

NIST Laboratory Research Program Contributions to Cybersecurity Standards

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ITL's Mission...

- ▶ ... is to promote U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science, standards, and technology through research and development in information technology, mathematics, and statistics.

Why Research?

- ▶ While Standards has always been in our name, research has always been an integral part of our method.
 - Research advances science.
 - Research informs our standards and metrics development activities.
 - Research establishes new technologies, creating opportunities.



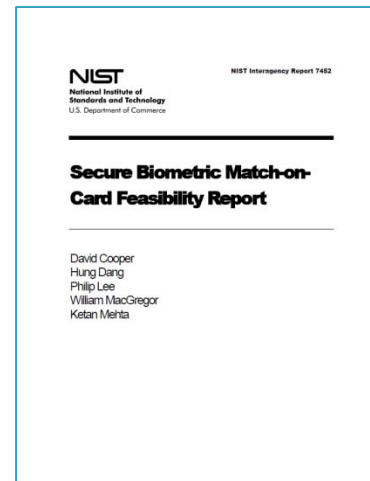
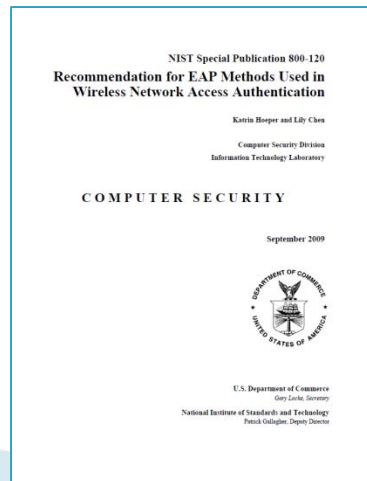
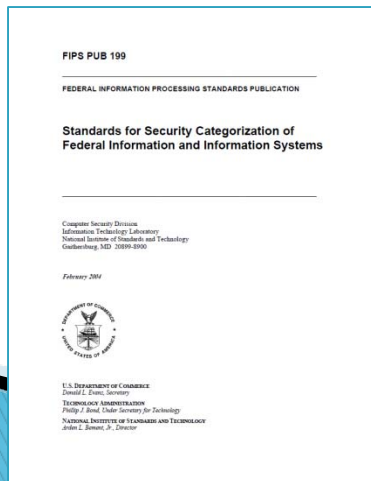
NIST Cybersecurity Research Areas

- ▶ Authorization
 - ▶ Biometrics
 - ▶ Cryptography
 - ▶ Forensics
 - ▶ Identification & Authentication
 - ▶ Key Management
 - ▶ Network Security
 - ▶ Product Assurance
 - ▶ Security Metrics
- ▶ Security Automation
 - ▶ Security for Emerging Technologies
 - ▶ Security for Sector-Specific Applications
 - ▶ Trustworthy Software
 - ▶ Usability



NIST Cybersecurity Standards Activities

- ▶ Technical Leadership in Standards Development Organizations
 - ANSI INCITS, ISO, ITU-T, IETF, IEEE
 - Sector-specific organizations: HL7, IHE, ATA, BioAPI Consortium, W3C
- ▶ NIST Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS)
- ▶ Security Guidelines and Best Practices
 - NIST Special Publications and Interagency Reports



Improving Cybersecurity Through Research and Standards: A Case Study



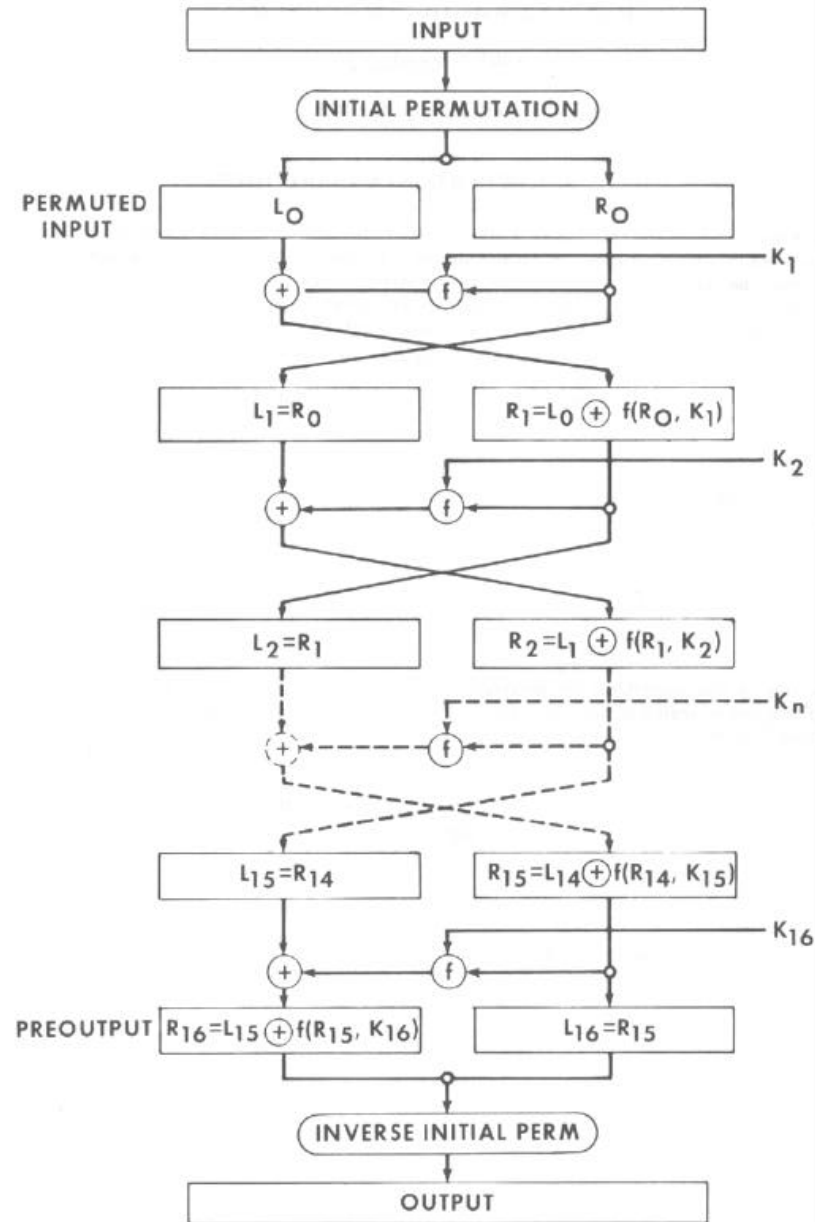
Cryptography

▶ Data Encryption Standard (DES)– The Pioneer

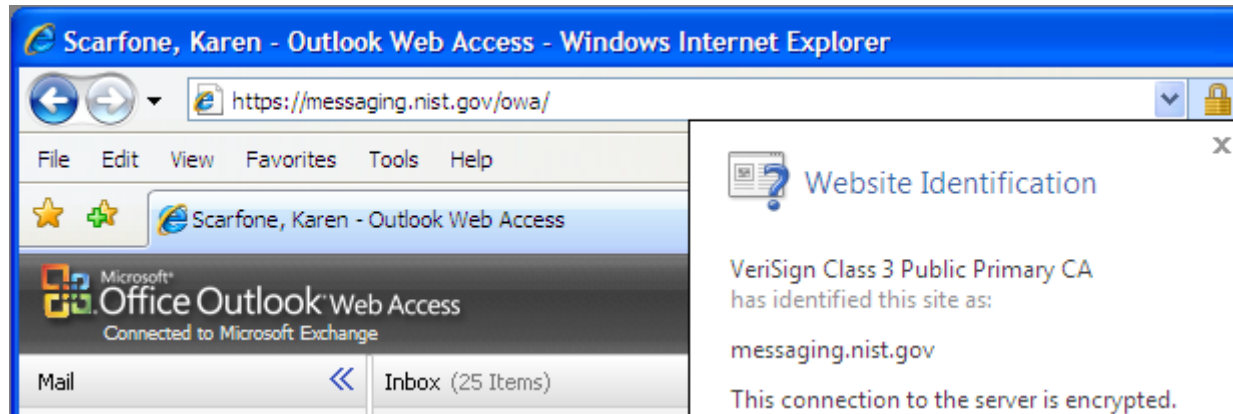
- FIPS 46, *Data Encryption Standard* was the first unclassified, publicly disclosed algorithm standard for the protection of U.S. government sensitive, unclassified information
- Adopted by ANSI, ISO/IEC (TDEA)
- World's most widely used encryption algorithm, particularly to protect financial information, for 25 years

▶ Related Research

- Generated open research and development in cryptanalysis (esp. block ciphers), cryptographic testing, and key management

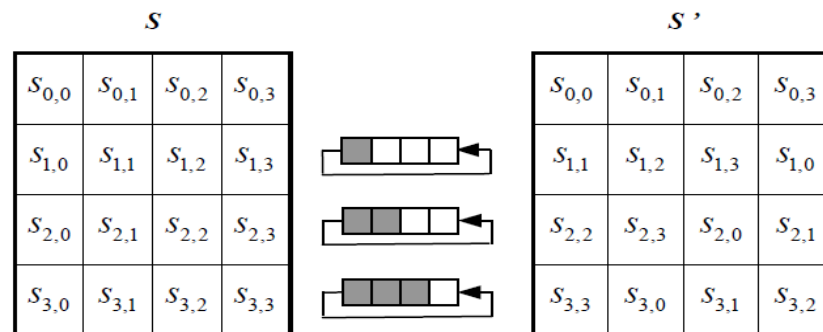


Cryptography in daily life



Cryptography

- ▶ **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)**
 - NIST, through an open and transparent process, sponsored the first International Cryptographic Algorithm Design Competition
 - Innovative design criteria included support for various PC hardware architectures, software, and smart cards
 - Fifteen submitted designs; investigations and analysis published by cryptographers at NIST and around the world
 - NIST selected Rijndael and specified the algorithm in FIPS 197, *Advanced Encryption Standard*
 - Adopted by standards bodies and the IT vendor community; NSA announced use of AES to protect national security systems
- ▶ **Related Research**
 - Generated new research in cryptanalysis, smarter tokens, and security hardware designs



Examples from the cycles of research and standards for cryptographic algorithms

FIPS 46 (DES)

Cryptanalysis

Cryptographic testing

Key management

FIPS 140
(Security Reqs
for Crypto
Modules)

Random number
generators

Security
automation
tools testing

Identity
management
testing

Cryptanalysis

Cryptographic
testing

Key
management

FIPS 197 (AES)

Random number
generators

Secure hardware
designs

Smarter tokens

Cryptanalysis

Cryptographic
testing

Key
management

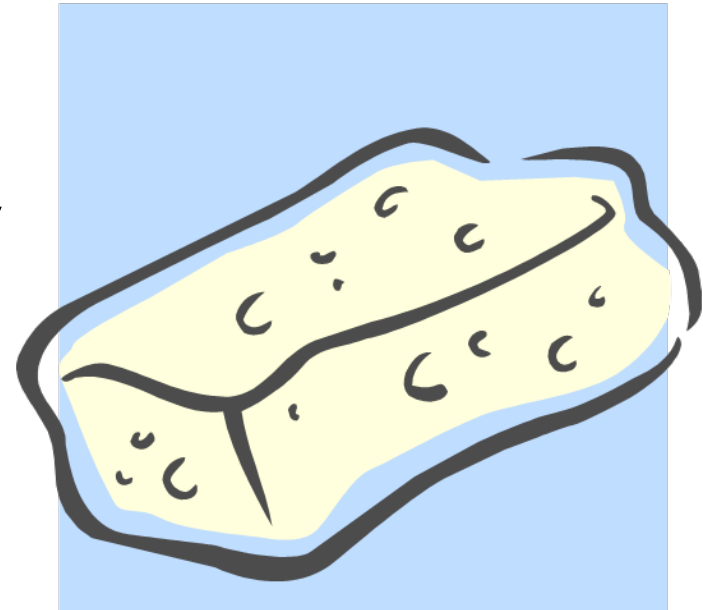
SHA-3
competition
winner

AES modes of
operation

Security
protocols

Cryptography

- ▶ Secure Hash Algorithm 3 (SHA-3) – In progress
 - Cryptanalytic attacks on several cryptographic hash algorithms
 - Cryptographic community encouraged NIST to sponsor a Cryptographic Hash Competition
 - Design criteria that advance the state of the art: performance; drop-in compatibility; and security
 - Over 60 entries submitted from around the world
 - NIST recently selected 14 to advance to round 2



Brief Summary of NIST Research Contributions to Crypto Standards

- ▶ Publication of NIST standards for cryptographic algorithms creates research opportunities
 - PKI and Symmetric Key Management
 - Smart Cards
 - Cryptographic Testing
 - Cryptographic Analysis
- ▶ This research has advanced science and contributed to new or emerging standards, such as
 - Enhanced block ciphers (AES)
 - Faster and more secure hash algorithms (SHA-3)
 - Identity management (Personal Identity Verification)
- ▶ These standards have spawned new research avenues, so the cycle continues...

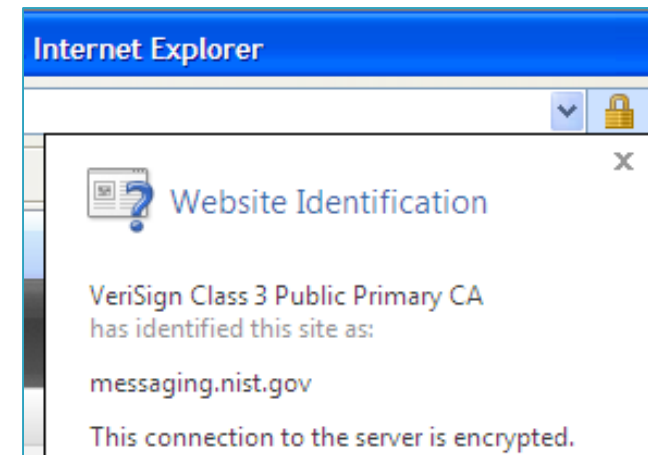
Success Criteria for Research

- ▶ NIST has succeeded if research
 - Moves the state of the art forward
 - Leads to more precise metrics or more cost-effective testing and validation; or
 - Most importantly, contributes to development of successful new standards



Success Criteria for Standards

- ▶ NIST has succeeded if products that conform to a standard are
 - Widely available & adopted
 - Interoperable
 - Satisfy customer requirements
 - Functionality
 - Performance
 - ROI



Technical Details

Connection Encrypted: High-grade Encryption (AES-128 128 bit)

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