

ISO/IEC DISFDIS 14888-4:2023/2024(E)

ISO/IEC JTC 1 SC 27/WG 2

Secretariat: DIN

Date: 2023-08-28/2024-02-20

Information security — Digital signatures with appendix — Part 4: Stateful hash-based mechanisms

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

A list of all parts in the ISO/IEC 14888 series can be found on the ISO and IEC websites.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

Digital ~~Signatures~~signatures with appendix are designed to offer integrity, authentication and non-repudiation. ISO/IEC 14888-2 specifies the class of digital signature mechanisms in which the security is based on the difficulty of integer factorization. ISO/IEC 14888-3 specifies the class in which the security is based on computing discrete logarithms ~~(see ISO/IEC 14888-3)~~. Unfortunately, if and when a large-scale general purpose quantum computer becomes available, all of these techniques will no longer be secure for practical key sizes^[1].

This document specifies a class of digital signatures whose security depends only on the security of the underlying hash function. At the time of publication of this document, standardized hash functions are believed to be secure even against attacks using large scale quantum computers. Hence, the schemes specified in this document do not suffer from the same problems as the schemes specified in ISO/IEC 14888-2 and ISO/IEC 14888-3.

The ~~Hash-Based Signature~~hash-based signature (HBS) schemes specified in this document are stateful schemes, whereby the private key is part of the state of the scheme. This means that at every signature generation, state information held by the signer must be updated, ~~since~~as otherwise the security of the scheme is compromised. Therefore, when deploying any of the schemes specified in this document, it is mandatory to implement ~~expected that~~ robust state-management practices are implemented to ensure that state information is correctly updated.

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Information security — Digital signatures with appendix — Part 4: Stateful hash-based mechanisms

1 Scope

This document specifies stateful digital signature mechanisms with appendix, where the level of security is determined by the security properties of the underlying hash function.

This document also provides requirements for implementing basic state management, which is needed for the secure deployment of the stateful schemes described in this document.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions given in [external document reference xxx] and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1 Authentication path

list of hash values that show that a specific node belongs to a Merkle tree. (3.5)

3.2 balanced binary tree

ordered tree in which each node has exactly two other nodes that are directly subordinate

3.3 Binary tree

ordered tree in which each node has at most two other nodes that are directly subordinate

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 2382:2015, 2121636, modified — notes to entry have been removed.]

3.4 L-tree

unbalanced binary tree (3.3) used to compress the Winternitz+ One-Time Signature Scheme (WOTS+) public keys in the eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme (XMSS)

3.5 Merkle tree

balanced binary tree (3.2), where each node of the tree corresponds to the hash of the labels of the child nodes

3.6 one-time signature

digital signature scheme where the security is limited to signing a single message for a given key pair

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NOTE 2 H_w controls the trade-off between computation time and signature size. Smaller values of w/W lead to faster computations, while larger values of w lead to smaller signatures.

W the Winternitz parameter used in the LMS and HSS algorithms. W and w are related as follows: $w = 2^W$.

$x[i]$ the i th element of the array x

$[X]_y$ the result of truncating X to its leftmost y bits, e.g. $[0 \times fe]_4 = 0 \times f$.

4.34.2 Abbreviated terms

HBS hash-based signature

HSS hierarchical signature scheme

LMS Leighton-Micali signature scheme

OTS one-time signature

RBG non-deterministic random bit generator

WOTS+ Winternitz+ One-Time signature scheme

XMSS eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme

XMSS-MT eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme Multi Tree

65 XMSS and XMSS-MT

6.15.1 General

The XMSS scheme is a stateful hash-based signature scheme for which only a limited number of signatures can be created using a particular private key. The security of XMSS is based on the hardness of the Target Collision Resistance (TCR) problem, and XMSS has been proven to be secure in the standard model (see-[13]).

The XMSS-MT scheme, a variant of the XMSS scheme, is a stateful hash-based signature scheme that supports a larger number of signatures than XMSS. XMSS-MT inherits all the security properties of XMSS [14].

The OIDs for these algorithms shall be in accordance with Annex-A. Test vectors can be found in Annex-C.

6.25.2 Common Building Blocksbuilding blocks

6.2.15.2.1 General

The XMSS and the XMSS-MT schemes are described in a unified way since they employ common building blocks.

6.2.25.2.2 Address Formatformat

The *ADRS* input has three different address formats (see Table-1). Each layout is appropriate for a different step of the algorithms:

- the OTS address format is for the hash calls in the one-time signature schemes;
- the L-tree address format is for hashes used in the L-trees;
- the hash tree address format is for the Merkle-tree construction.

An L-tree is an unbalanced binary hash tree used to compute the leaves of the main XMSS binary hash tree.

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- Keyed Hash-Function $H(KEY, M)$, where KEY is an n -byte key, M is a $2n$ -byte message and the output is n bytes.
- Keyed Hash-Function $H_msg(KEY, M)$, where KEY is a $3n$ -byte key, M is an arbitrary length message and the output is n bytes.
- Pseudo-Random Function $PRF(KEY, M)$, where KEY is an n -byte key, M is a 32-byte message and the output is n bytes.
- Pseudo-Random Function $PRF_{Keygen}(KEY, M)$, where KEY is an n -byte key, M is a 32-byte message and the output is n bytes. This function is optional and only used if WOTS+ private keys are generated pseudo-randomly.
- Pseudo-Random Function $PRF_{Keygen_MT}(KEY, M)$, where KEY is an n -byte key, M is a 32-byte message and the output is n bytes. This function is only used in XMSS_keygen if called from XMSS_MT_keygen.
- A non-deterministic random number generator RBG that provides at least a security level of $8n$ bits.

These functions shall be implemented with SHA2-256 (Dedicated Hash-Function 4 ~~as defined in~~ ISO/IEC 10118-3), SHAKE256 (~~Annex C.2 of~~ see ISO/IEC 10118-3)-2018, C.2) as described below (see Annex-B for further considerations on these instantiations).

6.2.3.2.3.2 Functions Based on SHA2-256

When using SHA2-256 as the underlying hash function and $n=32$, the following constructions shall be used.

- $F(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(0, 32) || KEY || M)
- $H(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(1, 32) || KEY || M)
- $H_msg(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(2, 32) || KEY || M)
- $PRF(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(3, 32) || KEY || M)
- $PRF_{Keygen}(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(4, 32) || KEY || M)
- $PRF_{Keygen_MT}(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256(toByte(5, 32) || KEY || M)

When using SHA2-256 as the underlying hash function and $n=24$, the following constructions shall be used.

- $F(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(0, 4) || KEY || M)
- $H(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(1, 4) || KEY || M)
- $H_msg(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(2, 4) || KEY || M)
- $PRF(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(3, 4) || KEY || M)
- $PRF_{Keygen}(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(4, 4) || KEY || M)
- $PRF_{Keygen_MT}(KEY, M)$: SHA2-256/192(toByte(5, 4) || KEY || M)

6.2.3.2.3.3 Functions Based on SHAKE

When using SHAKE256 and $n=32$, the following constructions shall be used.

- $F(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(0, 32) || KEY || M , 256)
- $H(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(1, 32) || KEY || M , 256)

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- $H_{msg}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(2, 32) || KEY || M , 256)
- $PRF(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(3, 32) || KEY || M , 256)
- $PRF_{Keygen}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(4, 32) || KEY || M , 256)
- $PRF_{Keygen_MT}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(5, 32) || KEY || M , 256)

When using SHAKE256 and $n=24$, the following constructions shall be used.

- $F(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(0, 4) || KEY || M , 192)
- $H(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(1, 4) || KEY || M , 192)
- $H_{msg}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(2, 4) || KEY || M , 192)
- $PRF(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(3, 4) || KEY || M , 192)
- $PRF_{Keygen}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(4, 4) || KEY || M , 192)
- $PRF_{Keygen_MT}(KEY, M)$: SHAKE256(toByte(5, 4) || KEY || M , 192)

6.2.45.2.4 Auxiliary functions

6.2.45.2.4.1 General

Both XMSS and XMSS-MT make use of two auxiliary functions, namely the base_w function and the chain function. The specifications of these auxiliary functions are given in 5.2.4.2 and 5.2.4.3.

6.2.45.2.4.2 base_w auxiliary function

This function is used in the signing and verification process to convert a string of bytes into a sequence of base w integers (i.e. integers between 0 and w-1).

Algorithm: $base_w(X, w, out_len)$.

Input: A sequence of bytes $X = X[0], \dots, X[Len_x - 1]$ of length len_x , the base w which shall be 4 or 16, and the output length out_len .

Output: A sequence of integers $Q = Q[0], \dots, Q[out_len - 1]$ of length out_len from the set $\{0, 1, \dots, w - 1\}$.

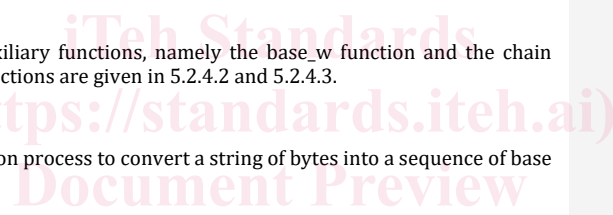
Steps:

- a) Set $in = 0, out = 0, total = 0, bits = 0$.
- b) For i from 0 to $out_len - 1$:
 - 1) If $bits$ is equal to 0 then
 - i) Set $total = X[in]$.
 - ii) Set $in = in + 1$.
 - iii) Set $bits = 8$.
 - 2) Set $bits = bits - lb(w)$.
 - 3) Set $Q[out] = (total \gg bits) \& (w - 1)$.
 - 4) Set $out = out + 1$.
- c) Return Q .

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