

Symmetric Cryptography

Question 1 *True/false*

Q1.1 TRUE or FALSE: Using $H(x) = \text{SHA256}(x)$, where x is a message, forms a secure message authentication code.

☐ TRUE

☐ FALSE

Q1.2 TRUE or FALSE: Encrypting a message with AES-CBC mode and a random IV is IND-CPA secure.

☐ TRUE

☐ FALSE

Q1.3 TRUE or FALSE: Suppose that in an IND-CPA game for some encryption scheme, there is an attacker who finds a way to guess the random bit correctly with probability 0.4. The scheme could still be IND-CPA.

☐ TRUE

☐ FALSE

Q1.4 TRUE or FALSE: If Bob uses the authenticate-then-encrypt paradigm, the integrity of his plaintext is guaranteed.

☐ TRUE

☐ FALSE

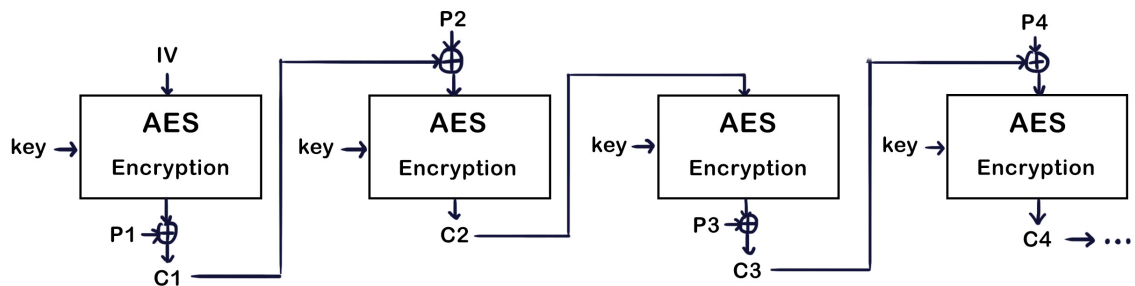
Q1.5 TRUE or FALSE: A hash function must be collision-resistant to be considered safe for password hashing.

☐ TRUE

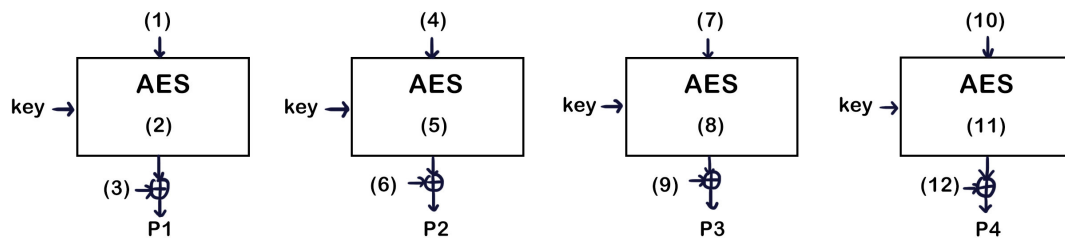
☐ FALSE

Question 2 *EvanBot's Last Creation*

Inspired by different AES modes of operation, EvanBot creates an encryption scheme that combines two existing modes of operation and names it AES-DMO (Dual Mode Operation). Provided below is an encryption schematic of AES-DMO.



Q2.1 Fill in the numbered blanks for this incomplete decryption schematic of AES-DMO.



Q2.2 Select all true statements about AES-DMO.

- ☐ (G) Encryption can be parallelized
- ☐ (H) Decryption can be parallelized
- ☐ (I) AES-DMO is IND-CPA secure
- ☐ (J) None of the above
- ☐ (K) —

Question 3

Alice comes up with a couple of schemes to securely send messages to Bob. Assume that Bob and Alice have known RSA public keys.

For this question, Enc denotes AES-CBC encryption, H denotes a collision-resistant hash function, $\parallel$ denotes concatenation, and $\oplus$ denotes bitwise XOR.

Consider each scheme below independently and select whether each one guarantees confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity in the face of a MITM.

Q3.1 Alice and Bob share two symmetric keys k_1 and k_2 . Alice sends over the pair $[Enc(k_1, Enc(k_2, m)), Enc(k_2, m)]$.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ☐ (A) Confidentiality | ☐ (C) Authenticity | ☐ (E) — |
| ☐ (B) Integrity | ☐ (D) None of the above | ☐ (F) — |

Q3.2 Alice and Bob share a symmetric key k , have agreed on a PRNG, and implement a stream cipher as follows: they use the key k to seed the PRNG and use the PRNG to generate message-length codes as a one-time pad every time they send/receive a message. Alice sends the pair $[m \oplus \text{code}, HMAC(k, m \oplus \text{code})]$.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ☐ (G) Confidentiality | ☐ (I) Authenticity | ☐ (K) — |
| ☐ (H) Integrity | ☐ (J) None of the above | ☐ (L) — |

Q3.3 Alice and Bob share a symmetric key k . Alice sends over the pair $[Enc(k, m), H(Enc(k, m))]$.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ☐ (A) Confidentiality | ☐ (C) Authenticity | ☐ (E) — |
| ☐ (B) Integrity | ☐ (D) None of the above | ☐ (F) — |

Q3.4 Alice and Bob share a symmetric key k . Alice sends over the pair $[Enc(k, m), H(k \parallel Enc(k, m))]$.

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|--|--|--------------------------------|
| ☐ (G) Confidentiality | ☐ (I) Authenticity | ☐ (K) — |
| ☐ (H) Integrity | ☐ (J) None of the above | ☐ (L) — |

Question 4

EvanBot has decided to switch career paths and pursue creating new cryptographic hash functions. EvanBot proposes two new hash functions, E and B :

$$E(x) = H(x_1 x_2 \dots x_{M-1})$$

$$B(x) = H(x_1 x_2 \dots x_M || 0)$$

where H is a preimage-resistant and collision-resistant hash function, $x = x_1 x_2 \dots x_M$, $x_i \in \{0, 1\}$ and $||$ denotes concatenation.

In other words, $E(x)$ calls H with the last bit of x removed, and $B(x)$ calls H with a 0 bit appended to x .

Q4.1 Is $E(x)$ preimage-resistant? Provide a counter-example if it is not.

☐ (A) Yes

☐ (C) —

☐ (E) —

☐ (B) No

☐ (D) —

☐ (F) —

Counterexample:

Q4.2 Is $E(x)$ collision-resistant? Provide a counter-example if it is not.

☐ (G) Yes

☐ (I) —

☐ (K) —

☐ (H) No

☐ (J) —

☐ (L) —

Counterexample:

Q4.3 Is $B(x)$ preimage-resistant? Provide a counter-example if it is not.

☐ (A) Yes

☐ (C) —

☐ (E) —

☐ (B) No

☐ (D) —

☐ (F) —

Counterexample:

Q4.4 Is $B(x)$ collision-resistant? Provide a counter-example if it is not.

☐ (G) Yes

☐ (I) —

☐ (K) —

☐ (H) No

☐ (J) —

☐ (L) —

Counterexample: