

Updated: September 13, 2025

Public Key Infrastructure



Now we'll talk about PKI

Chapter 7



Public Key Infrastructure

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- ★ Encryption Revisit

- Sample Scenario
- Missing Link

- ★ What is PKI?

- ★ Digital Certificate

- ★ Who do you trust?

- ★ (Legal) Issues of Digital Certificate

- ★ Public Key Infrastructure

- ★ Conclusion



Encryption Revisit

★ Hash/Digest

- Fastest
- Integrity

ถูกต้องแน่นอน



★ Symmetric Encryption

- Fast
- Confidentiality
- Integrity ?
- Scalability
- Authentication
- Non-Repudiation

manage key
ใช้ร่วมกันได้
ทั้ง Access ได้



★ Asymmetric Encryption

- Slow
(100 - 1000 times slower than that of Symmetric Encryption)
- Confidentiality : สามารถซ่อน
- Integrity : ตรวจสอบได้
- Scalability : มี 1 key
- Authentication? : ตรวจสอบได้
- Non-Repudiation : ปฏิเสธไม่ได้



Combination of methodologies (protocols) can solve most issues, except **AUTHENTICATION.**

ใช้ Public key



Scalability of Symmetric Encryption (Revisit)

- — —
- ★ Assuming that a professor wants to share a piece of information with 100 students, how many (symmetric) key do we need in order to prove the integrity of the information? (ie. proof that the document is created by a professor.)

100 keys

- ★ Hint.
With one key, anyone (with the key) can write a message.



Asymmetric Encryption

- ★ Now, we only have to keep the private key. Our public key can freely be distributed. (eg. posted on our personal page.)
- ★ A key pair can be used for
 - Confidentiality - Encrypted with public key, only a person with the private key can read.
 - Integrity - Decrypted with public key, only a person with the private key can create.
 - Scalability - A key pair is enough for a person.



Missing Link (Asymmetric Encryption)

— — —

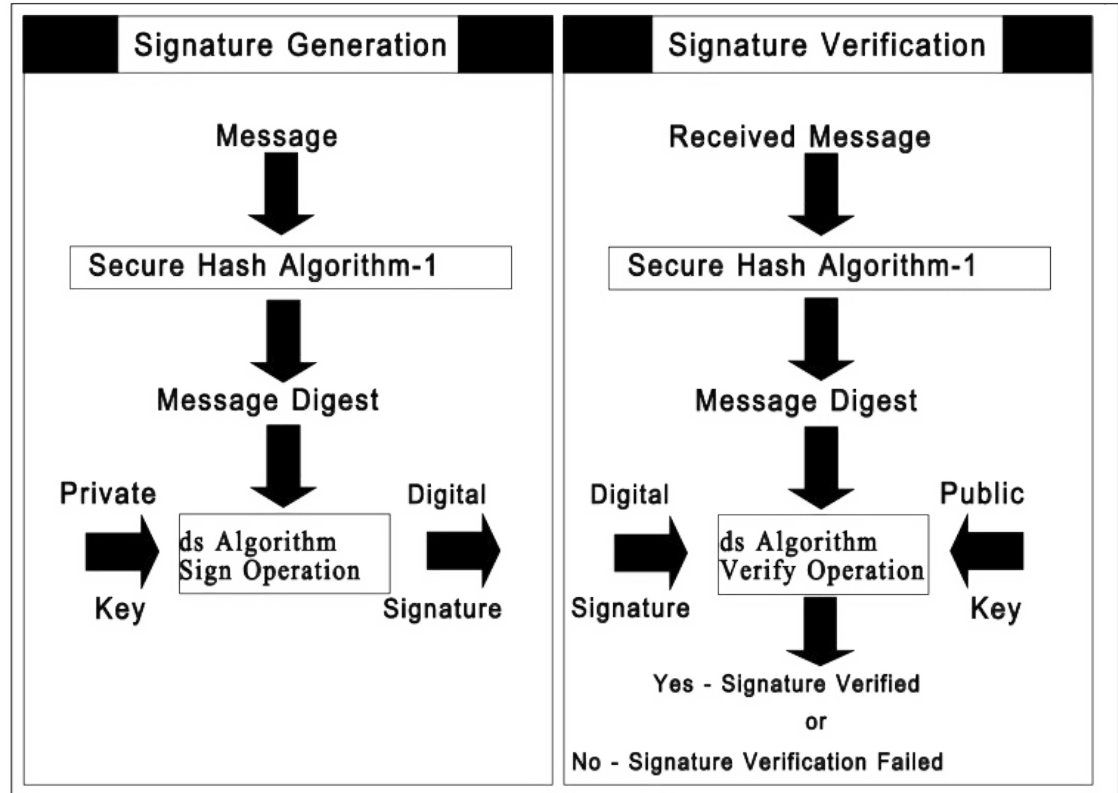
★ Unless we can bind a private key to a person,
we cannot solve **Authentication**.

★ Receiving a public key in a sealed envelope with a person
name on it, can you prove that it belongs to this person?



Security Protocol: Digital Signature (Revisit)

- ★ A receiver can verify the originality of the a (plain) text.
- ★ Combine the speed of message digest with the scalability of public key.

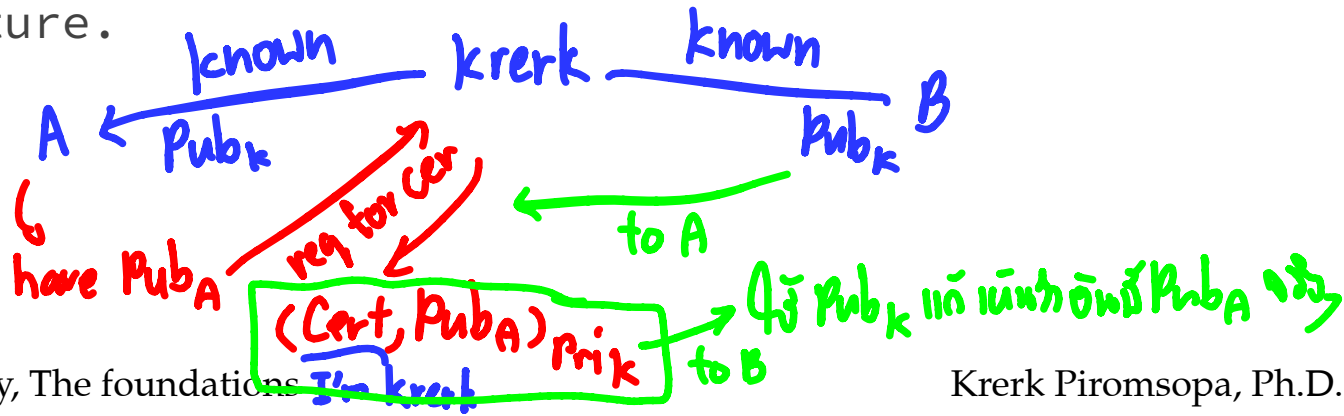




Digital Certificate

↳ Message in cert

- ★ A Digital Certificate is a binding between an entity's
- ★ Public Key and one or more Attributes relating its Identity.
- ★ Digital Certificate is a trusted document issued and signed by a (known/trusted third) party with digital signature.





certif

confi

Self-signed

browser's Pub key out

*chula.ac.th

Thawte TLS RSA CA G1

DigiCert Global Root G2

Root CA

Authority

Web of Trust

Do you trust a document
signed by a trusted party?



Assuming that you have
a public key of a
trusted
person/organization,
a document
(certificate) signed by
the associated private
key can/should be
trustworthy.



Digital Certificate

- ★ Digicert Inc has verified Thawte TLS RSA is real.
- ★ Thawte TLS RSA has verified www.chula.ac.th is real.
- ★ If we have a public of Digicert Inc in hands, we should be able to verified that www.chula.ac.th is valid.

General Details

This certificate has been verified for the following uses:

- SSL Client Certificate
- SSL Server Certificate

Issued To

Common Name (CN)	www.chula.ac.th
Organization (O)	<Not Part Of Certificate>
Organizational Unit (OU)	<Not Part Of Certificate>
Serial Number	09:22:09:61:E6:36:9C:F3:81:B2:17:BB:24:9C:BA:CD

Issued By

Common Name (CN)	Thawte TLS RSA CA G1
Organization (O)	DigiCert Inc
Organizational Unit (OU)	www.digicert.com

Period of Validity

Begins On	29 December BE 2560
Expires On	29 December BE 2562

Fingerprints

SHA-256 Fingerprint	E1:F2:42:B1:21:CF:6C:25:F0:4F:8E:8E:21:FC:EF:C6:B6:D4:4C:E6:73:B3:E2:A3:4F:30:31:EA:82:05:81:E3
SHA1 Fingerprint	DF:C4:47:09:27:86:31:CA:1F:46:FD:1D:A1:25:CA:04:DA:CA:1D:49

General Details

Certificate Hierarchy

- ✓ DigiCert Global Root G2
 - ✓ Thawte TLS RSA CA G1
 - www.chula.ac.th

Certificate Fields

- ✓ www.chula.ac.th
 - ✓ Certificate
 - Version
 - Serial Number
 - Certificate Signature Algorithm
 - Issuer
 - ✓ Validity

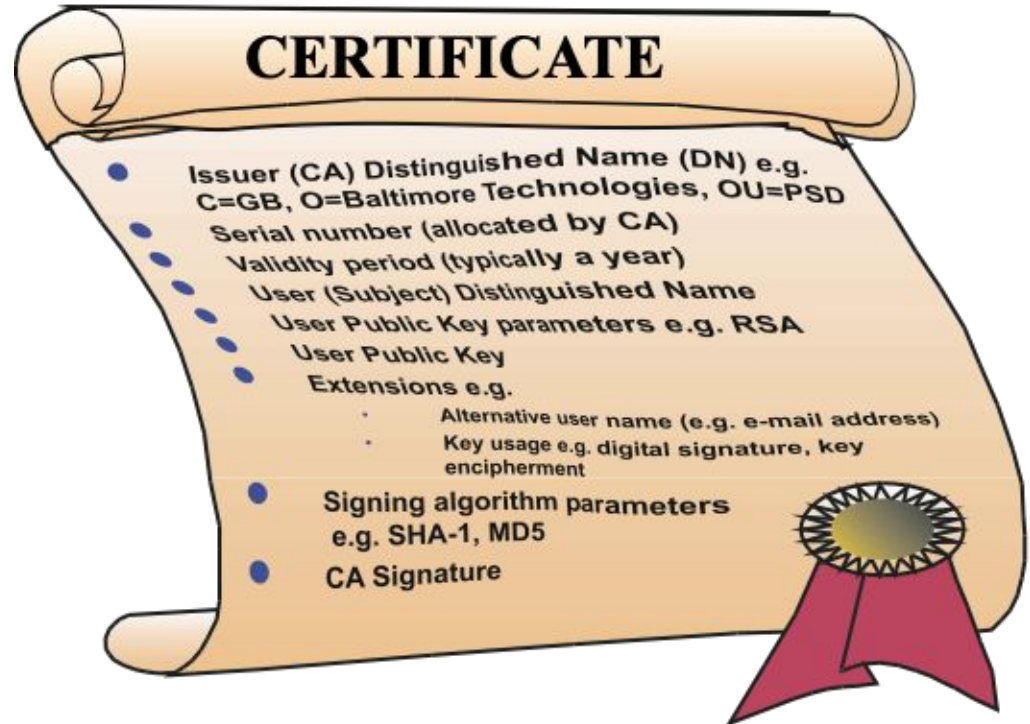
Field Value

Export...



Anatomy of Certificate

- ★ Issuer
- ★ Subject
- ★ Subject Public Key
- ★ Issuer Digital Signature



Picture is taken from <https://www.slideshare.net/natemiller67/pki-overview>



Fact

Self-Signed Certificate

၂။ နှစ်ဖက်လုံး, ကျန်ရှိ Public key (cert)
သတိပြုရန် browser ပေါ်

- ★ Technically, a person may create and sign his/her own certificate (self-signed).
- ★ You may personally hand the public key/certificate to another person. (ie. import a certificate to the browser.)
- ★ Do you trust this person?



(Legal) Issues of Digital Certificate

အခြေခံအုတ်မြစ် : Infrastructure : မိုက်ခရိုစော့ဖ်ဝဲလ်
နာမည် : မိုက်ခရိုစော့ဖ်ဝဲလ်

- ★ How are Digital Certificates Issued?
- ★ Who is issuing them?
- ★ Why should I Trust the Certificate Issuer?
- ★ How can I check if a Certificate is valid?
- ★ How can I revoke a Certificate?
- ★ Who is revoking Certificates?



Public Key Infrastructure (to the rescue)



What is Public Key Infrastructure?

- ★ Set of (physical) roles, policies, and procedures for enforcing:
 - The registration of public key
 - The management of public key
(create, store, distribute, validate, revoke)
 - The validation of public key
- ★ Based on digital certificates
- ★ Bind public keys to identities (persons, organizations)



PKI Standards

★ There exist several PKI standards (X509, SPKI, etc).

We only focus on

- X509 PKI
- X509 Digital Certificates

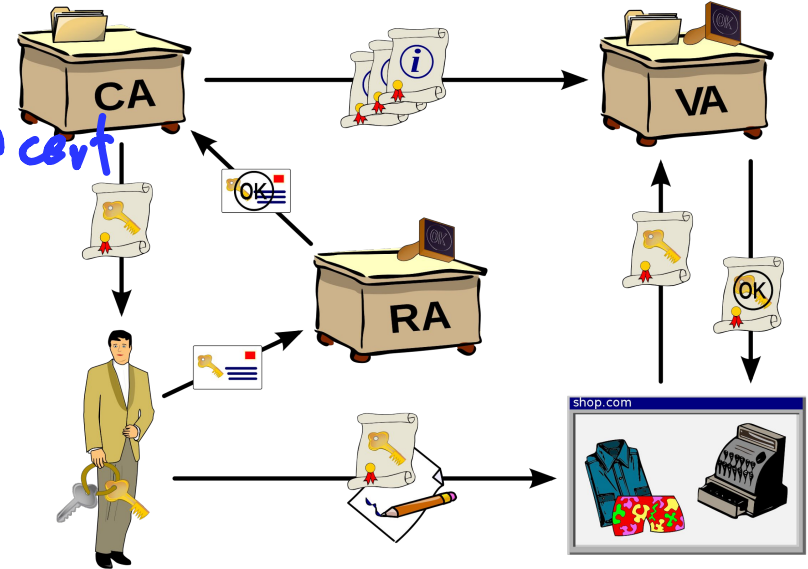
★ Standards defined by IETF, PKIX WG:

- <http://www.ietf.org/> (Internet Engineering Transforce

KFC : request for comment



-
- Hand-drawn diagram illustrating a Certificate Authority (CA) system. A box labeled "CA" represents the Certificate Authority. An arrow points from the "CA" box to a document labeled "moon Certificate". Another arrow points from the "CA" box to a document labeled "my cert".



Taken from
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/3/34/Public-Key-Infrastructure.svg/2560px-Public-Key-Infrastructure.svg.png>



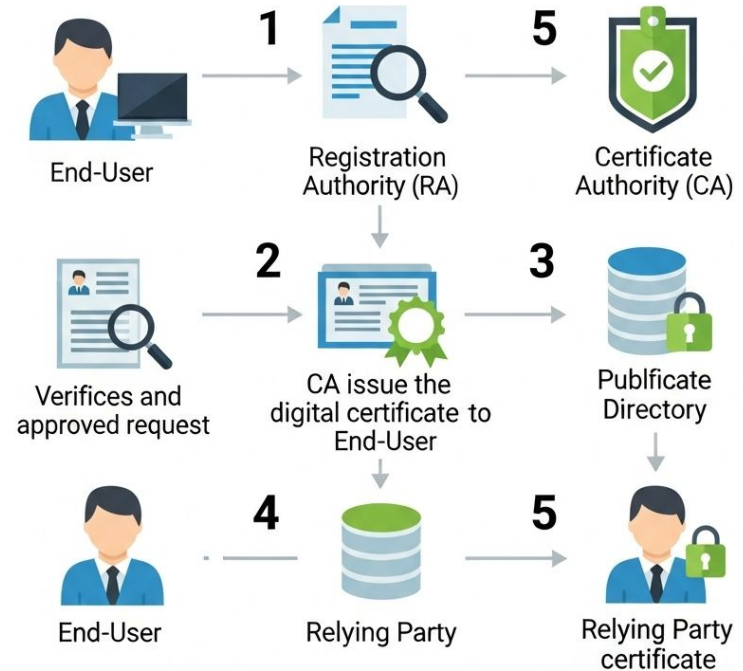
The PKI Lifecycle

Enrollment

Issuance

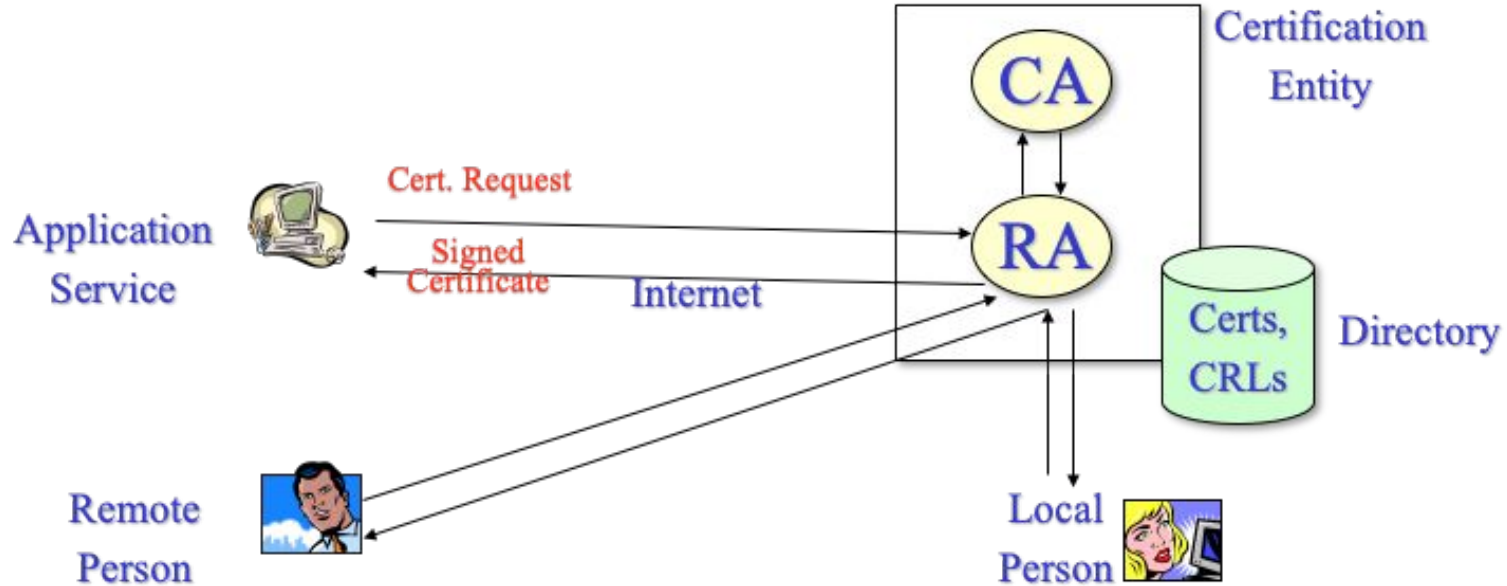
Validation

Public Key Infrastructure PKI





X509 PKI - Simple Model



Picture is taken from <https://www.slideshare.net/natemiller67/pki-overview>



Roles

— — —

★ CA

- Key Generation
- Digital Certificate Generation
- Issuance and Distribution
- Revocation
- Key Backup and Recovery System
- Cross Certification

★ RA

- Face-to-Face Registration
- Remote Registration
- Automatic Registration
- Revocation



Roles (ctd.)

— — —

★ Certificate Distribution System

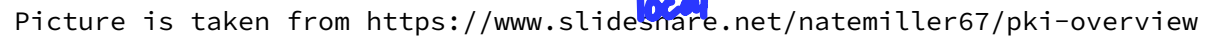
- Digital Certificates
- Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs)
- LDAP or Special Purpose Databases
-



Why should I trust CA?

— — —

- ★ Why should I Trust a CA?
 - Certificate Hierarchies, Cross-Certification
- ★ How can I determine the liability of a CA?
 - Certificate Policies (CP)
 - Certificate Policy Statement (CPS)





Conclusion

— — —

- ★ PKI is a physical infrastructure for managing Digital Certificate.
- ★ The main function is to validate the identity of public key owner.
- ★ We do not cover the policy and the legal part here.





Food for Thought: Root Certificate

- ★ If a bad guy can manage to install a root certificate to your computer, how bad can it be?
- ★ Historically, a chinese company was able to ask every browsers to install its root certificate. Since they abused this certificate, several harmful things happened. What were the harmful things?



WoSign/StartCom incident: A Breakdown of Trust

— — —

The WoSign and StartCom incident, which unfolded around 2016, led to the complete removal of their root certificates from all major browsers (Google, Mozilla, Apple, and Microsoft).

- Secret Acquisition
- Issuing Certificates for Domains Without Proper Authorization
 - Unprivileged Port Validation
 - Base Domain from Subdomain
- Backdating SHA-1 Certificates
- Failure to Report and Concealment



End of Chapter 7