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Introduction to Cryptography - D334 Shawn C839v5/D334 All-Guide
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WGU - INTRO TO CRYPTOGRAPHY - D334 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DES block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 56bit key size
3DES block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 112bit key size
AES block size and key size? - answer--128bit block size, 128, 192, or 256bit key size
IDEA block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 128bit key size
Skipjack block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 80bit key size
Blowfish block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 32-448bit key size (commonly 128, 192, or 256)
Twofish block size and key size? - answer--128bit block size, 1-256bit key size (commonly 128, 192, or 256)
RC5 block size and key size? - answer--32, 64 or 128bit block size, 0-2048bit key size
RC2 block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 1-128bit key size (recommended minimum 40)
RC6 block size and key size? - answer--Variable bit block size (commonly 128), variable bit key size (commonly 128, 192 or 256)
XTEA block size and key size? - answer--64bit block size, 128bit key size
MD2 hash value? - answer--128bit
MD5 hash value? - answer--128bit
MD4 hash value? - answer--128bit
MD6 hash value? - answer--1-512bit
SHA-1 hash value? - answer--160bit
SHA-2 hash value? - answer--256, 384, or 512bit
SHA-3 hash value? - answer--Variable
SHA-256 hash value? - answer--256bit

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WGU Introduction to Cryptography HNO1 Sample Questions (Q40-Q45):

NEW QUESTION # 40

(A Linux user password is identified as follows:

\$2a\$08\$AbCh0RCM8p8FGaYvRLI0H.Kng54gcnWCOQYIhas708UEZRQQjGBh4

Which hash algorithm should be used to salt this password?)

- A. NTLM
- B. MD5
- C. SHA-512
- D. **bcrypt**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The string format \$2a\$08\$... is a well-known identifier for the bcrypt password hashing scheme. In common password-hash notation, the prefix indicates the algorithm and parameters: "\$2a\$" denotes bcrypt (version 2a), and "08" indicates the cost factor (work factor) controlling how computationally expensive hashing is. bcrypt is designed specifically for password storage: it includes a built-in salt and is intentionally slow and adaptive, making brute-force and GPU attacks far more expensive than fast general-purpose hashes like MD5 or SHA-512. NTLM and MD5 are obsolete for secure password storage due to speed and known weaknesses. SHA-512, while cryptographically strong as a hash, is still too fast for password hashing unless used in a dedicated password-hashing construction (e.g., PBKDF2, scrypt, Argon2) with appropriate parameters and salts. Since the given hash clearly matches bcrypt's encoding, the correct algorithm is bcrypt, which incorporates salting and cost-based key stretching as part of its design.

NEW QUESTION # 41

(Employee A needs to send Employee B a symmetric key for confidential communication. Which key is used to encrypt the symmetric key?)

- A. **Employee B's public key**
- B. Employee A's private key
- C. Employee A's public key
- D. Employee B's private key

Answer: A

Explanation:

When securely distributing a symmetric key over an untrusted network, a common approach is hybrid cryptography: use asymmetric cryptography to protect the symmetric key, then use the symmetric key for bulk encryption. To ensure only Employee B can recover the symmetric key, Employee A encrypts (wraps) that symmetric key using Employee B's public key. Because only Employee B should possess the matching private key, only B can decrypt the wrapped symmetric key. This is the same principle used in TLS key exchange (in older RSA key transport) and in secure email: encrypt the session key to the recipient's public key. Encrypting the symmetric key with Employee A's private key would not provide confidentiality—anyone with A's public key could reverse it, and it functions more like a signature than encryption. Employee B's private key should never be shared and is used only by B to decrypt. Therefore, for confidentiality of the shared symmetric key, the correct encryption key is Employee B's public key.

NEW QUESTION # 42

(What is an alternative to using a Certificate Revocation List (CRL) with certificates?)

- A. Root Certificate Authority (CA)
- B. **Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)**
- C. Privacy Enhanced Mail (PEM)
- D. Policy Certificate Authority (CA)

Answer: B

Explanation:

OCSP is the primary online alternative to CRLs for checking whether a certificate has been revoked.

With a CRL, a relying party periodically downloads a list of revoked certificate serial numbers published by the issuing CA (or CRL distribution point). That approach can be bandwidth-heavy, introduces latency between revocation and client awareness, and can result in clients using stale revocation data if updates are infrequent. OCSP improves this by allowing a client (or a server on the client's behalf) to query an OCSP responder in near real time about the status of a specific certificate (good, revoked, or unknown). In practice, many TLS deployments use OCSP stapling, where the server periodically fetches a signed OCSP response from the CA's responder and "staples" it to the TLS handshake, reducing client-side network calls and improving privacy (the CA doesn't learn which site the client is visiting). Thus, OCSP provides a more timely, certificate-specific revocation status mechanism than CRLs while preserving the CA's signed assurance.

NEW QUESTION # 43

(Which encryption algorithm uses an 80-bit key and operates on 64-bit data blocks?)

- A. Blowfish
- B. **Skipjack**
- C. Camellia
- D. Twofish

Answer: B

Explanation:

Skipjack is a symmetric block cipher historically associated with the Clipper chip initiative. Its defining parameters match the question: it operates on 64-bit blocks and uses an 80-bit key. The other options do not fit those exact sizes. Twofish is a 128-bit block cipher with key sizes up to 256 bits. Blowfish is a 64-bit block cipher, but its key size is variable from 32 up to 448 bits and is not fixed at 80 bits as a defining property. Camellia is a 128-bit block cipher with key sizes of 128, 192, or 256 bits. Skipjack's smaller key size and legacy design make it unsuitable for modern security needs, but the question is purely about identifying the algorithm that matches an 80-bit key and 64-bit blocks.

Therefore, the correct answer is Skipjack.

NEW QUESTION # 44

(Which mode of encryption converts data into a stream encryption and then uses a counter value and a nonce to encrypt the data?)

- A. Cipher Feedback (CFB)
- B. Cipher Block Chaining (CBC)
- C. **Counter (CTR)**
- D. Electronic Codebook (ECB)

Answer: C

Explanation:

CTR (Counter) mode converts a block cipher into a stream-like encryption method by generating a keystream from encrypted counter blocks. The core idea is to construct a sequence of input blocks using a nonce (unique per message/session) plus an incrementing counter. Each nonce||counter block is encrypted with the block cipher under the shared key; the output is a pseudorandom block that is XORed with plaintext to produce ciphertext. Decryption repeats the same keystream generation and XORs with ciphertext to recover plaintext. CTR offers practical benefits: it is highly parallelizable, supports precomputation of keystream blocks, and allows random access to any block without needing previous blocks (unlike CBC). ECB and CBC are block modes that do not use nonce+counter keystream generation. CFB is a feedback mode that can behave stream-like, but it does not use the explicit counter/nonce construction characteristic of CTR. CTR's security hinges on never reusing the same nonce/counter sequence with the same key, because that would reuse the keystream and enable XOR-based plaintext recovery. Therefore, the correct mode is Counter (CTR).

NEW QUESTION # 45

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