

DKIM Implementation

MAAWG Training Series

Complete Slide Set for All Segments-DomainKeys Identified Mail

From the onsite training course at the MAAWG 18th General Meeting San Francisco, February 2010



DKIM Implementation – Video Segments

Segment 1	Segment 2	Segment 3	Segment 4
20 mins.	20 mins.	18 mins.	35 mins.
Theory • General DKIM Architecture • What DKIM Is and Isn't	Theory • DKIM Protocol Details • Separate Mail Streams & Signing Practices	Practical Planning Keys and Policies	 Practical Signing Software Verifying Software Testing, Other Topics Q&A



Segment 1 Covers

Theory:

- General DKIM Architecture
 - What DKIM Is and Isn't

Dave Crocker

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DKIM Implementation – "What"

Dave Crocker

Brandenburg InternetWorking and Senior Technical Advisor, MAAWG

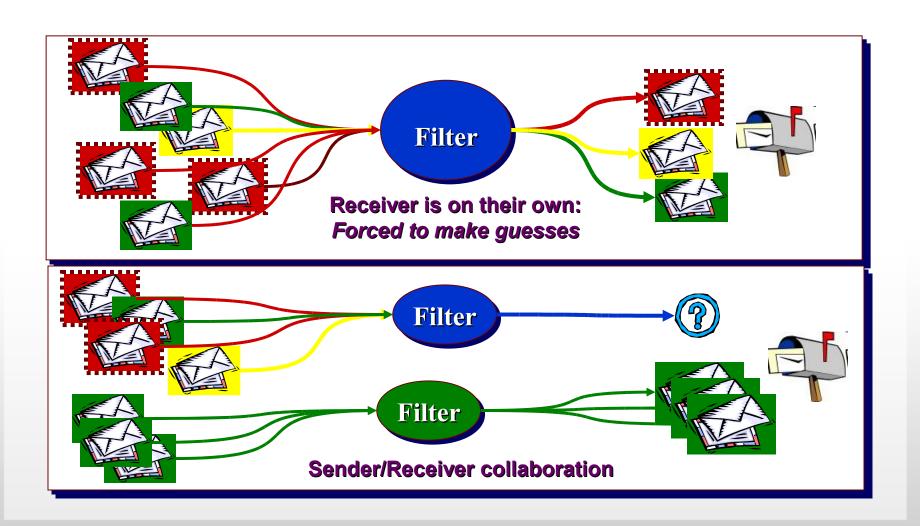
Agenda – What: DKIM in Trusted Email



- Trust vs. Mistrust
- What is DKIM and What is it for?
- DKIM Service Architecture
- Signature Basics
- ADSP
- Reporting Basics



Mistrust vs. Trust







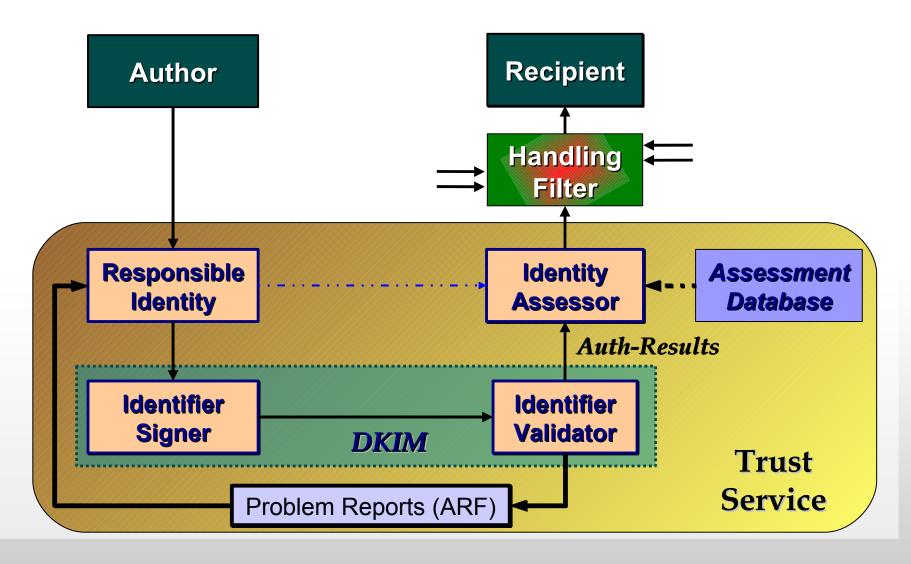
Organizational Trust

Stream Risk

	Low	Medium	High
Low	BENIGN: Moderate filter	DILIGENT: Mild filter	PRISTINE: Accept
Medium	UNKNOWN: Strong filter	TYPICAL: Targeted filter	PROTECTED: Accept & Contact
High	MALICIOUS: Block & Counter	NEGLIGENT: Block	COMPROMISED: Block & Contact



Trust Service Architecture



What is DKIM for?



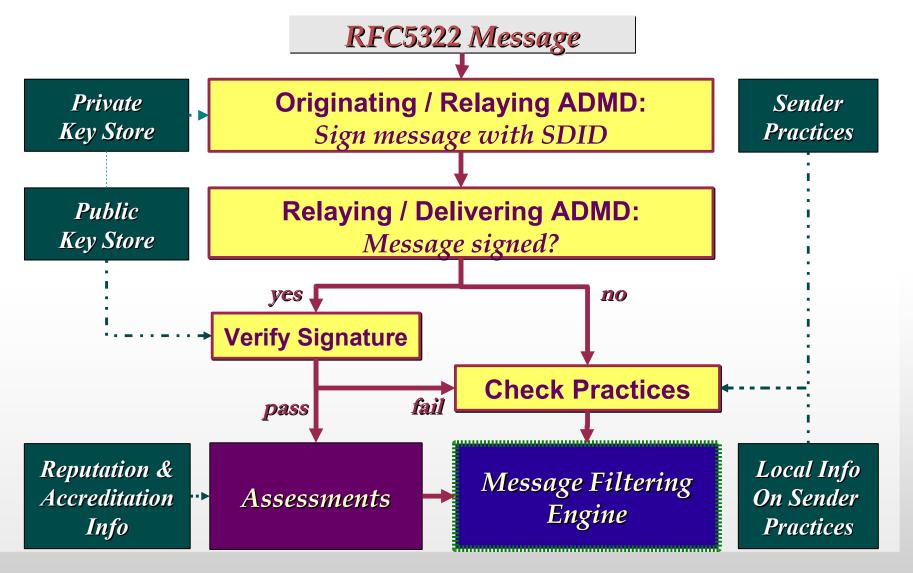
- Means a message is not spam
- Guarantees delivery
- Puts a domain name on a message
- Validates a message
- Authenticates the author or origin of a message
- Authenticates the sender of a message

What DKIM <u>really</u> does

- Allows an organization to claim responsibility for transmitting a message, in a way that can be validated by a recipient.
- The organization can be the author's, the originating sending site, an intermediary, or one of their agents.
- A message can contain multiple signatures, from the same or different organizations involved with the message.



DKIM Service Architecture





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Segment 2 of 4 on DomainKeys Identified Mail

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Segment 2 Covers

Theory:

- DKIM Protocol Details
- Separate Mail Streams and Signing Practices

Dave Crocker

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Public Key – DNS Record

Query name combined from

- Selector (for key rotation, s=)
- "._domainkey."
- Signing Domain Identifier (SDID, d=)

Stored in TXT

Major parameters

- v: Version of the DKIM key record
- p: Public key data
- n: Human readable notes



Signing and Verifying

Signing

- Choose
 - Private/public key
 - Signing Domain ID (SDID)
 - Selector
 - Header fields to sign
- Compute hash
- Encrypt hash
- Create DKIM-Signature: field

<u>Verifying</u>

- Compute hash
 - Note fields listed in DKIM-Signature field h= tag
- Fetch public key
 - From s=, d= field tags
- Decrypt hash
- Compare



DKIM-Signature: header field

Primary tags

- a: The algorithm used to generate the signature
- b: The signature itself
- bh: The hash of the canonicalised body
- c: Message canonicalization
- d: The signing domain
- h: List of header fields that are signed
- s: The selector

Additional tags

- t: Signature timestamp
- v: Version
- i: Additional information about the identity of the user or agent for which this message was signed



Identifying Mail Streams

- An organization has multiple "types" of mail
 - Corporate
 - Transactions (purchase order, order confirmation...)
 - Proposals
 - Marketing mass mailings
 - Customer Support
- Label them with different DKIM d= subdomains
- Allow different reputations to develop

ADSP:



Author Domain Signing Practices

- Exploring mistrust
 - What if no signature based on From: field domain?
- Domain owner can publish practices for signing with From: field domain
- DNS TXT record under
 - _adsp._domainkey.<from domain>
- Practices:
 - unknown, all, discardable

Status



Signing

- Proposed Standard
- Updated
- Minor -bis effort just starting

Deployment & Operations doc

Going through final approval

ADSP

- Published.

Pending

Assessment standards that use DKIM???



References

- DKIM home page http://dkim.org
 - DKIM 3-slide Teaser
 - DKIM Service Overview –
 RFC 5585
 - FAQ
 - Wikipedia entry on DKIM
 - Development, Deployment and Operations
 - Three myths about DKIM
 - Examples and analysis, countering the myth that DKIM is expensive
 - Discussion Lists

- DKIM Signatures –
 RFC 4871 + RFC 5672
- ADSP RFC 5617
- Auth-Results –
 RFC 5451
- ARF –

http://mipassoc.org/arf/ http://www.ietf.org/dyn/wg/ charter/marf-charter.html



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Segment 3 Covers Anti-Abuse Working Group

Practical:

- Planning
- Keys and Policies

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DKIM Implementation – "How"

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February 15, 2010



- Get in the right mindset
 - Consider the mail from your domain as a flow or stream
 - Then consider how receivers will evaluate or classify your mail
 - Do you <u>really</u> want it all to be one unified stream?



- Get in the right mindset
 - Given your mail from user@host.domain, receivers will probably focus on the host.domain
 - user@host.domain is way too much data to track; spammers randomize the user
 - Determining domain is actually difficult; the "top" domain might have one, two or even three labels (.com vs .co.uk vs..toronto.on.ca)



- Get in the right mindset
 - Now think about the idea of reputation
 - A measure of value or desirability associated with your mail stream based on past messages
 - Do you want all your mail grouped under one reputation, or is it beneficial to allow them to earn separate reputations?
 - For example, should a mail campaign from your sales/marketing group be able to impact the reputation of your transactional mail?



- Get in the right mindset
 - In general, best practice is to make a separate subdomain for each major mail stream coming from your domain
 - So if marketing.example.com sends a batch of mail that makes the world mad and start filtering, orders.example.com won't suffer



- Once you have your subdomains chosen, it's time to think about planning out your keys
- Keys are specific to domains, so the more subdomains you have, the more keys you need
- For security reasons, you might want to change your keys once in a while
 - Just like you change passwords once in a while (right?)



- Selecting Key Rotation Policy
 - How long do your keys live?
 - Similar in nature to your password change policy
- Selecting Key Divisions (selectors)
 - Department?
 - Mail campaign?
 - User?
 - Month or Year?
- Things To Consider
 - Every new selector generated requires changing signer configuration and DNS
 - May require some overlap
 - DNS changes may be complicated at your site





Local Mail Routing Policy

- May now have to funnel your outgoing traffic through a smaller set of MTAs (i.e. the ones that sign) than you're currently using
- Copying keys is dangerous, so you'll want to minimize it

Considerations about Roaming Users

- Do they sign with their own machines, or route through yours?
 - Anything that can sign as your domain can impact your reputation.
 Do you trust your roaming users to maintain safe machines?
- If they do their own signing, do you give them your main private key(s), or let them make their own?
 - See above about key copying
 - Could be another DNS headache



- Creating a key pair requires two fairly simple OpenSSL commands
 - OpenSSL comes standard on most UNIX systems these days, but you can also get the latest from http://www.openssl.org
- You may have to upgrade to be fully DKIM compliant
 - Prior to v0.9.8 of OpenSSL the SHA256 hash function was not included, but DKIM requires it for signing



- Key Delegation
 - If you use a mass mail outsource company, you might want to enable them to sign mail on your behalf
 - Create a new key pair and give them the private key for signing and publish the matching public key
 - Or you can accept and publish a public key they give you
 - Definitely <u>do not</u> have them use your existing keys!



- First, generate the private key:
 - openssl -genrsa -out file bits
 - Generates a new RSA private key using the specified number of bits as the key size and writes it out to the specified file
 - Larger numbers of bits increase security by geometrically increasing the difficulty of cracking the key
 - Also result in slower processing as well as possible DNS transport issues
 - Common practice with DKIM is 1024-bit keys



- Next, using the private key, generate the public key:
 - openssl rsa -in file1 -pubout
 -out file2 -outform PEM
 - Generates a public key based on the private key found at *file1* and requests it in PEM format written to *file2*



- By the way, what are private and public keys?
 - A pair of associated "keys" (involving some very large prime numbers) forming a "pair"
 - Use one to encrypt, the other to decrypt
 - Give one out (public) and keep one (private)
 - Something encrypted by the private key can be decrypted by anyone that can get the public key, thus he/she can be sure it was encrypted by the private key holder
 - Something encrypted by the public key can only be decrypted by the private key



- And while we're at it, what is signing and verifying?
 - To sign, compute a hash of some data
 - Produces a large, unique sequence of bits (hash) representing that data
 - Encrypt the hash with a private key
 - Much cheaper than encrypting the whole message, and privacy is not a requirement
 - At the receiver, re-do the hash, then decrypt the signature with the public key
 - If the output (original hash) matches the second hash, we say the signature verified



What a PEM format public key looks like:

```
----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY----
MIGFMAOGCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBgQDh2vbhJTijCs2qbyJcwRCa8WqD
TxI+PisFJofaPtoDJy0Qn41uNayCajfKADVcLqc87sXQS6GxfchPfzx7Vh9crYdx
RbN/o/URCuZsKmym1i1IPTwRLcXSnuKS0XDs1eRW2WQHGYlXksUDqSHWOS3ZO1W5
t/FLcZHpIl1/80xs4QIDAQAB
----END PUBLIC KEY----
```

- This is a base64 encoding of the key with delimiters
- Now we need to stick this someplace where other verifying agents can retrieve it in order to verify our signed messages
- DKIM uses the DNS TXT records for this, so we need to turn the above into one of those



- DKIM requires a few more bits of information in the published key record:
 - What selector name do you want to use?
 - What kind of key is it?
 - Should verifiers be told that you're only testing?
 - Which of your users can use it?
 - Some other stuff we'll skip for now



- Now build your TXT record
 - What kind of key is it? "k=rsa"
 - Should verifiers be told that you're only testing? "t=y"
 - Which of your users can use it? "g=*" or "g=username"
 - Separate them with semi-colons
 - And spaces if you wish



- Then append the public key
 - Take the PEM form
 - Remove the "begin" and "end" tags
 - Copy that base64 text as-is into the TXT record, preceded by "p="
- Do DNS record wrapping if desired
 - Break the record into palatable substrings
 - Wrap the set of substrings in parentheses



So start with this:

```
----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY----
MIGFMA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBAQUAA4GNADCBiQKBqQDh2vbhJTijCs2qbyJcwRCa8WqD
TxI+PisFJofaPtoDJy0Qn41uNayCajfKADVcLqc87sXQS6GxfchPfzx7Vh9crYdx
RbN/o/URCuZsKmym1i1IPTwRLcXSnuKS0XDs1eRW2WQHGYlXksUDqSHWOS3ZO1W5
t/FLcZHpIl1/80xs4QIDAQAB
----END PUBLIC KEY----
```

...and end with this:

Post that in your DNS, reload, and go!



- Tools to make this easy: the OpenDKIM open source package
 - opendkim-genkey generates a key pair, outputs a DNS TXT record containing the public key (for nameserver) and a PEM file containing the private key (for signing filter)
 - Doesn't do the line breaking for you so it's all on one line
 - Works fine, just not as pretty as it could be
 - Command line flags let you change selector name, number of bits, granularity, etc.



- Other DNS considerations
 - Good idea to set the TTL low during testing and rollout
 - In case you need to change something
 - Increases number of queries because it decreases caching
 - Make domainkey a subdomain?
 - DNS people can then delegate it to the mail admins without giving up control of the whole zone
 - Depends on your IT infrastructure



- Testing your installation
 - Need to make sure your private key (with which you will sign) and public key (with which others will verify) agree
 - opendkim-testkey will read your private key and get your public key from DNS and then see if they are associated
 - Any output means verifiers will have difficulty
 - Maybe DNS hasn't distributed its updates yet?



- Testing your installation
 - Can also do this manually
 - Retrieve your public key from DNS, write it to a file
 - Edit it to remove TXT record tags, so just the key remains
 - Extract your public key from the private key as before with the openssl command
 - Use diff to see if they match



Creating and Publishing Signing Policy

- Author Domain Signing Practices
 - Proposed standard (RFC5617)
 - Protocol for declaring that a particular sending domain signs all of its own mail
- Select a signing policy for verifiers to consider
 - No policy (mail may or may not be signed)
 - Sign all (expect mail from this domain to have a valid signature)
 - Discard (toss mail that doesn't have a valid signature)



Creating and Publishing Signing Policy

- Post this in your DNS at a specific location
- For example:

```
adsp. domainkey IN TXT "dkim=all"
```

 Essentially a software version of the well-known signing agreement between eBay/PayPal and Yahoo!



Creating and Publishing Signing Policy

- Be careful with "all" and "discardable"
 - Remember, they mean "Expect our mail to arrive with a valid author domain signature"
 - How can you be sure all your mail will get through without being modified?
 - Some mail may be discarded or redirected because of changes outside of your control



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Segment 1 20 mins.

Theory

- General DKIM Architecture
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Segment 2 20 mins.

<u>Theory</u>

- DKIM Protocol Details
- Separate Mail Streams & Signing Practices

Segment 3 18 mins.

<u>Practical</u>

- Planning
- Keys and

Policies

Segment 4 35 mins.

Practical

- SigningSoftware
- Verifying Software
- Testing,Other Topics
- Q&A



Segment 4 Covers

Practical:

- Signing Software
- Verifying Software
- Testing and Other
 - Q&A

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- Consider signing options
 - Set signature expirations?
 - Signature will no longer validate after a specific time has passed
 - Which canonicalizations to use?
 - "relaxed" tolerates minor rewrites such as spacing changes, while "simple" implies maximum strictness
 - Include forensic data?
 - Allows a verifier to see if header fields changed in transit, preventing verification



- Steps specific to opendkim
 - Install the filter
 - Select a rendezvous socket
 - Filter will listen for connections from MTAs at the designated socket
 - Security considerations
 - Put private keys someplace safe
 - Filter needs read access to them, but nobody else does
 - Make a list of which keys are used for which users/domains



- Steps specific to opendkim
 - Write a configuration file
 - Signing options
 - Domain and key selection rules
 - Auto-restart
 - What socket to use
 - What SMTP clients should have mail signed
 - Start the filter
 - Configure the MTA to connect to the filter and restart it



 Sample opendkim.conf contents for signing all of a single domain with one key

AlwaysSignHeaders Subject

AutoRestart True Background True

Canonicalization relaxed/simple

Diagnostics Yes

Domain example.com

KeyFile /var/db/dkim/sign201002.key.pem

InternalHosts /etc/mail/dkim/internal

LogWhy true Mode sign

Selector sign201002 SignatureAlgorithm rsa-sha256

Socket inet:8891@localhost

Syslog Yes



- Sample file contents for signing multiple domains (v2.0.0 or later)
- /etc/mail/opendkim.conf:

KeyTable /etc/mail/dkim/keytable
InternalHosts /etc/mail/dkim/internal

SigningTable /etc/mail/dkim/signingtable

Socket inet:8891@localhost

- /etc/mail/dkim/keytable
 - opskey ops.example.com:ops:/etc/mail/dkim/keys/ops
 mktgkey mktg.example.com:mktg:/etc/mail/dkim/keys/mktg
 execkey exec.example.com:exec:/etc/mail/dkim/keys/exec
 preskey exec.example.com:pres:/etc/mail/dkim/keys/president
 defkey example.com:default:/etc/mail/dkim/keys/default
- /etc/mail/dkim/signingtable

```
ops.example.com opskey
mktg.example.com mktgkey
president@exec.example.com preskey
exec.example.com execkey
.example.com defkey
```





- A note about OpenDKIM
 - All of the lookup tables referenced in opendkim.conf can be:
 - Comma-separated lists
 - Flat files
 - Files matching by regular expressions
 - Sleepycat databases (hash/btree)
 - LDAP directory lookups
 - SQL queries



- Generally you have the following steps:
 - Install your verifying agent (may be an MTA upgrade)
 - Might be the same as the signing agent
 - Tell it which mail to verify
 - Which SMTP clients, which users/domains
 - Might just be "everyone"
 - Select verifying policy options
 - Throw the switch!



- Verification policy options
 - DKIM specifies that an unsigned message and one with a bad signature should be treated the same
 - Any other verification choices are specific to the implementation you use, not to DKIM itself
 - Some common ones are discussed here



- Verification policy options
 - Require certain headers be signed even if absent
 - A favourite is Subject:, since MUAs generally display it
 - Modification or addition both invalidate signatures
 - Require a minimum of additional text when messages are signed with "1="
 - Prevents replay attacks with undesirable appended text



- Verification policy options
 - Do something with "z=" (forensics) header fields?
 - Can't do anything other than figure out why a verification failed <u>if</u> it was caused by a header change
 - Authentication-Results: header fields
 - What authserv-id to use internally?



- Verification policy options
 - Apply ADSP?
 - Signers might want you to discard mail that's not signed or lacks a valid signature
 - You could end up rejecting/quarantining mail that was accidentally damaged
 - How much clock drift on signatures is allowed?
 - To tolerate misconfigured clocks out there



- Verification policy options
 - Do you want to trust third-party signatures?
 - Again, this is still controversial
 - By default, OpenDKIM only uses author signatures when making final decisions, but you can tell it there are other domains you trust



Sample opendkim.conf contents

ClockDrift 300

DiagnosticDirectory /var/db/dkim/DIAGNOSTICS

DNSTimeout 10

InternalHosts /etc/mail/dkim/internal

LogWhy true

Socket inet:8891@localhost

ADSPDiscard Yes

Syslog Yes

Statistics /var/db/dkim/dkim-stats.db



- Experience has shown that there is a very wide variety of site-specific needs with respect to mail flow and policy enforcement
- Adding features to configuration files to keep up with changing environments is an uphill battle
- As a result, OpenDKIM now (as of v2.0.0) has hooks that allow one to write scripts to enforce policy



- Lua is the scripting language chosen
 - http://www.lua.org
 - Reference books available
- Three scripting entry points
 - Setup: Observe properties of message, decide whether to sign (and which key(s) to use), or verify, or both
 - Screen: For signed messages, examine the signatures and decide which ones to use and which to discard
 - Final: For signed messages, examine the results of processing each signature and decide what to do with the message
- opendkim exports message information and a bunch of access and utility functions to the Lua interpreter, then runs your script



Sample trivial setup script:

```
-- See if {auth author} was set
author = odkim.get mtasymbol(ctx, "{auth author}")
-- If it's not from an internal source or
-- authenticated, just verify it
if odkim.internal ip(tx) == 0 and author == nil then
   odkim.verify(ctx)
   return nil
end
-- Since we got this far, we're signing; make a
-- signing request using the key "defkey" from the
-- KeyTable
odkim.sign(ctx, "defkey")
-- That's it!
return nil
```



Sample trivial screen script:

```
-- retrieve the count of signatures on the message
nsigs = odkim.get sigcount(ctx)
if nsigs == nil then
       return nil
end
-- get the From: domain
fdomain = odkim.get fromdomain(ctx)
if fdomain == nil then
        return nil
end
-- for each signature, ignore it if it's not from the sender's domain
for n = 1, nsigs do
     sig = odkim.get signhandle(ctx, n)
     sdomain = odkim.sig getdomain(sig)
     if fdomain ~= sdomain then
         odkim.sig ignore(sig)
     end
end
```



Sample final script

```
-- retrieve the count of signatures on the message
nsigs = odkim.get sigcount(ctx)
if nsigs == nil then
        return nil
end
-- If the message had too much stuff added to it (more than 120 bytes)
-- then bounce it.
for n = 1, nsigs do
     sig = odkim.get sighandle(ctx, n)
     bodylen = odkim.sig bodylength(sig)
     canonlen = odkim.sig canonlength(sig)
     if bodylen > canonlen + 120 then
         odkim.set reply(ctx, "554", "",
                         "Too much data after DKIM-protected body")
         odkim.set result(ctx, SMFIS REJECT)
     end
end
-- That's it!
return nil
```



Testing Your Setup

- Once configured for signing, send a test message to an autoresponder
 - Check http://www.dkim.org for a current list
- Autoresponder will try to validate your message and send it and the results back to you
- The reply will also be signed, so your verifier can take a crack at it
- Of course, if you run two disjoint sites, you can do this yourself



Beyond Basic DKIM

- RFC5451 defines a header field called Authentication-Results that can be used to tell MUAs and other filters what the results of DKIM were
 - Can also be used for SPF, Sender-ID, etc.
- There are some security considerations around using this
 - In particular, dealing with spoofs from outside
 - Read the spec, even if you plan to do this some other way!





- Domain reputation
 - OK, so example.com's signature verified. So what?
 - Spammers can sign their mail just like you can
 - An MUA or filter that considers a verified signature to be ultimate approval is being foolish
 - What if one were to register marri0tt.com and send signed phishes? Would the average user be fooled?





- Domain reputation
 - Reputation seeks to associate value with a name
 - In the DKIM world, we would use the domain name found in "d=", i.e. the domain that took responsibility for sending the message
 - Likely more value in finding good guys and letting them in than in finding bad guys and keeping them out
 - Bad reputations are very easily shed





- Domain reputation
 - Both commercial and open source efforts are in development
 - OpenDKIM has hooks for one of the open ones, which is still experimental





- Reporting
 - Many sites wish to be advised of unusual activity
 - DKIM failures might indicate phishing or unexpected problems in transit
 - Draft proposal to extend DKIM, ADSP and ARF to publish requests for such advisories
 - Can request reports of incidents such as unsigned messages or failed validations
 - Can request SMTP rejections with specific text, or can request ARF reports





- Doing it on your own
 - The opendkim package includes a C library called libopendkim that can be used to build your own DKIM-aware applications
 - Includes full HTML documentation



Who's Doing It Now

- Service providers
 - AOL (verifying)
 - Yahoo! (verifying)
 - Gmail (signing and verifying)
- Popular web sites
 - LinkedIn, Facebook
 - eBay, FTD
- Vendors
 - ...just about everyone
 - Several open source implementations



What's Up At MAAWG

- Might want to check out some of the other panels at this conference
 - DKIM and Signing Practices
 - Discusses current DKIM and ADSP-related topics

References



- General Information: http://www.dkim.org
- DKIM is defined in RFC4871 (standards track)
 http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4871.txt
- Author Domain Signing Practices
 http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5617.txt
- Authentication-Results is defined in RFC5451 (standards track)
 http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc5451.txt
- OpenDKIM http://www.opendkim.org
- DKIM reporting is currently an IETF individual submission draft http://www.ietf.org/ID.html draft-kucherawy-dkim-reporting
- ARF is now being advanced by the MARF working group http://www.ietf.org/dyn/wg/charter/marf-charter.html





Now's the time!