



“The Quantum Elephant in the Room” is authored and presented by Wolfgang Flatow; Quantum Security Analyst and Inventor of FES.

Wolfgang is an IT professional, Systems Analyst and Enterprise Systems Architect with over 40 years of industry experience.

He is the inventor of patented **Fractal Transformation** that has been researched, refined and developed to production stage as the Fractal Encryption Standard (**FES**).

FES was found to be impenetrable by any computational means, including Quantum Computers. This led to his investigation of Quantum Computing and its threat to all classic encryption, including AES.

His Quantum Computer analysis since 2021 has yielded 5 different Quantum Algorithms capable of extracting keys from AES ciphertext. These have been further refined and verified by several AI engines including ChatGPT and Grok3.

He has coined the term “Quantum Key Extraction”, or QKE, to describe the threat.

This presentation is a summary of Wolfgang’s QKE findings.



There is a huge **"Quantum Elephant in the Room"** !
It is real, present and dangerous, yet it's presence is not acknowledged.
We will here do our best to reveal that Quantum Elephant.

Quantum Cybersecurity Threat



A Cybersecurity Extinction Level Event is unfolding!



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The magnitude of the threat of Quantum Computers to encryption, the foundation of all cybersecurity, cannot be overstated. Quantum Computer Decryption is the cause of an imminent global Cybersecurity Extinction Level Event.

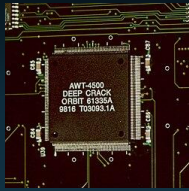
AES Reliance on Computational Difficulty

When the first encryption standard DES was cracked in 1998-1999 , taking 22 hours and 15 minutes to crack with binary computers, it was upgraded to AES with a massive global undertaking.

Both DES and AES rely on computational difficulty for their security, AES simply having larger key-space than DES.

With the advent of quantum computers, encryption can no longer rely on computational difficulty.

[Link](#)

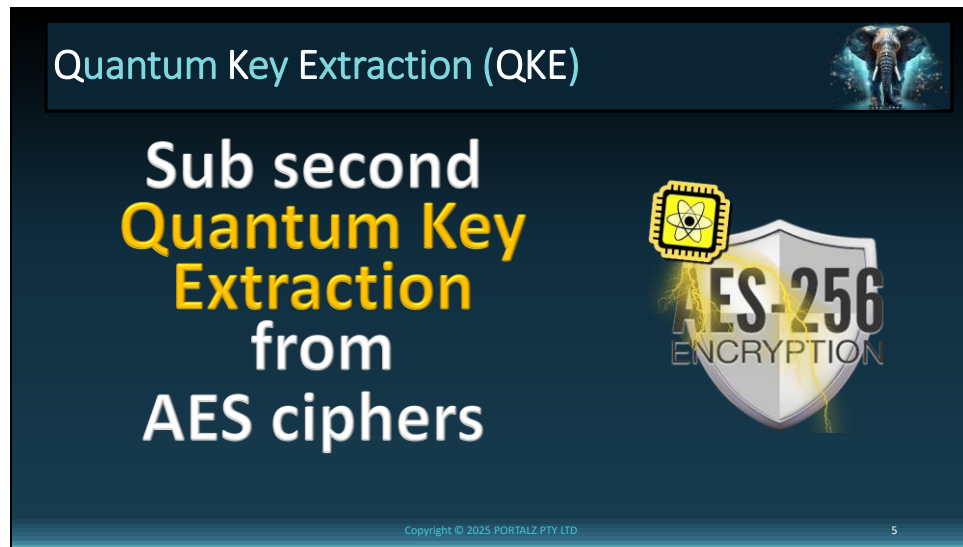


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Quantum Key Extraction (QKE)

Sub second
**Quantum Key
Extraction**
from
AES ciphers

AES-256
ENCRYPTION

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The core of the threat is called Quantum Key Extraction, or QKE.

QKE is the capacity of Quantum Computers to extract the key used to encrypt payload from the ciphertext it generated.

The revolutionary parallel processing power of quantum computers can extract the key in a fraction of a second, compared to thousands of years for conventional binary computers.

QKE with Today's Quantum Computers

The IBM Osprey 433 Qubit Quantum Computer is QKE capable today!
From IBM:

[Link](#)

2022	2023	2024	2025	Beyond 2026
Bring dynamic circuits to Qiskit Runtime to unlock more computations	Enhancing applications with elastic compiling and parallelization of Qiskit Runtime	Improve accuracy of Qiskit Runtime with scalable error mitigation	Scale quantum applications with circuit nesting toolboxes controlling Qiskit Runtime	Increase accuracy and speed of quantum workflows with integration of error correction into Qiskit Runtime
Dynamic circuits	Threaded primitives	Error suppression and mitigation	Error correction	
Osprey 433 qubits	Condor 1,121 qubits	Flamingo 1,280+ qubits	Kookaburra 4,150+ qubits	Scaling to 10K-150K qubits with classical and quantum communication

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Importantly, QKE can be accomplished with today's quantum computers.

A reason for cybersecurity industry complacency in regards to the quantum security threat is an erroneous assumption that today's quantum computers are not powerful enough to threaten encryption and that this threat lies decades in the future.

We have confirmed that the IBM Osprey 433 qubit Quantum Computer, available since 2022, is QKE capable.

QKE Core Principle



Quantum Parallelism

A classic binary super computer takes thousands of years to check every combination.

A Quantum Computer can check every combination in parallel – at once – in a fraction of a second.

Classic binary 256 bit key register



Quantum Computer 256 qubit key register



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Here is the core principle behind **QKE**.

Where classic computers use bits to process data, quantum computers use qubits. The classic binary key register diagram shows 256 bits that can be either 0 or 1. It shows one of 2^{256} possible bit combinations. In order for a classic computers to process all 2^{256} possible bit combinations takes classic computers thousands of years.

In contrast, the quantum computer key register diagram shows 256 qubits that can be both 0 and 1 at the same time. That is a remarkable and seemingly impossible feature of qubits. When the 256 qubits are quantum entangled they can process all 2^{256} possible combinations at once – in a fraction of a second!

QKE Qubit Requirements



Qubits have Superposition, they are both digital and analogue.

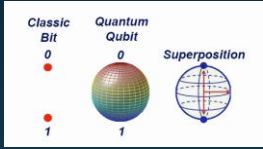
Amplitude Encoding (AE) allows a single qubit to simulate 8 classic bits.

An AES 256 bit key space only needs 32 AE qubits to check all combinations.

A 16 AE qubit cipher block holds the first block of the cipher from which to extract the key.

Additional AE qubits are required to simulate AES decryption and sensible result detection.

Including a 32 AE qubit and trigger qubit, the total number of qubits required for QKE is less than 220.



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Another remarkable property of qubits is that they can not only be 1 and 0 at the same time, qubits can also be a fraction between 0 and 1 at the same time – an analog processing capability called Superposition.

Initially superposition always collapsed to 0 or 1 when measured, matching classic bits.

Now we can also read and write fractional qubit values using a system called **Amplitude Encoding**, allowing us to simulate multiple bits with a single qubit.

To simulate 8 bits the qubit amplitude (fractional) range is divided into 256 fractions between 0 and 1.

That means we only need 32 qubits to simulate 256 bits, the maximum AES key size.

It also means that the number of qubits required for quantum decrypt simulation is reduced by a factor of 8.

The delivers comprehensive AES-256 QKE quantum decryption algorithm to requiring less than 220 qubits.

Quantum Key Extraction (QKE)

The first block of an AES cipher (128 bits) is Amplitude Encoded, setting the 16 AE qubit cipher block.

The quantum AES decryption circuit checks all 2^{256} possible combinations of the qubit key-register against the AES cipher block.
Note: only a correct AES key returns a sensible result, which is detected in a single quantum cycle.

The sensible result detection circuit sets the trigger qubit.

When the trigger qubit is set the qubit key-register contains the correct key and is read. QKE completed.

Qubit errors are ignored by this approach!



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By combining **Amplitude Encoded** qubits, a **quantum entangled qubit key-space** and **quantum decrypt simulation algorithms** we can build a full **QKE** system.

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When the trigger qubit is set the qubit key-register contains the correct key and is read. QKE completed.

Importantly; Qubit errors are ignored by this approach, which means that no additional qubits are required for error correction.

Quantum Key Harvesting (QKH)



QKH extends QKE to a systematic, large-scale attack, harvesting keys en masse from intercepted or stored data.

The speed of QKE allows an attacker can extract billions of keys per day.

This capability allows attackers to decrypt vast amounts of data - past, present, and future - compromising entire systems and archives.



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Full Stack Cybersecurity Collapse



QKE undermines every foundation of cybersecurity!

The capacity to extract the key from an AES cipher (QKE) bypasses all key management (KM), secure key storage, Trusted Platform Module (TPM) hardware key vault and public/private key exchange (RSA).

As the same key is typically used to encrypt multiple documents within PCs, organisations, departments etc you only need to perform QKE on one of them to decrypt all other documents in the same area.

The speed of QKE allows encrypted communication to be decrypted after the first AES cipher block...



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It is no exaggeration that QKE utterly collapses the full security stack, the entire cryptographic foundations securing the world's data, communications and cybersecurity infrastructure.

The ability to quantum brute-force the key from an AES cipher bypasses all key security technologies such as key management (KM), secure key storage, Trusted Platform Module (TPM) hardware key vault and public/private key exchange (RSA).

Quantum Computer Weaponization



While quantum computers are promoted for benign R&D, there is no doubt that they are a **strategic weapon** in the information war.

Quantum Decryption of AES, RSA and all classic encryption algorithms has been a major impetus for their development. It can be argued that decryption is their real strategic purpose, value and the source of their seemingly unlimited funding.

QKE is a significantly greater threat than Quantum Decryption because, once the key is extracted, classic binary computers can extract the payload.

The key is valid for the whole session, document or files...



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Quantum Computer Decryption of AES, RSA and all classic encryption algorithm has been a significant impetus for their development.

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The key is valid for the whole session, document or multiple files, folders, databases...

There are clear indications that QKE is already weaponised by intelligence and defence.



The speed and versatility of QKE means it exposes AES secured content in real time. Armed with QKE an attacker can instantly access the original document or transmission plaintext as it is transmitted. QKE is available wherever an attacker has access to quantum computers. Quantum computers capable of running QKE are proliferating globally.

Cloud App Extinction

AES/RSA reliant Apps must be withdrawn. Say goodbye to:

- 👤 Online Banking and touch payments (no transaction or account security)
- 👤 Online Shopping, sales, eBay, Etsy, Amazon etc (no account security)
- 👤 All online services that require a login (no account security)
- 👤 Government online services (no account security)
- 👤 Company, patent and trademark online services (no account security)
- 👤 Social Media, Facebook, X, Tik-Tok etc (no account security)
- 👤 VPNs and online privacy services

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Corporate Intranet Extinction

Corporate intranets have greater firewall protection, yet all internal data and communications security remains undermined by QKE:

- 👤 Any intranet breach instantly escalates to full QKE compromise.
- 👤 Any compromised staff can extract keys at will directly from encrypted files, documents and communications via QKE.
- 👤 Any key management/vault/database systems that secure keys via AES can be compromised in seconds with QKE.
- 👤 Weaponised AI with quantum computer access can recursively crawl an entire corporate intranet and extract all keys in minutes.

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National Security Suppression

AES is the **Advanced Security Standard** as recommended by NIST and mandated by the US Government.

Subsequently every US department, Agency, Contractor and Service Provider has adopted AES for their encryption to remain compliant.

Further, most nations have followed suit in order to be compliant with US security mandates.

When AES is compromised, which is the case with QKE, that means US national security is compromised, along with the national security of all nations who have adopted and mandated AES.

National Security must suppress any AES compromise, including QKE.

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Military & Defence Compromise

US Military and Defence all use AES.

The only difference from civilian usage is key-size. From [Wikipedia](#):

“The design and strength of all key lengths of the AES algorithm (i.e., 128, 192 and 256) are sufficient to protect classified information up to the SECRET level. TOP SECRET information will require use of either the 192 or 256 key lengths.”

That was true before the advent of quantum computers.

QKE is logically proven to extract keys of 128, 192 and 256 bit keys since the release of the IBM Osprey 433 Qubit QC released in 2022.

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Harvest Now – Decrypt Later



From [Wikipedia](#):

“**Harvest now, decrypt later** is a surveillance strategy that relies on the acquisition and long-term storage of currently unreadable encrypted data awaiting possible breakthroughs in [decryption](#) technology that would render it readable in the future – a hypothetical date referred to as Y2Q or Q-Day.

The most common concern is the prospect of developments in [quantum computing](#) which would allow current [strong encryption](#) algorithms to be broken at some time in the future, making it possible to decrypt any stored material that had been encrypted using those algorithms.”

QKE means; that ‘future’ is NOW!

Quantum Threat Misconception



Quantum Threat is
Present
Not Decades
Away

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The misconception that the quantum threat is decades away is prevalent in the cybersecurity industry.

This complacency is a result of focusing on public key encryption, RSA, that requires thousands of error corrected qubits.

The quantum threat to AES has been ignored due to a belief that AES-256 is quantum resistant with quality keys.

As we have shown, AES is much more vulnerable to quantum attack than RSA.

The threat to AES is clearly present with today's Quantum Computers, QKE is possible NOW!

And QKE bypasses RSA key-exchange security.

Weaponized AI

Weaponized AI (WAI) has arrived:

-  QKE Capable Quantum Computers
-  Massively scalable Exaflop GPU AI foundations
-  Code writing AI hacker frameworks

These hyper-technologies are presently integrated on AI platforms within massive data centers.

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QKE capable Quantum Computers now exist at the core of Weaponized AI Platforms. Augmented by massively parallel exaflop GPUs (Nvidia GB200 NVL72), Quantum Computers are able to be leveraged by dynamic recursive self-programming and hacker code writing. This is the perfect Cybersecurity Storm!



The Quantum Elephant in the Room is in reality a Quantum Stampede in the Room.
QKE is dramatically leveraged by the existence of Weaponized AI.
This hybrid threat exists NOW and should be the focus of every cybersecurity organisation.

No Classic Encryption Solution

Note that NIST does not have a Quantum Safe AES replacement!
QKE applies to ALL block encryption, not only AES, because:

- of the limited key-space (AES 256 bits)
- the key acts directly on the payload (deterministic)
- they rely on computational difficulty

QKE will crack any classic block encryption by simulating the decrypt algorithm with a matching qubit key-space.

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QKE core principles apply to every classic encryption algorithm.
NIST does not have/offer a solution because no classic approach works.

Classic Encryption Limitations



"You cannot solve a problem
with the same mindset that created it"
Albert Einstein



You cannot tweak classic block encryption algorithms to overcome their fundamental brute-force weakness.

Reliance on encryption/decryption asymmetry, common to all classic encryption, is utterly defeated by quantum computers.

Deterministic relationships between key, payload, algorithm and cipher cause the payload to remain/exist within the cipher – albeit scrambled.

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All classic encryption relies on brute-force computational difficulty for its security.
Quantum Computers crack all classic encryption.

Clear & Present Danger

Quantum Computers
compromise all
global security
foundations by
brute-force
cracking classic
block encryption.



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We have passed the QKE point of no return. All encryption is compromised NOW!

The Quantum Elephant

The
Quantum Elephant in the Room
is that:

AES is Quantum Toast

QKE cracks AES now, undermining
the full cybersecurity stack.

While the cybersecurity industry
remains complacent in the belief that
this threat is decades away...



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AES is Quantum Toast.

That is the Quantum Elephant in the Room.

A quantum hacker will read your email, Telegram Chat, all encrypted communications.
All encrypted internet traffic, including usernames, passwords, sessions, application data, etc
are cracked by QKE.

Three level authentication is useless as the subsequent session traffic is decrypted in real time...

**It is a present Cybersecurity Extinction Level Event
that the cybersecurity industry thinks is decades away...**

Quantum Proof Solutions



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