



# Derandomized PACE with Mutual Authentication

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# ICAO

PACE protocol is obligatory for newer biometric passports.

For older BAC is used but the algorithm is obsolete.

**> 490 million**

ePassports in circulation <sup>[1]</sup>

# EU

Starting from 2021 member countries of EU will not be allowed to issue official Identity Documents without PACE.

**> 510 million**

the population of the European Union as of 2019 <sup>[2]</sup>

[1] from [www.icao.int](http://www.icao.int)  
[2] from [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

# Password Authenticated Key Exchange

## On example of ePassport:

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1. The passport stores the password, the reader gets the password by optically scanning the CAN code number printed in Machine Readable Zone.
2. The passport and the reader run a key exchange protocol but at the same time make sure that they use the same password.
3. It is infeasible for an eavesdropper to deduce the password, even for an active adversary.
4. A malicious reader having no access to the password can start the protocol, but it will fail leaving no usable information, unless it is using the right password.

# How PACE works (generally speaking)

**Alice (eID chip)**

*Holds password*

**Bob (reader)**

*Reads password from input*

Chooses  $s$  at random

Sends  $s$  encrypted with password  
derived key.

Decrypts  $s$  with key derived from  
password

1st Diffie-Hellman key exchange ( in  $g$  )  
*(Alice and Bob choose  $x_A$  and  $x_B$  at random)*

Derivation of new base point (  $\tilde{g} = g^{x_A x_B} g^s$  )

2nd Diffie-Hellman key exchange ( in  $\tilde{g}$  )  
*(Alice and Bob choose  $y_A$  and  $y_B$  at random)*

Derivation of Enc and MAC keys from 2nd DH.

Verification of computed values.

# Randomness is the key problem



- Security assurances of the protocol strongly depends on the quality of random number generator.
- PRNG module might be the weakest link in the physical devices.
  - Entropy source on low-end devices might not be trustworthy.
  - Obtaining good randomness is expensive - (commercial tradeoffs).

# What did we do?



- Removed randomness from PACE while maintaining the level of security.
- Introduced option for stronger authentication.  
(pure PACE does not provide strong authentication of the communication parties: Chip Authentication (CAM) and Terminal Authentication have to be executed separately)
- Maintained execution compatibility with original PACE.

# How did we do that?



- Replaced each sampling of random values with deterministic operation on established seed  $\omega$ .
- Added private / public keys for devices.
- Added initialization phase that derives the seed  $\omega$  based on:
  - the context,
  - password,
  - and verification option (anonymous / non-anonymous).
- Added authentication phase that verifies if correct seed was used (both for anonymous and non-anonymous option).

device  $A$  (eID chip)

device  $B$  (reader)

holds the keys:

$sk_A$  (secret),  $pk_A = g^{sk_A}$  (public)

password  $\pi$

holds the keys:

$sk_B$  (secret),  $pk_B = g^{sk_B}$  (public)

password  $\pi$  (input)

..... initialization .....

adjust the password  $\pi$  to the context

determine the seed  $\omega_A$

adjust the password  $\pi$  to the context

determine the seed  $\omega_B$

..... PACE initial phase .....

$K_\pi := H(\pi||0)$

choose  $s$  at random

$s := H_q(\omega_A||4)$

$z := \text{Enc}(K_\pi, s)$

$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{G}, z}$

$K_\pi := H(\pi||0)$

abort if  $\mathcal{G}$  incorrect

$s := \text{Dec}(K_\pi, z)$

..... DH2Point Start .....

choose  $x_A$  at random

$x_A := H_q(\omega_A||5)$

$X_A := g^{x_A}$

$\xleftarrow{X_B}$

$\xrightarrow{X_A}$

choose  $x_B$  at random

$x_B := H_q(\omega_B||6)$

$X_B := g^{x_B}$

$h := X_B^{x_A}$

abort if  $h = 1$

$\hat{g} := h \cdot g^s$

$h := X_A^{x_B}$

abort if  $h = 1$

$\hat{g} := h \cdot g^s$

..... DH2Point End .....



choose  $y_A$  at random

$$y_A := H_q(\omega_A || 7)$$

$$Y_A := \hat{g}^{y_A}$$

$$K := Y_B^{y_A}$$

$$K_{\text{Enc}} := H(K || 1)$$

$$K_{\text{MAC}} := H(K || 2)$$

$$K'_{\text{MAC}} := H(K || 3)$$

$$K'_{\text{Enc}} := H(K || 4)$$

$$T_A := \text{MAC}(K'_{\text{MAC}}, (Y_B, \mathcal{G}, \hat{g}))$$

abort if  $T_B$  incorrect

choose  $y_B$  at random

$$y_B := H_q(\omega_B || 8)$$

$$Y_B := \hat{g}^{y_B}$$

$$K := Y_A^{y_B}$$

$$K_{\text{Enc}} := H(K || 1)$$

$$K_{\text{MAC}} := H(K || 2)$$

$$K'_{\text{MAC}} := H(K || 3)$$

$$K'_{\text{Enc}} := H(K || 4)$$

$$T_B := \text{MAC}(K'_{\text{MAC}}, (Y_A, \mathcal{G}, \hat{g}))$$

abort if  $T_A$  incorrect

$\xleftarrow{Y_B}$   
 $\xrightarrow{Y_A}$

$\xleftarrow{T_B}$   
 $\xrightarrow{T_A}$

..... Authentication procedure .....

authenticating the parties based on the the public keys  $pk_A, pk_B$  and the protocol transcript

# Two Modes of Authentication



## Anonymous Authentication

*Devices do not exchange their public keys.*

### *Initialization:*

basepoint  $g$  is derived from context and seed is set as  $\omega = g^{sk}$

### *Authentication:*

Exchange  $\omega$  and prove the knowledge of exponent

## Non-Anonymous Authentication

*Devices do exchange their public keys.*

### *Initialization:*

seed  $\omega$  is derived from context and DH on public keys of other party (should be the same for both parties)

### *Authentication:*

Implicitly (check if values received were computed correctly)

# Conclusion



## Goal:

Remove necessity of random number generator and thereby reduce the cost of the chip, while maintaining the level of security.

## Result:

Derandomized and PACE compatible protocols that are interoperable with original.

Additional better verifiability properties, as well as chip and terminal authentication.

# Thanks for Your attention!



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