

# TLS (Transport Layer Security)

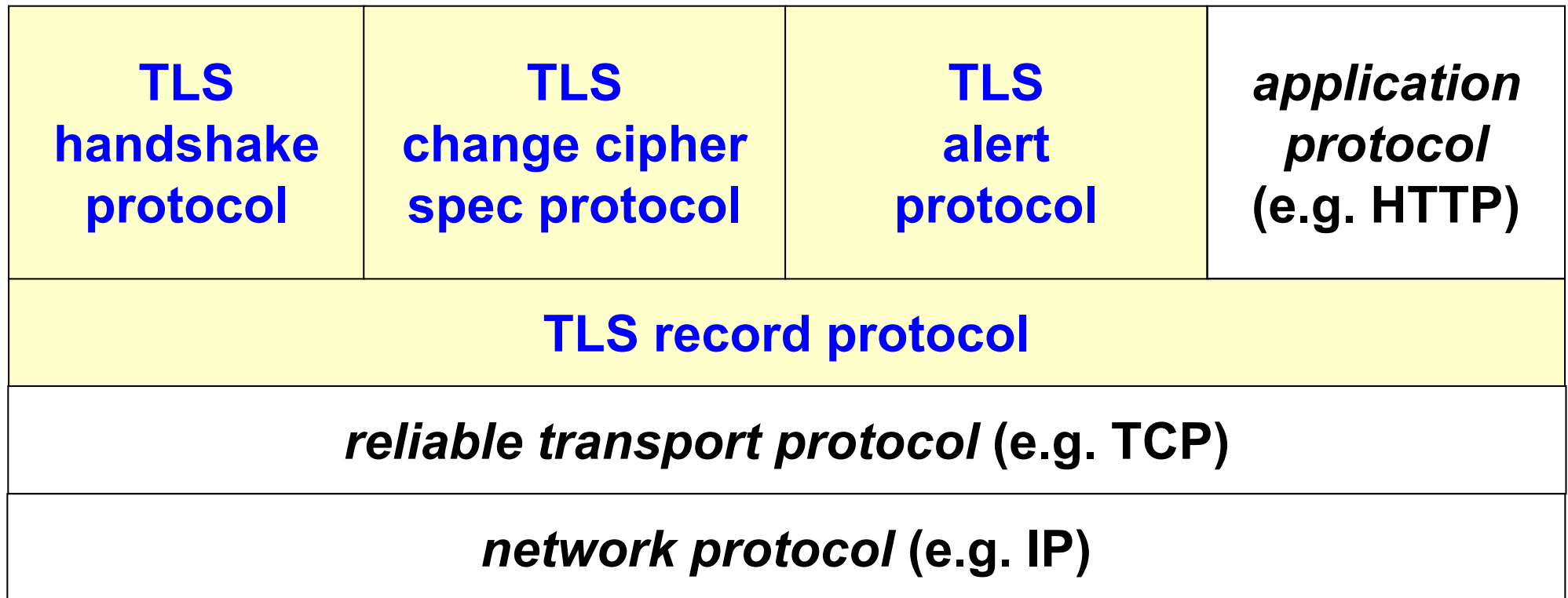
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# In the origin it was SSL (Secure Socket Layer)

- **proposed by Netscape Communications in 1995**
- **secure transport channel (session level):**
  - peer authentication (server, server+client)
    - asymmetric challenge-response (implicit, explicit)
  - message confidentiality
    - symmetric encryption
  - message authentication and integrity
    - MAC computation
  - protection against replay, filtering, and reordering attacks
    - implicit record number (used in MAC computation!) plus layering on TCP

# TLS architecture



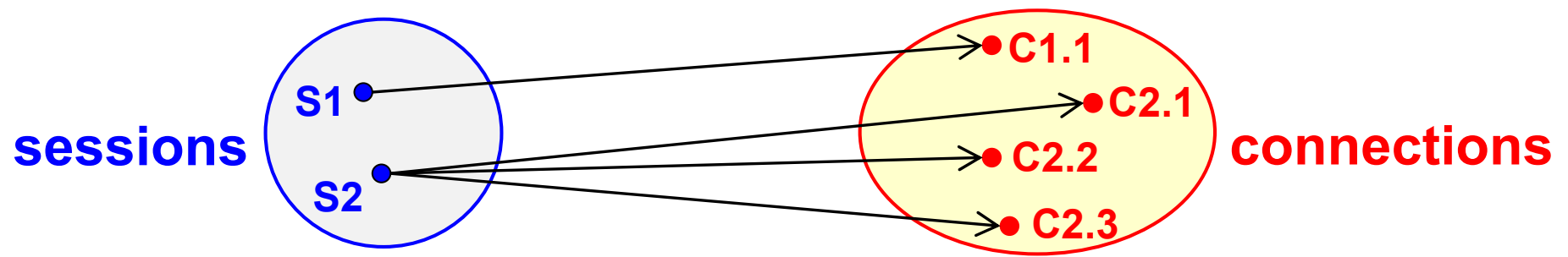
# TLS sessions and connections

## ■ TLS session

- a logical association between client and server
- created by the Handshake Protocol
- defines a set of cryptographic parameters
- is shared by one or more TLS connections (1:N)

## ■ TLS connection

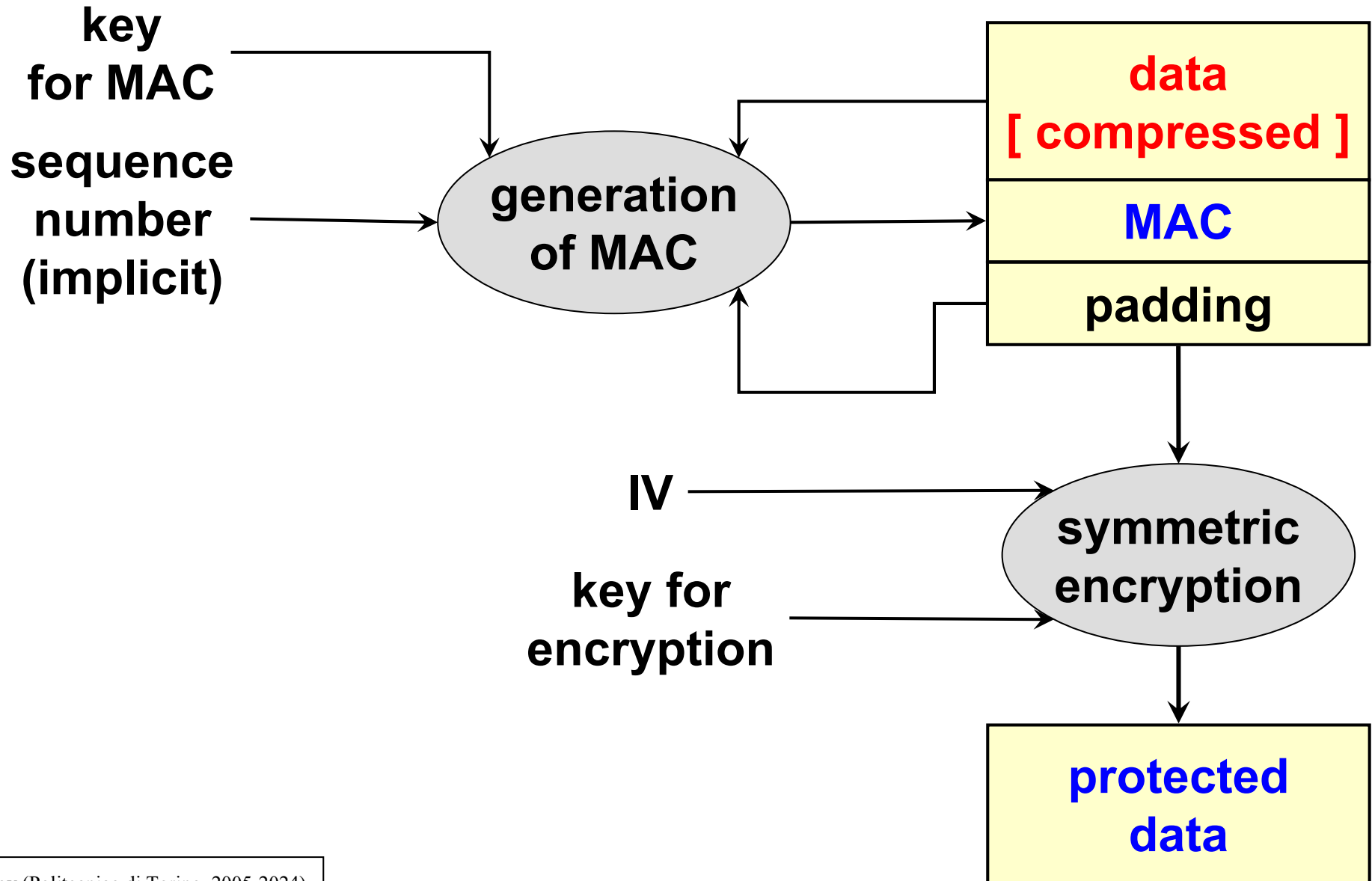
- a transient TLS channel between client and server
- associated to one specific TLS session (1:1)



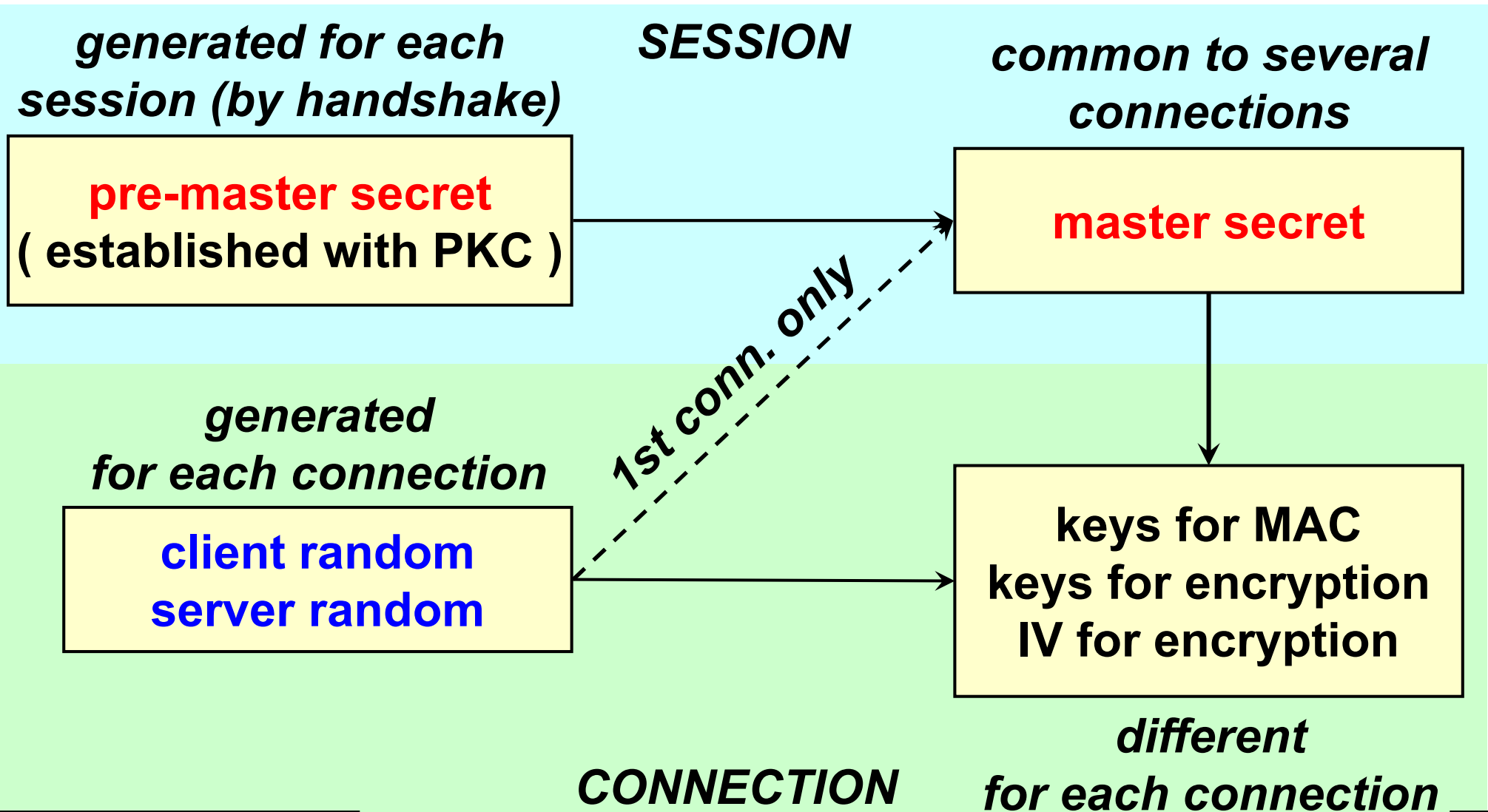
# TLS handshake protocol

- agree on a set of algorithms for confidentiality and integrity
- exchange random numbers between the client and the server to be used for the subsequent generation of the keys
- establish a symmetric key by means of public key operations (RSA, DH, ...)
- negotiate the session-id
- exchange the necessary certificates

# Data protection (authenticate-then-encrypt)



# Relationship among keys and sessions (between a server and the same client)



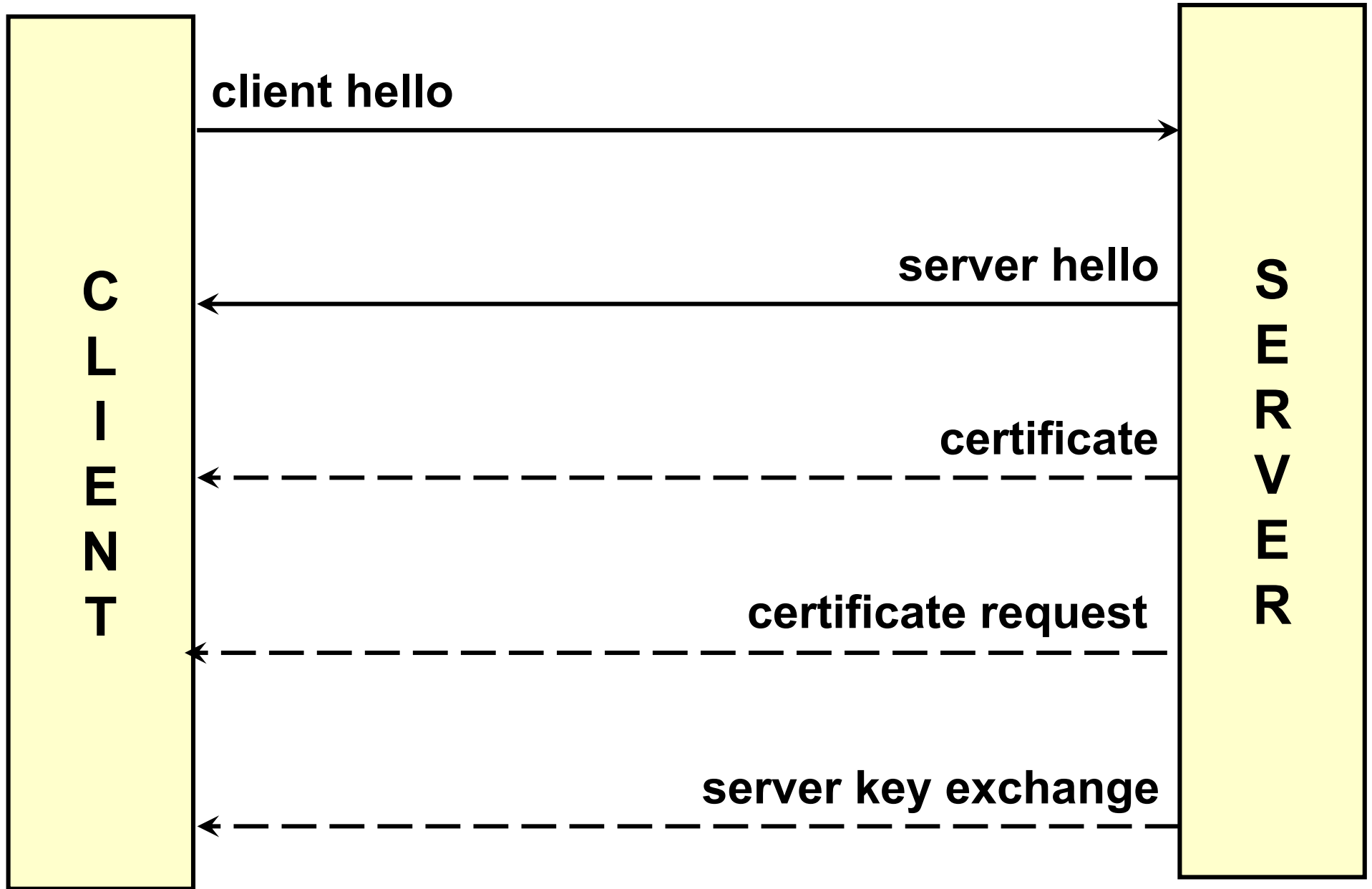
# Perfect forward secrecy (PFS)

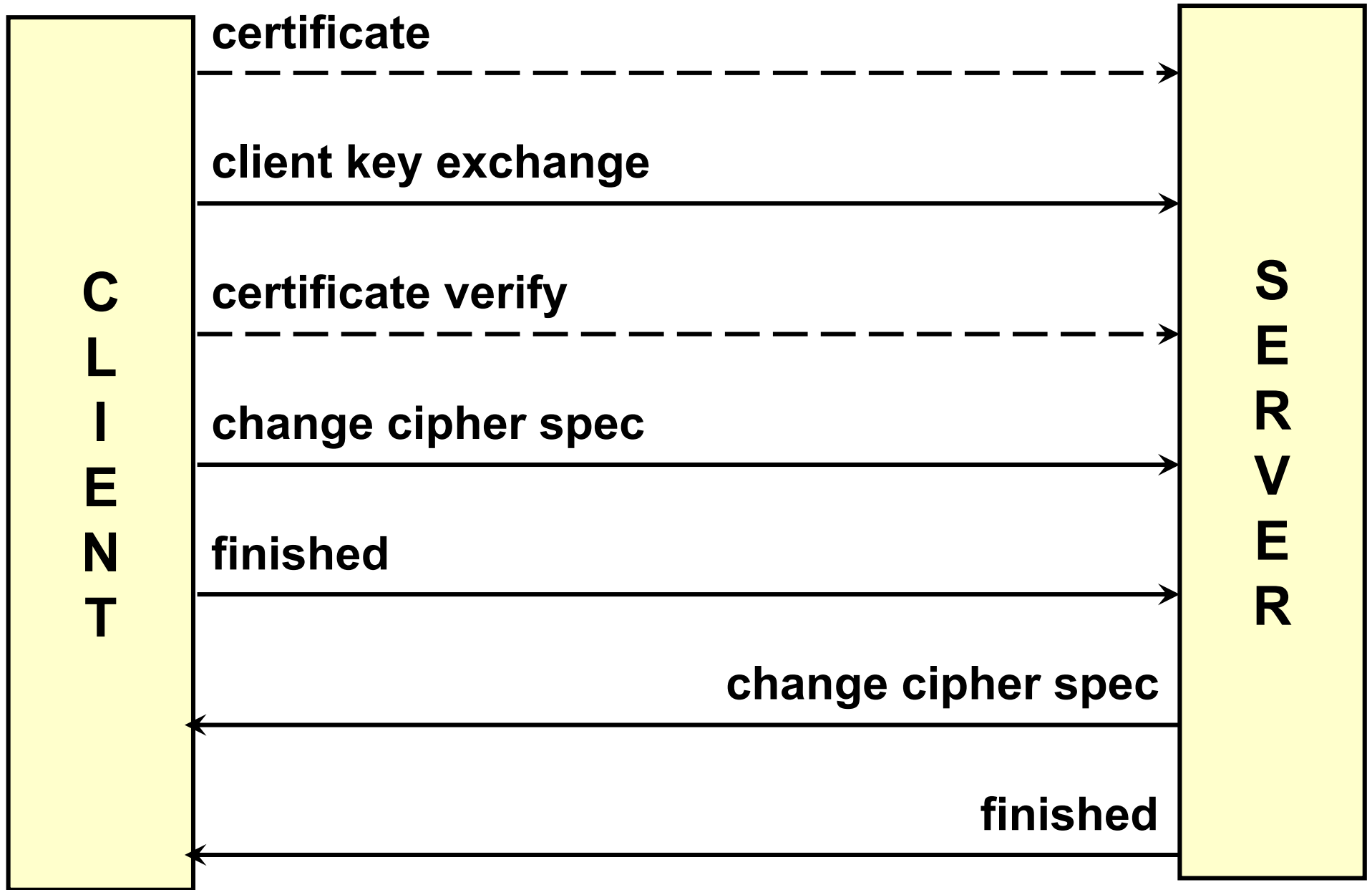
- if a server has a certificate valid for both signature and encryption
- ... then it can be used both for authentication (via a signature) and key exchange (asymmetric encryption of the session key)
- ... but if
  - an attacker copies all the encrypted traffic
  - and later discovers the (long term) private key
- ... then the attacker can decrypt all the traffic, past, present, and future
- perfect forward secrecy:
  - the compromise of the SK used for KE compromises only the current (and eventually future) traffic but not the past one



# “Ephemeral ” mechanisms

- **one-time asymmetric key (used for KE) generated on the fly:**
  - for authenticity it must be signed (but cannot have an associated X.509 certificate because the CA process is slow and often not on-line)
  - DH suitable, RSA slow
    - compromise for RSA = re-use N times
- **in this case the server's private key is used only for signing**
- **... so we obtain perfect forward secrecy:**
  - if the (temporary or short-lived) private key is compromised then the attacker can decrypt only the related traffic
  - compromise of the long-term private key is an issue for authentication but not for confidentiality
- **examples: ECDHE**





# Client hello

- **SSL version preferred by the client (highest supported)**
  - 2=SSL-2, 3.0=SSL-3, 3.1=TLS-1.0, ...
- **28 pseudo-random bytes (Client Random)**
- **a session identifier (session-id)**
  - 0 to start a new session
  - different from 0 to ask to resume a previous session
- **list of “cipher suite” (=algorithms for encryption + key exchange + integrity) supported by the client**
- **list of compression methods supported by the client**

# Server hello

- **SSL version chosen by the server**
- **28 pseudo-random bytes (Server Random)**
- **a session identifier (session-id)**
  - new session-id if session-id=0 in the client-hello or reject the session-id proposed by the client
  - session-id proposed by the client if the server accepts to resume the session
- **“cipher suite” chosen by the server**
  - should be the strongest one in common with the client
- **compression method chosen by the server**

# Cipher suite

- key exchange algorithm
- symmetric encryption algorithm
- hash algorithm (for MAC)
- examples:
  - SSL\_NULL\_WITH\_NULL\_NULL
  - SSL\_RSA\_WITH\_NULL\_SHA
  - SSL\_RSA\_EXPORT\_WITH\_RC2\_CBC\_40\_MD5
  - SSL\_RSA\_WITH\_3DES\_EDE\_CBC\_SHA
- complete list maintained by IANA:

**<https://www.iana.org/assignments/tls-parameters/tls-parameters.xhtml#tls-parameters-4>**

# Certificate (server)

## ■ certificate for server authentication

- the subject / subjectAltName must be the same as the identity of the server (DNS name, IP address, ...)
- the whole chain (up to a trusted root) **MUST** be sent (exception: the chain **MUST NOT** include the root CA)

## ■ can be used only for signing or (in addition) also for encryption

- described in the field keyUsage
- if it is only for signing then it is required also the phase for server-key exchange (i.e. the phase to exchange the ephemeral key)

# Certificate request

- **used for client authentication**
- **specifies also the list of CAs considered trusted by the server**
  - the browsers show to the users (for a connection) only the certificates issued by trusted CAs



# Server key exchange

- **carries the server public key for key exchange**
- **needed only in the following cases:**
  - the RSA server certificate is usable only for signature
  - anonymous or ephemeral DH is used to establish the pre-master secret
  - there are export problems that force the use of ephemeral RSA/DH keys
  - Fortezza ephemeral keys
- **explicitly signed by the server**
- **important: this is the *\*only\** message explicitly signed by the server**

# Certificate (client)

- carries the certificate for client authentication
- the certificate must have been issued from one CA in the trusted CA list in the Certificate Request message

# Client key exchange

- the client generates material for symmetric keys derivation and sends it to the server
- various ways
  - pre-master secret encrypted with the server RSA public key (ephemeral or from its X.509 certificate)
  - client's public part of DH
  - client's Fortezza parameters

# Certificate verify

- **explicit test signature done by the client**
- **hash computed over all the handshake messages before this one and encrypted with the client private key**
- **used only with client authentication (to identify and reject fake clients)**

# Change cipher spec

- trigger the change of the algorithms to be used for message protection
- allows to pass from the previous unprotected messages to the protection of the next messages with algorithms and keys just negotiated
- theoretically is a protocol on its own and not part of the handshake
- some analysis suggest that it could be eliminated

# Finished

- **first message protected with the negotiated algorithms**
- **very important to authenticate the whole handshake sequence:**
  - contains a MAC computed over all the previous handshake messages (but change cipher spec) using as a key the master secret
  - prevents rollback man-in-the-middle attacks (version downgrade or ciphersuite downgrade)
  - different for client and server

# TLS, no ephemeral key, no client auth

**CLIENT**

**SERVER**

1. client hello (ciphersuite list, client random) →
- ← 2. server hello (ciphersuite, server random)
- ← 3. certificate (keyEncipherment)
4. client key exchange (key encrypted for server) →
5. change cipher spec (activate protection on client side) →
6. finished (MAC of all previous messages) →
- ← 7. change cipher spec (activate protection on server side)
- ← 8. finished (MAC of all previous messages)

# TLS, no ephemeral key, client auth

**CLIENT**

**SERVER**

1. client hello (ciphersuite list, client random) →

← 2. server hello (ciphersuite, server random)

← 3. certificate (keyEncipherment)

← 4\*. certificate request (cert type, list of trusted CAs)

5\*. certificate (client cert chain) →

6. client key exchange (encrypted key) →

7\*. certificate verify (signed hash of previous messages) →

8+9. change cipher spec + finished →

← 10+11. change cipher spec + finished



# TLS, ephemeral key, no client auth

**CLIENT**

**SERVER**

1. client hello (ciphersuite list, client random) →
- ← 2. server hello (ciphersuite, server random)
- ← 3\*. certificate (digitalSignature)
- ← 4\*. server key exchange (signed RSA key or DH exponent)
5. client key exchange (encrypted key or client exponent) →
6. change cipher spec (activate protection on client side) →
7. finished (MAC of all previous messages) →
- ← 8. change cipher spec (activate protection on server side)
- ← 9. finished (MAC of all previous messages)

# TLS, data exchange and link teardown

**CLIENT**

**SERVER**

*(... handshake ...)*

**N. client data (MAC, [ encryption ] ) →**

**← M. server data (MAC, [ encryption ] )**

... ..

**LAST-1. alert close notify (MAC)→**

**← LAST. alert close notify (MAC)**

# TLS, resumed session

**CLIENT**

**SERVER**

1\*. client hello (... , session-id X) →

← 2\*. server hello (... , session-id X)

3. change cipher spec (activate protection on client side) →

4. finished (MAC of all previous messages) →

← 5. change cipher spec (activate protection on server side)

← 6. finished (MAC of all previous messages)

# TLS setup time

- **first TCP handshake**
- **then TLS handshake**
  - various messages can fit in a single TCP segment
- **typically, this requires 1-RTT for TCP and 2-RTT for TLS:**
  - (C>S) SYN
    - (S>C) SYN-ACK
  - (C>S) ACK + ClientHello
    - (S>C) ServerHello + Certificate
  - (C>S) ClientKeyExchange + ChangeCipherSpec + Finished
    - (S>C) ChangeCipherSpec + Finished
  - after 180 ms client and server are ready to send protected data (assuming 30 ms delay one-way)

# TLS 1.0 (SSL 3.1)

- **Transport Layer Security**
- **standard IETF:**
  - TLS-1.0 = RFC-2246 (jan 1999)
- **TLS-1.0 = SSL-3.1 (99% coincident with SSL-3)**
- **emphasis on standard (i.e. not proprietary) digest and asymmetric crypto algorithms; mandatory:**
  - DH + DSA + 3DES
  - HMAC-SHA1
  - ... that is the ciphersuite  
TLS\_DHE\_DSS\_WITH\_3DES\_EDE\_CBC\_SHA

# TLS 1.1

- **RFC-4346 (April 2006)**
- **to protect against CBC attacks**
  - the implicit IV is replaced with an explicit IV
  - padding errors now use the bad\_record\_mac alert message (rather than the decryption\_failed one)
- **IANA registries defined for protocol parameters**
- **premature closes no longer cause a session to be non-resumable**
- **additional notes added for various new attacks**

# TLS 1.2

- **RFC-5246 (August 2008)**
- **ciphersuite specifies also the PRF (pseudo-random function)**
- **extensive use of SHA-256 (e.g. in Finished, HMAC)**
- **support for authenticated encryption (AES in GCM or CCM mode)**
- **incorporates the protocol extensions (RFC-4366) and the AES ciphersuite (RFC-3268)**
- **default ciphersuite TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_CBC\_SHA**
- **IDEA and DES cipher suites deprecated**

# TLS evolution (I)

## ■ ciphersuites / encryption:

- (RFC-3268) AES
- (RFC-4492) ECC
- (RFC-4132) Camellia
- (RFC-4162) SEED
- (RFC-6209) ARIA

## ■ ciphersuites / authentication:

- (RFC-2712) Kerberos
- (RFC-4279) pre-shared key (secret, DH, RSA)
- (RFC-5054) SRP (Secure Remote Password)
- (RFC-6091) OpenPGP



# TLS evolution (II)

## ■ **compression:**

- (RFC-3749) compression methods + Deflate
- (RFC-3943) protocol compression using LZS

## ■ **other:**

- (RFC-4366) extensions (specific and generic)
- (RFC-4681) user mapping extensions
- (RFC-5746) renegotiation indication extensions
- (RFC-5878) authorization extensions
- (RFC-6176) prohibiting SSL-2
- (RFC-4507) session resumption w/o server state
- (RFC-4680) handshake with supplemental data

# Heartbleed

- **RFC6520 = TLS/DTLS heartbeat extension**
  - to keep a connection alive without the need to constantly renegotiate the SSL session (DTLS!)
  - also useful in PMTU discovery
- **CVE-2014-0160 = openssl bug (buffer over-read)**
  - TLS server sends back more data (up to 64kB) than in the heartbeat request
  - see <http://xkcd.com/1354/>
- **attacker can get sensitive data stored in RAM, such as user+pwd and/or server private key (if not using HSM)**



# Bleichenbacher attack (and ROBOT)

- **(1998) Daniel Bleichenbacher's “million-message attack,”**
  - a vulnerability in the way RSA encryption was done
  - attacker can perform an RSA private key operation with a server's private key by sending a million or so well-crafted messages and looking for differences in the error codes returned
  - attack refined over the years and in some cases only requires thousands of messages
    - feasible from a laptop (!)
- **(2017) ROBOT = variant of Bleichenbacher's attack**
  - affected major websites (e.g. facebook.com)

# Other attacks against SSL/TLS (1)

- **CRIME (2012) an attacker able to**

- (a) inject chosen plaintext in the user requests  
(b) measure the size of the encrypted traffic
- may recover specific plaintext parts exploiting information leaked from the compression

- **BREACH (2013) deduces a secret within HTTP responses provided by a server that**

- (a) uses HTTP compression (b) inserts user input into HTTP responses (c) contains a secret (e.g. a CSRF token) in the HTTP responses

# Other attacks against SSL/TLS (2)

## ■ **BEAST (Browser Exploit Against SSL/TLS) 2011**

- SSL channel using CBC with IV concatenation
- a MITM may decrypt HTTP headers with a blockwise-adaptive chosen-plaintext attack
- the attacker may decrypt HTTPS requests and steal information such as session cookies

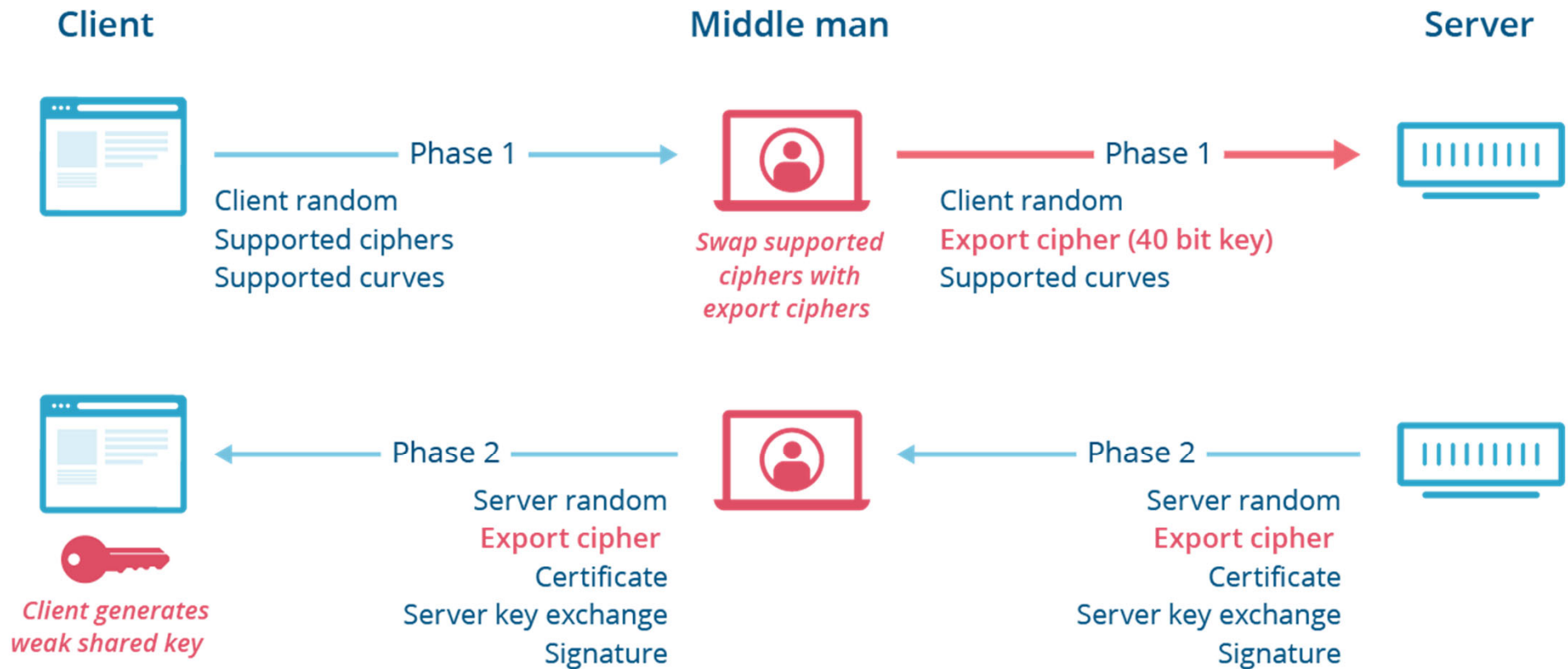
## ■ **POODLE (Padding Oracle On Downgraded Legacy Encryption) is a MITM attack that exploits SSL-3 fallback to decrypt data**

- POODLE, dec-2014 variant, exploits CBC errors in TLS-1.0-1.2 (so it works even if SSL-3 is disabled)

# Other attacks against SSL/TLS (3)

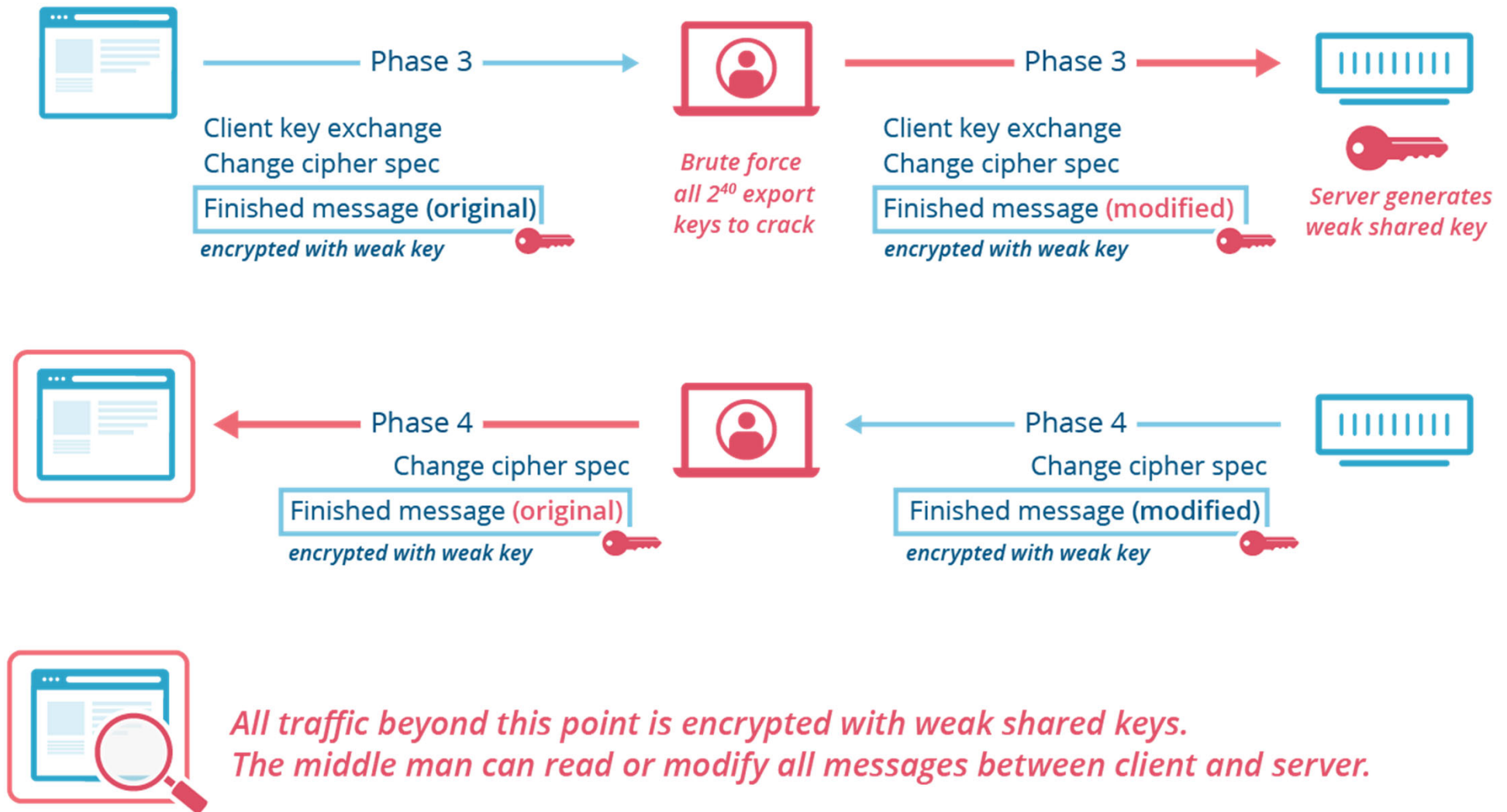
- **FREAK (Factoring RSA Export Keys) 2015**
  - downgrade to export-level RSA keys (512-bit)
    - then factorization and channel decryption
  - or downgrade to export-level symmetric key (40-bit)
    - then brute-force crack the key
- **SSL-3 has been disabled on most browsers (e.g. since FX34) or may be disabled**
  - FX: `security.tls.version.min = 1` (i.e. TLS-1.0, alias SSL-3.1)
- **... but SSL-3 needed by IE6 (last version available for Windows-XP) and TLS cannot be disabled**
- **test browser/server with Qualys SSL labs tests**

# Freak attack (downgrade symmetric key)



(picture source: Cloudflare)

# Freak attack (downgrade symmetric key)



(picture source: Cloudflare)



# Other attacks against SSL/TLS (3)

## ■ implementation errors:

- Heartbleed, BERserk, goto fail;
- Lucky13 (feb-13) timing side-channel attack, it's a variant of Vaudenay's attack that works even if that one was fixed
- Lucky Microseconds (nov-2015) variant of Lucky13 to attack s2n (Google TLS library claiming to be more secure and resistant to Lucky13)

## ■ protocol design errors:

- (theoretical) SLOTH, CurveSwap
- (require high resources) WeakDH, LogJam, FREAK, SWEET32
- (practical and dangerous) POODLE, ROBOT

# ALPN extension (Application–Layer Protocol Negotiation)

- **RFC-7301**
- **application protocol negotiation (for TLS-then-proto) to speed up the connection creation, avoiding additional round-trips for application negotiation**
  - (ClientHello) ALPN=true + list of supported app. protocols
  - (ServerHello) ALPN=true + selected app. protocol
- **important to negotiate HTTP/2 and QUIC**
  - Chrome & Firefox support HTTP/2 only over TLS
- **useful also for those servers that use different certificates for the different application protocols**
- **some possible values:**
  - http/1.0, http/1.1, h2 (HTTP/2 over TLS), h2c (HTTP/2 over TCP)

# TLS False Start

- **RFC-7918**
- **the client can send application data together with the ChangeCipherSpec and Finished messages, in a single segment, without waiting for the corresponding server messages**
- **this reduces latency to 1-RTT**
- **it should work without changes but there are caveats:**
  - Chrome and FX require ALPN + forward secrecy
  - Safari requires forward secrecy
- **to enable TLS False Start for all browsers the server should:**
  - advertise supported protocols (via ALPN, e.g. "h2, http/1.1")
  - be configured to prefer cipher suites with forward secrecy.

# The TLS downgrade problem (I)

- client sends (in ClientHello) the highest supported version
- server notifies (in ServerHello) the version to be used (highest in common with client)
- normal version negotiation:
  - agreement on TLS-1.2
    - (C > S) 3,3
    - (S > C) 3,3
  - fallback to TLS-1.1 (e.g. no TLS-1.2 at server)
    - (C > S) 3,3
    - (S > C) 3,2

# The TLS downgrade problem (II)

- **(insecure) downgrade:**

- some servers do not send the correct response, rather they close the connection ...
- then the client has no choice but to try again with a lower protocol version

- **downgrade attack:**

- attacker sends fake server response, to force repeated downgrade until reaching a vulnerable version (e.g. SSL-3) ...
- then execute a suitable attack (e.g. Poodle)

- **not always an attack (e.g. connection with the server closed due to a network problem)**

# TLS Fallback

## Signalling Cipher Suite Value (SCSV)

- **RFC-7507**
- **to prevent protocol downgrade attacks**
- **new (dummy) ciphersuite TLS\_FALLBACK\_SCSV**
  - **SHOULD** be sent by the client when opening a downgraded connection (as last in ciphersuite list)
- **new fatal Alert value "inappropriate\_fallback"**
  - **MUST** be sent by the server when receiving TLS\_FALLBACK\_SCSV and a version lower than the highest one supported
  - then the channel is closed and the client should retry with its highest protocol version

# SCSV - notes

- many servers do not yet support SCSV
- ... but most servers have fixed their bad behaviour when the client requests a version higher than the supported one
- ... so browsers can now disable insecure downgrade
  - Firefox (from 2015) and Chrome (from 2016)

# TLS session tickets

- **RFC-5077**
- **session resumption requires a Session-ID cache at server**
  - ... which may become very large for high traffic servers
- **TLS session ticket is an extension allowing the server to send the session data to the client**
  - encrypted with a server secret key
  - returned by the client when resuming a session
  - in practice, it moves the session cache to the client
- **issues:**
  - needs support at the browser (it's an extension!)
  - in a load balancing environment, it requires key sharing among the various end-points (and periodic key update!)



# TLS and virtual servers: the problem

- **virtual server (frequent case with web hosting)**
  - different logical names associated to the same IP address
  - e.g. home.myweb.it=10.1.2.3, food.myweb.it=10.1.2.3
- **easy since HTTP/1.1**
  - the client uses the Host header to specify the server it wants to connect to
- **... but difficult in HTTPS**
  - because TLS is activated before HTTP
  - which certificate should be provided? (must contain the server's name)

# TLS and virtual servers: solutions

- **collective (wildcard) certificate**

- e.g. CN=\*.myweb.it
- private key shared by all servers
- different treatment by different browsers

- **certificate with a list of servers in subjectAltName**

- private key shared by all servers
- need to re-issue the certificate at any addition or cancellation of a server

- **use the SNI (Server Name Indication) extension**

- in ClientHello (permitted by RFC-4366)
- limited support by browsers and servers

# TLS-1.3

- **design targets:**

- reducing handshake latency
- encrypting more of the handshake (for security and privacy)
- improving resiliency to cross-protocol attacks
- removing legacy features

- **RFC-8446 (August 2018)**

# TLS-1.3: key exchange

- **remove static RSA and DH key exchange**

- it's not forward secrecy

- problem with Heartbleed attack

- difficult to implement correctly

- problem with the Bleichenbacher attack (and ROBOT)

- **use DHE ... but do not permit arbitrary parameters**

- (2015) LogJam and weakDH trick servers to use small numbers for DH (just 512-bit)

- (2016) Sanso finds openssl generates DH values without the required mathematical properties

- **TLS-1.3 uses only DHE with a few predefined groups**

# TLS-1.3: message protection

## ■ previous pitfalls:

- use CBC mode and authenticate-then-encrypt
  - culprit for Lucky13, Lucky Microseconds, POODLE
- use RC4
  - (2013) plaintext can be recovered due to measurable biases
- use of compression
  - culprit for CRIME attack

## ■ TLS-1.3 uses only safe cryptography:

- does not use CBC and authenticate-then-encrypt
  - only AEAD modes are permitted
- dropped RC4, 3DES, Camellia, MD5, and SHA-1
  - only modern crypto algorithms and no compression at all

# TLS-1.3: digital signature

## ■ previous pitfalls:

- RSA signature of ephemeral keys
  - done wrongly with the PKCS#1v1.5 schema
- handshake authenticated with a MAC, not a signature
  - makes possible attacks such as FREAK

## ■ TLS-1.3 uses:

- RSA signature with the modern secure RSA-PSS schema
- the whole handshake is signed, not just the ephemeral keys
- modern signature schemes

# TLS-1.3: ciphersuites

- **avoid the complexity of previous versions**
  - huge list, combinatorically increasing for every new algorithm
- **TLS-1.3 specifies only orthogonal elements:**
  - cipher (&mode) + HKDF hash
  - no certificate type (RSA, ECDSA, or EdDSA)
  - no key exchange (DHE/ECDHE, PSK, or PSK+DHE/ECDHE)
- **only 5 ciphersuites:**
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384
  - TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1305\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8\_SHA256 (deprecated)

# TLS-1.3: EdDSA

## ■ Edwards-curve Digital Signature Algorithm

- DSA requires a PRNG that can leak the private key if the underlying generation algorithm is broken or made predictable
- EdDSA does not need a PRNG
- EdDSA picks a nonce based on a hash of the private key and the message, which means after the private key is generated there's no more need for random number generators

## ■ faster signature and verification wrt ECDSA

- simplified point addition and doubling

## ■ N-bit private and public keys, 2N-bit signatures



# EdDSA implementations

- **Ed25519 uses SHA-512 (SHA-2) and Curve25519**
  - 256-bit key, 512-bit signature, 128-bit security
- **Ed448 uses SHAKE256 (SHA-3) and Curve448**
  - 456-bit key, 912-bit signature, 224-bit security
- **Curve25519 is the most widely used**
  - elliptic curve on the field  $2^{255} - 19$
  - used also in X25519 (ECDH)
- **EdDSA has two standards, slightly different:**
  - RFC-8032 for general Internet applications, implementation details left to developers
  - FIPS 186-5 specifies stringent guidelines for secure key management, generation, and implementation practices

## TLS-1.3: other improvements

- all handshake messages after the ServerHello are now encrypted
- the newly introduced EncryptedExtensions message allows various extensions previously sent in the clear in the ServerHello to also enjoy confidentiality protection
- the key derivation functions have been redesigned (to allow easier analysis by cryptographers thanks to their key separation properties) and HKDF is used as an underlying primitive
- the handshake state machine has been significantly restructured to be more consistent and to remove superfluous messages such as ChangeCipherSpec (except when needed for middlebox compatibility)

# HKDF

- HMAC-based extract-and-expand Key Derivation Function
- $\text{HKDF}(\text{salt}, \text{IKM}, \text{info}, \text{length}) =$   
 $\text{HKDF-Expand}(\text{HKDF-Extract}(\text{salt}, \text{IKM}), \text{info}, \text{length})$
- the first stage takes the input keying material (IKM) and "extracts" from it a fixed-length pseudorandom key (PRK)
- ... then the second stage "expands" this key into several additional pseudorandom keys (the output of the KDF)
  - multiple outputs can be generated from a single IKM value by using different values "info" field
  - repeatedly call HMAC using the PRK as the key and the "info" as the message; the HMAC inputs are chained by prepending the previous hash block to the "info" field and appending an incrementing 8-bit counter

# HKDF usage in TLS 1.3 (I)

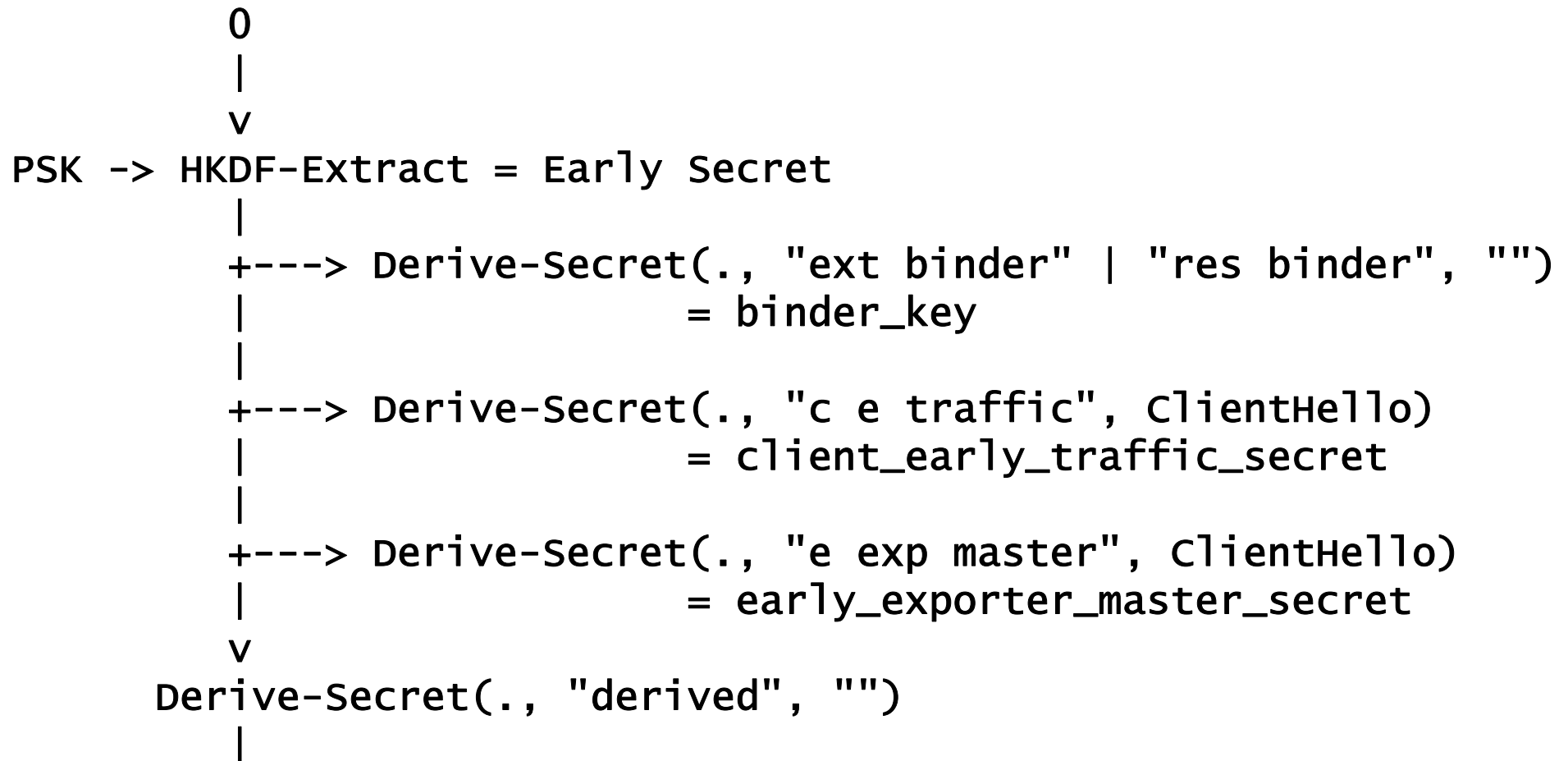
- **HKDF-Expand-Label( Secret, Label, Context, Length ) =  
HKDF-Expand( Secret, HkdfLabel, Length )**
- **where HkdfLabel is:**
  - **struct {**  
    uint16 length = Length;  
    opaque label<7..255> = "tls13 " + Label;  
    opaque context<0..255> = Context;  
} HkdfLabel;
- **Derive-Secret( Secret, Label, Messages ) =  
HKDF-Expand-Label(  
Secret, Label, Transcript-Hash(Messages), Hash.length )**

## HKDF usage in TLS 1.3 (II)

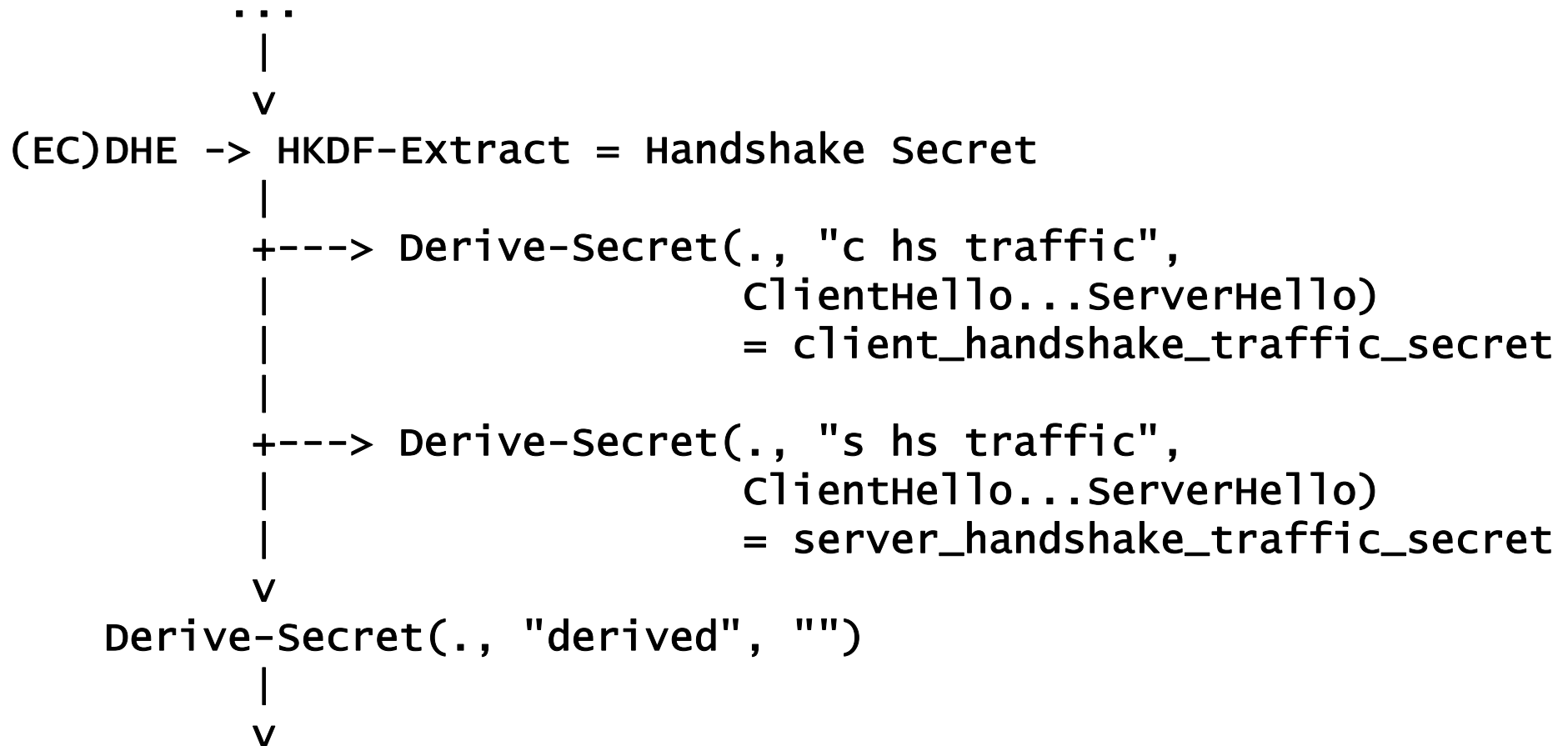
- **finished\_key = HKDF-Expand-Label( BaseKey, "finished", "", Hash.length )**
- **ticket\_PSK = HKDF-Expand-Label( resumption\_master\_secret, "resumption", ticket\_nonce, Hash.length )**

# TLS 1.3 key schedule (I)

- (for Extract) Salt from top, IKM from left
- (for Derive) Secret from left



# TLS 1.3 key schedule (II)



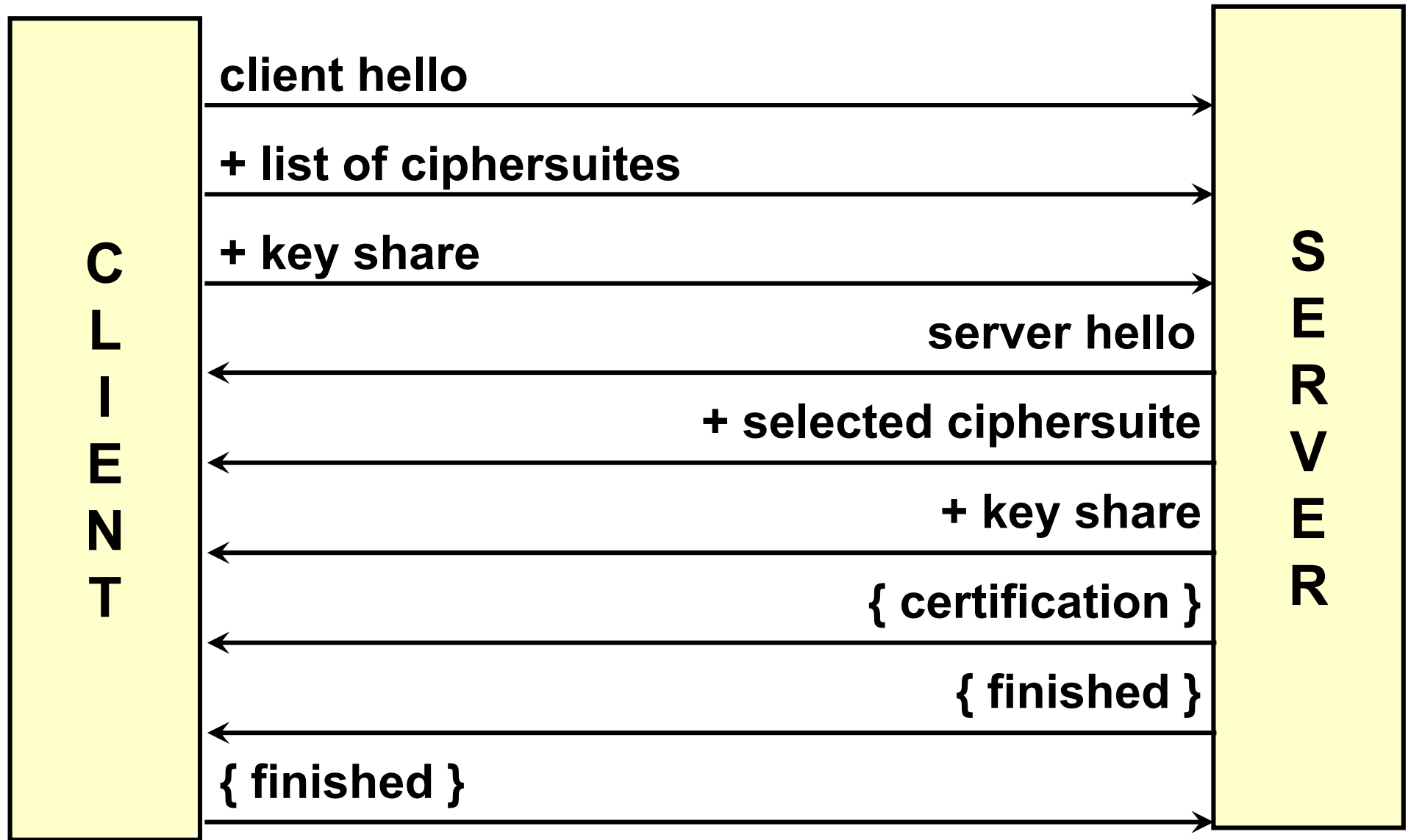
# TLS 1.3 key schedule (III)

```

...
|
v
0 -> HKDF-Extract = Master Secret
|
+---> Derive-Secret(., "c ap traffic",
                  ClientHello...server Finished)
                  = client_application_traffic_secret_0
|
+---> Derive-Secret(., "s ap traffic",
                  ClientHello...server Finished)
                  = server_application_traffic_secret_0
|
+---> Derive-Secret(., "exp master",
                  ClientHello...server Finished)
                  = exporter_master_secret
|
+-----> Derive-Secret(., "res master",
                  ClientHello...client Finished)
                  = resumption_master_secret
```



# TLS-1.3 handshake



# TLS-1.3 handshake: notes

- for backward compatibility, TLS-1.2 messages are also sent, and most TLS-1.3 features are in message extensions
- basically, it's a 1-RTT handshake
- ... that can be reduced to 0-RTT upon resumption of a previous session (or by using true PSK, which is rare)
- notation:
  - { data } = protected by keys derived from a [sender]\_handshake\_traffic\_secret
  - [ data ] = protected by keys derived from a [sender]\_application\_traffic\_secret\_N

# TLS-1.3 handshake: client request

## ■ ClientHello

- client random
- highest supported protocol version (note: TLS-1.2 !)
- supported ciphersuites and compression methods
- session-ID

## ■ contains extensions for key exchange

- key\_share = client (EC)DHE share
- signature\_algorithms = list of supported algorithms
- psk\_key\_exchange\_modes = list of supported modes
- pre\_shared\_key = list of PSKs offered

# TLS-1.3 handshake: server response

- **ServerHello** (server random, selected version, ciphersuite)
- **key exchange**
  - key\_share = server (EC)DHE share
  - pre\_shared\_key = selected PSK
- **server parameters**
  - { EncryptedExtensions } = responses to non-crypto client ext
  - { CertificateRequest } = request for client certificate
- **server authentication**
  - { Certificate } = X.509 certificate (or raw key, RFC-7250)
  - { CertificateVerify } = signature over the entire handshake
  - { Finished } = MAC over the entire handshake
- **[ Application Data ]**

# TLS-1.3 handshake: client finish

## ■ client authentication

- { Certificate } = X.509 certificate (or raw key, RFC-7250)
- { CertificateVerify } = signature over the entire handshake
- { Finished } = MAC over the entire handshake

## ■ [ Application Data ]

# TLS-1.3 / Pre-Shared Keys

- **PSK replaces session-ID and session ticket**
  - one or more PSKs agreed in a full handshake and re-used for other connections
- **PSK and (EC)DHE can be used together for forward secrecy**
  - PSK used for authentication, (EC)DHE for key agreement
- **PSK could also be OOB (e.g. generated from a passphrase)**
  - ... but this is risky if have insufficient randomness (see RFC-4086) so that a brute-force attack could be possible
  - in general, OOB PSK is discouraged

# TLS-1.3 / 0-RTT connections

- when using a PSK, client can send "early data" along with its first message (client request)
- early data protected with a specific key (`client_early_traffic_secret`)
  - does not provide forward secrecy (because it depends only upon the PSK)
  - possible some kind of replay attack (partial mitigations are feasible but complex, especially in multi-instance servers)

## TLS-1.3 / Incorrect share

- client can send a list of (EC)DHE groups not supported by the server
- server will respond with HelloRetryRequest and the client must restart the handshake with other groups
- if also the new groups are unacceptable for the server, then the handshake will be aborted with an appropriate alert



# TLS and PKI

- **PKI needed for server (and optionally) client authentication**
  - unless PSK authentication is adopted
- **when a peer sends its certificate:**
  - the whole chain is needed (but the root CA - beware!)
  - validate the whole chain (not just the EE certificate)
  - revocation status needed at each step of the chain
- **to check revocation status:**
  - CRL can be used but big size and lengthy look-up
  - OCSP can be used but generates privacy problems (leaks client navigation history)
  - both require one additional network connection and add delay (e.g. for OCSP +300ms median, +1s average)

# TLS and certificate status

- **what if the URL for CRL or OCSP is unreachable?**
- **possible causes:**
  - server error
  - network error
  - access blocked by firewall (e.g. due to security policy or insecure channel – typical for OCSP)
- **possible approaches:**
  - hard fail – page is not displayed + security warning
  - soft-fail – page is displayed (assuming certificate is good)
  - both hard and soft fail require additional load time (wait for the connection to time out)

# TLS and certificate status: pushed CRL

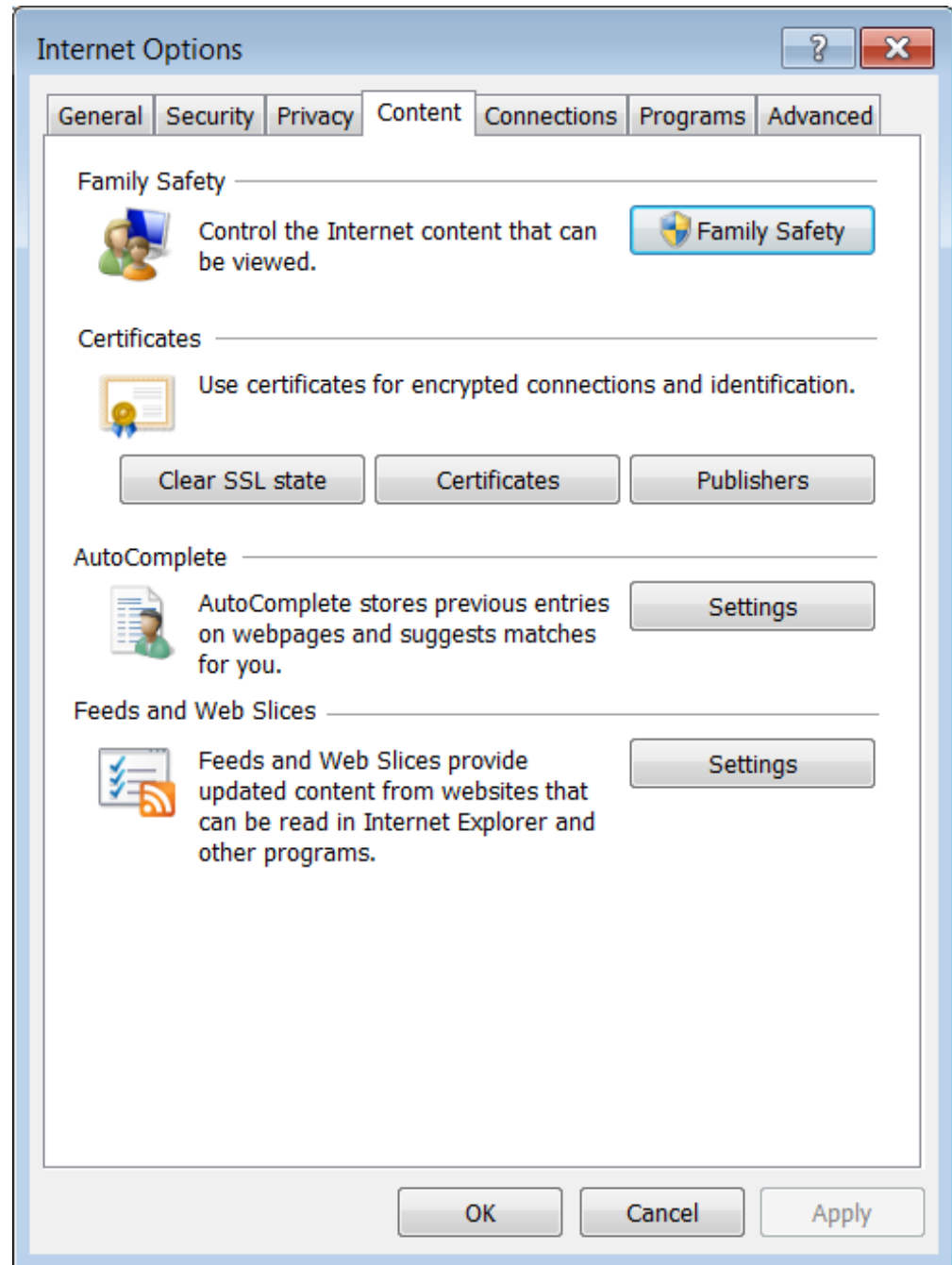
- **revoked certificates are often originated by a compromised intermediate CA**
- **browser vendors thus decided to push (some) revoked certificates:**
  - Internet Explorer (with browser update – bad, can be blocked)
  - Firefox - oneCRL (part of the blocklisting process)
  - Chrome (also Edge, Opera) - CRLsets

```
$ curl https://firefox.settings.services.mozilla.com/v1/buckets/  
security-state/collections/onecrl/records > crl.json  
$ jq '[.data[] | {enabled,issuerName,serialNumber}  
| select(.enabled) | del(.enabled)]' crl.json > crl_short.json
```

<https://github.com/agl/crlset-tools>

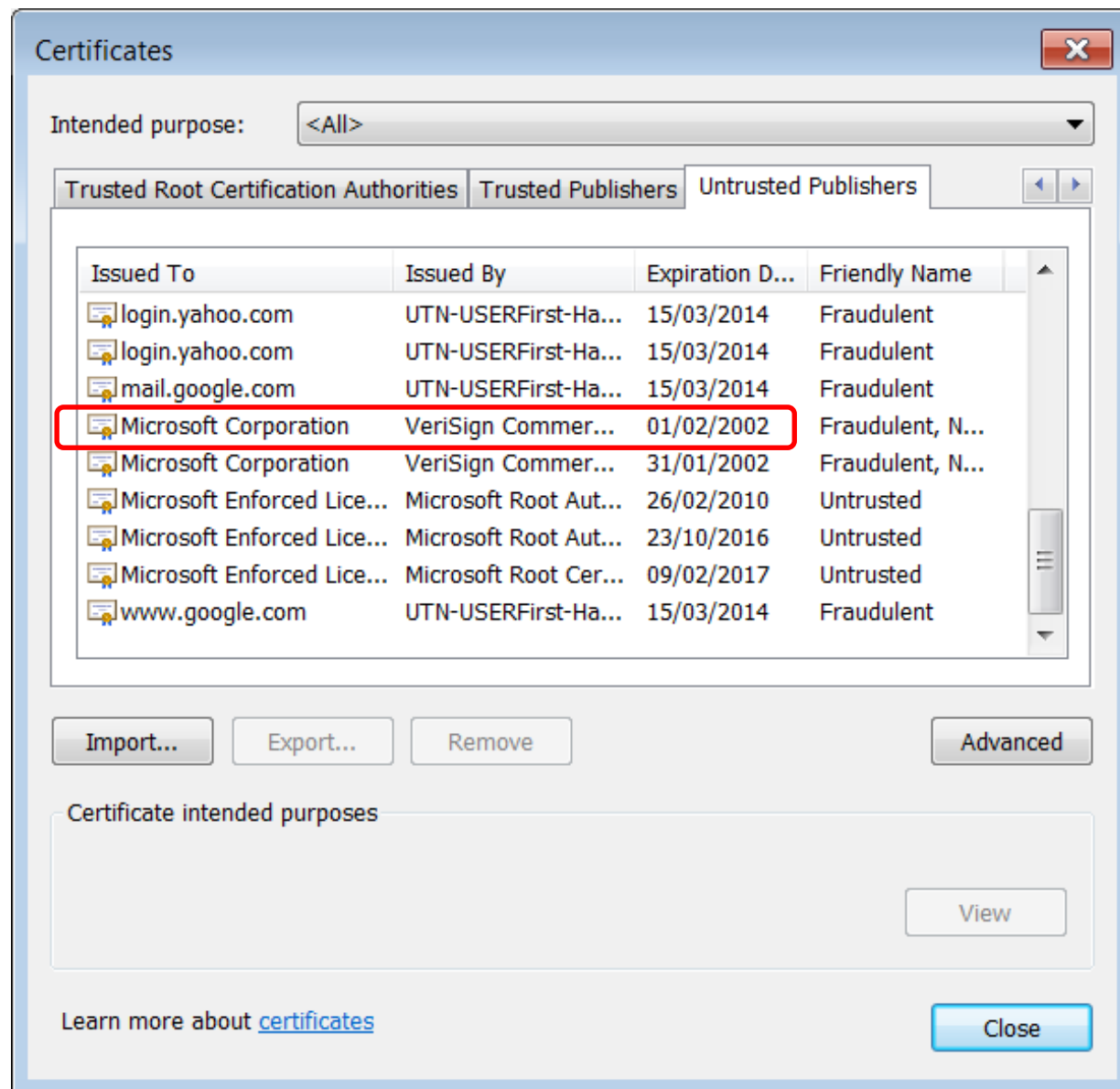
# Internet Explorer

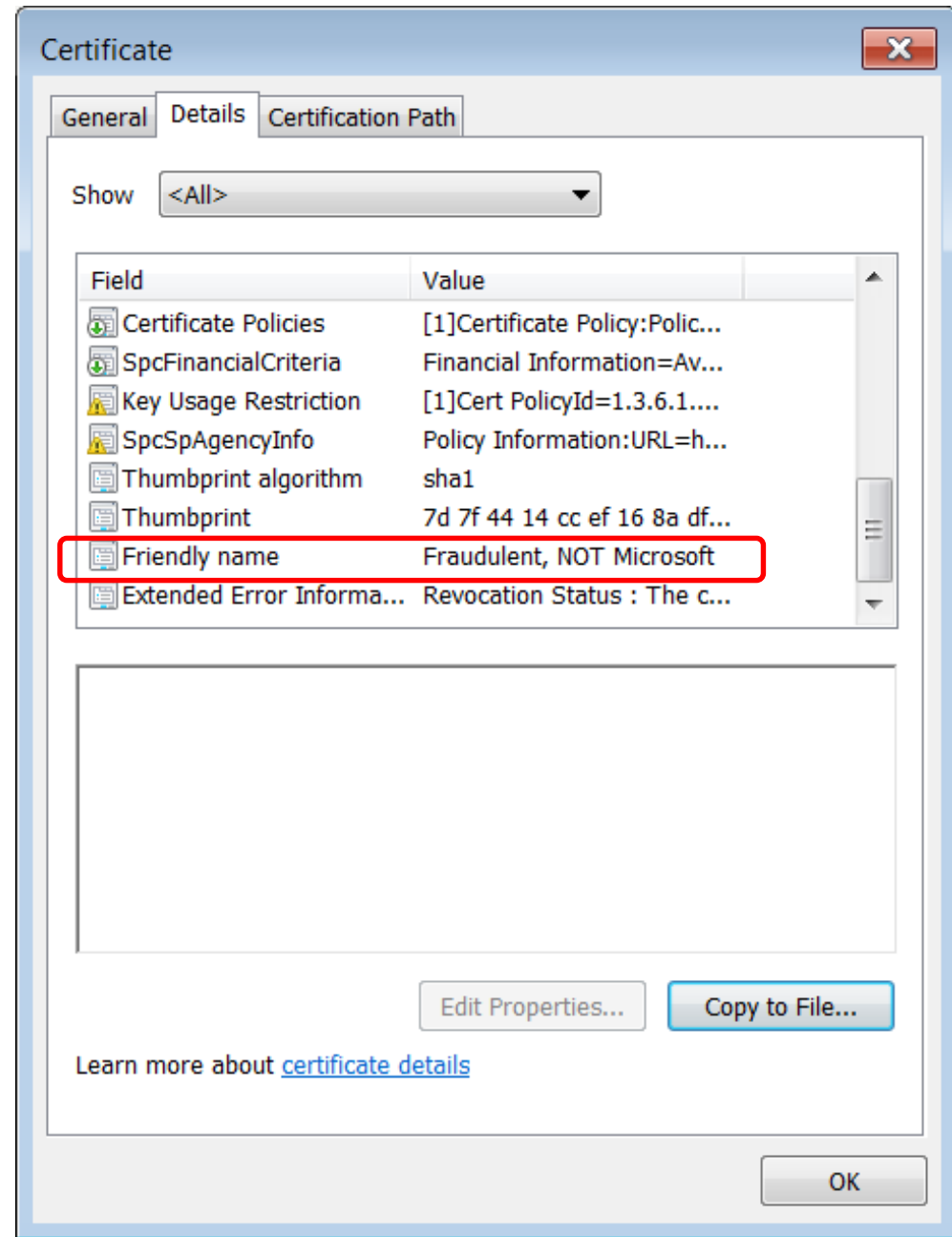
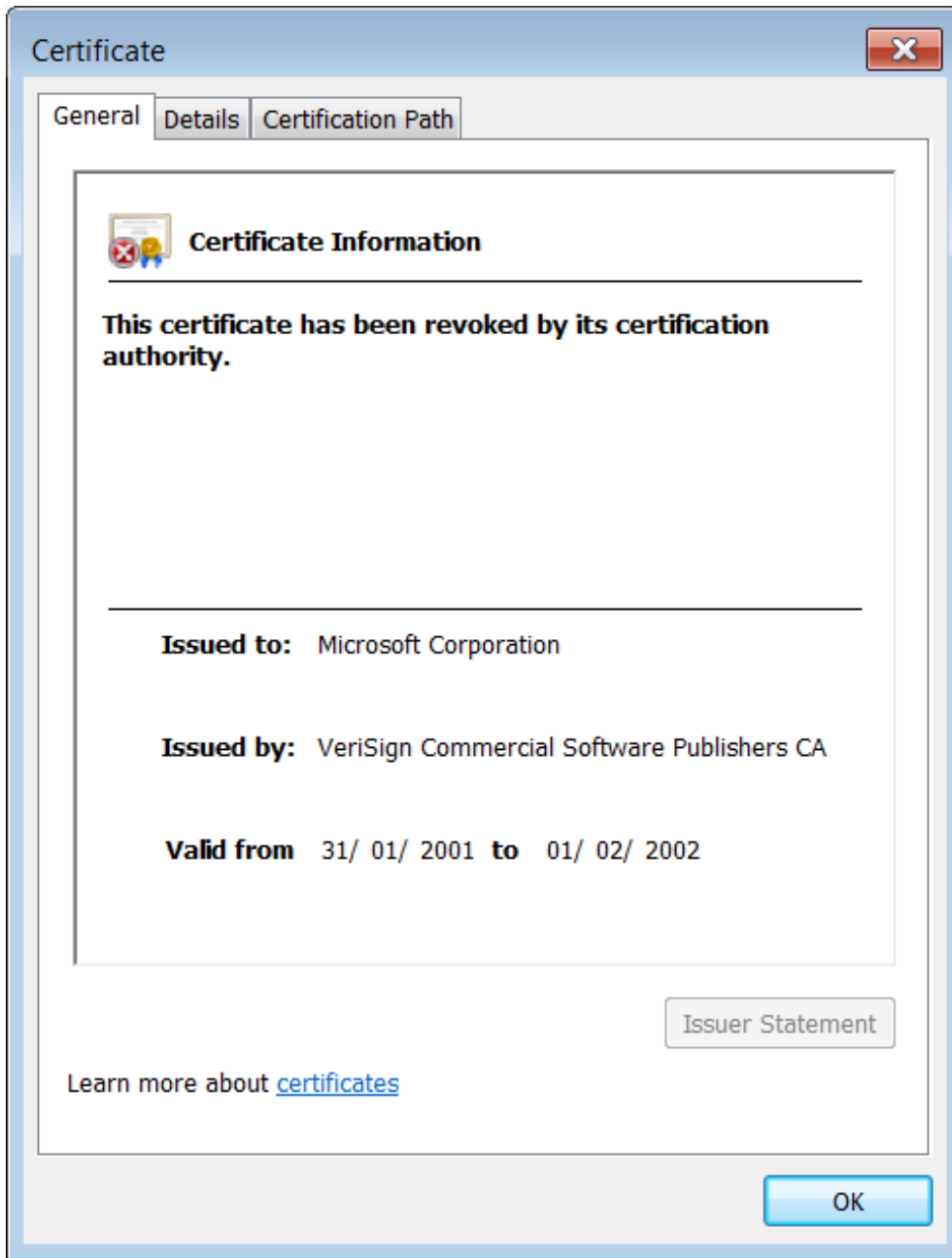
## > Internet options

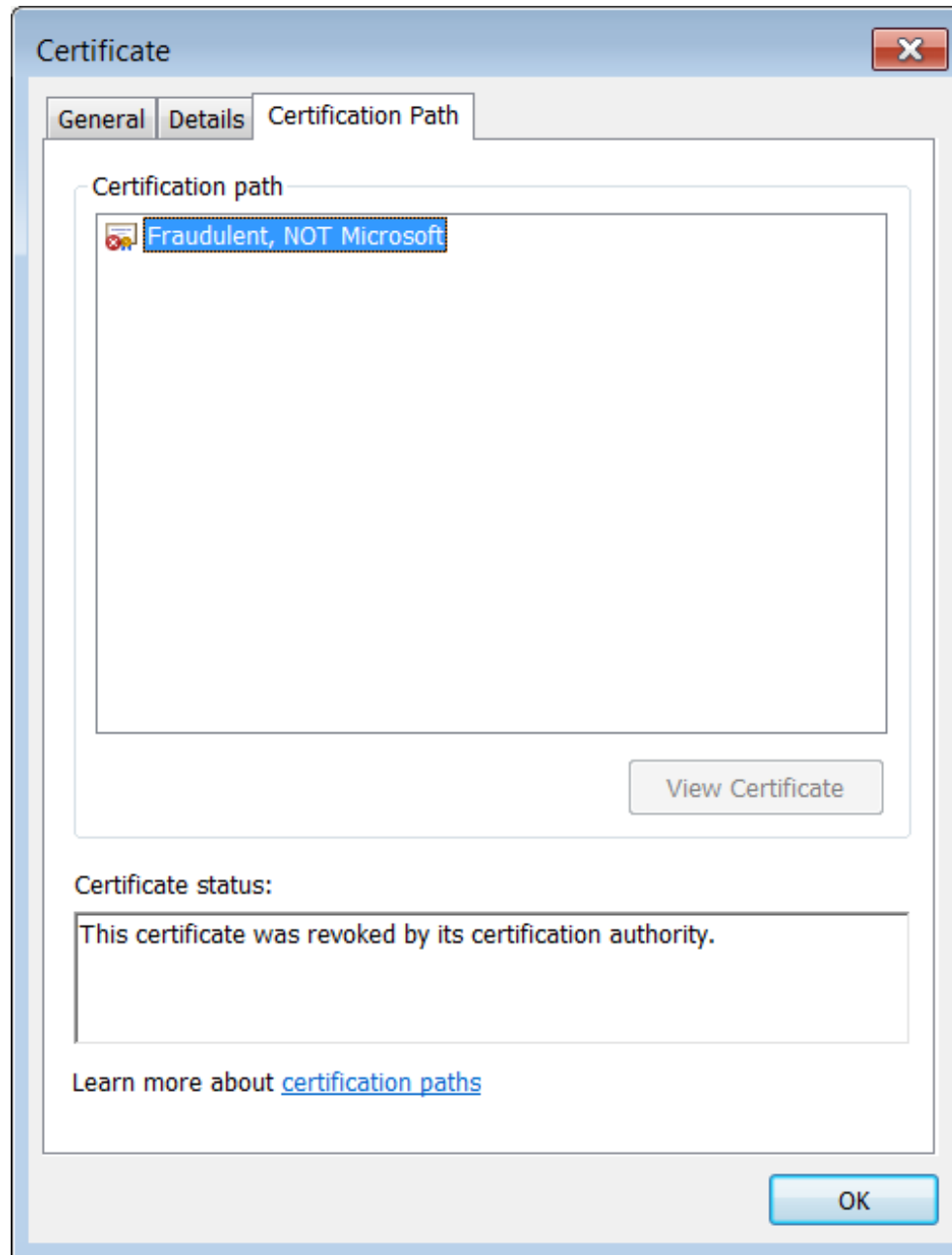


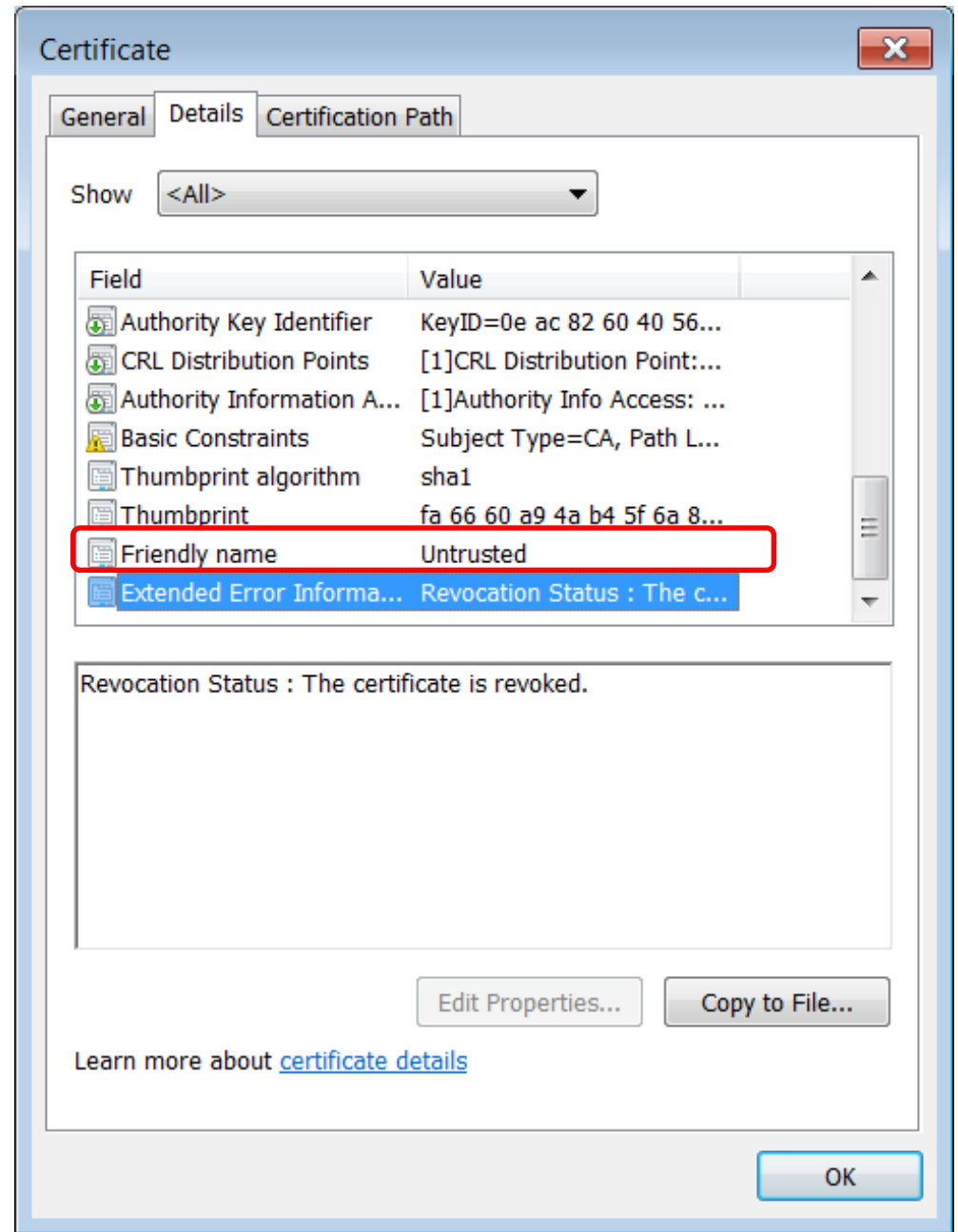
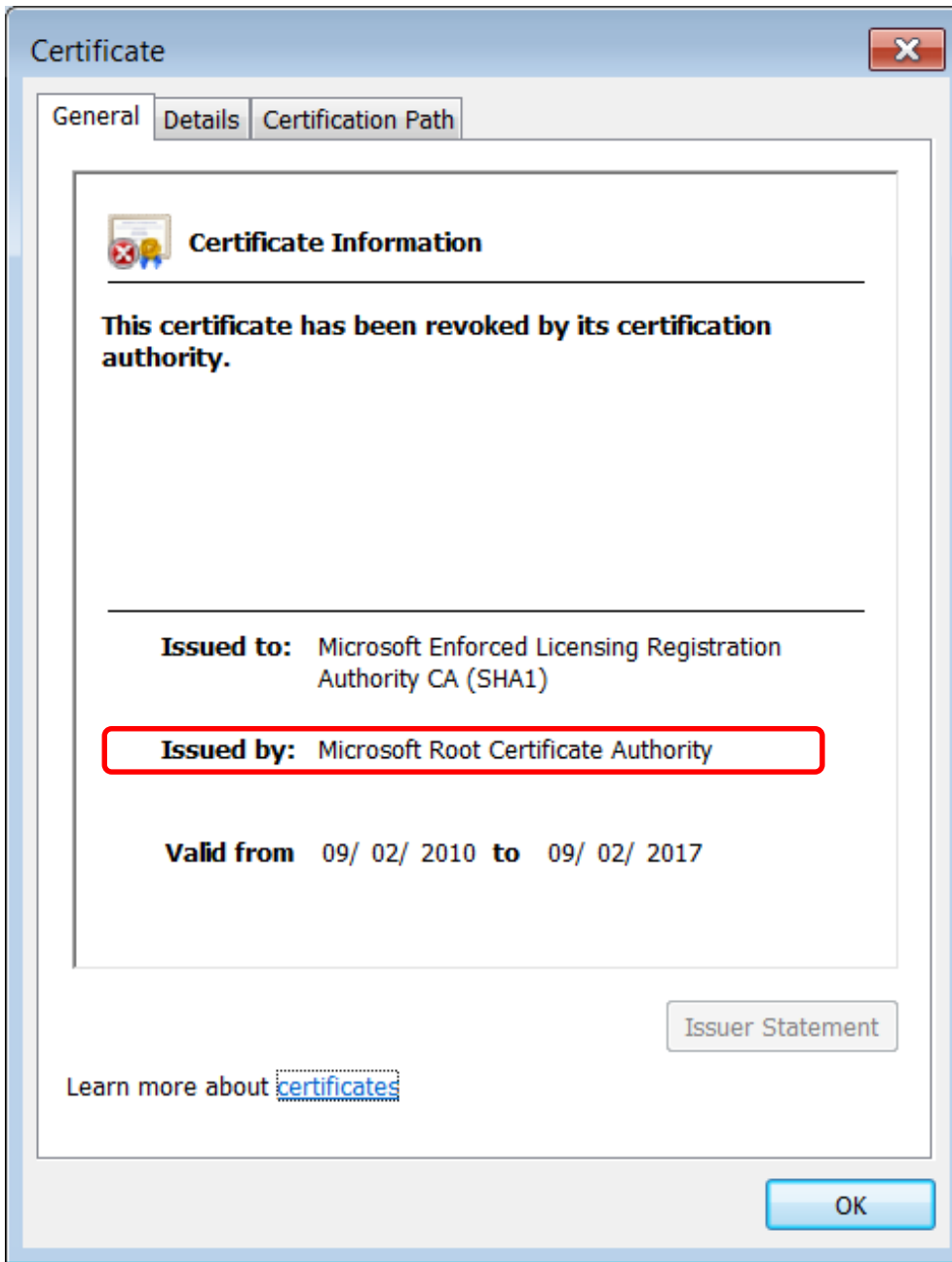
# Internet Explorer

- > Internet options
- > Certificates
- Untrusted (!)  
Publishers

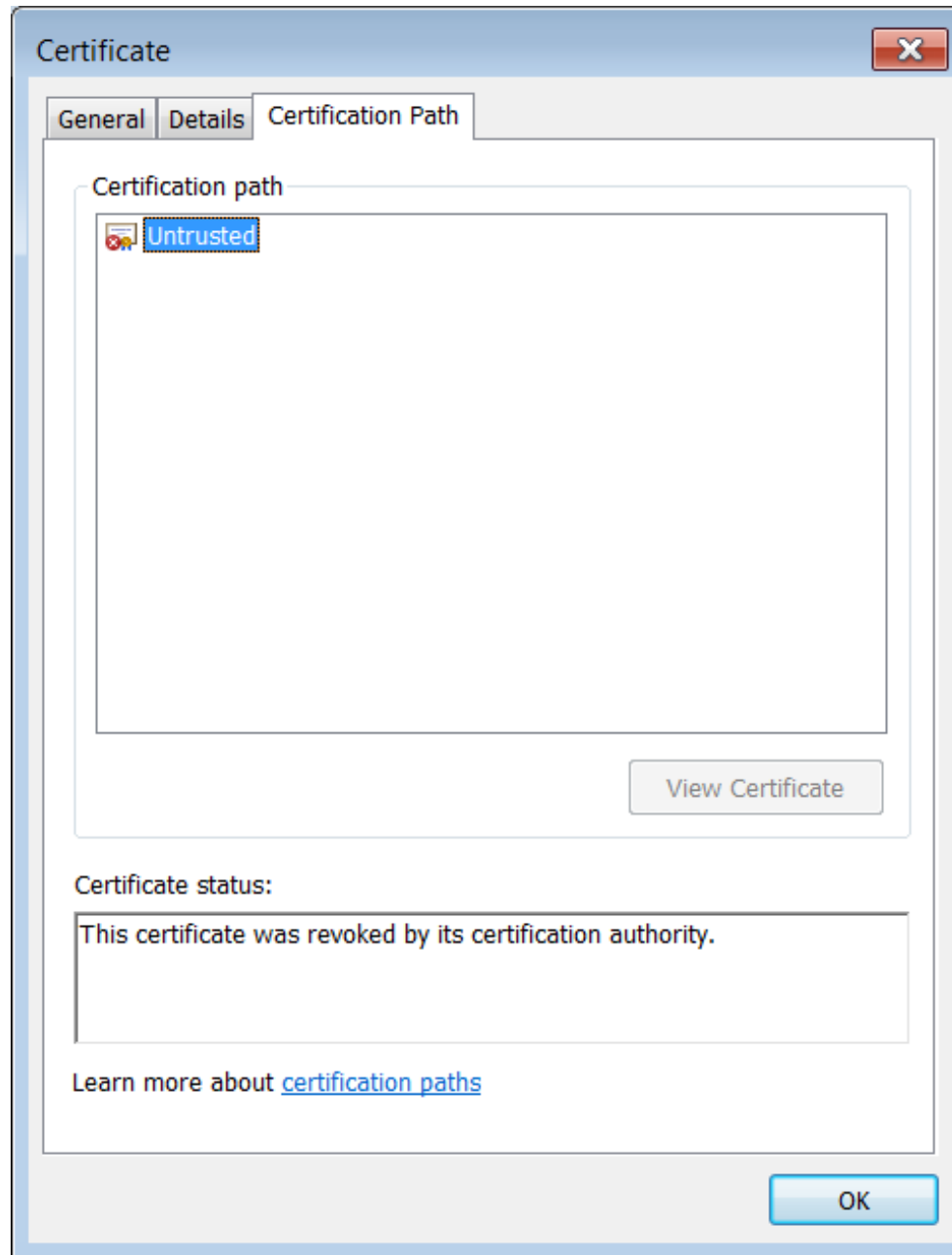












# MS certificate problems

- <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/current-activity/2012/06/04/Unauthorized-Microsoft-Digital-Certificates>
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/security-updates/SecurityAdvisories/2012/2718704?redirectedfrom=MSDN>

# TLS: OCSP stapling – concept

- CRL and OCSP automatic download often disabled
- OCSP request from client creates a privacy problem
- pushed CRL contains only some revoked certificates
- browser behaviour is greatly variable in this area
- solution:
  - OCSP stapling
  - i.e. have the server autonomously obtain the OCSP answer and pass it along with its certificate to the client



# TLS: OCSP Stapling – implementation (I)

- **OCSP Stapling is a TLS extension**
  - to be specified in the TLS handshake
- **v1 in RFC-6066 (extension "status\_request"), v2 in RFC 6961 (extension "status\_request\_v2")**
  - with value CertificateStatusRequest
- **how it works:**
  - the TLS server pre-fetches the OCSP responses
  - ... and provides them to the client in the handshake, as part of the server's certificate message
  - the OCSP responses are "stapled" to the certificates
- **benefit: eliminates client privacy concern and need for the client to connect to an OCSP responder**
- **downside: freshness of the OCSP responses**

# TLS: OCSP Stapling – implementation (II)

- **TLS client MAY send the CSR to the server**
  - as part of ClientHello
  - request the transfer of OCSP responses in the TLS handshake
- **the TLS server that receives a client hello status\_request\_v2 MAY return OCSP responses for its certificate chain**
  - OCSP responses in a new message, CertificateStatus
- **problems:**
  - servers MAY ignore the status request
  - clients MAY decide to continue anyway the handshake even if OCSP responses are not provided
- **solution: OCSP Must Staple**

# OCSP Must Staple

- **X.509 certificates for servers MAY include a certificate extension**
  - named "TLSFeatures" (OID 1.3.6.1.5.5.7.1.24)
  - defined in RFC-7633
- **the extension informs the client that it MUST receive a valid OCSP response as part of the TLS handshake**
  - otherwise it SHOULD reject the server certificate
- **benefits:**
  - efficiency: the client does not need to query the OCSP responder
  - attack resistance as it prevents blocking OCSP responses (for a specific client) or DoS attack against OCSP responder

# OCSP Must Staple – actors and duties (I)

- **CA must include the extension into server certificates**
  - if requested by the server's owner
- **OCSP Responder must:**
  - be available 365x24 and return valid OCSP responses
- **TLS client must:**
  - send the CSR extension in the TLS in the ClientHello
  - understand the OCSP Must-Staple extension (if present in the server's certificate)
  - reject the server certificate without OCSP stapled response

# OCSP Must Staple – actors and duties (II)

## ■ TLS server must:

- support OCSP Stapling by prefetching and caching OCSP response
- provide an OCSP response in the TLS handshake
- handle errors in communication with OCSP responders

## ■ TLS server administrators should:

- configure their servers to use OCSP Stapling
- request a server certificate with OCSP Must Staple extension

## ■ open issue (and potential pitfall):

- duration of OCSP stapled response (e.g. 7 days for cloudflare)



# TLS status

- **F5 telemetry report (October 2021) for the top 1M servers**
- **63% have TLS-1.3 (from 80% USA to 15% China and Israel)**
- **25% certs use ECDSA and 99% choose non-RSA handshake**
- **52% permit RSA, 2.5% expired certs, 2% permit SSL-3**
- **encryption is abused: 83% of phishing sites use valid TLS and 80% of sites are hosted by 3.8% hosting providers**
- **SSLstrip attacks still successful, so urgent need for HSTS or to completely disable plain HTTP**
- **cert revocation checking mostly broken, which pushes for very short-lived certs**
- **by TLS fingerprinting, 531 servers potentially match the identity of Trickbot malware servers, and 1,164 match Dridex servers**