Package ‘PKI’

July 28, 2015

Version 0.1-3
Title Public Key Infrastructure for R Based on the X.509 Standard
Author Simon Urbanek <Simon.Urbanek@r-project.org>
Maintainer Simon Urbanek <Simon.Urbanek@r-project.org>
Depends R (>= 2.9.0), base64enc
Enhances gmp
Description PKI functions such as verifying certificates, RSA encryption and signing which can be used to build PKI infrastructure and perform cryptographic tasks.
License GPL-2 | GPL-3 | file LICENSE
URL http://www.rforge.net/PKI
SystemRequirements OpenSSL library
NeedsCompilation yes
Repository CRAN
Date/Publication 2015-07-28 08:03:29

R topics documented:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASN1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIGNUMInt</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKI.crypt</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKI.digest</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKI.sign</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKI.sign.tar</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>raw2hex</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X509</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Index 14
Functions for handling ASN.1 format (typically DER)

Description

ASN1.decode decodes ASN.1 binary format into raw format chunks tagged with class types.
ASN1.encode converts structured objects into ASN.1 binary format.
ASN1.item creates an item - basic object in structures that can be encoded using ASN1.encode.
ASN1.type extracts the class type from an ASN.1 item

Usage

ASN1.decode(what)
ASN1.encode(what)
ASN1.item(what, type)
ASN1.type(what)

Arguments

what          object to decode/encode/query
type          class type of the item (integer value)

Details

This is a suite of low-level tools to deal with ASN.1 (Abstract Syntax Notation One) binary formats DER, BER and CER. The tools were written specifically to handle the various DER-encoded key structures so it provides only a subset of the ASN.1 specification. They are used internally by the PKI package.

ASN1.decode decodes the binary representation (as raw vector) into individual items. Sequences are converted into lists, all other objects are retained in their binary form and tagged with the integer class type - which can be obtained using ASN1.type function.

ASN1.encode expects item (or a list of items) either created using ASN1.decode or ASN1.item and converts them into DER binary format.

The result of ASN1.encode(ASN1.decode(x)) will be x if x was in DER format.

Value

ASN1.decode returns either one item or a list.
ASN1.encode returns a raw vector in DER format.
ASN1.type returns an integer class type
ASN1.item returns an ASN.1 item object
Note
ASN1.encode uses a fixed buffer for encoding which currently limits the total size of the resulting structure to 1MB.
Only definite length forms are supported. The validity of individual items is not checked.

Author(s)
Simon Urbanek

Examples

```c
# generate a small key
key <- PKI.genRSAkey(bits = 512L)

# extract private and public parts in DER format
prv <- PKI.save.key(key, format="DER")
pub <- PKI.save.key(key, private=FALSE, format="DER")

# parse the public key
x <- ASN1.decode(pub)

# the second element is the actual key
# as a bit string that's itself in DER
# two integers - modulus and exponent
# Note that this is in fact the pure PKCS#1 key format
ASN1.decode(x[[2]])

# encoding it back should yield the same representation since it is DER
stopifnot(identical(ASN1.encode(x), as.raw(pub)))
```

BIGNUMint

*Functions for BIGNUM representation of arbitrarily precise integers*

Description

as.BIGNUMint encodes integer in BIGNUM format as raw vector as used by ASN.1 format.

Usage

```r
as.BIGNUMint(what, scalar = TRUE)
```

Arguments

- **what**: representation of an integer or a vector thereof. Currently supported formats include "bigz" objects from the "gmp" package, integers and reals.
- **scalar**: if TRUE then the input is expected to be scalar and only the first element will be used (zero-length vectors raise an error). Otherwise the result will be a list of all converted elements.
Details

The BIGNUM representation as used in ASN.1 is a big-endian encoding of variable length stored in a raw vector. Negative numbers are stored in two-complement's encoding, but are currently unsupported by `as.BIGNUMint`.

Value

Raw vector in BIGNUM integer representation.

Note

Unless the input is of class "bigz" then 32-bit platforms only support integers up to 32-bit, 64-bit platforms up to 53-bit (when real vectors are used).

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek

Examples

```c
as.BIGNUMint(65537)
```

PKI.crypt

PKI encryption/decryption functions

Description

PKI.encrypt encrypts a raw vector
PKI.decrypt decrypts a raw vector

Usage

```c
PKI.encrypt(what, key, cipher = NULL)
PKI.decrypt(what, key, cipher = NULL)
```

Arguments

- **what**  
  raw vector to encrypt/decrypt. It must not exceed the key size minus padding
- **key**  
  key to use for encryption/decryption
- **cipher**  
  cipher to use for encryption/decryption

Value

Raw vector (encrypted/decrypted)
Note

The cipher is optional for key objects that already contain the cipher information such as RSA keys (in fact it is ignored in that case).

Supported symmetric ciphers are AES-128, AES-256 and BF (blowfish). Each cipher can be used in CBC (default), ECB or OFB modes which are specified as suffix, so "aes256ofb" would specify AES-256 in OFB mode. Case and non-alphanumeric characters are ignored, so the same could be specified as "AES-256-OFB". PKCS padding is used to fill up to the block size. Analogously, PKCS padding is expected when decoding.

Note that the payload for RSA encryption should be very small since it must fit into the key size including padding. For example, 1024-bit key can only encrypt 87 bytes, while 2048-bit key can encrypt 215 bytes. Therefore a typical use is to use RSA to transfer a symmeric key to the peer and subsequently use symmetric ciphers like AES for encryption of larger amounts of data.

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek

See Also

PKI.genRSAkey, PKI.pubkey

Examples

```r
key <- PKI.genRSAkey(2048)
x <- charToRaw("Hello, world!")
e <- PKI.encrypt(x, key)
y <- PKI.decrypt(e, key)
stopifnot(identical(x, y))
print(rawToChar(y))

## AES symmetric - use SHA256 to support arbitrarily long key strings
key <- PKI.digest(charToRaw("hello"), "SHA256")
ae <- PKI.encrypt(x, key, "aes256")
ae
ad <- PKI.decrypt(ae, key, "aes256")
stopifnot(identical(x, ad))
```

PKI.digest

*Compute digest sum based on SHA1, SHA256 or MD5 hash functions*

Description

PKI.digest computes digest sum based on the hash function specified

Usage

```r
PKI.digest(what, hash = c("SHA1", "SHA256", "MD5"))
```
Arguments

what    raw vector of bytes to digest
hash    type of the hash function. Note that "MD5" should not be used for cryptographic purposes as it is not secure

Value

Raw vector containing the hash

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek

See Also

PKI.sign

Examples

PKI.digest(as.raw(1:10))

PKI.sign

PKI: sign content or verify a signature

Description

PKI.sign signs content using RSA with the specified hash function
PKI.verify verifies a signature of RSA-signed content

Usage

PKI.sign(what, key, hash = c("SHA1", "SHA256", "MD5"), digest)
PKI.verify(what, signature, key, hash = c("SHA1", "SHA256", "MD5"), digest)

Arguments

what    raw vector: content to sign
key    RSA private key to use for signing; RSA public key or certificate to use for verification.
hash    hash function to use. "MD5" should not be used unless absolutely needed for compatibility as it is less secure.
digest    raw vector: it is possible to supply the digest of the content directly instead of specifying what.
signature    raw vector: signature
**Details**

Objects are signed by computing a hash function digest (typically using SHA1 hash function) and then signing the digest with a RSA key. Verification is done by computing the digest and then comparing the signature to the digest. Private key is needed for signing whereas public key is needed for verification.

Both functions call `PKI.digest` on what if digest is not specified.

**Value**

- `PKI.sign` signature (raw vector)
- `PKI.verify` logical: TRUE if the digest and signature match, FALSE otherwise

**Author(s)**

Simon Urbanek

**See Also**

`PKI.pubkey`, `PKI.genRSAkey`, `PKI.digest`

**Examples**

```r
key <- PKI.genRSAkey(2048)
x <- charToRaw("My message to sign")
sig <- PKI.sign(x, key)
stopifnot(PKI.verify(x, sig, key))
```

---

**PKI.sign.tar**

*Functions for signing and verification of tar files*

**Description**

`PKI.sign.tar` appends a signature to a tar file

`PKI.verify.tar` verifies the signature in a tar file

**Usage**

```r
PKI.sign.tar(tarfile, key, certificate, output = tarfile)
PKI.verify.tar(tarfile, key, silent = FALSE, enforce.cert = FALSE)
```
Arguments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argument</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>tarfile</code></td>
<td>string, file name of the file to sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>key</code></td>
<td>PKI.sign.tar: private key to use for signing; PKI.verify.tar: optional, public key to use for verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>certificate</code></td>
<td>optional, certificate to embed in the signature with the public key matching key. If not present the signature will only contain the public key.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>output</code></td>
<td>file name, connection or raw vector determining how to store the signed tar file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>silent</code></td>
<td>if TRUE then no warning are generated, otherwise a warning is issues for failed verification describing the reason for failure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>enforce.cert</code></td>
<td>if TRUE then a certificate is required in the signature. It can be also set to a valid certificate in which case the public key of the certificate in the signature must also match the public key in the supplied certificate.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details

PKI.tar.sign adds extra entry .signature with the signature based on the contents of the `tarfile`. Note that any existing signatures are retained. `key` is a mandatory private key used to sign the content. `certificate` is optional but if present, it will be embedded in the signature.

The `tarfile` can be in compressed form (gzip, bzip2 or xz) in which case it is decompressed internally before the signature is applied. If `output` is a file name then the same compression is applied to the output, otherwise the output is uncompressed.

PKI.verify.tar retrieves the last .signature entry from the tar file (if `tarfile` is a file name then the same compression auto-detection is applied as above) and verifies the signature against either the supplied (public) key or against the key or certificate stored in the signature. The result is TRUE or FALSE except when `enforce.cert` is set. In that case the result is the certificate contained in the signature if the validation succeeded (and thus it can be further verified against a chain of trust), otherwise FALSE.

Note

The signature format is ASN.1 DER encoded as follows:

SEQ(signature BITSTRING, subjectPublicKeyInfo, Certificate[opt])

The `subjectPublicKeyInfo` can be NULL in which case the certificate must be present (in X.509 DER format).

The signature is appended as tar entry named .signature. However, terminating blocks are not removed from the file, so the signature is placed after the EOF blocks and thus doesn’t affect extraction.

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek
Description

raw2hex converts a raw vector into hexadecimal representation

Usage

raw2hex(what, sep, upper = FALSE)

Arguments

what       raw vector
sep        optional separator string
upper      logical, if TRUE then upper case letters are used, otherwise any letters will be lower case.

Details

If sep is omitted or NULL then the resulting character vector will have as many elements as the raw vector. Otherwise the elements are concatenated using the specified separator into one character string. This is much more efficient than using paste(raw2hex(x), collapse=sep), but has the same effect.

Value

Character vector with the hexadecimal representation of the raw vector.

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek

Examples

raw2hex(PKI.digest(raw(), "SHA1"), ")
raw2hex(PKI.digest(raw(), "MD5"), ":")

## this is just a performance comparison and a test that raw2hex can handle long strings
x <- as.raw(runif(1e5) * 255.9)
 system.time(h1 <- raw2hex(x, " "))
 system.time(h2 <- paste(raw2hex(x), collapse=" "))
 stopifnot(identical(h1, h2))
RSA

PKI functions handling RSA keys

Description

PKI.load.key loads an RSA key in PKCS#1/8 PEM or DER format.
PKI.save.key creates a PEM or DER representation of a RSA key.
PKI.genRSAkey generates RSA public/private key pair.
PKI.mkRSApubkey creates a RSA public key with the supplied modulus and exponent.
PKI.load.OpenSSH.pubkey loads public key in OpenSSH format (as used in .ssh/authorized_keys file)

Usage

PKI.load.key(what, format = c("PEM", "DER"), private, file, password="")
PKI.save.key(key, format = c("PEM", "DER"), private, target)
PKI.genRSAkey(bits = 2048L)
PKI.mkRSApubkey(modulus, exponent=65537L, format = c("DER", "PEM", "key"))
PKI.load.OpenSSH.pubkey(what, first=TRUE, format = c("DER", "PEM", "key"))

Arguments

what string, raw vector or connection to load the key from
key RSA key object
format format - PEM is ASCII (essentially base64-encoded DER with header/footer), DER is binary and key means an actual key object
private logical, whether to use the private key (TRUE), public key (FALSE) or whichever is available (NA or missing).
file filename to load the key from - what and file are mutually exclusive
password string, used only if what is an encrypted private key as the password to decrypt the key
target optional connection or a file name to store the result in. If missing, the result is just returned form the function as either a character vector (PEM) or a raw vector (DER).
bits size of the generated key in bits. Must be $2^\text{n}$ with integer n > 8.
modulus modulus either as a raw vector (see as.BIGNUMInt) or bigz object (from gmp package) or an integer.
exponent exponent either as a raw vector (see as.BIGNUMInt) or bigz object (from gmp package) or an integer.
first logical, if TRUE only the first key will be used, otherwise the result is a list of keys.
Value

- **PKI.load.key**: private or public key object
- **PKI.save.key**: raw vector (DER format) or character vector (PEM format).
- **PKI.genRSAkey**: private + public key object
- **PKI.mkRSApubkey, PKI.load.OpenSSH.pubkey**: raw vector (DER format) or character vector (PEM format) or a "public.key" object.

Note

The output format for private keys in PEM is PKCS#1, but for public keys it is X.509 SubjectPublicKeyInfo (certificate public key). This is consistent with OpenSSL RSA command line tool which uses the same convention.

PKI.load.key can auto-detect the contained format based on the header if 'PEM' format is used. In that case it supports PKCS#1 (naked RSA key), PKCS#8 (wrapped key with identifier - for public keys X.509 SubjectPublicKeyInfo) and encrypted private key in PKCS#8 (password must be passed to decrypt). 'DER' format provides no way to define the type so 'private' cannot be 'NA' and only the default format (PKCS#1 for private keys and X.509 SubjectPublicKeyInfo for public keys) is supported.

The OpenSSH format is one line beginning with "ssh-rsa ". SSH2 PEM public keys (rfc4716) are supported in PKI.load.key and the binary payload is the same as the OpenSSH, only with different wrapping.

Author(s)

Simon Urbanek

See Also

- **PKI.encrypt, PKI.decrypt, PKI.pubkey**

Examples

```r
# generate 2048-bit RSA key
key <- PKI.genRSAkey(bits = 2048L)

# extract private and public parts as PEM
priv.pem <- PKI.save.key(key)
pub.pem <- PKI.save.key(key, private=FALSE)
# load back the public key separately
pub.k <- PKI.load.key(pub.pem)

# encrypt with the public key
x <- PKI.encrypt(charToRaw("Hello, world!"), pub.k)
# decrypt with private key
rawToChar(PKI.decrypt(x, key))

# compute SHA1 hash (fingerprint) of the public key
PKI.digest(PKI.save.key(key, "DER", private=FALSE))
```
# convert OpenSSH public key to PEM format
PKI.load.OpenSSH.pubkey("ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAABIwAAAAEuv0XqfZ3pJeWeqyQ0IXZwmgM1RBqPUmVx3XgntpA+Yt0ZjKfudh...rZqKuR", "PEM")

## Description

PKI.load.cert creates a certificate object from a string, connection or file.
PKI.verifyCA verifies a certificate against a given chain of trust.
PKI.pubkey extracts public key from a certificate.
PKI.get.subject extracts the subject name from the certificate.

## Usage

```r
PKI.load.cert(what, format = c("PEM", "DER"), file)
PKI.verifyCA(certificate, ca)
PKI.pubkey(certificate)
PKI.get.subject(certificate)
```

## Arguments

- **what**: string, raw vector or connection to load the certificate from
- **format**: format used to encode the certificate
- **file**: filename to load the certificate from - what and file are mutually exclusive
- **certificate**: a certificate object (as returned by PKI.load.cert)
- **ca**: a certificate object of the Certificate Authority (CA) or a list of such objects if multiple CAs are involved

## Value

- **PKI.load.code**: a certificate object
- **PKI.verifyCA**: TRUE is the certificate can be trusted, FALSE otherwise
- **PKI.pubkey**: public key object
- **PKI.get.subject**: string containing the subject information in one-line RFC2253 format but in UTF8 encoding instead of MBS escapes. NOTE: this is experimental, we may choose to parse the contents and return it in native R form as a named vector instead.

## Author(s)

Simon Urbanek
Examples

```r
ca <- PKI.load.cert(file = system.file("certs", "RForge-ca.crt", package = "PKI"))
my.cert <- PKI.load.cert(readLines(system.file("certs", "demo.crt", package = "PKI")))
PKI.verifyCA(my.cert, ca)
PKI.pubkey(my.cert)
PKI.get.subject(my.cert)
```
Index

*Topic manip

ASNI, 2
BIGNUMInt, 3
PKI.crypt, 4
PKI.digest, 5
PKI.sign, 6
PKI.sign.tar, 7
raw2hex, 9
RSA, 10
X509, 12

as.BIGNUMInt, 10
as.BIGNUMInt (BIGNUMInt), 3
ASNI, 2

BIGNUMInt, 3

PKI.crypt, 4
PKI.decrypt, 11
PKI.decrypt (PKI.crypt), 4
PKI.digest, 5, 7
PKI.encrypt, 11
PKI.encrypt (PKI.crypt), 4
PKI.genRSAkey, 5, 7
PKI.genRSAkey (RSA), 10
PKI.get.subject(X509), 12
PKI.load.cert(X509), 12
PKI.load.key(RSA), 10
PKI.load.OpenSSH.pubkey (RSA), 10
PKI.mkRSApubkey (RSA), 10
PKI.pubkey, 5, 7, 11
PKI.pubkey(X509), 12
PKI.save.key (RSA), 10
PKI.sign, 6, 6
PKI.sign.tar, 7
PKI.verify(PKI.sign), 6
PKI.verify.tar (PKI.sign.tar), 7
PKI.verifyCA (X509), 12

raw2hex, 9