



BSI Standards Publication

# Information technology — Security techniques — Message Authentication Codes (MACs)

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Part 3: Mechanisms using a universal hash-function

## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO/IEC 9797-3:2011+A1:2020. It supersedes BS ISO/IEC 9797-3:2011, which is withdrawn.

The start and finish of text introduced or altered by amendment is indicated in the text by tags. Tags indicating changes to ISO/IEC text carry the number of the ISO/IEC amendment. For example, text altered by ISO/IEC amendment 1 is indicated by A1 A1.

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**Information technology — Security  
techniques — Message Authentication  
Codes (MACs) —**

**Part 3:  
Mechanisms using a universal  
hash-function**

*Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité — Codes  
d'authentification de message (MAC) —*

*Partie 3: Mécanismes utilisant une fonction de hachage universelle*

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of the joint technical committee is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the joint technical committee are circulated to national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC 9797-3 was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *IT Security techniques*.

ISO/IEC 9797 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — Security techniques — Message Authentication Codes (MACs)*:

- *Part 1: Mechanisms using a block cipher*
- *Part 2: Mechanisms using a dedicated hash-function*
- *Part 3: Mechanisms using a universal hash-function*

## Introduction

In an IT environment, it is often required that one can verify that electronic data has not been altered in an unauthorized manner and that one can provide assurance that a message has been originated by an entity in possession of the secret key. A MAC (Message Authentication Code) algorithm is a commonly used data integrity mechanism that can satisfy these requirements.

This part of ISO/IEC 9797 specifies four MAC algorithms using universal hash-functions: UMAC, Badger, Poly1305-AES and GMAC.

These mechanisms can be used as data integrity mechanisms to verify that data has not been altered in an unauthorized manner. They can also be used as message authentication mechanisms to provide assurance that a message has been originated by an entity in possession of the secret key. The strength of the data integrity mechanism and message authentication mechanism is dependent on the length (in bits) and secrecy of the key, on the length (in bits) of a hash-code produced by the hash-function, on the strength of the hash-function, on the length (in bits) of the MAC, and on the specific mechanism.

NOTE A general framework for the provision of integrity services is specified in ISO/IEC 10181-6<sup>[7]</sup>.

# Information technology — Security techniques — Message Authentication Codes (MACs) —

## Part 3: Mechanisms using a universal hash-function

### 1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 9797 specifies the following MAC algorithms that use a secret key and a universal hash-function with an  $n$ -bit result to calculate an  $m$ -bit MAC based on the block ciphers specified in ISO/IEC 18033-3 and the stream ciphers specified in ISO/IEC 18033-4:

- a) UMAC;
- b) Badger;
- c) Poly1305-AES;
- d) GMAC.

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 9797-1, *Information technology — Security techniques — Message Authentication Codes (MACs) — Part 1: Mechanisms using a block cipher*

ISO/IEC 18031, *Information technology — Security techniques — Random bit generation*

ISO/IEC 18033-3, *Information technology — Security techniques — Encryption algorithms — Part 3: Block ciphers*

ISO/IEC 18033-4, *Information technology — Security techniques — Encryption algorithms — Part 4: Stream ciphers*

### 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 9797-1 and the following apply.

#### 3.1

##### **empty string**

string of symbols of length zero

#### 3.2

##### **key**

sequence of symbols that controls the operation of a cryptographic transformation

#### 3.3

##### **nonce**

number used once