## Public key objects

Public key objects (object class **CKO\_PUBLIC\_KEY**) hold public keys. The following table defines the attributes common to all public keys, in addition to the common attributes defined for this object class:

Table , Common Public Key Attributes

| **Attribute** | **Data type** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CKA\_SUBJECT8 | Byte array | DER-encoding of the key subject name (default empty) |
| CKA\_ENCRYPT8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports encryption9 |
| CKA\_VERIFY8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports verification where the signature is an appendix to the data9 |
| CKA\_VERIFY\_RECOVER8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports verification where the data is recovered from the signature9 |
| CKA\_WRAP8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports wrapping (*i.e.*, can be used to wrap other keys)9 |
| CKA\_TRUSTED10 | CK\_BBOOL | The key can be trusted for the application that it was created.The wrapping key can be used to wrap keys with CKA\_WRAP\_WITH\_TRUSTED set to CK\_TRUE. |
| CKA\_WRAP\_TEMPLATE | CK\_ATTRIBUTE\_PTR | For wrapping keys. The attribute template to match against any keys wrapped using this wrapping key. Keys that do not match cannot be wrapped. The number of attributes in the array is the *ulValueLen* component of the attribute divided by the size of CK\_ATTRIBUTE. |
| CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO | Byte array | DER-encoding of the SubjectPublicKeyInfo for this public key. |

- Refer to table Table 15 for footnotes

It is intended in the interests of interoperability that the subject name and key identifier for a public key will be the same as those for the corresponding certificate and private key. However, Cryptoki does not enforce this, and it is not required that the certificate and private key also be stored on the token.

To map between ISO/IEC 9594-8 (X.509) **keyUsage** flags for public keys and the PKCS #11 attributes for public keys, use the following table.

Table , Mapping of X.509 key usage flags to cryptoki attributes for public keys

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Key usage flags for public keys in X.509 public key certificates** | **Corresponding cryptoki attributes for public keys.** |
| dataEncipherment | CKA\_ENCRYPT |
| digitalSignature, keyCertSign, cRLSign | CKA\_VERIFY |
| digitalSignature, keyCertSign, cRLSign | CKA\_VERIFY\_RECOVER |
| keyAgreement | CKA\_DERIVE |
| keyEncipherment | CKA\_WRAP |
| nonRepudiation | CKA\_VERIFY |
| nonRepudiation | CKA\_VERIFY\_RECOVER |

The value of the CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO attribute is the DER encoded value of SubjectPublicKeyInfo:

 SubjectPublicKeyInfo ::= SEQUENCE {

 algorithm AlgorithmIdentifier,

 subjectPublicKey BIT STRING }

The encodings for the subjectPublicKey field are specified in the descriptions of the public key types in the appropriate [Mechanisms] document for the key types defined within this specification.

A public key may be fully specified via the use of the **CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO** attribute in a call to **C\_CreateObject.** It may not be combined with other attributes that provide value information for the public key (e.g., **CKA\_EC\_PARAMS**, **CKA\_MODULUS**) in a call to **C\_CreateObject**. If both **CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO** and one or more value attributes are provided, the attempt should fail with the error code **CKR\_TEMPLATE\_INCONSISTENT**.

## Private key objects

Private key objects (object class **CKO\_PRIVATE\_KEY**) hold private keys. The following table defines the attributes common to all private keys, in addition to the common attributes defined for this object class:

Table , Common Private Key Attributes

| **Attribute** | **Data type** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| CKA\_SUBJECT8 | Byte array | DER-encoding of certificate subject name (default empty) |
| CKA\_SENSITIVE8,11  | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key is sensitive9  |
| CKA\_DECRYPT8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports decryption9 |
| CKA\_SIGN8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports signatures where the signature is an appendix to the data9 |
| CKA\_SIGN\_RECOVER8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports signatures where the data can be recovered from the signature9 |
| CKA\_UNWRAP8 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key supports unwrapping (*i.e.*, can be used to unwrap other keys)9 |
| CKA\_EXTRACTABLE8,12  | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key is extractable and can be wrapped 9 |
| CKA\_ALWAYS\_SENSITIVE2,4,6 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key has *always* had the CKA\_SENSITIVE attribute set to CK\_TRUE |
| CKA\_NEVER\_EXTRACTABLE2,4,6 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if key has *never* had the CKA\_EXTRACTABLE attribute set to CK\_TRUE |
| CKA\_WRAP\_WITH\_TRUSTED11 | CK\_BBOOL | CK\_TRUE if the key can only be wrapped with a wrapping key that has CKA\_TRUSTED set to CK\_TRUE.Default is CK\_FALSE. |
| CKA\_UNWRAP\_TEMPLATE | CK\_ATTRIBUTE\_PTR | For wrapping keys. The attribute template to apply to any keys unwrapped using this wrapping key. Any user supplied template is applied after this template as if the object has already been created. The number of attributes in the array is the *ulValueLen* component of the attribute divided by the size ofCK\_ATTRIBUTE. |
| CKA\_ALWAYS\_AUTHENTICATE | CK\_BBOOL | If CK\_TRUE, the user has to supply the PIN for each use (sign or decrypt) with the key. Default is CK\_FALSE. |
| CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO | Byte Array | DER-encoding of the SubjectPublicKeyInfo for the associated public key |

- Refer to table Table 15 for footnotes

It is intended in the interests of interoperability that the subject name and key identifier for a private key will be the same as those for the corresponding certificate and public key. However, this is not enforced by Cryptoki, and it is not required that the certificate and public key also be stored on the token.

If the **CKA\_SENSITIVE** attribute is CK\_TRUE, or if the **CKA\_EXTRACTABLE** attribute is CK\_FALSE, then certain attributes of the private key cannot be revealed in plaintext outside the token. Which attributes these are is specified for each type of private key in the attribute table in the section describing that type of key.

The **CKA\_ALWAYS\_AUTHENTICATE** attribute can be used to force re-authentication (i.e. force the user to provide a PIN) for each use of a private key. “Use” in this case means a cryptographic operation such as sign or decrypt. This attribute may only be set to CK\_TRUE when **CKA\_PRIVATE** is also CK\_TRUE.

Re-authentication occurs by calling **C\_Login** with *userType* set to **CKU\_CONTEXT\_SPECIFIC** immediately after a cryptographic operation using the key has been initiated (e.g. after **C\_SignInit**). In this call, the actual user type is implicitly given by the usage requirements of the active key. If **C\_Login** returns CKR\_OK the user was successfully authenticated and this sets the active key in an authenticated state that lasts until the cryptographic operation has successfully or unsuccessfully been completed (e.g. by **C\_Sign**, **C\_SignFinal**,..). A return value CKR\_PIN\_INCORRECT from **C\_Login** means that the user was denied permission to use the key and continuing the cryptographic operation will result in a behavior as if **C\_Login** had not been called. In both of these cases the session state will remain the same, however repeated failed re-authentication attempts may cause the PIN to be locked. **C\_Login** returns in this case CKR\_PIN\_LOCKED and this also logs the user out from the token. Failing or omitting to re-authenticate when CKA\_ALWAYS\_AUTHENTICATE is set to CK\_TRUE will result in CKR\_USER\_NOT\_LOGGED\_IN to be returned from calls using the key. **C\_Login** will return CKR\_OPERATION\_NOT\_INITIALIZED, but the active cryptographic operation will not be affected, if an attempt is made to re-authenticate when CKA\_ALWAYS\_AUTHENTICATE is set to CK\_FALSE.

The **CKA\_PUBLIC\_KEY\_INFO** attribute represents the public key associated with this private key. If support for this attribute is implemented, the data it represents may either be stored as part of the private key data, or regenerated as needed from the private key.