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X-Wing: general-purpose hybrid post-quantum KEM
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Abstract

This memo defines X-Wing, a general-purpose post-quantum/traditional hybrid key encapsulation mechanism (PQ/T KEM) built on X25519 and ML-KEM-768.

About This Document

This note is to be removed before publishing as an RFC.

The latest revision of this draft can be found at <https://dconnolly.github.io/draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem/draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem.html>. Status information for this document may be found at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem/>.

Discussion of this document takes place on the Crypto Forum Research Group mailing list (<mailto:cfrg@ietf.org>), which is archived at https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/search/?email_list=cfrg. Subscribe at <https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/cfrg/>.

Source for this draft and an issue tracker can be found at <https://github.com/dconnolly/draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem>.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation

There are many choices that can be made when specifying a hybrid KEM: the constituent KEMs; their security levels; the combiner; and the hash within, to name but a few. Having too many similar options are a burden to the ecosystem.

The aim of X-Wing is to provide a concrete, simple choice for post-quantum hybrid KEM, that should be suitable for the vast majority of use cases.

1.2. Design goals

By making concrete choices, we can simplify and improve many aspects of X-Wing.

- * Simplicity of definition. Because all shared secrets and cipher texts are fixed length, we do not need to encode the length. Using SHA3-256, we do not need HMAC-based construction. For the concrete choice of ML-KEM-768, we do not need to mix in its ciphertext, see Section 6.

- * Security analysis. Because ML-KEM-768 already assumes the Quantum Random Oracle Model (QROM), we do not need to complicate the analysis of X-Wing by considering stronger models.
- * Performance. Not having to mix in the ML-KEM-768 ciphertext is a nice performance benefit. Furthermore, by using SHA3-256 in the combiner, which matches the hashing in ML-KEM-768, this hash can be computed in one go on platforms where two-way Keccak is available.

We aim for "128 bits" security (NIST PQC level 1). Although at the moment there is no peer-reviewed evidence that ML-KEM-512 does not reach this level, we would like to hedge against future cryptanalytic improvements, and feel ML-KEM-768 provides a comfortable margin.

We aim for X-Wing to be usable for most applications, including specifically HPKE [RFC9180].

1.3. Not an interactive key-agreement

Traditionally most protocols use a Diffie-Hellman (DH) style non-interactive key-agreement. In many cases, a DH key agreement can be replaced by the interactive key-agreement afforded by a KEM without change in the protocol flow. One notable example is TLS [HYBRID] [XYBERTLS]. However, not all uses of DH can be replaced in a straight-forward manner by a plain KEM.

1.4. Not an authenticated KEM

In particular, X-Wing is not, borrowing the language of [RFC9180], an `_authenticated_` KEM.

1.5. Comparisons

1.5.1. With HPKE X25519Kyber768Draft00

X-Wing is most similar to HPKE's X25519Kyber768Draft00 [XYBERHPKE]. The key differences are:

- * X-Wing uses the final version of ML-KEM-768.
- * X-Wing hashes the shared secrets, to be usable outside of HPKE.
- * X-Wing has a simpler combiner by flattening DHKEM(X25519) into the final hash.
- * X-Wing does not hash in the ML-KEM-768 ciphertext.

There is also a different KEM called X25519Kyber768Draft00 [XYBERTLS] which is used in TLS. This one should not be used outside of TLS, as it assumes the presence of the TLS transcript to ensure non malleability.

1.5.2. With generic combiner

The generic combiner of [I-D.ounsworth-cfrg-kem-combiners] can be instantiated with ML-KEM-768 and DHKEM(X25519). That achieves similar security, but:

- * X-Wing is more performant, not hashing in the ML-KEM-768 ciphertext, and flattening the DHKEM construction, with the same level of security.
- * X-Wing has a fixed 32 byte shared secret, instead of a variable shared secret.
- * X-Wing does not accept the optional counter and fixedInfo arguments.

2. Requirements Notation

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in BCP 14 [RFC2119] [RFC8174] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

3. Conventions and Definitions

This document is consistent with all terminology defined in [I-D.driscoll-pqt-hybrid-terminology].

The following terms are used throughout this document to describe these operations:

- * `concat(x0, ..., xN)`: returns the concatenation of byte strings.
`concat(0x01, 0x0203, 0x040506) = 0x010203040506.`
- * `random(n)`: returns a byte string of length `n` bytes produced by a cryptographically-secure pseudorandom number generator.

4. Cryptographic Dependencies

X-Wing relies on the following primitives:

- * ML-KEM-768 post-quantum key-encapsulation mechanism (KEM) [MLKEM]:

- `ML-KEM-768.KeyGen_internal(d, z)`: Deterministic algorithm to generate an ML-KEM-768 key pair (`pk_M`, `sk_M`) of an encapsulation key `pk_M` and decapsulation key `sk_M`. It is the derandomized version of `ML-KEM-768.KeyGen`. Note that `ML-KEM-768.KeyGen_internal()` returns the keys in reverse order of `GenerateKeyPair()` defined below. `d` and `z` are both 32 byte strings.
- `ML-KEM-768.Encaps(pk_M)`: Randomized algorithm to generate (`ss_M`, `ct_M`), an ephemeral 32 byte shared key `ss_M`, and a fixed-length encapsulation (ciphertext) of that key `ct_M` for encapsulation key `pk_M`.

`ML-KEM-768.Encaps(pk_M)` MUST perform the encapsulation key check of [MLKEM] 則 7.2 and raise an error if it fails.

- `ML-KEM-768.Decap(ct_M, sk_M)`: Deterministic algorithm using the decapsulation key `sk_M` to recover the shared key from `ct_M`.

`ML-KEM-768.Decap(ct_M, sk_M)` is NOT required to perform the decapsulation key check of [MLKEM] 則 7.3.

To generate deterministic test vectors, we also use

- `ML-KEM-768.Encaps_internal(pk_M, m)`: Algorithm to generate (`ss_M`, `ct_M`), an ephemeral 32 byte shared key `ss_M`, and a fixed-length encapsulation (ciphertext) of that key `ct_M` for encapsulation key `pk_M`. `m` is a 32 byte string.

`ML-KEM-768.Encaps_internal(pk_M)` MUST perform the encapsulation key check of [MLKEM] 則 7.2 and raise an error if it fails.

- * X25519 elliptic curve Diffie-Hellman key-exchange defined in Section 5 of [RFC7748]:

- `X25519(k, u)`: takes 32 byte strings `k` and `u` representing a Curve25519 scalar and the `u`-coordinate of a point respectively, and returns the 32 byte string representing the `u`-coordinate of their scalar multiplication.
- `X25519_BASE`: the 32 bytestring representing the standard base point of Curve25519. In hexadecimal, it is given by 0900.

Note that 9 is the standard basepoint for X25519, cf Section 6.1 of [RFC7748].

- * Symmetric cryptography.

- SHAKE256(message, outlen): The extendable-output function (XOF) with that name defined in Section 6.2 of [FIPS202]. Note that outlen counts bits.
- SHA3-256(message): The hash with that name defined in Section 6.1 of [FIPS202].

5. X-Wing Construction

5.1. Encoding and sizes

X-Wing encapsulation key, decapsulation key, ciphertexts and shared secrets are all fixed-length byte strings.

Decapsulation key (private): 32 bytes

Encapsulation key (public): 1216 bytes

Ciphertext: 1120 bytes

Shared secret: 32 bytes

5.2. Key generation

An X-Wing keypair (decapsulation key, encapsulation key) is generated as follows.

```
def expandDecapsulationKey(sk):
    expanded = SHAKE256(sk, 96*8) # expand sk to 96 bytes using SHAKE256
    (pk_M, sk_M) = ML-KEM-768.KeyGen_internal(expanded[0:32], expanded[32:64])
    sk_X = expanded[64:96]
    pk_X = X25519(sk_X, X25519_BASE)
    return (sk_M, sk_X, pk_M, pk_X)
```

```
def GenerateKeyPair():
    sk = random(32)
    (sk_M, sk_X, pk_M, pk_X) = expandDecapsulationKey(sk)
    return sk, concat(pk_M, pk_X)
```

GenerateKeyPair() returns the 32 byte secret decapsulation key sk and the 1216 byte encapsulation key pk.

Here and in the balance of the document for clarity we use the M and X subscripts for ML-KEM-768 and X25519 components respectively.

5.2.1. Key derivation

For testing, it is convenient to have a deterministic version of key generation. An X-Wing implementation MAY provide the following derandomized variant of key generation.

```
def GenerateKeyPairDerand(sk):
    sk_M, sk_X, pk_M, pk_X = expandDecapsulationKey(sk)
    return sk, concat(pk_M, pk_X)
```

sk must be 32 bytes.

GenerateKeyPairDerand() returns the 32 byte secret encapsulation key sk and the 1216 byte decapsulation key pk.

Note GenerateKeyPair() is the same as GenerateKeyPairDerand(random(32)).

5.3. Combiner

Given 32 byte strings ss_M, ss_X, ct_X, pk_X, representing the ML-KEM-768 shared secret, X25519 shared secret, X25519 ciphertext (ephemeral public key) and X25519 public key respectively, the 32 byte combined shared secret is given by:

```
def Combiner(ss_M, ss_X, ct_X, pk_X):
    return SHA3-256(concat(
        ss_M,
        ss_X,
        ct_X,
        pk_X,
        XWingLabel
    ))
```

where XWingLabel is the following 6 byte ASCII string

```
XWingLabel = concat(
    "\./",
    "/^\",
)
```

In hexadecimal, XWingLabel is given by 5c2e2f2f5e5c.

5.4. Encapsulation

Given an X-Wing encapsulation key pk, encapsulation proceeds as follows.


```
def Encapsulate(pk):
    pk_M = pk[0:1184]
    pk_X = pk[1184:1216]
    ek_X = random(32)
    ct_X = X25519(ek_X, X25519_BASE)
    ss_X = X25519(ek_X, pk_X)
    (ss_M, ct_M) = ML-KEM-768.Encaps(pk_M)
    ss = Combiner(ss_M, ss_X, ct_X, pk_X)
    ct = concat(ct_M, ct_X)
    return (ss, ct)
```

pk is a 1216 byte X-Wing encapsulation key resulting from
GeneratePublicKey()

Encapsulate() returns the 32 byte shared secret ss and the 1120 byte
ciphertext ct.

Note that Encapsulate() may raise an error if the ML-KEM
encapsulation does not pass the check of [MLKEM] 則 7.2.

5.4.1. Derandomized

For testing, it is convenient to have a deterministic version of
encapsulation. An X-Wing implementation MAY provide the following
derandomized function.

```
def EncapsulateDerand(pk, eseed):
    pk_M = pk[0:1184]
    pk_X = pk[1184:1216]
    ek_X = eseed[32:64]
    ct_X = X25519(ek_X, X25519_BASE)
    ss_X = X25519(ek_X, pk_X)
    (ss_M, ct_M) = ML-KEM-768.EncapsDerand(pk_M, eseed[0:32])
    ss = Combiner(ss_M, ss_X, ct_X, pk_X)
    ct = concat(ct_M, ct_X)
    return (ss, ct)
```

pk is a 1216 byte X-Wing encapsulation key resulting from
GeneratePublicKey() eseed MUST be 64 bytes.

EncapsulateDerand() returns the 32 byte shared secret ss and the 1120
byte ciphertext ct.

Encapsulate(pk) can be implemented as
EncapsulateDerand(pk, random(64)).

5.5. Decapsulation

```
def Decapsulate(ct, sk):
    (sk_M, sk_X, pk_M, pk_X) = expandDecapsulationKey(sk)
    ct_M = ct[0:1088]
    ct_X = ct[1088:1120]
    ss_M = ML-KEM-768.Decapsulate(ct_M, sk_M)
    ss_X = X25519(sk_X, ct_X)
    return Combiner(ss_M, ss_X, ct_X, pk_X)
```

ct is the 1120 byte ciphertext resulting from Encapsulate() sk is a 32 byte X-Wing decapsulation key resulting from GenerateKeyPair()

Decapsulate() returns the 32 byte shared secret.

5.5.1. Keeping expanded decapsulation key around

For efficiency, an implementation MAY cache the result of expandDecapsulationKey. This is useful in two cases:

1. If multiple ciphertexts for the same key are decapsulated.
2. If a ciphertext is decapsulated for a key that has just been generated. This happens on the client-side for TLS.

A typical API pattern to achieve this optimization is to have an opaque decapsulation key object that hides the cached values. For instance, such an API could have the following functions.

1. GenerateKeyPair() returns an encapsulation key and an opaque object that contains the expanded decapsulation key.
2. Decapsulate(ct, esk) takes a ciphertext and an expanded decapsulation key.
3. PackDecapsulationKey(sk) takes an expanded decapsulation key, and returns the packed decapsulation key.
4. UnpackDecapsulationKey(sk) takes a packed decapsulation key, and returns the expanded decapsulation key. In the case of X-Wing this would be the same as a derandomized GenerateKeyPair().

The expanded decapsulation key could cache even more computation, such as the expanded matrix A in ML-KEM.

Any such expanded decapsulation key MUST NOT be transmitted between implementations, as this could break the security analysis of X-Wing. In particular, the MAL-BIND-K-PK and MAL-BIND-K-CT binding properties of X-Wing do not hold when transmitting the regular ML-KEM decapsulation key.

5.6. Use in HPKE

X-Wing satisfies the HPKE KEM interface as follows.

The `SerializePublicKey`, `SerializePrivateKey`, and `DeserializePrivateKey` are the identity functions, as X-Wing keys are fixed-length byte strings, see Section 5.1.

`DeriveKeyPair()` is given by

```
def DeriveKeyPair(ikm):  
    # Extract 32-byte seed from variable-length ikm using SHAKE.  
    sk = SHAKE256(ikm, 32*8)  
    return GenerateKeyPairDerand(sk)
```

where the HPKE private key and public key are the X-Wing decapsulation key and encapsulation key respectively.

`Encap()` is `Encapsulate()` from Section 5.4, where an ML-KEM encapsulation key check failure causes an HPKE `EncapError`.

`Decap()` is `Decapsulate()` from Section 5.5.

X-Wing is not an authenticated KEM: it does not support `AuthEncap()` and `AuthDecap()`, see Section 1.4.

`Nsecret`, `Nenc`, `Npk`, and `Nsk` are defined in Section 7.

5.7. Use in TLS 1.3

For the client's share, the `key_exchange` value contains the X-Wing encapsulation key.

For the server's share, the `key_exchange` value contains the X-Wing ciphertext.

On ML-KEM encapsulation key check failure, the server MUST abort with an `illegal_parameter` alert.

5.8. Use in X.509 Public Key Infrastructure

We use the OID 1.3.6.1.4.1.62253.25722 to identify X-Wing keys as described below. In ASN.1 notation:

```
id-XWing OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { iso(1) identified-organization(3)  
    dod(6) internet(1) private(4) enterprise(1) 62253 25722 }
```

5.8.1. Certificate

In a X.509 certificate, the `subjectPublicKeyInfo` field has the `SubjectPublicKeyInfo` type, which has the following ASN.1 syntax.

```
SubjectPublicKeyInfo ::= SEQUENCE {
    algorithm      AlgorithmIdentifier,
    subjectPublicKey BIT STRING
}

AlgorithmIdentifier{ALGORITHM-TYPE, ALGORITHM-TYPE:AlgorithmSet} ::=
SEQUENCE {
    algorithm      ALGORITHM-TYPE."&"id({AlgorithmSet}),
    parameters     ALGORITHM-TYPE.
                    "&"Params({AlgorithmSet}{@algorithm}) OPTIONAL
}
```

An X-Wing encapsulation key **MUST** be encoded directly using the ASN.1 type `XWingPublicKey`.

```
XWingPublicKey ::= OCTET STRING
```

The X-Wing encapsulation key is mapped to a `subjectPublicKey` (a value of type `BIT STRING`) as follows: the most significant bit of the `OCTET STRING` value becomes the most significant bit of the `BIT STRING` value, and so on; the least significant bit of the `OCTET STRING` becomes the least significant bit of the `BIT STRING`.

The `id-XWing` identifier **MUST** be used as the `algorithm` field in the `SubjectPublicKeyInfo` to identify an X-Wing encapsulation key.

The contents of the `parameters` component **MUST** be absent.

5.8.2. Private key

Below we replicate part of the definition of `OneAsymmetricKey` from [RFC5958].

```

OneAsymmetricKey ::= SEQUENCE {
    version          Version,
    privateKeyAlgorithm SEQUENCE {
        algorithm    PUBLIC-KEY.&id({PublicKeySet}),
        parameters   PUBLIC-KEY.&Params({PublicKeySet}
                                {@privateKeyAlgorithm.algorithm})
                                OPTIONAL}
    privateKey       OCTET STRING (CONTAINING
                                PUBLIC-KEY.&PrivateKey({PublicKeySet}
                                {@privateKeyAlgorithm.algorithm})),
    attributes       [0] Attributes OPTIONAL,
    ...
    [[2: publicKey   [1] BIT STRING (CONTAINING
                                PUBLIC-KEY.&Params({PublicKeySet}
                                {@privateKeyAlgorithm.algorithm})
                                OPTIONAL,
    ...
}

```

When storing an X-Wing decapsulation key in a `OneAsymmetricKey`, the `privateKey` OCTET STRING contains the raw octet string encoding the X-Wing decapsulation key.

The `id-XWing` identifier MUST be used as the algorithm field in the `OneAsymmetricKey` to identify an X-Wing decapsulation key.

The `publicKey` component MUST be absent.

6. Security Considerations

Informally, X-Wing is secure if SHA3 is secure, and either X25519 is secure, or ML-KEM-768 is secure.

More precisely, if SHA3-256, SHA3-512, and SHAKE-256 may be modelled as a random oracle, then the IND-CCA security of X-Wing is bounded by the IND-CCA security of ML-KEM-768, and the gap-CDH security of Curve25519, see [PROOF].

The security of X-Wing relies crucially on the specifics of the Fujisaki-Okamoto transformation used in ML-KEM-768: the X-Wing combiner cannot be assumed to be secure, when used with different KEMs. In particular it is not known to be safe to leave out the post-quantum ciphertext from the combiner in the general case.

6.1. Binding properties

Some protocols rely on further properties of the KEM. X-Wing satisfies the binding properties MAL-BIND-K-PK and MAL-BIND-K-CT (TODO: reference to proof). This implies [KSMW] X-Wing also satisfies

- * MAL-BIND-K,CT-PK
- * MAL-BIND-K,PK-CT
- * LEAK-BIND-K-PK
- * LEAK-BIND-K-CT
- * LEAK-BIND-K,CT-PK
- * LEAK-BIND-K,PK-CT
- * HON-BIND-K-PK
- * HON-BIND-K-CT
- * HON-BIND-K,CT-PK
- * HON-BIND-K,PK-CT

In contrast, ML-KEM on its own does not achieve MAL-BIND-K-PK, MAL-BIND-K-CT, nor MAL-BIND-K,PK-CT. [SCHMIEG]

7. IANA Considerations

This document requests/registers a new entry to the "HPKE KEM Identifiers" registry.

Value: 25722 = 25519 + 203 = 0x647a (please)

KEM: X-Wing

Nsecret: 32

Nenc: 1120

Npk: 1216

Nsk: 32

Auth: no

Reference: This document

Furthermore, this document requests/registers a new entry to the TLS Named Group (or Supported Group) registry, according to the procedures in Section 6 of [TLSIANA].

Value: 25722 = 25519 + 203 = 0x647a (please)

Description: X-Wing

DTLS-OK: Y

Recommended: N

Reference: This document

Comment: PQ/T hybrid of X25519 and ML-KEM-768

Finally, for the ASN.1 module in {asn1}, IANA is requested to assign an object identifier (OID) for the module identifier (TBD) with a Description of "id-mod-XWing-kem-2024".

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Appendix A. Implementations

- * Platform
 - Apple CryptoKit (<https://developer.apple.com/documentation/cryptokit/xwingmlkem768x25519>)
- * C
 - Google's BoringSSL (<https://github.com/google/boringssl/blob/main/include/openssl/xwing.h>)
- * Go
 - Cloudflare's CIRCL (<https://github.com/cloudflare/circl/pull/471>)
 - Filippo (<https://github.com/FiloSottile/mlkem768>)
- * Rust
 - xwing-kem.rs (<https://github.com/rugo/xwing-kem.rs>)

Note: implements the older -00 version of this memo at the time of writing.

- RustCrypto x-wing
(<https://github.com/RustCrypto/KEMs/tree/master/x-wing>)
- Orion (<https://github.com/orion-rs/orion>)

Appendix B. Machine-readable specification

For the convenience of implementors, we provide a reference specification in Python. This is a specification; not production ready code: it should not be deployed as-is, as it leaks the private key by its runtime.

B.1. xwing.py

```
# WARNING This is a specification of X-Wing; not a production-ready
# implementation. It is slow and does not run in constant time.

# Requires the CryptoDome for SHAKE, and pytest for testing. To install, run
#
# pip install pycryptodome pytest

import binascii
import hashlib

import mlkem
import x25519

XWingLabel = br"""
    \./
    /^\
    """.replace(b'\n', b'').replace(b' ', b'')

assert len(XWingLabel) == 6
assert binascii.hexlify(XWingLabel) == b'5c2e2f2f5e5c'

def expandDecapsulationKey(seed):
    expanded = hashlib.shake_256(seed).digest(length=96)
    pkM, skM = mlkem.KeyGen(expanded[0:64], mlkem.params768)
    skX = expanded[64:96]
    pkX = x25519.X(skX, x25519.BASE)
    return skM, skX, pkM, pkX

def GenerateKeyPairDerand(seed):
    assert len(seed) == 32
    skM, skX, pkM, pkX = expandDecapsulationKey(seed)
```

```
    return seed, pkM + pkX

def Combiner(ssM, ssX, ctX, pkX):
    return hashlib.sha3_256(
        ssM +
        ssX +
        ctX +
        pkX +
        XWingLabel
    ).digest()

def EncapsulateDerand(pk, eseed):
    assert len(eseed) == 64
    assert len(pk) == 1216
    pkM = pk[0:1184]
    pkX = pk[1184:1216]
    ekX = eseed[32:64]
    ctX = x25519.X(ekX, x25519.BASE)
    ssX = x25519.X(ekX, pkX)
    ctM, ssM = mlkem.Enc(pkM, eseed[0:32], mlkem.params768)
    ss = Combiner(ssM, ssX, ctX, pkX)
    return ss, ctM + ctX

def Decapsulate(ct, sk):
    assert len(ct) == 1120
    assert len(sk) == 32
    ctM = ct[0:1088]
    ctX = ct[1088:1120]
    skM, skX, pkM, pkX = expandDecapsulationKey(sk)
    ssM = mlkem.Dec(skM, ctM, mlkem.params768)
    ssX = x25519.X(skX, ctX)
    return Combiner(ssM, ssX, ctX, pkX)
```

B.2. x25519.py

```
# WARNING This is a specification of X25519; not a production-ready
# implementation. It is slow and does not run in constant time.
```

```
p = 2**255 - 19
a24 = 121665
```

```
BASE = b'\x09' + b'\x00'*31
```

```
def decode(bs):
    return sum(bs[i] << 8*i for i in range(32)) % p
```

```
def decodeScalar(k):
    bs = list(k)
```

```
    bs[0] &= 248
    bs[31] &= 127
    bs[31] |= 64
    return decode(bs)

# See rfc7748 §5.
def X(k, u):
    assert len(k) == 32
    assert len(u) == 32

    k = decodeScalar(k)
    u = decode(u)
    x1, x2, x3, z2, z3, swap = u, 1, u, 0, 1, 0

    for t in range(255, -1, -1):
        kt = (k >> t) & 1
        swap ^= kt
        if swap == 1:
            x3, x2 = x2, x3
            z3, z2 = z2, z3
            swap = kt

        A = x2 + z2
        AA = (A*A) % p
        B = x2 - z2
        BB = (B*B) % p
        E = AA - BB
        C = x3 + z3
        D = x3 - z3
        DA = (D*A) % p
        CB = (C*B) % p
        x3 = DA + CB
        x3 = (x3 * x3) % p
        z3 = DA - CB
        z3 = (x1 * z3 * z3) % p
        x2 = (AA * BB) % p
        z2 = (E * (AA + (a24 * E) % p)) % p

    if swap == 1:
        x3, x2 = x2, x3
        z2, z3 = z3, z2

    ret = (x2 * pow(z2, p-2, p)) % p
    return bytes((ret >> 8*i) & 255 for i in range(32))
```

B.3. mlkem.py

```
# WARNING This is a specification of Kyber; not a production ready
# implementation. It is slow and does not run in constant time.

# Requires the CryptoDome for SHAKE. To install, run
#
# pip install pycryptodome pytest
from Crypto.Hash import SHAKE128, SHAKE256

import io
import hashlib
import functools
import collections

from math import floor

q = 3329
nBits = 8
zeta = 17
eta2 = 2

n = 2*nBits
inv2 = (q+1)//2 # inverse of 2

params = collections.namedtuple('params', ('k', 'du', 'dv', 'eta1'))

params512 = params(k = 2, du = 10, dv = 4, eta1 = 3)
params768 = params(k = 3, du = 10, dv = 4, eta1 = 2)
params1024 = params(k = 4, du = 11, dv = 5, eta1 = 2)

def smod(x):
    r = x % q
    if r > (q-1)//2:
        r -= q
    return r

# Rounds to nearest integer with ties going up
def Round(x):
    return int(floor(x + 0.5))

def Compress(x, d):
    return Round((2**d / q) * x) % (2**d)

def Decompress(y, d):
    assert 0 <= y and y <= 2**d
    return Round((q / 2**d) * y)

def BitsToWords(bs, w):
    assert len(bs) % w == 0
```

```
    return [sum(bs[i+j] * 2**j for j in range(w))
            for i in range(0, len(bs), w)]

def WordsToBits(bs, w):
    return sum([(b >> i) % 2 for i in range(w)] for b in bs, [])

def Encode(a, w):
    return bytes(BitsToWords(WordsToBits(a, w), 8))

def Decode(a, w):
    return BitsToWords(WordsToBits(a, 8), w)

def brv(x):
    """ Reverses a 7-bit number """
    return int(''.join(reversed(bin(x)[2:].zfill(nBits-1))), 2)

class Poly:
    def __init__(self, cs=None):
        self.cs = (0,)*n if cs is None else tuple(cs)
        assert len(self.cs) == n

    def __add__(self, other):
        return Poly((a+b) % q for a,b in zip(self.cs, other.cs))

    def __neg__(self):
        return Poly(q-a for a in self.cs)

    def __sub__(self, other):
        return self + -other

    def __str__(self):
        return f"Poly({self.cs})"

    def __eq__(self, other):
        return self.cs == other.cs

    def NTT(self):
        cs = list(self.cs)
        layer = n // 2
        zi = 0
        while layer >= 2:
            for offset in range(0, n-layer, 2*layer):
                zi += 1
                z = pow(zeta, brv(zi), q)

                for j in range(offset, offset+layer):
                    t = (z * cs[j + layer]) % q
                    cs[j + layer] = (cs[j] - t) % q
                    cs[j] = (cs[j] + t) % q
```

```

        layer //= 2
    return Poly(cs)

def RefNTT(self):
    # Slower, but simpler, version of the NTT.
    cs = [0]*n
    for i in range(0, n, 2):
        for j in range(n // 2):
            z = pow(zeta, (2*brv(i//2)+1)*j, q)
            cs[i] = (cs[i] + self.cs[2*j] * z) % q
            cs[i+1] = (cs[i+1] + self.cs[2*j+1] * z) % q
    return Poly(cs)

def InvNTT(self):
    cs = list(self.cs)
    layer = 2
    zi = n//2
    while layer < n:
        for offset in range(0, n-layer, 2*layer):
            zi -= 1
            z = pow(zeta, brv(zi), q)

            for j in range(offset, offset+layer):
                t = (cs[j+layer] - cs[j]) % q
                cs[j] = (inv2*(cs[j] + cs[j+layer])) % q
                cs[j+layer] = (inv2 * z * t) % q
            layer *= 2
    return Poly(cs)

def MulNTT(self, other):
    """ Computes self o other, the multiplication of self and other
        in the NTT domain. """
    cs = [None]*n
    for i in range(0, n, 2):
        a1 = self.cs[i]
        a2 = self.cs[i+1]
        b1 = other.cs[i]
        b2 = other.cs[i+1]
        z = pow(zeta, 2*brv(i//2)+1, q)
        cs[i] = (a1 * b1 + z * a2 * b2) % q
        cs[i+1] = (a2 * b1 + a1 * b2) % q
    return Poly(cs)

def Compress(self, d):
    return Poly(Compress(c, d) for c in self.cs)

def Decompress(self, d):
    return Poly(Decompress(c, d) for c in self.cs)

```

```
def Encode(self, d):
    return Encode(self.cs, d)

def sampleUniform(stream):
    cs = []
    while True:
        b = stream.read(3)
        d1 = b[0] + 256*(b[1] % 16)
        d2 = (b[1] >> 4) + 16*b[2]
        assert d1 + 2**12 * d2 == b[0] + 2**8 * b[1] + 2**16*b[2]
        for d in [d1, d2]:
            if d >= q:
                continue
            cs.append(d)
            if len(cs) == n:
                return Poly(cs)

def CBD(a, eta):
    assert len(a) == 64*eta
    b = WordsToBits(a, 8)
    cs = []
    for i in range(n):
        cs.append((sum(b[:eta]) - sum(b[eta:2*eta])) % q)
        b = b[2*eta:]
    return Poly(cs)

def XOF(seed, j, i):
    h = SHAKE128.new()
    h.update(seed + bytes([j, i]))
    return h

def PRF1(seed, nonce):
    assert len(seed) == 32
    h = SHAKE256.new()
    h.update(seed + bytes([nonce]))
    return h

def PRF2(seed, msg):
    assert len(seed) == 32
    h = SHAKE256.new()
    h.update(seed + msg)
    return h.read(32)

def G(seed):
    h = hashlib.sha3_512(seed).digest()
    return h[:32], h[32:]

def H(msg): return hashlib.sha3_256(msg).digest()
```



```

class Vec:
    def __init__(self, ps):
        self.ps = tuple(ps)

    def NTT(self):
        return Vec(p.NTT() for p in self.ps)

    def InvNTT(self):
        return Vec(p.InvNTT() for p in self.ps)

    def DotNTT(self, other):
        """ Computes the dot product <self, other> in NTT domain. """
        return sum((a.MulNTT(b) for a, b in zip(self.ps, other.ps)),
                    Poly())

    def __add__(self, other):
        return Vec(a+b for a,b in zip(self.ps, other.ps))

    def Compress(self, d):
        return Vec(p.Compress(d) for p in self.ps)

    def Decompress(self, d):
        return Vec(p.Decompress(d) for p in self.ps)

    def Encode(self, d):
        return Encode(sum((p.cs for p in self.ps), ()), d)

    def __eq__(self, other):
        return self.ps == other.ps

def EncodeVec(vec, w):
    return Encode(sum([p.cs for p in vec.ps], ()), w)
def DecodeVec(bs, k, w):
    cs = Decode(bs, w)
    return Vec(Poly(cs[n*i:n*(i+1)]) for i in range(k))
def DecodePoly(bs, w):
    return Poly(Decode(bs, w))

class Matrix:
    def __init__(self, cs):
        """ Samples the matrix uniformly from seed rho """
        self.cs = tuple(tuple(row) for row in cs)

    def MulNTT(self, vec):
        """ Computes matrix multiplication A*vec in the NTT domain. """
        return Vec(Vec(row).DotNTT(vec) for row in self.cs)

    def T(self):

```

```
    """ Returns transpose of matrix """
    k = len(self.cs)
    return Matrix((self.cs[j][i] for j in range(k))
                  for i in range(k))

def sampleMatrix(rho, k):
    return Matrix([[sampleUniform(XOF(rho, j, i))
                    for j in range(k)] for i in range(k)])

def sampleNoise(sigma, eta, offset, k):
    return Vec(CBD(PRF1(sigma, i+offset).read(64*eta), eta)
              for i in range(k))

def constantTimeSelectOnEquality(a, b, ifEq, ifNeq):
    # WARNING! In production code this must be done in a
    # data-independent constant-time manner, which this implementation
    # is not. In fact, many more lines of code in this
    # file are not constant-time.
    return ifEq if a == b else ifNeq

def InnerKeyGen(seed, params):
    assert len(seed) == 32
    rho, sigma = G(seed + bytes([params.k]))
    A = sampleMatrix(rho, params.k)
    s = sampleNoise(sigma, params.eta1, 0, params.k)
    e = sampleNoise(sigma, params.eta1, params.k, params.k)
    sHat = s.NTT()
    eHat = e.NTT()
    tHat = A.MulNTT(sHat) + eHat
    pk = EncodeVec(tHat, 12) + rho
    sk = EncodeVec(sHat, 12)
    return (pk, sk)

def InnerEnc(pk, msg, seed, params):
    assert len(msg) == 32
    tHat = DecodeVec(pk[:-32], params.k, 12)
    if EncodeVec(tHat, 12) != pk[:-32]:
        raise Exception("ML-KEM public key not normalized")
    rho = pk[-32:]
    A = sampleMatrix(rho, params.k)
    r = sampleNoise(seed, params.eta1, 0, params.k)
    e1 = sampleNoise(seed, eta2, params.k, params.k)
    e2 = sampleNoise(seed, eta2, 2*params.k, 1).ps[0]
    rHat = r.NTT()
    u = A.T().MulNTT(rHat).InvNTT() + e1
    m = Poly(Decode(msg, 1)).Decompress(1)
    v = tHat.DotNTT(rHat).InvNTT() + e2 + m
    c1 = u.Compress(params.du).Encode(params.du)
```

```

    c2 = v.Compress(params.dv).Encode(params.dv)
    return c1 + c2

def InnerDec(sk, ct, params):
    split = params.du * params.k * n // 8
    c1, c2 = ct[:split], ct[split:]
    u = DecodeVec(c1, params.k, params.du).Decompress(params.du)
    v = DecodePoly(c2, params.dv).Decompress(params.dv)
    sHat = DecodeVec(sk, params.k, 12)
    return (v - sHat.DotNTT(u.NTT()).InvNTT()).Compress(1).Encode(1)

def KeyGen(seed, params):
    assert len(seed) == 64
    z = seed[32:]
    pk, sk2 = InnerKeyGen(seed[:32], params)
    h = H(pk)
    return (pk, sk2 + pk + h + z)

def Enc(pk, seed, params):
    assert len(seed) == 32

    K, r = G(seed + H(pk))
    ct = InnerEnc(pk, seed, r, params)
    return (ct, K)

def Dec(sk, ct, params):
    sk2 = sk[:12 * params.k * n//8]
    pk = sk[12 * params.k * n//8 : 24 * params.k * n//8 + 32]
    h = sk[24 * params.k * n//8 + 32 : 24 * params.k * n//8 + 64]
    z = sk[24 * params.k * n//8 + 64 : 24 * params.k * n//8 + 96]
    m2 = InnerDec(sk, ct, params)
    K2, r2 = G(m2 + h)
    ct2 = InnerEnc(pk, m2, r2, params)
    return constantTimeSelectOnEquality(
        ct2, ct,
        K2,                # if ct == ct2
        PRF2(z, ct),       # if ct != ct2
    )

Appendix C.  Test vectors # TODO: replace with test vectors that re-use
             ML-KEM, X25519 values

seed       7f9c2ba4e88f827d616045507605853ed73b8093f6efbc88eb1a6eacfa66ef26
sk         7f9c2ba4e88f827d616045507605853ed73b8093f6efbc88eb1a6eacfa66ef26
pk
e2236b35a8c24b39b10aa1323a96a919a2ced88400633a7b07131713fc14b2b5b19cfc3d
a5fala92c49f25513e0fd30d6b1611c9ab9635d7086727a4b7d21d34244e66969cf15b3b
2a785329f61b096b277ea037383479a6b556de7231fe4b7fa9c9ac24c0699a0018a52534

```

01bacfa905ca816573e56a2d2e067e9b7287533ba13a937dedb31fa44baced4076992361
0034ae31e619a170245199b3c5c39864859fe1b4c9717a07c30495bdfb98a0a002ccf56c
1286cef5041dede3c44cf16bf562c7448518026b3d8b9940680abd38a1575fd27b58da06
3bfac32c39c30869374c05c1aeb1898b6b303cc68be455346ee0af699636224a148ca2ae
a10463111c709f69b69c70ce8538746698c4c60a9aef0030c7924ceec42a5d36816f545e
ae13293460b3acb37ea0e13d70e4aa78686da398a8397c08eaf96882113fe4f7bad4da40
b0501e1c753efe73053c87014e8661c33099afe8bede414a5b1aa27d8392b3e131e9a70c
1055878240cad0f40d5fe3cdf85236ead97e2a97448363b2808caafd516cd25052c5c362
543c2517e4acd0e60ec07163009b6425fc32277acee71c24bab53ed9f29e74c66a0a3564
955998d76b96a9a8b50d1635a4d7a67eb42df5644d330457293a8042f53cc7a69288f17e
d55827e82b28e82665a86a14fbd96645eca8172c044f83bc0d8c0b4c8626985631ca87af
829068f1358963cb333664ca482763ba3b3bb208577f9ba6ac62c25f76592743b64be519
317714cb4102cb7b2f9a25b2b4f0615de31dec9ca55026d6da0b65111b16fe52feed8a4
87e144462a6dba93728f500b6fffc49e515569ef25fed17aff520507368253525860f58be
3be61c964604a6ac814e6935596402a520a4670b3d284318866593d15a4bb01c35e3e587
ee0c67d2880d6f2407fb7a70712b838deb96c5d7bf2b44bcf6038ccbe33fbcf51a54a584
fe90083c91c7a6d43d4fb15f48c60c2fd66e0a8aad4ad64e5c42bb8877c0ebec2b5e387c
8a988fdc23beb9e16c8757781e0a1499c61e138c21f216c29d076979871caa6942bafc09
0544bee99b54b16cb9a9a364d6246d9f42cce53c66b59c45c8f9ae9299a75d15180c3c95
2151a91b7a10772429dc4cbae6fcc622fa8018c63439f890630b9928db6bb7f9438ae406
5ed34d73d486f3f52f90f0807dc88dfdd8c728e954f1ac35c06c000ce41a0582580e3bb5
7b672972890ac5e7988e7850657116f1b57d0809aaedec0bedelae148148311c6f7e3173
46e5189fb8cd635b986f8c0bdd27641c584b778b3a911a80belc9692ab8elbbb12839573
ccel9df183b45835bbb55052f9fc66a1678ef2a36dea78411e6c8d60501b4e60592d1369
8a943b509185db912e2ea10be06171236b327c71716094c964a68b03377f513a05bcd99c
1f346583bb052977a10a12adfc758034e5617da4c1276585e5774e1f3b9978b09d0e9c44
d3bc86151c43aad185712717340223ac381d21150a04294e97bb13bbda21b5a182b6da96
9e19a7fd072737fa8e880a53c2428e3d049b7d2197405296ddb361912a7bcf4827ced611
d0c7a7da104dde4322095339f64a61d5bb108ff0bf4d780cae509fb22c256914193ff734
9042581237d522828824ee3bdfd07fb03f1f942d2ea179fe722f06cc03de5b69859edb06
eff389b27dce59844570216223593d4ba32d9abac8cd049040ef6534

eseed

3cbleea988004b93103cfb0aeefd2a686e01fa4a58e8a3639ca8a1e3f9ae57e235b8cc87
3c23dc62b8d260169afa2f75ab916a58d974918835d25e6a435085b2

ct

b83aa828d4d62b9a83ceffeld3d3bb1ef31264643c070c5798927e41fb07914a273f8f96
e7826cd5375a283d7da885304c5de0516a0f0654243dc5b97f8bfeb831f68251219aabdd
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Appendix D. Example of use in X.509

The following are the encodings of the X-Wing keypair with private key 0001...1f.

-----BEGIN PRIVATE KEY-----

MDQCAQAwDQYLKwYBBAGD5i2ByHoEIAABAgMEBQYHCAKcCwNDg8QERITFBUWFxgZ

Ghschr4f

-----END PRIVATE KEY-----

-----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY-----

```
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KOR93XI2Y4VHZhkvYBspwq7eGy9swky5oyKNwvPsHmDoBLDJmuT76YmV/S4ODdM
sLuV4OwGVBSHZdmc8VO8a5YTXKEApVs2R3ieMZFeRig8+ce7boRT+2aCEFFB8dwN
ANhe7XA7bGyWH3nIRSdrQkiUnAZ4LlE+spkblldlgQuOMvtolJEmytQhOvaUiamIG
QAeJEwowlkSYSLYp/upKLCp0PEon3Jyz89Z2/FY3MbJsShpm3IRZFwBW1XaX8UQ7
gamjRBK7e/BfMydXWlkr3TAdYFOGfzwwgHEfG/EVh7C7KYQnayaF53ViEOSz+JVT
hCMeVYxvUQyR4PxWtdGIX/KUnpWka8G+4fpx9QJ+EMRDSOkdD9dED0Z6JyISEuiP
XGumQpbK4NIHv8YPiMfPtcRaoYOdGMS3xFhD5UJqSpDIArZCj5U8NZxKwGA0UvrA
tzYeL9NdZihakhRdT8oBWPG31wtLzRGOSipBVEON8xDESpobmepBWQcmeoiwYkJB
V5wXiVrulhwuPspUXJlWUXF1OZuADbJdo5WT0GSQ1xQsAOiNLbBH6YmL23rLftkH
9uMEFswN5UokLAohJjAvXVTIw8Zqvwg8eXlFtQZ8qkK9LgWZypdQblB6sKXJ9WM3
CEmcGfJK7FE705A6XXO27EmR98cuuZHBw3iJgFyx6jigzAIXayffjWOM5aMmaEV8
+bm+AnygIUBXlxc1lUEC6JlnFusq2CNFO2BbhVNwsbIbOTLN7UFgqplzx+uuWsr2
TZTPfMlQbwd7rXMBLbtKyBQKOHrkEuszyVFFliBfchY1hiIX2bYJGMYmjZNEkVuE
eiR2waJw8VSlyEI0FlrPyGk5hwLOqemgfnsOmeqb3LeEH+nA+iXIM4CSVho+3dxw
Afr4rWV4GmAqqtFl2baXmtrESKRGL1ZGhVJ/diQ0/ppCWorDe0VzkuyoDJE1BhUe
OhMjnzQvynZVtuquhFoiHOS+Z/VjnGGT9v3u9X45m4CLfzqitXQKre2QFj3F13XJ
+vfx+9B12rNE6dfrRmRygf6ezxWyv1YM7epMOxCBfDptd2T+gdeg==
```

-----END PUBLIC KEY-----

Appendix E. ASN.1 Module

This appendix includes the ASN.1 module [X680] for X-Wing.

<CODE BEGINS>

XWing-KEM-2024

```
{ iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) pkcs(1)
  pkcs-9(9) smime(16) modules(0) id-mod-XWing-kem-2024(TBD) }
```

DEFINITIONS IMPLICIT TAGS ::= BEGIN

-- EXPORTS ALL;

IMPORTS

KEM-ALGORITHM

FROM KEMAlgorithmInformation-2023 -- [I-D.housley-lamps-cms-kemri]

```
{ iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
  security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
```

```
id-mod-kemAlgorithmInformation-2023(109) }

AlgorithmIdentifier{}, PUBLIC-KEY, SMIME-CAPS
FROM AlgorithmInformation-2009 -- [RFC5912]
{ iso(1) identified-organization(3) dod(6) internet(1)
  security(5) mechanisms(5) pkix(7) id-mod(0)
  id-mod-algorithmInformation-02(58) } ;

-- XWing KEM Algorithm

id-XWing OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { iso(1) identified-organization(3)
  dod(6) internet(1) private(4) enterprise(1) 62253 25722 }

XWingPublicKey ::= OCTET STRING

kema-XWing KEM-ALGORITHM ::= {
  IDENTIFIER id-XWing
  PARAMS ARE absent
  PUBLIC-KEYS { pk-XWing }
  UKM ARE optional
  SMIME-CAPS { IDENTIFIED BY id-XWing } }

pk-XWing PUBLIC-KEY ::= {
  IDENTIFIER id-XWing
  -- KEY no ASN.1 wrapping --
  PARAMS ARE absent
  -- PRIVATE-KEY no ASN.1 wrapping --
  CERT-KEY-USAGE {keyEncipherment} }

-- Updates for the KEM-ALGORITHM Set from rfc5990bis

KeyEncapsulationMechanism ::=
  AlgorithmIdentifier { KEM-ALGORITHM, {KEMAlgorithms} }

KEMAlgorithms KEM-ALGORITHM ::= { kema-XWing, ... }

-- Updates for the SMIME-CAPS Set from RFC 5911

SMimeCapsSet SMIME-CAPS ::= {kema-XWing.&smimeCaps, ... }

END
<CODE ENDS>
```

Appendix F. Acknowledgments

TODO acknowledge.

Appendix G. Change log

RFC Editor's Note: Please remove this section prior to publication of a final version of this document.

G.1. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-07

- * Elaborate on relation between randomized and derandomized functions.
- * Update implementations section.

G.2. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-06

- * Add asn.1 module.
- * To match FIPS 202, we request number of bits from SHAKE-256 instead of number of bytes. #27
- * Update implementations section.
- * Correct PEM header. #25

G.3. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-05

- * Fix several typos.
- * Change HPKE/TLS codepoint requests to the memorable 25519 + 203.
- * Add instruction for use in X.509. #21

G.4. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-04

- * Note that ML-KEM decapsulation key check is not required.
- * Properly refer to FIPS 203 dependencies. #20
- * Move label at the end. As everything fits within a single block of SHA3-256, this does not make any difference.

- * Use SHAKE-256 to stretch seed. This does not have any security or performance effects: as we only squeeze 96 bytes, we perform a single Keccak permutation whether SHAKE-128 or SHAKE-256 is used. The effective capacity of the sponge in both cases is 832, which gives a security of 416 bits. It does require less thought from anyone analysing X-Wing in a rush.
- * Add HPKE codepoint.
- * Don't mark TLS entry as recommended before it has been through the IETF consensus process. (Obviously the authors recommend X-Wing.)

G.5. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-03

- * Mandate ML-KEM encapsulation key check, and stipulate effect on TLS and HPKE integration.
- * Add provisional TLS codepoint. (Not assigned, yet.)

G.6. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-02

- * Use seed as private key.
- * Expand on caching decapsulation key values.
- * Expand on binding properties.

G.7. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-01

- * Add list of implementations.
- * Miscellaneous editorial improvements.
- * Add Python reference specification.
- * Correct definition of ML-KEM-768.KeyGenDerand(seed).

G.8. Since draft-connolly-cfrg-xwing-kem-00

- * A copy of the X25519 public key is now included in the X-Wing decapsulation (private) key, so that decapsulation does not require separate access to the X-Wing public key. See #2.

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