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Anonymous Rate-Limited Credentials  
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## Abstract

This document specifies the Anonymous Rate-Limited Credential (ARC) protocol, a specialization of keyed-verification anonymous credentials with support for rate limiting. ARC credentials can be presented from client to server up to some fixed number of times, where each presentation is cryptographically bound to client secrets and application-specific public information, such that each presentation is unlinkable from the others as well as the original credential creation. ARC is useful in applications where a server needs to throttle or rate-limit access from anonymous clients.

## 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://chris-wood.github.io/draft-arc/draft-yun-privacypass-crypto-arc.html>. Status information for this document may be found at <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-yun-privacypass-crypto-arc/>.

Discussion of this document takes place on the PRIVACYPASS Privacy Pass mailing list (<mailto:privacy-pass@ietf.org>), which is archived at <https://mailarchive.ietf.org/arch/browse/privacy-pass>. Subscribe at <https://www.ietf.org/mailman/listinfo/privacy-pass/>.

Source for this draft and an issue tracker can be found at <https://github.com/chris-wood/draft-arc>.

## 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

This document specifies the Anonymous Rate-Limited Credential (ARC) protocol, a specialization of keyed-verification anonymous credentials with support for rate limiting.

ARC is privately verifiable (keyed-verification), yet differs from similar token-based protocols in that each credential can be presented multiple times without violating unlinkability of different presentations. Servers issue credentials to clients that are cryptographically bound to client secrets and some public information. Afterwards, clients can present this credential to the server up to some fixed number of times, where each presentation provides proof that it was derived from a valid (previously issued) credential and bound to some public information. Each presentation is pairwise unlinkable, meaning the server cannot link any two presentations to the same client credential, nor can the server link a presentation to the preceding credential issuance flow. Notably, the maximum number of presentations from a credential is fixed by the application.

ARC is useful in settings where applications require a fixed number of zero-knowledge proofs about client secrets that can also be cryptographically bound to some public information. This capability lets servers use credentials in applications that need throttled or rate-limited access from anonymous clients.

## 2. Conventions and Definitions

### 2.1. Notation and Terminology

The following functions and notation are used throughout the document.

- \* `concat(x0, ..., xN)`: Concatenation of byte strings. For example, `concat(0x01, 0x0203, 0x040506) = 0x010203040506`.
- \* `bytes_to_int` and `int_to_bytes`: Convert a byte string to and from a non-negative integer. `bytes_to_int` and `int_to_bytes` are implemented as `OS2IP` and `I2OSP` as described in [RFC8017], respectively. Note that these functions operate on byte strings in big-endian byte order.
- \* `random_integer_uniform(M, N)`: Generate a random, uniformly distributed integer `R` between `M` inclusive and `N` exclusive, i.e.,  $M \leq R < N$ .
- \* `random_integer_uniform_excluding_set(M, N, S)`: Generate a random, uniformly distributed integer `R` between `M` inclusive and `N` exclusive, i.e.,  $M \leq R < N$ , such that `R` does not exist in the set of integers `S`.

All algorithms and procedures described in this document are laid out in a Python-like pseudocode. Each function takes a set of inputs and parameters and produces a set of output values. Parameters become constant values once the protocol variant and the ciphersuite are fixed.

The notation `T U[N]` refers to an array called `U` containing `N` items of type `T`. The type `opaque` means one single byte of uninterpreted data. Items of the array are zero-indexed and referred as `U[j]` such that  $0 \leq j < N$ . The notation `{T}` refers to a set consisting of elements of type `T`. For any object `x`, we write `len(x)` to denote its length in bytes.

String values such as `"CredentialRequest"`, `"CredentialResponse"`, `"Presentation"`, and `"Tag"` are ASCII string literals.

The following terms are used throughout this document.

- \* Client: Protocol initiator. Creates a credential request, and uses the corresponding server response to make a credential. The client can make multiple presentations of this credential.
- \* Server: Computes a response to a credential request, with its server private keys. Later the server can verify the client's presentations with its private keys. Learns nothing about the client's secret attributes, and cannot link a client's request/response and presentation steps.

### 3. Preliminaries

The construction in this document has one primary dependency:

- \* Group: A prime-order group implementing the API described below in Section 3.1. See Section 6 for specific instances of groups.

#### 3.1. Prime-Order Group

In this document, we assume the construction of an additive, prime-order group `Group` for performing all mathematical operations. In prime-order groups, any element (other than the identity) can generate the other elements of the group. Usually, one element is fixed and defined as the group generator. In the ARC setting, there are two fixed generator elements (`generatorG`, `generatorH`). Such groups are uniquely determined by the choice of the prime  $p$  that defines the order of the group. (There may, however, exist different representations of the group for a single  $p$ . Section 6 lists specific groups which indicate both order and representation.)

The fundamental group operation is addition  $+$  with identity element  $I$ . For any elements  $A$  and  $B$  of the group,  $A + B = B + A$  is also a member of the group. Also, for any  $A$  in the group, there exists an element  $-A$  such that  $A + (-A) = (-A) + A = I$ . Scalar multiplication by  $r$  is equivalent to the repeated application of the group operation on an element  $A$  with itself  $r-1$  times, this is denoted as  $r*A = A + \dots + A$ . For any element  $A$ ,  $p*A=I$ . The case when the scalar multiplication is performed on the group generator is denoted as `ScalarMultGen(r)`. Given two elements  $A$  and  $B$ , the discrete logarithm problem is to find an integer  $k$  such that  $B = k*A$ . Thus,  $k$  is the discrete logarithm of  $B$  with respect to the base  $A$ . The set of scalars corresponds to  $GF(p)$ , a prime field of order  $p$ , and are represented as the set of integers defined by  $\{0, 1, \dots, p-1\}$ . This document uses types `Element` and `Scalar` to denote elements of the group and its set of scalars, respectively.

We now detail a number of member functions that can be invoked on a prime-order group.

- \* `Order()`: Outputs the order of the group (i.e.  $p$ ).
- \* `Identity()`: Outputs the identity element of the group (i.e.  $I$ ).
- \* `Generator()`: Outputs the fixed generator of the group.
- \* `HashToGroup(x, info)`: Deterministically maps an array of bytes  $x$  with domain separation value  $info$  to an element of `Group`. The map must ensure that, for any adversary receiving  $R = \text{HashToGroup}(x, info)$ , it is computationally difficult to reverse the mapping. Security properties of this function are described in [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve].
- \* `HashToScalar(x, info)`: Deterministically maps an array of bytes  $x$  with domain separation value  $info$  to an element in  $\text{GF}(p)$ . Security properties of this function are described in [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve], Section 10.5.
- \* `RandomScalar()`: Chooses at random a non-zero element in  $\text{GF}(p)$ .
- \* `ScalarInverse(s)`: Returns the inverse of input `Scalar s` on  $\text{GF}(p)$ .
- \* `SerializeElement(A)`: Maps an `Element A` to a canonical byte array `buf` of fixed length  $N_e$ .
- \* `DeserializeElement(buf)`: Attempts to map a byte array `buf` to an `Element A`, and fails if the input is not the valid canonical byte representation of an element of the group. This function can raise a `DeserializeError` if deserialization fails or  $A$  is the identity element of the group; see Section 6 for group-specific input validation steps.
- \* `SerializeScalar(s)`: Maps a `Scalar s` to a canonical byte array `buf` of fixed length  $N_s$ .
- \* `DeserializeScalar(buf)`: Attempts to map a byte array `buf` to a `Scalar s`. This function can raise a `DeserializeError` if deserialization fails; see Section 6 for group-specific input validation steps.

For each group, there exists two distinct generators, `generatorG` and `generatorH`, `generatorG = G.Generator()` and `generatorH = G.HashToGroup(G.SerializeElement(generatorG), "generatorH")`. The group member functions `GeneratorG()` and `GeneratorH()` are shorthand for returning `generatorG` and `generatorH`, respectively.

Section 6 contains details for the implementation of this interface for different prime-order groups instantiated over elliptic curves.

#### 4. ARC Protocol

The ARC protocol is a two-party protocol run between client and server consisting of three distinct phases:

1. Key generation. In this phase, the server generates its private and public keys to be used for the remaining phases. This phase is described in Section 4.1.
2. Credential issuance. In this phase, the client and server interact to issue the client a credential that is cryptographically bound to client secrets. This phase is described in Section 4.2.
3. Presentation. In this phase, the client uses the credential to create a "presentation" to the server, where the server learns nothing more than whether or not the presentation is valid and corresponds to some previously issued credential, without learning which credential it corresponds to. This phase is described in Section 4.3.

This protocol bears resemblance to anonymous token protocols, such as those built on Blind RSA [BLIND-RSA] and Oblivious Pseudorandom Functions [OPRFS] with one critical distinction: unlike anonymous tokens, an anonymous credential can be used multiple times to create unlinkable presentations (up to the fixed presentation limit). This means that a single issuance invocation can drive multiple presentation invocations, whereas with anonymous tokens, each presentation invocation requires exactly one issuance invocation. As a result, credentials are generally longer lived than tokens. Applications configure the credential presentation limit after the credential is issued such that client and server agree on the limit during presentation. Servers are responsible for ensuring this limit is not exceeded. Clients that exceed the agreed-upon presentation limit break the unlinkability guarantees provided by the protocol.

The rest of this section describes the three phases of the ARC protocol.

##### 4.1. Key Generation

In the key generation phase, the server generates its private and public keys, denoted `ServerPrivateKey` and `ServerPublicKey`, as follows.

Input: None

Output:

- ServerPrivateKey:
  - x0: Scalar
  - x1: Scalar
  - x2: Scalar
  - x0Blinding: Scalar
- ServerPublicKey:
  - X0: Element
  - X1: Element
  - X2: Element

Parameters

- Group G

```
def SetupServer():
    x0 = G.RandomScalar()
    x1 = G.RandomScalar()
    x2 = G.RandomScalar()
    x0Blinding = G.RandomScalar()
    X0 = x0 * G.GeneratorG() + x0Blinding * G.GeneratorH()
    X1 = x1 * G.GeneratorH()
    X2 = x2 * G.GeneratorH()
    return ServerPrivateKey(x0, x1, x2, x0Blinding), ServerPublicKey(X0, X1, X2)
```

The server public keys can be serialized as follows:

```
struct {
    uint8 X0[Ne]; // G.SerializeElement(X0)
    uint8 X1[Ne]; // G.SerializeElement(X1)
    uint8 X2[Ne]; // G.SerializeElement(X2)
} ServerPublicKey;
```

The length of this encoded response structure is NserverPublicKey = 3\*Ne.

#### 4.2. Issuance

The purpose of the issuance phase is for the client and server to cooperatively compute a credential that is cryptographically bound to the client's secrets. Clients do not choose these secrets; they are computed by the protocol.

The issuance phase of the protocol requires clients to know the server public key a priori, as well as an arbitrary, application-specific request context. It requires no other input. It consists of three distinct steps:

1. The client generates and sends a credential request to the server. This credential request contains a proof that the request is valid with respect to the client's secrets and request context. See Section 4.2.1 for details about this step.
2. The server validates the credential request. If valid, it computes a credential response with the server private keys. The response includes a proof that the credential response is valid with respect to the server keys. The server sends the response to the client. See Section 4.2.2 for details about this step.
3. The client finalizes the credential by processing the server response. If valid, this step yields a credential that can then be used in the presentation phase of the protocol. See Section 4.2.3 for details about this step.

Each of these steps are described in the following subsections.

#### 4.2.1. Credential Request

Given a request context, the process for creating a credential request is as follows:

```
(clientSecrets, request) = CreateCredentialRequest(requestContext)
```

Inputs:

- requestContext: Data, context for the credential request

Outputs:

- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.
- clientSecrets:
  - m1: Scalar, first secret.
  - m2: Scalar, second secret.
  - r1: Scalar, blinding factor for first secret.
  - r2: Scalar, blinding factor for second secret.

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

```
def CreateCredentialRequest(requestContext):  
    m1 = G.RandomScalar()  
    m2 = G.HashToScalar(requestContext, "requestContext")  
    r1 = G.RandomScalar()  
    r2 = G.RandomScalar()  
    m1Enc = m1 * generatorG + r1 * generatorH  
    m2Enc = m2 * generatorG + r2 * generatorH  
    requestProof = MakeCredentialRequestProof(m1, m2, r1, r2, m1Enc, m2Enc)  
    request = (m1Enc, m2Enc, requestProof)  
    clientSecrets = (m1, m2, r1, r2)  
    return (clientSecrets, request)
```

See Section 5.2 for more details on the generation of the credential request proof.

The resulting request can be serialized as follows.

```
struct {  
    uint8 m1Enc[Ne];  
    uint8 m2Enc[Ne];  
    uint8 challenge[Ns];  
    uint8 response0[Ns];  
    uint8 response1[Ns];  
    uint8 response2[Ns];  
    uint8 response3[Ns];  
} CredentialRequest;
```

The length of this encoded request structure is  $N_{request} = 2 * N_e + 5 * N_s$ .

#### 4.2.2. Credential Response

Given a credential request and server public and private keys, the process for creating a credential response is as follows.

```
response = CreateCredentialResponse(serverPrivateKey, serverPublicKey, request)
```

Inputs:

- serverPrivateKey:
  - x0: Scalar (private), server private key 0.
  - x1: Scalar (private), server private key 1.
  - x2: Scalar (private), server private key 2.
  - x0Blinding: Scalar (private), blinding value for x0.
- serverPublicKey:
  - X0: Element, server public key 0.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
  - X2: Element, server public key 2.
- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.

Outputs:

- U: Element, a randomized generator for the response, 'b\*G'.
- encUPrime: Element, encrypted UPrime.
- X0Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X0.
- X1Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X1.
- X2Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X2.
- HAux: Element, auxiliary point for generatorH.
- responseProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of U, encUPrime, server public keys, and auxiliary points.

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

Exceptions:

- VerifyError, raised when response verification fails

```
def CreateCredentialResponse(serverPrivateKeys, serverPublicKey, request):
    if VerifyCredentialRequestProof(request) == false:
        raise VerifyError
```

```
    b = G.RandomScalar()
```

```

U = b * generatorG
encUPrime = b * (serverPublicKey.X0 +
    serverPrivateKeys.x1 * request.m1Enc +
    serverPrivateKeys.x2 * request.m2Enc)
X0Aux = b * serverPrivateKeys.x0Blinding * generatorH
X1Aux = b * serverPublicKey.X1
X2Aux = b * serverPublicKey.X2
HAux = b * generatorH

responseProof = MakeCredentialResponseProof(serverPrivateKey,
    serverPublicKey, request, b, U, encUPrime, X0Aux, X1Aux, X2Aux, HAux)
return (U, encUPrime, X0Aux, X1Aux, X2Aux, HAux, responseProof)

```

The resulting response can be serialized as follows. See Section 5.3 for more details on the generation of the credential response proof.

```

struct {
    uint8 U[Ne];
    uint8 encUPrime[Ne];
    uint8 X0Aux[Ne];
    uint8 X1Aux[Ne];
    uint8 X2Aux[Ne];
    uint8 HAux[Ne];
    uint8 challenge[Ns];
    uint8 response0[Ns];
    uint8 response1[Ns];
    uint8 response2[Ns];
    uint8 response3[Ns];
    uint8 response4[Ns];
    uint8 response5[Ns];
    uint8 response6[Ns];
} CredentialResponse

```

The length of this encoded response structure is  $N_{\text{response}} = 6 * N_e + 8 * N_s$ .

#### 4.2.3. Finalize Credential

Given a credential request and response, server public keys, and the client secrets produced when creating a credential request, the process for finalizing the issuance flow and creating a credential is as follows.

```
credential = FinalizeCredential(clientSecrets, serverPublicKey, request, response)
```

#### Inputs:

- clientSecrets:
  - m1: Scalar, first secret.
  - m2: Scalar, second secret.
  - r1: Scalar, blinding factor for first secret.
  - r2: Scalar, blinding factor for second secret.
- serverPublicKey: ServerPublicKey, shared with the client out-of-band
- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.
- response:
  - U: Element, a randomized generator for the response. 'b\*G'.
  - encUPrime: Element, encrypted UPrime.
  - X0Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X0.
  - X1Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X1.
  - X2Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X2.
  - HAux: Element, auxiliary point for generatorH.
  - responseProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of U, encUPrime, server public keys, and auxiliary points.

#### Outputs:

- credential:
  - m1: Scalar, client's first secret.
  - U: Element, a randomized generator for the response. 'b\*G'.
  - UPrime: Element, the MAC over the server's private keys and the client's secret secrets.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.

#### Exceptions:

- VerifyError, raised when response verification fails

#### Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

```
def FinalizeCredential(clientSecrets, serverPublicKey, request, response):
    if VerifyCredentialResponseProof(serverPublicKey, response, request) == false:
        raise VerifyError
    UPrime = response.encUPrime - response.X0Aux - clientSecrets.r1 * response.X1Aux - clientSecrets.r2 * response.X2Aux
    return (clientSecrets.m1, response.U, UPrime, serverPublicKey.X1)
```

### 4.3. Presentation

The purpose of the presentation phase is for the client to create a "presentation" to the server which can be verified using the server private key. This phase is non-interactive, i.e., there is no state stored between client and server in order to produce and then verify a presentation. Client and server agree upon a fixed limit of presentations in order to create and verify presentations; presentations will not verify correctly if the client and server use different limits.

This phase consists of three steps:

1. The client creates a presentation state for a given presentation context and presentation limit. This state is used to produce a fixed amount of presentations.
2. The client creates a presentation from the presentation state and sends it to the server. The presentation is cryptographically bound to the state's presentation context, and contains proof that the presentation is valid with respect to the presentation context. Moreover, the presentation contains proof that the nonce (an integer) associated with this presentation is within the presentation limit.
3. The server verifies the presentation with respect to the presentation context and presentation limit.

Details for each each of these steps are in the following subsections.

#### 4.3.1. Presentation State

Presentation state is used to track the number of presentations for a given credential. This state is important for ARC's unlinkability goals: reuse of state can break unlinkability properties of credential presentations. State is initialized with a credential, presentation context, and presentation limit. It is then mutated after each presentation construction (as described in Section 4.3.2).

```
state = MakePresentationState(credential, presentationContext, presentationLimit)
```

Inputs:

- credential:
  - m1: Scalar, client's first secret.
  - U: Element, a randomized generator for the response 'b\*G'.
  - UPrime: Element, the MAC over the server's private keys and the client's secrets.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
- presentationContext: Data (public), used for presentation tag computation.
- presentationLimit: Integer, the fixed presentation limit.

Outputs:

- credential
- presentationContext: Data (public), used for presentation tag computation.
- presentationNonceSet: {Integer}, the set of nonces that have been used for this presentation
- presentationLimit: Integer, the fixed presentation limit.

```
def MakePresentationState(credential, presentationContext, presentationLimit):
    return PresentationState(credential, presentationContext, [], presentationLimit)
```

#### 4.3.2. Presentation Construction

Creating a presentation requires a credential, presentation context, and presentation limit. This process is necessarily stateful on the client since the number of times a credential is used for a given presentation context cannot exceed the presentation limit; doing so would break presentation unlinkability, as two presentations created with the same nonce can be directly compared for equality (via the "tag"). As a result, the process for creating a presentation accepts as input a presentation state and then outputs an updated presentation state.

```
newState, nonce, presentation = Present(state)
```

Inputs:

- ```
state: input PresentationState
```
- credential
  - presentationContext: Data (public), used for presentation tag computation.
  - presentationNonceSet: {Integer}, the set of nonces that have been used for this presentation
  - presentationLimit: Integer, the fixed presentation limit.

Outputs:

- newState: updated PresentationState
- nonce: Integer, the nonce associated with this presentation.
- presentation:
  - U: Element, re-randomized from the U in the response.
  - UPrimeCommit: Element, a public key to the issued UPrime.
  - m1Commit: Element, a public key to the client secret (m1).

- tag: Element, the tag element used for enforcing the presentation limit.
- presentationProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of the presentation.

## Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to `G.GeneratorG()`
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to `G.GeneratorH()`

## Exceptions:

- LimitExceededError, raised when the presentation count meets or exceeds the presentation limit for the given presentation context

```
def Present(state):
```

```
    if len(state.presentationNonceSet) >= state.presentationLimit:
        raise LimitExceededError
```

```
    a = G.RandomScalar()
    r = G.RandomScalar()
    z = G.RandomScalar()
```

```
    U = a * state.credential.U
    UPrime = a * state.credential.UPrime
    UPrimeCommit = UPrime + r * generatorG
    mlCommit = state.credential.ml * U + z * generatorH
```

```
    # This step mutates the state by keeping track of
    # what nonces have already been spent.
    nonce = random_integer_uniform_excluding_set(0,
        state.presentationLimit, state.presentationNonceSet)
    state.presentationNonceSet.add(nonce)
```

```
    generatorT = G.HashToGroup(presentationContext, "Tag")
    tag = (credential.ml + nonce)^(-1) * generatorT
    V = z * credential.X1 - r * generatorG
    mlTag = state.credential.ml * tag
```

```
    presentationProof = MakePresentationProof(U, UPrimeCommit, mlCommit, tag, generatorT, credential, V, r, z, nonce, mlTag)
```

```
    presentation = (U, UPrimeCommit, mlCommit, tag, presentationProof)
```

```
    return state, nonce, presentation
```

OPEN ISSUE: should the tag also fold in the presentation limit?

The resulting presentation can be serialized as follows. See Section 5.4 for more details on the generation of the presentation proof.

```

struct {
    uint8 U[Ne];
    uint8 UPrimeCommit[Ne];
    uint8 m1Commit[Ne];
    uint8 tag[Ne];
    uint8 challenge[Ns];
    uint8 response0[Ns];
    uint8 response1[Ns];
    uint8 response2[Ns];
    uint8 response3[Ns];
} Presentation

```

The length of this structure is  $N_{\text{presentation}} = 4 \cdot N_e + 5 \cdot N_s$ .

#### 4.3.3. Presentation Verification

The server processes the presentation by verifying the presentation proof against server-computed values, and performing a check that the presentation conforms to the presentation limit.

```

validity, tag = VerifyPresentation(
    serverPrivateKey,
    serverPublicKey,
    requestContext,
    presentationContext,
    nonce,
    presentation,
    presentationLimit)

```

##### Inputs:

- serverPrivateKey:
  - x0: Scalar (private), server private key 0.
  - x1: Scalar (private), server private key 1.
  - x2: Scalar (private), server private key 2.
  - x0Blinding: Scalar (private), blinding value for x0.
- serverPublicKey:
  - X0: Element, server public key 0.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
  - X2: Element, server public key 2.
- requestContext: Data, context for the credential request.
- presentationContext: Data (public), used for presentation tag computation.
- nonce: Integer, the nonce associated with this presentation.
- presentation:
  - U: Element, re-randomized from the U in the response.
  - UPrimeCommit: Element, a public key to the issued UPrime.
  - m1Commit: Element, a public key to the client secret (m1).
  - tag: Element, the tag element used for enforcing the presentation limit.
  - presentationProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of the presentation.

- presentationLimit: Integer, the fixed presentation limit.

**Outputs:**

- validity: Boolean, True if the presentation is valid, False otherwise.
- tag: Bytes, the value of the presentation tag used for rate limiting.

**Parameters:**

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

**Exceptions:**

- InvalidNonceError, raised when the nonce associated with the presentation is invalid

```
def VerifyPresentation(
    serverPrivateKey,
    serverPublicKey,
    requestContext,
    presentationContext,
    nonce,
    presentation,
    presentationLimit):

    if nonce < 0 or nonce > presentationLimit:
        raise InvalidNonceError

    generatorT = G.HashToGroup(presentationContext, "Tag")
    mlTag = generatorT - (nonce * presentation.tag)

    validity = VerifyPresentationProof(
        serverPrivateKey,
        serverPublicKey,
        requestContext,
        presentationContext,
        presentation,
        mlTag)

    return validity, presentation.tag
```

Implementation-specific steps: the server must perform a check that the tag (presentation.tag) has not previously been seen, to prevent double spending. It then stores the tag for use in future double spending checks. To reduce the overhead of performing double spend checks, the server can store and look up the tags corresponding to the associated requestContext and presentationContext values.

## 5. Zero-Knowledge Proofs

This section describes a Schnorr proof compiler that is used for the construction of other proofs needed throughout the ARC protocol. Section 5.1 describes the compiler, and the remaining sections describe how it is used for the purposes of producing ARC proofs.

### 5.1. Schnorr Compiler

The compiler specified in this section automates the Fiat-Shamir transform that is often used to transform interactive zero-knowledge proofs into non-interactive proofs such that they can be used to non-interactively prove various statements of importance in higher-level protocols, such as ARC. The compiler consists of a prover and verifier role. The prover constructs a transcript for the proof and then applies the Fiat-Shamir heuristic to generate the resulting challenge and response values. The verifier reconstructs the same transcript to verify the proof.

The prover and verifier roles are specified below in Section 5.1.1 and Section 5.1.2, respectively.

#### 5.1.1. Prover

The prover role consists of four functions:

- \* **AppendScalar:** This function adds a scalar representation to the transcript.
- \* **AppendElement:** This function adds an element representation to the transcript.
- \* **Constrain:** This function applies an explicit constraint to the proof, where the constraint is expressed as equality between some element and a linear combination of scalar and element representations. An example constraint might be  $Z = aX + bY$ , for scalars  $a$ ,  $b$ , and elements  $X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$ .
- \* **Prove:** This function applies the Fiat-Shamir heuristic to the protocol transcript and set of constraints to produce a zero-knowledge proof that can be verified.

These functions are defined in the following sub-sections.

In addition, the prover role consists of the following state:

- \* **label:** Data, a value representing the context in which the proof will be used

- \* `scalars`: [Integer], An ordered set of representation of scalar variables to use in the proof. Each scalar has a label associated with it, stored in a list called `scalar_labels`.
- \* `elements`: [Integer], An ordered set of representation of element variables to use in the proof. Each element has a label associated with it, stored in a list called `element_labels`.
- \* `constraints`: a set of constraints, where each constraint consists of a constraint element and a linear combination of variables.

#### 5.1.1.1. AppendScalar

`AppendScalar(label, assignment)`

Inputs:

- `label`: Data, Scalar variable label
- `assignment`: Scalar variable

Outputs:

- Integer representation of the new scalar variable

```
def AppendScalar(label, assignment):  
    state.scalars.append(assignment)  
    state.scalar_labels.append(label)  
    return len(state.scalars) - 1
```

#### 5.1.1.2. AppendElement

`AppendElement(label, assignment)`

Inputs:

- `label`: Data, Element variable label
- `assignment`: Element variable

Outputs:

- Integer representation of the new element variable

```
def AppendElement(label, assignment):  
    state.elements.append(assignment)  
    state.element_labels.append(label)  
    return len(state.elements) - 1
```

#### 5.1.1.3. Constrain

```
Constrain(result, linearCombination)
```

Inputs:

- result: Integer, representation of constraint element
- assignment: linear combination of scalar and element variable (representations)

```
def Constrain(label, linearCombination):
    state.constraints.append((result, linearCombination))
```

#### 5.1.1.4. Prove

The Prove function is defined below.

```
Prove()
```

Outputs:

- ZKProof, a proof consisting of a challenge Scalar and then fixed number of response Scalar values

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

Exceptions:

- InvalidVariableAllocationError, raised when the prover was incorrectly configured

```
def Prove():
    blindings = [G.RandomScalar() for i in range(len(state.scalars))]

    blinded_elements = []
    for (constraint_point, linear_combination) in state.constraints:
        if constraint_point.index > len(state.elements):
            raise InvalidVariableAllocationError

        for (scalar_var, element_var) in linear_combination:
            if scalar_var.index > len(state.scalars):
                raise InvalidVariableAllocationError
            if element_var.index > len(state.elements):
                raise InvalidVariableAllocationError

        scalar_index = linear_combination[0][0]
        element_index = linear_combination[0][1]
        blinded_element = blindings[scalar_index] * state.elements[element_index]

    for i, pair in enumerate(linear_combination):
        if i > 0:
            scalar_index = pair[0]
            element_index = pair[1]
```

```
        blinded_element += blindings[scalar_index] * state.elements[element_index]

        blinded_elements.append(blinded_element)

# Obtain a scalar challenge
challenge = ComposeChallenge(state.label, state.elements, blinded_elements)

# Compute response scalars from the challenge, scalars, and blindings.
responses = []
for (index, scalar) in enumerate(state.scalars):
    blinding = blindings[index]
    responses.append(blinding - challenge * scalar)

return ZKProof(challenge, responses)
```

The function `ComposeChallenge` is defined below.

```
ComposeChallenge(label, elements, blinded_elements)
```

Inputs:

- `label`: Data, the proof label
- `elements`: [Element], ordered list of elements
- `blinded_elements`: [Element], ordered list of blinded elements

Outputs:

- `challenge`, Scalar

Parameters:

- `G`: Group
- `generatorG`: Element, equivalent to `G.GeneratorG()`
- `generatorH`: Element, equivalent to `G.GeneratorH()`

```
def ComposeChallenge(label, elements, blinded_elements):
```

```
    challenge_input = Data() # Empty Data
```

```
    for element in elements:
```

```
        serialized_element = G.SerializeElement(element)
```

```
        challenge_input += I2OSP(len(serialized_element), 2) + serialized_element
```

```
    for blinded_element in blinded_elements:
```

```
        serialized_blinded_element = G.SerializeElement(blinded_element)
```

```
        challenge_input += I2OSP(len(serialized_blinded_element), 2) + serialized_blinded_ele
```

```
ment
```

```
    return G.HashToScalar(challenge_input, label)
```

### 5.1.2. Verifier

The verifier role consists of four functions:

- \* **AppendScalar**: This function adds a scalar representation to the transcript.
- \* **AppendElement**: This function adds an element representation to the transcript.
- \* **Constrain**: This function applies an explicit constraint to the proof, where the constraint is expressed as equality between some element and a linear combination of scalar and element representations. An example constraint might be  $Z = aX + bY$ , for scalars  $a, b$ , and elements  $X, Y, Z$ .
- \* **Verify**: This function applies the Fiat-Shamir heuristic to verify the zero-knowledge proof.

**AppendScalar** and **Verify** are defined in the following sub-sections. **AppendElement** and **Constrain** matches the functionality used in the prover role.

#### 5.1.2.1. AppendScalar

**AppendScalar**(label)

Inputs:

- label: Data, Scalar variable label

Outputs:

- Integer representation of the new scalar variable

```
def AppendScalar(label):  
    state.scalar_labels.append(label)  
    return len(state.scalar_labels) - 1
```

#### 5.1.2.2. Verify

Verify(proof)

Inputs:

- ZKProof, a proof consisting of a challenge Scalar and then fixed number of response Scalar values

Outputs:

- Boolean, True if the proof is valid, False otherwise.

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

Exceptions:

- InvalidVariableAllocationError, raised when the prover was incorrectly configured

```
def Verify(proof):
    if len(state.elements) != len(state.element_labels):
        raise InvalidVariableAllocationError

    blinded_elements = []
    for (constraint_element, linear_combination) in state.constraints:
        if constraint_element > len(state.elements):
            raise InvalidVariableAllocationError
        for (_, element_var) in linear_combination:
            if element_var > len(state.elements):
                raise InvalidVariableAllocationError

        challenge_element = proof.challenge * state.elements[constraint_element]
        for i, pair in enumerate(linear_combination):
            challenge_element += proof.responses[pair[0]] * state.elements[pair[1]]

        blinded_elements.append(challenge_element)

    challenge = ComposeChallenge(state.label, self.elements, blinded_elements)
    return challenge == proof.challenge
```

## 5.2. CredentialRequest Proof

The request proof is a proof of knowledge of (m1, m2, r1, r2) used to generate the encrypted request. Statements to prove:

1. m1Enc = m1 \* generatorG + r1 \* generatorH
2. m2Enc = m2 \* generatorG + r2 \* generatorH

### 5.2.1. CredentialRequest Proof Creation

```
requestProof = MakeCredentialRequestProof(m1, m2, r1, r2, m1Enc, m2Enc)
```

Inputs:

- m1: Scalar, first secret.
- m2: Scalar, second secret.
- r1: Scalar, blinding factor for first secret.
- r2: Scalar, blinding factor for second secret.
- m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
- m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.

Outputs:

- proof: ZKProof
  - challenge: Scalar, the challenge used in the proof of valid encryption.
  - response0: Scalar, the response corresponding to m1.
  - response1: Scalar, the response corresponding to m2.
  - response2: Scalar, the response corresponding to r1.
  - response3: Scalar, the response corresponding to r2.

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()
- contextString: public input

```
def MakeCredentialRequestProof(m1, m2, r1, r2, m1Enc, m2Enc):
    prover = Prover(contextString + "CredentialRequest")

    m1Var = prover.AppendScalar("m1", m1)
    m2Var = prover.AppendScalar("m2", m2)
    r1Var = prover.AppendScalar("r1", r1)
    r2Var = prover.AppendScalar("r2", r2)

    genGVar = prover.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
    genHVar = prover.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
    m1EncVar = prover.AppendElement("m1Enc", m1Enc)
    m2EncVar = prover.AppendElement("m2Enc", m2Enc)

    # 1. m1Enc = m1 * generatorG + r1 * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(m1EncVar, [(m1Var, genGVar), (r1Var, genHVar)])

    # 2. m2Enc = m2 * generatorG + r2 * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(m2EncVar, [(m2Var, genGVar), (r2Var, genHVar)])

    return prover.Prove()
```

#### 5.2.2. CredentialRequest Proof Verification

```
validity = VerifyCredentialRequestProof(request)
```

Inputs:

- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.
    - challenge: Scalar, the challenge used in the proof of valid encryption.
    - response0: Scalar, the response corresponding to m1.
    - response1: Scalar, the response corresponding to m2.
    - response2: Scalar, the response corresponding to r1.
    - response3: Scalar, the response corresponding to r2.

Outputs:

- validity: Boolean, True if the proof verifies correctly, False otherwise.

Parameters:

- G: group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()
- contextString: public input

```
def VerifyCredentialRequestProof(request):
    verifier = Verifier(contextString + "CredentialRequest")

    m1Var = verifier.AppendScalar("m1")
    m2Var = verifier.AppendScalar("m2")
    r1Var = verifier.AppendScalar("r1")
    r2Var = verifier.AppendScalar("r2")

    genGVar = verifier.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
    genHVar = verifier.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
    m1EncVar = verifier.AppendElement("m1Enc", request.m1Enc)
    m2EncVar = verifier.AppendElement("m2Enc", request.m2Enc)

    # 1. m1Enc = m1 * generatorG + r1 * generatorH
    verifier.Constrain(m1EncVar, [(m1Var, genGVar), (r1Var, genHVar)])

    # 2. m2Enc = m2 * generatorG + r2 * generatorH
    verifier.Constrain(m2EncVar, [(m2Var, genGVar), (r2Var, genHVar)])

    return verifier.Verify(request.proof)
```

### 5.3. CredentialResponse Proof

The response proof is a proof of knowledge of  $(x_0, x_1, x_2, x_0\text{Blinding}, b)$  used in the server's CredentialResponse for the client's CredentialRequest. Statements to prove:

```

1. X0 = x0 * generatorG + x0Blinding * generatorH
2. X1 = x1 * generatorH
3. X2 = x2 * generatorH
4. X0Aux = b * x0Blinding * generatorH
   4a. HAux = b * generatorH
   4b. X0Aux = x0Blinding * HAux (= b * x0Blinding * generatorH)
5. X1Aux = b * x1 * generatorH
   5a. X1Aux = t1 * generatorH (t1 = b * x1)
   5b. X1Aux = b * X1 (X1 = x1 * generatorH)
6. X2Aux = b * x2 * generatorH
   6a. X2Aux = b * X2 (X2 = x2 * generatorH)
   6b. X2Aux = t2 * generatorH (t2 = b * x2)
7. U = b * generatorG
8. encUPrime = b * (X0 + x1 * Enc(m1) + x2 * Enc(m2))

```

### 5.3.1. CredentialResponse Proof Creation

```

responseProof = MakeCredentialResponseProof(serverPrivateKey, serverPublicKey, request, b
, U, encUPrime, X0Aux, X1Aux, X2Aux, HAux)

```

#### Inputs:

- serverPrivateKey:
  - x0: Scalar (private), server private key 0.
  - x1: Scalar (private), server private key 1.
  - x2: Scalar (private), server private key 2.
  - x0Blinding: Scalar (private), blinding value for x0.
- serverPublicKey:
  - X0: Element, server public key 0.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
  - X2: Element, server public key 2.
- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.
- encUPrime: Element, encrypted UPrime.
- X0Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X0.
- X1Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X1.
- X2Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X2.
- HAux: Element, auxiliary point for generatorH.

#### Outputs:

- proof: ZKProof
  - challenge: Scalar, the challenge used in the proof of valid response.
  - response0: Scalar, the response corresponding to x0.
  - response1: Scalar, the response corresponding to x1.
  - response2: Scalar, the response corresponding to x2.
  - response3: Scalar, the response corresponding to x0Blinding.
  - response4: Scalar, the response corresponding to b.
  - response5: Scalar, the response corresponding to t1.

- response6: Scalar, the response corresponding to t2.

Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()
- contextString: public input

```
def MakeCredentialResponseProof(serverPrivateKey, serverPublicKey, request, b, U, encUPri
me, X0Aux, X1Aux, X2Aux, HAux):
```

```
    prover = Prover(contextString + "CredentialResponse")

    x0Var = prover.AppendScalar("x0", serverPrivateKey.x0)
    x1Var = prover.AppendScalar("x1", serverPrivateKey.x1)
    x2Var = prover.AppendScalar("x2", serverPrivateKey.x2)
    x0BlindingVar = prover.AppendScalar("x0Blinding", serverPrivateKey.x0Blinding)
    bVar = prover.AppendScalar("b", b)
    t1Var = prover.AppendScalar("t1", b * serverPrivateKey.x1)
    t2Var = prover.AppendScalar("t2", b * serverPrivateKey.x2)

    genGVar = prover.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
    genHVar = prover.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
    m1EncVar = prover.AppendElement("m1Enc", request.m1Enc)
    m2EncVar = prover.AppendElement("m2Enc", request.m2Enc)
    UVar = prover.AppendElement("U", U)
    encUPrimeVar = prover.AppendElement("encUPrime", encUPrime)
    X0Var = prover.AppendElement("X0", serverPublicKey.X0)
    X1Var = prover.AppendElement("X1", serverPublicKey.X1)
    X2Var = prover.AppendElement("X2", serverPublicKey.X2)
    X0AuxVar = prover.AppendElement("X0Aux", X0Aux)
    X1AuxVar = prover.AppendElement("X1Aux", X1Aux)
    X2AuxVar = prover.AppendElement("X2Aux", X2Aux)
    HAuxVar = prover.AppendElement("HAux", HAux)

    # 1. X0 = x0 * generatorG + x0Blinding * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(X0Var, [(x0Var, genGVar), (x0BlindingVar, genHVar)])
    # 2. X1 = x1 * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(X1Var, [(x1Var, genHVar)])
    # 3. X2 = x2 * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(X2Var, [(x2Var, genHVar)])

    # 4. X0Aux = b * x0Blinding * generatorH
    # 4a. HAux = b * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(HAuxVar, [(bVar, genHVar)])
    # 4b: X0Aux = x0Blinding * HAux (= b * x0Blinding * generatorH)
    prover.Constrain(X0AuxVar, [(x0BlindingVar, HAuxVar)])

    # 5. X1Aux = b * x1 * generatorH
    # 5a. X1Aux = t1 * generatorH (t1 = b * x1)
```

```

prover.Constrain(X1AuxVar, [(t1Var, genHVar)])
# 5b. X1Aux = b * X1 (X1 = x1 * generatorH)
prover.Constrain(X1AuxVar, [(bVar, X1Var)])

# 6. X2Aux = b * x2 * generatorH
# 6a. X2Aux = b * X2 (X2 = x2 * generatorH)
prover.Constrain(X2AuxVar, [(bVar, X2Var)])
# 6b. X2Aux = t2 * H (t2 = b * x2)
prover.Constrain(X2AuxVar, [(t2Var, genHVar)])

# 7. U = b * generatorG
prover.Constrain(UVar, [(bVar, genGVar)])
# 8. encUPrime = b * (X0 + x1 * Enc(m1) + x2 * Enc(m2))
# simplified: encUPrime = b * X0 + t1 * m1Enc + t2 * m2Enc, since t1 = b * x1 and t2 =
b * x2
prover.Constrain(encUPrimeVar, [(bVar, X0Var), (t1Var, m1EncVar), (t2Var, m2EncVar)])

return prover.Prove()

```

### 5.3.2. CredentialResponse Proof Verification

```
validity = VerifyCredentialResponseProof(serverPublicKey, response, request)
```

#### Inputs:

- serverPublicKey:
  - X0: Element, server public key 0.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
  - X2: Element, server public key 2.
- response:
  - U: Element, a randomized generator for the response. 'b\*G'.
  - encUPrime: Element, encrypted UPrime.
  - X0Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X0.
  - X1Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X1.
  - X2Aux: Element, auxiliary point for X2.
  - HAux: Element, auxiliary point for generatorH.
  - responseProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of U, encUPrime, server public keys, and auxiliary points.
    - challenge: Scalar, the challenge used in the proof of valid response.
    - response0: Scalar, the response corresponding to x0.
    - response1: Scalar, the response corresponding to x1.
    - response2: Scalar, the response corresponding to x2.
    - response3: Scalar, the response corresponding to x0Blinding.
    - response4: Scalar, the response corresponding to b.
    - response5: Scalar, the response corresponding to t1.
    - response6: Scalar, the response corresponding to t2.
- request:
  - m1Enc: Element, first encrypted secret.
  - m2Enc: Element, second encrypted secret.
  - requestProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of m1Enc and m2Enc.

## Outputs:

- validity: Boolean, True if the proof verifies correctly, False otherwise.

## Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()

```
def VerifyCredentialResponseProof(serverPublicKey, response, request):
    verifier = Verifier(contextString + "CredentialResponse")

    x0Var = verifier.AppendScalar("x0")
    x1Var = verifier.AppendScalar("x1")
    x2Var = verifier.AppendScalar("x2")
    x0BlindingVar = verifier.AppendScalar("x0Blinding")
    bVar = verifier.AppendScalar("b", b)
    t1Var = verifier.AppendScalar("t1")
    t2Var = verifier.AppendScalar("t2")

    genGVar = verifier.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
    genHVar = verifier.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
    m1EncVar = verifier.AppendElement("m1Enc", request.m1Enc)
    m2EncVar = verifier.AppendElement("m2Enc", request.m2Enc)
    UVar = verifier.AppendElement("U", response.U)
    encUPrimeVar = verifier.AppendElement("encUPrime", response.encUPrime)
    X0Var = verifier.AppendElement("X0", serverPublicKey.X0)
    X1Var = verifier.AppendElement("X1", serverPublicKey.X1)
    X2Var = verifier.AppendElement("X2", serverPublicKey.X2)
    X0AuxVar = verifier.AppendElement("X0Aux", response.X0Aux)
    X1AuxVar = verifier.AppendElement("X1Aux", response.X1Aux)
    X2AuxVar = verifier.AppendElement("X2Aux", response.X2Aux)
    HAuxVar = verifier.AppendElement("HAux", response.HAux)

    # 1.  $X0 = x0 * \text{generatorG} + x0\text{Blinding} * \text{generatorH}$ 
    verifier.Constrain(X0Var, [(x0Var, genGVar), (x0BlindingVar, genHVar)])
    # 2.  $X1 = x1 * \text{generatorH}$ 
    verifier.Constrain(X1Var, [(x1Var, genHVar)])
    # 3.  $X2 = x2 * \text{generatorH}$ 
    verifier.Constrain(X2Var, [(x2Var, genHVar)])

    # 4.  $X0\text{Aux} = b * x0\text{Blinding} * \text{generatorH}$ 
    # 4a.  $HAux = b * \text{generatorH}$ 
    verifier.Constrain(HAuxVar, [(bVar, genHVar)])
    # 4b:  $X0\text{Aux} = x0\text{Blinding} * HAux (= b * x0\text{Blinding} * \text{generatorH})$ 
    verifier.Constrain(X0AuxVar, [(x0BlindingVar, HAuxVar)])

    # 5.  $X1\text{Aux} = b * x1 * \text{generatorH}$ 
    # 5a.  $X1\text{Aux} = t1 * \text{generatorH} (t1 = b * x1)$ 
```

```

verifier.Constrain(X1AuxVar, [(t1Var, genHVar)])
# 5b. X1Aux = b * X1 (X1 = x1 * generatorH)
verifier.Constrain(X1AuxVar, [(bVar, X1Var)])

# 6. X2Aux = b * x2 * generatorH
# 6a. X2Aux = b * X2 (X2 = x2 * generatorH)
verifier.Constrain(X2AuxVar, [(bVar, X2Var)])
# 6b. X2Aux = t2 * H (t2 = b * x2)
verifier.Constrain(X2AuxVar, [(t2Var, genHVar)])

# 7. U = b * generatorG
verifier.Constrain(UVar, [(bVar, genGVar)])
# 8. encUPrime = b * (X0 + x1 * Enc(m1) + x2 * Enc(m2))
# simplified: encUPrime = b * X0 + t1 * m1Enc + t2 * m2Enc, since t1 = b * x1 and t2 =
b * x2
verifier.Constrain(encUPrimeVar, [(bVar, X0Var), (t1Var, m1EncVar), (t2Var, m2EncVar)])

return verifier.Verify(response.proof)

```

#### 5.4. Presentation Proof

The presentation proof is a proof of knowledge of  $(m1, r, z)$  used in the presentation, and a proof that the nonce used to make the tag is in the range of  $[0, \text{presentationLimit})$ .

Statements to prove:

1.  $m1Commit = m1 * U + z * \text{generatorH}$
2.  $V = z * X1 - r * \text{generatorG}$
3.  $G.\text{HashToGroup}(\text{presentationContext}, \text{"Tag"}) = m1 * \text{tag} + \text{nonce} * \text{tag}$
4.  $m1Tag = m1 * \text{tag}$

##### 5.4.1. Presentation Proof Creation

```
presentationProof = MakePresentationProof(U, UPrimeCommit, m1Commit, tag, generatorT, credential, V, r, z, nonce, m1Tag)
```

Inputs:

- U: Element, re-randomized from the U in the response.
- UPrimeCommit: Element, a public key to the MACGGM output UPrime.
- m1Commit: Element, a public key to the client secret (m1).
- tag: Element, the tag element used for enforcing the presentation limit.
- generatorT: Element, used for presentation tag computation.
- credential:
  - m1: Scalar, client's first secret.
  - U: Element, a randomized generator for the response.  $'b * G'$ .
  - UPrime: Element, the MAC over the server's private keys and the client's secrets.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
- V: Element, a proof helper element.
- r: Scalar (private), a randomly generated element used in presentation.

- `z`: `Scalar` (private), a randomly generated element used in presentation.
- `nonce`: `Int`, the nonce associated with the presentation.
- `m1Tag`: `Element`, helper element for the proof.

## Outputs:

- `proof`: `ZKProof`
  - `challenge`: `Scalar`, the challenge used in the proof of valid presentation.
  - `response0`: `Scalar`, the response corresponding to `m1`.
  - `response1`: `Scalar`, the response corresponding to `z`.
  - `response2`: `Scalar`, the response corresponding to `-r`.
  - `response3`: `Scalar`, the response corresponding to `nonce`.

## Parameters:

- `G`: `Group`
- `generatorG`: `Element`, equivalent to `G.GeneratorG()`
- `generatorH`: `Element`, equivalent to `G.GeneratorH()`
- `contextString`: public input

```
def MakePresentationProof(U, UPrimeCommit, m1Commit, tag, generatorT, presentationContext
, credential, V, r, z, nonce, m1Tag)
    prover = Prover(contextString + "CredentialPresentation")

    m1Var = prover.AppendScalar("m1", credential.m1)
    zVar = prover.AppendScalar("z", z)
    rNegVar = prover.AppendScalar("-r", -r)
    nonceVar = prover.AppendScalar("nonce", nonce)

    genGVar = prover.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
    genHVar = prover.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
    UVar = prover.AppendElement("U", U)
    _ = prover.AppendElement("UPrimeCommit", UPrimeCommit)
    m1CommitVar = prover.AppendElement("m1Commit", m1Commit)
    VVar = prover.AppendElement("V", V)
    X1Var = prover.AppendElement("X1", credential.X1)
    tagVar = prover.AppendElement("tag", tag)
    genTVar = prover.AppendElement("genT", generatorT)
    m1TagVar = prover.AppendElement("m1Tag", m1Tag)

    # 1. m1Commit = m1 * U + z * generatorH
    prover.Constrain(m1CommitVar, [(m1Var, UVar), (zVar, genHVar)])
    # 2. V = z * X1 - r * generatorG
    prover.Constrain(VVar, [(zVar, X1Var), (rNegVar, genGVar)])
    # 3. G.HashToGroup(presentationContext, "Tag") = m1 * tag + nonce * tag
    prover.Constrain(genTVar, [(m1Var, tagVar), (nonceVar, tagVar)])
    # 4. m1Tag = m1 * tag
    prover.Constrain(m1TagVar, [(m1Var, tagVar)])

    return prover.Prove()
```

#### 5.4.2. Presentation Proof Verification

```
validity = VerifyPresentationProof(  
    serverPrivateKey,  
    serverPublicKey,  
    requestContext,  
    presentationContext,  
    presentation,  
    mlTag)
```

##### Inputs:

- serverPrivateKey:
  - x0: Scalar (private), server private key 0.
  - x1: Scalar (private), server private key 1.
  - x2: Scalar (private), server private key 2.
  - x0Blinding: Scalar (private), blinding value for x0.
- serverPublicKey:
  - X0: Element, server public key 0.
  - X1: Element, server public key 1.
  - X2: Element, server public key 2.
- requestContext: Data, context for the credential request.
- presentationContext: Data (public), used for presentation tag computation.
- presentation:
  - U: Element, re-randomized from the U in the response.
  - UPrimeCommit: Element, a public key to the issued UPrime.
  - mlCommit: Element, a public key to the client secret (ml).
  - tag: Element, the tag element used for enforcing the presentation limit.
  - presentationProof: ZKProof, a proof of correct generation of the presentation.
    - challenge: Scalar, the challenge used in the proof of valid presentation.
    - response0: Scalar, the response corresponding to ml.
    - response1: Scalar, the response corresponding to z.
    - response2: Scalar, the response corresponding to -r.
    - response3: Scalar, the response corresponding to nonce.
- mlTag: Element, helper to validate the presentation proof.

##### Outputs:

- validity: Boolean, True if the proof verifies correctly, False otherwise.

##### Parameters:

- G: Group
- generatorG: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorG()
- generatorH: Element, equivalent to G.GeneratorH()
- contextString: public input

```
def VerifyPresentationProof(  
    serverPrivateKey,  
    serverPublicKey,  
    requestContext,
```

```

presentationContext,
presentation,
mlTag):

m2 = G.HashToScalar(requestContext, "requestContext")
V = serverPrivateKey.x0 * presentation.U + serverPrivateKey.x1 * presentation.mlCommit
+ serverPrivateKey.x2 * m2 * presentation.U - presentation.UPrimeCommit
generatorT = G.HashToGroup(presentationContext, "Tag")

verifier = Verifier(contextString + "CredentialPresentation")

mlVar = verifier.AppendScalar("ml")
zVar = verifier.AppendScalar("z")
rNegVar = verifier.AppendScalar("-r")
nonceVar = verifier.AppendScalar("nonce")

genGVar = verifier.AppendElement("genG", generatorG)
genHVar = verifier.AppendElement("genH", generatorH)
UVar = verifier.AppendElement("U", presentation.U)
_ = verifier.AppendElement("UPrimeCommit", presentation.UPrimeCommit)
mlCommitVar = verifier.AppendElement("mlCommit", presentation.mlCommit)
VVar = verifier.AppendElement("V", presentation.V)
X1Var = verifier.AppendElement("X1", serverPublicKey.X1)
tagVar = prover.AppendElement("tag", presentation.tag)
genTVar = verifier.AppendElement("genT", generatorT)
mlTagVar = prover.AppendElement("mlTag", mlTag)

# 1. mlCommit = ml * U + z * generatorH
verifier.Constrain(mlCommitVar, [(mlVar, UVar), (zVar, genHVar)])
# 2. V = z * X1 - r * generatorG
verifier.Constrain(VVar, [(zVar, X1Var), (rNegVar, genGVar)])
# 3. G.HashToGroup(presentationContext, "Tag") = ml * tag + nonceVar * tag
verifier.Constrain(genTVar, [(mlVar, tagVar), (nonceVar, tagVar)])
# 4. mlTag = ml * tag
prover.Constrain(mlTagVar, [(mlVar, tagVar)])

return verifier.Verify(presentation.proof)

```

## 6. Ciphersuites

A ciphersuite (also referred to as 'suite' in this document) for the protocol wraps the functionality required for the protocol to take place. The ciphersuite should be available to both the client and server, and agreement on the specific instantiation is assumed throughout.

A ciphersuite contains an instantiation of the following functionality:

- \* Group: A prime-order Group exposing the API detailed in Section 3.1, with the generator element defined in the corresponding reference for each group. Each group also specifies HashToGroup, HashToScalar, and serialization functionalities. For HashToGroup, the domain separation tag (DST) is constructed in accordance with the recommendations in [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve], Section 3.1. For HashToScalar, each group specifies an integer order that is used in reducing integer values to a member of the corresponding scalar field.

This section includes an initial set of ciphersuites with supported groups. It also includes implementation details for each ciphersuite, focusing on input validation.

#### 6.1. ARC(P-256)

This ciphersuite uses P-256 [NISTCurves] for the Group. The value of the ciphersuite identifier is "P256". The value of contextString is "ARCV1-P256".

- \* Group: P-256 (secp256r1) [NISTCurves]
  - Order(): Return 0xffffffff00000000ffffffffffffffffbce6faada7179e84f3b9cac2fc632551.
  - Identity(): As defined in [NISTCurves].
  - Generator(): As defined in [NISTCurves].
  - RandomScalar(): Implemented by returning a uniformly random Scalar in the range [1, G.Order() - 1]. Refer to Section 6.2 for implementation guidance.
  - HashToGroup(x, info): Use hash\_to\_curve with suite P256\_XMD:SHA-256\_SSWU\_RO\_ [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve], input x, and DST = "HashToGroup-" || contextString || info.
  - HashToScalar(x, info): Use hash\_to\_field from [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve] using L = 48, expand\_message\_xmd with SHA-256, input x and DST = "HashToScalar-" || contextString || info, and prime modulus equal to Group.Order().
  - ScalarInverse(s): Returns the multiplicative inverse of input Scalar s mod Group.Order().

- `SerializeElement(A)`: Implemented using the compressed Elliptic-Curve-Point-to-Octet-String method according to [SEC1];  $N_e = 33$ .
- `DeserializeElement(buf)`: Implemented by attempting to deserialize a 33-byte array to a public key using the compressed Octet-String-to-Elliptic-Curve-Point method according to [SEC1], and then performs partial public-key validation as defined in section 5.6.2.3.4 of [KEYAGREEMENT]. This includes checking that the coordinates of the resulting point are in the correct range, that the point is on the curve, and that the point is not the point at infinity. Additionally, this function validates that the resulting element is not the group identity element. If these checks fail, deserialization returns an `InputValidationError` error.
- `SerializeScalar(s)`: Implemented using the Field-Element-to-Octet-String conversion according to [SEC1];  $N_s = 32$ .
- `DeserializeScalar(buf)`: Implemented by attempting to deserialize a Scalar from a 32-byte string using Octet-String-to-Field-Element from [SEC1]. This function can fail if the input does not represent a Scalar in the range  $[0, G.Order() - 1]$ .

## 6.2. Random Scalar Generation

Two popular algorithms for generating a random integer uniformly distributed in the range  $[1, G.Order() - 1]$  are as follows:

### 6.2.1. Rejection Sampling

Generate a random byte array with  $N_s$  bytes, and attempt to map to a Scalar by calling `DeserializeScalar` in constant time. If it succeeds and is non-zero, return the result. Otherwise, try again with another random byte array, until the procedure succeeds. Failure to implement `DeserializeScalar` in constant time can leak information about the underlying corresponding Scalar.

As an optimization, if the group order is very close to a power of 2, it is acceptable to omit the rejection test completely. In particular, if the group order is  $p$ , and there is an integer  $b$  such that  $|p - 2^b|$  is less than  $2^{(b/2)}$ , then `RandomScalar` can simply return a uniformly random integer of at most  $b$  bits.

### 6.2.2. Random Number Generation Using Extra Random Bits

Generate a random byte array with  $L = \text{ceil}(((3 * \text{ceil}(\log_2(G.\text{Order()}))) / 2) / 8)$  bytes, and interpret it as an integer; reduce the integer modulo  $G.\text{Order}()$  and return the result. See [I-D.irtf-cfrg-hash-to-curve], Section 5 for the underlying derivation of  $L$ .

## 7. Security Considerations

For arguments about correctness, unforgeability, anonymity, and blind issuance of the ARC protocol, see the "Formal Security Definitions for Keyed-Verification Anonymous Credentials" in [KVAC].

This section elaborates on unlinkability properties for ARC and other implementation details necessary for these properties to hold.

### 7.1. Credential Request Unlinkability

Client credential requests are constructed such that the server cannot distinguish between any two credential requests from the same client and two requests from different clients. We refer to this property as issuance unlinkability. This property is achieved by the way the credential requests are constructed. In particular, each credential request consists of two Pedersen commitments with fresh blinding factors, which are used to commit to a freshly generated client secret and request context. The resulting request is therefore statistically hiding, and independent from other requests from the same client. More details about this unlinkability property can be found in [KVAC] and [REVISITING\_KVAC].

### 7.2. Credential Issuance Unlinkability

The server commitment to  $x_0$  is defined as  $X_0 = x_0 * G.\text{generatorG}() + x_0\text{Blinding} * G.\text{GeneratorH}()$ , following the definitions in [KVAC]. This is computationally binding to the secret key  $x_0$ . This means that unless the discrete log is broken, the credentials issued under one server commitment  $X_0, X_1, \dots$  will all be issued under the same private keys  $x_0, x_1, \dots$ .

However, an adversary breaking the discrete log (e.g., a quantum adversary) can find pairs  $(x_0, x_0\text{Blinding})$  and  $(x_0', x_0\text{Blinding}')$  both committing to  $X_0$  and use them to issue different credentials. This capability would let the adversary partitioning the client anonymity set by linking clients to the underlying secret used for credential issuance, i.e.,  $x_0$  or  $x_0'$ . This requires an active attack and therefore is not an immediate concern.

Statistical anonymity is possible by committing to  $x_0$  and  $x_0\text{Blinding}$  separately, as in [REVISITING\_KVAC]. However, the security of this construction requires additional analysis.

### 7.3. Presentation Unlinkability

Client credential presentations are constructed so that all presentations are indistinguishable, even if coming from the same user. We refer to this property as presentation unlinkability. This property is achieved by the way the credential presentations are constructed. The presentation elements [U, UPrimeCommit, mlCommit] are indistinguishable from all other presentations made from credentials issued with the same server keys, as detailed in [KVAC].

The indistinguishability set for these presentation elements is  $\sum_{i=0}^{c-1} p_i$ , where  $c$  is the number of credentials issued with the same server keys, and  $p_i$  is the number of presentations made for each of those credentials.

The presentation elements [tag, nonce, presentationContext, presentationProof] are indistinguishable from all presentations made from credentials issued with the same server keys for that presentationContext, with the exception of presentations with the same nonce (since those presentations can be ascertained as being generated from different credentials, as long as the presentation tag is unique).

The indistinguishability set for those presentation elements is  $\sum_{i=0}^{c-1} p_i[\text{presentationContext}] - k[\text{presentationContext}]$ , where  $c$  is the number of credentials issued with the same server keys,  $p_i[\text{presentationContext}]$  is the number of presentations made for each of those credentials with the same presentationContext, and  $k$  is the number of presentations with the same nonce for that presentationContext. As long as the nonces are generated randomly from the range defined by the presentation limit,  $k[\text{presentationContext}]$  should be roughly equal to  $\sum_{i=0}^{c-1} p_i[\text{presentationContext}] / n$ , where  $n$  is the presentation limit. Therefore, the indistinguishability set can be represented as  $\sum_{i=0}^{c-1} p_i[\text{presentationContext}] (1 - 1/n)$ , where a larger presentation limit results in a larger indistinguishability set and therefore stronger unlinkability properties.

OPEN ISSUE: hide the nonce and replace the tag proof with a range proof built from something like Bulletproofs.

#### 7.4. Timing Leaks

To ensure no information is leaked during protocol execution, all operations that use secret data MUST run in constant time. This includes all prime-order group operations and proof-specific operations that operate on secret data, including proof generation and verification.

#### 8. Alternatives considered

ARC uses the MACGGM algebraic MAC as its underlying primitive, as detailed in [KVAC] and [REVISITING\_KVAC]. This offers the benefit of having a lower credential size than MACDDH, which is an alternative algebraic MAC detailed in [KVAC].

The BBS anonymous credential scheme, as detailed in [BBS] and its variants, is efficient and publicly verifiable, but requires pairings for verification. This is problematic for adoption because pairings are not supported as widely in software and hardware as non-pairing elliptic curves.

It is possible to construct a keyed-verification variant of BBS which doesn't use pairings, as discussed in [BBDT17] and [REVISITING\_KVAC]. However these keyed-verification BBS variants require more analysis, proofs of security properties, and review to be considered mature enough for safe deployment.

#### 9. IANA Considerations

This document has no IANA actions.

#### 10. Test Vectors

This section contains test vectors for the ARC ciphersuites specified in this document.

##### 10.1. ARCV1-P256

```
// ServerKey
x0 = 3338fa65ec36e0290022b48eb562889d89dbfa691d1cde91517fa222ed7ad36
4
x1 = f9db001266677f62c095021db018cd8cbb55941d4073698ce45c405d1348b7b
1
x2 = 350e8040f828bf6ceca27405420cdf3d63cb3aef005f40ba51943c802687796
3
xb = fd293126bb49a6d793cd77d7db960f5692fec3b7ec07602c60cd32aee595dff
d
X0 = 0232b5e93dc2ff489c20a986a84757c5cc4512f057e1ea92011a26d3ad2c562
```

[illegible]

```
000000007
b = e699140babbe599f7dd8f6e3e8f615e5f201d1c2b0bc2f821f19e80a0a0e1e7b
U = 033ee1ebbcff622bc26b10932ed1eb147226d832048fb2337dc0ad7722cb0748
3d
enc_U_prime = 035b8e09ce8776f1a2c7ef8610c9a6a39936c5666ab8b28d6629d3
685056716482
X0_aux = 02d453c121324114367906bd11ffc3b6e6a77b75382497279b1a60ab841
2c1dec6
X1_aux = 03b0e4b1f376c6207bf34efda46ce54b132a20b90bc28b9152f3e441fe2
b508b63
X2_aux = 0327369efcb7577abaeb7b56940e6e042126900bdf8bd8944c0adbb7be3
ad98e2a
H_aux = 03d3cd09eeb8d19716586a49260c69309c495a717a36cad3381f6c02ac80
b70e64
proof = dd4596175db0b4273fcdff330370d2b5e7a4bf92bf518141f4553af37ef0
e1260cb8312affc2462800adba102117448b449985d1704d8afd0df9ac708231561d
ca56faae325cb56b0a9e8ad07bdc6ce90f6e7430090e970a7240e289218de7a17672
bea9a66187d102ffef976fb01af69d8d3aa3156a5a4223dc6d08b8ce9f1d2639a2ed
c7052404bf1410adf6c41465bd687e3dfa5372ea71f804b56d947bae9482e5707f42
dbe35f8b0e11b4a0d27a5a01e1b9a75b66d82b7945eb0b002ee400bebc4c3133f8
04b22bd2d771762058cc35a5033365d2e15150fe46d3b0e98e18ee55f0451b0b1714
20f73592292e4ff50603c1f0d7769dbd090936090f63

// Credential
m1 = eedfe7939e2382934ab5b0f76aae44124955d2c5ebf9b41d88786259c34692d
2
U = 033ee1ebbcff622bc26b10932ed1eb147226d832048fb2337dc0ad7722cb0748
3d
U_prime = 02637fe04cc143281ee607bd8f898e670293dce44a2840b9cbb9e0d1fc
7a2b29b4
X1 = 03c413230a9bd956718aa46138a33f774f4c708d61c1d6400d404243049d4a3
1dc

// Presentation1
Blinding_0 = 00
000000001
Blinding_1 = 00
000000002
Blinding_2 = 00
000000003
Blinding_3 = 00
000000004
presentation_context = 746573742070726573656e7461746966f6e20636f6e746
57874
a = b78e57df8f0a95d102ff12bbb97e15ed35c23e54f9b4483d30b76772ee60d886
r = 42252210dd60ddbbf1a57e3b144e26dd693b7644a9626a8c36896ede53d12930
z = f5a4bbcf14e55e357df9f5ccb5ded37b2b14bc2e1a68e31f86416f0606ee75d1
U = 032704f22133d2ec70f9e6f4bbf64c582220b666f2e2c1d37c3f8995a2a5568c
```

```

7e
U_prime_commit = 03533cf1b2fd53a0716e02425eb42e4c55835aa6b2992d364cb
a70810d0f8aeb51
ml_commit = 03e412408579105213ed10b6447c85bcd672ba73ecae1e21c463d0df
4ef77beb814
nonce = 0x0
tag = 031a774fd87a8f18f6420bea43cf5425e7426eec8ba7b8df5c13dc05f10ec6
52d9
proof = a558da5f17c04adcb0898827aaded14beldc612dcd12b0579c11bb387ce9
ae4b7dbcb3bbe413caaaf754d99e5a342abb7e0041458d670f4b58eda37e745a6752
95d7a7b86248141d6547b53d793e5c77896ec4dc8dd438ab66d9c8b43ef6b060938a
1ca793057b154970ebc3c7ec3a23134e0852d0041f9098ce77311e5b5eca00000000
0004

// Presentation2
Blinding_0 = 00
000000001
Blinding_1 = 00
000000002
Blinding_2 = 00
000000003
Blinding_3 = 00
000000004
presentation_context = 746573742070726573656e746174696f6e20636f6e746
57874
a = 95bcf45150a61f5c44a6cfbf343cd9e0f593f127b6f49bec0f9b20f0550504a2
r = d7ed72750b6d366ed0febdc539b52d89434f468a578c59d7ca9015b7da240ad6
z = 91eedfb168c556ff5ca3b89d047f482c9279b47f584aab6c7f895f7674251771
U = 035fd233dee2c147155c6008ea64941b6fff7b315aced12531468f2e27bf22e3e
f0
U_prime_commit = 02434af337b87fd21d1e3d950aebfc8033a3d2e9dd2bb8b9e79
53488078754496d
ml_commit = 02a578fd3a84eb5b657367b02de39b45fd48ab7781ef8f94efe60127
4a5ded2a07
nonce = 0x1
tag = 03084fe6fff0ecc7c33ef5c49b492dda38083f52e9a2b70b88f3d4b4ba7b50
afba
proof = 050965cde906fc4723333b100ce0fd9f7b026315f1db16984d4cccb2bc4a
a65eb7a17f5b8dfe4f14d40006506ee5fb323e829dd4cb9dc3c455b2e04dd691600a
ec3cc3f1939198a80acb78b7f90b3bff769cab890f33e4d69b7c302d21ad35ec457d
048d3ed7d13ee82c3c0aac2129ad0c8375cf29cd8ea3948a16b9247blcc5faf69a31
16f903b9dcccc4efff31f026041e49797b53c87eca66cfe1040187ef7

```

## 11. Acknowledgments

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