

Hash-Based Signatures



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Supported by DFG and DAAD

Part IV: XMSS

XMSS:

**A practical signature scheme
with minimal security
assumptions**

**J.B., Carlos Coronado, Erik Dahmen,
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XMSS (2006-2013)



CMSS – An Improved Merkle Signature Scheme

Johannes Buchmann¹, Luis Carlos Coronado García², Erik Dahmen¹,
Martin Döring^{1,*}, and Elena Klintsevich¹

Merkle tree traversal revisited

Johannes Buchmann, Erik Dahmen, and Michael Schneider

Merkle Signatures with Virtually Unlimited Signature Capacity

Johannes Buchmann¹, Erik Dahmen¹, Elena Klintsevich¹,
Katsuyuki Okeya², and Camille Vuillaume²

Forward Secure Signatures on Smart Cards*

Andreas Hülsing, Christoph Busold, and Johannes Buchmann

On the Security of the Winternitz One-Time Signature Scheme

Johannes Buchmann, Erik Dahmen, Sarah Ereth,
Andreas Hülsing*, and Markus Rückert**

Optimal Parameters for XMSS^{MT}

Andreas Hülsing*, Lea Rausch, and Johannes Buchmann

W-OTS⁺ – Shorter Signatures for Hash-Based Signature Schemes

Andreas Hülsing*

XMSS – A Practical Forward Secure Signature Scheme based on Minimal Security Assumptions

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XMSS Security



Security parameter n

Requires family of functions $\mathcal{F} : \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

Requires family of functions $\mathcal{K} : \{0,1\}^{2n} \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

Theorem:

XMSS is existentially unforgeable under adaptive chosen message attacks if \mathcal{F} is pseudorandom and \mathcal{K} is second preimage resistant

XMSS uses Winternitz OTS



Security level b

$$\text{SIG} = (i, \text{X}, \text{scroll}, \text{circle}, \text{circle}, \text{circle})$$

$$|\text{magnifying glass}| = |\text{scroll}| = m * |\text{circle}| = m*b$$

1. $\text{magnifying glass} = f(\text{scroll})$

2. Trade-off between runtime and signature size

$$|\text{scroll}| \sim m / \log w * |\text{circle}|$$

XMSS Secret Key Size



Security level b , tree height h , message length m

MSS

Secret key size: $2bm * 2^h$

XMSS

- OTS signature keys computed using pseudorandom function \mathcal{F}
- XMSS secret key only a seed: b
- Secret key size independent of message length!

Spoiler: State needs additional storage! (both cases)

XMSS Public Key Generation



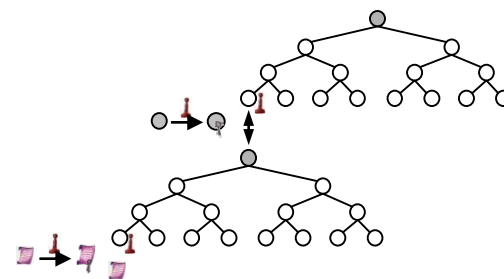
Security level b , tree height h

MSS

- Generate tree of size 2^h
- Cost $\sim 2^h$

XMSS

- Tree chaining
- Use t layers of trees of height h/t
- Generate t trees of height $2^{h/t}$
- Cost $\sim t * 2^{h/t}$
- Example: $h = 40$, $t = 2$, costs $\sim 2 * 2^{20} = 2^{21}$
- Slightly increased signature size



MSS Signature Size



Security level b , tree height h , message length m

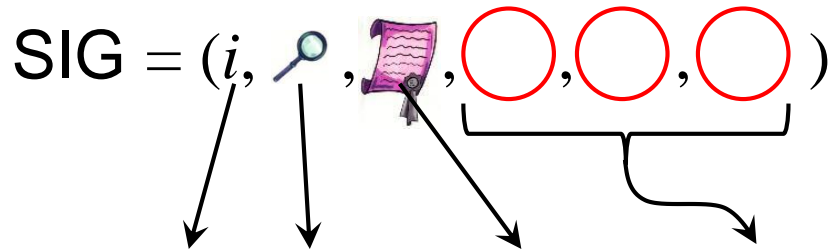


$$h + 2bm + bm + h*2b = h(2b+1) + 3bm$$

XMSS Signature Size



Security level b , tree height h , message length m

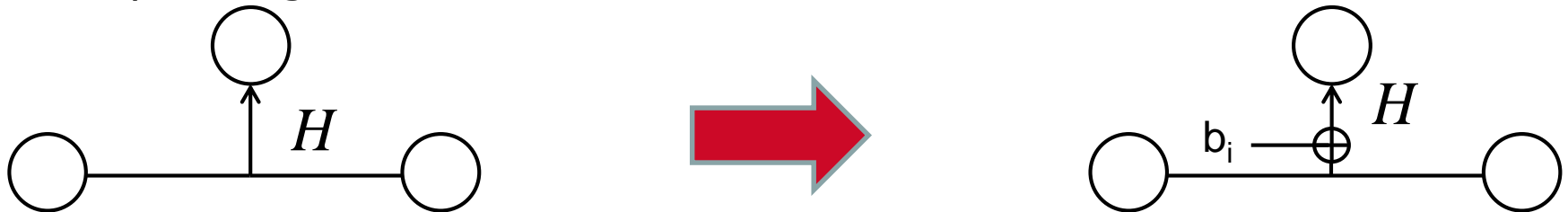


$$\text{MSS: } h + 2bm + bm + h \cdot 2b = h(2b+1) + 3bm$$

$$h + 2bm + bm + h \cdot b = h(b+1) + 3bm$$

Modify tree construction:

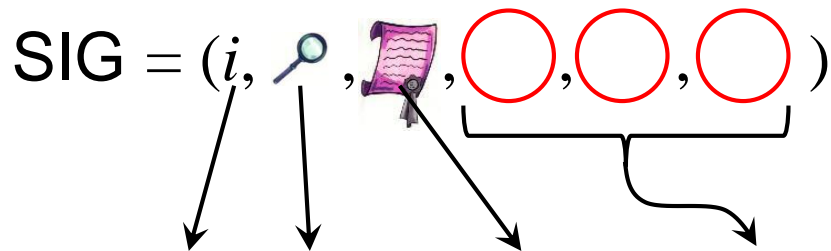
- Allows to use second preimage resistant hash function:
- Output length = node size $2n \rightarrow n$



XMSS Signature Size



Security level b , tree height h , message length m



MSS: $h + 2bm + bm + h*2b = h(2b+1) + 3bm$

$h + 2bm + bm + h*b = h(b+1) + 3bm$

XMSS: $h + 0 + (bm/\log w) + h*b = h(b+1) + (bm/\log w)$

Use WOTS:

- OTS public key can be computed from signature
- Size – Runtime Trade-Off

XMSS Authentication Path Computation



Tree height h

Naïve: requires computing or storing 2^h nodes

Use BDS Algorithm: time - memory trade-off controlled by parameter k

- Time: $\sim (h-k)/2$ (per signature)
 - Memory: $\sim (5.5h - 5k - 2^k)$
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