



**Status Report on the  
NIST PQC Standardisation**

**Carlos Aguilar Melchor**  
**[carlos@sandboxaq.com](mailto:carlos@sandboxaq.com)**

# Status report on the NIST Post-Quantum Standardization

---

Carlos Aguilar Melchor  
carlos@sandboxaq.com

# The Quantum Threat (or why a crypto migration is needed)

# Quantum Computers Are Coming

Quantum computing is becoming a reality...

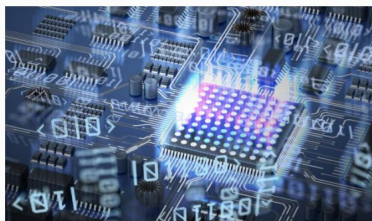
... and growing amount of funding will continue to foster new discoveries

## What Is Quantum Supremacy And Quantum Computing? (And How Excited Should We Be?)



Bernard Marr Contributor @ Enterprise Tech

In 2019, Google announced with much fanfare that it had achieved “quantum supremacy” –the point at which a quantum computer can perform a task that would be impossible for a conventional computer (or would take so long it would be entirely impractical for a conventional computer).

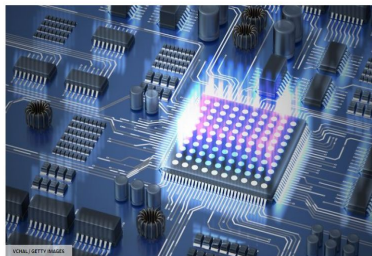


What Is Quantum Supremacy And Quantum Computing? (And How Excited Should We Be?)  
10088 2700X

## Scientists Extend Quantum States by 22 Milliseconds. That's an Eternity.

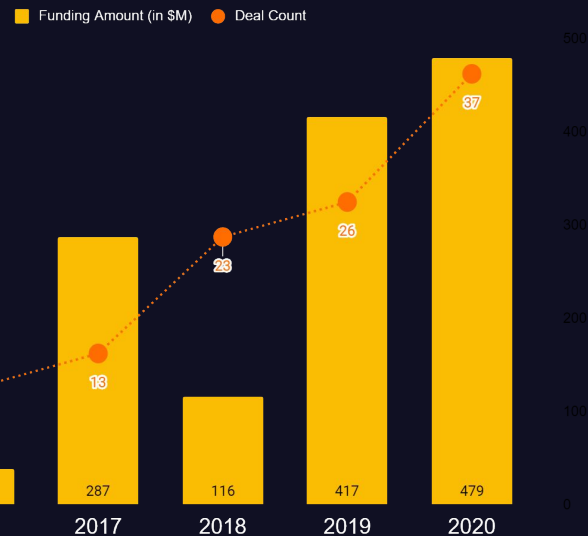
Do you know what a computer can do in that time?

By DARSHNE SIKHARTE APR 21, 2020



- An innovative protective noise field extends a qubit's quantum state to 22 milliseconds.
- With the state of a qubit 10,000 times longer than before, quantum computers could take another step toward feasibility.
- Just 22 milliseconds is a virtual eternity for a qubit.

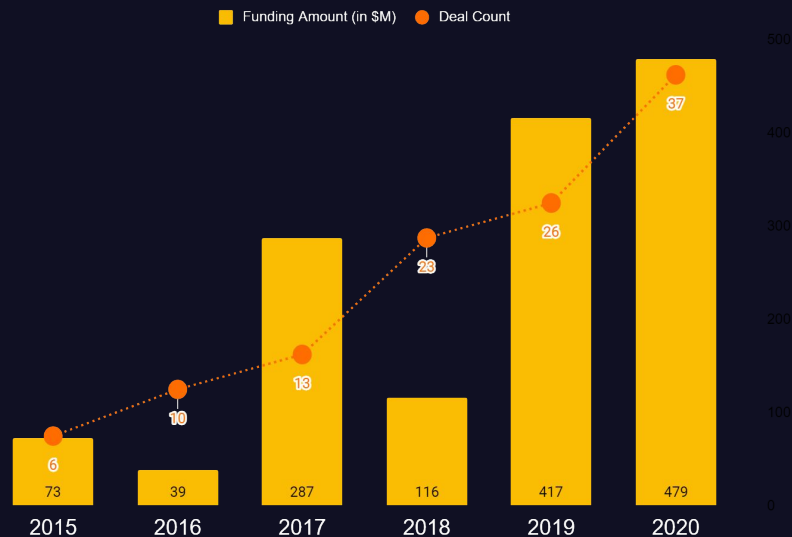
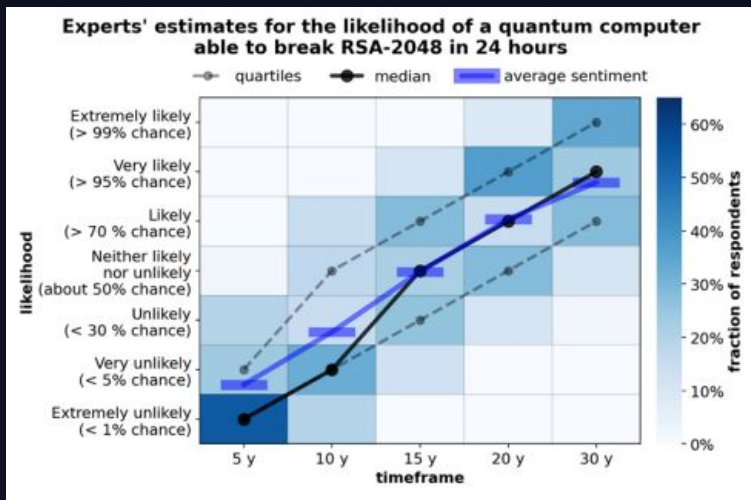
Molecular engineers at the University of Chicago have found a way to extend the quantum state of a qubit to 22 milliseconds, representing a huge improvement and a window some say will make quantum computers far more feasible. The secret is an alternating magnetic field, which they say is scientifically “intricate” but easy to apply.



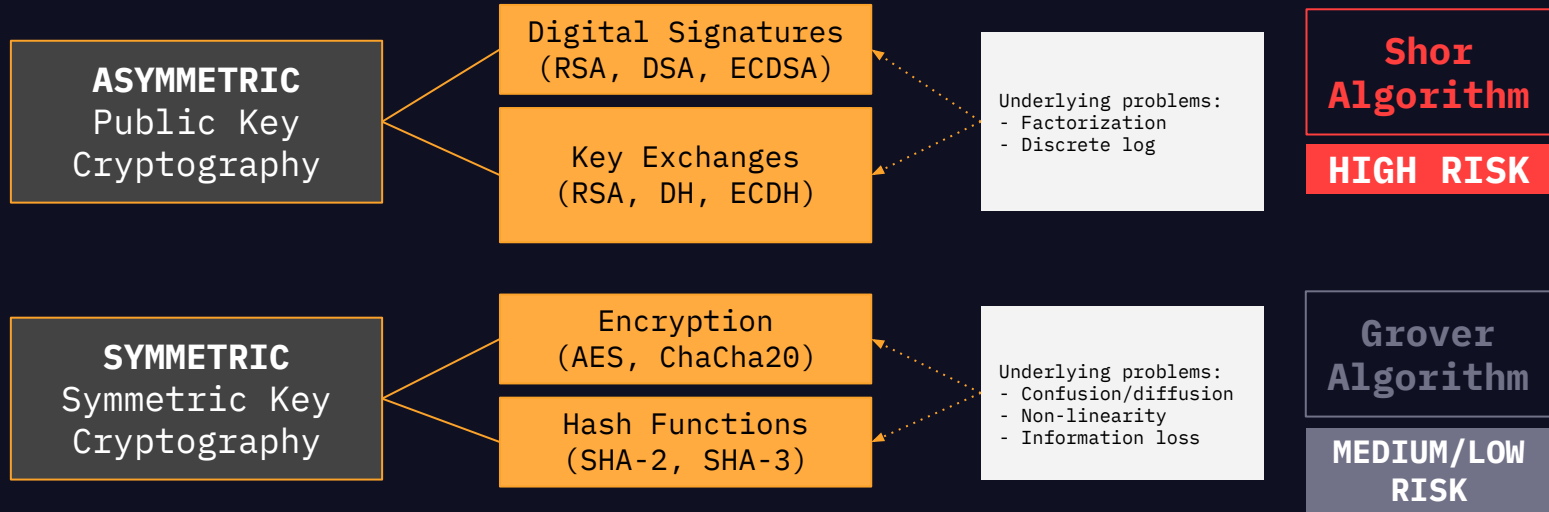
# Quantum Computers Are Coming

Quantum computing is becoming a reality...

... and growing amount of funding will continue to foster new discoveries



# Digital Security Is Challenged



AES-256, SHA512, SHA3-512  
considered relatively safe  
for early quantum computer  
days - see below

# Long-Term Attacks

(or why the time to act is now)

# Store Now Decrypt Later (SNDL)

Enterprises must migrate now to post-quantum (i.e. quantum-resistant) crypto as their data is being exfiltrated now for decryption later

Today

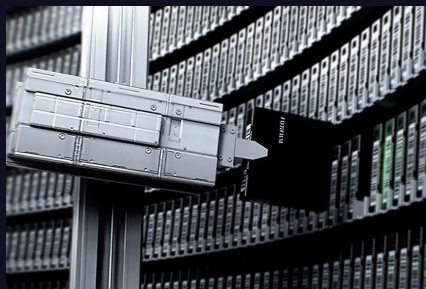
Sensitive data could still be valuable years from now and will be exposed by QC if not secured by PQC



Storage

Tomorrow

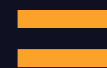
Companies and networks need to act today to secure their data and prevent the following actions.



Retrieval



Quantum processing



Decrypted message



# Long-Life Field Devices

Need for a long-term secure alternative

Many vehicles use crypto hardware  
with multi-decade lifespans



Many industrial control system plants  
cannot regularly update crypto due to  
high availability requirements

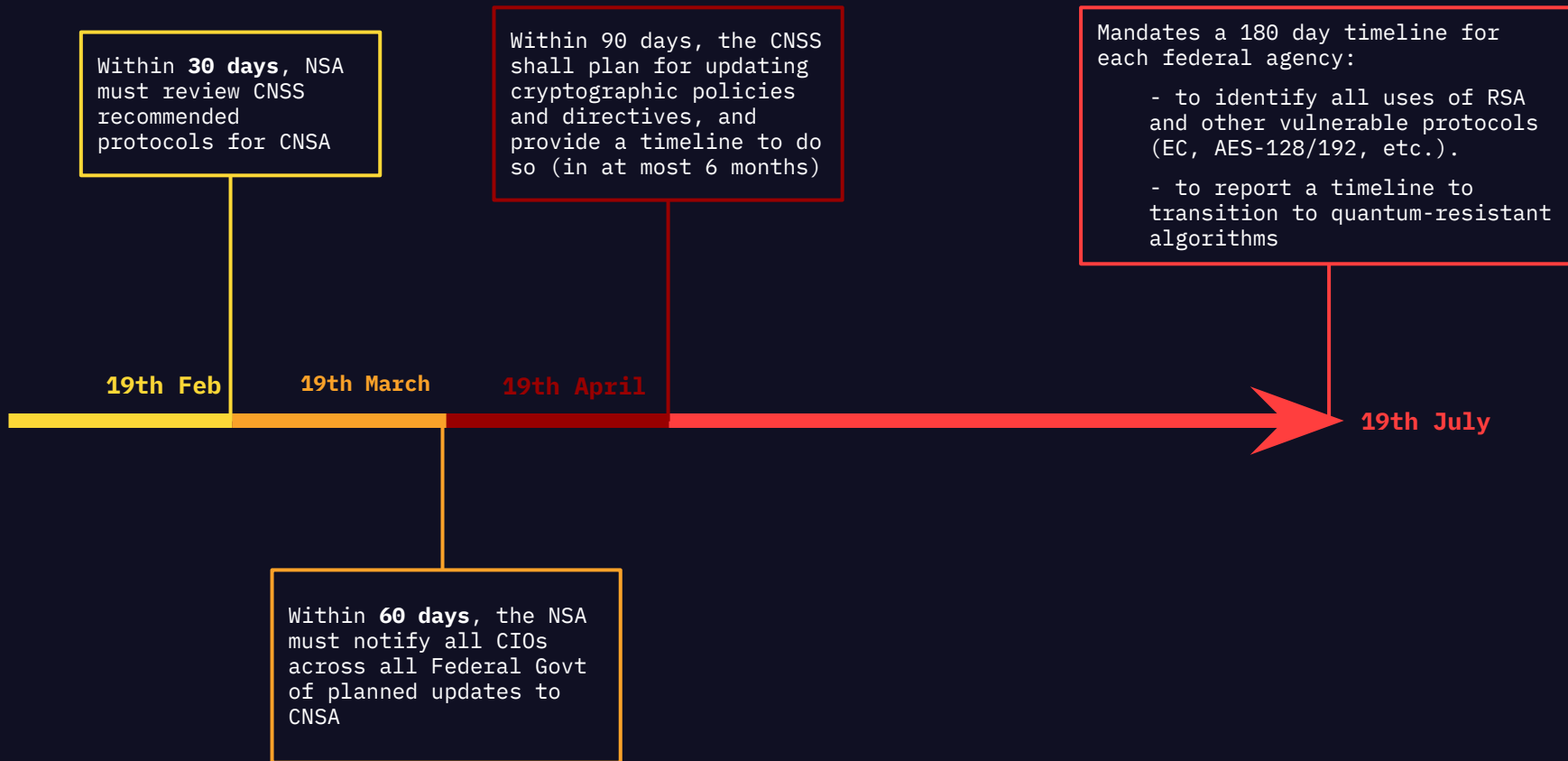


# NSA

// For those partners and vendors that have not yet made the transition to Suite B elliptic curve algorithms, we recommend not making a significant expenditure to do so at this point but instead to **prepare for the upcoming quantum resistant algorithm transition.**

# National Security Memo (NSM) January 2022

The NSM provides a clear set of milestones for migration to post-quantum crypto



# Standardisation Landscape

# Current Standards

There are different  
Standardization organizations:

- **NIST - US**
- **ISO - Global**
- **ANSSI - France**
- **BSI - Germany**
- **NCSC - UK**
- **"IETF" (through RFCs) - Global**

Digital Signatures (**FIPS-186**):

- DSA
- RSA
- ECDSA

Key Agreement (**SP 800-56A** and **SP 800-56B**):

- ECDH
- RSA

All based on **Factorization** or **Discrete logarithm** problems

# NIST PQC Standardization Process

Submissions	Accepted R1	Accepted R2	Accepted R3	Standardized
82	69	26	15	Suite of Algorithms

**Apr 2016:**  
NISTIR 8105  
Report

**Dec 2017:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Round  
Candidates  
Announced

**Jan 2019:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round  
Candidates  
Announced

**July 2020:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Round  
Schemes  
Announced

**March 2022:**  
First standards  
defined and 4<sup>th</sup> round  
schemes announced



**Dec 2016:**  
Formal  
Call for  
Proposal

**Nov 2017:**  
Deadline  
for  
Submission  
s

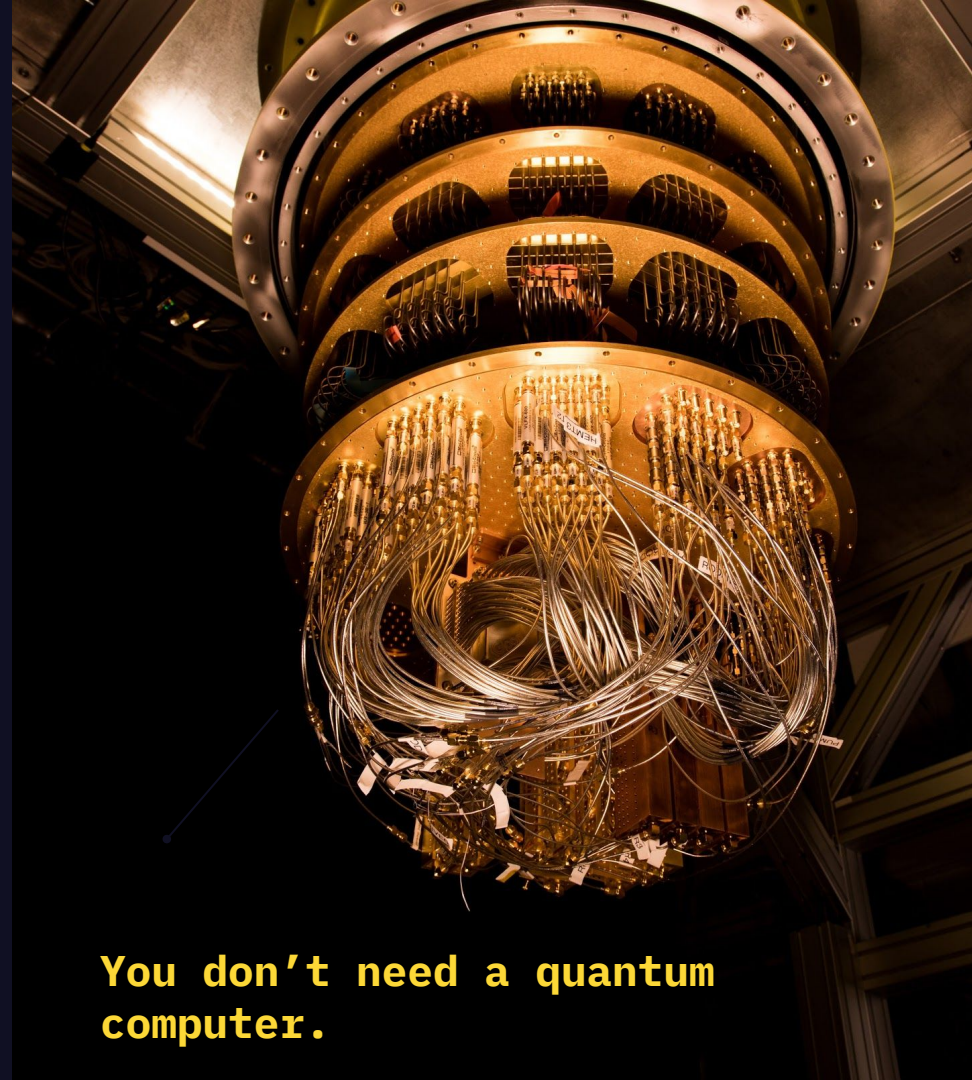
**Apr 2018:**  
1<sup>st</sup> NIST PQC  
Standardizatio  
n Workshop

**Aug 2019:**  
2<sup>nd</sup> NIST PQC  
Standardizatio  
n Workshop

**Q2/Q3 2021:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> NIST PQC  
Standardizati  
on Workshop

**2022/2023:**  
New  
Standardization  
Process for more  
Digital  
Signatures

**Post-Quantum  
Cryptography  
runs on current  
digital systems**



**You don't need a quantum  
computer.**

# New standards are to be chosen

	Lattice-based		Hash-based		Code-based		Multivariate Quadratic-based		Isogeny-based	
Application	PKE	Signature	PKE	Signature	PKE	Signature	PKE	Signature	PKE	Signature
	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fast (thousands ops/s)</li> <li>Small sizes (KX 1.5KB, Sign 3.5KB)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong underlying problem</li> <li>Small key size</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong underlying problem</li> <li>OR small sizes (3KB-6KB)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tiny signature (66B)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tiny sizes (KX, Sign, 600B)</li> <li>Easy implementation</li> </ul>	
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somewhat recent underlying problems</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large signatures (8-18KB)</li> <li>Slow (hundreds ops/s)</li> <li>No KX</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huge key size (260KB)</li> <li>OR recent underlying problem</li> <li>(No signatures)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Huge key size (160KB)</li> <li>Problem attacked several times</li> <li>No KX</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very slow computation (1 op/s)</li> <li>Very recent underlying problem</li> </ul>	

KX cost: All communications (keys + ciphertexts)

Sign cost: Public key + signature



# NIST PQC Standardization Process

## Round 3

### 2022 Finalists

#### Signatures :

- CRYSTALS-DILITHIUM (lattices)
- FALCON (lattices)
- Rainbow (multivariate)

#### Public Key Encryption / Key Encapsulation Mechanism:

- Classic McEliece (codes)
- CRYSTALS-KYBER (lattices)
- NTRU (lattices)
- SABER (lattices)

### 2023 Finalists (aka Alternates)

#### Signatures :

- GeMSS (multivariate)
- Picnic (symmetric)
- SPHINCS+ (symmetric)

#### Public Key Encryption / Key Encapsulation Mechanism:

- BIKE (codes)
- FrodoKEM (lattices)
- HQC (codes)
- NTRU Prime (lattices)
- SIKE (isogenies)

# NIST PQC Standardization Process

## Round 3

Rainbow has been recently attacked and most probably will be left out of the process

### Breaking Rainbow Takes a Weekend on a Laptop

Ward Beullens

IBM Research, Zurich, Switzerland  
wbe@zurich.ibm.com

**Abstract.** This work introduces new key recovery attacks against the Rainbow signature scheme, which is one of the three finalist signature schemes still in the NIST Post-Quantum Cryptography standardization project. The new attacks outperform previously known attacks for all the parameter sets submitted to NIST and make a key-recovery practical for the SL 1 parameters. Concretely, given a Rainbow public key for the SL 1 parameters of the second-round submission, our attack returns the corresponding secret key after on average 53 hours (one weekend) of computation time on a standard laptop.

### 2022 Finalists

#### Signatures :

- CRYSTALS-DILITHIUM (lattices)
- FALCON (lattices)
- ~~Rainbow (multivariate)~~

#### Public Key Encryption / Key Encapsulation Mechanism:

- Classic McEliece (codes)
- CRYSTALS-KYBER (lattices)
- NTRU (lattices)
- SABER (lattices)

### 2023 Finalists (aka Alternates)

#### Signatures :

- GeMSS (multivariate)
- Picnic (symmetric)
- SPHINCS+ (symmetric)

#### Public Key Encryption / Key Encapsulation Mechanism:

- BIKE (codes)
- FrodoKEM (lattices)
- HQC (codes)
- NTRU Prime (lattices)
- SIKE (isogenies)

## NIST – June 2021

- // First PQC standards will be announced at the end of 2021 / beginning of 2022
- // We expect the final standards to be ready by 2024
- // A new Digital Signature standardization process will start at the end of 2021 / beginning of 2022

# Existing PQC Standards

## Stateful Hash-Based Signatures

- XMSS-MT – RFC 8391 and SP 800-208 and ISO in process
- LMS – RFC 8554 and SP 800-208 and ISO in process

Can start being  
deployed now



Software  
updates



Secure  
boot



PKI's CAs  
and RAs

# China and Post-Quantum Cryptography

- Ran a PQC Competition in 2019
- Organized by the Chinese Association for Cryptologic Research
- Lasted for 1 year
- Only proposals written fully in Chinese were accepted
- They received 36 submissions
- Selected several PQC winner algorithms →
- They *might* organize a second PQC competition in the near future

附件 1

## 全国密码算法设计竞赛公钥算法评选结果

一等奖: Aigis-sig、LAC.PKE、 Aigis-enc

二等奖: LAC.KEX、 SIAKE、 SCloud、 AKCN(原名 AKCN-MLWE)

三等奖: OKCN(原名 SKCN-MLWE)、 Fatseal、 木兰、 AKCN-E8、 TALE、 PKP-DSS、 Piglet-1

# PQC-Related Standardisations

## Hybrid Protocols

# Hybrid protocols

NIST SP 800-56C REV. 2

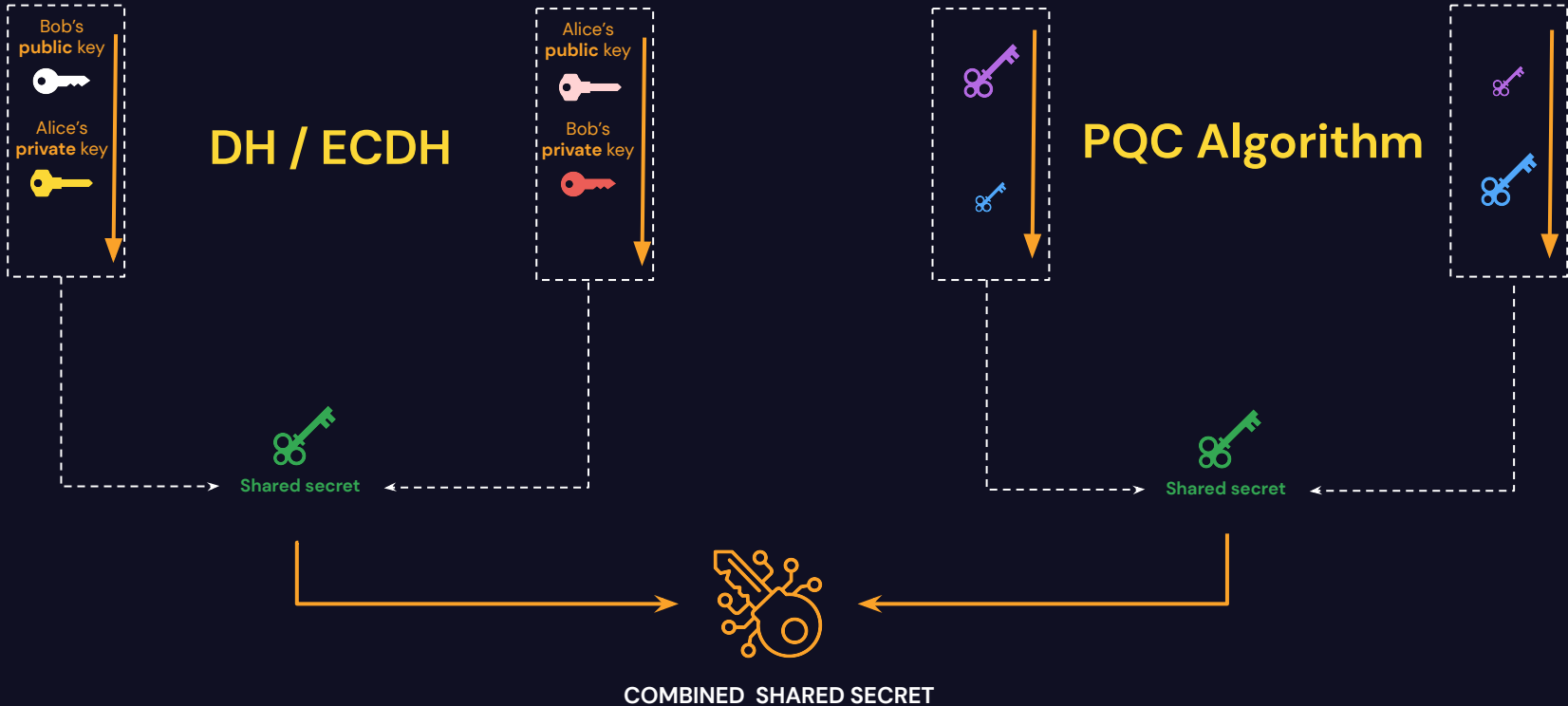
RECOMMENDATION FOR KEY DERIVATION METHODS  
IN KEY ESTABLISHMENT SCHEMES

## 2 Scope and Purpose

This Recommendation specifies two categories of key-derivation methods that can be employed, as required, to derive keying material from a shared secret  $Z$  generated during the execution of a key-establishment scheme specified in [\[SP 800-56A\]](#) or [\[SP 800-56B\]](#).

In addition to the currently **approved** techniques for the generation of the shared secret  $Z$  as specified in SP 800-56A and SP 800-56B, this Recommendation permits the use of a “hybrid” shared secret of the form  $Z' = Z || T$ , a concatenation consisting of a “standard” shared secret  $Z$  that was generated during the execution of a key-establishment scheme (as currently specified in [\[SP 800-56A\]](#) or [\[SP 800-56B\]](#)) followed by an auxiliary shared secret  $T$  that has been generated using some other method. The content, format, length, and method used to generate  $T$  must be known and agreed upon by all parties that will rely upon the derived keying material, as well as by any agents trusted to act on their behalf. The key-derivation methods specified in this Recommendation will process a hybrid  $Z'$  in the same way they process a standard  $Z$ . Therefore, for simplicity of notation and exposition, any shared secret denoted by the symbol  $Z$  in the remainder of this

# Complying with SP 800-56C





# Toward Hybrid protocols

## Post-quantum WireGuard

June 16, 2021

Andreas Hülsing  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
The Netherlands  
andreas@huelising.net

Kai-Chun Ning  
KPN B.V.  
The Netherlands  
kaichun.ning@kpn.org

Peter Schwabe  
Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, Germany &  
Radboud University, The Netherlands  
peter@cryptojedi.org

Florian Weber  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
The Netherlands  
mail@florianwj.de

Philip R. Zimmermann  
Delft University of Technology & KPN B.V.  
The Netherlands  
prz@mit.edu

**Abstract**—In this paper we present PQ-WireGuard, a post-quantum variant of the handshake in the WireGuard VPN protocol (NDSS 2017). Unlike most previous work on post-quantum security for real-world protocols, this variant does not only consider post-quantum confidentiality (or forward secrecy) not supported by other VPN software, e.g., identity hiding, and DoS-attack mitigation. The security considerations that lead to the design of WireGuard are laid out in [1]. Donedfield and Milner give a computer-verified proof of the protocol in the

Network Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
Intended status: Standards Track  
Expires: February 4, 2022

V. Smyslov  
ELVIS-PLUS  
August 3, 2021

Intermediate Exchange in the IKEv2 Protocol  
draft-ietf-ipsecme-ikev2-intermediate-07

### Abstract

This document defines a new exchange, called Intermediate Exchange, for the Internet Key Exchange protocol Version 2 (IKEv2). This exchange can be used for transferring large amount of data in the process of IKEv2 Security Association (SA) establishment. Introducing Intermediate Exchange allows re-using existing IKE fragmentation mechanism, that helps to avoid IP fragmentation of large IKE messages, but cannot be used in the initial IKEv2 exchange.

### Status of This Memo

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

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-

## Post-Quantum TLS Without Handshake Signatures

Full version, April 21, 2021

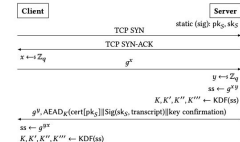
Peter Schwabe  
Max Planck Institute for Security and  
Privacy & Radboud University  
peter@cryptojedi.org

Douglas Stebila  
University of Waterloo  
dstebila@uwaterloo.ca

Thom Wiggers  
Radboud University  
thom@thomwiggers.nl

### ABSTRACT

We present KEMTLS, an alternative to the TLS 1.3 handshake that uses key-encapsulation mechanisms (KEMs) instead of signatures for server authentication. Among existing post-quantum candidates, signature schemes generally have larger public key/signature sizes compared to the public key/ciphertext sizes of KEMs: by using an IND-CCA-secure KEM for server authentication in post-quantum TLS, we obtain multiple benefits. A size-optimized post-quantum instantiation of KEMTLS requires less than half the bandwidth of a size-optimized post-quantum instantiation of TLS 1.3. In a speed-



## Prototyping post-quantum and hybrid key exchange and authentication in TLS and SSH

Eric Crockett<sup>1</sup>, Christian Paquin<sup>2</sup>, and Douglas Stebila<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>AWS ericcro@amazon.com  
<sup>2</sup>Microsoft Research cpaquin@microsoft.com  
<sup>3</sup>University of Waterloo dstebila@uwaterloo.ca

July 19, 2019

### Abstract

Once algorithms for quantum-resistant key exchange and digital signature schemes are selected by standards bodies, adoption of post-quantum cryptography will depend on progress in integrating those algorithms into standards for communication protocols and other parts of the IT infrastructure. In this paper, we explore how two major Internet security protocols,

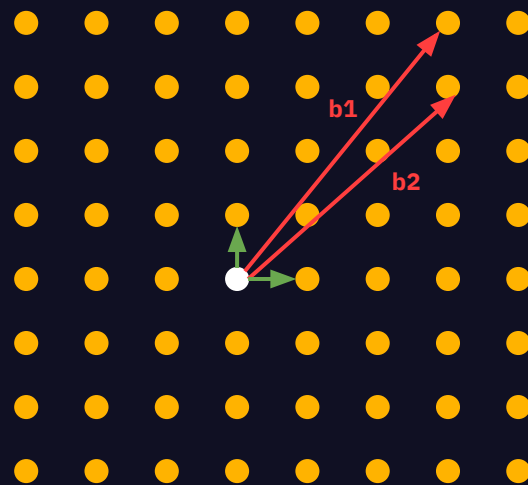
# Post-Quantum Cryptography Domains

# Quantum-Resistant Approaches

1. Lattice-based
2. Error-correction codes
3. Isogenies
4. Hash functions
5. Multivariate

# Lattice-Based Cryptography

- LBC creates a *math workload problem* which is not tractable on **either classical or quantum** computers
- Setup a lattice geometry problem
  - Original geometry → Private key
  - Modified geometry → Public Key
- **Not vulnerable** to known quantum attacks
- Robustness to all possible quantum attacks yet to be determined.



→ shortest vector  
● origin

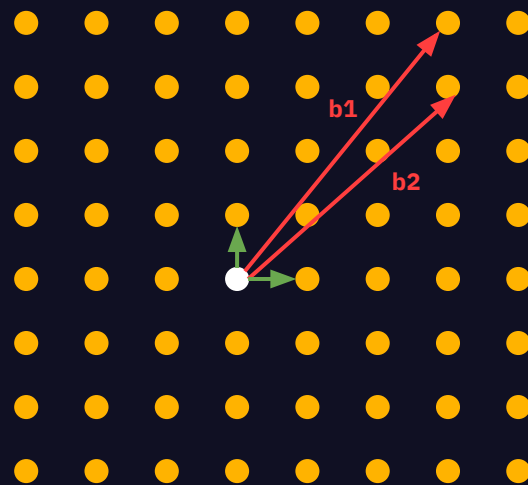
# Lattice-Based Cryptography

Based on the hardness of the **shortest vector problem** (SVP) & analogous problems.

Most promising candidates:

*Learning with Errors* (LWE), *Module Learning with Errors* (MLWE) and *Ring Learning with Errors* (Ring LWE).

- **Pros:** Fast and relatively small key sizes
- **Con:** Less time out there being studied



→ shortest vector  
● origin

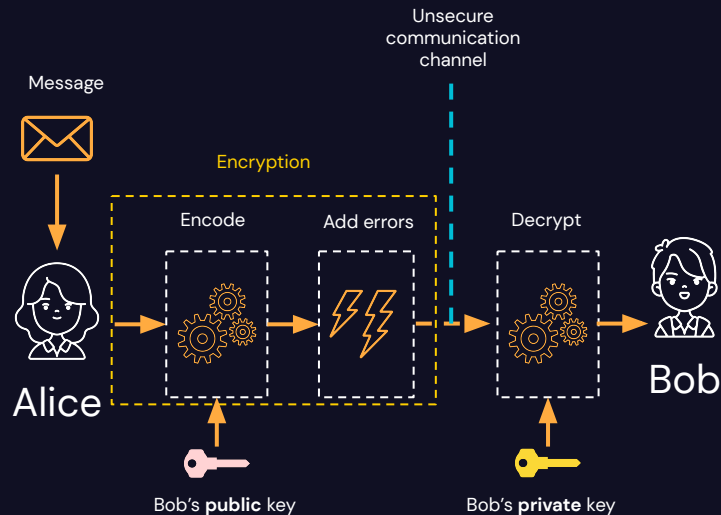
# Code-Based Cryptography

Based on the hardness of **decoding a linear code** which has survived decades of cryptanalysis (*random* linear codes are known to be NP-hard)

Most promising candidate: *McEliece cryptosystem* (using binary Goppa codes)

Intuition: intentionally add errors in encryption so adversary cannot decode

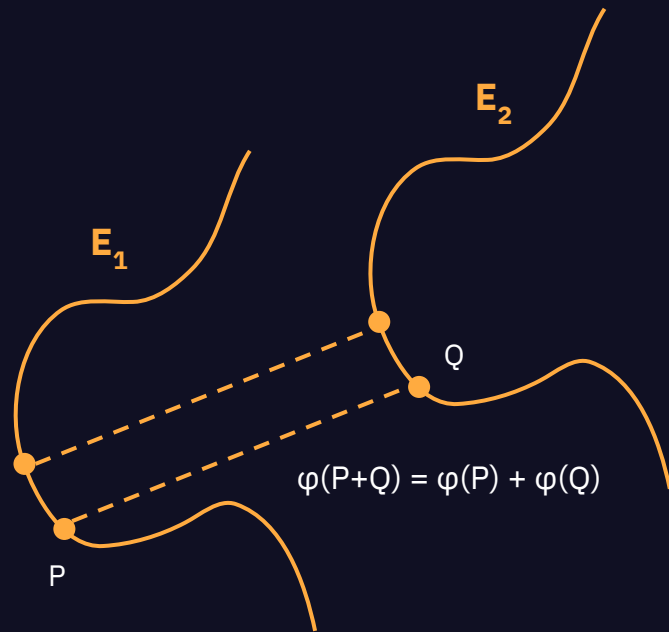
- **Pros:** Fast and small ciphertexts
- **Con:** Large keys



# Isogeny-Based Cryptography

Based on the hardness of **finding isogeny** (mapping) between supersingular elliptic curves.

- **Pros:** Small key size, small ciphertext
- **Con:** Very slow

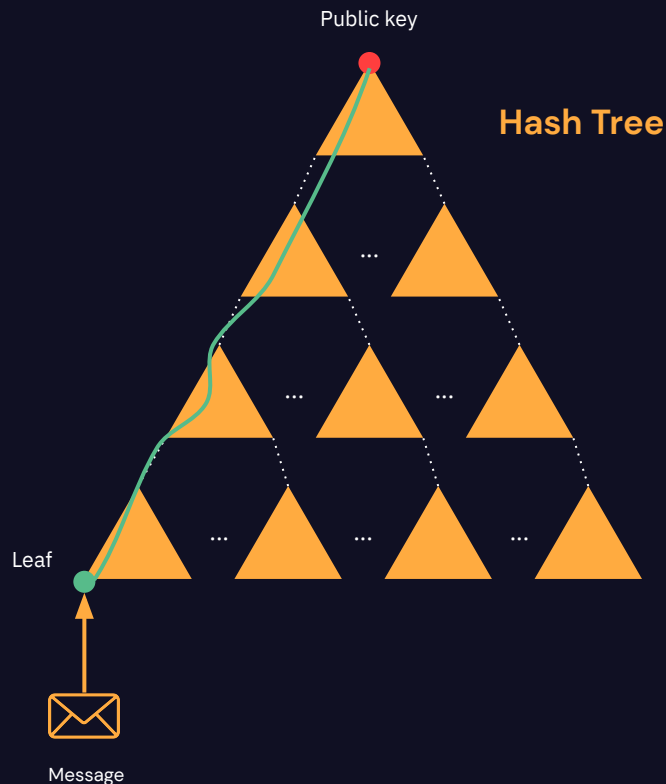


# Hash-Based Cryptography

Based on security assumptions of one-way functions.

Popular choices:

- **LMS, XMSS** (eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme)
- **SPHINCS+**
- **Pros:** Secure, small keys
- **Con:** Slow and large signatures





# Multivariate-Based Cryptography

Based on difficulty of solving systems of **multivariate equations**.

Promising candidates:

- *GeMSS*
- *Rainbow*
- **Pros:** Fast and short private keys
- **Con:** Long public keys

$$p^{(1)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij}^{(1)} \cdot x_i x_j + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^{(1)} \cdot x_i + p_0^{(1)}$$

$$p^{(2)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij}^{(2)} \cdot x_i x_j + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^{(2)} \cdot x_i + p_0^{(2)}$$

...

$$p^{(m)}(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n p_{ij}^{(m)} \cdot x_i x_j + \sum_{i=1}^n p_i^{(m)} \cdot x_i + p_0^{(m)}$$

System of multivariate quadratic (MQ) polynomials

Thank you!