

Construct MD5 Collisions Using Just A Single Block Of Message

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So far, all the differential attacks on MD5 were constructed through multi-block collision method. Can collisions for MD5 be found using just a single block of message (i.e. 512-bit)? This has been an open problem since the first 2-block collision attack was given. However, a paper titled “How To Find Weak Input Differences For MD5 Collision Attacks” (Cryptology ePrint Archive (2009/223), <http://eprint.iacr.org/>) listed all the practically possible weak differences that can be used to make attacks on MD5, in the Table1 of that paper, only an 1-block message difference ($m_{5,10}, m_{10,31}$) was included in and suggested in the end of the paper to be able to be exploited to construct a practical collision attack on MD5. A hint was later given in EUROCRYPT2009’s poster paper titled “Could The 1-MSB Input Difference Be The Fastest Collision Attack For MD5?” (LNCS 5479, the poster session of EUROCRYPT 2009. Cryptology ePrint Archive (2008/391), <http://eprint.iacr.org/>) that, 1-block collision attack on MD5 is possible if a more efficient searching algorithm can be developed using evolutionary approaches. Today, in the last month (Dec.) of 2010, we have to make public a result of our 1-block collision attacks on MD5 in Table 1 as below, which was actually obtained at the beginning of 2010, but for security reasons, the techniques are not allowed to be disclosed at the moment.

Table 1. An 1-Block Collision Example With Its MD5 Digest (Underlined Bits With Difference)

M_0	0x6165300e,0x87a79a55,0xf7c60bd0,0x34febd0b,0x6503cf04,0x854f709e,0xfb0fc034,0x874c9c65, 0x2f94cc40,0x15a12deb,0x5c15f4a3,0x490786bb,0x6d658673,0xa4341f7d,0x8fd75920,0xefd18d5a
M_0^*	0x6165300e,0x87a79a55,0xf7c60bd0,0x34febd0b,0x6503cf04,0x854f749e,0xfb0fc034,0x874c9c65, 0x2f94cc40,0x15a12deb,0x <u>dc</u> 15f4a3,0x490786bb,0x6d658673,0xa4341f7d,0x8fd75920,0xefd18d5a
MD5	0xf999c8c9 0xf7939ab6 0x84f3c481 0x1457cb23

Here, we are calling for a challenge to the cryptology community that, any one who first gives a new different 1-block collision attack on MD5 will win 10,000 US dollars (about 50,000 RMB in Chinese Yuan) as a reward for his (her) excellent work. This call for challenge will be ended on Jan 1st, 2013. This announcement’s first affiliated unit will be responsible for this amount of reward when a new different 1-block collision attack is received and verified.

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