NAME

nitrocli - access Nitrokey devices

SYNOPSIS

nitrocli [-v|--verbose] command [arguments]

DESCRIPTION

nitrocli provides access to Nitrokey devices. It supports the Nitrokey Pro and the Nitrokey Storage. It can be used to access the encrypted volume, the one-time password generator, and the password safe.

OPTIONS

-v, --verbose

Enable additional logging and control its verbosity. Logging enabled through this option will appear on the standard error stream. This option can be supplied multiple times. A single occurrence will show additional warnings. Commands sent to the device will be shown when supplied three times and full device communication is available with four occurrences. Supplying this option five times enables the highest verbosity.

COMMANDS

General

nitrocli status

Print the status of the connected Nitrokey device, including the stick serial number, the firmware version, and the PIN retry count.

nitrocli lock

Lock the Nitrokey. This command locks the password safe (see the Password safe section). On the Nitrokey Storage, it will also close the encrypted volume (see the Storage section).

Storage

nitrocli storage open

Open the encrypted volume on the Nitrokey Storage. The user PIN that is required to open the volume is queried using **pinentry**(1) and cached by gpg-agent(1).

nitrocli storage close

Close the encrypted volume on the Nitrokey Storage.

nitrocli storage status

Print the status of the connected Nitrokey Storage device's storage. The printed information includes the SD card serial number, the encryption status, and the status of the volumes.

One-time passwords

The Nitrokey Pro and the Nitrokey Store support the generation of one-time passwords using the HOTP algorithm according to RFC 4226 or the TOTP algorithm according to RFC 6238. The required data – a name and the secret – is stored in slots. Currently, the Nitrokey devices provide three HOTP slots and 15 TOTP slots. The slots are numbered per algorithm starting at zero.

The TOTP algorithm is a modified version of the HOTP algorithm that also uses the current time. Therefore, the Nitrokey clock must be synchronized with the clock of the application that requests the one-time password.

nitrocli otp get *slot* [**-a**|**--algorithm** *algorithm*] [**-t**|**--time** *time*]

Generate a one-time password. *slot* is the number of the slot to generate the password from. *algorithm* is the OTP algorithm to use. Possible values are **hotp** for the HOTP algorithm according to RFC 4226 and **totp** for the TOTP algorithm according to RFC 6238 (default). Per default, this commands sets the Nitrokey's time to the system time if the TOTP algorithm is selected. If **--time** is set, it is set to *time* instead, which must be a Unix timestamp (i.e., the number of seconds since 1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC). This command might require the user PIN (see the Configuration section).

nitrocli otp set slot name secret $[-\mathbf{a}|$ --algorithm algorithm] $[-\mathbf{d}|$ --digits digits] $[-\mathbf{c}|$ --counter counter] [-t|--time-window time window] [--ascii]

Configure a one-time password slot. slot is the number of the slot to configure. name is the name of the slot (may not be empty). secret is the secret value to store in that slot. If --ascii is set, each character of the given secret is interpreted as the ASCII code of one byte. Otherwise, every two characters are interpreted as the hexadecimal value of one byte.

algorithm is the OTP algorithm to use. Possible values are hotp for the HOTP algorithm according to RFC 4226 and totp for the TOTP algorithm according to RFC 6238 (default). *digits* is the number of digits the one-time password should have. Allowed values are 6 and 8 (default: 6). counter is the initial counter if the HOTP algorithm is used (default: 0). time window is the time window used with TOTP in seconds (default: 30).

nitrocli otp clear *slot* [**-a**]**--algorithm** *algorithm*]

Delete the name and the secret stored in a one-time password slot. *slot* is the number of the slot to clear. algorithm is the OTP algorithm to use. Possible values are **hotp** for the HOTP algorithm according to RFC 4226 and totp for the TOTP algorithm according to RFC 6238 (default).

nitrocli otp status [-a|-all]

List all OTP slots. If --all is not set, empty slots are ignored.

Configuration

Nitrokey devices have four configuration settings: the numlock, capslock and scrollock keys can be mapped to an HOTP slot, and OTP generation can be set to require the user PIN.

nitrocli config get

Print the current configuration.

nitrocli config set [[-n]--numlock slot] | [-N]--no-numlock]] [[-c]--capslock slot] | [-C]--no-capslock]] [[-s|--scrollock *slot*] | [-S|--no-scrollock]] [[-o|--otp-pin] | [-O|--no-otp-pin]] Update the Nitrokey configuration. This command requires the admin PIN.

With the --numlock, --capslock and --scrollock options, the respective bindings can be set. *slot* is the number of the HOTP slot to bind the key to. If **--no-numlock**, **--no-capslock** or --no-scrollock is set, the respective binding is disabled. The two corresponding options are mutually exclusive.

If --otp-pin is set, the user PIN will be required to generate one-time passwords using the otp get command. If --no-otp-pin is set, OTP generation can be performed without PIN. These two options are mutually exclusive.

Password safe

The Nitrokey Pro and the Nitrokey Storage provide a password safe (PWS) with 20 slots. In each of these slots you can store a name, a login, and a password. The PWS is not encrypted, but it is protected with the user PIN by the firmware. Once the PWS is unlocked by one of the commands listed below, it can be accessed without authentication. You can use the lock command to lock the password safe.

nitrocli pws get *slot* [-n|--name] [-l|--login] [-p|--password] [-q|--quiet]

Print the content of one PWS slot. *slot* is the number of the slot. Per default, this command prints the name, the login and the password (in that order). If one or more of the options --name, --login, and --password are set, only the selected fields are printed. The order of the fields never changes.

The fields are printed together with a label. Use the --quiet option to suppress the labels and to only output the values stored in the PWS slot.

nitrocli pws set slot name login password

Set the content of a PWS slot. *slot* is the number of the slot to write. *name*, *login*, and *password* represent the data to write to the slot.

nitrocli pws clear slot

Delete the data stored in a PWS slot. *slot* is the number of the slot clear.

nitrocli pws status [-a|--all]

List all PWS slots. If --all is not set, empty slots are ignored.

PINs

Nitrokey devices have two PINs: the user PIN and the admin PIN. The user PIN must have at least six, the admin PIN at least eight characters. The user PIN is required for commands such as **otp get** (depending on the configuration) and for all **pws** commands. The admin PIN is usually required to change the device configuration.

Each PIN has a retry counter that is decreased with every wrong PIN entry and reset if the PIN was entered correctly. The initial retry counter is three. If the retry counter for the user PIN is zero, you can use the **pin unblock** command to unblock and reset the user PIN. If the retry counter for the admin PIN is zero, you have to perform a factory reset using **gpg**(1). Use the **status** command to check the retry counters.

nitrocli pin clear

Clear the PINs cached by the other commands.

nitrocli pin set type

Change a PIN. *type* is the type of the PIN that will be changed: **admin** to change the admin PIN or **user** to change the user PIN. This command only works if the retry counter for the PIN type is at least one. (Use the **status** command to check the retry counters.)

nitrocli pin unblock

Unblock and reset the user PIN. This command requires the admin PIN. The admin PIN cannot be unblocked. This operation is equivalent to the unblock PIN option provided by gpg(1) (using the --change-pin option).

EXAMPLES

One-time passwords

Configure a one-time password slot with a hexadecimal secret representation:

\$ nitrocli otp set 0 test-rfc4226 3132333435363738393031323334353637383930 -- algorithm hotp

\$ nitrocli otp set 1 test–foobar 666F6F626172 ––algorithm hotp

\$ nitrocli otp set 0 test-rfc6238 3132333435363738393031323334353637383930 -- algorithm totp -- digits 8

Configure a one-time password slot with an ASCII secret representation:

\$ nitrocli otp set 0 test-rfc4226 12345678901234567890 -- ascii -- algorithm hotp

\$ nitrocli otp set 1 test-foobar foobar --ascii --algorithm hotp

\$ nitrocli otp set 0 test-rfc6238 12345678901234567890 -- ascii -- algorithm totp -- digits 8

Generate a one-time password:

\$ nitrocli otp get 0 --algorithm hotp 755224 \$ nitrocli otp get 0 --algorithm totp --time 1234567890 89005924

Clear a one-time password slot:

\$ nitrocli otp clear 0 -- algorithm hotp

Configuration Query the configuration: \$ nitrocli config get Config: numlock binding: not set capslock binding: not set scrollock binding: not set require user PIN for OTP: true Change the configuration: \$ nitrocli config set ---otp-pin **Password safe** Configure a PWS slot: \$ nitrocli pws set 0 example.org john.doe passw0rd Get the data from a slot: \$ nitrocli pws get 0 name: example.org login: john.doe password: passw0rd Copy the password to the clipboard (requires **xclip**(1)). \$ nitrocli pws get 0 -- password -- quiet | xclip - in Query the PWS slots: \$ nitrocli pws status slot name

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