## EWCDM: An Efficient, Beyond-Birthday Secure, Nonce-Misuse Resistant MAC

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**EWCDM** 

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We propose a new Wegman-Carter-style MAC, called

Encrypted Wegman Carter with Davies-Meyer,

based on a xor-universal hash function and a block cipher, with the following properties:

- 1. it is efficient (two block cipher calls, one of which can be computed in parallel to the hash)
- 2. it is secure beyond the birthday-bound when nonces are not repeated
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Background on Wegman-Carter MACs

The EWCDM Construction

Security Result and Proof Sketch

Conclusion

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## (Nonce-Based) Message Authentication Codes





 $MAC_{\kappa}(N, M) = T$ ?

#### Security Definition

The adversary is allowed

- $q_m$  MAC queries  $T = MAC_K(N, M)$
- $q_v$  verification queries (forgery attempts) (N', M', T')

and is successful if one of the verification queries (N', M', T') passes and no previous MAC query (N', M') returned T'. The adversary is said nonce-respecting if it does not repeat nonces in MAC queries.

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## Wegman-Carter MACs [GMS74, WC81]



• based on an  $\varepsilon$ -almost xor-universal ( $\varepsilon$ -AXU) hash function H:  $\forall M \neq M', \forall Y, \Pr[K \leftarrow_{\$} \mathcal{K} : H_{\mathcal{K}}(M) \oplus H_{\mathcal{K}}(M') = Y] \leq \varepsilon$ 

• in practice, OTPs are replaced by a PRF applied to a nonce N

• H usually based on polynomial evaluation (GCM, Poly1305)

• "optimal" security:

 $\mathsf{Adv}_{\mathsf{WC}}^{\mathsf{MAC}}(q_m, q_v) \leq \varepsilon q_v + \mathsf{Adv}_F^{\mathsf{PRF}}(q_m + q_v)$ 

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## Implementing the PRF from a Block Cipher



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- but provable security drops to birthday bound ☺ [Sho96]

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#### The Nonce-Misuse Problem



- Wegman-Carter MACs are brittle: a single nonce repetition can completely break security [Jou06, HP08]
- esp. for polynomial-based hashing, i.e.,  $H_K(M) = P_M(K)$ :

 $P_{M}(K) \oplus F_{K'}(N) = T$  $P_{M'}(K) \oplus F_{K'}(N) = T' \Rightarrow P_{M}(K) \oplus P_{M'}(K) = T \oplus T'$ 

• solution: extra PRF call (in fact, OK to use a PRP here)

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#### Problem

#### Design an efficient Wegman-Carter-like MAC:

- 1. based on a block cipher
- 2. secure beyond the birthday bound (BBB) in the nonce-respecting case
- 3. nonce-misuse resistant (at least up to the birthday bound)

State-of-art solution: Encrypted Wegman-Carter (EWC) + PRP-to-PRF conversion  $F_{K'}$ 

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## PRP-to-PRF Conversion (Luby-Rackoff Backwards)



A (keyed) *n*-to-*n*-bit construction based on a block cipher *E* is a secure PRP-to-PRF conversion method [BKR98] if it is indist. from a uniformly random function (ideally up to  $2^n$  queries), e.g.:

- *E* itself is a secure PRF up to  $2^{n/2}$  queries
- truncation [HWKS98, BI99]
- XOR construction [Luc00, Pat08a]:  $E_{K_1}(X) \oplus E_{K_2}(X)$
- TWIN construction [Luc00]:  $E_K(X||0) \oplus E_K(X||1)$

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#### EWC + PRP-to-PRF Conversion



• instantiating *F* with a BBB-secure PRP-to-PRF construction solves the problem

- but requires at least three BC calls
- is it possible to do better?

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- what if we instantiate  $F_{K'}$  with the Davies-Meyer construction  $DM[E]_{K'}(N) = E_{K'}(N) \oplus N$ ?
- wait! the DM construction is not a BBB-secure PRF:  $DM[E]_{K'}(N) \oplus N = E_{K'}(N)$  is a permutation!
- but here the outer encryption layer prevents this attack

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## Security Result for EWCDM

- *n* = block-length of the BC = tag-length
- L<sub>max</sub> = maximal message-length (in n bit blocks)

Theorem (Nonce-<mark>respecting</mark> security of EWCDM)

$$\mathsf{Adv}^{\mathrm{MAC}}_{\mathsf{EWCDM}}(q_m,q_v) \leq rac{5q_m^{3/2}}{2^n} + rac{arepsilon q_m}{2} + rac{6q_v}{2^n} + arepsilon q_v.$$

(Security up to  $q_m \simeq \min\{2^{2n/3}, \varepsilon^{-1}\}$  and  $q_v \simeq \varepsilon^{-1} \simeq 2^n / L_{\max}$ )

Theorem (Nonce-misusing security of EWCDM)  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathsf{EWCDM}}^{\mathsf{MAC}}(q_m, q_v) \leq \frac{2(q_m + q_v)^2}{2^n} + \frac{\varepsilon(q_m + q_v)^2}{2}.$ (Security up to  $q_m, q_v \simeq \varepsilon^{-1/2} \simeq 2^{n/2}/\sqrt{L_{\mathsf{max}}}$ )

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we can't start by replacing DM[E<sub>K'</sub>] by a random function
 (⇒ birthday-bound)

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- H-coefficients technique [Pat08b, CS14] (good/bad transcripts)
- bad transcripts: too many collisions
- collisions slightly more likely for P'(X) ⊕ X than for F(X)
  ⇒ lower bound the number of pairs (P', P") that yield a given good transcript
- we prove security up to  $2^{2n/3}$  queries (exact security  $\sim 2^n$ ?)

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  ⇒ lower bound the number of pairs (P', P") that yield a given good transcript
- we prove security up to  $2^{2n/3}$  queries (exact security  $\sim 2^n$ ?)

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- $H_{\mathcal{K}}(M)$  and the EDM construction are "intermingled"
- the full proof needs to handle verification queries "directly"
- we recast the forgery experiment as distinguishing between

 $(MAC_{\mathcal{K}}(\cdot, \cdot), Verif_{\mathcal{K}}(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot))$  and  $(Rand(\cdot, \cdot), Reject(\cdot, \cdot, \cdot))$ 

then we apply the H-coefficients technique [Pat08b, CS14]

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Background on Wegman-Carter MACs

The EWCDM Construction

Security Result and Proof Sketch

Conclusion

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#### **Final Remarks**



#### • the outer encryption layer is twice useful:

- 1. provides birthday-bound nonce-misuse resistance
- 2. provides nonce-respecting BBB-security when combined with the (cheap) feed-forward of the nonce
- easy to implement in a black-box way on top of an existing Wegman-Carter MAC implementation (GCM, Poly1305)

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Image: A math

Conclusion

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security beyond 2<sup>2n/3</sup> MAC queries? (no matching attack)

- same key for the two block cipher calls?
- effect of tag truncation?

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#### The end...

# Thanks for your attention!

# Comments or questions?

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