Deprecate DES support for Kerberos
draft-lha-des-die-die-die-01

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Abstract

A long long time ago DES was standardized. Some 30 years later (2003) it was withdrawn as a standard by NIST, today 6 years later, its time for DES to finally die. By 2008 it was possible to brute force DES keys in 6.4 days using less than USD 10k worth of hardware. So by 2008 DES had passed its sell-by date. Use in Kerberos should therefore stop.
1. Requirements Notation

   The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].
2. Background

Kerberos 5 was defined in [RFC1510] and updated in [RFC4120], the Kerberos crypto system is defined by [RFC3961] and includes support for DES encryption types. This document move all of the DES encryption and related checksum types to historic.

DES was withdrawn in [DES-Transition-Plan] by NIST. IETF have also published its the position in [RFC4772], which in the recommendation summary is made very clear: "don’t use DES".
3. Recommendations

This document removes the mandatory-to-implement types from [RFC4120]: Encryption: DES-CBC-MD5

This document removes the mandatory-to-implement types from [RFC4120] when used in conjunction with DES-CBC-MD5: Checksums: DES-MD5

Kerberos implementation and deployments SHOULD NOT implement the single DES encryption types: DES-CBC-MD5, DES-CBC-MD4, DES-CBC-CRC.

Kerberos implementation and deployments SHOULD NOT implement the checksum type: CRC, RSA-MD4, RSA-MD4-DES, RSA-MAC, RSA-MAC-K, RSA-MD5, RSA-MD5-DES.

Note that RSA-MD5 might be with non-DES encryption types, for example, when doing a TGS-REQ with a ARCFOUR-HMAC-MD5 some client uses RSA-MD5 for the checksum that is stored inside the encrypted part of the authenticator. This use of RSA-MD5 should probably be considered safe, so the Kerberos implementation should make sure this usage is not disabled when used with legacy system that can’t handle newer checksum types.
4. Acknowledgements

Jeffery Hutzelman, Simon Josefsson, Mattias Amnelfelt and Leif Johansson have read the document and provided suggestions for improvements.
5. Security Considerations

Removing support for single DES improves security since DES is considered to be insecure by most parties.
6. IANA Considerations

There are no IANA Considerations for this document
7. References

7.1. Normative References


7.2. Informative References


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