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Middlebox Security Protocol;
Part 3: Profile for enterprise network and
data centre access control**

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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Cyber Security (CYBER).

The present document is part 3 of a multi-part deliverable. Full details of the entire series can be found in part 1 [i.1].

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

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Executive summary

Requirements - such as legal mandates and service agreements - exist for enterprise network and data centre operators and service providers, organizations, and small businesses to be able to observe and audit the content and metadata of encrypted sessions transported across their infrastructures [i.2]. The original TLS protocol standard adopted in 1994 and its subsequent versions up to and including TLS 1.2, provided for these capabilities [i.3] and [1]. The latest version of the protocol, TLS 1.3, does not provide for these capabilities [2]. Where these capabilities do not exist, this new encryption protocol could be blocked altogether at the enterprise gateway, forcing users to revert to older, less secure protocols.

The present document is one of a series of implementation profiles that, to achieve these required capabilities, puts the enterprise operators and users in control of the access to their data for cyber defence and prevents unauthorized access. It sets forth a "Profile for an enterprise network and data centre access control" called eTLS that meets several desired capabilities for the Middlebox Security Protocol MSP [i.1].

Introduction

The present document specifies an implementation variant of Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 1.3 [2] - which is the latest version in a series of TLS protocol standards extending back to 1994 [i.3] and [1]. This implementation variant is denoted eTLS ("enterprise TLS") because one of its primary use cases is in enterprise networks and data centres.

TLS 1.3 [2] introduces several significant changes compared with TLS 1.2 [1]. One of these changes is the removal of support for RSA key exchange and static Diffie-Hellman key exchange. The primary key exchange mechanism in TLS 1.3 is ephemeral Diffie-Hellman. Ephemeral Diffie-Hellman prevents passive decryption of TLS 1.3 sessions at any scale. However, there are operational circumstances where passive decryption of TLS sessions by authorized entities is a requirement. The decryption may need to be performed in real-time, or the packets may need to be stored and decrypted post-capture.

Situations requiring passive decryption of TLS sessions generally occur in environments where both the client and server, and by inference the data being exchanged over the TLS session, are under the control of the same entity. TLS encryption is often stipulated by internal or external security policies, but access to the unencrypted packet data is required for operational reasons, including:

- Application health monitoring and troubleshooting.
- Intrusion detection.
- Detection of malware activity, e.g. command and control, and data exfiltration traffic.
- Detection of advanced distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks.
- Compliance audits.

One possible approach to passively decrypting TLS 1.3 sessions is to export the ephemeral keys generated for each TLS session to middleboxes. However, this approach has several significant limitations. Firstly, it is very difficult to ensure that the exported ephemeral keys will arrive at the middlebox in sufficient time to allow decryption in real-time. Secondly, the keys need to be correlated with every stored packet session in anticipation of post-capture decryption. For these reasons, this approach does not scale to the needs of a data centre.

eTLS therefore uses longer-lived static Diffie-Hellman keys that are re-used across multiple sessions; keys could be rotated daily or weekly. This ensures that the keys can be distributed to real-time decryption middleboxes in advance, and it greatly reduces the number of keys to be stored and correlated with packet storage systems.

eTLS requires the server to report visibility information in its certificate, to indicate to the client that eTLS is in use with a particular static Diffie-Hellman public key, and to describe the set of entities or roles or domains, or any combination of these, for which the policy of the party signing the certificate allows sharing of the corresponding private key.

There are limited but essential circumstances in which the visibility information is not suitable; this case is described in annex A, which creates an exception of eTLS where this visibility information is not sent. When there is sufficient support of eTLS, then the annex A exception will be deprecated, as annex A is not fully MSP-compliant.

eTLS is compatible with any TLS 1.3 compliant client. Annex B defines the concept of an "eTLS Aware Client" whereby a TLS 1.3 client provides additional capabilities that use the eTLS visibility information to control when eTLS sessions are to be accepted.

1 Scope

The present document specifies a protocol to enable secure communication sessions between network endpoints and one or more enterprise networks or between data centre middleboxes using encryption, whilst enabling network operations. The present document specifies an implementation variant of Transport Layer Security (TLS) version 1.3, called "eTLS" [2].

The present document describes two eTLS architectures; one for the situation where the originating server is an eTLS server inside the enterprise; and one for the situation where the originating server is a TLS 1.3 server outside the enterprise. The Diffie-Hellman key exchange and visibility information for negotiating the eTLS protocol setup is specified.

The actions of the client on receiving the visibility information and structure of the policy included in the visibility information are not normatively defined; however, capabilities for an "eTLS aware client" are defined in annex B. The means by which eTLS endpoints share the Diffie-Hellman key with key consumers is specified, and examples are provided.

The present document describes a variant of eTLS in annex A, which is not fully MSP compliant and to be used in only essential cases, as visibility information is not supported.

The present document also includes the security guarantees made by eTLS, based on the security guarantees of TLS 1.3. Annex C details description of applicable MSP protocol profile requirements to eTLS, taken from the draft specification of ETSI TS 103 523-1 [i.1], such that this MSP Part may be a standalone document. A final mapping of MSP protocol profile requirements to eTLS is left to a future version of the present document.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] IETF RFC 5246: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.2".
- [2] IETF RFC 8446: "The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.3".
- [3] IETF RFC 5958: "Asymmetric Key Packages".
- [4] IETF RFC 7906: "NSA's Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) Key Management Attributes".
- [5] IETF RFC 3279: "Algorithms and Identifiers for the Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile".
- [6] IETF RFC 5480: "Elliptic Curve Cryptography Subject Public Key Information".
- [7] IETF RFC 5915: "Elliptic Curve Private Key Structure".
- [9] IETF RFC 5280: "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile".
- [10] Recommendation ITU-T X.509 (10/2016) | ISO/IEC 9594-8: "Information technology - Open Systems Interconnection - The Directory: Public-key and attribute certificate frameworks".

- [11] IETF RFC 2818: "HTTP Over TLS".
- [12] FIPS 180-4: "Secure Hash Standard".
- [13] IETF RFC 7231: "Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP/1.1): Semantics and Content".

2.2 Informative references

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The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] ETSI TS 103 523-1: "CYBER; Middlebox Security Protocol; Part 1: Capability Requirements".
- [i.2] S. Fenter: "Why Enterprises Need Out-of-Band TLS Decryption", IETF, 2018.
- [i.3] Recommendation ITU-T X.274 (1994) | ISO/IEC 10736:1995: "Transport Layer Security Protocol".
- [i.4] IETF RFC 5652: "Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS)".
- [i.5] IETF RFC 5083: "Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) Authenticated-Enveloped-Data Content Type".

3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

1-sided: middlebox traffic observability enabled unilaterally by one endpoint such that the other endpoint is not able to reject or negotiate the traffic observability, other than by ceasing the communication

eTLS: MSP profile described in the present document

single-context: access is granted, or not granted, only to the entire data stream, not to portions of the data stream

3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

ASN	Abstract Syntax Notation
CMS	Cryptographic Message Syntax
DDOS	Distributed Denial Of Service
DER	Distinguished Encoding Rules
eTLS	enterprise TLS
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
MSP	Middlebox Security Protocol
RSA	Rivest-Shamir-Adleman
TLS	Transport Layer Security

4 The eTLS MSP profile

4.1 MSP requirements mapping

MSP Part 1 [i.1] will define several Capability Requirements that are demanded of a profile wishing to comply with the MSP framework. The full and complete mapping of MSP Part 1 requirements to eTLS, the profile described in the current document, is left to a future revision of the present document when MSP Part 1 [i.1] is finalized. However, desired capabilities of MSP profiles are mapped to relevant properties of eTLS in annex C.

For any mapping, an MSP profile needs categorizing as a 1-sided or 2-sided profile with single or fine-grained context, as defined in the planned MSP Part 1 [i.1]. This categorization determines the mandatory and optional requirements that the MSP profile needs to satisfy.

eTLS is a 1-sided MSP profile, as only one endpoint will be using a static Diffie-Hellman key, and so that endpoint unilaterally enables traffic observability. eTLS is also single-context, as access is granted, or not granted, only to the entire data stream.

4.2 eTLS implementation architecture

4.2.1 eTLS with enterprise servers

Figure 4.1 depicts the eTLS implementation architecture when used with enterprise servers. TLS connections to clients that are external to an enterprise network or data centre may be made using TLS 1.3 [2], using forward secrecy and enhanced protections.

The firewall terminates the Internet TLS 1.3 sessions and uses eTLS between the firewall and the web server, with the firewall acting as the TLS client. Middlebox A is authorized to inspect the traffic flowing between the firewall and the web server. It therefore receives a passive copy of these packets along with a copy of the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair (A) used by the web server.

EXAMPLE 1: Middlebox A decrypts the traffic in real-time to perform intrusion detection.

The web server acts as a TLS client in its connection to the application server. In this case, Middlebox B is authorized to inspect the traffic flowing between the two servers, and it decrypts the TLS sessions using the application server's static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair (B).

EXAMPLE 2: Middlebox B decrypts the traffic in real-time to provide application health monitoring, but also stores the encrypted packets so they can be decrypted at a later date for compliance and auditing purposes.

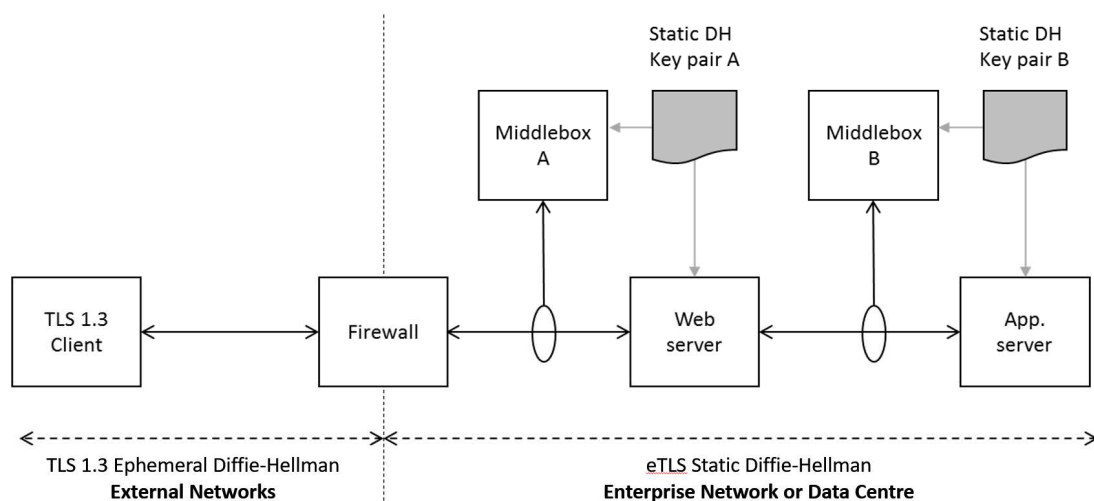


Figure 4.1: eTLS architecture with enterprise servers

4.2.2 eTLS with enterprise clients

Figure 4.2 depicts the eTLS implementation architecture when used with enterprise clients. TLS connections to servers that are external to an enterprise network may be made using TLS 1.3 [2], using forward secrecy and enhanced protections.

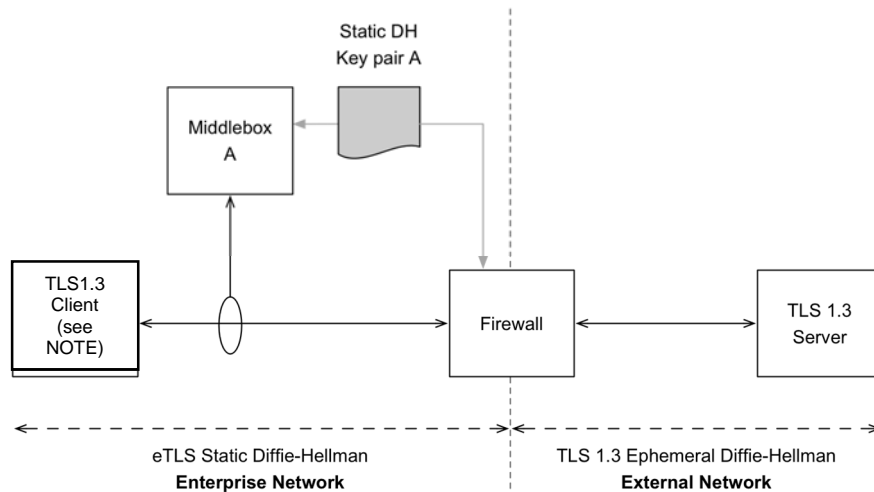


Figure 4.2: eTLS architecture with enterprise clients

The firewall terminates the enterprise network sessions that are using eTLS, with the firewall acting as the eTLS server. The firewall then acts as the TLS 1.3 client and uses TLS 1.3 to communicate to the TLS 1.3 server on the external network. Middlebox A is authorized to inspect the traffic flowing between the client and the firewall. It therefore receives a passive copy of these packets along with a copy of the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair (A) used by the firewall, in its role as the eTLS server.

NOTE: Although the client is participating in an eTLS connection, it is a TLS 1.3 compliant client.

EXAMPLE: Middlebox A decrypts the traffic in real-time to perform malware detection or data loss prevention.

4.3 eTLS protocol

4.3.1 Normal TLS 1.3 Diffie-Hellman key exchange

For reference, a description of the normal TLS 1.3 Diffie-Hellman key exchange is included. Unless a pre-shared key is in use, the TLS 1.3 key exchange mechanism proceeds at the start of a new session as follows [2]:

- 1) The client generates an ephemeral Diffie-Hellman public and private key. The public key is transmitted to the server in a "key_share" message with a random client nonce.
- 2) The server generates an ephemeral Diffie-Hellman public and private key. The public key is transmitted to the client in a "key_share" message with a random server nonce.
- 3) The client and server each use a combination of their own private keys and the public key received from the other side of the connection to generate a shared secret.
- 4) The client and server then use the shared secret along with the initial handshake messages, which include the nonces, to generate a set of handshake traffic keys for encryption of the remainder of the handshake.
- 5) During the remainder of the handshake, the server sends its certificate encrypted using a handshake traffic key.
- 6) Upon completion of the handshake, the client and server then use the shared secret along with various elements of the handshake messages, which again include the nonces, to generate a set of application traffic keys for the session.
- 7) The application traffic keys are used to encrypt further data exchanged between the client and server.

4.3.2 eTLS Diffie-Hellman key exchange

The eTLS key exchange shall use exactly the same messages and procedures to establish a set of session keys as a TLS 1.3 ephemeral Diffie-Hellman key exchange, except for two differences [2].

- 1) the server shall use a static public/private key pair at Step 2 in clause 4.3.1; and
- 2) the server's certificate at Step 5 shall contain visibility information as defined in clause 4.3.3 to indicate to the client that eTLS is in use.

NOTE: Neither the static public key nor the visibility information affects the operation of a TLS 1.3 compliant client, so an eTLS server is therefore fully interoperable with TLS 1.3 compliant clients.

The eTLS server shall be provisioned with a static key pair for each elliptic curve (or finite field length) supported by the server. These key pairs may be shared with middleboxes that are authorized to decrypt sessions from the server as shown in Figure 4.1.

The static key pair shall be:

- 1) installed directly on the server and rotated as necessary, described in clause 4.3.4; or
- 2) downloaded from a central key manager and updated as necessary, described in clause 4.3.5.

4.3.3 Visibility information

In eTLS, the server certificate, as defined in Recommendation ITU-T X.509 [10], shall send visibility information in its certificate that shall:

- 1) Indicate that eTLS is being used.
- 2) Be bound to the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair for Step 2 of the eTLS protocol, described in clause 4.3.2. This public/private key pair shall not be the same as the certificate subject's public/private key pair (defined in clause 4.1.2.7 Subject Public Key Info of IETF RFC 5280 [9]), which is used for the signature in the CertificateVerify message (defined in clause 4.4.3 Certificate Verify of IETF RFC 8446 [2]).
- 3) Identify, either generally or specifically, the controlling or authorizing entities or roles or domains, or any combination of these, of any middleboxes that may be allowed access to the eTLS static Diffie-Hellman private key described in clause 4.3.2 of the present document.

The above 3 points describe the Visibility Information field, which shall be defined by the following ASN.1 type:

```
VisibilityInformation ::= SEQUENCE {
    fingerprint      OCTET STRING (SIZE(10)),
    accessDescription UTF8String }
```

where the SHA-256 digest of the static Diffie-Hellman public key as transmitted in the key_share extension of the ServerHello message shall be represented as the vector of 32-bit words (H_0, H_1, \dots, H_7) as defined in FIPS 180-4 [12]. The fingerprint field shall be set to $H_0 || H_1 || (H_2 \gg 16)$, which is the first 80 bits of the digest vector read in big-endian format. The accessDescription field shall be a human-readable text string that identifies, either generally or specifically, the controlling or authorizing entities or roles or domains, or any combination of these, of any middleboxes that may be allowed access to the eTLS static Diffie-Hellman private key.

The Visibility Information field shall be sent as an otherName field entry of the subjectAltName as defined in clause 4.2.1.6 Subject Alternative Name of IETF RFC 5280 [9]. The type-id shall be set to the Object Identifier 0.4.0.3523.3.1 {itu-t(0) identified-organization(4) etsi(0) msp(3523) etls(3) visibility(1)} and the contents of value shall be set to the DER encoding of VisibilityInformation.

Thus fingerprint, in conjunction with the certificate's validity period, binds the certificate to a particular static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair. The accessDescription allows the endpoints to identify, either generally or specifically, the controlling or authorizing entities or roles or domains, or any combination of these, of any middleboxes that may be given the ability to decrypt data protected by the corresponding eTLS key exchange.

The accessDescription field shall be accurate; a structure for the description may be introduced in a future version of eTLS.

The server may bind multiple static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pairs to a single certificate by including a `subjectAltName` containing `VisibilityInformation` for each key pair.

The recommended actions of the client on receiving the visibility information can be found in annex B.

A variant of eTLS, where `VisibilityInformation` is not sent, is described in annex A. This variant is to be used in only essential use cases.

4.3.4 Directly installed keys

The means by which an eTLS implementation shares the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair of clause 4.3.3 between an eTLS server and a middlebox is not specified, however the current clause and subsequent clauses 4.3.5 to 4.3.8 provide possible means without being exhaustive. The current clause describes perhaps the simplest means, which is that the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair is directly installed in both the eTLS server and permitted middleboxes.

4.3.5 Centrally managed keys

Figure 4.3 shows the basic architecture for using a central key manager to deploy the eTLS static Diffie-Hellman key pairs to a key consumer, which could be an eTLS server or a passive decryption middlebox.

The key manager generates the key pair. The key manager can actively push keys to the key consumer or the key consumer can request keys. The key pair package is specified in clause 4.3.6. Protection of the key package is specified in clause 4.3.7 and the transfer mechanism is specified in clause 4.3.8.

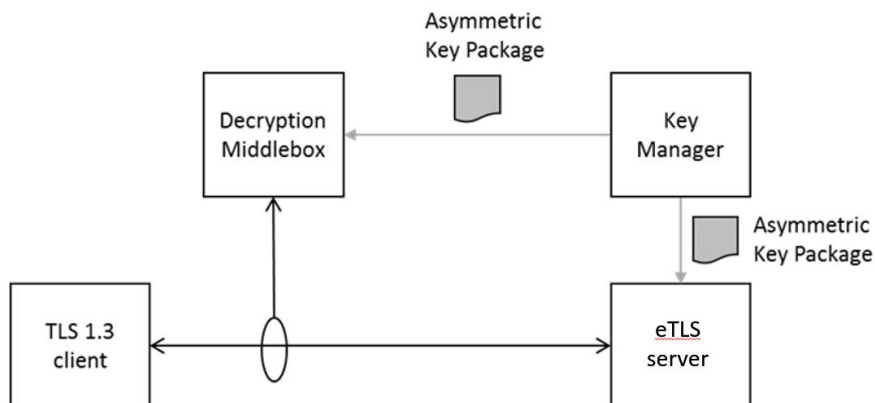


Figure 4.3: Architecture for centrally managed static Diffie-Hellman key pairs

NOTE: In the scenario where a key manager generates the static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair for installation on both the server and any decryption appliances, it would be natural for the key manager to generate the server certificate at the same time for each key pair.

4.3.6 Asymmetric key package

When an eTLS static Diffie-Hellman public/private key pair are sent from the key manager to a key consumer, they shall be packaged using the Asymmetric Key Package defined in IETF RFC 5958 [3]. Each Asymmetric Key Package shall contain one or more `OneAsymmetricKey` elements. Such an element will be one of either:

- a) a static Diffie-Hellman key pair, hereafter referred to as Type A elements; or
- b) a private signing key and a certificate, hereafter referred to as Type B elements.

First the case is defined where elements are static Diffie-Hellman key pairs, and so the Asymmetric Key Package shall contain fields and attributes pertaining to these key pairs, defined below. Though certificates are not sent in the same OneAsymmetricKey element as a static key pair, each Asymmetric Key Package may contain one or more Type B elements (server certificates and corresponding private signing keys). Where such Type B elements are sent, all certificates in the Asymmetric Key Package shall be bound to all of the static Diffie-Hellman key pairs in the Asymmetric Key Package. The use of multiple certificates is intended for the situation where it is necessary to provide certificates with different signature algorithms.

With reference to clause 2 of IETF RFC 5958 [3], the Type A OneAsymmetricKey element used to store each key pair in the Asymmetric Key Package shall have the following fields set as follows:

- 1) Version shall be set to version 2 (integer value of 1).
- 2) privateKeyAlgorithm shall be set to the key pair algorithm identifier (see below).
- 3) privateKey shall be set to the Diffie-Hellman private key encoded as an octet string.
- 4) publicKey shall be set to the Diffie-Hellman public key encoded as a bit string.
- 5) Attributes shall include a validity period for the key pair using the attribute defined in clause 15 of IETF RFC 7906 [4].

The algorithm identifier used in the privateKeyAlgorithm fields shall be as defined in clause 2.3.3 of IETF RFC 3279 [5] for Finite Field Diffie-Hellman keys, using IETF RFC 5480 [6] to replace the information in IETF RFC 3279 [5] that relates to Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman algorithm identifiers. Clause 3 of IETF RFC 5915 [7] provides information for encoding the ECPrivateKey field in Elliptic Curve algorithm identifiers.

EXAMPLE 1: Finite Field Diffie-Hellman (defined in clause 2.3.3 of IETF RFC 3279 [5]):

object identifier: { 1 2 840 10046 2 1 }
 parameter encoding: DomainParameters
 private key encoding: INTEGER
 public key encoding: INTEGER

EXAMPLE 2: Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman (defined as the "restricted" algorithm in clause 2.1.2 of IETF RFC 5480 [6]):

object identifier: { 1 3 132 1 12 }
 parameter encoding: ECParameters
 private key encoding: ECPrivateKey
 public key encoding: ECPoint

When the package contains one or more server certificates and corresponding private signing keys, the certificates shall include a subjectAltName containing VisibilityInformation, as defined in clause 4.3.3, for each static Diffie-Hellman key pair in the Asymmetric Key Package. The OneAsymmetricKey elements of Type B in the Asymmetric Key Package shall be the last elements in the package. The Type B OneAsymmetricKey elements shall have the following fields set as follows:

- 1) Version shall be set to version 1 (integer value of 0).
- 2) privateKeyAlgorithm shall be set to the same value that appears in the algorithm field of the signatureAlgorithm field of the enclosed X.509 Certificate, as defined in clause 4.1.1.2 of IETF RFC 5280 [9].
- 3) privateKey shall be set as defined in clause 2 of IETF RFC 5958 [3].
- 4) publicKey shall not be present.
- 5) Attributes shall include a userCertificate attribute, as defined in clause 8 of IETF RFC 7906 [4], containing the server certificate.

4.3.7 Protecting the key package

The Cryptographic Message Syntax (CMS) defined in IETF RFC 5652 [i.i.4] and IETF RFC 5083 [i.i.5] may be used to provide authentication, integrity and/or confidentiality to the Asymmetric Key Package transported between the key manager and the key consumer.

4.3.8 Transferring keys

4.3.8.1 Protocol overview

eTLS Asymmetric Key Packages shall be transferred between the key manager and key consumer using HTTPS [11]. The HTTP messages containing key packages shall comprise a suitable HTTP header followed by the Asymmetric Key Package encoded using Distinguished Encoding Rules (DER) in binary format. The HTTP Content-Type header shall be set to application/pkcs8 for plaintext packages and set to application/cms if the package is encapsulated using CMS.

4.3.8.2 Transfer initiated by the key manager

Key consumers may support key transfers initiated by the key manager via an HTTPS key installation service, whereby the key manager initiates an HTTPS connection to the key consumer, which acts as an HTTP server.

When key transfers initiated by the key manager via an HTTPS key installation service are supported by the key consumer, the key consumer shall support receiving a key package via an HTTP PUT request to a request-target, given here in origin-form, of /etls/keys. When key transfers initiated by the key manager via an HTTPS key installation service are not supported by the key consumer, how the key consumer receives key packages is out of scope of the present document.

It is the responsibility of the key consumer to determine that the key manager is authorized to provide keys, and it is the responsibility of the key manager to determine that the key consumer is authorized to receive these keys.

4.3.8.3 Transfer initiated by the key consumer

Key managers may support key transfers initiated by the key consumer via an HTTPS key retrieval service, whereby the key consumer initiates an HTTPS connection to the key manager, which acts as an HTTP server.

When key transfers initiated by the key consumer via an HTTPS key retrieval service are not supported by the key manager, how the key consumer retrieves the key package is out of scope of the present document.

When key transfers initiated by the key consumer via an HTTPS key retrieval service are supported by the key manager, the key manager shall both support retrieval of a key package via all of the following HTTP GET requests (request-targets shown in origin-form):

- 1) GET /etls/keys?fingerprints=[fingerprints], where:
 - a) fingerprints shall be present and its value, [fingerprints], shall be either empty or shall be a comma-separated list of the hexadecimal string representation where each entry in the list is the static Diffie-Hellman public key fingerprint, as defined in clause 4.3.3, for which the corresponding public/private key pairs are being requested.
 - b) The key manager shall return a key package that contains the corresponding public/private key pair for each fingerprint for which it has a record. In the unlikely case that the key manager has more than one public/private key pair corresponding to a given fingerprint, it shall return all of them in the key package. If [fingerprints] is empty, the actions of the implementation are out of scope of the present document.
 - c) The key manager shall return an appropriate HTTP error code if there is not at least one matching public/private key pair [13].

EXAMPLE 1: The key consumer requests two keys, one with the fingerprint 00010203040506070809 and the other with the fingerprint 09080706050403020100. The key consumer supports responses in either format. The HTTP GET request would be:

```
GET
/etls/keys?fingerprints=00010203040506070809,09080706050403020100
Accept: application/pkcs8, application/cms
```

- 2) GET /etls/keys?groups=[groups]&certs=[sigalgs]&context=contextstr, where:
- a) groups shall be non-empty and its value, [groups], shall be a comma-separated list where each entry in the list is a NamedGroup value defined in clause 4.2.7 in IETF RFC 8446 [2], represented in hexadecimal notation, for which an associated static Diffie-Hellman key pair is being requested.
 - b) certs may be included. If certs is included, its value, [sigalgs], shall be a comma-separated list where each entry is a colon-separated pair of SignatureScheme values defined in clause B.3.1.3 in IETF RFC 8446 [2], in hexadecimal notation. The first value in the pair shall indicate the requested algorithm for the certificate issuer to use to sign the certificate. The second value in the pair shall indicate the requested algorithm to be used to generate the certificate subject's signing key pair. If certs is included, then for each entry in the list, the key consumer shall request one additional server certificate using that scheme, which is bound to all returned key pairs. If certs is not included, then no certificates are being requested, and so none shall be provided by the key manager.
 - c) context may be included. If context is included, its value, contextstr, is a free string that the key manager shall use to determine what key pair and certificate contents to return. The structure of contextstr is not specified in the present document.
 - d) The key manager shall return a key package containing a static Diffie-Hellman key pair for each group listed in [groups] that the key manager supports. For each static Diffie-Hellman key pair in the key package, the key manager shall also return a corresponding server certificate for each given signature algorithm pair listed in [sigalgs] that it supports.
 - e) If no group in [groups] is supported by the key manager, the key manager shall return an appropriate HTTP error code as defined in clause 6 of IETF RFC 7231 [13]. If the key manager is unable to use contextstr, the key manager may return an appropriate HTTP error code, as defined in clause 6 of IETF RFC 7231 [13], or it may handle the error itself in a way outside the scope of the present document.

EXAMPLE 2: The key consumer requests two keys, one that uses secp384r1 and one that uses x25519. The key consumer also requests two corresponding certificates bound to both of these keys. Of these two certificates:

- 1) One requests to be signed with rsa_pkcs1_sha256 and to be associated with a rsa_pss_pss_sha256 subject signing key.
- 2) The other is requested to be signed with ecdsa_secp384r1_sha384 and to be associated with an ecdsa_secp384r1_sha384 subject signing key.

The key consumer requests the resulting key package in only the pkcs8 format. The HTTP GET request would be:

```
GET
/etls/keys?groups=0x0018,0x001d&certs=0x0401:0x0809,0x0503:0x0503
Accept: application/pkcs8
```

It is the responsibility of the key consumer to determine that the key manager is authorized to provide keys, and it is the responsibility of the key manager to determine that the key consumer is authorized to receive these keys.

5 Security

eTLS does not provide all of the security guarantees provided by TLS 1.3.

EXAMPLE 1: eTLS does not provide per-session forward secrecy. Knowledge of a given static Diffie-Hellman private key can be used to decrypt all sessions encrypted with that key, and forward secrecy for all of those sessions begins when all copies of that static Diffie-Hellman private key have been destroyed.

This relaxation is deliberate. With proper management of the static Diffie-Hellman private key, eTLS maintains a high-degree of authentication, integrity and confidentiality while also ensuring that:

- a) security breaches are rapidly detected;
- b) service availability is maximized by ensuring that services and application problems can be rapidly detected and rectified.

It is the responsibility of each entity deploying eTLS to evaluate the trade-off between the security guarantees of TLS 1.3 and the operational visibility provided by eTLS.

EXAMPLE 2: An organization uses TLS 1.3 to connect to clients external to the enterprise network or data centre, but uses eTLS for connections within its own data centre and cloud deployments (as in Figure 4.1). An organization can rotate their keys as frequently as they choose for forward secrecy.

If the eTLS implementation is combined with a TLS 1.3 implementation that otherwise conforms to IETF RFC 8446 [2], use of the eTLS mode of operation shall be explicitly enabled using a configuration option that can be easily inspected, described further in annex B.

As well as meeting TLS 1.3 security guarantees, with the exemption described in Example 1, eTLS is also mapped against other desired capability properties for MSP in annex C.

Annex A describes a non-MSP compliant variant of eTLS. Annex A variant meets the security guarantees of TLS 1.3 the same as the full eTLS protocol (i.e. with the exemption described in example 1), but it is non-MSP compliant, as described in annex A.

Annex A (informative): Middlebox visibility information variant

In some essential circumstances, the visibility information field may be omitted. This case is described in the present annex.

EXAMPLE: Use of the certificate extension defined in clause 4.3.3 can lead to incompatibilities if the client exhibits non-standards compliant behaviour.

The present annex establishes a variant of the eTLS protocol that was defined in clause 4, which is the same in all respects except that the server sends no visibility information and thus clause 4.3.3 is not carried out.

Not all of the requirements specified in annex C are then met by the present annex variant. In particular, the following visibility requirements are not met, denoted as f), g), h) and l) in annex C:

- a) Client able to learn the owner of all middleboxes.
- b) Client able to learn the identity and function of all third-party middleboxes or groups of third-party middleboxes (i.e. middleboxes not under ownership of client or server endpoints).
- c) Client able to learn the identity and function of all middleboxes or groups of middleboxes.
- d) Client and server able to receive, if requested, validation of identity by each middlebox.

This is because the client could be unaware that eTLS and therefore static Diffie-Hellman is in use, as it is not given the information relating to the use of the static Diffie-Hellman key.

Therefore, sending visibility information is substantially encouraged, and widespread adoption of the eTLS protocol that was defined in clause 4 will allow the present annex to be deprecated.

Annex B (normative): Requirements for an eTLS Aware client

A TLS 1.3 client, such as a web browser, that satisfies the requirements specified in the present annex can be designated as "eTLS Aware".

- a) The client shall provide configuration means to accept all eTLS connections or deny all eTLS connections as indicated by the certificate extension defined in clause 4.3.3.
- b) If the client is a browser, it shall be possible to control the configuration in requirement (a) above by means of policy provided by a centralized policy controller.
- c) If the client provides a means of viewing a server's TLS certificate, it shall correctly parse and display the contents of the certificate extension defined in clause 4.3.3.
- d) If the client is a browser, the user of the browser shall be able to see the eTLS policy that is in force, even if the policy is not under their direct control.
- e) The client may provide a means to only accept eTLS connections that match a whitelist.
- f) The client may provide a means to only deny eTLS connections that match a blacklist.
- g) The client may offer a user prompt to accept eTLS connections.

Annex C (informative): Mapping MSP desired capabilities to eTLS

The reader is advised that some of the capabilities described here are not necessarily guaranteed by the protocol, but are guaranteed to the extent that entities with access to the eTLS private key are trusted. This trust in these eTLS entities - for the server to provide accurate visibility information, and for all entities to share the eTLS private key only according to that policy - assures some of the capabilities described in present annex. The remaining capabilities are assured by the eTLS protocol.

eTLS is defined as a 1-sided, single-context MSP profile. These definitions are in the planned MSP Part 1 [i.1] as well as in the present document, as described in clause 4.1.

eTLS meets several desired capabilities for an MSP profile. MSP capabilities, defined for the MSP standards, are split into three groupings:

- **Audit:** capabilities that relate to the ability for a middlebox to be audited using MSP.
- **Access:** capabilities that relate to the access granted to a middlebox that is using MSP.
- **Visibility:** capabilities that relate to the ability for a middlebox to be discovered using MSP.

Requirements are described in each of these groups in turn.

Firstly, mapping to audit capabilities, eTLS meets the following:

- a) Destination endpoint able to detect if an unauthorized change to the data has occurred.
- b) Middleboxes with read-only access able to detect if an unauthorized change to the data has occurred.
- c) Middleboxes with permission to modify content able to detect if an unauthorized change to the data has occurred.
- d) Middleboxes modifying content able to validate that no unauthorized changes have occurred prior to receipt by middleboxes or 3rd parties.

These audit capabilities are satisfied by eTLS, as they are inherited from the security properties of TLS 1.3 (see clause 5 of the present document).

Secondly, the following access capability is met:

- e) Client or server, alone, able to grant middlebox access permissions.

This is satisfied, as the eTLS server alone can grant access to a device by sharing its Diffie-Hellman private key with that device.

Thirdly, visibility requirements are met:

- f) Client able to learn the owner of all middleboxes.
- g) Client able to learn the identity and function of all third-party middleboxes or groups of third-party middleboxes (i.e. middleboxes not under ownership of client or server endpoints).
- h) Client able to learn the identity and function of all middleboxes or groups of middleboxes.
- i) Server able to learn the owner of all middleboxes.
- j) Server able to learn the identity and function of all third-party middleboxes or groups of third-party middleboxes.
- k) Server able to learn the identity and function of all middleboxes or groups of middleboxes.
- l) The client and server able to receive validation of identity of all middleboxes or groups of middleboxes.
- m) Client able to learn the long-term identity of the server.

- n) The client able to receive validation of the server long-term identity.
- o) Server able to learn an identity (which may include "anonymous" or similar) for the client.
- p) Server able to reject anonymous clients (if anonymous clients are supported).

The visibility requirements f), g), h), i), j), k) and l) are satisfied by the inclusion of visibility information in the eTLS server certificate.

The visibility requirements m), n), o) and p) are satisfied by inheritance of the security guarantees from TLS 1.3.

The accessDescription field, part of the Visibility Information field defined in clause 4.3.3, identifies, either generally or specifically, the controlling or authorizing entities or roles or domains, or any combination of these, of any middleboxes who may be given access to the private key of the static Diffie-Hellman public key that is identified in the fingerprint field.

EXAMPLE: An accessDescription can restrict access of the private key to the administrative domain that controls all middleboxes of a company.

The certificate issuer and the eTLS server are trusted to enforce the visibility restriction on the middlebox entities that are given access to the private key. Though any dishonest holder of key material in an eTLS connection can give it to any party, this is also the case in TLS 1.3 - and the protection of the key material is assured to the extent that the eTLS endpoint is trusted by the other endpoint in the connection.

NOTE: The eTLS variant, described in annex A, meets the same capability requirements except for f), g) and l) (considered to be mandatory for MSP compliance) and h) (not mandatory for MSP compliance). Therefore, by not meeting f), g) and l), the variant of eTLS described in annex A is not MSP-compliant, according to the planned MSP Part 1 [i.1].

History

Document history		
V1.1.1	October 2018	Publication