

# Public Key Infrastructures

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1

Public Key Infrastructures

## CERTIFICATES: HOW TO DEFEAT THE MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE

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2

2

## Certificates and Certification Authority

- **Certificate format** (basic):
  - $\text{Cert}_A = \text{Alice}, \text{pubK}_A, L, \dots, S(\text{priv}_{CA}, \text{Alice} || \text{pubK}_A || L, \dots)$   
with  $L$  = validity period
- A **certificate** indissolubly binds the identity of a **subject** (Alice) to his/her public key ( $\text{pubK}_A$ ); the **binding** is the digital signature of a **Trusted Third Party** called **Certification Authority** (CA)
  - In order to verify a certificate you need the CA's public key  $\text{pubK}_{CA}$

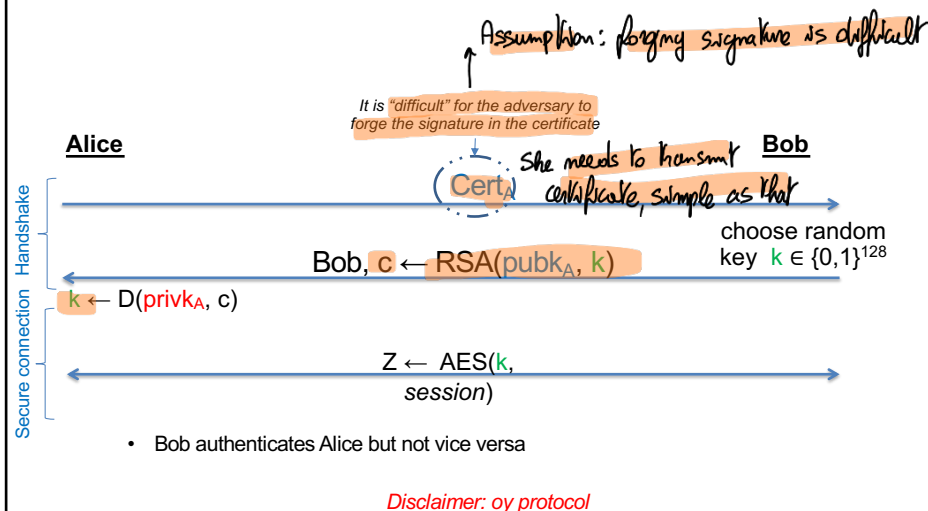
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Public Key Cryptography

6

6

## Key Transport with Certificates



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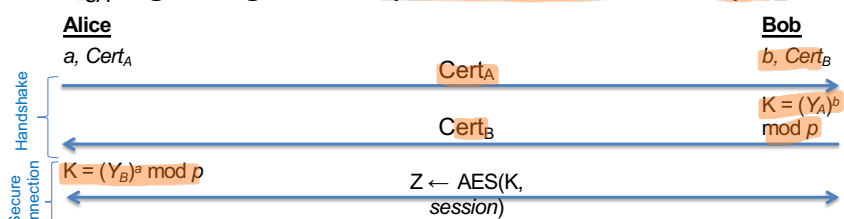
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7

7

## Diffie-Hellman with certificates

- $Cert_A = Alice, Y_A, L_A, S_{CA}(Alice || Y_A || L_A)$  with
- $Y_A = g^a \bmod p$  Alice's public key, and  $a$  Alice's private key
- $S_{CA}$  digital signature by certification authority CA



Disclaimer: oy protocol

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8

Another execution mode of TLS.  
I can choose key establishment scheme

8

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## CERTIFICATION AUTHORITIES

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9

9

## CA's obligations [→]

- CA must be reliable

- I. CA must verify that owner of  $(\text{privK}_A, \text{pubK}_A)$  pair is really entitled to use that name

- CA establishes rules/policies to verify that a person has rights to the name
- Identifying a subject is not easy; depends on country

- CA must verify that the name (e.g., Alice) goes along with

the key ( $\text{privK}_A$ ) → I could go to CA after finding Trump's public key and get a certification: certify that I own the corresponding private key.

Those are the only two cases in which CA is liable for damages.

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10

10

## CA's obligations [↓]

- CA's certificate must be (immediately) available

- CA's certificate is released at user registration time
- CA's certificate is published in newspapers
- CA's certificate is embedded in a browser installation package (is this secure?)
- ...

I need pubkey of CA to verify a certificate. Typically the pubkey is in a self signed certificate of the authority.

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11

11

## Trust delegation

- Certification is based on trust delegation/transfer
  1. Bob trusts and delegates CA to verify Alice's identity and attest the authenticity of  $\text{pubK}_A$ ,
  2. Bob trusts the authenticity of CA's  $\text{pubK}_{CA}$   
consequently
- Through certificate  $\text{Cert}_A$  signed by CA, Bob acquires trust (believes) in the authenticity of  $\text{pubK}_A$

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12

12

## Important to remember

- What a certificate does
  - A certificate defines an indissoluble link between a subject's identifier and public key
- A certificate does not
  - specify the meaning of that link
  - the possible uses of that key
  - make any statement on the trustworthiness of the subject

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13

13

## Assurance [→]

- How much can I trust that the identifier actually corresponds to the legitimate owner of the key?
- CA Policies
  - Authentication policy Policy to identify subject
  - Issuance policy Policy by means of which CA verifies subject has
  - These policies are public corresponding private key.
    - A child-CA cannot have less restrictive policies  
→ Usually in a document linked inside the certificate
- Assurance is not quantifiable
  - Estimate according to the policy and the application rigor  
→ How much I can trust a cert is not something I can quantify.

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14

14

## Assurance [→]

- Specification, design and implementation contribute to the assurance
- Example: medicine
  - The process
    - A medicine is produced by a known and honorable pharmaceutical manufacturer
    - The medicine is delivered to chemists in a sealed container
    - When the medicine is sold, the seal is still intact

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15

15

## Assurance [↓]

### – Trust foundations

- Ministry allows sale if the medicine passes certain tests and complies with certain clinical standards
- Auditing committees verify that the production process satisfies industrial standards
- Presence of the safety seal

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16

16

## In-house or external CA?

- Implement your own CA or exploit a commercial one?

### – Cost-convenience ratio

- High quality certification → high costs
- Low quality certification → high risks

### – In-house implementation: you do certification yourself exactly how you need it

- Pros – Complete control of the certification process
- Cons – Cost of the infrastructure; limited scale

### – Commercial

- Pros – Large scale; recognised by anyone
- Cons – Trust delegation; no liability

→ My own CA are not recognised outside of my organisation

↳ The CA makes no liability.

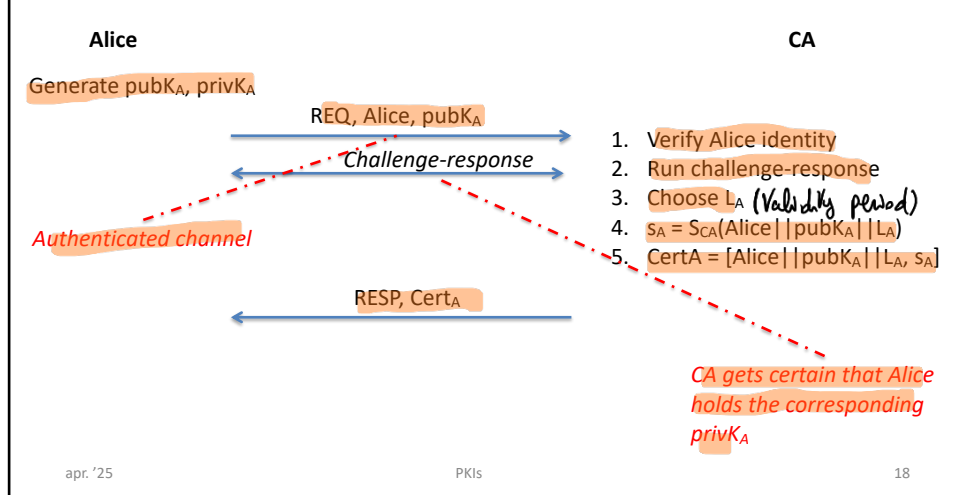
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17

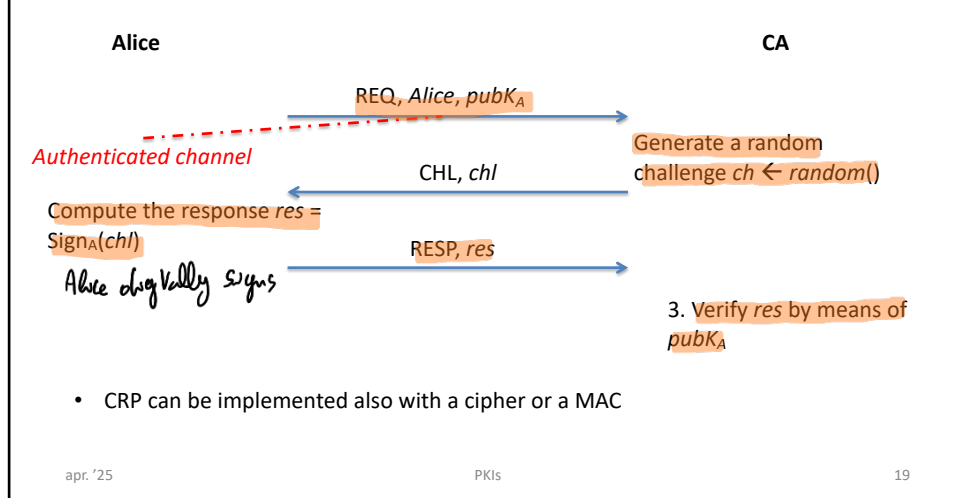
17

## Certificate generation: user-provided keys [→]



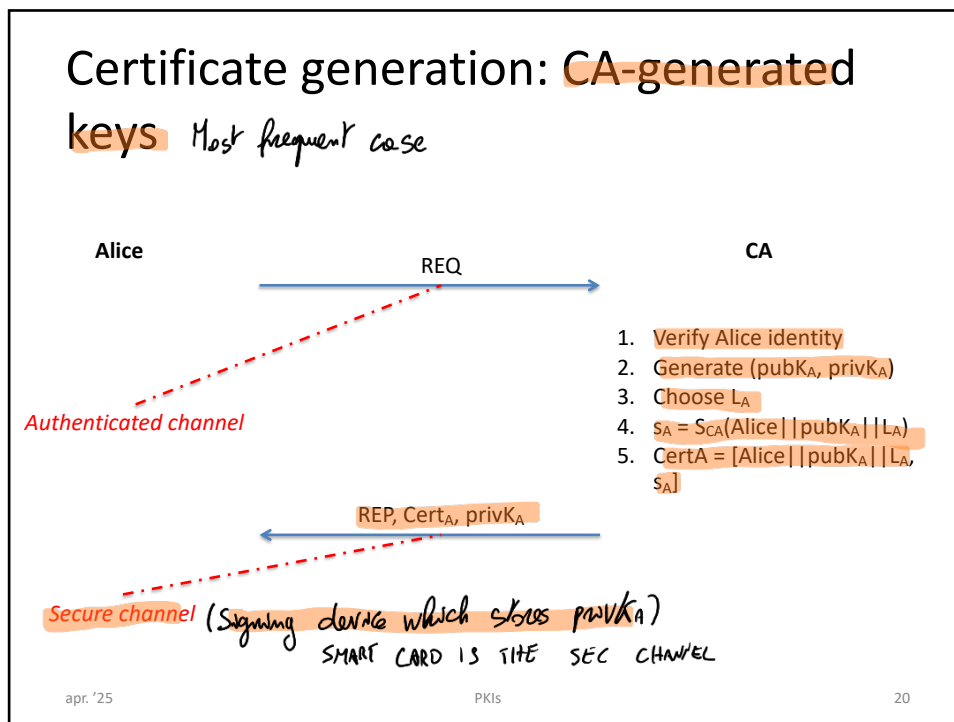
18

## Challenge-response protocol



19





20

### On key generation at CA-side

- Fatal crypto flaw in some Taiwan government-certified smartcards makes forgery a snap ([www.arstechnica.com](http://www.arstechnica.com))
- Fatal flaw in the hw RNG ← *PrivK was predictable*
- Smartcards passed two international certifications (FIPS 140-2, Common Criteria)
- Research paper at [AsiaCrypt 2013](#)

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21

## Backup of private key [→] *Number of problems that might arise:*

- Public key encryption → backup of decryption key  
privK
  - Otherwise, encrypted data may become inaccessible
  - Be able to decrypt even after key lifetime expiration
  - Who makes backup matters
    - Government backs up of citizen's privK → privacy issues
    - Company backs up of employee's privK → Encrypted data belong to the company

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22

22

## Backup of private key [→]

- Digital signature → backup of signing key
  - Private key backup has adverse impact on non-repudiation
  - Delete the key after key expiration
  - Recovery from signing key loss is expensive in large scale apps as you must redistribute the pubK (e.g., Microsoft, Adobe, Visa)
  - Technological solution: Threshold crypto (t out of n)
- You want different key pairs for encryption and signing

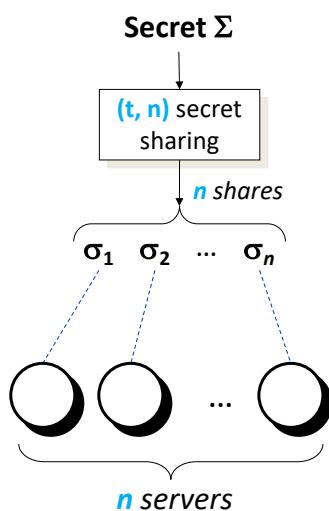
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23

23

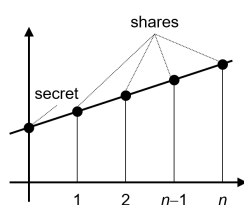
## Threshold crypto (intuition)



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### SECRET SHARING

- The secret  $\Sigma$  (e.g., private key) is split into  $n$  shares
- At least  $t$  shares are necessary to reconstruct the secret
- The system tolerates the compromise of  $t-1$  nodes



Example: Polynomial  
 $(2, n)$  secret sharing

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24

24

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## EXPIRATION AND REVOCATION OF A CERTIFICATE

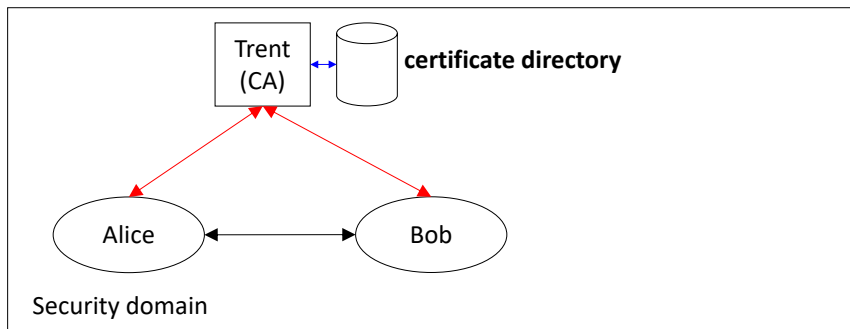
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25

## Single CA Model



- **Security domain** under control of the CA
- **Certificate directory** is a read-only database that stores certificates

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26

26

## Expired & revoked certificates

- A certificate is **expired** if the validity period is expired
- If the private key gets compromised before expiration, then the certificate must be **revoked**
  - Examples: the private key has been revealed; the subject has changed role or left the organization
- Certificate revocation must be
  - **Correct**: revocation can be granted only to authorized parties, i.e., the owner or the issuer
  - **Timely**: revocation must be disseminated to all interested parties as soon as possible

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27

27

## How to verify a certificate

- Bob's verification of Alice's  $\text{Cert}_A$ 
  1. Bob obtains CA's public key  $\text{pubK}_{CA}$  [once at set-up]
  2. Bob verifies validity of CA's public key [once at set-up]
  3. Bob verifies the digital signature in  $\text{Cert}_A$  by using  $\text{pubK}_{CA}$
  4. Bob verifies that  $\text{Cert}_A$  is valid
  5. Bob verifies that  $\text{Cert}_A$  is not revoked
- If all these checks are successful, then Bob accepts  $\text{pubK}_A$  as authentic Alice's key

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28

28

## Revocation methods

- Offline → Certificate Revocation List (CRL)
- Online → Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)

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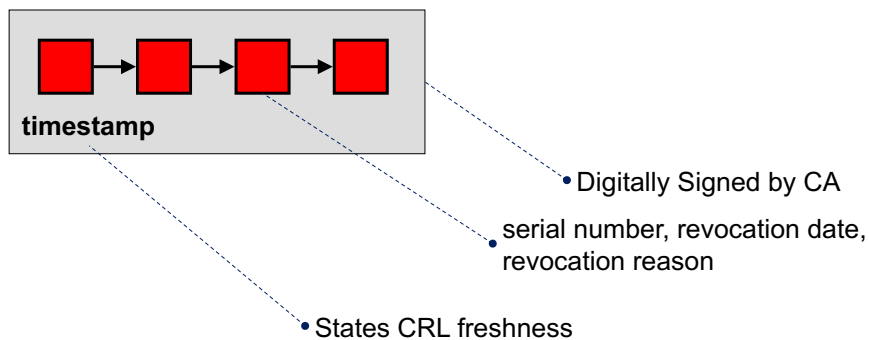
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29

29

## CRL

- A CRL is published periodically
- A revoked certificate lies in CRL until expiration
- $\Delta$ -CRL for efficiency



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30

30

## OCSP

- Protocol sketch
  - Alice → OCSP: <OCSP RQST, Bob's cert serial nr.>
  - OCSP → Alice: <OCSP RESP, OK|KO><sub>OCSP</sub>
  - Protocol Pros
    - Lighter and simpler than CRL protocol
    - Effective if the adversary is not a MIM
  - Protocol Cons
    - In the clear → confidentiality issues
    - Exposed to replay attack (nonces are an extension ☹)
    - Browsers silently ignore OCSP if the query times out (→ MIM)

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31

31

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## THE X.509 STANDARD

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33

33

## X.509 certificate format

A data structure with several fields

- |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Version                        | 7. Subject public key information    |
| 2. Serial number                  | 8. Issuer unique identifier (v=2,3)  |
| 3. Signature algorithm identifier | 9. Subject unique identifier (v=2,3) |
| 4. Issuer distinguished name      | 10. Extensions (v=3)                 |
| 5. Validity interval              | 11. Signature                        |
| 6. Subject distinguished name     |                                      |

X.509 uses the Abstract Syntax Notation, ASN.1, (RFC 1422)

X.509 has been conceived for X.400 mail standard

X.509 uses Distinguished Names

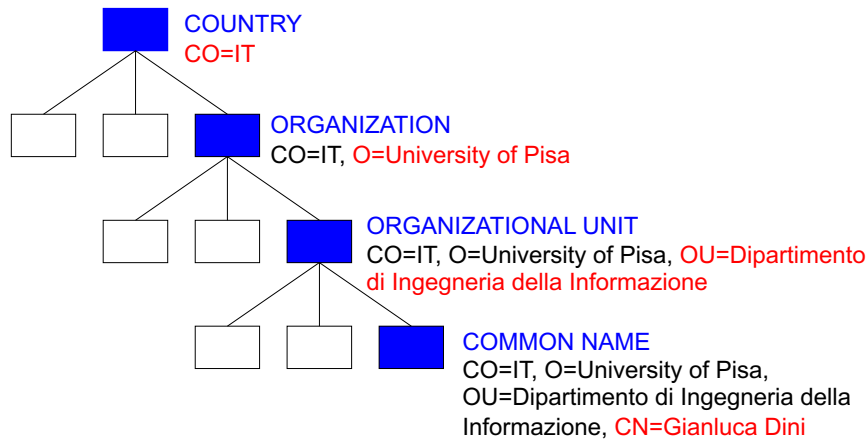
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34

34

## Distinguished names (X.500)



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35

35

## Example: <https://www.mps.it>

### Certificate name

[www.mps.it](https://www.mps.it)  
 Consorzio Operativo Gruppo MPS  
 Terms of use at [www.verisign.com/rpa](http://www.verisign.com/rpa) (c)00  
 Florence  
 Italy, IT

### Issuer

VeriSign Trust Network  
[www.verisign.com/CPS](http://www.verisign.com/CPS) Incorp.by Ref. LIABILITY LTD.(c)97 VeriSign

### Details

**Certificate version:** 3  
**Serial number:** 0x652D0F8ADAB4C7B168A27BBD1C3E9D9D  
**Not valid before:** Mar 2 00:00:00 2004 GMT  
**Not valid after:** Mar 2 23:59:59 2005 GMT  
**Fingerprint: (MD5)** CA CA 88 08 EC D0 8E 49 A6 9A 66 C4 69 31 E0 AE  
**Fingerprint: (SHA-1)** 82 64 CB 69 F0 43 86 43 FF B4 55 D4 25 EF 51 60 65 46 D3 87

*contd*

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36

36



## Example: https://www.mps.it

**Public key algorithm:** rsaEncryption

**Public-Key (1024 bit):**

**Modulus:**

00: E1 80 74 5E E7 E5 54 8B DF 6D 00 95 B5 96 27 AC  
 10: 66 93 E0 49 B9 6F 5B 73 53 1C BE 1C EB 47 64 B2  
 20: 12 95 70 E6 CD 50 67 02 88 E3 EE 9D B1 91 49 C8  
 30: 8D 58 19 4B 86 8F C0 2E 65 E8 F2 D4 82 CC 55 DB  
 40: 43 BC 66 DA 44 2F 53 B3 48 4B 37 15 F3 AB 67 C1  
 50: 69 B4 53 23 19 30 1A 19 23 7F 28 E0 E3 C0 6B 18  
 60: FF 84 C4 AC A9 74 28 DB FF E9 48 CA 75 D5 35 D6  
 70: 46 FB 7D D4 A7 3F A1 4B 00 60 14 DC D5 00 CF C7

**Exponent:**

01 00 01

**Public key algorithm:** sha1WithRSAEncryption

00: 23 A6 FE 90 E3 D9 BB 30 69 CF 43 2C FD 4B CF 67  
 10: D7 3C 46 22 9A 08 DB 05 1D 45 DC 07 F3 1E 4D 1F  
 20: 4B 11 23 5B 42 91 14 95 25 88 1F BD 60 E5 6F 84  
 30: 44 70 7A 95 EC 30 E4 46 4F 37 87 F1 B2 FA 45 04  
 40: 6F 7C BE 97 25 C7 20 E7 F3 90 55 51 99 3A 72 35  
 50: 40 F2 E8 E3 36 3A 7D 58 61 9C 91 D6 AC 34 E7 E8  
 60: 09 27 64 4F 2C 4C C2 D2 A3 32 DB 2B 7E F0 B6 F3  
 70: 69 96 E4 2B C3 2B 42 ED CA 2C 3C C8 F5 AA E6 71

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contd

37

37

## Example: https://www.mps.it

**Extensions:**

**X509v3 Basic Constraints:** CA:FALSE

**X509v3 Key Usage:** Digital Signature, Key Encipherment

**X509v3 CRL Distribution Points:**

URI: http://crl.verisign.com/Class3InternationalServer.crl

**X509v3 Certificate Policies:**

Policy: 2.16.840.1.113733.1.7.23.3

CPS: https://www.verisign.com/rpa

**X509v3 Extended Key Usage:** Netscape Server Gated Crypto, Microsoft Server Gated Crypto, TLS Web Server Authentication, TLS Web Client Authentication

**Authority Information Access:**

OCSP - URI: http://ocsp.verisign.com

Unknown extension object ID 1 3 6 1 5 5 7 1 12:

0\_]. [0Y0W0U...image/gif0!0.0...+.....k...j.H.,{.0%.#http://logo.verisign.com/vslogo.gif

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38

38

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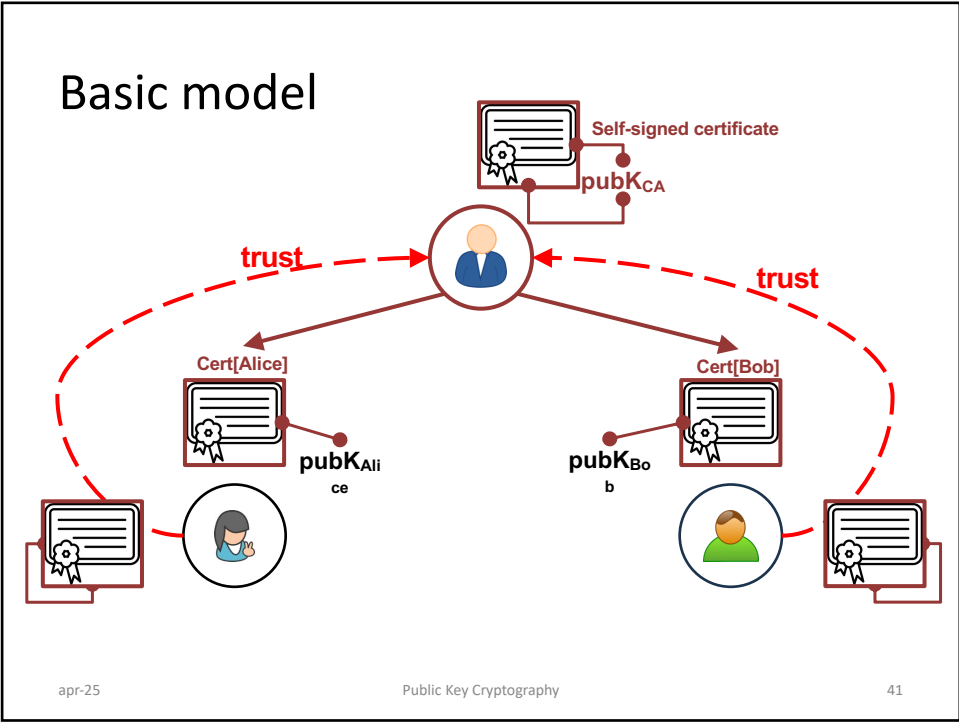
TRUST MODELS

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39

39



41

## Basic Model

- The Model
  - Every user trusts the root
  - The root releases certificates
- Inconvenient
  - Users have to go to the root in order to get the root self-signed certificate

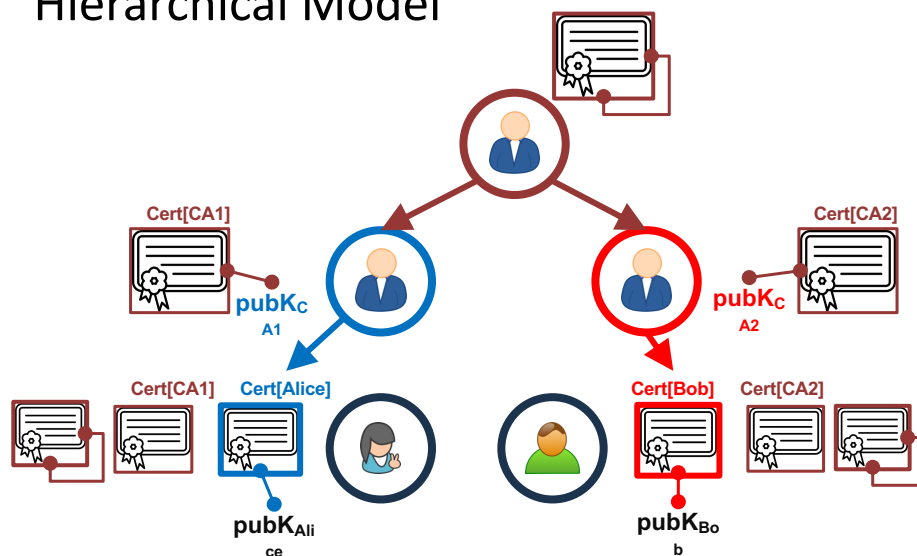
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42

42

## Hierarchical Model



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43

43

## Constraints on the certification path

- If  $CA_x$  certifies  $CA_y$  (subordinate), the trust that  $CA_x$  has in  $CA_y$  transitively propagates to all CAs reachable from  $CA_y$
- $CA_x$  may limit this propagation by posing constraints
  1. **on the chain length:** The chain after  $CA_y$  has a limited length
  2. **on the set of domains:** CAs in the chain after  $CA_y$  must belong to a predefined set of CAs

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44

44

## Esempio: <https://www.mps.it>

**Certificate name**[VeriSign Trust Network](#)[www.verisign.com/CPS Incorpor. by Ref. LIABILITY LTD.\(c\)97 VeriSign](#)**Issuer**[VeriSign, Inc.](#)[Class 3 Public Primary Certification Authority](#)[US](#)**Details**[Certificate version: 3](#)[Serial number: 0x254B8A853842CCE358F8C5DDAE226EA4](#)[Not valid before: Apr 17 00:00:00 1997 GMT](#)[Not valid after: Oct 24 23:59:59 2011 GMT](#)[Fingerprint: \(MD5\) BC 0A 51 FA C0 F4 7F DC 62 1C D8 E1 15 43 4E CC](#)[Fingerprint: \(SHA-1\) C2 F0 08 7D 01 E6 86 05 3A 4D 63 3E 7E 70 D4 EF 65 C2 CC 4F](#)

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45

45

## Esempio: https://www.mps.it

**Public key algorithm:** rsaEncryption

**Public-Key (1024 bit):**

**Modulus:**

00: 6F 7B B2 04 AB E7 34 4F 9C 53 A7 02 B2 90 4F 22  
 10: F9 3A 3C 5A 8B 51 2B FE CB 42 95 30 70 FE 8A B2  
 20: D3 1D C1 B8 5A 49 5C F7 39 4E 4D B7 F3 3B 09 F1  
 30: FA E5 28 93 3E 30 F5 63 AA 43 71 27 56 FE A3 BB  
 40: CA C4 6C 75 B2 32 C1 07 D9 DD 25 40 F5 5C A9 D4  
 50: 15 0A 34 9A ED 42 97 EA BD F1 B2 55 45 73 3C AA  
 60: E7 B6 5B 6C 4C F0 AA 3B 36 E6 BC D3 05 D4 BF E1  
 70: 2B 65 A2 25 39 18 85 1F 7D 02 19 D6 E8 80 82 D8

**Exponent:**

01 00 01

**Public key algorithm:** sha1WithRSAEncryption

00: 08 01 EC E4 68 94 03 42 F1 73 F1 23 A2 3A DE E9  
 10: F1 DA C6 54 C4 23 3E 86 EA CF 6A 3A 33 AB EA 9C  
 20: 04 14 07 36 06 0B F9 88 6F D5 13 EE 29 2B C3 E4  
 30: 72 8D 44 ED D1 AC 20 09 2D E1 F6 E1 19 05 38 B0  
 40: 3D 0F 9F 7F F8 9E 02 DC 86 02 86 61 4E 26 5F 5E  
 50: 9F 92 1E 0C 24 A4 F5 D0 70 13 CF 26 C3 43 3D 49  
 60: 1D 9E 82 2E 52 5F BC 3E C6 66 29 01 8E 4E 92 2C  
 70: BC 46 75 03 82 AC 73 E9 D9 7E 0B 67 EF 54 52 1A

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46

46

## Esempio: https://www.mps.it

**Extensions:**

**X509v3 Basic Constraints:** CA:TRUE, pathlen:0

**X509v3 Certificate Policies:**

**Policy:** 2.16.840.1.113733.1.7.1.1

**CPS:** https://www.verisign.com/CPS

**X509v3 Extended Key Usage:** TLS Web Server Authentication, TLS Web Client Authentication, Netscape Server Gated Crypto, 2.16.840.1.113733.1.8.1

**X509v3 Key Usage:** Certificate Sign, CRL Sign

**Netscape Cert Type:** SSL CA, S/MIME CA

**X509v3 CRL Distribution Points:**

**URI:** http://crl.verisign.com/pca3.crl

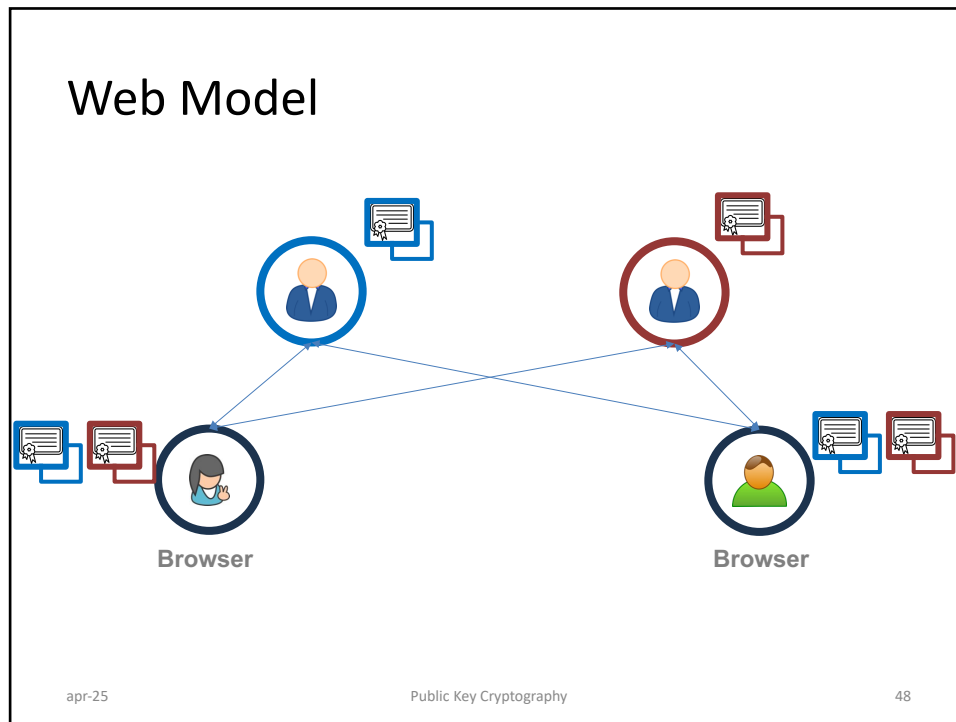
**Certification  
Practice Statement**

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47

47



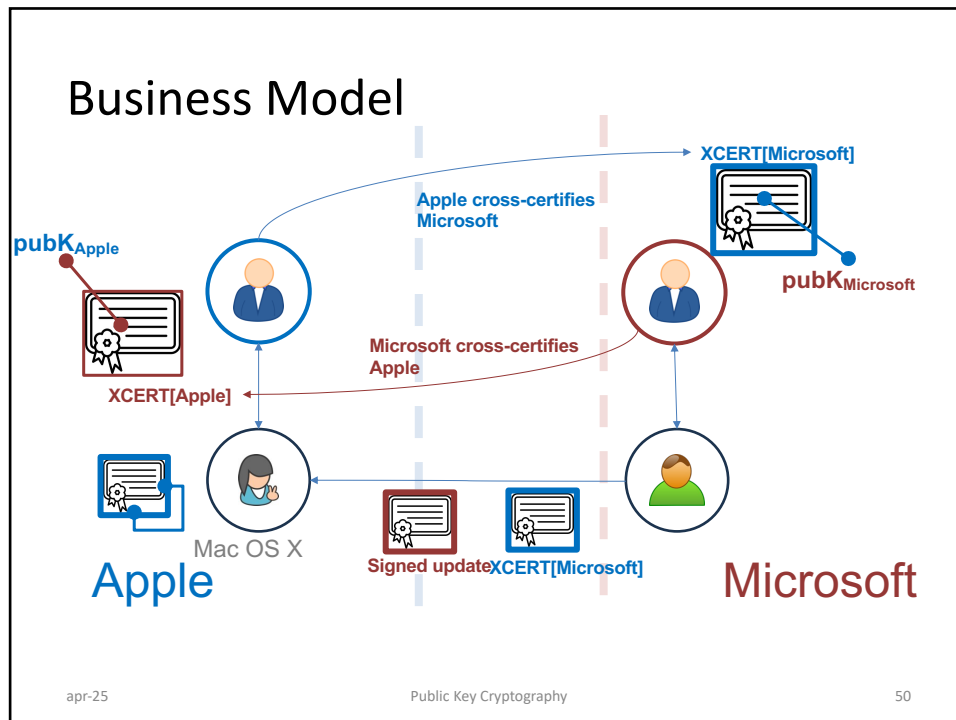
48

## Examples

- Firefox
- Chrome
- Edge
- [www.unipi.it](http://www.unipi.it) ← GEANT Vereniging ← USERTrust (root)

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49



50

## Incidents

- March 2011 – Comodo
  - 9 fraudulent certs
- Summer 2011 – DigiNotar
  - 500+ fraudulent certs
  - [FOX-IT final report \(long\)](#)
  - [ENISA's resume \(short\)](#)
- January 2013 – Turktrust
  - 100+ fraudulent certs
  - [The TURKTRUST SSL certificate fiasco – what really happened, and what happens next?](#)

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62

62

## Countermeasures (→)

- Public key pinning
  - List of presumed-good CAs and list of known-good certs
  - Chrome
- Certificate transparency
  - To make public that a CA issued a cert
  - Resistance from business
- Convergence
  - Download a cert directly and from a set of trusted CAs and compare them

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63

63

## Countermeasures

- DANE (DNS-based Authentication of Name Entities)
  - Store a pubK in a DNS record; require DNSSEC
- Extended Validation certificates
  - «Prove the legal entity controlling the website or sw package... promise what we were promised a decade ago and we never got» [The inevitable collapse of the certification model]

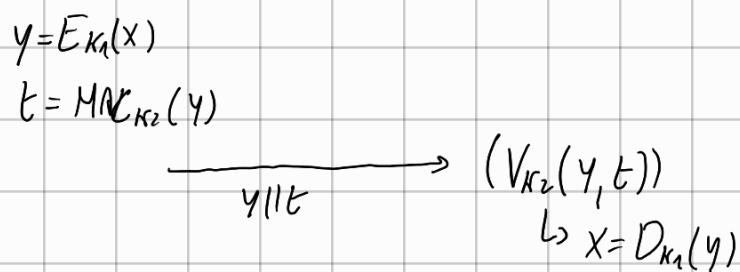
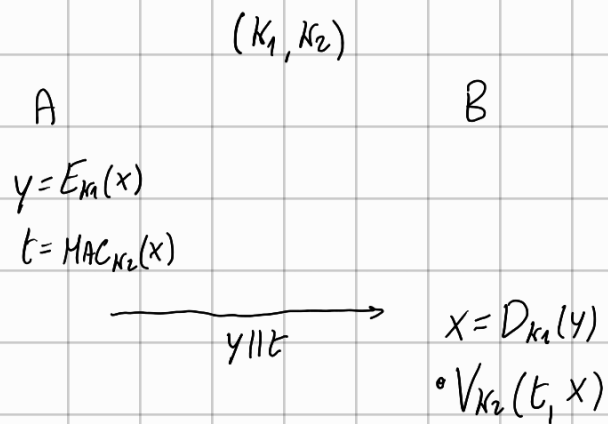
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64

64





$$b / \gcd(b, m) : X \rightarrow X' \equiv X \cdot b^e \pmod{m}$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$S' \equiv (X')^d \pmod{m}$$

$$S \equiv S' \cdot b^{-1} \pmod{m} \equiv (X')^d b^{-1} \pmod{m} \equiv (X \cdot b^e)^d b^{-1} \pmod{m}$$

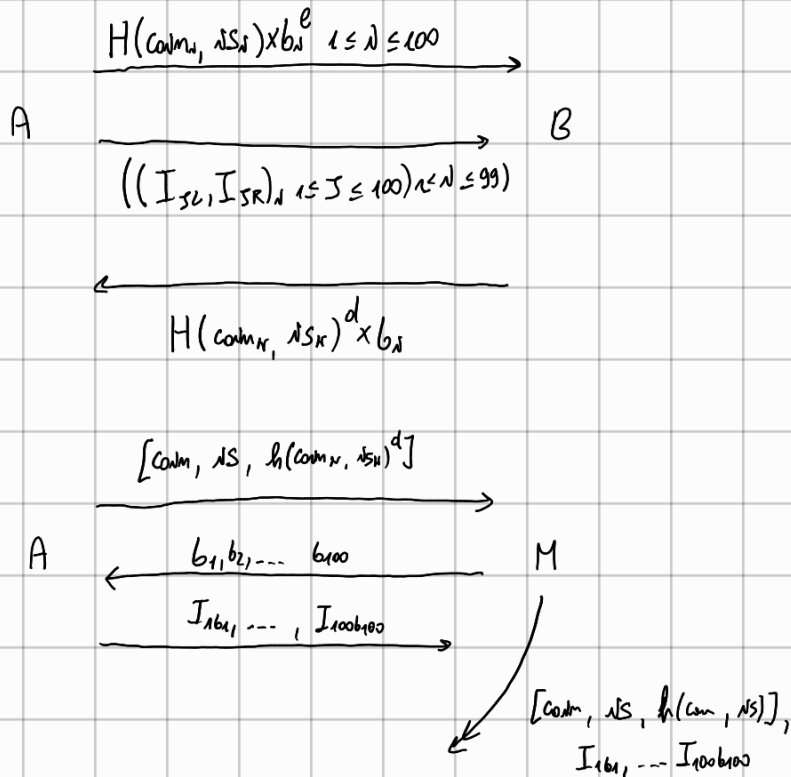
$$\text{com}( \text{com} )^d$$

$\circ P, g$

$\cdot b \rightarrow c = g^b \pmod{p}$

$$Com = [com, identity string, H(com, ns)^d]$$

$$(C_{1L}, C_{1R}), \dots, (C_{100L}, C_{100R})$$



$$CertA = Alice, PubKA, L, \dots, S(PubK_{CA}, Alice || PubKA || L, \dots)$$

A CA

RQS, Alice

$$\bullet S_{CA}(Alice || PubKA || L)$$

$$\bullet CertA = [Alice || PubKA || L || S_{CA}]$$

RSP, CertA, PubKA