

Tink Mechanics



Motivation: Cryptographic libraries are tricky to use

- Often expose low-level APIs that require in-depth expertise
 - Developers shouldn't need to focus on cryptography...
- Simple mistakes can have serious consequences

```
int EVP_EncryptInit_ex(EVP_CIPHER_CTX *ctx, const EVP_CIPHER *type,  
                      ENGINE *impl, const unsigned char *key, const unsigned char *iv);  
int EVP_EncryptUpdate(EVP_CIPHER_CTX *ctx, unsigned char *out,  
                    int *outl, const unsigned char *in, int inl);  
int EVP_EncryptFinal_ex(EVP_CIPHER_CTX *ctx, unsigned char *out, int *outl);  
int EVP_CIPHER_CTX_ctrl(EVP_CIPHER_CTX *ctx, int type, int arg, void *ptr);
```

Outline

- 01 What is Tink?
- 02 Tink concepts
- 03 Key management
- 04 Next Steps
- 05 Q&A

What is Tink?

- A **multi language** and **multi-platform open source** cryptography library
 - github.com/google/tink
 - Documentation: developers.google.com/tink
 - Used by Google Cloud customer, Jetpack Security library, etc.
- **Design goals:**
 - Secure and easy to use APIs
 - Hard to misuse, hide low-level details
 - Support for key management
 - Extensible



What is Tink? (Cont.)

- Currently implemented in
 - Java, C++, Python, Go, Obj-C
- Built on top of standard and/or established crypto libraries
 - BoringSSL/OpenSSL (C++)
 - BoringSSL (Python, Obj-C)
 - Java JCE/Conscrypt
 - crypto and x/crypto (Go)



Tink concepts - Primitive

- Abstract **cryptographic functionality**
- Defines the functionality at a high-level and its security properties

```
class Aead(metaclass=abc.ABCMeta):
```

```
    @abc.abstractmethod
```

```
    def encrypt(self, plaintext: bytes, associated_data: bytes) -> bytes:  
        # ...
```

```
    @abc.abstractmethod
```

```
    def decrypt(self, ciphertext: bytes, associated_data: bytes) -> bytes:  
        # ...
```

Example: AEAD encrypt

```
import tink
from tink import aead

# Read or create a key material.
keyset_handle = ...

# Obtain an AEAD primitive.
aead_primitive = keyset_handle.primitive(aead.Aead)

# Use the primitive to encrypt.
ciphertext = aead_primitive.encrypt(plaintext, associated_data)
```

Tink concepts - Key

- **Key material** and **metadata** (parameters and algorithm)
 - Identified by a **type URL**, e.g.,

```
type.googleapis.com/google.crypto.tink.AesGcmKey
```
 - E.g., a Tink AEAD key specifies:
 - How the plaintext is encrypted and encoded
 - How a ciphertext is decrypted
- In Tink an AES-EAX key != AES-GCM key

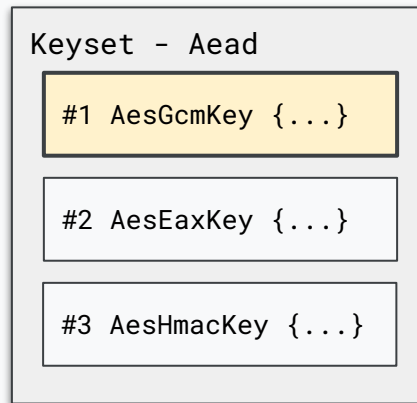
Tink concepts - Key Manager

- A **key manager** is a class that creates primitives from keys
- Tink uses a **registry** to store available key managers
 - Users must initialize it with built-in key managers and/or add custom ones

```
class AesGcmKeyManager(core.KeyManager[aead.Aead]):  
    def primitive(self, key_data: tink_pb2.AesGcmKey) -> aead.Aead:  
        # Create primitive that implements AES-GCM with the given key.  
  
    def key_type(self) -> str:  
        return "type.googleapis.com/google.crypto.tink.AesGcmKey"  
  
# ...
```

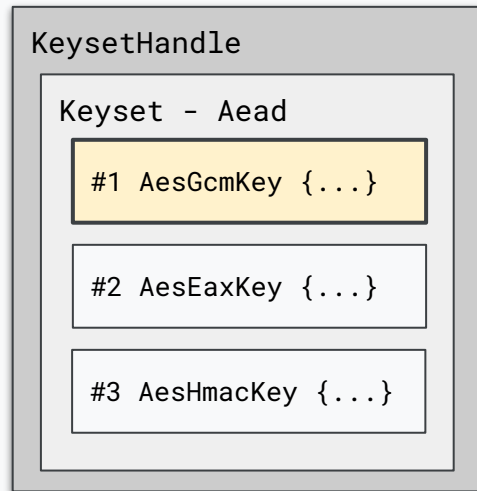
Tink concepts - Keyset

- A set of keys that implements **the same primitive**
- It facilitates **key rotation**
- Each key has a **unique ID** (within a keyset)
 - Usually prefix to produced ciphertexts, signatures, tags
- Only one key at a time is **primary**
 - Used to e.g., encrypt or sign



Tink concepts - Keyset handle

- A **keyset handle** is a wrapper around a keyset
- Restricts access to sensitive data
- Provides APIs to obtain a “wrapping” primitive for the keyset
- E.g., for **Aead**:
 - **encrypt(...)** uses the primary key
 - **decrypt(...)** uses the key whose ID is in the ciphertext



Example: AEAD encrypt

```
import tink
from tink import aead

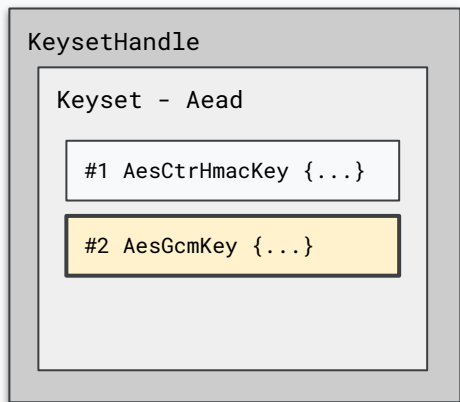
# Make all the AEAD primitives available.
aead.register()

# Create a keyset with a single key and get a handle to it.
keyset_handle = tink.new_keyset_handle(aead.aead_key_templates.AES128_GCM)

# Wrap the keyset into an AEAD primitive.
aead_primitive = keyset_handle.primitive(aead.Aead)

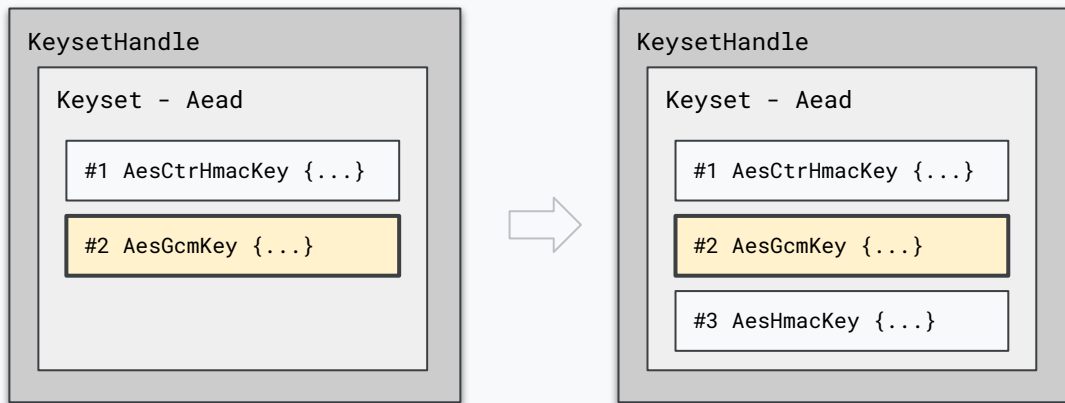
# Use the primitive to encrypt (uses the primary key!).
ciphertext = aead_primitive.encrypt(plaintext, associated_data)
```

Key management - Key rotation with keysets



Key #2 is primary key

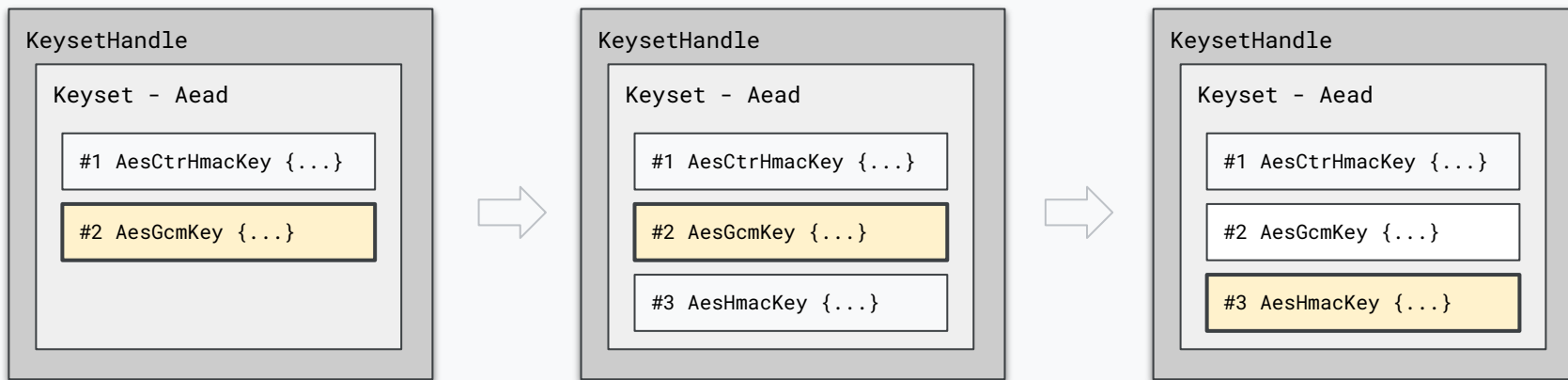
Key management - Key rotation with keysets



Key #2 is primary key

Key #2 is primary key
Key #3 is added

Key management - Key rotation with keysets



Key #2 is primary key

Key #2 is primary key
Key #3 is added

Key #3 is primary key

Key management - KMS support

- Tink uniformly handles external keys
- For example, Tink allows getting AEAD primitive form a KMS key
 - KMS AEAD key `KmsAeadKey` is “just another key type”
 - Simply “points” to the KMS key with its URI
 - `KmsAeadKeyManager` construct AEAD from the key URI
 - Using KMS-specific clients, such as `GcpKmsClient`.

Example: AEAD Encrypt with KMS

```
import tink
from tink import aead
from tink.integration import gcpkms

# Register a KMS client that is bound to kms_key.
gcpkms.GcpKmsClient.register_client(kms_key, credential_path)

# Key template for the key URI.
kms_key_template = aead.aead_key_templates.create_kms_aead_key_template(kek_uri)
# Create a keyset with a single KMS key and get a handle to it.
keyset_handle = tink.new_keyset_handle(kms_key_template)

# Wrap the keyset into an AEAD primitive.
aead_primitive = keyset_handle.primitive(aead.Aead)
# Use the KMS key to encrypt.
ciphertext = aead_primitive.encrypt(plaintext, associated_data)
```

Example: Encrypt keyset with KMS and serialize it

```
import tink
from tink import aead
from tink.integration import gcpkms

# Register a KMS client that is bound to kms_key.
gcpkms.GcpKmsClient.register_client(kms_key, credential_path)

# Key template for the key URI.
kms_key_template = aead.aead_key_templates.create_kms_aead_key_template(kek_uri)
# Create a keyset with a single KMS key and get a handle to it.
keyset_handle = tink.new_keyset_handle(kms_key_template)

# Wrap the keyset into an AEAD primitive.
aead_primitive = keyset_handle.primitive(aead.Aead)
# Encrypt the keyset with the KMS key and serialize as JSON.
keyset_handle_to_encrypt.write_with_associated_data(
    tink.JsonKeysetWriter(text_io_stream), aead_primitive, associated_data)
```

Key management - The Tinkey CLI tool

- CLI tool for managing keysets w/ KMS integration

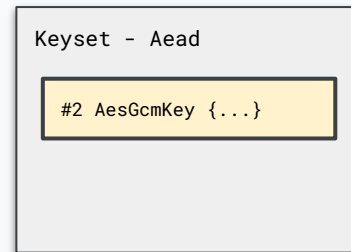
```
readonly KEK_KMS_KEY_URI="gcp-kms://..."
```

```
readonly KMS_CREDENTIALS_FILE_PATH="credentials.json"
```

```
# Create a keyset with one AES128-GCM key, encrypts it with a KMS key and outputs to file.
```

```
tinkey create-keyset --key-template AES128_GCM --out encrypted-keyset.json \
```

```
--master-key-uri "${KEK_KMS_KEY_URI}" --credential "${KMS_CREDENTIALS_FILE_PATH}"
```



Key management - The Tinkey CLI tool

- CLI tool for managing keysets w/ KMS integration

```
readonly KEK_KMS_KEY_URI="gcp-kms://..."
```

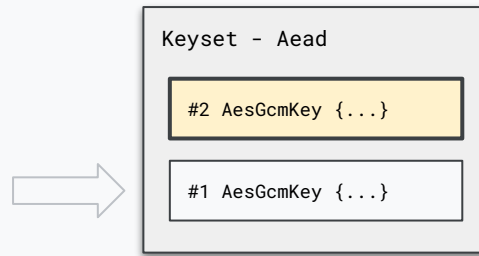
```
readonly KMS_CREDENTIALS_FILE_PATH="credentials.json"
```

```
# Create a keyset with one AES128-GCM key, encrypts it with a KMS key and outputs to file.
```

```
tinkey create-keyset --key-template AES128_GCM --out encrypted-keyset.json \  
  --master-key-uri "${KEK_KMS_KEY_URI}" --credential "${KMS_CREDENTIALS_FILE_PATH}"
```

```
# Add non-primary key to the keyset; outputs encrypted with the KMS key to a new file as JSON.
```

```
tinkey add-key --key-template AES256_GCM \  
  --in encrypted-keyset.json --out new-encrypted-keyset.json \  
  --master-key-uri "${KEK_KMS_KEY_URI}" --credential "${KMS_CREDENTIALS_FILE_PATH}"
```



Next steps

- Splitting into multiple repos and migrate to github.com/tink-crypto
 - Decouple versions
 - Cross-language compatibility documented
- New APIs (WIP)
 - Access to individual keys
 - Improve configurability
 - Monitoring hooks
- Overhaul documentation

Takeaways

- Tink provides high-level easy to use API
- Tink is multi-language and multi platform
- Tink provides support/tooling for key management
- We use Tink internally at Google but is also open source
 - github.com/google/tink
 - Contributions are welcome!

