Key Establishment in TLS

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TLS Protocols

- Handshake Protocol
- Alert Protocol
- Change Cipher Spec Protocol
- Application Data Protocol

Handshake Protocol



- Selects cipher suite
- Exchanges authentication credentials
- Establishes keys

Key Exchange Mechanisms



- RSA/RSA Export
- Diffie-Hellman
- Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman

Handshake Overview

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Client Hello

List of cipher suites Client Random Data

Server Hello

Selected cipher suite Server Random Data

Server Certificate

X.509 Certificate chain

Server Key Exchange

If necessary

Client Key Exchange

Key Derivation



- Cipher suite key exchange method used to generate the master secret
- Key material derived through TLS Pseudo-Random Function (PRF)
- Inputs are Master Secret, Client Random, and Server Random

RSA Key Exchange



- Server sends its certificate containing RSA public key
- Client generates random key data, encrypts with server's public key

RSA Export Key Exchange



- Server send its RSA certificate
- Server generates 512 or 1024 bit key, signs and sends to the client
- Client encrypts random key data with ephemeral key

Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman



- Server sends certificate with DSA or RSA public key
- Server generates, signs and sends DH parameters and DH public value
- Client generates and sends DH public value

Static Diffie-Hellman



- Server sends RSA or DSA signed certificate containing DH parameters and public value
- Client generates and sends DH public value

Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman



- Server sends ECDSA signed certificate containing an EC public key
- Client generates and sends an EC public key

Final Key Derivation



- Pseudo-Random Function consists of HMAC-MD5 xor HMAC-SHA1
- Final output of PRF is divided into key material for bulk cipher keys, MAC keys, and IVs

Abbreviations

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DSA Digital Signature Algorithm

EC Elliptic Curve

ECDSA Elliptic Curve DSA

DH Diffie Hellman

TLS Transport Layer Security