Background on RFID security

Our contribution

Security analysis

Conclusion&Future work

# Secret Shuffling: A Novel Approach to RFID Private Identification

#### Claude CASTELLUCCIA, Mate SOOS

**INRIA Rhône-Alpes** 

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# Identification, Authentication, Private communication

#### What and why?

• Identification: Helps to choose the correct key(certificate, etc.) to authenticate the other party

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# Identification, Authentication, Private communication

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- Private communication: Helps to hide messages' content

Our solution is a private identification solution. Private identification solutions until now:

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  - Hash-lock based: tree-like, synchronisation-type, mixed
  - Intelligent systems outside the tag: non-authorised readers are not permitted to send identification requests. E.g. RFID blocker tag
  - Ultra-lightweight crypto-primitives: lightweight implementations of ECC, AES, and totally new primitives (e.g. Vajda&Buttyán)

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### Protocol description

Protocol setup:

Each tag has a constant, random K long key, k<sub>i</sub>, that is a unique bitstring(k<sub>i</sub>[1]...k<sub>i</sub>[K]) for each tag T<sub>i</sub>

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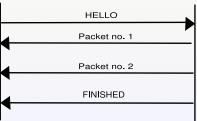
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TAG

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How it works:

READER



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### Description of a packet

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• Consists of *L* number of indexes from the key of the tag. Each index can be either inverted or not. No indexes are repeated

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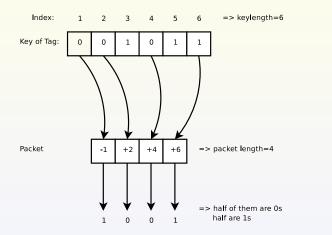
- Consists of *L* number of indexes from the key of the tag. Each index can be either inverted or not. No indexes are repeated
- Has the following interesting property:  $\sum_{j=1}^{L} k_i [a_j] \oplus b_j = L/2 \text{ where } a_j \xleftarrow{r} [1, K] \text{ is a random index,}$ and  $b_j \xleftarrow{r} \{0, 1\}$  is a random bit  $b_j \xleftarrow{r} \{0, 1\}$

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## Description of a packet



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### Description of a packet

From a computational complexity point of view:

• The packet is a constraint satisfaction problem (specifically, a linear pseudo-boolean constraint satisfaction problem)

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## Description of a packet

From a computational complexity point of view:

- The packet is a constraint satisfaction problem (specifically, a linear pseudo-boolean constraint satisfaction problem)
- The packet is an L/2-in-L LSAT problem
- These problems are equivalent and NP-hard (Shaefer's dichotomy theorem)

### Number of packets per identification

How many packets will let the reader identify the tag?

• Number of solutions possible for the reader: n

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- The number of packets needed for a given false positive rate is then:  $fp\approx \frac{log(fp/n)}{log(R)}$

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- The number of packets needed for a given false positive rate is then:  $fp\approx \frac{log(fp/n)}{log(R)}$
- For fp = 0.1, i.e. for 90% identification chance, if K = 400, L = 10 and n = 1 million, P = 13

**Our contribution** 

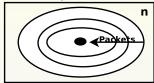
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### Graphic example

From the point of view of the size of the solution space:

• Reader's point of view:





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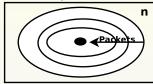
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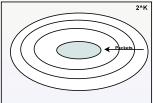
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What is the difference between a reader and an attacker?

• Caching n = 1 million keys takes as much as storing the keys

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Caching:

• Pre-construct look-up lists for all key's indexes:



• Go through the look-up table for the indexes in the packet, and calculate the shown sum for each packet. The tag that has L/2 for all packets is the one that is sending them

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### What do we mean by breaking the anonymity

We use Juels and Weis' "strong privacy" model:

\* The attacker has q as a query limit and c as a calculation limit

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- 7 The attacker must tell if  $\mathcal{T}_C = \mathcal{T}_A$  or  $\mathcal{T}_C = \mathcal{T}_B$  with sufficient probability

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#### Best attacker strategy

• Since all tags are *totally independent*, only the two pre-selected ones will be examined, i.e.  $T_A$  and  $T_B$ 

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- Find the solution to the constraint satisfaction problem defined by the packets  $Run_A \cup Run_C$

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  - Either  $\mathcal{T}_A \neq \mathcal{T}_C$  BUT we did not gather enough packets to show they are different

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- Query  $\mathcal{T}_C$  for q/2 queries, and obtain the packets  $Run_C$
- Find the solution to the constraint satisfaction problem defined by the packets  $Run_A \cup Run_C$
- If the solution is UNSAT, then the two tags must be different packets sent by  $T_A$  always have solution  $k_A$
- If the solution is SAT, then:
  - Either  $\mathcal{T}_A \neq \mathcal{T}_C$  BUT we did not gather enough packets to show they are different
  - OR  $T_A = T_C$ . if we have gathered enough for sure, we can safely say this. 'Enough' in this context is defined as  $P_{att}$

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#### Algorithm to attack

Best algorithm to attack the system:

• There are specialized solvers to find a solution to the problem described by the packets (LPBC solvers). But, these are slow for multiple reasons

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Conclusion&Future work

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We decided on Minisat (best of the 2005&2006 SAT competition). It is fast, open-source and readily modifiable

## Threshold phenomenon

There is a so-called threshold phenomenon for all NP-hard problems. This states that when solving a *randomly* generated SAT problem, there are three phases in terms of the number of constraints:

• Solution is fast to find, chance to find one is nearly 100%

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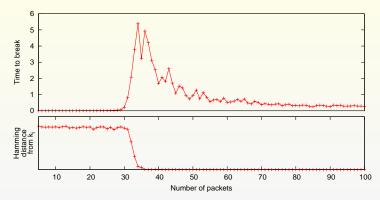
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- After a certain point, the chance to find solution changes very rapidly from 100% to 0%, and at the same time, the difficulty to find a solution jumps to very high levels. This is the *threshold point*.
- After the threshold point, the chance to find a solution is almost 0%, but if there exists a solution (or if it does not), it becomes exponentially easier to find it (or find that it does not exist respectively) in respect to the number of constraints.

## Graphically

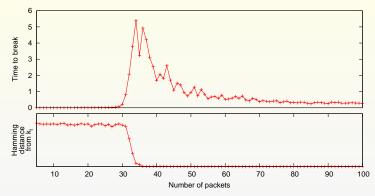


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## Graphically



The attacker can only use the right side of the graph

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### Results

| packets/ $K$               | 100                  | 200               | 400                  | 1000                 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| $1*P_{att}$                | $1.47e2~{ m s}$      | $3.17e11~{\rm s}$ | $1.46e28~{ m s}$     | $1.46e78~{ m s}$     |
| 3* <i>P</i> <sub>att</sub> | $3.33e1 \mathrm{~s}$ | $7.41e5~{ m s}$   | $3.67e14~{ m s}$     | $4.49e40~{\rm s}$    |
| 9* <i>P</i> <sub>att</sub> | $6.31e0~{ m s}$      | $4.54e3~{ m s}$   | $2.35e9~{ m s}$      | $3.27e26~\mathrm{s}$ |
| $27*P_{att}$               | $4.27e0~{\rm s}$     | $6.37e2~{ m s}$   | $1.42e7~{ m s}$      | $1.57e20~{ m s}$     |
| 64*P <sub>att</sub>        | $4.02e0~{\rm s}$     | $4.87e2~{ m s}$   | $7.15e6 \mathrm{~s}$ | $2.27e19~{ m s}$     |
| $192*P_{att}$              | $5.34e0~{ m s}$      | $7.31e1~{ m s}$   | $1.37e4~{ m s}$      | $9.01e10~{ m s}$     |
| $576*P_{att}$              | $1.00e1~{\rm s}$     | $7.28e1~{ m s}$   | $3.86e3~{ m s}$      | $5.74e8~{ m s}$      |

Table: Time to break the anonymity

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Conclusion&Future work

## Conclusion&Future work

• We have developed an RFID privacy solution that is suitable for cheap tags

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## Conclusion&Future work

- We have developed an RFID privacy solution that is suitable for cheap tags
- The developed protocol's fundamentals are such that it can potentially be a foundation for many protocols to come

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# Conclusion&Future work

- We have developed an RFID privacy solution that is suitable for cheap tags
- The developed protocol's fundamentals are such that it can potentially be a foundation for many protocols to come
- We are at the moment developing an improvement of the presented protocol

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Our contribution

Security analysis

Conclusion&Future work

## Thank you for your time

Are there any questions?

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