



NTNU

Norwegian University of
Science and Technology

COURSE SUMMARY

TTM4205 – Lecture 18

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Padding Oracles

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Presentations

I have sent you an email with the overview of who is presenting when on November 10, 14, and 17. Each of you have 10-15 minutes, and I encourage everyone to ask questions to the other groups after each presentation.

We do not expect you to be done with any of the technical essays, but that you present what the topic you will investigate is about, why you find this interesting, why this is relevant, what you plan to do/write about, and so forth.

Any questions about the presentations?

The Aim of the Course

My goal was to show you a variety of different attacks and mitigations for cryptography systems that we use today. I wanted you to learn how to think as an attacker, so that you better can protect your own schemes going forward.

We went through a lot of material. You are not supposed to remember everything. But you are expected to know what to look for, how to find resources to learn more, have a basic understanding that you can apply to similar issues, and have ideas for how to protect against these attacks.

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- ▶ Security is based on the best attack against a scheme
- ▶ Today we require 128 bits of security in cryptography
- ▶ We need to ensure access to high entropy randomness
- ▶ Pseudorandom Number Generators (PRNGs) expand true randomness into pseudorandom bit streams

Main Takeaways

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- ▶ We can fool prime-checking if it is not properly randomized
- ▶ Faulty parameters easily breaks a cryptographic scheme

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- ▶ DualEC and standardized schemes with backdoors

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- ▶ Efficiency depends on how strict checks are

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- ▶ If you have to, then use RSA-OAEP padding
- ▶ We studied the Bleichenbacher attack
- ▶ Use encrypt-then-authenticate if possible

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- ▶ We looked at the quantum-safe lattice assumptions LWE and SIS
- ▶ We studied the new quantum-safe standards ML-KEM and ML-DSA
- ▶ They are in general fast but keys, ciphertexts and signatures are large

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- ▶ Examples: credit cards, shared resources, malware,...
- ▶ Remote vs physical, and software vs hardware attacks
- ▶ Passive vs active, and invasive vs non-invasive attacks
- ▶ Constant time code, randomization, fault protection,...

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- ▶ We can use bit-slicing and masking to protect AES
- ▶ Similar techniques applies to post-quantum cryptography



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- ▶ Must verify correctness of parameters and inputs
- ▶ Must avoid corner case leakage and replay attacks
- ▶ Must always verify output values for faults

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- ▶ ZK Proofs: sound and zero-knowledge
- ▶ Pedersen and ElGamal commitment backdoors
- ▶ ZKPs can be faked if we do not hash everything
- ▶ The Schnorr signature is a ZKP of discrete log

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From what I can see, you have learned a lot and performed well this semester. I am certain that the way of thinking, our discussions, and the problems you have solved in this course will be useful for all of you going forward.

I hope that you enjoyed the course, that it was challenging but interesting, and that you see the value of your effort. I hope your assignments goes well!

Questions?