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Additional Methods for Generating Subject Key Identifiers
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Abstract

This document specifies additional example methods for generating Key Identifier values for use in the AKI (Authority Key Identifier) and SKI (Subject Key Identifier).

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1. Introduction

[RFC5280] defines the AKI (Authority Key Identifier) and SKI (Subject Key Identifier) certificate extensions. [RFC5280] describes two example mechanisms for generating AKI/SKI values: a 160-bit SHA-1 (Secure Hash Algorithm) hash of the public key and a four-bit type field with the value 0100 followed by the least significant 60 bits of the SHA-1 hash. Both of these mechanisms were designed to be non-security critical. This document defines three additional mechanisms for generating Key Identifier values, using SHA-256, SHA-384, and SHA-512 [SHS], that are similar to those examples defined in [RFC5280].

2. Additional Methods for Generating Key Identifiers

[RFC5280] specifies two examples for generating key identifiers from public keys. Four additional mechanisms are as follows:

- 1) The keyIdentifier is composed of the leftmost 160-bits of the SHA-256 hash of the value of the BIT STRING subjectPublicKey (excluding the tag, length, and number of unused bits).
- 2) The keyIdentifier is composed of the leftmost 160-bits of the SHA-384 hash of the value of the BIT STRING subjectPublicKey (excluding the tag, length, and number of unused bits).
- 3) The keyIdentifier is composed of the leftmost 160-bits of the SHA-512 hash of the value of the BIT STRING subjectPublicKey (excluding the tag, length, and number of unused bits).
- 4) The keyIdentifier is composed of the hash of the DER-encoding of the SubjectPublicKeyInfo value.

4. Examples

This section provides some examples. The keys and SKIs are presented in hexadecimal (two hex digits per byte).

Given the following DER-encoded SubjectPublicKeyInfo value holding an P-256 ECDSA key:

```

30 59
 30 13
    06 07 2A8648CE3D0201    -- id-ecPublicKey
    06 08 2A8648CE3D030107  -- secp256r1
  03 42 00
    04 7F7F35A79794C950060B8029FC8F363A
      28F11159692D9D34E6AC948190434735
      F833B1A66652DC514337AFF7F5C9C75D
      670C019D95A5D639B72744C64A9128BB

```

The SHA-256 hash of the 65 bytes 047F7F...BB is:

```
BF37B3E5808FD46D54B28E846311BCCE1CAD2E1A62AA9092EF3EFB3F11451F44
```

The SHA-1 hash of these 65 bytes is:

```
6FEF9162C0A3F2E7608956D41C37DA0C8E87F0AE
```

The SHA-256 hash of the 91 bytes 305930...BB is:

```
6D20896AB8BD833B6B66554BD59B20225D8A75A296088148399D7BF763D57405
```

Using method 1 from [section 2](#), the subjectKeyIdentifier would be:

```

30 1D
 06 03 551D0E -- id-ce-subjectKeyIdentifier
 04 16
    04 14 BF37B3E5808FD46D54B28E846311BCCE1CAD2E1A

```

Using the 1st method in [\[RFC5280\]](#), the subjectKeyIdentifier would be:

```

30 1D
 06 03 551D0E -- id-ce-subjectKeyIdentifier
 04 16
    04 14 6FEF9162C0A3F2E7608956D41C37DA0C8E87F0AE

```

Using the 2nd method in [\[RFC5280\]](#), the subjectKeyIdentifier extensions would be:

```

30 11
 06 03 551D0E -- id-ce-subjectKeyIdentifier
 04 0A
    04 08 46FEF9162C0A3F2E

```


Using method 4 from [section 2](#) with SHA-256 and no truncation, the subjectKeyIdentifier extensions would be:

```
30 29
 06 03 551D0E -- id-ce-subjectKeyIdentifier
 04 22
   04 20 6D20896AB8BD833B6B66554BD59B2022
        5D8A75A296088148399D7BF763D57405
```

5. Security Considerations

The security considerations of [\[RFC5280\]](#) apply to certificates. The security considerations of [\[RFC5758\]](#) apply to the hash algorithms.

While hash algorithms provide preimage resistance, second-preimage resistance, and collision resistance, none of these properties are needed for key identifiers.

6. IANA Considerations

None.

7. Acknowledgements

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8. References

8.1. Normative References

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- [RFC5280] Cooper, D., Santesson, S., Farrell, S., Boeyen, S., Housley, R., and W. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile", [RFC 5280](#), May 2008.
- [RFC5758] Dang, Q., Santesson, S., Moriarty, K., Brown, D., and T. Polk, "Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure: Additional Algorithms and Identifiers for DSA and ECDSA", [RFC 5758](#), January 2010.

[SHS] National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), FIPS
Publication 180-3: Secure Hash Standard, October 2008.

8.2. Informative References

None

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