

# Hybrid Signature Spectrums

[draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums](#)

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PQUIP – IETF 120 – July 23, 2024

Adopted:

## [draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums](#)

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Dear, list,

This email closes the call for adoption for `draft-hale-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums`, which clearly passed and addressed comments, and, hence, will be adopted.

Authors: please create `draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums-00`

Thank you,

# Spectrum of Non-Separability

-----  
\*\*No Non-Separability\*\*

no artifacts exist  
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\*\*Weak Non-Separability\*\*

artifacts exist in the message, signature, system, application, or protocol  
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\*\*Strong Non-Separability\*\*

artifacts exist in hybrid signature  
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\*\*Strong Non-Separability w/ Simultaneous Verification\*\*

artifacts exist in hybrid signature and verification or failure of both  
components occurs simultaneously  
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# Generality / Need-for-approval spectrum

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| **\*\*New Algorithm\*\***

| New signature scheme based on a selection of hardness assumptions  
Separate approval needed

| **\*\*No Approved Software Module\*\***

| Hybrid combiner supports security analysis that can be reduced to  
| approved component algorithms, potentially changing the component implementations  
Uncertainty about whether separate approval is needed

| **\*\*1-out-of-n Approved Software Module\*\***

| Combiner supports one component algorithm and implementation in a black-box way  
| but potentially changes the other component algorithm implementation(s)  
No new approval needed if the black-box component (implementation) is approved

| **\*\*All Approved Software Modules\*\***

| Hybrid combiner acts as a wrapper, fully independent of the component  
| signature scheme implementations  
No new approval needed if at least one component implementation is approved



## Artifact Locations (ease-of-auditability)

Location of artifacts of hybrid intent	Level
Signature	Algorithm
Certificate	Protocol
Algorithm agreement / negotiation	Protocol
Message	Policy

## Changes spurred by adoption call:

- More language on motivations for using hybrid solutions
- Language on whether or not hybrid signatures fit in one's threat model
  - without assuming that hybrid signatures are strictly necessary in general

# We need your feedback

- Please read:

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums/>

- If the WG likes the adopted text, want to try a last call?

# Feedback welcome!

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums/>

GitHub: <https://github.com/dconnolly/draft-ietf-pquip-hybrid-signature-spectrums>



# Hybrid Signatures Next Steps?

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# Fused Hybrids

- Strong Non-Separability:
  - Artifacts in signatures
  - Verification failure in event of an attack (not just auditable later)
- Simplified forwards compatibility (fusion in signature, fewer changes to architecture)

Do we want this? Which algorithms (PQ/T) need to be blackbox implementations?

Which need to be blackbox algorithms (e.g., extra info in a hash)?

Proposed CFRG effort by Mike Ounsworth - looking for PQUIP system stakeholders

# How to make concrete recommendations?

- Not in this document
- Maybe looks like the Hybrid KEMs workflow in CFRG:
  - CFRG puts together a Hybrid Signatures Design Team
  - Team comes up with narrow properties, patterns, and desired concrete schemes as design specifications
  - CFRG then takes that and writes the proper document, with several concrete constructions, and recommendations around their usage
- It may be early now, but a possible future pathway