ASN.1:

Introduction

Zdeněk Říha



ASN.1



- Abstract Syntax Notation 1
- notation for describing abstract types and values
- Defined in ITU-T X.680 ... X.695
- Used in many file formats, including crypto
 - Public keys, private keys
 - Certificate requests, certificates
 - Digital signatures, padding, encrypted files

ASN.1



- Allows format/storage/transmission of data
 - Compatible among many applications
 - Not dependent on HW platform
 - E.g. little/big endian
 - Not dependent on operating system
- Simple & Structured types
- Multiple encoding rules (methods)





Type	Tag number	Tag number
	(decimal)	(hexadecimal)
INTEGER	2	02
BIT STRING	3	03
OCTET STRING	4	04
NULL	5	05
OBJECT IDENTIFIER	6	06
SEQUENCE and SEQUENCE OF	16	10
SET and SET OF	17	11
PrintableString	19	13
IA5String	22	16
UTCTime	23	17

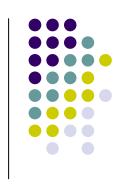


ASN.1 – simple types



- Integer
 - signed integer (there's no unsigned integer)
- Bit string
 - The number of bits does not have to be a multiple of 8
- Octet string
 - an arbitrary string of octets
- NULL
 - No data (used in parameters)
- PringtableString, IA5String, UTF8String, ...
 - Strings the sets of characters are various
- UTCTime
 - Time

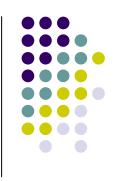




- Object identifier (OID)
 - Sequence of integer components that identify an object
 - Assigned in a hierarchical way
- Example
 - sha-1WithRSAEncryption = 1.2.840.113549.1.1.5
 - iso(1) member-body(2) us(840) rsadsi(113549) pkcs(1) pkcs-1(1) 5

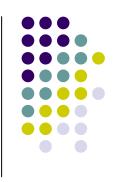
- 1.2.840.113549.1.1 PKCS-1
- 1.2.840.113549.1 PKCS
- 1.2.840.113549 RSADSI
- 1.2.840 USA
- 1.2 ISO member body
- 1 ISO assigned OIDs
- Top of OID tree

ASN.1 – structured types



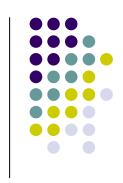
- SEQUENCE
 - an ordered collection of one or more types
- SEQUENCE OF
 - an ordered collection of zero or more occurrences of a given type
- SET
 - an unordered collection of one or more types
- SET OF
 - an unordered collection of zero or more occurrences of a given type

ASN.1 Encoding Rules



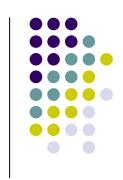
- XML oriented formats
 - XER (XML Encoding Rules)
- Byte-oriented formats
 - BER (Basic Encoding Rules)
 - CER (Canonical Encoding Rules) subset of BER
 - DER (Distinguished Encoding Rules) subset of BER
 - Used for crypto files
- Bit-oriented formats
 - PER (Packed Encoding Rules)
- Verbose, human readable formats
 - GSER (Generic String Encoding Rules)

BER encoding



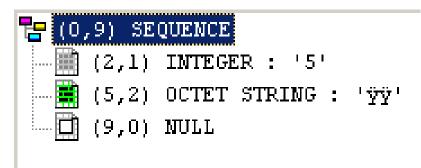
- TLV Tag Length Value
 - All the data is encoded using a simple TLV format
 - Tag what kind of data it is
 - Length the length of the data
 - Value the data itself
- Example
 - 02 01 05 [hexadecimal values]
 - Tag Integer
 - Length of data 1 byte
 - Data: (positive integer) 5



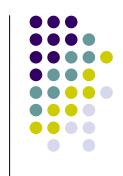


- SEQUENCE is similar to struct/record
- 30 09 02 01 05 04 02 FF FF 05 00
 - 30 09 sequence of length 9 bytes
 - 02 01 05 integer 5
 - 04 02 FF FF octet string FF FF
 - 05 00 NULL (no data)









Tag encoding

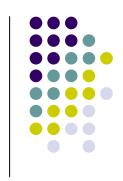


Class

Class	Bit 8	Bit 7
universal	0	0
application	0	1
context-specific	1	0
private	1	1

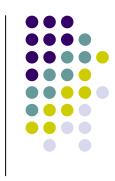
- Tag number
 - Bits 1-5
 - If all bits are 1 then the tag continues in the following byte(s)

BER length



- length >=0 && length <= 127
 - The length is coded directly
 - E.g. '05'
- Otherwise the bit 8 is set, bits 1-7 code the number of bytes that specify the length
 - E.g. 255 -> '81' 'FF'
 - E.g. 256 -> '82' '01' '00' or also '83' '00' '01' '00'
 - BER x DER
- '80' is "indefinite" length
 - Not allowed in DER





- The data itself
- Dependent on data type
 - Integer: signed e.g. 128 -> '00 80'
 - Octet string: directly the data
 - Bit string: number of unused bits + padded bit string to a multiple of 8 bits (padding is at the end)
 - UTCTime: string of one of the forms

YYMMDDhhmmZ YYMMDDhhmm+hh'mm' YYMMDDhhmmssZ YYMMDDhhmmss+hh'mm' YYMMDDhhmmss-hh'mm'

First look at the binary DER file



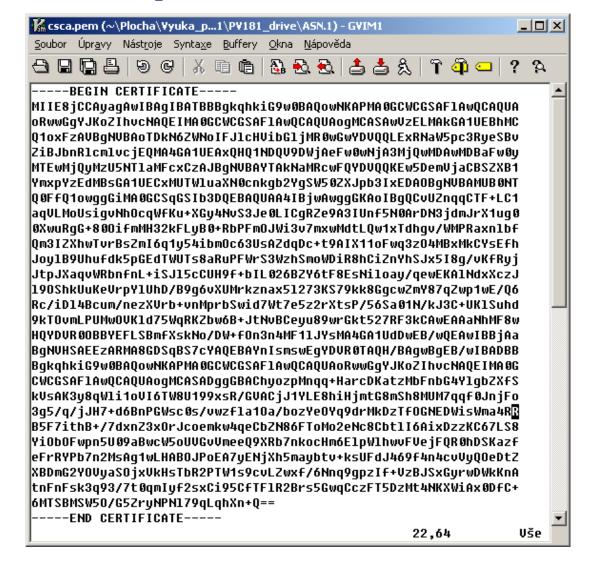
```
KTSL_1.cer (~\Plocha\PKI) - GVIM
Soubor Úpravy Nástroje Syntaxe Buffery Okna Nápověda
스 B B B B B C | * B B B B A A A | A A A | T 4P 4P 4- | ? ?
C.^DEO.^C* ^C^B^A^B^B^C^W&EO^M^F
                                      *THT÷^M^A^A^K^E^@GMcc1^KO
                                                                    ^F^CU^D^F^S^BCZ1907 -
F^CU^D^C^LOI.CA - Standard Certification Authority, 09/20091-0+^F^CU^D
^L$PrvnĂ- certifikaÄŤnĂ- autorita, a.s.1200^F^CU^D^K^L)I.CA - Provider of Certification Ser
vices0^^^W^M091221173259Z^W^M101221173259Z0#-1^K0
                                                  ^F^CU^D^F^S^BCZ1705^F^CU^D^C^L.Ministr
y of the Interior of the Czech Republic1705^F^CU^D
^L.Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic1^UO^S^F^CU^D^E^S^LICA - 6139660,^A"O^M^F
     *tHt+^M^A^A^A^E^@^C.^A^O^@0.^A
B,^A^A^@'iHSÔ5ŤOéO
                      ˰/Ź"Ľ×Ą}^T¤ëĹ…Ę'×\šUśĚ∎Ě»Ŕ'Ó%č∎|f4ÇĽ^^^LôóÄ%-ëIäŮČ^PÎÎ'-Ţ'?JÇ%]V°"
     jleö=Î$}WA^âdBAž2Ú"'Ôr^Zľt;uđ^PBRD%^P^OÜp,Mľ^\<Ž^M^\^ZdýôÁIn+3Ió6P^UUpw,-$cîlä·GvôŮQ^R
UKLF-±q^R^B(/EĎšACşQ,ĚŐH [ÄUÝĎ^G{Ó^WÂÄqØ•ä^E^M<wŤËHb\CĽó7^Ků§ÓF^V^]q^GžŹGĹv"
»^YĆ^W¯ĕ.' "t
lč∎ă^TDÓ^O
               ^T^XB^DÛž]_L}N"> _tu^B^C^A^@^ALMŰOM*O^Q^F^CU^]%^D
■,Óî^Y^PŰqG‡0^]^F^CU^]^N^D^U^D^Tîv&\şłJŇ#PĹÄLa)>[ůEBO^Z^F^CU^] ^D^SO^ÕO^O^F^M+^F^A^D^A■.H^A
^A<^C^@O^K^F^CU^]^O^D^D^C^B^G■OY^F^CU^]^_^DROPO& $ "† http://scrldp1.ica.cz/sica09.crl0& $
"† http://scrldp2.ica.cz/sica09.crl0^M^F  *†H†÷^M^A^A^K^E^@^C,^A^A^@a‡∎ó^VrËJŮ@Ě--^SE^
C~Î^\6®d*^F~■Ź"%5Ř ^SÚyČ'ŐĎIÁĕÂ^OÜyŔ^By^Y^L6D¬6^S'^Lž"ŇŇĐv^ ş■7%¸"żq•v wĽĘ^K-§đrź
e ^Z1xżŤk$%$^Ear^0& ĕ5"ŕ8Nt∎^Yů∎»<%^[^W7ÉN∎Ô&†"‡×
lá^MÍ^XúkËŃ#âă^W^@~•±4â©TO■~A4´ř±^DT8Ľ_OŘ*×&âGPoAXj^Aźμ©1PŮXôŘ$−:ćÂ^Gü^Xg>K'<A!■ď{ŰΘĂ8÷iŢ8$@
±^BĽô>?"ő&~ć-{Mď'úáF<'Ň^VŇĿë¬■ŘÔ"+ĽÍ•½^Cwď^SW
                                                                     1,1
                                                                                  Uše
```

DER vs. PEM



- PEM
 - Privacy Enhanced Mail
- PEM as such not used, but formats still used
- Textual formats
 - Practical for transport channels where full 8bit data can be damaged
- PEM is base64 coded DER enveloped with
 - -----BEGIN SOMETHING-----
 - ----END SOMETHING-----
 - Where SOMETHING is CERTIFICATE/PKCS7/KEY...

Sample PEM file

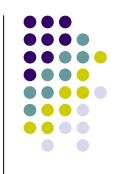




ASN.1 viewers

- Unber (part of asn1c)
- Openssl asn1parse
- ASN.1 Editor

• ...



OpenSSL asn1parse

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Program Files\OpenSSL\bin>openssl.exe asn1parse -inform DER -in CZE_CSCA_2009_
                       h1=4 1=1266 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=4 1= 806 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 3 cons: cont [ 0 ]
h1=2 1= 1 prim: INTEGER
h1=2 1= 65 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 9 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 15 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 15 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 13 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 9 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 0 prim: NULL
h1=2 1= 26 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 9 prim: OBJECT
     0:d=0
4:d=1
8:d=2
10:d=3
13:d=2
16:d=2
18:d=3
                                                                                                                 :02
:3A
                                                                                                                 :1.2.840.113549.1.1.10
       33:d=5
       35:d=6
                                                                                                                 :sha256
       46:d=6
      48: d=4
50: d=5
52: d=6
63: d=6
65: d=7
76: d=7
                                                                                                                 :1.2.840.113549.1.1.8
                                                                                                                 :sha256
                                                 0 prim: NULL
3 cons: cont [ 2 ]
                         h1=21=
                      h1=2 l= 1 prim: INTEGER
h1=2 l= 87 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 l= 11 cons: SET
h1=2 l= 9 cons: SEST
      80:d=5
83:d=2
85:d=3
                                                                                                                 :20
                        h1=2 1= 9 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 9 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 3 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 2 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
h1=2 1= 23 cons: SET
h1=2 1= 21 cons: SEQUENCE
                                                                                                                  :countryName
                         h1=2 1= 3 prim: OBJECT
                                                                                                                  :organizationName
    107:d=5
123:d=3
                         h1=2 1= 14 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
                                                                                                                 :Czech Republic
                        h1=2 1= 14 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
h1=2 1= 29 cons: SET
h1=2 1= 27 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 3 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 20 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
h1=2 1= 16 cons: SET
h1=2 1= 14 cons: SEQUENCE
h1=2 1= 3 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 7 prim: T61STRING
h1=2 1= 30 cons: SEQUENCE
     125:d=4
     127:d=5
                                                                                                                  :organizationalUnitName
   132:d=5
154:d=3
156:d=4
158:d=5
163:d=5
172:d=2
                                                                                                                 :Ministry of Interior
                                                                                                                 :commonName
                                                                                                                  :CSCA_CZ
                         hl=2 l= 30 cons: SEQUENCE
hl=2 l= 13 prim: UTCTIME
                                                                                                                  :090113000000Z
                         h1=2 1= 13 prim: UTCTIME
h1=2 1= 87 cons: SEQUENCE
    189:d=3
                                                                                                                  :2404130000000Z
   204:d=2
206:d=3
                         h1=2 1= 11 cons: SET
                                             9 cons: SEQUENCE
3 prim: OBJECT
2 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
23 cons: SET
21 cons: SEQUENCE
                          h1=21=
                                                                                                                  :countryName
                                                                                                                 :CZ
    219:d=3
                         h1=2 1=
h1=2 1=
    221:d=4
                         h1=2 1= 3 prim: OBJECT
h1=2 1= 14 prim: PRINTABLESTRING
    223:d=5
228:d=5
                                                                                                                 :organizationName
                                                                                                                 :Czech Republic
                                              29 cons: SET
27 cons: SEQUENCE
                          h1=2 1=
```





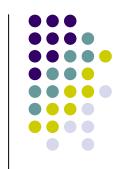
unber

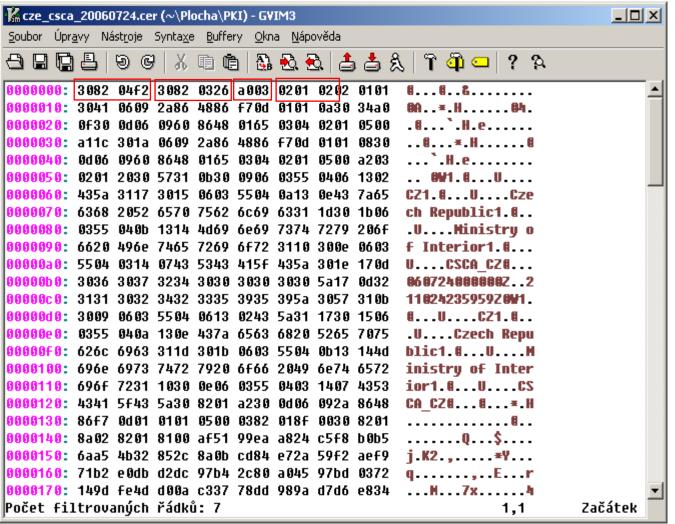




```
🚜 anxur.fi.muni.cz - PuTTY
                                                                                                                         labak:~$ unber /usr/share/doc/dirmngr-1.0.3/examples/extra-certs/bnetza-10r-ocsp-2.crt
<C 0="0" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="4" V="952" A="SEQUENCE">
   <C 0="4" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="4" V="804" A="SEQUENCE">
       <C 0="8" T="[0]" TL="2" V="3">
            <P 0="10" T="[UNIVERSAL 2]" TL="2" V="1" A="INTEGER" F>2</P>
       </C 0="13" T="[0]" L="5">
       <P 0="13" T="[UNIVERSAL 2]" TL="2" U="1" A="INTEGER" F>53</P>
       <C 0="16" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="10" A="SEQUENCE">
            <P 0="18" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="6" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>1.3.36.3.3.1.2
            <P 0="26" T="[UNIVERSAL 5]" TL="2" V="0" A="NULL"></P>
       </C 0="28" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="12">
       <C 0="28" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="63" A="SEQUENCE">
            <C 0="30" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" U="11" A="SET">
               <C 0="32" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" U="9" A="SEQUENCE">
                   <P 0="34" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.6
                   <P O="39" T="[UNIVERSAL 19]" TL="2" V="2" A="PrintableString">DE</P>
               </C 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="11">
           </C 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="13">
           <C 0="43" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" U="26" A="SET">
               <C 0="45" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="24" A="SEQUENCE">
                   <P 0="47" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="OBJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.10
                   <P 0="52" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" V="17" A="UTF8String">Bundesnetzagentur</P>
               </C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="26">
           </C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="28">
           <C 0="71" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="20" A="SET">
               <C 0="73" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="18" A="SEQUENCE">
                   <P 0="75" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" V="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.3</P>
                   <P 0="80" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" U="11" A="UTF8String">10R-CA 1:PN</P>
               </C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="20">
            </c>
</c 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="22">
       </C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="65">
       <C 0="93" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="30" A="SEQUENCE">
            <P 0="95" T="[UNIVERSAL 23]" TL="2" V="13" A="UTCTime">0508040827092
            <P 0="110" T="[UNIVERSAL 23]" TL="2" V="13" A="UTCTime">071231082349Z</P>
       </C 0="125" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="32">
       <C 0="125" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="65" A="SEQUENCE">
            <C 0="127" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" V="11" A="SET">
               <C 0="129" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="9" A="SEQUENCE">
                   <P 0="131" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" U="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.6
                   <P 0="136" T="[UNIVERSAL 19]" TL="2" V="2" A="PrintableString">DE</P>
               </C 0="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="11">
           </C 0="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" A="SET" L="13">
           <C 0="140" T="[UNIVERSAL 17]" TL="2" U="26" A="SET">
               <C 0="142" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" TL="2" V="24" A="SEQUENCE">
                   <P 0="144" T="[UNIVERSAL 6]" TL="2" U="3" A="0BJECT IDENTIFIER" F>2.5.4.10
                   <P 0="149" T="[UNIVERSAL 12]" TL="2" V="17" A="UTF8String">Bundesnetzagentur</P>
               </C 0="168" T="[UNIVERSAL 16]" A="SEQUENCE" L="26">
```





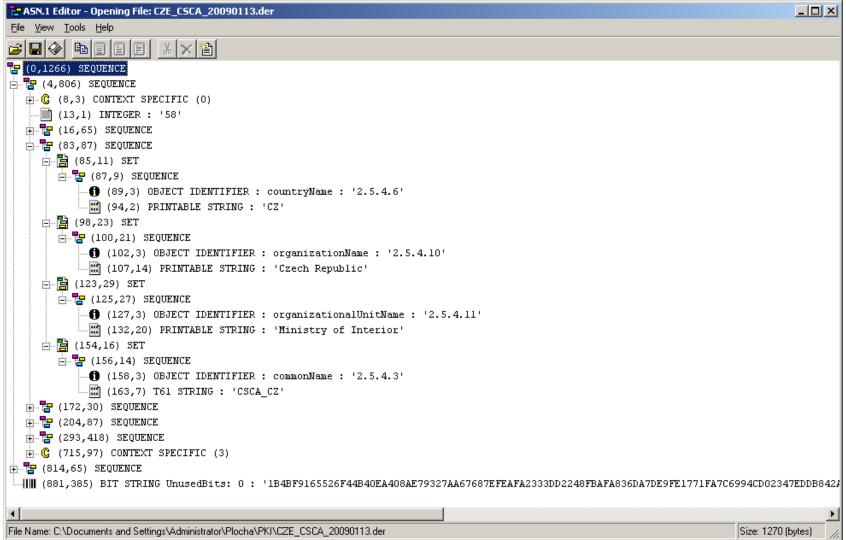


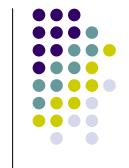
- 30 82 04 f2
 - SEQUENCE
 - length 1266B
- 30 82 03 26
 - SEQUENCE
 - length 806B
- A0 03
 - CONTEXT
 SPECIFIC 0
 - Length 3B
- 02 01 02
 - INTEGER: 2

ASN.1 Editor









ASN.1 Grammar

 To understand the structure (what is the meaning of particular fields) we need ASN.1 grammar

```
TBSCertList ::= SEQUENCE {
                                                   version
                                                                            Version OPTIONAL,
                                                                                 -- if present, MUST be v2
                                                    signature
                                                                            AlgorithmIdentifier,
                                                    issuer
                                                                            Name,
CertificateList ::= SEQUENCE {
                                                    thisUpdate
                                                                            Time,
     tbsCertList
                           TBSCertList,
                                                                           Time OPTIONAL,
                                                    nextUpdate
     signatureAlgorithm
                          AlgorithmIdentifier,
                                                    revokedCertificates
                                                                            SEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE {
     signatureValue
                           BIT STRING }
                                                         userCertificate
                                                                                 CertificateSerialNumber,
                                                        revocationDate
                                                                                 Time,
                                                                                 Extensions OPTIONAL
                                                         crlEntryExtensions
                                                                                       -- if present, MUST be v2
                                                                              } OPTIONAL,
                                                    crlExtensions
                                                                            [0] EXPLICIT Extensions OPTIONAL
                                                                                       -- if present, MUST be v2
                                                                              }
```