

## パスワードベース匿名認証について

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あらまし 本稿ではパスワードベース匿名認証について検討する。

## On Password-based Anonymous Authentication using Password-protected Credentials

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**Abstract** In this paper, we discuss a password-based anonymous authentication scheme using password-protected credentials.

### 1 Introduction

A password-based anonymous authentication scheme is designed to provide not only password-based authentication but also user anonymity. Until now, several schemes [11, 7, 12, 13, 8, 14, 9, 6] have been proposed in different settings. Some potential applications of these schemes include whistle-blowing from insiders, questionnaire to qualified people, anonymous counseling, and so on.

In [13], Yang et al., proposed a new password-based anonymous authentication scheme using the password-protected credentials. This scheme is constructed on Camenisch's signature [3] for instantiating users' authentication credentials, and Paillier encryption [5] for server's homomorphic encryption. Some elements of the authentication credential (i.e., signature on user's identity) are encrypted with user's

password, while other elements are encrypted with server's public-key (homomorphic) encryption. For better efficiency, Yang et al., [14] proposed another password-based anonymous authentication scheme (we call it YZWB10 scheme) which is based on the BBS+ signature [1] (instead of Camenisch's signature [3]) and the El-Gamal encryption (instead of Paillier encryption [5]). The main idea of [13, 14] is to restrict the signature verifiability to server only via a zero-knowledge proof of knowledge protocol. As a distinguishing feature of [13, 14], Yang et al., said that the password-protected credentials must not require any secure storage facility for usability of the schemes. Recently, Shin et al., [10] showed that the YZWB10 scheme does not provide unlinkability against malicious server.

## 1.1 Our Contributions

In this paper, we discuss user anonymity of the YZWB10 scheme [14] against third-party attacker, who is much weaker than malicious server. First, we show that a third-party attacker in the YZWB10 scheme can specify which user actually sent the login request to the server (see Section 4.1). This attack also indicates that the attacker can link different login requests to be sent later by the same user. From this attack, it is clear that the YZWB10 scheme [14] does not provide unlinkability against third-party attacker. In addition, we give a countermeasure to the attack of Section 4.1 which does not require any security for storing users' password-protected credentials (see Section 5.1).

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we explain some notations (to be used throughout this paper) and the BBS+ signature [1] on which the YZWB10 scheme is based.

### 2.1 Notations

First,  $a \in_R S$  means that  $a$  is randomly chosen from  $S$ . Let  $G_1, G_2, G_T$  be cyclic groups of prime  $q$ . Let  $g$  be a generator of  $G_1$ , and  $h$  be a generator of  $G_2$ . A bilinear map  $e : G_1 \times G_2 \rightarrow G_T$  has the following properties.

- Bilinear:  $\forall u \in G_1, v \in G_2$  and  $x, y \in_R Z_q$ ,  $e(u^x, v^y) = e(u, v)^{xy}$ .
- Non-degenerate:  $e(g, h) \neq 1$ .

### 2.2 BBS+ Signature

In [1], Au et al., modified the BBS group signature [2] for their dynamic  $k$ -times anonymous authentication scheme. The modified

signature (called, BBS+ signature) is a signature scheme with efficient protocols for issuing a signature on a committed value, and for proving zero-knowledge of a signature on a committed value.

A public key of the BBS+ signature scheme is  $(W = h^\chi, h \in G_2, a, b, d \in G_1)$ , and a private key is  $(\chi \in Z_q)$ . A BBS+ signature signed on a message  $m$  is defined by  $(M, k, s)$  where  $k, s \in_R Z_q$  and  $M = (a^m \cdot b^s \cdot d)^{1/(k+\chi)} \in G_1$ .

The BBS+ signature  $(M, k, s, m)$  is verified with respect to the public key as  $e(M, W \cdot h^k) = e(a, h)^m \cdot e(b, h)^s \cdot e(d, h)$ . This verification can be carried out in a zero-knowledge proof of knowledge protocol for showing possession of a signature. For more details, see [1]. Here, we denote the zero-knowledge proof by  $PoK\{(M, k, s, m) : e(M, W \cdot h^k) = e(a, h)^m \cdot e(b, h)^s \cdot e(d, h)\}$ .

## 3 YZWB10 Scheme

In this section, we describe the YZWB10 scheme [14].

### 3.1 R-BBS Signature

As a main building block for the YZWB10 scheme, Yang et al., [14] also proposed a R-BBS signature which is a randomized version of the BBS+ signature [1]. Hereafter, the R-BBS signature is denoted by  $\Pi_{R-BBS}$ .

Instead of  $(M, k, s)$  of the BBS+ signature, a prover has in possession of  $(M, k, \gamma, e(B, h))$  where  $M = (a^u \cdot b^s \cdot d)^{1/(k+\chi)}$ ,  $u$  is a user's identity,  $r \in_R Z_q$ ,  $\gamma = r^{-1} \bmod q$ , and  $B = b^{r \cdot s}$ . Note that it holds

$$e(B, h) = \left( \frac{e(M, W \cdot h^k)}{e(a, h)^u \cdot e(d, h)} \right)^r. \quad (1)$$

Let  $g_0, g_1 \in G_1$  be pre-defined parameters.

First, the prover chooses  $\alpha, r_u, r_k, r_\gamma, r_\alpha, r_{\bar{\alpha}} \in_R Z_q$ , and then computes  $\text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS}) = \{T_1, T_2,$

$R_1, R_2, R_3$  as follows:

$$T_1 = M \cdot g_0^\alpha, \quad T_2 = g_1^\alpha, \quad (2)$$

$$R_1 = \left( \frac{1}{e(T_1, h)} \right)^{r_k} \cdot e(a, h)^{r_u} \cdot e(B, h)^{r_\gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W)^{r_\alpha} \cdot e(g_0, h)^{r_{\tilde{\alpha}}}, \quad (3)$$

$$R_2 = g_1^{r_\alpha}, \quad R_3 = \left( \frac{1}{T_2} \right)^{r_k} \cdot g_1^{r_{\tilde{\alpha}}}. \quad (4)$$

The prover sends  $\text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the verifier, who sends back a challenge  $c \in_R Z_q$ . Upon receipt of the challenge, the prover computes  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS}) = \{s_u, s_\gamma, s_k, s_\alpha, s_{\tilde{\alpha}}\}$  as follows:

$$s_u = r_u + c \cdot u, \quad s_\gamma = r_\gamma + c \cdot \gamma, \quad s_k = r_k + c \cdot k, \quad (5)$$

$$s_\alpha = r_\alpha + c \cdot \alpha, \quad s_{\tilde{\alpha}} = r_{\tilde{\alpha}} + c \cdot \tilde{\alpha}, \quad (6)$$

where  $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha \cdot k$ . The prover sends  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the verifier, who accepts if all of the followings hold

$$R_2 \cdot T_2^c = g_1^{s_\alpha}, \quad (7)$$

$$R_3 = \left( \frac{1}{T_2} \right)^{s_k} \cdot g_1^{s_{\tilde{\alpha}}}, \quad (8)$$

$$R_1 \cdot \left( \frac{e(T_1, W)}{e(d, h)} \right)^c = \left( \frac{1}{e(T_1, h)} \right)^{s_k} \cdot e(a, h)^{s_u} \cdot e(B, h)^{s_\gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W)^{s_\alpha} \cdot e(g_0, h)^{s_{\tilde{\alpha}}}. \quad (9)$$

According to [14], the above R-BBS signature is an honest-verifier zero-knowledge proof of knowledge of a tuple  $(M, k, \gamma, u)$  subject to  $e(M, W \cdot h^k) = e(a, h)^u \cdot e(B, h)^\gamma \cdot e(d, h)$ .

## 3.2 Basic Scheme

Here, we describe a basic scheme of the YZWB10 scheme [14]. The basic scheme consists of **Setup**, **Registration** and **Authentication Protocol**.

### 3.2.1 Setup

In order to set up the system parameters, the server does the followings:

- It sets up the public key for the BBS+ signature as  $(W = h^\chi, h \in G_2, a, b, d \in G_1)$  and the private key as  $(\chi \in Z_q)$ ;
- It publishes  $g, g_0, g_1 \in G_1$  as a part of the public parameters;

- It selects a public/private key pair for the ElGamal encryption, and its encryption and decryption are denoted by  $E(\cdot)$  and  $D(\cdot)$ , respectively. The ElGamal encryption is used as a multiplicative homomorphic encryption scheme;
- It chooses a hash function  $H : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\kappa_0}$  and a MAC  $\text{MAC} : \{0, 1\}^{\kappa_1} \times G_1^2 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\kappa_1}$  where  $\kappa_0, \kappa_1$  are appropriate numbers.

### 3.2.2 Registration

In the basic scheme, all users need to register to the server in advance, for each getting an authentication credential. The server issues each user  $u_i$  a credential, which is a BBS+ signature  $(M_i, k_i, s_i)$  signed on the user identity  $u_i$ . Upon receipt of the credential, the user protects  $(M_i, k_i)$  using a symmetric key encryption with a key, derived from his/her password  $pw_i$ , i.e.,  $[M_i, k_i]_{pw_i}$ ; and encrypts  $s_i$  using the server's public key, i.e.,  $E(s_i)$ . The password-protected credential is  $C_i = \langle u_i, [M_i, k_i]_{pw_i}, E(s_i) \rangle$ . Finally, the user puts the password-protected credential  $C_i$  to his/her preferred storage, e.g., handphone, USB flash memory, or public facilities/directories.

### 3.2.3 Authentication Protocol

Suppose that a user  $u_i$  has the password-protected credential  $C_i = \langle u_i, [M_i, k_i]_{pw_i}, E(s_i) \rangle$  available at the point of login. Below is the authentication protocol between the user  $u_i$  and the server.

**Step 1.** The user  $u_i$  does the followings:

1. The user recovers  $(M_i, k_i)$  from  $[M_i, k_i]_{pw_i}$  with his/her password  $pw_i$ ;
2. The user chooses  $r \in_R Z_q$  to randomize  $E(s_i)$  by computing  $s^* = E(r) \cdot E(s_i)$ ;

3. The user chooses  $x \in_R Z_q$  and computes  $X = g^x$ ;
4. The user chooses  $N_A \in_R \{0, 1\}^{\kappa_1}$  and computes  $N_A^* = E(N_A)$ ;
5. The user computes  $\text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  using the R-BBS signature over  $(M_i, k_i, \gamma = r^{-1} \pmod{q}, u_i)$ ; Finally, the user sends  $s^*, X, N_A^*, \text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the server as a login request.

User  $u_i \rightarrow$  Server:  $s^*, X, N_A^*, \text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$

**Step 2.** Upon receipt of the login request, the server does the followings:

1. The server computes  $r \cdot s_i = D(s^*)$ , due to the multiplicative homomorphic property of ElGamal, and  $B = b^{r \cdot s_i}$ ;
2. The server chooses  $y \in_R Z_q$  and computes  $Y = g^y$ ;
3. The server computes  $N_A = D(N_A^*)$  and  $V = \text{MAC}(N_A, Y, X)$ ;
4. The server chooses  $N_B \in_R Z_q$ , and sends back  $N_B, Y, V$  to the user.

Server  $\rightarrow$  User  $u_i$ :  $N_B, Y, V$

**Step 3.** The user  $u_i$  does the followings:

1. The user validates  $V$ , and aborts if invalid;
2. By taking  $N_B$  as a challenge, the user computes and sends  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the server;
3. The user ends the protocol by computing a shared key  $sk = H(N_A, N_B, Y^x)$ .

User  $u_i \rightarrow$  Server:  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$

**Step 4.** The server computes  $sk = H(N_A, N_B, X^y)$  upon verification of  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$ .

Note that  $\text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  in **Step 1** can be computed by the user  $u_i$ , who does not know

$r \cdot s_i$ , since the user computes  $e(B, h)$  as Equation (1). In the above, the user  $u_i$  authenticates to the server by showing the possession of a correct credential while authentication of the server depends on the ElGamal encryption. In [14], Yang et al., also extended the basic scheme to support membership withdrawal by using the dynamic accumulator [4] (as in [1]).

## 4 On User Anonymity against Third-Party Attacker

In [14], Yang et al., claimed that the YZWB10 scheme provides unlinkability against server, who is much more powerful than an outside attacker, in the sense that the server cannot link different logins by the same user. In this section, we show that a third-party attacker can specify which user sent the login request. Actually, this is enough for the third-party attacker to link different login requests sent by the same user.

### 4.1 Linkability of Third-Party Attacker

For clarity, suppose that there are only two users  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  whose password-protected credentials ( $C_1 = \langle u_1, [M_1, k_1]_{pw_1}, E(s_1) \rangle$  for user  $u_1$  and  $C_2 = \langle u_2, [M_2, k_2]_{pw_2}, E(s_2) \rangle$  for user  $u_2$ ) are entrusted to a public directory. In [14], Yang et al., clearly said that the password-protected credentials must not require any secure facility for storage and they can be entrusted to any portable devices, even public directories.

First, the attacker chooses  $t \in_R Z_q$ , computes  $E(t)$ , and then replaces  $C_1 = \langle u_1, [M_1, k_1]_{pw_1}, E(s_1) \rangle$  with  $C'_1 = \langle u_1, [M_1, k_1]_{pw_1}, E(s_1) \cdot E(t) \rangle$ .

Below is the authentication protocol between the server and the user  $u_1$ , who has  $C'_1 = \langle u_1, [M_1, k_1]_{pw_1}, E(s_1) \cdot E(t) \rangle$ . In the authentication protocol, the third-party attacker just

eavesdrops the communications between the user  $u_1$  and the server. Of course, the attacker does not know which user is about to perform the protocol at the starting point of this protocol.

**Step 1’.** The user  $u_1$  does the followings:

1. The user  $u_1$  recovers  $(M_1, k_1)$  from  $[M_1, k_1]_{pw_1}$  with his/her password  $pw_1$ ;
2. The user  $u_1$  chooses  $r \in_R Z_q$  to randomize  $\mathbf{E}(s_1) \cdot \mathbf{E}(t)$  by computing  $s^* = \mathbf{E}(r) \cdot \mathbf{E}(s_1) \cdot \mathbf{E}(t)$ ;
3. Same as in **Step 1** of Section 3.2.3;
4. Same as in **Step 1** of Section 3.2.3;
5. The user  $u_1$  computes  $\text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS}) = \{T_1, T_2, R_1, R_2, R_3\}$  using the R-BBS signature over  $(M_1, k_1, \gamma = r^{-1}, u_1)$  as follows:

$$T_1 = M_1 \cdot g_0^\alpha, \quad T_2 = g_1^\alpha, \quad (10)$$

$$R_1 = \left( \frac{1}{e(T_1, h)} \right)^{r k} \cdot e(a, h)^{r u} \cdot e(B, h)^{r \gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W)^{r \alpha} \cdot e(g_0, h)^{r \tilde{\alpha}}, \quad (11)$$

$$R_2 = g_1^{r \alpha}, \quad R_3 = \left( \frac{1}{T_2} \right)^{r k} \cdot g_1^{r \tilde{\alpha}} \quad (12)$$

where

$$e(B, h) = \left( \frac{e(M_1, W \cdot h^{k_1})}{e(a, h)^{u_1} \cdot e(d, h)} \right)^r; \quad (13)$$

Finally, the user  $u_1$  sends  $s^*, X, N_A^*, \text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the server as a login request.

User  $u_1 \rightarrow$  Server:  $s^*, X, N_A^*, \text{Cmt}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$

**Step 2’.** Upon receipt of the login request, the server does the followings:

1. The server computes  $r \cdot s_1 \cdot t = \mathbf{D}(s^*)$ , due to the multiplicative homomorphic property of ElGamal, and  $B' = b^{r \cdot s_1 \cdot t}$ ;
2. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3;
3. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3;
4. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3.

Server  $\rightarrow$  User  $u_1$ :  $N_B, Y, V$

**Step 3’.** The user  $u_1$  does the followings:

1. Same as in **Step 3** of Section 3.2.3;
2. By taking  $N_B$  as a challenge (i.e.,  $c = N_B$ ), the user  $u_1$  computes  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS}) = \{s_u, s_\gamma, s_k, s_\alpha, s_{\tilde{\alpha}}\}$  as follows:

$$s_u = r_u + c \cdot u_1, \quad s_\gamma = r_\gamma + c \cdot \gamma, \quad (14)$$

$$s_k = r_k + c \cdot k_1, \quad s_\alpha = r_\alpha + c \cdot \alpha, \quad (15)$$

$$s_{\tilde{\alpha}} = r_{\tilde{\alpha}} + c \cdot \tilde{\alpha}, \quad (16)$$

where  $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha \cdot k_1$ , and then sends  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the server;

3. Same as in **Step 3** of Section 3.2.3.

User  $u_1 \rightarrow$  Server:  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$

**Step 4’.** Same as in **Step 4** of Section 3.2.3

If the server aborts the protocol (i.e.,  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  is invalid) in **Step 4’**, the attacker gets to know that the user who has just sent the login request is user  $u_1$ . Otherwise, the attacker comes to a conclusion that the user who has just sent the login request is user  $u_2$ .

The invalidity of  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  in **Step 4’** can be easily checked from the following inequality:

$$R_1 \cdot \left( \frac{e(T_1, W)}{e(d, h)} \right)^c \neq \left( \frac{1}{e(T_1, h)} \right)^{s k} \cdot e(a, h)^{s u} \cdot e(B', h)^{s \gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W)^{s \alpha} \cdot e(g_0, h)^{s \tilde{\alpha}}. \quad (17)$$

This inequality is confirmed as follows:

$$e(B, h)^{r \gamma} \cdot \left( \frac{e(T_1, W)}{e(d, h)} \right)^c \neq \left( \frac{1}{e(T_1, h)} \right)^{c \cdot k_1} \cdot e(a, h)^{c \cdot u_1} \cdot e(B', h)^{r \gamma + c \cdot \gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W)^{c \cdot \alpha} \cdot e(g_0, h)^{c \cdot \alpha \cdot k_1}, \quad (18)$$

$$e(B, h)^{r \gamma} \cdot \left( \frac{e(T_1, W \cdot h^{k_1})}{e(d, h) \cdot e(a, h)^{u_1}} \right)^c \neq e(B', h)^{r \gamma + c \cdot \gamma} \cdot e(g_0, W \cdot h^{k_1})^{c \cdot \alpha}, \quad (19)$$

$$e(B, h)^{r \gamma} \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{e(M_1, W \cdot h^{k_1})}{e(d, h) \cdot e(a, h)^{u_1}} \right)^c}_{e(B, h)^{\gamma \cdot c}} \neq e(B', h)^{r \gamma + c \cdot \gamma}, \quad (20)$$

$$e(B, h)^{r \gamma + c \cdot \gamma} \neq e(B', h)^{r \gamma + c \cdot \gamma} \quad (21)$$

since  $B = b^{r \cdot s_1}$  and  $B' = b^{r \cdot s_1 \cdot t}$ .

## 4.2 Discussions

In the attack of Section 4.1, the third-party attacker can specify the user  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  with probability 1 by just eavesdropping the communications between the user and the server after replacing the password-protected credential  $C_1$  with  $C'_1$ . This attack indicates that the attacker can link different login requests to be sent later by the user  $u_1$ . The main reason why the attack of Section 4.1 is possible is that the user can not check the integrity of  $E(s_1)$ , at the same time, the server can not recover  $s_1$  from the randomized  $s^*$ .

Also, the attack of Section 4.1 can be directly applied to the extended scheme to support membership withdrawal (i.e., Section 4.3 of [14]) because it is just addition of the basic scheme and Nguyen's dynamic accumulator [4]. In the extended scheme, the password-protected credential is the form of  $C_i = \langle u_i, [M_i]_{pw_i}, k_i, w_i, E(s_i) \rangle$  where  $k_i$  is not encrypted with the password and is used to publish the accumulator  $\Lambda$ , and  $w_i$  is a witness of  $k_i$  for the dynamic accumulator [4]. One can see that this change is completely irrelevant to the attack of Section 4.1.

From the above, it is clear that the YZWB10 scheme (both the basic and extended schemes) [14] does *not* provide unlinkability against third-party attacker.

## 5 A Countermeasure

A simple countermeasure to the attack of Section 4.1 is to use integrity-preserving portable devices or public directories for storing users' password-protected credentials. However, it is contrary to a distinguishing feature of the YZWB10 scheme [14] that the password-protected credentials must not require any secure facility for storage (on the user side).

In this section, we give another countermeasure to the attack of Section 4.1 which does not

require any security for storing users' password-protected credentials.

### 5.1 Basic Scheme

Here, we describe another basic scheme of the YZWB10 scheme [14] to avoid the attack of Section 4.1. This basic scheme consists of **Setup**, **Registration** and **Authentication Protocol**.

#### 5.1.1 Setup

It is the same as in **Setup** of Section 3.2.1.

#### 5.1.2 Registration

It is the same as in **Registration** of Section 3.2.2. In addition, the server stores the password-protected credentials  $\{C_i\}_i$  for all users  $u_i$  locally.

#### 5.1.3 Authentication Protocol

Suppose that a user  $u_i$  has the password-protected credential  $C_i = \langle u_i, [M_i, k_i]_{pw_i}, E(s_i) \rangle$  available at the point of login. Below is the authentication protocol between the user  $u_i$  and the server.

**Step 1.** It is the same as in **Step 1** of Section 3.2.3.

**Step 2.** Upon receipt of the login request, the server does the followings:

1. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3;
2. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3;
3. The server computes  $N_A = D(N_A^*)$  and  $V = \text{MAC}(N_A, Y, X, \{C_i\}_i)$  where  $\{C_i\}_i$  are the password-protected credentials (for all users) stored locally;
4. Same as in **Step 2** of Section 3.2.3

Server  $\rightarrow$  User  $u_i$ :  $N_B, Y, V$

**Step 3.** It is the same as in **Step 3** of Section 3.2.3.

**Step 4.** It is the same as in **Step 4** of Section 3.2.3.

In the above basic scheme, the user  $u_i$  can check the integrity of  $\{C_i\}_i$  (including  $E(s_i)$ ) by verifying  $V$ . If a third-party attacker adds any modifications to the password-protected credentials  $\{C_i\}'_i$ , the user  $u_i$  aborts the protocol due to the invalidity of  $V$  (i.e.,  $V \neq \text{MAC}(N_A, Y, X, \{C_i\}'_i)$ ) without sending out  $\text{Res}(\Pi_{R-BBS})$  to the server. Therefore, the attacker can not specify the user  $u_i$  in the attack of Section 4.1. Note that the above countermeasure can also be used for the extended scheme (i.e., Section 4.3 of [14]) to support membership withdrawal.

## 6 Conclusions

In this paper, we have discussed user anonymity of the YZWB10 scheme [14] against third-party attacker, who is much weaker than malicious server. First, we showed that a third-party attacker in the YZWB10 scheme can specify which user actually sent the login request to the server. Note that the attack of Section 4.1 succeeds with probability 1, and the attacker just needs to eavesdrop the communications between the user and the server after replacing the password-protected credential. This attack also indicates that the attacker can link different login requests to be sent later by the same user. From this attack, it is clear that the YZWB10 scheme (both the basic and extended schemes) [14] does not provide unlinkability against third-party attacker. In addition, we gave a countermeasure to the attack of Section 4.1 which does not require any security for storing users' password-protected credentials.

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