

CS4103-DS: Security

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Section 1

Overview

Aims & Objectives

- Gain an understanding of salient issues surrounding **Security** and Distributed Systems.
- Understand the issues associated with **authorisation** within a Distributed System, and ways in which it can be addressed.
- Understand issues associated with **authentication**, and how cryptographic techniques can be used to provide authentication mechanisms.

Reading

- Andrew Tanenbaum et al. *Distributed Systems: Principles and Paradigms*. English. 3rd ed. Pearson Higher Education, 2013, p. 633. ISBN: 1292025522, Chp. 9:§9.1-2, §9.2.1-2&4 §9.3.1, §9.4.1&3. §9.5
- George Coulouris et al. *Distributed Systems: Concepts and Designs*. English. 5th ed. Pearson Higher Education, 2011, p. 927. ISBN: 0273760599, Chp. 11:§11.1, §11.6.1&2
- Yu Zhou et al. 'Policy Enforcement Pattern'. In: *PLoP 2002*. 2002

Security as Risk Management

Doing Security \equiv Risk Management

- Asset identification
- Risk identification
 - Identifying an asset's vulnerabilities
 - Identifying relevant threats
- Risk analysis
- Risk treatment

Threat Manifestation aka Risk

$$\text{Risk} \leftarrow \text{Threat} + \text{Vulnerability} = \text{Success}$$

Threat

- Circumstances that have potential to cause loss or harm to the asset
- Threats can be:
 - accidental
 - deliberate
 - environmental

Vulnerability

- Weakness that can be exploited within a system
- Vulnerabilities can be:
 - accidental
 - deliberate
 - environmental

ISO Threat Types

- Physical damage
 - fire, water, dust
- Natural events
 - weather, volcanic activity
- Loss of essential services
 - loss of power
- Disturbance due to radiation
 - electromagnetic, thermal
- Compromise of information
 - Eavesdropping, Remote Spying
- Technical failures
 - equipment or software malfunction
- Unauthorised Actions
 - illegal processing of data, using pirated software
- Compromise of functions
 - Abuse of rights, Denial of Actions

Where can Vulnerabilities Occur?

- Hardware
 - environmental damage, wear and tear
- Software
 - well-known flaws, insufficient testing
- Network
 - single point of failure, unprotected comm lines
- Personnel
 - lack of personnel, insufficient training
- Site
 - located in flood plain, unstable power grid
- Organisational
 - lack of continuity plans, lack of email usage policy

Security Policies & Mechanisms

Policies

Describes the actions that an 'entity' are permitted to do, and not to. Essentially, security requirements: Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability...

■ Examples

- 'Only Jan & DoT can see the exam.'
- 'STAFFRESS is only accessible by Staff members.'

Mechanisms

Technology or procedure employed to enforce the policy.

■ Examples

- Authentication, Authorisation, Encryption, & Auditing.

Intermezzo: Scope

- Security is a comprehensive and extensive subject area.
- Our interest for this lecture is:

Security of Distributed Systems

and

Distributed Systems for Security.

- We won't cover other security topics.

Section 2

Security & Distributed Systems

Security & Distributed Systems

How can security policies be defined and implemented over distributed resources and using what mechanisms?

Core Issues concern Identity & Access Management

1 Data Security:

- How to secure data **at-rest**?
- How to secure data **in-flight**?

2 Identity Management:

- Definition and management of identities.

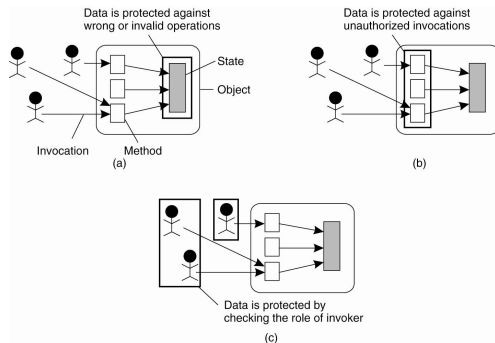
3 Authentication:

- Authentication in distributed setting.

4 Authorisation:

- Define and enforce authorisation policies.
- Authorisation in distributed setting.

Focus of Control

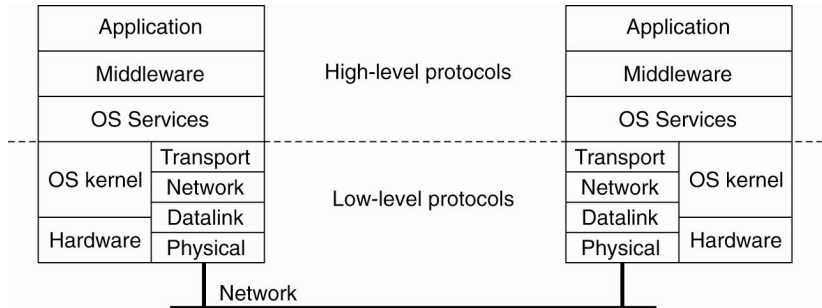


Where to focus protection?

- 1 **Model** Protection against invalid operations
- 2 **View** Protection against unauthorised invocations
- 3 **Controller** Protection against unauthorised users

Tanenbaum et al. [TS13]

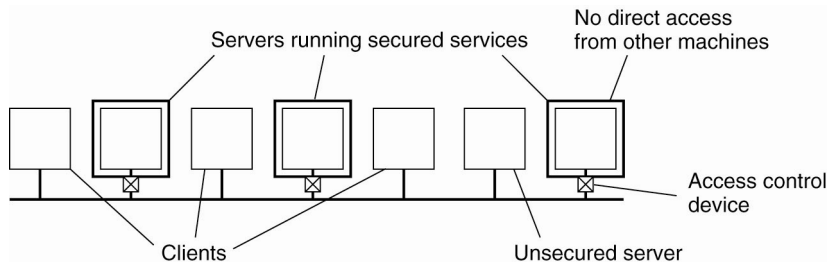
Layering of Security Mechanisms



Tanenbaum et al. [TS13]

- Protect all the layers.
- 'Transport Layer Security is solved'

Distribution of Security Mechanisms



Tanenbaum et al. [TS13]

- Organisational & Administrative Heterogeneity.
- Trusted Computing Base
- Simplicity

Securing Data at Rest

Data at rest is data that doesn't 'move'.

- Can solve using cryptography...
 - Secrecy with Signature with Appendix using KEM/DEM
 - Public Key Encryption, Symmetric Encryption, Digital Signatures, Hash functions...

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- Can solve using cryptography...
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- What standards and parameters to use?

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Disk, File-System | Symmetric | AES, SkipJack, Blowfish |
| User files, app data | KEM/DEM | RSA, DSA, ECC, ECDSA |

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- Key Management!?
 - Public Key Infrastructure: Centralised, Decentralised

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- Key Management!?
 - Public Key Infrastructure: Centralised, Decentralised
- Expressiveness of Encryption
 - Perfect Forward Secrecy
 - Classical Schemes provide 1-2-1 Encryption.
 - Need additional mechanisms to manage permissions.

Securing Data in Flight

Data in flight is data being moved from one domain to another.

- Can solve using cryptography to construct [secure channels](#)
 - Send messages securely between two points: End-2-End Encryption.

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 - Network Layer has IPSec
 - Transport Layer has TLS
 - Application layer has: Signal, Cryptocat, OTR...

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- **Key Management!?**
 - Public Key Infrastructure: Centralised, Decentralised

Section 3

Authentication

Authentication

Given two entities Alice and Bob, how can Bob authenticate with Alice such that Alice knows that Bob is really who he says he is.

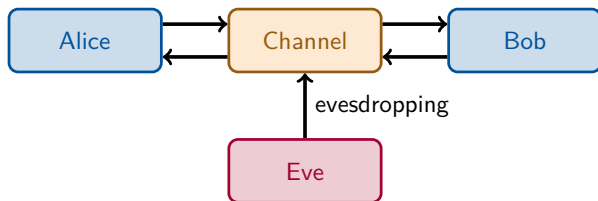
- Typically 'Two phased' protocols
 - 1 **Enrollment**: Establish credentials.
 - 2 **Challenge & Response**: Check validity of credentials.
- Utilise lots of cryptography.
- **Styles**
 - Direct or Brokered
- **Examples**
 - Network: HIP, IPSec, ILNP
 - Transport: MS-CHAP, EAP
 - Application: RADIUS, DIAMETER
 - User: SAML, OpenID, .Net Passport, KERBEROS, Shibboleth, OpenAthens

Secure Channel



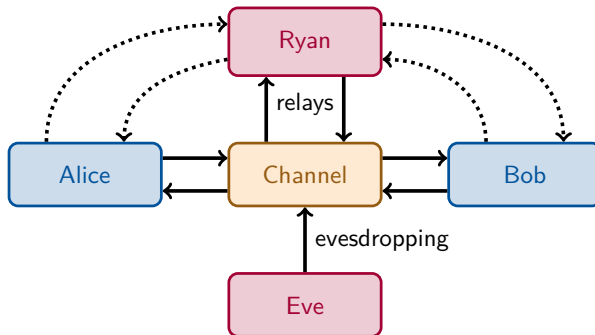
- Use [Secrecy with Signature with Appendix](#) using KEM/DEM
 - Session Keys for each conversation.
 - Public Key Infrastructure to get public keys.
- How to exchange session keys?
 - Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange, Station-To-Station, Needham-Schroeder-Lowe
- How to authenticate Bob?

Secure Channel



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Kerberos

Authentication protocol using [tickets](#) to allow nodes to authenticate over an untrusted network.

- Developed by MIT.
- Requires a [Trusted-Third Party](#)
 - Authentication Service
 - Ticket Granting Service
- Mutual Authentication
- 'Dated'

Intermezzo: Crypto Notation

Key Notation

Symmetric Key K_{AB}

Public Key $Enc_{pub}(Bob)$

Private Key $Dec_{priv}(Bob)$

Signing Key $Enc_{priv}(Alice)$

Verifying Key $Dec_{pub}(Alice)$

Operations

Encrypt $Encrypt(\dots)$

Decrypt $Decrypt(\dots)$

Sign $Sign(\dots)$

Verify $Verify(\dots)$

Misc

Ctxt Sym $\{M\}_{K_{Bob}}$

Hash $\#(msg)$

Concatenate $A || B$

Ctxt ASym $\{|M|\}_{Enc(Bob)}$

Send A to B $A \rightarrow B : msg$

Assignment $H_{msg} \leftarrow \#(msg)$

Authentication Protocol

Simplified Kerberos protocol to talk to Bob.

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Simplified Kerberos protocol to talk to Bob.

- Sign into Service

- Session Key $K_{A,AS}$ Established
- $Alice \rightarrow AS : ID(A)$
- AS generates
 - ticket with TTL: $\mathcal{T}_{ttl} \leftarrow \{ID(A) \parallel K_{A,TGS}\}_{K_{AS,TGS}}$
 - Session Key $K_{A,TGS}$
- $AS \rightarrow Alice : \{K_{A,TGS} \parallel \mathcal{T}_{ttl}\}_{K_{A,AS}}$

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■ Request Ticket to Talk to Bob

- Session Key $K_{A,TGS}$ Established
- Timestamp t .
- $A \rightarrow TGS : \mathcal{T}_{ttl} \parallel ID(B) \parallel \{t\}_{K_{A,TGS}}$
- TGS Generates Session Key $K_{A,B}$ and obtains $K_{B,TGS}$.
- $TGS \rightarrow A : \{ID(B) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{A,TGS}} \parallel \{ID(A) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{B,TGS}}$

Authentication Protocol

Simplified Kerberos protocol to talk to Bob.

■ Sign into Service

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 - ticket with TTL: $\mathcal{T}_{ttl} \leftarrow \{ID(A) \parallel K_{A,TGS}\}_{K_{AS,TGS}}$
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- $TGS \rightarrow A : \{ID(B) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{A,TGS}} \parallel \{ID(A) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{B,TGS}}$

■ Ask Bob To Talk

- $A \rightarrow B : \{ID(A) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{B,TGS}} \parallel \{t\}_{K_{A,B}}$
- $B \rightarrow A : \{t+1\}_{K_{A,B}}$

Kerberos cont...

■ Authentication Protocol

- Based on Needham-Schoeder-Lowe

■ 'Single-Sign-On'

- By authenticating with the AS get timed access (24hrs) to system.
- Ticket used to request access to other services i.e. other bobs.
- Combine with Authorisation services

■ 'Simplified'

- Introduce Public Key variants
- Don't see sending $\{\{\text{ID}(A) \parallel K_{A,B}\}_{K_{B,TGS}} \parallel \{t\}_{K_{A,B}}\}_{\text{Enc}(B)}$

Advantages & Disadvantages

- Advantages

- Disadvantages

Advantages & Disadvantages

- Advantages
 - Authentication in a Distributed System
 - Single-Sign-On
- Disadvantages

Advantages & Disadvantages

■ Advantages

- Authentication in a Distributed System
- Single-Sign-On

■ Disadvantages

- Single Point of Failure
- Not federated
- 'Dated'
- Not a cool protocol...

Section 4

Authorisation

Authorisation/Access Control

Granting access rights to a subject for resources in various environments, and ensuring that a subject has the correct permissions to access a particular resource in an particular environment.

■ Access Control Models

- Access Control Matrix
- Access Control Lists, Capabilities
- Role-Based Access Control, Attribute-Based Access Control, Policy-Based Access Control

■ Implementations

- POSIX, Capsicum, XACML, SAML, Kerberos, Shibboleth, OpenID, OAuth, Facebook Connect

General Model



- **Subjects** are: nodes, processes, users. . .
- **Objects** are: files, data, databases, services. . .
- **Permissions** are actions on objects: Read, Write, Execute. . .
 - Permissions can also be time dependent.
- **Monitor** is access control mechanism to enforce permissions.
- **Schema** is a description of an instance of an access control model for a particular scenario.

Access Control Matrix

Matrix where rows denote subjects, columns denote objects, and cells the permissions that the subject has on an object.

| | Slides | Exam | STAFFRES |
|-----|--------|------|----------|
| Jan | RWX | RWX | RWX |
| DoT | R-X | RWX | RWX |
| Bob | R-X | — | — |

- Common way to envisage access control.
- Monitor 'just' performs matrix look up.
- If Subject s or Object o not in Matrix M then failure.

Access Control Matrix

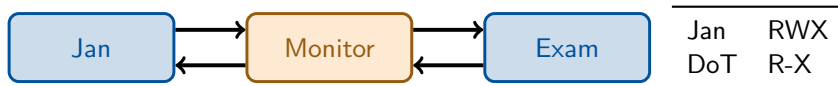
Matrix where rows denote subjects, columns denote objects, and cells the permissions that the subject has on an object.

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| DoT | R-X | RWX | RWX |
| Bob | R-X | — | — |

- Common way to envisage access control.
- Monitor 'just' performs matrix look up.
- If Subject s or Object o not in Matrix M then failure.
- Unwieldy for large models

Access Control Lists

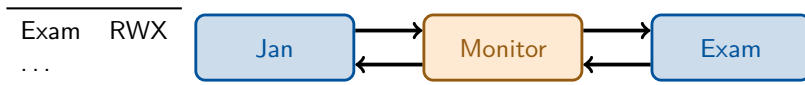
Each object carries a description of the subjects and their permissions.



- Classic Approach found in most OS.
 - Column Spans of a matrix.
- Monitor/Object **needs to know** who can do what
- 'Centralised' Approach.

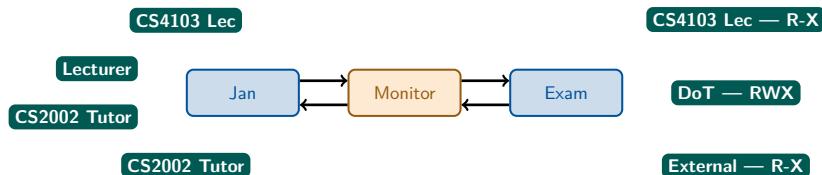
Capabilities

Each subject carries a description of the objects they can access and their assigned permissions.



- Row Span of a Matrix
- Each client is given restricted list of abilities on objects.
- Monitor checks if capability can be applied.
- 'Decentralised' Approach.

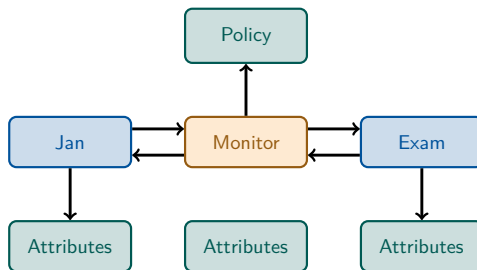
Role-Based Access Control



Application Layer Model

- Each subject has one or more (Hierarchic) Roles.
- Object has permissions based on roles.
- Monitor checks if Subject's Role allows access to Object.
- 'Decentralised' Approach.

Attribute-Based Access Control



Application Layer Model

- Attributes used to describe: **Subjects**, **Objects**, & the **Environment**.
- Policies are **Boolean Formula** over attributes.
- Monitor grants access based on policy satisfaction.
- 'Decentralised' Approach.

ABAC Example: TCPLog Access

Attributes

Subject Group, Roles, Clearance Level...

Object TCP Header Information, Ownership...

Environment Locale, Time, Date...

Access Policy

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Policy}(s, o, e) \leftarrow & \text{Group}(s) \equiv \text{GCHQ} \\ & \wedge \text{Level}(s) \geq \text{SECRET} \\ & \wedge (\text{srcPort}(o) \equiv 80 \vee \text{srcPort}(o) \equiv 8080) \\ & \wedge \text{srcAddr}(o) \equiv 123.456.789 \\ & \wedge \text{CurrentDate}(e) \leq 20160527 \\ & \wedge \text{CurrentDate}(e) \geq 20150927 \end{aligned}$$

XACML: eXtensible A/C Mark-up Language

Declarative access control policy language and processing model using XML to encode and evaluate policies.

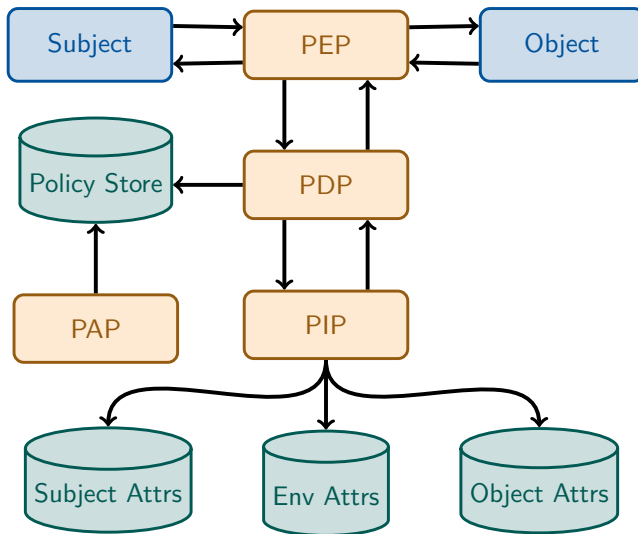
- OASIS Standard [Ris13].
- Policy Language is based on ABAC.
- 'Policy Enforcement Points'
 - Separates decision from enforcement from definition.
 - Distributed components that work together.
- Designed for [Service Oriented Architectures](#)

POLICY ENFORCEMENT POINTS

General architectural model to describe a scalable distributed authorisation framework.

- Described as a [Design Pattern](#) in Zhou et al. [ZZP02].
- Generalisation of AAA Framework [Vol+00]
- [Key Features](#)
 - Distributed components that work together.
 - Separates decision from enforcement from definition.
 - Policies are made on demand, or pre-made.
 - Policies are taken from ABAC

PEP Architecture



PEP Architecture

Taken from Rissanen [Ris13]

- **PDP** Policy Decision Point
 - The system entity that evaluates applicable policy and renders an authorization decision.
- **PEP** Policy Enforcement Point
 - The system entity that performs access control, by making decision requests and enforcing authorization decisions.
- **PIP** Policy Information Point
 - The system entity that acts as a source of attribute values.
- **PAP** Policy Administration Point
 - The system entity that creates a policy or policy set.

Section 5

Summary

Summary

- Security is **hard**; Security is a socio-technical problem.
- Four 'core' security issues for Distributed systems:
 - **Data Security**: In Flight, At Rest.
 - **Identity Management**: Describing and managing entities.
 - **Authentication**: Verify entities identity.
 - **Authorisation**: Verify their permissions.
- Establishing **Secure Channels** often requires brokered authentication.
- Access Control Models help manage permissions at OS and Application Level.
- **Policy Enforcement Points** design pattern to provide distributed access control.

Section 6

Crypto Basics

Why use Cryptography?

Cryptography can be used to provide **mathematical** guarantees towards:

- **Confidentiality**

- Public Key Encryption i.e. RSA, ElGamal, ECC
- Block Ciphers i.e. Blowfish, TripleDES, Skipjack, AES
- Stream Ciphers i.e. RC4

- **Integrity**

- Cryptographic Hash function i.e. MD-family, SHA-family
- Message Authentication Codes

- **Authenticity & Non-Repudiation**

- Digital Signatures i.e. DSS, (EC)DSA

Cryptographic Hash Functions/Message Digests

Definition

Function to compute a unique (random) signature for some data:

$$\# : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow^R \{0, 1\}^n$$

- Provides guarantees towards: Data Integrity.
- Properties
 - Pre-image resistance: Given $\#(m)$, hard to find m .
 - Second Pre-image resistance: Given m_1 , hard to find m_2 such that $m_1 \neq m_2$ & $\#(m_1) == \#(m_2)$
 - Collision Resistance: Hard to find m_1, m_2 such that $\#(m_1) == \#(m_2)$
- Implementations
 - MD-Family, SHA-Family

Block Ciphers: Symmetric Cryptography

Definition

Set of functions to encrypt data.

$$C \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(M, K_M)$$

$$M \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C, K_M)$$

- Provides guarantees towards: Confidentiality
- Properties
 - Same key used to encrypt and decrypt.
 - Implementations are very efficient for large messages.
- Implementations
 - Blowfish, TripleDES, Skipjack, AES

Asymmetric Ciphers

Definition

Set of functions to encrypt data.

$$(\text{Enc}(\text{Alice}), \text{Dec}(\text{Alice})) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\lambda)$$

$$C \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(M, \text{Enc}(\text{Alice}))$$

$$M \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C, \text{Dec}(\text{Alice}))$$

- Provides guarantees towards: Confidentiality
- Properties
 - Use of Key Pairs.
 - One key used to encrypt, the other decrypt.
 - Two modes of use: Encrypting & Signing
 - Very inefficient on large data.
- Implementations
 - DSA, (EC)DSA, ECC, RSA, ElGamal

Cryptographic Workflows

Ways in which crypto primitives can be combined/used to provide one or more security guarantees.

- Information Secrecy
- Efficient Information Secrecy
- Sender Authentication
- Secrecy with Authentication
- Secrecy with Signature
- Secrecy with Integrity
- Signature with Appendix
- Secrecy with Signature with Appendix

Public Key Cryptography

Asymmetric Crypto can be used to provide:

- Confidentiality

Key Generation

$$(\text{Enc}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Bob}), \text{Dec}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Bob})) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\lambda)$$

Alice

- 1 $C \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(M, \text{Enc}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Bob}))$
- 2 $\text{Alice} \rightarrow \text{Bob} : C$

Bob

- 1 $C' \leftarrow C$
- 2 $M' \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C', \text{Dec}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Bob}))$

Digital Signatures

Asymmetric Crypto and Message Digests can be used to provide:

- Authenticity of message origin
- Non-Repudiation of message origin
- Message Integrity

Key Generation

$$(\text{Enc}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Alice}), \text{Dec}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Alice})) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\lambda)$$

Alice

- 1 $H \leftarrow \#(M)$
- 2 $S \leftarrow \text{Sign}(H, \text{Enc}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Alice}))$
- 3 $\text{Alice} \rightarrow \text{Bob} : (M \parallel S)$

Bob

- 1 $(M', S') \leftarrow (M \parallel S)$
- 2 $H' \leftarrow \text{Verify}(S', \text{Dec}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Alice}))$
- 3 Accept iff $\#(M') \equiv H'$

Public Key Encryption & Digital Signatures

Combining the previous primitives provides the following:

- Message Confidentiality and Integrity
- Authenticity of message origin
- Non-Repudiation of message origin

Alice

- 1 $H \leftarrow \#(M)$
- 2 $S \leftarrow \text{Sign}(H, \text{Enc}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Alice}))$
- 3 $C \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(M, \text{Enc}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Bob}))$
- 4 $\text{Alice} \rightarrow \text{Bob} : (C \parallel S)$

Bob

- 1 $(C', S') \leftarrow (C \parallel S)$
- 2 $M' \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C', \text{Dec}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Bob}))$
- 3 $H' \leftarrow \text{Verify}(S', \text{Dec}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Alice}))$
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KEM/DEM

Improve encryption **efficiency** through a hybrid encryption scheme:

- **Symmetric** Encryption to encrypt **data**; and
- **Asymmetric** Encryption to encrypt **symmetric key**.

AKA **Key Encapsulation/Data Encapsulation Mechanism**

Alice

- 1 $C_M \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(M, K_{\text{Random}})$
- 2 $C_K \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}(K_R, \text{Enc}_{\text{pub}}(\text{Bob}))$
- 3 $\text{Alice} \rightarrow \text{Bob} : (C_K \parallel C_M)$

Bob

- 1 $(C'_K, C'_M) \leftarrow (C_K \parallel C_M)$
- 2 $K'_R \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C'_K, \text{Dec}_{\text{priv}}(\text{Bob}))$
- 3 $M' \leftarrow \text{Decrypt}(C'_M, K'_R)$

Some Cryptographic Algorithms

■ RSA Systems

- Security lies in the **hardness** of factorising large numbers.
- **Examples:** RSA Encryption, RSA Digital Signatures

■ Discrete Logarithm Systems

- Security lies in the **hardness** of taking discrete logarithms over **finite fields**.
 - Key Exchange i.e. Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange
 - Digital Signature Algorithm
 - Discrete Logarithm Integrated Encryption Scheme
- **Note:** Many variants of DL schemes in different settings e.g. Elliptic Curves.

This list is far from complete. . .