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Introduction to Cryptography - D334 ACTUAL EXAM QUESTIONS WITH COMPLETE SOLUTION GUIDE (A+ GRADED 100% VERIFIED) LATEST VERSION 2025!!



Terms in this set (250)

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| XOR the following 0101110101010111 1001100000111010 ----- | 1100010101101101 |
| asymmetric key-based encryption -typical methods | RSA DSA El Gamal |
| Symmetric key-based encryption -Typical Methods | RC2- 40 bit key size 64 bit block. RC4- (Stream Cipher)- Used in SSL and WEP RC5- (Variable Key size, 32, 64, or 128 bit block size) AES- (128, 192 or 256 bit key size, 128 bit block size) DES- (56 bit key size, 64 bit Block size) 3DES- (112 bit key size, 64 bit block size) |

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WGU Introduction to Cryptography HNO1 Sample Questions (Q13-Q18):

NEW QUESTION # 13

(Which additional input element can be used to implement integrity in combination with symmetric ciphers?)

- A. Encoding algorithm
- B. Initialization vector
- C. Nonce value
- **D. Hash function**

Answer: D

Explanation:

Symmetric encryption alone typically provides confidentiality, but it does not automatically provide integrity. Many encryption modes (especially older ones like CBC without authentication) are malleable, meaning an attacker may be able to modify ciphertext and cause predictable changes in plaintext after decryption. To add integrity, systems commonly combine symmetric encryption with a cryptographic hash-based integrity mechanism, such as a hash function used in an HMAC (Hash-based Message Authentication Code) or a dedicated authenticated-encryption mode like GCM that internally uses authentication tags. Among the given options, a hash function is the fundamental additional element that enables integrity checks: it allows construction of a MAC (e.g., HMAC-SHA-256) that the receiver verifies to detect any tampering. An initialization vector and a nonce value are used to ensure uniqueness and randomness properties for encryption but do not, by themselves, guarantee integrity.

An encoding algorithm changes representation, not security. Therefore, the correct additional input element for implementing integrity alongside symmetric encryption is a hash function, typically as part of an HMAC or similar MAC construction.

NEW QUESTION # 14

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

Answer: B

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 # 15

(What is an attribute of RC4 when used with WEP?)

- **A. 40-bit key**
- B. 128-bit key
- C. 512-bit key
- D. 256-bit key

Answer: A

Explanation:

In classic WEP deployments, RC4 was used with what is commonly called "40-bit WEP" (also labeled "64-bit WEP" because it combines a 40-bit secret key with a 24-bit IV to form a 64-bit RC4 seed). The key attribute emphasized in many foundational descriptions of WEP is this 40-bit shared secret length, which was originally chosen due to export restrictions and legacy constraints. Although "104-bit WEP" (sometimes called "128-bit WEP," again counting the 24-bit IV) also existed, the option set here points to the historically standard and widely referenced attribute: a 40-bit key when RC4 is used in WEP. Importantly, WEP's security failure is not only about key size; the 24-bit IV is too small and repeats frequently, and WEP's key scheduling vulnerabilities combined with IV reuse allow attackers to recover the secret key with enough captured frames. Still, among the given options, the correct attribute is the 40-bit key.

NEW QUESTION # 16

(What is used to randomize the initial value when generating Initialization Vectors (IVs)?)

- A. Algorithm
- **B. Nonce**
- C. Key
- D. Plaintext

Answer: B

Explanation:

An IV (Initialization Vector) is a value used to ensure that encrypting identical plaintext under the same key produces different ciphertexts, preventing pattern leakage. In many secure designs, the IV must be unique (and often unpredictable) per encryption operation. A common way to ensure uniqueness is to incorporate a nonce—a "number used once." A nonce can be random, pseudo-random, or a counter-based value depending on the mode and security requirements. For example, CTR mode uses a nonce combined with a counter to produce unique input blocks; GCM uses a nonce/IV to ensure unique authentication and encryption behavior. The encryption key should remain stable across many operations and should not be used as the "randomizer" for IV generation; mixing key material into IV creation in an ad hoc way can create reuse or correlation issues. Plaintext and algorithm do not provide the needed uniqueness property. The nonce concept is specifically about ensuring one-time uniqueness of the starting value so that IV reuse does not repeat keystream blocks (stream modes) or reveal plaintext equality (CBC/CTR). Therefore, the correct choice is Nonce.

NEW QUESTION # 17

(Which operation can be performed on a certificate during the "Issued" stage?)

- A. Creation
- B. Key archiving
- C. Key recovery
- **D. Distribution**

Answer: D

Explanation:

The "Issued" stage in a certificate lifecycle indicates that the certificate has been generated and signed by the issuing CA and is now valid for use (subject to validity dates, policy constraints, and revocation status). At this point, the operational focus shifts from creating the certificate to making it available to the subject and relying parties. "Distribution" is the lifecycle activity most directly associated with an issued certificate: installing it on servers or endpoints, provisioning it into keystores, publishing it to directories if required, and ensuring the chain (intermediates) is accessible for validation. By contrast, "Creation" is earlier in the process (key generation, CSR creation, identity validation, issuance/signing). "Key recovery" and "key archiving" relate to private key management and escrow policies (often for encryption keys, not signing keys), and are governed by organizational policy and key management systems rather than the certificate's issued state itself. A certificate can be distributed after issuance regardless of whether any key escrow features exist. Therefore, the operation that fits the certificate's "Issued" stage best is distribution of the issued credential for operational use.

NEW QUESTION # 18

