

# Key-Update Mechanism for SDLSP

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Author list in alphabetical order, see

<https://www.ams.org/profession/leaders/culture/CultureStatement04.pdf>.

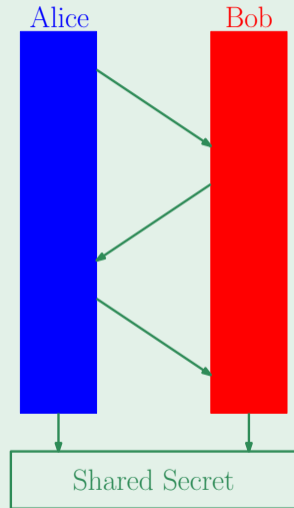
## Section 1

# Authenticated Key Exchange

- SDLSP secures communication with symmetric keys.
- These *can* be replaced, but the update uses only symmetric cryptography.
  - Cannot recover from corruption!
  - The total number of keys grows quadratically with the number of parties.
  - The number of keys that a party has to know up-front grows linearly.
- Future mega-constellations may massively increase the number of communicating parties.

# Authenticated Key Exchange – In General

- Two parties, each with a long-term key-pair for authentication
- At least one party usually generates an ephemeral key-pair
  - Not used outside the exchange, secret-key disposed after exchange.
- The final output of an AKE is a shared secret that only the involved parties know.



# Authenticated Key Exchange – In Our Use-Case

- Mission-Control and the Satellite both have a key-pair to authenticate themselves.
- They may have a previous shared secret. (The previous symmetric key)
- AKE computes a new shared secret that is secure even if the old one is leaked.
- Both parties can be certain of the identity of their peer.
- Can be run independently of a messaging-phase.

## Advantages

- Total keys only scale *linearly* with the number of parties.
- Usable with a Public-Key-Infrastructure (PKI) – No need to preload all keys.
- Possible to recover from corruption.

# Security-Goals

## Confidentiality

Attacker does not learn information about resulting key.

- Forward-Secrecy: Even if he later corrupts a party.
- Post-Compromise-Secrecy: Even if he had corrupted the party before.
- Long-Term Security: Deal with “store-now, decrypt-later”-attacks.



## Authenticity

Attacker cannot impersonate a different party.

- Prevent replay-attacks (common vulnerability).
- Good news: Attacks inherently have to be performed “live”.



# Hybrid Security

- Use two schemes in case one is broken
- Typically EC-schemes, e.g. Hashed Diffie-Hellman using X25519 and ECDSA.
- Can be done on protocol or primitive-level
  - primitive-level is generally simpler
  - it also results in an primitive-agnostic protocol  $\Rightarrow$  More options for implementers
- Fallback does not necessarily have to be pre-quantum!
- Combination trivial for Signatures.
- Less trivial for KEMs, but Hashing shared secrets and ciphertexts works.



Figure 1: CC-BY-SA  
4.0, Michael Musto

# Updating long-term keys

- Long-term keys may also get corrupted → should be updatable as well.
- Our protocol contains a mechanism for that.





# Unauthenticated Satellites

- Satellites are on publicly known orbits
  - Communication-channels are physically narrow
  - Physical location could be used for Authentication
- 
- Potential for significant bandwidth-savings.
  - Requires that Mission-Control can trust the ground-stations!
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⇒ An interesting option that **requires** careful analysis

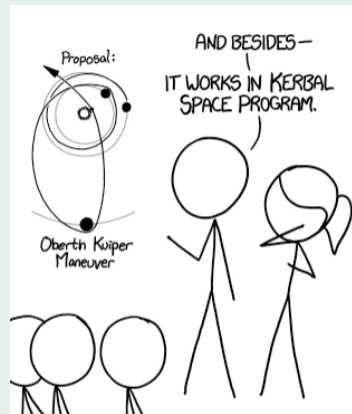


Figure 2: CC-BY-NC 2.5  
Randall Munroe,  
[xkcd.com/1244](http://xkcd.com/1244)

## Section 2

### Possible Approaches

# Signatures + KEM

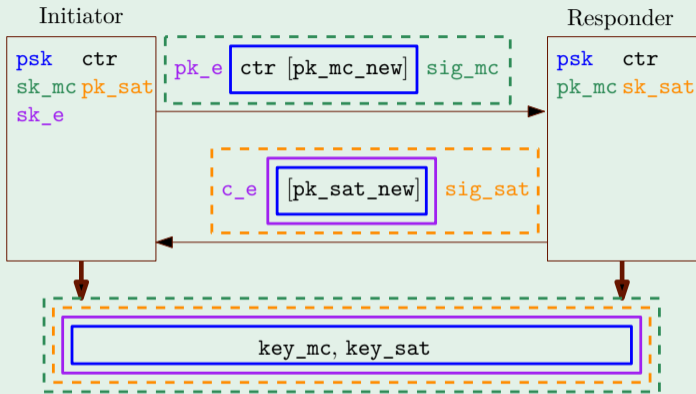


Figure 3: Signatures+KEM: The traditional Way.

- Requires replay-protection! (`ctr`)
- 1 Roundtrip
- Key-confirmation sensible, but not required.
- long-term-key-updates required if signature-scheme is stateful.
- Stateful scheme would enable few- and one-time signatures.

# Triple-KEM and Dual-KEM

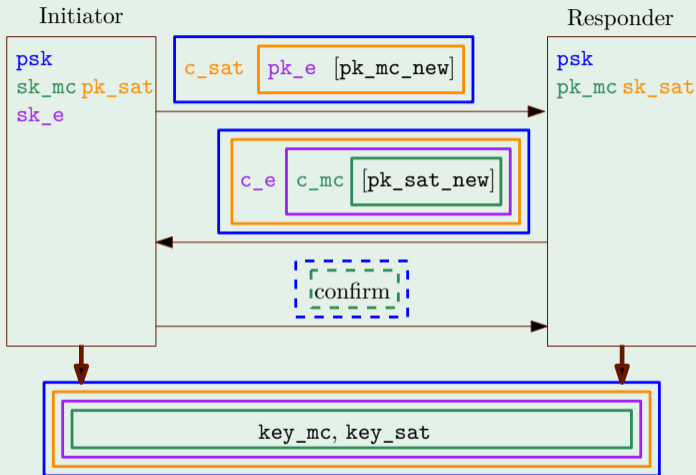


Figure 4: Triple-KEM: The more modern way.

- Usually more efficient (KEMs instead of signatures).
- Essentially invulnerable to replay-attacks.
- Option to mix KEMs.
- Dropping `c_sat`, `pk_sat`, `pk_sat_new` and `sk_sat` gives **Dual-KEM**, which does not authenticate the receiver.

# Considered KEMs

- The “Obvious” Choice: Kyber (NIST: ML-KEM)
- Ten times larger: Frodo
- Worth a look for special use-cases: Classic McEliece
- Not Size-Competitive with Kyber: BIKE and HQC
- Similar to Kyber, but lost PQC: Saber, NTRU, NTRU prime
- Broken: SIKE



## Section 3

### Our Recommendations

# Our Recommendations

Our primary recommendation for general use is:

- **Triple-KEM**, using **Kyber** (and X25519) for all three KEMs

If satellite-authenticity is a given and the bandwidth-savings are important:

- **Dual-KEM**, using **Kyber** (and X25519) for both KEMs

# Triple-KEM with Kyber

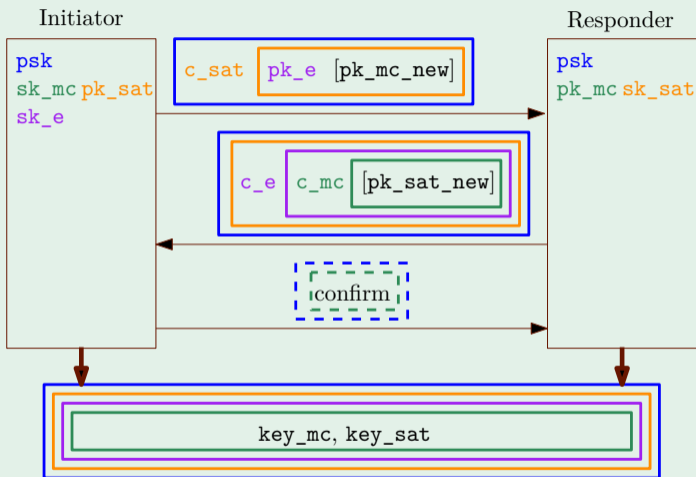


Figure 5: Triple-KEM

Packet sizes in bytes at different security-levels:

- Level 1: 1664, 1632, 16
- Level 3: 2368, 2272, 16
- Level 5: 3232, 3232, 16

With long-term-key updates:

- Level 1: 2496, 2480, 16
- Level 3: 3584, 3504, 16
- Level 5: 4832, 4848, 16



# Security Analysis

We analyzed the protocol in a custom eCK-NEC model (= eCK, No Ephemeral Corruption)

- Simplified version of established eCK-model
- Assumes ephemeral randomness cannot be corrupted.
- Provides strong Confidentiality and Authenticity guarantees.

## eCK-NEC

Security is usually defined via a “Game” in which an adversary tries to reach a winning-condition.

- $n_i$  initiators and  $n_r$  responders run up to  $n_{s_i}/n_{s_r}$  initiator/responder-sessions each
- Adversary controls parties actions and the network
- Adversary can corrupt long-term keys and session-keys
- Winning conditions forbid trivial attacks
- Adversary wins
  - if he is able to distinguish an honestly generated key from randomness, or
  - if he is able to impersonate a party without corrupting its long-term-key.

Proven for Triple-KEM in eCK-NEC-model under reasonable assumptions:

- **Honestly generated keys are indistinguishable from randomness.** (Confidentiality)
- **A party cannot be impersonated, as long as its long-term public key remains uncorrupted.** (Authenticity)

Conjectured:

- Honestly generated keys remain confidential if the pre-shared key remains uncorrupted.
- Honestly generated keys remain confidential as long as one party's long-term key and the peer's ephemeral randomness remain uncorrupted.
- As long as a connection remains confidential (see above), no passive attacker can learn more about a new long-term public-key than can be extracted from ciphertexts for that public key. (Identity Hiding)

The same holds for **Dual-KEM**, *if responder-authenticity is guaranteed out-of-band.*

# Conclusion

- Enable asymmetric key-updates for better scaling and security.
- Use post-quantum-secure algorithms for long-term security.
- Use an Authenticated Key Exchange (AKE) as Key-Update Mechanism
- Our Recommendation: Triple-KEM with Kyber+X25519
- Proposal builds on Post-Quantum Noise
- Formal Security-analysis in a simpler version of a standard model.

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Questions?

## Section 4

### Appendix

# KEMs – Sizes and Failure-rates

Scheme	SK	PK	CT	$\delta$
X25519	32	32	32	0
Kyber-512	1632	800	768	$2^{-139}$
Kyber-768	2400	1184	1088	$2^{-164}$
Kyber-1024	3168	1568	1568	$2^{-174}$
mceliece348864	6492	261120	96	0
mceliece460896	13608	524160	156	0
mceliece6688128	13932	1044992	208	0
mceliece6960119	13948	1047319	194	0
mceliece8192128	14120	1357824	208	0
FrodoKEM-640	19888	9616	9720	$2^{-138.7}$
FrodoKEM-976	31296	15632	15744	$2^{-199.6}$
FrodoKEM-1344	43088	21520	21632	$2^{-252.5}$

## Signatures – Sizes

Scheme	SK	PK	Sig
Dilithium2	2544	1312	2420
Dilithium3	4016	1952	3293
Dilithium5	4880	2592	4595
Falcon-512	1281	897	666
Falcon-1024	2305	1793	1280
ECDSA	32	32	64

# Triple-KEM – Packet Sizes

Scheme	Packet 1	Packet 2	Packet 3
TK(Kyber512+X25519)	1664	1632	16
TKU(Kyber512+X25519)	2496	2480	16
TK(Kyber768+X25519)	2368	2272	16
TKU(Kyber768+X25519)	3584	3504	16
TK(Kyber1024+X25519)	3232	3232	16
TKU(Kyber1024+X25519)	4832	4848	16



# Sign + KEM – Packet Sizes

Scheme	Packet 1	Packet 2	Packet 3
SK(Kyber512+X25519+Dilithium+ECDSA)	3348	3300	16
SKU(Kyber512+X25519+Dilithium+ECDSA)	4692	4644	16
SK(Kyber512+X25519+Falcon+ECDSA)	1594	1546	16
SKU(Kyber512+X25519+Falcon+ECDSA)	2523	2475	16
SK(Kyber512+X25519+XMSS-SHA2_10_256)	3364	3316	16
SKU(Kyber512+X25519+XMSS-SHA2_10_256)	3428	3380	16
SC(Kyber512+X25519,WOTS+(32,16))	3024	2992	16
SC(Kyber768+X25519,WOTS+(32,16))	2408	3312	16
SC(Kyber1024+X25519,WOTS+(32,16))	3792	3792	16
SC(Kyber1024+X25519,WOTS+(64,16))	10032	10032	16

# Formal Security Triple-KEM

There is no adversary that can win the eCK-NEC-game against Triple-KEM, with:

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, 3\text{KEM}}^{\text{eCK-NEC}}(1^\lambda) \leq \left( \begin{array}{l} 3 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}_1, \text{H}}^{\text{coll-res}}(1^\lambda) \\ + n_i \cdot n_{S_i} \cdot \text{EKEM} \cdot \delta \\ + n_i \cdot n_{S_i} \cdot n_r \cdot n_{S_r} \cdot 3 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \text{EKEM}}^{\text{IND-CCA}}(1^\lambda) \\ + n_{S_r} \cdot n_i \cdot n_r \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \text{IKEM} \cdot \delta} \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}_4, \text{IKEM}}^{\text{IND-CCA}}(1^\lambda) \\ + n_{S_i} \cdot n_i \cdot n_r \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \text{RKEM} \cdot \delta} \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}_4, \text{RKEM}}^{\text{IND-CCA}}(1^\lambda) \\ + n_i \cdot n_{S_i} \cdot n_r \cdot n_{S_r} \cdot 3 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \text{NHO}}^{\text{PRHO}}(1^\lambda) \\ + (n_{S_i} + n_{S_r}) \cdot n_i \cdot n_r \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}_6, \text{AEAD}}^{\text{EUFCMA}}(1^\lambda) \\ + n_i \cdot n_{S_i} \cdot n_r \cdot n_{S_r} \cdot 2 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \text{KDF}}^{\text{PRF}}(1^\lambda) \end{array} \right)$$

