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WGU Introduction to Cryptography - D334 EXAMS WITH ANSWERS

An entity looking to obtain a digital certificate must first generate ____.

- a symmetric key
- an asymmetric key pair
- a registration authority
- a certificate authority - CORRECT ANSWERS-an asymmetric key pair

-Someone looking to obtain a digital certificate will first generate an asymmetric key pair and then generate a certificate signing request (CSR). The person will provide the CA with the public key from the generated key pair along with the CSR to formally request a digital certificate.

4 Basic steps for obtaining a digital certificate signed by a trusted Certificate Authority (CA):

- Step 1: Requester generates a keypair (one public, one private).
- Step 2: Requester creates a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) and submits CSR (which includes public key from the key pair generated) to the CA.
- Step 3: CA validates submission and generates the digital certificate for the requester.
- Step 4: CA signs the requester's digital certificate with the CA's own private key and issues certificate to the requester.

Which encoding scheme for X.509 certificates supports Base64 and ASCII text formats?

- DER
- CSR
- IKE
- PEM - CORRECT ANSWERS-PEM

- Two major encoding schemes for X.509 certificates: PEM (Base64, ASCII text) format, and DER (binary) format.

A ____ validates the unique identifying information and public key information submitted by a requester and creates a digital certificate which essentially binds the requester's identity and public key to the certificate.

- CSR
- RA
- CA
- CRL - CORRECT ANSWERS-CA

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WGU Introduction to Cryptography HNO1 Sample Questions (Q45-Q50):

NEW QUESTION # 45

(Which authentication method allows a customer to authenticate to a web service?)

- A. One-way server authentication
- B. Mutual authentication
- C. One-way client authentication
- D. End-to-end authentication

Answer: C

Explanation:

One-way client authentication is the method where the client (customer) proves its identity to the server (web service). In cryptographic terms, this is commonly implemented through client credentials such as client TLS certificates (mTLS from the server's perspective) or through authentication protocols layered over TLS (for example, signed tokens), but the defining direction is that the client is the party being authenticated. In a strict TLS certificate-authentication framing, client authentication occurs when the server requests a client certificate during the handshake and the client demonstrates possession of the corresponding private key (via signature in handshake messages). The server then validates the client certificate chain and authorization policy. One-way server authentication, by contrast, authenticates only the server to the client and does not identify the customer. Mutual authentication authenticates both sides simultaneously; while it includes client authentication, it is broader than what the question asks. "End-to-end authentication" describes assurance between endpoints across intermediaries, but it is not the specific "customer authenticates to service" method in certificate-based terminology. Therefore, the best answer is one-way client authentication.

NEW QUESTION # 46

(How often are transactions added to a blockchain?)

- A. Approximately every 10 minutes
- B. Approximately every 24 hours
- C. Approximately every 1 hour
- D. Approximately every 30 minutes

Answer: A

Explanation:

For Bitcoin, transactions are confirmed by inclusion in blocks, and the network targets an average block interval of about 10 minutes. That means transactions are "added" to the Bitcoin blockchain approximately every 10 minutes in the sense that a new block containing a batch of transactions is appended at that cadence. The 10-minute target is achieved by a difficulty adjustment mechanism that recalibrates mining difficulty roughly every 2016 blocks, aiming to keep the average interval stable despite changes in total network hash power. It is important to note that this is an average: blocks can be found faster or slower in the short term due to the probabilistic nature of proof-of-work mining.

Other blockchains have different block times (seconds to minutes), but the question's options and typical curriculum context align with Bitcoin's 10-minute design. Therefore, the correct choice is approximately every 10 minutes.

NEW QUESTION # 47

(Which mechanism can be applied to protect the integrity of plaintext when using AES?)

- A. Kerberos key sharing
- B. RC4
- C. Message Authentication Code (MAC)
- D. RSA

Answer: C

Explanation:

AES by itself is a symmetric block cipher that provides confidentiality, but not guaranteed integrity unless used in an authenticated mode. To protect integrity of the plaintext (ensuring it has not been altered), a Message Authentication Code (MAC) can be applied. In the classic Encrypt-then-MAC pattern, the sender encrypts the plaintext with AES and then computes a MAC (often HMAC-SHA-256 or CMAC-AES) over the ciphertext (and relevant headers). The receiver verifies the MAC before attempting decryption, preventing tampering and many padding-oracle style vulnerabilities.

Alternatively, AES can be used in an AEAD mode like AES-GCM, which produces an authentication tag serving a similar purpose, but among the listed options the general integrity mechanism is "MAC." RC4 is an unrelated stream cipher and does not provide integrity. RSA is asymmetric and not the standard integrity add-on for AES-encrypted bulk data. Kerberos is an authentication protocol and key distribution system, not a message integrity primitive. Therefore, to protect plaintext integrity when using AES, the correct mechanism is a Message Authentication Code.

NEW QUESTION # 48

(What is the maximum key size (in bits) supported by AES?)

- A. 0
- B. 1
- C. 2
- **D. 3**

Answer: D

Explanation:

AES supports three standardized key sizes: 128, 192, and 256 bits, with a fixed block size of 128 bits.

The maximum of these supported key sizes is 256 bits (AES-256). Key size affects resistance to brute-force key search: larger keys exponentially increase the search space. In practice, AES-128 is already considered strong against brute force with contemporary computing capabilities, while AES-256 is often chosen for compliance requirements, conservative security margins, or to hedge against future advances. AES-512 is not part of the AES standard; if 512-bit keys are desired, systems typically use different constructions (like using AES-256 in certain key-derivation or wrapping schemes) rather than changing AES itself. Therefore, the correct maximum supported AES key size is 256 bits.

NEW QUESTION # 49

(What is a component of a one-time password (OTP) that is needed to guess future iterations of passwords?)

- A. Encryption algorithm
- B. Function
- C. Initialization vector
- **D. Seed**

Answer: D

Explanation:

OTP systems (such as HOTP and TOTP) generate a sequence of passwords using a shared secret and a moving factor (counter or time). The critical secret that underpins the ability to compute past or future OTP values is the seed (also called the shared secret key). In HOTP, the seed is used with an HMAC function and an incrementing counter; in TOTP, the seed is used with HMAC and a time-step value. If an attacker obtains the seed and knows the algorithm and moving factor, they can compute future OTPs. The "function" and "encryption algorithm" are typically standardized and public; security relies on keeping the seed secret. An initialization vector is not a standard OTP component in HOTP

/TOTP generation. Therefore, the component needed to predict future OTP values is the seed.

Protecting the seed is essential: it should be stored securely (e.g., hardware token secure storage) and transmitted only through controlled provisioning processes. If compromised, OTP becomes predictable and no longer serves as a strong second factor.

NEW QUESTION # 50

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