

# Harden SSL/TLS (beta) – Windows hardening tool

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## About

“Harden SSL/TLS” allows hardening the SSL/TLS settings of Windows versions from XP to Server 2008 R2. It allows locally and remotely setting SSL policies allowing or denying certain ciphers/hashes or complete ciphersuites. The foundation of this tool was the investigation and reverse engineering of the ciphers provided by the various SCHANNEL versions by G-SEC and presented in the paper “Secure SSL/TLS configuration Report 2010”.

This tool specific allows setting policies with regards to what ciphers and protocols are available to applications that use SCHANNEL crypto interface. A lot of windows applications do use this interface, for instance Google Chrome as well as Apple Safari are a few of these. By changing the settings you can indirectly control what ciphers these applications are allowed to use.

This tool works on all and every application that uses SCHANNEL whether they are client or server applications - as example: Internet Explorer, IIS, Google Chrome, Safari and a lot of others.

## Usage

- Options : Allows to enter the name of a remote Machine
- Mode : Allows to choose from Normal or Advance mode – The advanced mode is documented in the section “Advanced Mode”
- Export : Export the settings (Local or Remote) to a chosen file
- PCI-DSS : Adjust the settings as to comply with PCI-DSS
- Scan : Scans the host entered in “Settings – Remote host”

## Protocols

The screenshot shows the 'Harden SSL/TLS (beta)' application window. The interface includes several panels:

- Mode:** A dropdown menu with 'Normal' and 'Advanced' options. 'Normal' is currently selected.
- Hashes:** A table showing the status of various hash algorithms.
 

Name	Status
MD5	Disabled
SHA	Disabled
SHA256	Enabled
SHA384	Enabled
SHA512	Enabled
- Keyexchange:** A table showing the status of various key exchange algorithms.
 

Name	Status
Diffie-Hellman	Enabled
ecdh	Enabled
PKCS	Enabled
- Cipherlist Priority for:** A table showing the priority of various cipher suites.
 

#	Ciphersuite	SSL/TLS	Status
1	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256	=> TLS 1.2	Enabled
2	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA	=> TLS 1.0	Enabled
3	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	=> TLS 1.2	Enabled
4	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA	=> TLS 1.0	Enabled
5	TLS_RSA_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	=> TLS 1.0	Enabled
6	TLS_RSA_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA	=> TLS 1.0	Enabled
7	TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256_...	=> TLS 1.2	Enabled
8	TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256_...	=> TLS 1.2	Enabled
- Settings:** A section for configuring the remote host.
 

Remotehost: WIN-SCF9M7R1E6F

Note: Requires Domain admin privileges
- Buttons:** 'Options', 'Export', 'PCI DSS', 'FIPS', and 'Scan' buttons are located on the right side of the interface.

The status bar at the bottom indicates: 'Harden SSL/TLS - Results from : WIN-SCF9M7R1E6F'.

## Cipher suites

## Protocols

The protocol table shows the Protocols enabled or disabled on a Server/Client logic, to enable a protocol simply double click on the item you want enabled. Note: For Vista and up “Harden SSL/TLS” also automatically configures Windows Internet Settings with the correct settings.

Note: Windows 7 and Windows 2008R2 come with TLS1.2 disabled by default, to enable it for IIS 7.5 just double click on the appropriate TLS 1.2 entry.

## Hashes

List currently available hashes and allows enabling or disabling them

## Key exchange

List the currently available key exchange algorithms and allows enabling or disabling them

## Cipherlist

The display and function of this list changes depending on the OS version.

- **Windows 2000, XP, Server 2003**

The list allows you to **enable/disable ciphers**; if you disable that cipher it will not be available to the applications even if they request it.

- **Windows Vista, Server 2008, 7, Server 2008R2**

The list allows you to **enable/disable and prioritizes cipher suites**. The first item displayed is the preferred cipher for an SCHANNEL client or server, you can change this cipher to (as example AES 256) by pushing the UP and DOWN buttons, Harden SSL/TLS will keep a state map of which ciphers are, enabled, disabled and the their past and present order.

## Advanced Mode

The advanced mode allows access to more advanced settings

Advanced (Caution)

☐ [Enable P521 support](#) [TLS ServerCacheTime](#)  milliseconds

☐ [Allow Modulus 1 support](#) [Max TLS Cache](#)  entries

- P521 mode**  
 Microsoft removed ECC P521 support after Vista and Server 2008, this option allows to re-enable and re-introduce ECC P521 mode for Windows7 and Server 2008R2
- Modulus 1 support (You probably do not want to enable this setting)**  
 When a Web server uses a certificate with an RSA public key exponent of 1, the private key exponent is also set to 1. If these conditions are present, the connection has no encryption security. Enabling this will configure your client/server to allow a connection to a Web server that uses a certificate with an RSA public key exponent of 1.
- TLS/SSL Cache time out**  
 One reason for changing the default value for the SSL session cache is to force the client to authenticate more often. More frequent caching is sometimes useful, for example, if you want to reduce the computational effort (performance) or if you know that the client is using a smart card and you want the Web page to be accessible only when the user inserts the smart card in the reader.

Before changing the SSL cache time-out interval, make sure that HTTP Keep-Alives are enabled (HTTP Keep-Alives are enabled by default).

No secure session caching	0 (turns off session caching)
2 minutes (Windows NT 4)	120000
5 minutes (Windows 2000 )	300000
10 hours (2000 SP2, XP, 2003,2008, 2008R2)	36000000

- **TLS/SSL Cache size**

IIS maintains objects in memory to track each incoming Web connection. After five minutes of idle time, these objects are destroyed to reclaim resources. During this process, IIS purges the SSL/TLS session ID that the operating system caches from the session ID cache table. IIS also purges all the connection information that is negotiated between the client and the server. When a client tries to resume an SSL/TLS session by using the previous session ID, the server cannot locate the connection information in the cache. Therefore, the client must renegotiate the connection. Additionally, the client must obtain a new session ID. **Increasing the cache size may reduce the cpu load but increases memory usage, each session cache element typically requires 2-4k bytes of memory**

Default	10.000 entries
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### **Known limitations**

- The beta initializes and sets the SCHANNEL OS defaults at startup

### **Download**

Harden SSL/TLS can be found under <http://www.g-sec.lu/products.html>

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