

Time-Specific Signatures

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Abstract. In Time-Specific Signatures (TSS) parameterized by an integer $T \in \mathbb{N}$, a signer with a secret-key associated with a numerical value $t \in [0, T - 1]$ can anonymously, i.e., without revealing t , sign a message under a numerical range $[L, R]$ such that $0 \leq L \leq t \leq R \leq T - 1$. An application of TSS is anonymous questionnaire, where each user associated with a numerical value such as age, date, salary, geographical position (represented by longitude and latitude) and etc., can anonymously fill in a questionnaire in an efficient manner.

In this paper, we propose two *polylogarithmically* efficient TSS constructions based on asymmetric pairing with groups of prime order, which achieve different characteristics in efficiency. In the first one based on a forward-secure signatures scheme concretely obtained from a hierarchical identity-based signatures scheme proposed by Chatterjee and Sarker (IJACT'13), size of the master public-key, size of a secret-key and size of a signature are asymptotically $O(\log T)$, and size of the master secret-key is $O(1)$. In the second one based on a wildcarded identity-based ring signatures scheme obtained as an instantiation of an attribute-based signatures scheme proposed by Sakai, Attrapadung and Hanaoka (PKC'16), the sizes are $O(\log T)$, $O(1)$, $O(\log^2 T)$ and $O(\log T)$, respectively.

Keywords: Time-specific signatures, Forward-secure signatures, Wildcarded identity-based ring signatures, Asymmetric pairing with groups of prime order, Co-computational Diffie-Hellman assumption, Symmetric external Diffie-Hellman assumption.

1 Introduction

Time-Specific Encryption [19]. In a Time-Specific Encryption (TSE) system with total time periods $T \in \mathbb{T}$, each secret-key is associated with a time period $t \in [0, T - 1]$ and a plaintext is encrypted under a time interval $[L, R]$ such that $0 \leq L \leq R \leq T - 1$. A user who has a secret-key for t can correctly decrypt any ciphertext under $[L, R]$ if $t \in [L, R]$. Paterson&Quaglia [19] showed that a TSE scheme can be generically constructed from an identity-based encryption (IBE) [22] scheme or a broadcast encryption (BE) scheme [12]. Kasamatsu et al. [15,16] proposed a (direct) construction based on Boneh-Boyen-Goh hierarchical identity-based encryption (HIBE) scheme [8]. Ishizaka&Kiyomoto [14] proposed a generic construction from wildcarded identity-based encryption (WIBE) [2,6,1] w/o hierarchical key-delegatability.

TSE is less functional compared to functional encryption [9], (ciphertext-policy) attribute-based encryption [20,5] and etc. Because of that, we require a TSE scheme to be highly efficient. Specifically, in previous works [19,15,16,14], *polylogarithmic* efficiency is required. For instance, by instantiating the IBE-based generic TSE construction by Waters IBE scheme [23], they obtain a TSE scheme, whose size of the master public-key $|mpk|$, that of a secret-key $|sk_t|$ for a time period t and that of a ciphertext $|c_{[L,R]}|$ under a time interval $[L, R]$ are asymptotically $O(\log T)$. [15,16] proposed a direct construction with $(|mpk|, |sk_t|, |c_{[L,R]}|) = (O(\log T), O(\log^2 T), O(1))$. By instantiating the WIBE-based generic construction [14] by their original WIBE scheme based on Waters IBE scheme [23], they obtained a TSE scheme with $(|mpk|, |sk_t|, |c_{[L,R]}|) = (O(\log T), O(1), O(\log^2 T))$.

Time-Specific Signatures. In [19], the authors left as an open problem an approach to realize Time-Specific Signatures (TSS), which are the digital signature analogue of TSE. In TSS system, a signer with a secret-key associated with a numerical value $t \in [0, T - 1]$ can correctly sign a message under a numerical range $[L, R]$

