

TweetNaCl: A crypto library in 100 tweets

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... about two years ago



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The security impact of a new cryptographic library

- ▶ Networking and Cryptography library (NaCl)
- ▶ Easy-to-use, high-level API
 - ▶ `crypto_box` for public-key authenticated encryption
 - ▶ `crypto_box_open` for verification and decryption
 - ▶ `crypto_sign` to generate signed message
 - ▶ `crypto_sign_open` to verify signature and recover message

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- ▶ High security
 - ▶ Only ≥ 128 -bit-secure crypto
 - ▶ No secret branch conditions, no secretly indexed memory access
 - ▶ No padding oracles
 - ▶ Avoid randomness where possible; centralize randomness

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 - ▶ Avoid randomness where possible; centralize randomness
- ▶ High speed
 - ▶ Even public-key crypto keeps up with typical network throughput
 - ▶ Highly optimized assembly implementations for common platforms

NaCl users

- ▶ OpenDNS
- ▶ Textsecure
- ▶ Tox
- ▶ Threema
- ▶ QuickTun
- ▶ DNSCrypt
- ▶ Ethos
- ▶ CurveCP
- ▶ MinimalLT
- ▶ Bittorrent Live
- ▶ ZeroMQ

Rather, the problem was that you had to use libraries. If your developer has hit the point where s/he's willing to copy and paste RC4 from Wikipedia, you're already in a kind of Fifth Dimension of laziness. Nobody's going to pull in NaCl or OpenSSL just to encrypt one little blob of text.

—Matthew D. Green, July 2013

NaCl features revisited

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- ▶ High security ✓
- ▶ High speed ✓
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- ▶ Auditing NaCl is already serious effort
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- ▶ Ed25519 signatures are waiting to be included in NaCl since 2011
- ▶ Ed25519 alone has 5521 LOC in C and 16184 LOC in ASM
- ▶ Partial audits of Ed25519 found a bug which is triggered with probability $\approx 2^{-60}$

The ideal world

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- ▶ Short, concise, easy-to-read high-level source code turned into high-speed side-channel-attack-protected machine code by compiler ✗
- ▶ Fully automated formal verification ensures correctness of source code and compilation process ✗
- ▶ Current state of the art of compilers and formal verification is quite far from this

Introducing TweetNaCl

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- ▶ Sounds like a fun challenge, but should not make this a code-obfuscation project
- ▶ Can we have a **concise** reimplementation of NaCl in 100 tweets?
- ▶ Can we do this in C?

The NaCl API – a closer look

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crypto_box = crypto_box_curve25519xsalsa20poly1305  
crypto_box_open  
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crypto_stream = crypto_stream_xsalsa20
crypto_stream_xor
crypto_stream_salsa20
crypto_stream_salsa20_xor
crypto_core_salsa20
crypto_core_hsalsa20
crypto_onetimeauth = crypto_onetimeauth_poly1305
crypto_onetimeauth_verify
crypto_verify_16
crypto_verify_32
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crypto_scalarmult = crypto_scalarmult_curve25519
crypto_scalarmult_base
crypto_sign = crypto_sign_ed25519
crypto_sign_open
crypto_sign_keypair
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Reducing code – identifying the modules

- ▶ One function for `crypto_stream` and `crypto_stream_xor`
- ▶ `crypto_core_salsa20` and `crypto_core_hsalsa20` as wrappers around a single core function

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- ▶ One function for `crypto_stream` and `crypto_stream_xor`
- ▶ `crypto_core_salsa20` and `crypto_core_hsalsa20` as wrappers around a single core function
- ▶ Use $\mathbb{F}_{2^{255}-19}$ arithmetic for both `Curve25519` and `Ed25519`
- ▶ *Different* scalar multiplication for `Curve25519` and `Ed25519`
- ▶ Use complete addition formulas for `Ed25519`
- ▶ Ladder for `Ed25519` scalar mult in keygen, signing, and verification

Getting started: #defines and typedefs

- ▶ No external #include (minimal codebase)
- ▶ Does use external randombytes function
- ▶ Only very few #defines and typedefs:

```
#include "tweetnacl.h"  
#define FOR(i,n) for (i = 0;i < n;++i)  
#define sv static void
```

```
typedef unsigned char u8;  
typedef unsigned long u32;  
typedef unsigned long long u64;  
typedef long long i64;  
typedef i64 gf[16];
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- ▶ Assumption: u32 has **at least** 32 bits

A glimpse of the code: $\mathbb{F}_{2^{255}-19}$ arithmetic

```
typedef i64 gf[16];

sv A(gf o,const gf a,const gf b)
{
    int i;
    FOR(i,16) o[i]=a[i]+b[i];
}

sv Z(gf o,const gf a,const gf b)
{
    int i;
    FOR(i,16) o[i]=a[i]-b[i];
}

sv M(gf o,const gf a,const gf b)
{
    i64 i,j,t[31];
    FOR(i,31) t[i]=0;
    FOR(i,16) FOR(j,16) t[i+j]+=a[i]*b[j];
    FOR(i,15) t[i]+=38*t[i+16];
    FOR(i,16) o[i]=t[i];
    car25519(o);
    car25519(o);
}

sv S(gf o,const gf a)
{
    M(o,a,a);
}
```


... ctd.

```
sv car25519(gf o)
{
    int i;
    i64 c;
    FOR(i,16) {
        o[i]+=(1LL<<16);
        c=o[i]>>16;
        o[(i+1)*(i<15)]+=c-1+37*(c-1)*(i==15);
        o[i]-=c<<16;
    }
}
```

```
sv inv25519(gf o,const gf i)
{
    gf c;
    int a;
    FOR(a,16) c[a]=i[a];
    for(a=253;a>=0;a--) {
        S(c,c);
        if(a!=2&&a!=4) M(c,c,i);
    }
    FOR(a,16) o[a]=c[a];
}
```

Is TweetNaCl audited yet?

Partially

- ▶ Many typical sources for bugs are eliminated by design:
 - ▶ No dynamic memory allocation (`malloc`, `free`, `sbrk`, etc.)
 - ▶ No global variables
 - ▶ No non-bounds-checking functions (`strcpy`, `sprintf`, `sscanf`, etc.)
 - ▶ No file handling

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- ▶ Obviously, TweetNaCl also passes all tests of the NaCl test battery

Are you serious?

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Yes, we are.

- ▶ TweetNaCl is timing-attack protected
- ▶ TweetNaCl has a really small TCB
- ▶ TweetNaCl is truly portable (on one A4 sheet)
- ▶ TweetNaCl is auditable (and partially audited)
- ▶ TweetNaCl is fast

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- ▶ TweetNaCl ports/bindings for JS, Ruby, D, Android NDK, Python

include "extract.h"
static void
...
return 0; }
int main
...
return 0; }

...
return 0; }

...
return 0; }

...
return 0; }

...
return 0; }

...
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...
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...
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TweetNaCl online

<http://tweetnacl.cr.yp.to>

@tweetnacl