

IPsec Issues for SCTP

Steven M. Bellovin

smb@research.att.com

973-360-8656

AT&T Labs Research

Florham Park, NJ 07932

Protecting SCTP with IPsec

- Minor issue — must have policy rules for SCTP.
- Major issue — multihomed connections not properly supported.
- IPsec proper can do handle it, but IKE cannot.

IPsec Security Associations

- Each *security association* (SA) has an associated key, cryptographic algorithms, etc.
- SAs are also linked to a *security policy database* (SPD) that specifies what packets to encrypt.
- Each IPsec-protected packet contains an SA identifier (the *security parameter index* (SPI)).
- Note carefully: SAs are unidirectional.

IKE Behavior

- IKE (Internet Key Exchange) negotiates *pairs* of SAs.
- Endpoint identifiers in IKE are host addresses, subnets, or ranges.
- We could do multiple IKE exchanges, but (a) it would be expensive; (b) we'd get $m \times n$ SAs; and (c) we don't really need or want different keys for the different host addresses.

Proposed Solution

- **Modify IKE to permit lists of addresses as endpoint identifiers.**
- **Must also modify certificates to handle that.**
- **Until that is common, IKE implementations should fall back to setting up multiple SAs when talking to older versions that don't support address lists.**