Authentication Protocols

Kerberos, X.509, PKI

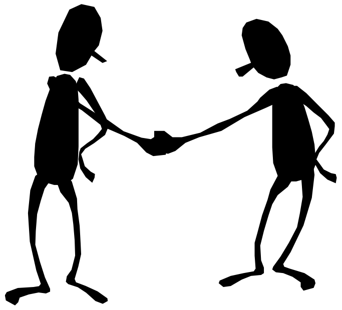
M2L8

Authentication Applications

We cannot enter into alliance with neighboring princes until we are acquainted with their designs.

—*The Art of War*, Sun Tzu

Authentication

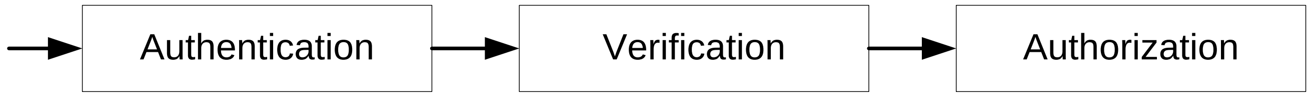


- Most technical security safeguards have authentication as a precondition

- How to authenticate:

Something you know	Password, Secrets
Something you have	Smart Card, Token
Something you are	Biometrie
Somewhere you are	Location

The authentication process



- Authentication
  - Ask the user for credentials
- Verification
  - Verify this credentials agains something previously known
- Authorization
  - Mark the user as authenticated
  - Commonly here also the AC rights are assigned

Authentication Applications

- will consider authentication functions
- developed to support application-level authentication & digital signatures

Kerberos

- trusted key server system from MIT
- provides centralised private-key third-party authentication in a distributed network
  - allows users access to services distributed through network
  - without needing to trust all workstations
  - rather all trust a central authentication server
- two versions in use: 4 & 5

Kerberos Requirements

- its first report identified requirements as:
  - secure
  - reliable
  - transparent
  - scalable
- implemented using an authentication protocol based on Needham-Schroeder

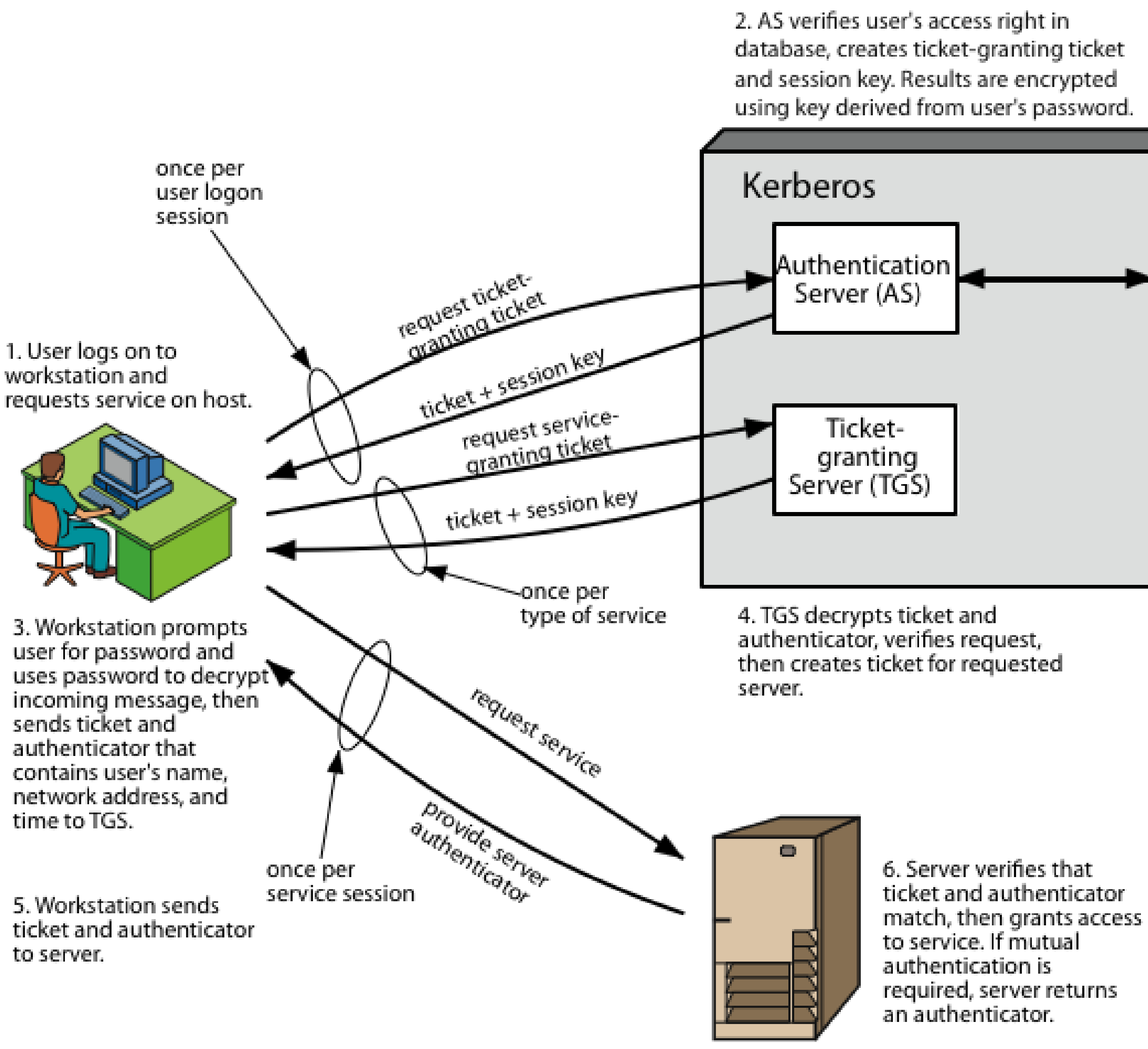
Kerberos v4 Overview

- a basic third-party authentication scheme
- have an Authentication Server (AS)
  - users initially negotiate with AS to identify self
  - AS provides a non-corruptible authentication credential (ticket granting ticket TGT)
- have a Ticket Granting server (TGS)
  - users subsequently request access to other services from TGS on basis of users TGT

Kerberos v4 Dialogue

1. obtain ticket granting ticket from AS
   - once per session
2. obtain service granting ticket from TGT
   - for each distinct service required
3. client/server exchange to obtain service
   - on every service request

Kerberos 4 Overview

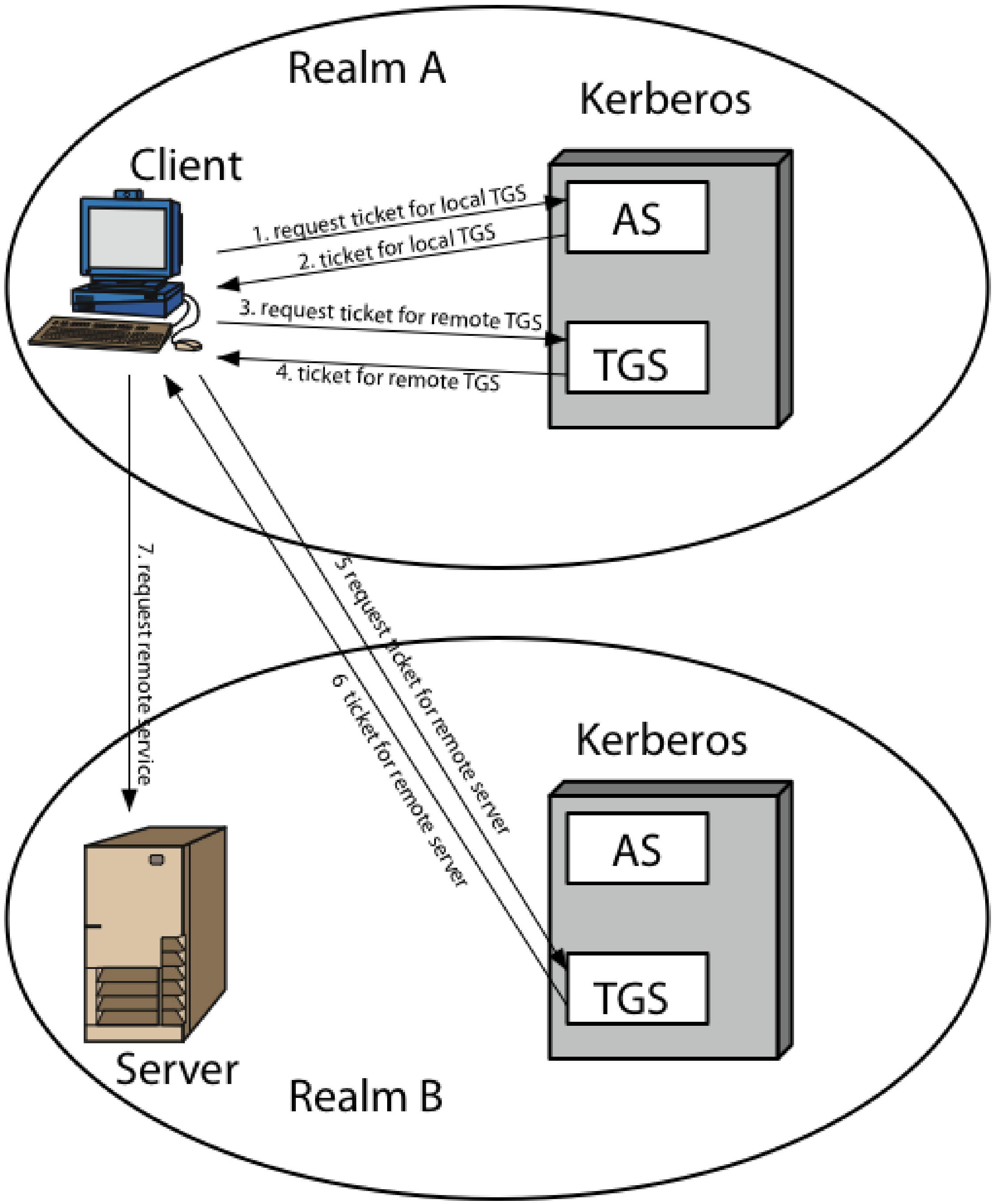


2. AS verifies user's access right in database, creates ticket-granting ticket and session key. Results are encrypted using key derived from user's password.
Kerberos
Authentication Server (AS)
Ticket-granting Server (TGS)
once per user logon session
request ticket-granting ticket
ticket + session key
request service-granting ticket
ticket + session key
1. User logs on to workstation and requests service on host.
once per type of service
4. TGS decrypts ticket and authenticator, verifies request, then creates ticket for requested server.
3. Workstation prompts user for password and uses password to decrypt incoming message, then sends ticket and authenticator that contains user's name, network address, and time to TGS.
request service
provide server authenticator
once per service session
5. Workstation sends ticket and authenticator to server.
6. Server verifies that ticket and authenticator match, then grants access to service. If mutual authentication is required, server returns an authenticator.

Kerberos Realms

- a Kerberos environment consists of:
  - a Kerberos server
  - a number of clients, all registered with server
  - application servers, sharing keys with server
- this is termed a realm
  - typically a single administrative domain
- if have multiple realms, their Kerberos servers must share keys and trust

Kerberos Realms


Realm A
Kerberos
Client
AS
TGS
1. request ticket for local TGS
2. ticket for local TGS
3. request ticket for remote TGS
4. ticket for remote TGS
5 request ticket for remote server
6 ticket for remote server
7. request remote service
Kerberos
AS
TGS
Server
Realm B

Kerberos Version 5

- developed in mid 1990’s
- specified as Internet standard RFC 1510
- provides improvements over v4
  - addresses environmental shortcomings
    - encryption alg, network protocol, byte order, ticket lifetime, authentication forwarding, interrealm auth
  - and technical deficiencies
    - double encryption, non-std mode of use, session keys, password attacks

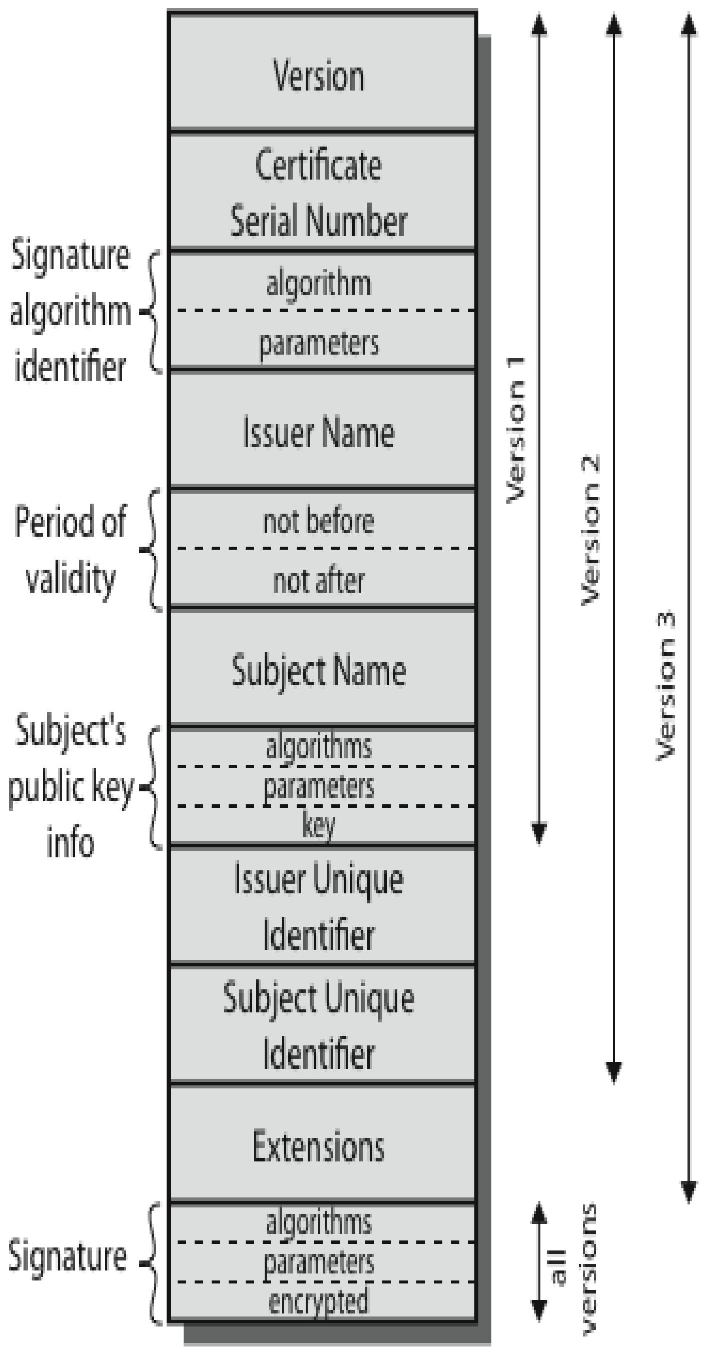
X.509 Authentication Service

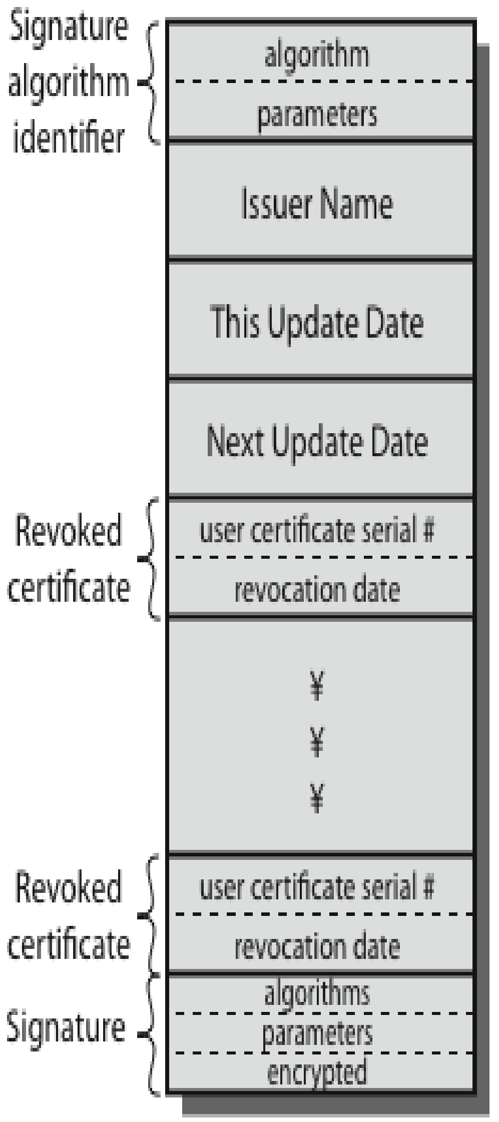
- part of CCITT X.500 directory service standards
  - distributed servers maintaining user info database
- defines framework for authentication services
  - directory may store public-key certificates
  - with public key of user signed by certification authority
- also defines authentication protocols
- uses public-key crypto & digital signatures
  - algorithms not standardised, but RSA recommended
- X.509 certificates are widely used

X.509 Certificates

- issued by a Certification Authority (CA), containing:
  - version (1, 2, or 3)
  - serial number (unique within CA) identifying certificate
  - signature algorithm identifier
  - issuer X.500 name (CA)
  - period of validity (from - to dates)
  - subject X.500 name (name of owner)
  - subject public-key info (algorithm, parameters, key)
  - issuer unique identifier (v2+)
  - subject unique identifier (v2+)
  - extension fields (v3)
  - signature (of hash of all fields in certificate)
- notation `CA<<A>>` denotes certificate for A signed by CA

X.509 Certificates





(b) Certificate Revocation List

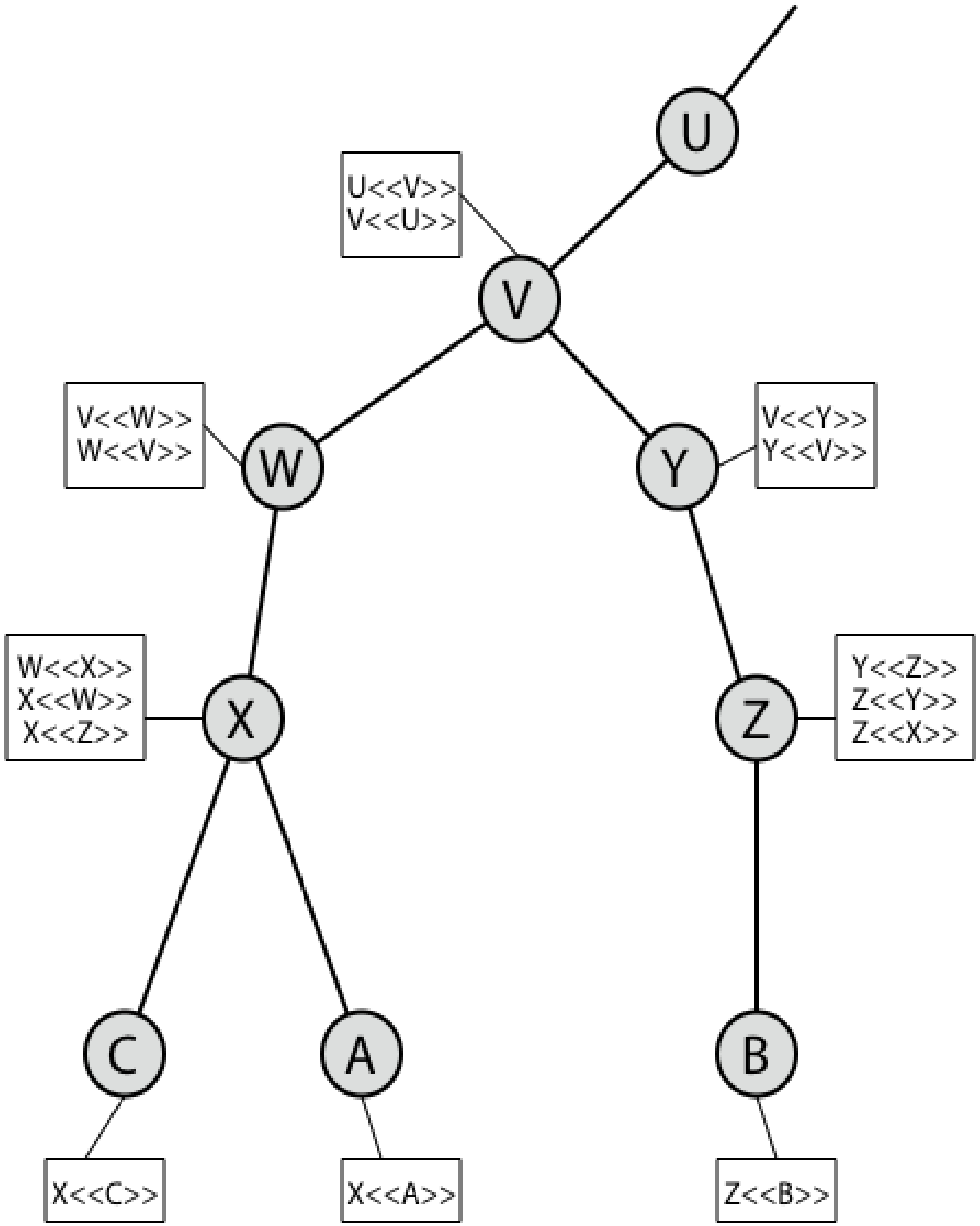
Obtaining a Certificate

- any user with access to CA can get any certificate from it
- only the CA can modify a certificate
- because cannot be forged, certificates can be placed in a public directory

CA Hierarchy

- if both users share a common CA then they are assumed to know its public key
- otherwise CA's must form a hierarchy
- use certificates linking members of hierarchy to validate other CA's
  - each CA has certificates for clients (forward) and parent (backward)
- each client trusts parents certificates
- enable verification of any certificate from one CA by users of all other CAs in hierarchy

CA Hierarchy Use



Certificate Revocation

- certificates have a period of validity
- may need to revoke before expiry, eg:
    1. user's private key is compromised
    2. user is no longer certified by this CA
    3. CA's certificate is compromised
- CA’s maintain list of revoked certificates
    - the Certificate Revocation List (CRL)
- users should check certificates with CA’s CRL

Authentication Procedures

- X.509 includes three alternative authentication procedures:
- One-Way Authentication
- Two-Way Authentication
- Three-Way Authentication
- all use public-key signatures

One-Way Authentication

- 1 message (A->B) used to establish
  - the identity of A and that message is from A
  - message was intended for B
  - integrity & originality of message
- message must include timestamp, nonce, B's identity and is signed by A
- may include additional info for B
  - eg session key

Two-Way Authentication

- 2 messages (A->B, B->A) which also establishes in addition:
  - the identity of B and that reply is from B
  - that reply is intended for A
  - integrity & originality of reply
- reply includes original nonce from A, also timestamp and nonce from B
- may include additional info for A

Three-Way Authentication

- 3 messages (A->B, B->A, A->B) which enables above authentication without synchronized clocks
- has reply from A back to B containing signed copy of nonce from B
- means that timestamps need not be checked or relied upon

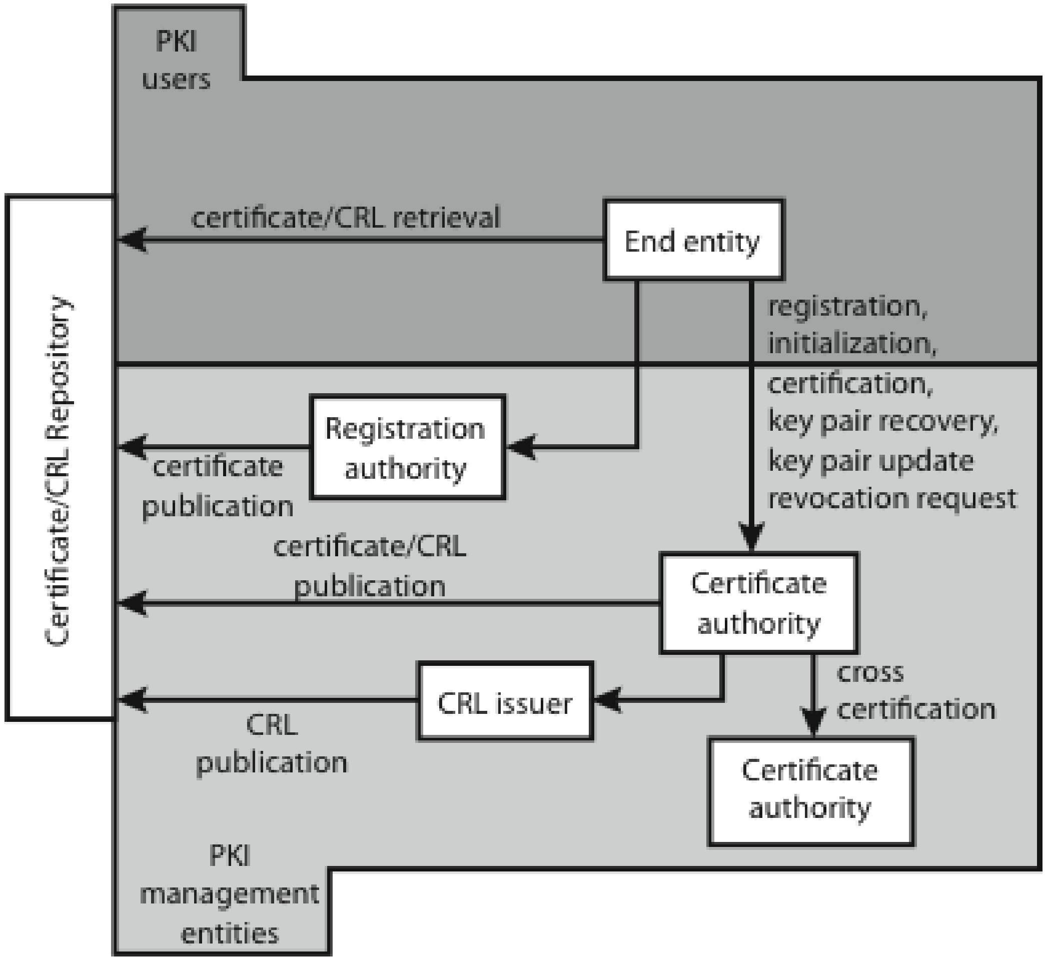
X.509 Version 3

- has been recognised that additional information is needed in a certificate
  - email/URL, policy details, usage constraints
- rather than explicitly naming new fields defined a general extension method
- extensions consist of:
  - extension identifier
  - criticality indicator
  - extension value

Certificate Extensions

- key and policy information
  - convey info about subject & issuer keys, plus indicators of certificate policy
- certificate subject and issuer attributes
  - support alternative names, in alternative formats for certificate subject and/or issuer
- certificate path constraints
  - allow constraints on use of certificates by other CA's

Public Key Infrastructure


PKI users
certificate/CRL retrieval
End entity
registration, initialization, certification, key pair recovery, key pair update revocation request
Certificate/CRL Repository
Registration authority
certificate publication
certificate/CRL publication
Certificate authority
cross certification
CRL issuer
CRL publication
Certificate authority
PKI management entities

Summary

- have considered:
  - Kerberos trusted key server system
  - X.509 authentication and certificates