

# Transitioning to post-quantum: How PQC affects protocols and what we can do today?

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# How does PQC affect protocols?

- ▶ Length fields don't fit.



**Lorentz center** Post-Quantum Cryptography for Embedded Systems  
1st October 2023, Leiden, the Netherlands

**Scientific Organizations**

- Anthonij de Meijer, Eindhoven University of Technology
- Tanja Lange, Eindhoven University of Technology
- Ruben Niederhagen, Rijndael-32
- Simon de Gooijer, Radboud University
- Marc Stollings, Continental AG

**Topics**

- Embedded Use Cases in Industry
- Transition from Pre to Post Quantum Cryptography
- Embedded PQC Schemes for Embedded Devices
- Secure Embedded Implementations of PQC

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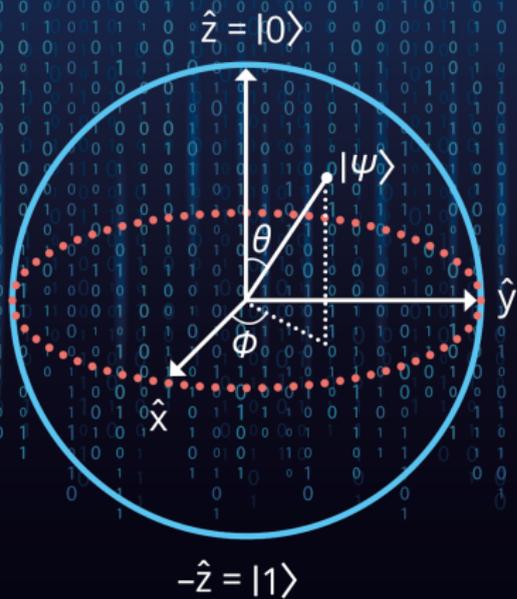
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  - For such *hybrid* schemes, ensure that as strong as strongest not as weak as weakest.
- ▶ New security assumptions, new proofs, lots of new code.



# Post-Quantum Cryptography: Current state and quantum mitigation

Ward Beullens, Jan-Pieter DAnvers, Andreas Hülsing,  
Tanja Lange, Lorenz Panny, Cyprien de Saint Guilhem,  
Nigel P. Smart. Evangelos Rekleitis, Angeliki Aktypi,  
Athanasios-Vasileios Grammatopoulos.



# POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY

Current state and quantum mitigation

# ENISA report: Current state and quantum mitigation

## Chapters

1. Introduction
2. Families of Post-Quantum Algorithms
3. Security Notions and Generic Transforms
4. NIST Round 3 Finalists
5. Alternate Candidates
6. Quantum Mitigation
  - 6.1 Hybrid schemes
  - 6.2 Protective measures for pre-quantum cryptography

Report available from [ENISA's website](#).

## Hybrid schemes

Combine one (or more) pre-quantum schemes with one (or more) post-quantum schemes.

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## **Signatures:**

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## **DH / KEM:**

Use KDF on concatenation of keys or consume iteratively.

Different options to hybridize

- ▶ Execute pre- and post-quantum next to each other.
- ▶ Wrap PQC inside pre-quantum (benefit for length fields).
- ▶ Wrap pre-quantum inside PQC (limit the attack surface – quantum attacker cannot even break pre-quantum scheme).

# Protective measures for pre-quantum cryptography

Aka poor-man's PQC

**Premise:** Known/slowly changing set of peers.

This fits email, messaging (Signal, etc.), most enterprise setups.

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**Option 2:** Have updatable secret per peer, include this in KDF.

Update per-peer secret with each new public-key operation.

Initial secret exchanged out of band, or exchange is not observed.

More complicated dataflow, e.g., do not overwrite without confirmation that peer can update, but full forward secrecy.

Details worked out in [RFC 6189](#) on ZRTP, see also section 6.2 of the [ENISA report](#).

# PQConnect: An Automated Boring Protocol for Quantum-Secure Tunnels

Daniel J. Bernstein, Tung Chou, Kai-Min Chung, Tanja Lange, Jonathan Levin, Lorenz Panny, Jon A. Solworth, Bo-Yin Yang.

## Different deployment strategy

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## Different deployment strategy

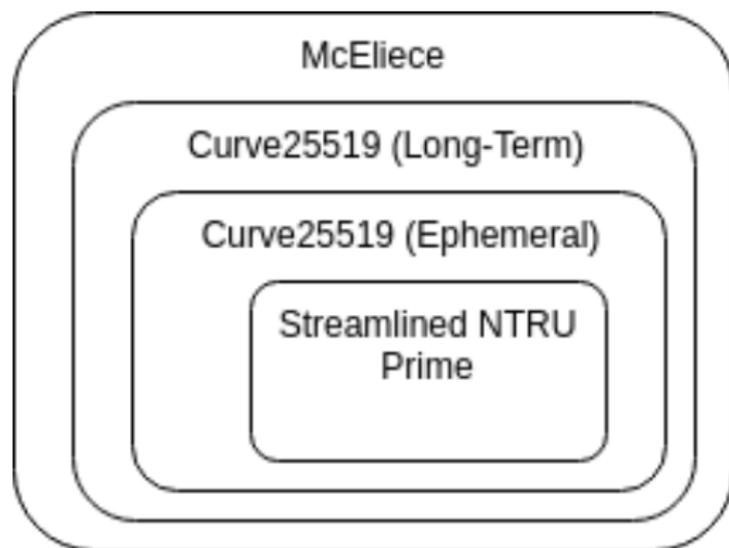
- ▶ Do not patch PQC onto existing network protocols, but add a new layer with superior security.
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- ▶ Add support for VPN-like tunnels to clients and servers.

## Different deployment strategy

- ▶ Do not patch PQC onto existing network protocols, but add a new layer with superior security.
- ▶ Can be gradually deployed.
- ▶ Add support for VPN-like tunnels to clients and servers.
- ▶ PQConnect is designed for security, handshake and ratcheting proven using Tamarin prover (formal verification tool).
- ▶ Use Curve25519 (pre-quantum) and Classic McEliece (conservative PQC) for long-term identity keys.
- ▶ Use Curve25519 (pre-quantum) and Streamlined NTRU Prime (PQC) for ephemeral keys.

## PQConnect handshake: Nesting schemes

Most conservative system on the outside.



Attacker can see long-term Curve25519 identity key,  
can break it with a quantum computer,  
but cannot obtain DH value as client's share is wrapped.

# 1-RTT handshake



# Key ratchet advances by message and time

$c_0$  is the initial key.  
Immediately advance  
ratchet in 3 ways:

- ▶ New epoch master key:  
 $c_1$ .
- ▶ New branch keys:  
 $c_{0,1}, c_{0,2}$ .
- ▶ New message key:  
 $c'_{0,1}$ .

Delete key as soon as no longer  
needed.

Message keys can deal with de-  
layed transmissions.

