of existing RSA, ECDSA, EdDSA keys, in a single authentication attempt
- ▶ does not depend on site-specific configuration; both parties can just safely use all their keys
- ▶ client won't connect unless server **knows** and **explicitly includes** one of client's keys

technical overview

client (with $\{sk_i\}_i$):

server (with $\{pk_j\}_j$):

technical overview

client (with $\{sk_i\}_i$):

server (with $\{pk_j\}_j$):

$$c, \{m_j\}_j \leftarrow \text{Enc}\left(\{pk_j\}_j\right)$$

1. anonymous multi-KEM

address ciphertext to $\{pk_j\}_j$;
 sk_j decrypts c to m_j ;
 c hides pk_j recipients

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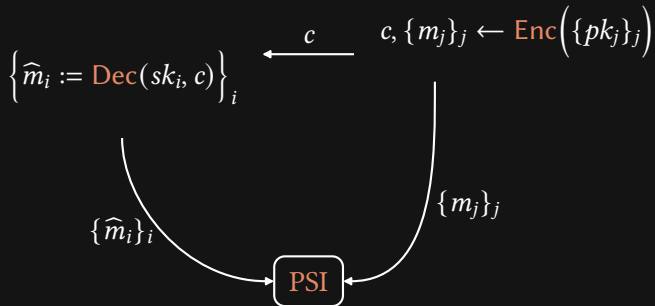
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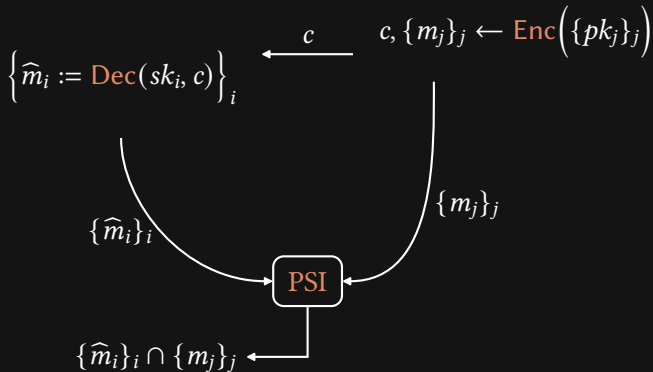
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each party has set of items;

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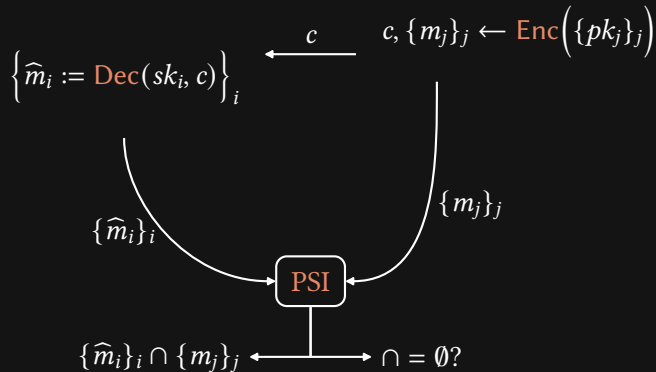
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each party has set of items;
client learns intersection;

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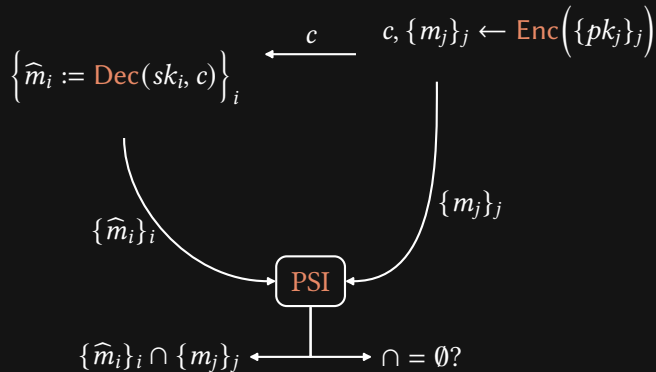
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single MKEM construction supporting RSA, ECDSA, & EdDSA

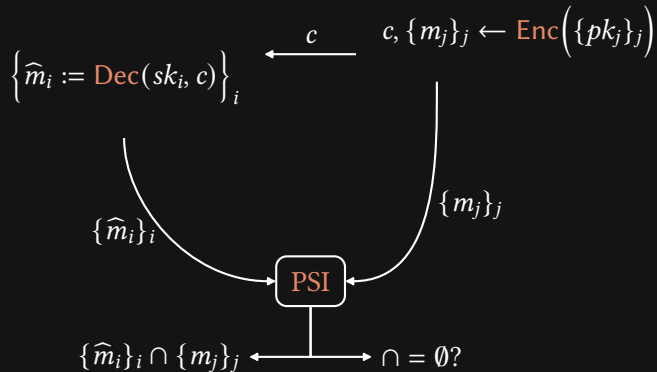
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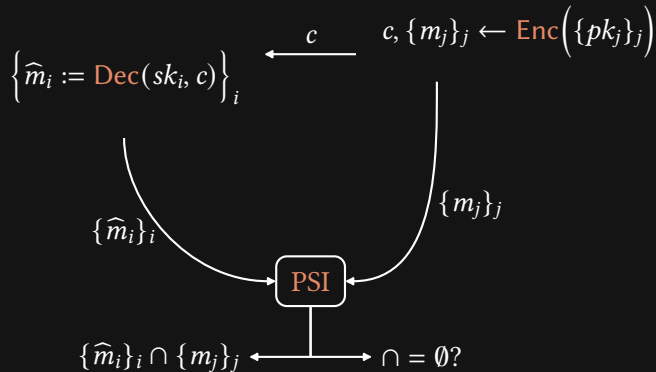
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+ full UC security analysis

concrete performance:

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client	server		

2 commodity desktop computers on LAN

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