

ML-KEM Post-Quantum Key Agreement for TLS 1.3

draft-ietf-tls-mlkem-05

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-tls-mlkem/>

<https://github.com/tlswg/draft-ietf-tls-mlkem>

A pure-PQ ciphersuite for TLS 1.3

- No purely post-quantum ciphersuites
- Fills in the other side of [draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design](#)
- Needed because there are no documents that describe KEM-only key agreement in TLS
- If PQ-only works for your applications, clean key agreement, no hybrid duplicate shares or mixing and matching logic
- ML-KEM-1024 supports users who need to comply with the CNSA 2.0 draft
- I want to be able to do it 🐎

New NamedGroups: MLKEM512, MLKEM768, MLKEM1024

```
enum {  
  
    ...,  
  
    /* ML-KEM Key Agreement Methods */  
    mlkem512(0x0200),  
    mlkem768(0x0201),  
    mlkem1024(0x0202)  
  
    ...,  
  
} NamedGroup;
```

Codepoints allocated:

512	MLKEM512	Y	N	[draft-connolly-tls-mlkem-key-agreement-03]	FIPS 203 version of ML-KEM-512
513	MLKEM768	Y	N	[draft-connolly-tls-mlkem-key-agreement-03]	FIPS 203 version of ML-KEM-768
514	MLKEM1024	Y	N	[draft-connolly-tls-mlkem-key-agreement-03]	FIPS 203 version of ML-KEM-1024

Client sends encaps key, server replies with ciphertext

```
struct {  
    NamedGroup group;  
    opaque key_exchange<1..216-1>;  
} KeyShareEntry;
```

These are transmitted in the `extension_data` fields of `KeyShareClientHello` and `KeyShareServerHello` extensions:

```
~~~~  
struct {  
    KeyShareEntry client_shares<0..216-1>;  
} KeyShareClientHello;  
  
struct {  
    KeyShareEntry server_share;  
} KeyShareServerHello;  
~~~~
```

KEM shared secret is input to Handshake Secret derivation

```

      v
      Derive-Secret(., "derived", "")
      |
      v
shared_secret -> HKDF-Extract = Handshake Secret
~~~~~
      |
      +-----> Derive-Secret(...)
      +-----> Derive-Secret(...)
      |
      v
      Derive-Secret(., "derived", "")
      |
```

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      |

```

Updates as of `draft-ietf-tls-mlkem-05`

- Integrated review feedback
- Aligned with `-ecdhe-mlkem` on language about ML-KEM failures
- Fixed refs

Open Issues

- <https://github.com/tlswg/draft-ietf-tls-mlkem/pull/6>
 - Changes Recommended = N to Recommended = D
 - Does not align with `-ecdhe-mlkem`
 - Would require IETF Standards Action with Expert Review or IESG Approval
 - Would group ML-KEM with NULL ciphers, RC4, DES, EXPORT ciphers, MD5, etc

Timeline

- Resolve last issue
- WGLC?

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