

YubiHSM 2

Technical specifications

Best cost-effective hardware security module for servers

YubiHSM 2 is a hardware module providing superior protection from phishing and malware attacks for CA root keys on servers. Cost-effective and accessible, it makes deployment easy for every enterprise. The module provides a greater level of security for organizations running Microsoft Active Directory Certificate Services, offering a compelling approach for generation, storage and management of digital keys. Its convenient “nano” form-factor fits inside a USB port, which eliminates the need for additional, space-consuming hardware and offers a flexible way for offline key backup and transfer.



Technical specifications

Interface

USB (USB-A) 1.x Full Speed (12Mbit/s) Peripheral with bulk interface.

Features

Cryptographic interfaces (APIs)

- Microsoft CNG (KSP)
- PKCS#11 (Windows, Linux, macOS)
- Native YubiHSM Core Libraries (C, python)

Cryptographic capabilities

Hashing (used with HMAC and asymmetric signatures)

- SHA-1, SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512

RSA

- 2048, 3072, and 4096 bit keys
- Signing using PKCS#1v1.5 and PSS
- Decryption using PKCS#1v1.5 and OAEP

Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC)

- Curves: secp224r1, secp256r1, secp256k1, secp384r1, secp521r, bp256r1, bp384r1, bp512r1, curve25519
- Signing: ECDSA (all except curve25519), EdDSA (curve25519 only)
- Decryption: ECDH (all except curve25519)

Key wrap

- Import and export using NIST AES-CCM Wrap at 128, 196, and 256 bits

Random numbers

- On-chip True Random Number Generator (TRNG) used to seed NIST SP 800-90 AES 256 CTR_DRBG

Attestation

- Asymmetric key pairs generated on-device may be attested using a factory certified attestation key and certificate, or using your own key and certificate imported into the HSM

Performance

Performance varies depending on usage. Example metrics from an otherwise unoccupied YubiHSM 2:

- **RSA-2048-PKCS1-SHA256: ~139ms avg**
- RSA-3072-PKCS1-SHA384: ~504ms avg
- RSA-4096-PKCS1-SHA512: ~852ms avg
- **ECDSA-P256-SHA256: ~73ms avg**
- ECDSA-P384-SHA384: ~120ms avg
- ECDSA-P521-SHA512: ~210ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-32Bytes: ~105ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-64Bytes: ~121ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-128Bytes: ~137ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-256Bytes: ~168ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-512Bytes: ~229ms avg
- EdDSA-25519-1024Bytes: ~353ms avg
- AES-(128|192|256)-CCM-Wrap: ~10ms avg
- HMAC-SHA-(1|256): ~4ms avg
- HMAC-SHA-(384|512): ~243ms avg

Storage capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All data stored as objects. 256 object slots, 128KB (base 10) max total • Stores up to 127 rsa2048, 93 rsa3072, 68 rsa4096 or 255 of any elliptic curve type, assuming only one authentication key is present • Object types: Authentication keys (used to establish sessions); asymmetric private keys; opaque binary data objects, e.g. x509 certs; wrap keys; HMAC keys
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mutual authentication and secure channel between applications and HSM • M of N unwrap key restore via YubiHSM Setup Tool

Physical Specifications

Connector	USB-A
Dimensions	12mm x 13mm x 3.1mm
Weight	1 g
Current requirements	20mA avg, 30mA max
Safety and environmental compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCC • CE • WEEE • ROHS

Temperatures

Operational range	0 °C to 40 °C (32 °F to 104 °F)
Storage range	-20 °C to 85 °C (-4 °F to 185 °F)

Cryptographic algorithms

RSA	Max. keysize: 4096 bits
SHA	Max. keysize: 512 bits
ECC	Max. keysize: 512 bits
AES	Max. keysize: 256 bits

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