

# Post-quantum Hybrid Key Exchange in the IKEv2 with FrodoKEM

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# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM

## □ Information of our draft

- **Title:** Post-quantum Hybrid Key Exchange in the IKEv2 with FrodoKEM (draft-wang-hybrid-kem-ikev2-frodo-02)
- **Author:** Guilin Wang
- **Dates submitted:** v02 on 2024-10-18
- <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-wang-hybrid-kem-ikev2-frodo/>

## □ General Motivation

- The cryptographic agility of PQ migration has been highlighted by many organizations, like NIST, ETSI, BSI. (see talks at ETSI QSC workshop, May of 2024)
- Algorithm diversity is important to support cryptographic agility
- The availability of various PQC algorithms is beneficial to applications
- Generally speaking, post-quantum algorithms are still not mature yet
- Supporting a good size of various algorithms is also good from engineering aspect

## □ This Update

- V02: Changed the title, abstract and content to focus on using FrodoKEM, by following the comments from Leonie Bruckert on 15 May 2024.
- this talk: also show some experiments on using FrodoKEM.

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM

## □ Concrete Motivation of this draft

- RFC 9370 specifies a framework that supports up to 7 layers of additional KEMs in IKEv2
- [I-D.KR24] by Panos and Gerardo describes how the framework can be run with ML-KEM (Kyber)
- Some applications demanding high security level may need additional PQ KEMs.
- Based on unstructured lattice based KEM, the security of FrodoKEM more conservative, compared to ML-KEM
- **FrodoKEM** is one of three KEMs in the process of ISO standardization: Likely to be formally standardized around the end of 2025.
  - **[I-D.KR24]** Post-quantum Hybrid Key Exchange with ML-KEM in the Internet Key Exchange Protocol Version 2 (IKEv2)  
draft-kampanakis-ml-kem-ikev2-03  
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-kampanakis-ml-kem-ikev2/>

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM: Challenges

- **Communication:** The public key and ciphertext of FrodoKEM is about 10 times of ML-KEM
- Luckily, the IKE Intermediate Exchange supports large message exchange (but less than  $2^{16} - 1 = 65,535$  Bytes) (RFC 9242, RFC 7383)
- Also,

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+ ;
| Algorithms | secret key | public key | ciphertext | shared secret |
|           | sk         | pk         | ct         | ss           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ML-KEM-512 | 800        | 1,632      | 768        | 32           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ML-KEM-768 | 1,184      | 2,400      | 1,088      | 32           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| ML-KEM-1024 | 1,568      | 3,168      | 1,568      | 32           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| FrodoKEM-640 | 19,888     | 9,616      | 9,752      | 16           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| FrodoKEM-976 | 31,296     | 15,632     | 15,792     | 24           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| FrodoKEM-1344 | 43,088     | 21,520     | 21,696     | 32           |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

Table 1: Size (in bytes) of keys and ciphertexts of ML-KEM and FrodoKEM

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM: An example

Initiator

Responder

```
----->
HDR(IKE_SA_INIT), SAI1(.. ADDKE*...),
KEi(Curve25519), Ni, N(IKEV2_FRAG_SUPPORTED),
N(INTERMEDIATE_EXCHANGE_SUPPORTED)
```

Proposal #1

Transform ECR (ID = ENCR\_AES\_GCM\_16,  
256-bit key)

Transform PRF (ID = PRF\_HMAC\_SHA2\_512)

Transform KE (ID = Curve25519)

Transform ADDKE1 (ID = TBD36)

Transform ADDKE1 (ID = TBD37)

Transform ADDKE1 (ID = NONE)

Transform ADDKE2 (ID = TBD43)

Transform ADDKE2 (ID = TBD45)

Transform ADDKE2 (ID = NONE)

Transform ADDKE3 (ID = TBD49)

Transform ADDKE3 (ID = NONE)

```
----->
HDR(IKE_INTERMEDIATE), SK {KEi(1)(TBD36)} -->
```

```
<----- HDR(IKE_INTERMEDIATE), SK {KEr(1)(TBD36)}
```

```
----->
HDR(IKE_INTERMEDIATE), SK {KEi(2)(TBD43)} -->
```

```
<----- HDR(IKE_INTERMEDIATE), SK {KEr(2)(TBD43)}
```

```
----->
HDR(IKE_AUTH), SK{ IDi, AUTH, SAI2, TSi, TSr } -->
```

```
<----- HDR(IKE_AUTH), SK{IDr, AUTH, SAR2, TSi, TSr}
```

```
<----- HDR(IKE_SA_INIT), SAR1(.. ADDKE*...),
KEr(Curve25519), Nr, N(IKEV2_FRAG_SUPPORTED)
N(INTERMEDIATE_EXCHANGE_SUPPORTED)
```

Proposal #1

Transform ECR (ID = ENCR\_AES\_GCM\_16,  
256-bit key)

Transform PRF (ID = PRF\_HMAC\_SHA2\_512)

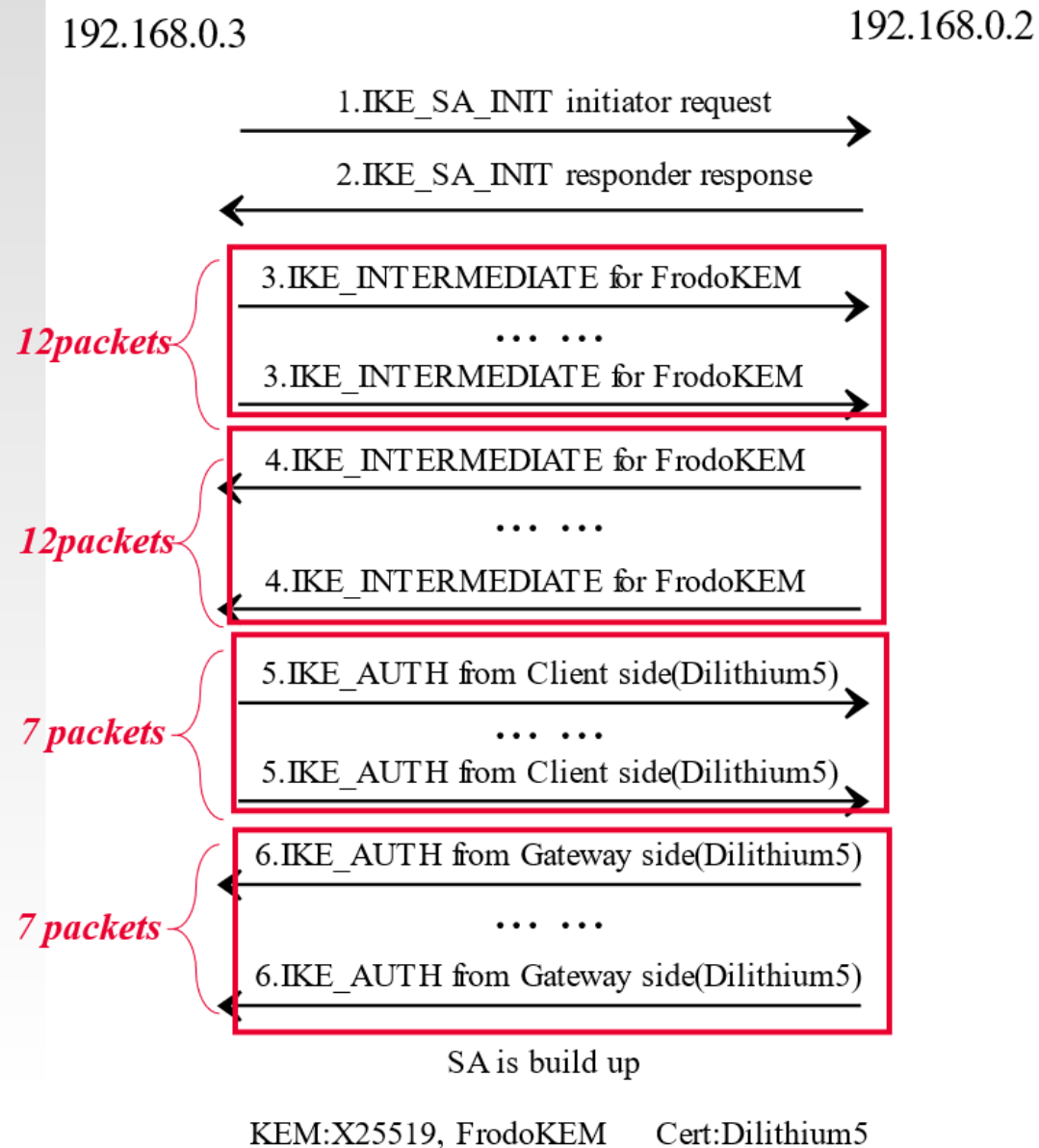
Transform KE (ID = Curve25519)

Transform ADDKE1 (ID = TBD36)

Transform ADDKE2 (ID = TBD43)

Transform ADDKE3 (ID = NONE)

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM: Experiment



## Three Parameter Sets:

- Control group (X25519 + Dilithium5) : **16 packets**
- X25519\_Kyber + Dilithium5: **18 packets**
- X25519\_FrodoKEM(AES)+Dilithium5: **40 packets**

(shown left)

## Experiment Environment:

- Open source software strongswan and the PQC version pq-strongswan.
- <https://github.com/strongX509/docker/tree/master/pq-strongswan>
- Measure the delay of the IKEv2 interaction between the client and gateway.
- Bandwidth: 80 Bps
- RTT: direct connected (nearly none)
- Packets loss: 0%, 1%, 2%, or 5%

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM: Experiment

Packet loss	0%	1%	2%	5%
X25519+Dilithium5	[26,26,26]	[26,228,4042]	[30,596,4053]	[26,762,4050]
X25519_Kyber+Dilithium5	[28,28,28]	[31,117,1263]	[98,622,4029]	[35,543,8052]
X25519_FrodoKEM+Dilithium5	[54,54,54]	[59,982,4895]	[68,1652,4689]	[4051,7451,12053]

Table. Time delay (smallest, average, largest) (ms) of different settings

**Purpose:** To measure the delay of the IKEv2 interaction between the client and gateway.

## Our Testing Results:

- 30 times of experiments have been for each parameter set.
- When no packet loss, the IKEv2 delay between 3 set parameters is less than twice.
- When packet loss higher, the IKEv2 delay gets much higher, due to IKEv2 re-transmission mechanism: **wait for 4 seconds to re-transmit.**

# IKEv2 with FrodoKEM

## Further Actions

- More experiments
- To align with ISO for acquiring its PQC KEM standardization progress?
- By IPSECME, PQUIP or CFRG?

## Invitations

- Welcome to give your kind suggestions and comments
- If you are interested in this work, welcome to let us know
- [Wang.guilin@Huawei.com](mailto:Wang.guilin@Huawei.com)

Thanks!