

DNSSEC

Martin Stanek

Department of Computer Science
Comenius University
`stanek@dcs.fmph.uniba.sk`

Security of IT infrastructure (2016/17)

Content

Short intro to DNS

DNSSEC

- Current state

- Cryptographic keys

- Signed records

- Authenticated denial of existence

DNS (Domain Name System)

- ▶ hierarchical, distributed, decentralized system
- ▶ maps domain names to IP addresses and vice versa
- ▶ tree structure (zones, delegation of responsibilities)
- ▶ 13 root “servers” (a, b, ..., m) – clusters
 - ▶ Anycast routing
- ▶ examples (IV/2017, www.root-servers.org):
 - ▶ “c” (operated by Cogent Communications) has 8 sites, 1 in Bratislava
 - ▶ “l” (operated by ICANN) has 158 sites, 1 in Bratislava
 - ▶ “j” (operated by Verisign) has 130 sites, 1 in Bratislava

DNS (2)

- ▶ client – server architecture
- ▶ resource record types (RR – resource record):

SOA	start of authority
A	address
AAAA	IPv6 address
NS	name server
MX	mail exchange
CNAME	canonical name (alias) ...

DNS (3)

- ▶ DNS servers:
 - ▶ authoritative – for own zone and for nameservers of delegated subzones
 - ▶ recursive – query other DNS servers to answer client requests
... + caching functionality – remembering resolved records (efficiency)
- ▶ DNS resolvers (clients)
 - ▶ part of an operating system or application
 - ▶ usually include caching functionality
- ▶ Protocol (usually):
 - ▶ UDP, port 53
 - ▶ stateless (query – response)
 - ▶ no confidentiality, integrity or authenticity features
 - ▶ TCP for zone transfers, large response data
 - ▶ RFC 7766 (2016) DNS Transport over TCP – Implementation Requirements

Some security applications employing DNS

- ▶ Let's Encrypt
 - ▶ DNS challenge (TXT record) as an option for the proof of domain ownership
- ▶ DANE (DNS-based Authentication of Named Entities)
 - ▶ binding X.509 (TLS) certificates to names in DNS
 - ▶ TLSA resource record
 - ▶ signed by DNSSEC
 - ▶ low adoption
- ▶ Office 365
 - ▶ DNS (TXT record) as a proof of domain name ownership

DNS – some security problems (1)

- ▶ DNS spoofing / cache poisoning (client, mail server etc. redirected to fake IP address)
 - ▶ attacker answers to client before his (recursive) DNS server
 - ▶ attacker answers to DNS server before the authoritative DNS server
 - ▶ attacker changes the response of the DNS server
 - ▶ attacker inserts additional information (e.g. NS records) about other zone into his zone's response, ...
 - ▶ long TTL for fake IP addresses
- ▶ some ideas how to make spoofing harder:
 - ▶ RFC 5452 Measures for Making DNS More Resilient against Forged Answers
- ▶ weaknesses in protocol design, issues in DNS server implementations (e.g. vulnerabilities in bind (NVD): 2012/6, 2013/5, 2014/5, 2015/7, 2016/11)

DNS – some security problems (2)

- ▶ DNS amplification attack
 - ▶ DNS server's responses can be much longer than the queries
 - ▶ source IP address spoofing
 - ▶ publicly open DNS servers ... DDoS attack
 - ▶ counting open resolvers:
dnsscan.shadowserver.org ~ 4.5 mil. (IV/2016), 4.3 mil. (IV/2017)
- ▶ possible mitigations of amplification attack:
 - ▶ Disabling Recursion on Authoritative Name Servers
 - ▶ Limiting Recursion to Authorized Clients
 - ▶ Response Rate Limiting

DNS – some security problems (3)

- ▶ DNS rebinding
 - ▶ target the same-origin policy in a web browser
 - ▶ the first response of attacker's DNS server with short TTL
 - ▶ web browser loads malicious code
 - ▶ following question is answered by sending internal IP address
 - ▶ ...attacking internal web
- ▶ mitigation of DNS rebinding:
 - ▶ DNS pinning – locking IP address to value from the first DNS response
 - ▶ filter out the private IP addresses from DNS responses, etc.
- ▶ Threat Analysis of the Domain Name System (DNS), RFC 3833

DNS – few (cryptographic) solutions to security problems

- ▶ TSIG
 - ▶ Transaction Signatures (RFC 2845)
 - ▶ HMAC-MD5 and shared secrets for authentication
 - ▶ primary use for dynamic updates of DNS records, zone transfers etc.
 - ▶ no means how to manage/distribute shared secrets
- ▶ SIG(0)
 - ▶ DNS Request and Transaction Signatures (SIG(0)s), RFC 2931
 - ▶ digital signatures for dynamic DNS updates
 - ▶ public key part of the zone
- ▶ DNSSEC
 - ▶ *today's theme ...*

DNSSEC – introduction

- ▶ Domain Name System SECurity extensions

 - RFC 4033 DNS Security Introduction and Requirements

 - RFC 4034 Resource Records for the DNS Security Extensions

 - RFC 4035 Protocol Modifications for the DNS Security Extensions

 - RFC 5011 Automated Updates of DNSSEC Trust Anchors

 - RFC 5155 DNSSEC Hashed Authenticated Denial of Existence

 - ...

- ▶ Main idea: digitally signed DNS records (by DNS server)

 - ...DNSSEC itself is concerned with object security of DNS data, not channel security of DNS transactions.*

- ▶ Goals:

 - ▶ data authenticity and integrity
 - ▶ authenticity of non-existent data

DNSSEC does not provide

- ▶ data confidentiality (no encryption)
 - ▶ no solution to privacy issues
- ▶ DoS attacks protection
 - ▶ against DNS server
 - ▶ against clients (DNS amplification)
 - ▶ DNSSEC can worsen the situation – signature verification, longer responses

Current state (1)

http://stats.research.icann.org/dns/tld_report/

- ▶ July 2010: DNS root zone signed
- ▶ April 2012: (overall 313 TLDs in root zone / 91 signed)
- ▶ April 2013: (317 TLDs in root zone / 111 signed)
- ▶ May 2014: (571 TLDs in root zone / 386 signed)
- ▶ May 2015: (923 TLDs in root zone / 752 signed)
- ▶ April 2016: (1292 TLDs in root zone / 1131 signed)
- ▶ April 2017: (1531 TLDs in root zone / 1386 signed)

Current state (2)

- ▶ SK and neighbors:
 - signed zone with DS in root zone cz., pl., at., ua., hu.
 - nothing sk.
- ▶ com. zone signed in March 2011
 - ▶ current state – negligible(?) DNSSEC deployment in 2nd level domains
 - ▶ approx. 0.5% of domains in com. signed (www.statdns.com)
 - ▶ nothing: google.com, facebook.com, microsoft.com, apple.com ...
- ▶ Google Public DNS servers (8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4) support DNSSEC validation by default since 2013

Keys a algorithms

- ▶ Key Signing Keys (KSK)
 - ▶ signing other keys in DNSKEY records
 - ▶ DS record needs to be published in parent zone (public key fingerprint)
- ▶ Zone Signing Keys (ZSK)
 - ▶ signing other records in the zone
 - ▶ simple management of ZSK (completely managed by the zone)
- ▶ the most frequent algorithms: RSA (usually 2048 bits) with SHA-256
 - ▶ digital signature scheme: RSASSA-PKCS1-v1.5 (PKCS #1)
 - ▶ RSA key length max. 4096 bits
(min. 1024 for RSA/SHA-512, 512 for RSA/SHA-256)

New DNS record types – DNSKEY and DS

examples from the root zone

<http://www.internic.net/zones/root.zone>

► DNSKEY – public key

```
. 172800 IN DNSKEY 256 3 8 AwEAAZLsvv...pp/  
. 172800 IN DNSKEY 257 3 8 AwEAAagAIK...z0=
```

- . 172800 IN – owner, TTL, class
- 256, 257 – flags (256: ZSK; 257: KSK, the last bit denotes SEP (Secure Entry Point))
- 3 – protocol (fixed)
- 8 – algorithm (RSA/SHA-256)

► DS (Delegation signer) – KSK identification (for delegated zone)

```
GR. 86400 IN DS 35136 7 2 F7BF4C362...5C3
```

- 35136 – key tag (for fast selection of DNSKEY record)
- 7 – algorithm corresponding to referenced DNSKEY record (RSA/SHA1/NSEC3)
- 2 – hash function (SHA-256) used for digest calculation

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Root zone

- ▶ Management of KSK and ZSK for the root zone:
 - ▶ DNSSEC Root Zone High Level Technical Architecture (Draft)
 - ▶ DNSSEC Practice Statement for the Root Zone KSK Operator
 - ▶ DNSSEC Practice Statement for the Root Zone ZSK Operator
 - ▶ Root Zone DNSSEC KSK Ceremonies Guide
- ▶ Publishing KSK:
 - ▶ DNSSEC Trust Anchor and Keys Publication for the Root Zone
 - ▶ XML (digest), p7s (S/MIME signature), pem (certificates for validating the signature)
 - ▶ available via HTTPS:
 - ▶ <https://www.iana.org/dnssec/files>
 - ▶ <https://data.iana.org/root-anchors/>

New DNS record types – RRSIG

- ▶ RRSIG – signature for a record set

```
. 518400 IN RRSIG NS 8 0 518400 20170505170000  
20170422160000 14796 . D/aCx ...Uw==
```

- ▶ . 518400 IN RRSIG – owner, TTL, class, type
- ▶ NS – type that the signature covers
- ▶ 8 – signing algorithm (RSA/SHA-256)
- ▶ 0 – the number of labels (used to validate *)
- ▶ 518400 – original TTL value
- ▶ 20170505170000 20170422160000 – signature validity (until 05.05.2017 17:00 UTC, starting 22.04.2017 16:00 UTC) ~ 13 days
- ▶ 14796 – key tag of the key in DNSKEY record for signature verification
- ▶ . – singer's name (the owner in the DNSKEY record)
- ▶ and finally, the signature

- ▶ a record set is signed (RRset)
 - ▶ RRset is determined by shared attributes: owner, class, type
- ▶ some records are unsigned:
 - ▶ NS records of delegated zones
 - ▶ A, AAAA records of delegated zones
 - ▶ these are data of delegated zones (not their parent zone)

Authenticated denial of existence – NSEC

- ▶ How to answer that a record does not exist?
- ▶ we don't want to sign on-line (access to private key required, slow)
- ▶ sorted records (canonical order)

- ▶ NSEC – “next secure” record

```
cz. 86400 IN NSEC dabur. NS DS RRSIG NSEC
```

```
cz. 86400 IN RRSIG NSEC . . .
```

- ▶ for particular domain name (cz.)
 - ▶ dabur. – next owner (domain name) in zone file
 - ▶ NS DS RRSIG NSEC – types of existing records for current owner/name (cz.)
- ▶ the last NSEC refers to the beginning (next owner)
- ▶ there is one RRSIG record for each NSEC record

Nonexistent record – response types

- ▶ NXDOMAIN (nonexistent domain name, e.g. da.)

```
$dig da. @8.8.8.8
```

```
...
```

```
;; Got answer:
```

```
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NXDOMAIN, id: 4649
```

```
;; flags: qr rd ra ad; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 1, ...
```

- ▶ NOERROR & ANSWER: 0 (the name exists but not the name with given type)

```
$dig nic.de. A @8.8.8.8 +short
```

```
81.91.170.12
```

```
$dig nic.de. AAAA @8.8.8.8 +short
```

```
$
```

Nonexistence responses using NSEC

- ▶ NXDOMAIN: in response (in authority section) – NSEC record with RRSIG, proving the missing domain name:

```
cz. 10574 IN NSEC dabur. NS DS RRSIG NSEC
```

- ▶ no name between cz. and dabur.

- ▶ NOERROR & ANSWER: 0: in response (in authority section) – NSEC record with RRSIG, proving the missing type for the domain name:

```
$dig @149.20.64.20 sk. DS +dnssec
```

```
...
```

```
;; Got answer:
```

```
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 7087
```

```
;; flags: qr rd ra ad; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 4, ...
```

```
...
```

```
sk.          3178      IN          NSEC          ski. NS RRSIG NSEC
```

```
...
```

NSEC vs. NSEC3

- ▶ zone walking (domain names enumeration)
- ▶ nonexistent name (NXDOMAIN) leaks neighbors “above” and “below”
- ▶ possibility to enumerate the zone (~ zone transfer via NSEC)
 - ▶ number of queries approx. linear with respect to the number of records
- ▶ problem for DNSSEC deployment ...solution: NSEC3

NSEC3

- ▶ replacement of NSEC records; domain names replaced with fingerprints

```
dig @149.20.64.20 x.bund.de A +dnssec
...
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 38332
;; flags: qr rd ra ad; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 8, ...
...
QNAS...QFBM.bund.de. 10660 IN NSEC3 1 0 10 B32599
QQQ9...L540 A RRSIG
```

- ▶ record-chain ordered according fingerprint values
- ▶ resolver computes name's fingerprint and finds the value between fingerprints in NSEC3 record (in practice other NSEC3 and corresponding RRSIG)

NSEC3 (2)

- ▶ NSEC3 parameters

```
QNAS...QFBM.bund.de. 10660 IN NSEC3 1 0 10 B32599  
QQQ9...L540 A RRSIG
```

- ▶ 1 – hash function (SHA-1)
 - ▶ 0 – flags
 - ▶ 10 – iteration count for fingerprint calculation
 - ▶ B32599 – salt
 - ▶ next name's fingerprint, record types for current owner
- ▶ off-line attack on fingerprints (the space of domain names is limited)

Differences DNSEC vs. PKI

- ▶ no certificates
- ▶ no validity interval for keys (but signatures have validity interval)
- ▶ keys managed by corresponding zone
- ▶ trusting a public key:
 - ▶ trusting KSK of the root zone (static import) → ZSK (.) → DS (in . for de.)
→ KSK (de.) → ZSK (de.) → DS (in de. for .bund.de.) → KSK (bund.de.)
→ ZSK (bund.de)
...and then we can verify RRSIG of A record for www.bund.de
 - ▶ of course: ...+ caching