DNS

**Question 1  DNS Walkthrough**

Your computer sends a DNS request for “www.google.com”

Q1.1 Assume the DNS resolver receives back the following reply:

```
com. NS a.gtld-servers.net
a.gtld-servers.net A 192.5.6.30
```

Describe what this reply means and where the DNS resolver would look next.

Q1.2 If an off-path adversary wants to poison the DNS cache, what values does the adversary need to guess?

Q1.3 Why do we not use TCP for DNS? Why not use TLS to make the DNS connection secure?
Question 2  DNS

Q2.1 Alice wants to access Berkeley’s diversity advancement project Dare, dare.berkeley.edu. Her laptop connects to a wireless access point (AP).

Alice worries that a hacker attacks the DNS protocol when her laptop is looking for the IP address of dare.berkeley.edu. Assume that DNSSEC is not in use.

◊ Question: Which of the following can attack the DNS protocol and have Alice’s browser obtain an incorrect IP address for DARE? (Select 0 to 8 options.)

☐ The wireless access point.
☐ An on-path attacker on the local network.
☐ The local DNS resolver of the network.
☐ The root DNS servers.
☐ berkeley.edu’s DNS nameservers.
☐ An on-path attacker between the local DNS resolver and the rest of the Internet.
☐ A MITM between the local DNS resolver and the rest of the Internet.

Q2.2 Now assume that berkeley.edu implements DNSSEC and Alice’s recursive resolver (but not her client) validates DNSSEC.

◊ Question: Which of the following can attack the DNS protocol and have Alice’s browser obtain an incorrect IP address for DARE? (Select 0 to 8 options.)

☐ The wireless access point.
☐ An on-path attacker on the local network.
☐ The local DNS resolver of the network.
☐ The root DNS servers.
☐ berkeley.edu’s DNS nameservers.
☐ An on-path attacker between the local DNS resolver and the rest of the Internet.
☐ A MITM between the local DNS resolver and the rest of the Internet.
Q2.3 An attacker wants to poison the local DNS resolver’s cache using the Kaminsky attack. We assume that the resolver does not use source port randomization, so the attacker will likely succeed.

Using the Kaminsky attack, the attacker wants to poison the resolver’s cache for the domain www.berkeley.edu.

The attacker constructs a website with lots of images as follows:

```html
<img src="http://fake1.berkeley.edu">
<img src="http://fake2.berkeley.edu">
<img src="http://fake3.berkeley.edu">
<img src="http://fake4.berkeley.edu">
...
```

**Question:** If the attacker wants the resolver to accept their spoofed response, the transaction id (16-bit value) must be the same as the resolver’s request transaction id. If the attacker can only send $k$ responses before the name server responds, what is the probability that the attacker’s response will be accepted by the resolver?

**Question:** If the attacker can send multiple responses which use each possible transaction id, why would the attacker want to load many, even thousands of images on their website rather than just a few.

**Question:** Assuming that the attacker has constructed a website with the image tags given above, can the attacker poison the resolver’s cache for the domain www.google.com?
**Question 3  NSEC3**

In class, you learned about DNSSEC, which uses signature chains to ensure authentication for DNS results. Recall that when using NSEC3, in the case of a negative result (the name requested doesn’t exist), the name server returns a signed pair of hashes that are alphabetically adjacent to the requested name’s hash.

For example, suppose the procedure is to use SHA1 and then sort the output treated as hexadecimal digits. If the original zone contained:

- barkflea.foo.com
- galumph.foo.com
- primo.foo.com

then the corresponding SHA1 values would be:

- barkflea.foo.com = e24f2a7b9fa26e2a0c201a7196325889abf7c45b
- galumph.foo.com = 71d0549ab66459447a62b639849145dace1fa68e
- primo.foo.com = 8a1011003ade80461322828f3b55b46c44814d6b

Sorting these on the hex for the hashes:

- galumph.foo.com = 71d0549ab66459447a62b639849145dace1fa68e
- primo.foo.com = 8a1011003ade80461322828f3b55b46c44814d6b
- barkflea.foo.com = e24f2a7b9fa26e2a0c201a7196325889abf7c45b

Now if a client requests a lookup of snup.foo.com, which doesn’t exist, the name server will return a record that in informal terms states “the hash that in alphabetical order comes after 71d0549ab66459447a62b639849145dace1fa68e is 8a1011003ade80461322828f3b55b46c44814d6b” (again along with a signature made using foo.com’s key).

The client would compute the SHA1 hash of snup.foo.com:

- snup.foo.com = 81a8eb88bf3dd1f80c6d21320b3bc989801caae9

and verify that in alphabetical order it indeed falls between those two returned values (standard ASCII sorting collates digits as coming before letters). That confirms the non-existence of snup.foo.com.

Q3.1 How does NSEC3 help prevent enumeration attacks? Which properties does the hash function need to have?

Q3.2 Describe how an adversary with access to a dictionary might still be able to perform an enumeration attack. What conditions must hold true for the domain names?
Q3.3 Is there a modification we can make to prevent the dictionary based enumeration attack that was constructed in subpart 2?