

**DTLS/SRTP Protection Profiles for 256-bit AES-CTR Encryption
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Abstract

This memo defines Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP) Protection Profiles for 256-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Counter Mode.

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[1.](#) Introduction

This memo defines Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP) Protection Profiles for 256-bit Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Counter Mode.

DTLS-based key establishment for SRTP is defined in [\[RFC5764\]](#). The use of AES-256 counter mode with SRTP is defined in [\[RFC6188\]](#).

The draft document that became [\[RFC5764\]](#) initially defined protection profiles for AES-256; they were removed because the document that became [\[RFC6188\]](#) was not yet ready. However, the definitions of the protection profiles were not transferred to the [\[RFC6188\]](#) drafts, apparently as an oversight. This document restores those codepoints, with their original values.

[1.1.](#) Motivation

The question might arise as to why this is necessary. [\[RFC7714\]](#) defines the use of AES-256 with Galois Counter Mode, and current thought is that Galois Counter Mode is preferable to Counter Mode plus HMAC-based authentication.

The reason is to minimize the difficulty of moving implementations away from Security Descriptions-based keying [\[RFC4568\]](#). Use of Security Descriptions is strongly discouraged, as its security properties are much weaker than those of DTLS/SRTP. However, as [\[RFC6188\]](#) defines Security Descriptions signaling elements for AES-256-CTR, existing implementations use them to negotiate the use of these crypto suites, and many of these implementations do not have Galois Counter Mode cryptography implemented (or certified). Thus, defining AES-256-CTR codepoints for DTLS/SRTP allows these implementations to continue using their existing SRTP cryptography while moving to a more secure keying protocol.

2. Conventions, Definitions and Acronyms

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#).

3. SRTP Protection Profiles

A DTLS-SRTP SRTP Protection Profile defines the parameters and options that are in effect for the SRTP processing. This document defines the following SRTP protection profiles.

```
SRTPProtectionProfile SRTP_AES256_CM_SHA1_80 = {0x00, 0x03};
SRTPProtectionProfile SRTP_AES256_CM_SHA1_32 = {0x00, 0x04};
```

The following list indicates the SRTP transform parameters for each protection profile. The parameters cipher_key_length, cipher_salt_length, auth_key_length, and auth_tag_length express the number of bits in the values to which they refer. The maximum_lifetime parameter indicates the maximum number of packets that can be protected with each single set of keys when the parameter profile is in use. All of these parameters apply to both RTP and RTCP, unless the RTCP parameters are separately specified.

All of the crypto algorithms in these profiles are from [\[RFC6188\]](#).

```
SRTP_AES256_CM_HMAC_SHA1_80
  cipher: AES_256_CM
  cipher_key_length: 256
  cipher_salt_length: 112
  maximum_lifetime: 2^31
  auth_function: HMAC-SHA1
  auth_key_length: 160
  auth_tag_length: 80
SRTP_AES256_CM_HMAC_SHA1_32
  cipher: AES_256_CM
  cipher_key_length: 256
  cipher_salt_length: 112
  maximum_lifetime: 2^31
  auth_function: HMAC-SHA1
  auth_key_length: 160
  auth_tag_length: 32
  RTCP auth_tag_length: 80
```

With both of these SRTP Parameter profiles, the following SRTP options are in effect:

- o The TLS Key Derivation Function (KDF) is used to generate keys to feed into the SRTP KDF.
- o The Key Derivation Rate (KDR) is equal to zero. Thus, keys are not re-derived based on the SRTP sequence number.
- o The key derivation procedures from [Section 3](#) of AES_256_CM_KDF [[RFC6188](#)] are used.
- o For all other parameters, (in particular, SRTP replay window size and FEC order) the default values are used.

If values other than the defaults for these parameters are required, they can be enabled by writing a separate specification specifying SDP syntax to signal them.

4. Security Considerations

This document defines security mechanisms. No additional security issues beyond those of [[RFC5764](#)] and [[RFC6188](#)] apply.

5. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to add the SRTP Protection Profiles defined in [Section 3](#) to the DTLS SRTPProtectionProfile registry.

6. References

6.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), DOI 10.17487/[RFC2119](#), March 1997, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
- [RFC3711] Baugher, M., McGrew, D., Naslund, M., Carrara, E., and K. Norrman, "The Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP)", [RFC 3711](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3711, March 2004, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3711>>.
- [RFC5764] McGrew, D. and E. Rescorla, "Datagram Transport Layer Security (DTLS) Extension to Establish Keys for the Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP)", [RFC 5764](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC5764, May 2010, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc5764>>.

- [RFC6188] McGrew, D., "The Use of AES-192 and AES-256 in Secure RTP", [RFC 6188](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6188, March 2011, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6188>>.

6.2. Informative References

- [RFC4568] Andreasen, F., Baugher, M., and D. Wing, "Session Description Protocol (SDP) Security Descriptions for Media Streams", [RFC 4568](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4568, July 2006, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4568>>.
- [RFC7714] McGrew, D. and K. Igoe, "AES-GCM Authenticated Encryption in the Secure Real-time Transport Protocol (SRTP)", [RFC 7714](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7714, December 2015, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7714>>.

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