

Real attacks

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An update on attempted man-in-the-middle attacks

August 29, 2011

Posted by Heather Adkins, Information Security Manager

Today we received reports of attempted SSL man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks against Google users, whereby someone tried to get between them and encrypted Google services. The people affected were primarily located in Iran. The attacker used a fraudulent SSL certificate issued by DigiNotar, a root certificate authority that should not issue certificates for Google (and has since revoked it).

Google Chrome users were protected from this attack because Chrome was able to [detect](#) the fraudulent certificate.

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Enhancing digital certificate security

January 3, 2013

Posted by Adam Langley, Software Engineer

Late on December 24, Chrome detected and blocked an unauthorized digital certificate for the "*.google.com" domain. We investigated immediately and found the certificate was issued by an [intermediate certificate authority](#) (CA) linking back to TURKTRUST, a Turkish certificate authority. Intermediate CA certificates carry the full authority of the CA, so anyone who has one can use it to create a certificate for any website they wish to impersonate.

Why and when using HTTPS?

HTTPS = HTTP + TLS

➔ TLS provides

- confidentiality: end-to-end secure channel
- integrity: authentication handshake

➔ HTTPS protects any data send back and forth including:

- login and password
- session ID

✓ **HTTPS everywhere**

HTTPS must be used during the entire session