

Crypto Acceleration on FreeBSD

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The FreeBSD Project

OpenFest 2009 — Sofia, Bulgaria
7 November 2009



Outline

1 Background and Context

- History and Purpose
- List of Components
- Adoption in the System

2 Implementation and Architecture

- Architectural Overview
- Modes of Operation
- Software Interface

3 Hardware Acceleration

- Hardware Acceleration
- Drawbacks and Pitfalls

4 Works in Progress

- Session-Management Layer
- Improve Parallelism
- More Hardware Support



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The Need for OpenCrypto

- More and more things need crypto
- Duplication considered bad
- ... particularly for security-sensitive code
- Different but related needs in kernel and userland
- OpenSSL good in userspace but no use in the kernel.



In The Beginning...

- Developed for OpenBSD by Angelos D. Keromytis
- Consistent software and hardware interface
- Fairly modular and extendable design
- Ported to FreeBSD by Sam Leffler in 2002
- Originally particularly intended for IPSEC
- Very little of the original code remains



List of Components

- Kernel “library” for crypto operations
- Generic software crypto device
- Support for acceleration hardware
- Interface to userland for acceleration



Kernel “Library” for Crypto Operations

- “OpenSSL of the kernel”
- Reduces code duplication like a library
- Fairly self-contained and maintainable
- Most functionality is in `<opencrypto/cryptodev.h>`



Software Crypto Device

- Implemented as a “transformation” system
- Supports most relevant crypto transformations
 - MD5, SHA1, Rijndael, Camellia, ...
 - Very flexible and easy to extend
- Behaves exactly like a “hardware” device



Acceleration Hardware

- Crypto acceleration hardware widely available
- Currently mostly useful for “slow” system
- Framework automatically takes advantage of hardware
- Uses software if no hardware is present



Interface to Userland

- As simple as `ioctl` on `/dev/crypto`
- Asynchronous session-oriented interface
- Mainly used by the OpenSSL “cryptodev” ENGINE
- Not on by default — some serious drawbacks!



Consumers in the Kernel

- IPSEC
- Block devices (GELI)
- Wireless (IEEE 802.11)
- ZFS
- GSSAPI



OpenSSL Engine

- Limited adoption due to default disabled
- This is perhaps a good thing
- Patches floating around for many applications
- Often < 10 lines of code needed



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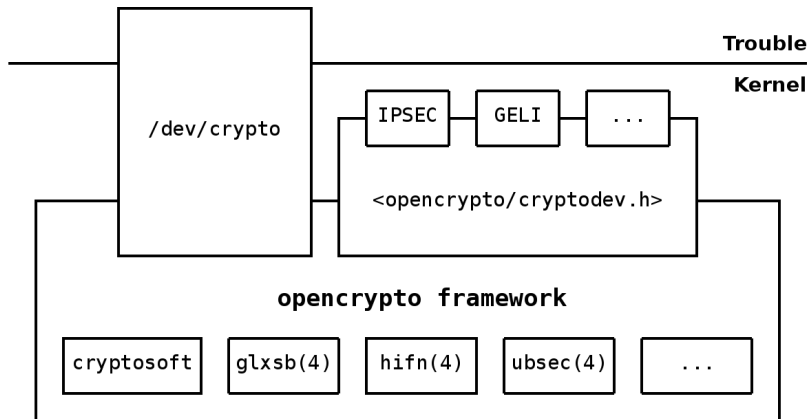
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Architectural Overview



Modes of Operation

Session-based mode

- Information cached per driver (perhaps in hardware)
- No need to repeat initialization for every operation
- Multiple operations can be chained together

Sessionless mode

- Used mainly for keying operations or hashing
- Input and output parameters passed in with request
- No support for multiple operations



Asynchronous Interface

- Both modes of operation are asynchronous
- Consumers are not necessarily processes
- Drivers not able to `sleep(9)`
- Callback mechanism for status and errors



Kernelspace Usage

- `#include <openssl/crypto/cryptodev.h>`
- Initialize session parameters once
- Multiple operations can be chained together
- Framework takes care of the rest



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Supported Devices

- `glxsb(4)` — AMD Geode
- `hifn(4)` — Hifn
- `padlock(4)` — VIA Padlock
- `safe(4)` — SafeNet
- `ubsec(4)` — Broadcom/Bluesteel



Driver-side API

- Drivers register algorithms they support with the framework
- Callbacks for session management and for dispatching work
- Sessions are managed by the drivers
- Currently no real “prioritization” support
- Mostly compatible with OpenBSD for now
- No support for cyphertext stealing (*point to Doug*)



Kernel-side Issues

- Sessions are managed by device drivers
- No (real) way to migrate sessions
- Very minimal support for prioritization
- Limited flow-control opportunities



Trends in Hardware

- Acceleration hardware becoming faster
- Moving from slow(ish) PCI bus to integrated
- Becoming more and more like co-processors



Further Problems in Userland

- OpenSSL ENGINES are “all or nothing”
- Context switching often very undesirable
- No heuristic for deciding if acceleration makes sense
- On a fast machine, software is often fastest



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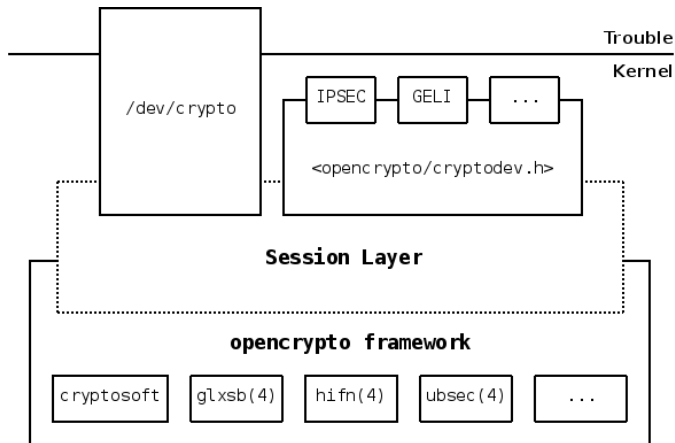


Session-Management Layer

- Add support for migrating sessions between drivers
- Enable load-balancing across multiple devices
- Heuristics to determine if software is faster
- Tell userspace (OpenSSL) if no hardware is available



Architectural Overview



Improve Parallelism

- Hardware is evolving towards multiple execution blocks
- Provide a method for flow-control towards hardware
- Add support to pin sessions to a single CPU



More Hardware Support

- Currently, mostly low-end embedded hardware supported
- Some really sexy high-end devices are available
- Often a small matter of programming and access to hardware



Questions? Comments?