



Cryptography: Introduction



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Cryptography

- **cryptography** <--> Greek: krupto+grafē (hidden/secret+writing)
the study of mathematical techniques related to information security that have the following objectives:
 - **Confidentiality**
 - ensuring information is accessible only by authorized persons
 - **Data integrity**
 - ensuring information has not been altered by unauthorized or unknown means
 - **Authentication**
 - verification of the identity of an entity
 - **Non-repudiation**
 - preventing the denial of previous commitments or actions
- the most widely used tool for securing information and services
- it is one tool (not the only)

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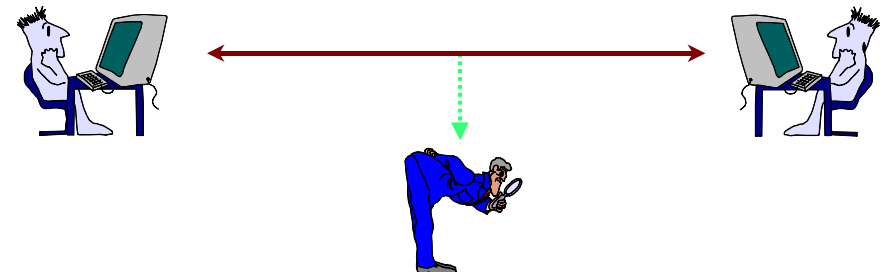
Crittografia e Crittoanalisi

- Crittologia:
 - **scienza che ha lo scopo di studiare comunicazioni sicure**
- Crittografia:
 - **branca della crittologia che ha come scopo la progettazione di algoritmi di cifratura e decifratura, al fine di garantire la segretezza e o l'autenticità dei messaggi**
- Crittoanalisi:
 - **branca della crittologia che ha come scopo l'analisi di un cifrario per risalire all'informazione originaria, e/o la generazione di informazione cifrata contraffatta che possa essere accettata come autentica**

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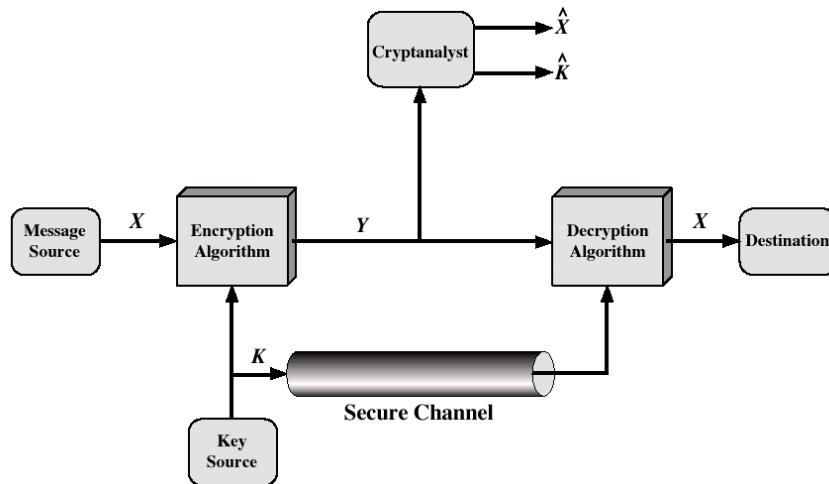
Cryptography

- Consiste nell'alterazione controllata di un messaggio (e.g. sequenza alfanumerica di caratteri) in maniera da renderlo non comprensibile a chi non dispone degli strumenti adeguati



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Modello di sistema crittografico tradizionale



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Cryptography: Basic Terminology



- **plaintext** - the original message
- **ciphertext** - the coded message
- **cipher** - algorithm for transforming plaintext to ciphertext
- **key** - info used in cipher known only to sender/receiver
- **encipher (encrypt)** - converting plaintext to ciphertext
- **decipher (decrypt)** - recovering ciphertext from plaintext

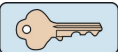
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Semplice esempio di algoritmo crittografico operante su testo (cifrario con shift)

Algoritmo: $X \leftarrow M + K \text{ mod } 26$ $K \in \{0, 1, \dots, 25\}$

Testo in chiaro: C A S A

Testo cifrato: R P H P

Chiave: $K = 15$ 

Caesar cipher:

Chiave $K=3$

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Cryptographic algorithms

- Funzioni matematiche usate per cifrare e decifrare un testo
- Possono essere caratterizzati da:
 - **type of encryption operations used**
 - substitution / transposition / product
 - **number of keys used**
 - single-key or private / two-key or public
 - **way in which plaintext is processed**
 - block / stream
 - **others**

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Security of cryptographic algorithms

- The security of a cipher might rest in the secrecy of its restricted algorithm, however:
 - **whenever a users leaves a group, the algorithm must change**
 - **could be scrutinized by people smarter than you**
- Modern cryptography relies on keys, a selected value from a large set (a keyspace), e.g., a 1024-bit number $\rightarrow 2^{1024}$ values!
 - **Change of authorized participants requires only a change in key**
 - **"Security should be based on secrecy of the key, not the details of the algorithm"**
 - Jean Guillaume Hubert Victor Francois Alexandre Auguste Kerckhoffs von Nieuwenhof, "La Cryptographie Militaire", 1883

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Cryptography Attacks

- Brute-force search
 - **si tenta ogni possibile decifratura (ad esempio provando tutte le possibili chiavi) su un frammento di testo in chiaro**
 - **in media per avere successo occorre provare la metà delle chiavi possibili**
 - **deve essere possibile riconoscere quando si è trovato il testo in chiaro corretto**
- Cryptographic analysis (cryptoanalysis)
 - **Si basa sulla natura dell'algoritmo e sfrutta qualche conoscenza delle caratteristiche generali del testo in chiaro e/o qualche esempio di coppie testo in chiaro/testo cifrato**
 - non richiede necessariamente di scoprire la chiave
- The loss of a key (also without cryptoanalysis or brute-force attack) is called a "compromise"

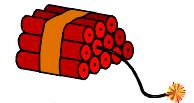
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Brute force attack

- Method of defeating a cryptographic scheme by trying a large number of possibilities
 - **for example, exhaustively working through all possible keys in order to decrypt a message**
- In most schemes, the theoretical possibility of a brute force attack is recognized, but it is set up in such a way that it would be computationally infeasible to carry out
- By obfuscating the data to be encoded, brute force attacks are made less effective as it is more difficult to determine when one has succeeded in breaking the code
- For symmetric-key ciphers, a brute force attack typically means a brute-force search of the key space
 - **testing all possible keys in order to recover the plaintext used to produce a particular ciphertext**

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Cryptographic break



- A cryptographic "break" is anything faster than an exhaustive search (brute force attack)
 - **example, an attack against a 128-bit-key cipher requiring 'only' 2^{120} operations (compared to 2^{128} possible keys) would be considered a break even though it would be, at present, quite infeasible**

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Types of Cryptanalytic Attacks

- There are three basic cryptanalytic attacks:
 - **Ciphertext-only attack**
 - The attacker has to recover the plaintext from only the ciphertext
 - **Known-plaintext attack**
 - Portions of the cipher are known as plaintext. The rest may be easier to recover
 - **Chosen-plaintext attack**
 - The attacker can choose what plaintext to encrypt, again making it easier to recover other ciphertext
 - **Chosen-ciphertext attack**
 - The attacker can choose ciphertext and obtain the plaintext

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Ciphertext only - Attack

- The bad guy has seen (and presumably stored) some ciphertext that can be analyzed
- One possible strategy to figure out the plaintext is to try all keys
 - **it is essential that he/she is able to recognize when he/she has succeeded (often called *recognizable plaintext* attack)**
 - (attacco a parole probabili)
 - for example in case of normal text or known document formats (e.g. PostScript, etc.) with recognizable patterns
 - **it is necessary to have enough ciphertext**
- E' l'attacco più difficile da realizzare

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Known plaintext - Attack

- The bad guy knows a <plaintext, ciphertext> pair
- How it is possible to obtain it...
 - **the secret data does not remain secret forever (e.g. the name of an attacked city)**
- From that pairs, the attacker can try to figure out the mapping of some fraction of the text
- Some cryptographic schemes might be good enough to be secure against *ciphertext only* attacks but not against *known plaintext* attacks
 - **in these cases, it is important to minimize the possibility for a bad guy to obtain <plaintext, ciphertext> pairs**

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Chosen plaintext (or ciphertext) - Attack

- The bad guy can choose any plaintext and get the corresponding ciphertext from the system (or the contrary)
 - **e.g. there is a telegraph service that encrypt and transmit messages; the bad guy can ask the telegraph company to transmit any plaintext he/she wants**
- Some cryptographic schemes might be good enough to be secure against *ciphertext only* attacks and *known plaintext* attacks but not against to *chosen plaintext* attacks

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Side channel attack

- Any attack based on information gained from the physical implementation of a cryptosystem, rather than theoretical weaknesses in the algorithms (compare cryptanalysis)
 - For example, timing information, power consumption, electromagnetic leaks or even sound can provide an extra source of information which can be exploited to break the system
- General classes of side channel attack include:
 - Timing attack — attacks based on measuring how much time various computations take to perform
 - Power monitoring attack — attacks which make use of varying power consumption by the hardware during computation
 - TEMPEST (aka van Eck or radiation monitoring) attack — attacks based on leaked electromagnetic radiation which can directly provide plaintexts and other information
 - Acoustic cryptanalysis — attacks which exploit sound produced during a computation (rather like power analysis)

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Side channel attack (cont.)

- In all cases, that physical effects caused by the operation of a cryptosystem can provide useful extra information about secrets in the system, for example, the cryptographic key, partial state information, full or partial plaintexts and so forth
- Many side-channel attacks require considerable technical knowledge of the internal operation of the system on which the cryptography is implemented

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Computational Difficulty

- Cryptographic algorithms should be reasonably efficient to compute for good guys (who know the keys)
- Cryptographic algorithms are not impossible to attack without the key: a bad guy can simply try all possible keys until one works
- The security depends on how much work is necessary to break it
 - It is the **complexity** of launching the attack that secures us
- Attack complexities:
 - data complexity**: a large number of expected inputs (e.g., ciphertext)
 - processing complexity**: a large number of operations required
 - storage complexity**: a large amount of storage units required
- Often a scheme can be made more secure by making the key longer

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Computational and Unconditional Security

- computational security**
 - given limited computing resources (e.g. time needed for calculations is greater than age of universe, or the cost required for the attack is not affordable), the cipher cannot be broken
- unconditional security**
 - no matter how much computer power is available, the cipher cannot be broken since the ciphertext provides insufficient information to uniquely determine the corresponding plaintext
 - e.g. OTP (One Time Pad) cipher

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Brute Force Search

- always possible to simply try every key
- most basic attack, proportional to key size
- assume either know / recognise plaintext

Key Size (bits)	Number of Alternative Keys	Time required at 1 encryption/ μ s	Time required at 10^6 encryptions/ μ s
32	$2^{32} = 4.3 \times 10^9$	$2^{31} \mu s = 35.8$ minutes	2.15 milliseconds
56	$2^{56} = 7.2 \times 10^{16}$	$2^{55} \mu s = 1142$ years	10.01 hours
128	$2^{128} = 3.4 \times 10^{38}$	$2^{127} \mu s = 5.4 \times 10^{24}$ years	5.4×10^{18} years
168	$2^{168} = 3.7 \times 10^{50}$	$2^{167} \mu s = 5.9 \times 10^{36}$ years	5.9×10^{30} years
26 characters (permutation)	$26! = 4 \times 10^{26}$	$2 \times 10^{26} \mu s = 6.4 \times 10^{12}$ years	6.4×10^6 years

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Cryptanalysis: Example (Language Redundancy)

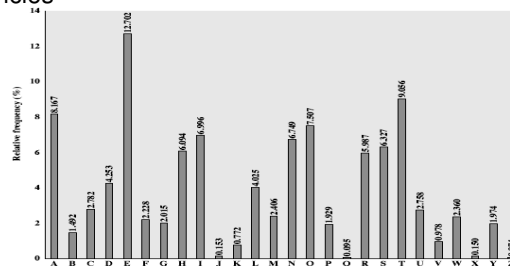
- Example of cryptanalysis:
 - cleartext: normal text
 - cryptography algorithm: monoalphabetic substitution
- key concept:
 - human languages are redundant: do not change relative letter frequencies
 - in English e is by far the most common letter
 - then T,R,N,I,O,A,S
 - other letters are fairly rare (e.g. Z,J,K,Q,X)
- cryptoanalysis:
 - based on language redundancy
 - discovered by Arabian scientists in 9th century
 - calculate letter frequencies for ciphertext
 - compare counts/plots against known values
 - have tables of single, double & triple letter frequencies

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Cryptanalysis: Example

- given ciphertext:
UZQSOVUOHXMPVGPZPEVSGZWSZOPPFESXUDBMETSXAIZ
VUEP HZHMD ZSHZOWSFPAPDTSVPQUZWMXUZHXSX
EPYEPDPDZSZUFFOMBZWPUPZHMDJUDTMOHMQ

- count relative letter frequencies



- guess P & Z are e and t
- guess ZW is th and hence ZWP is the
- proceeding with trial and error finally get:
it was disclosed yesterday that several informal but direct contacts have been made with political representatives of the viet cong in moscow

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Fundamental principle of cryptography

- Fundamental principle of cryptography:
"If lots of people have failed to solve a problem, then it probably won't be solved (soon)"
 - cryptographers invent clever secret codes
 - cryptoanalysts attempt to break these codes
 - the two disciplines help each other!
- Second fundamental principle of cryptography:
"Often breaking a cryptographic scheme is not the the only way of getting what you want"

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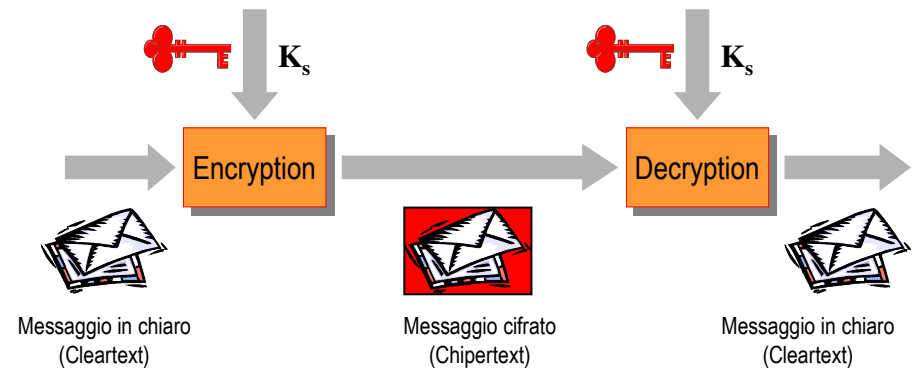
Differenti tipi di crittografia

- A chiave segreta (simmetrica)
 - le due parti che comunicano condividono un segreto (la chiave crittografica)
- A chiave pubblica (asimmetrica)
 - la chiave crittografica è composta da due parti, una che tutti conoscono (chiave pubblica) e una che solo l'interessato conosce (chiave privata)
- Hash algorithm (message digest/one way transformation)
 - una funzione hash è una trasformazione matematica in una sola direzione che a partire da un messaggio arbitrario (lunghezza variabile) genera messaggio/numero di dimensione fissata

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Crittografia a chiave segreta (simmetrica)

- La chiave utilizzata per cifrare è la medesima chiave utilizzata per decifrare (chiave simmetrica o Secret Key, K_s)
- Alcune volte detta: crittografia convenzionale o simmetrica



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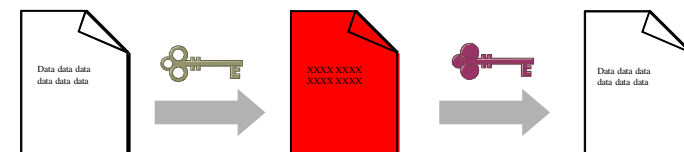
Caratteristiche

- Richiede una fase iniziale in cui ciascuna coppia di interlocutori si scambia la secret key in maniera sicura
- Il numero delle chiavi per realizzare una comunicazione reciproca tra N utenti (dispositivi) è pari a $N(N-1)/2$ (se le chiavi rimangono sempre le stesse)
- Viene generalmente utilizzato per proteggere, mediante codifica, informazioni (file) in un repository locale o trasmessi
- La robustezza dell'algoritmo è normalmente misurata dalla lunghezza delle chiavi: 40 bit (debole), 128 bit (forte)
- Algoritmi più diffusi: DES, 3DES, RC2, RC4, IDEA, AES

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Crittografia a chiave pubblica (asimmetriche)

- Spesso detta crittografia asimmetrica
- La chiave utilizzata per cifrare (chiave di cifratura, K_e) è diversa dalla chiave utilizzata per decifrare (chiave di decifratura, K_d)
- Le chiavi si usano in coppie, di cui una detta privata (segreta) e l'altra detta pubblica (disponibile a tutti)
- Un clear-text cifrato con la chiave privata può essere decifrato solo con la chiave pubblica e viceversa
- Ciascuna coppia di chiavi è caratterizzata da proprietà peculiari



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Caratteristiche

- Può richiedere una fase iniziale in cui gli interlocutori si scambiano le rispettive chiavi pubbliche
- Il numero delle chiavi è proporzionale a N per la comunicazione reciproca tra N utenti (dispositivi)
- Viene generalmente utilizzato per distribuire chiavi simmetriche in un ambiente distribuito
- Algoritmi più diffusi: RSA, Diffie-Hellman, DSA
- La robustezza del sistema dipende anche dal sistema di certificazione delle chiavi di cifratura (se esiste..)
 - L'impiego della crittografia a chiavi asimmetriche comporta l'implementazione di una PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)

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algoritmi di cifratura simmetrici e asimmetrici

- Entrambi gli algoritmi, simmetrici o asimmetrici, consentono di cifrare un messaggio; gli algoritmi simmetrici sono preferiti nei casi in cui sia necessaria una certa velocità di esecuzione della cifratura
- Un buon sistema crittografico usa al meglio i due tipi di algoritmo, esempio:
 - **Uso di algoritmo asimmetrico per lo scambio sicuro di chiavi e per l'autenticazione**
 - **Uso di algoritmo simmetrico per lo scambio dei dati**

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Hash Algorithms

- Also known as message digests or one way transformations
- Hash function is a mathematical transformation m that takes a message of arbitrary length and computes a fixed-length (short) number/string $h(m)$
- Properties:
 - for any message m , it is relatively easy to compute $h(m)$
 - given $h(m)$ there is no way to find m in a way easier than computing all possibilities
 - it is computationally infeasible to find two values that hash to the same thing



- Examples of hash algorithms: MD2, MD5, SHA

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Dove la crittografia non ci aiuta

- Protezione di sistema:
 - **Accesso non autorizzato alle risorse HW e SW**
 - **Alterazione dei programmi SW (virus, ecc.)**
 - **Attacchi mirati a rendere inutilizzabili i dispositivi ed i programmi**
 - ...
- Protezione dei servizi:
 - **Attacchi mirati a rendere indisponibili i servizi**
 - **Alterazione dei contenuti informativi di database**
 - **Utilizzo illecito di servizi ed informazioni**

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