
COMP30023 – Computer Systems
2022– Semester 1 - Week 5 – Lecture 1

Certificates, Public Key Infrastructure, TLS

Olya Ohrimenko

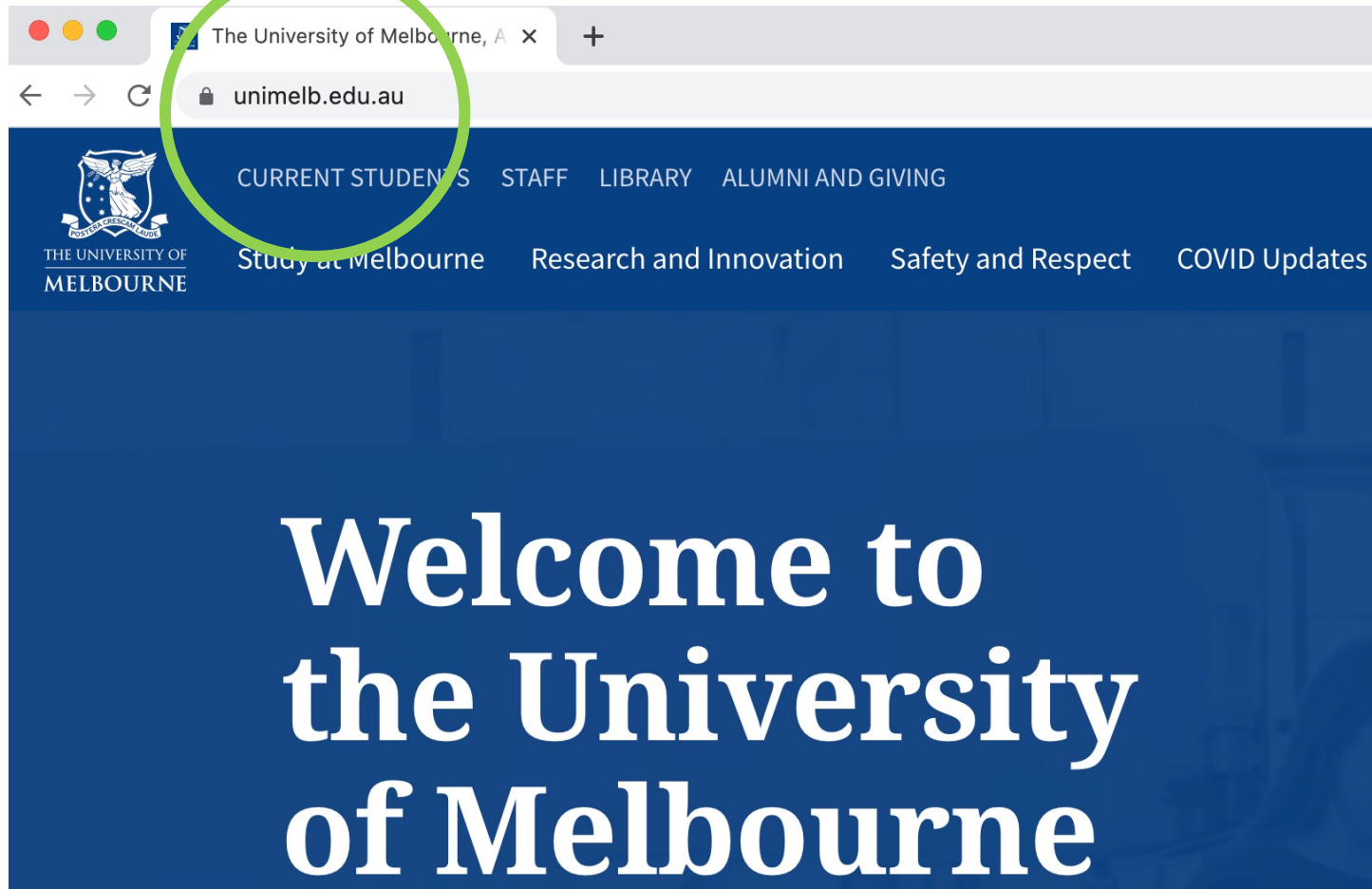


Mid-Semester Test (MST)

- Week 6 Thursday: during lecture time
- Length: 40 mins
- 10% of the total mark
- Canvas quiz
 - 10 multiple choice questions
 - 5 short answer questions
- More details/instructions on LMS



What does the lock mean?



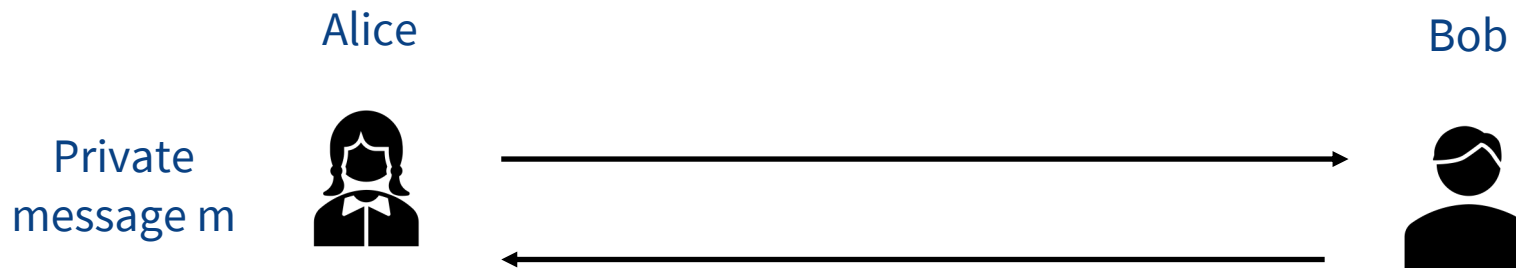


Recap: Secure Communication

Confidentiality – Authentication – Integrity

Objective is to provide **secure private** communication between two end-points, with **integrity checks** to ensure data does not change in transit, and **authentication** to establish identities of one or both of the end-points.

Goal: Secure Communication

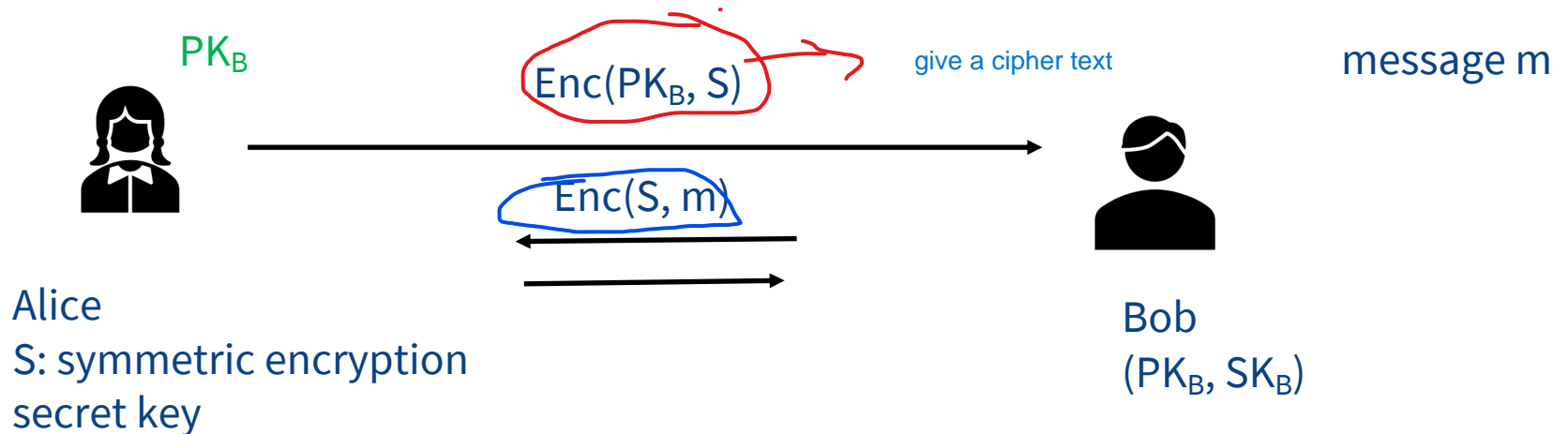


2 problems:

- How does Alice know ciphertext has not been modified?
- How does Alice know PK_B is Bob's public key?

Why

- Bob created a pair of public key and private key (asymmetric encryption).
- Bob shared the Public Key with Alice.
- Alice encrypted S with the public key Bob shared. (S : symmetric encryption key)
- Only Bob is able to decrypt the secret key because he had a SKB (secret key B).

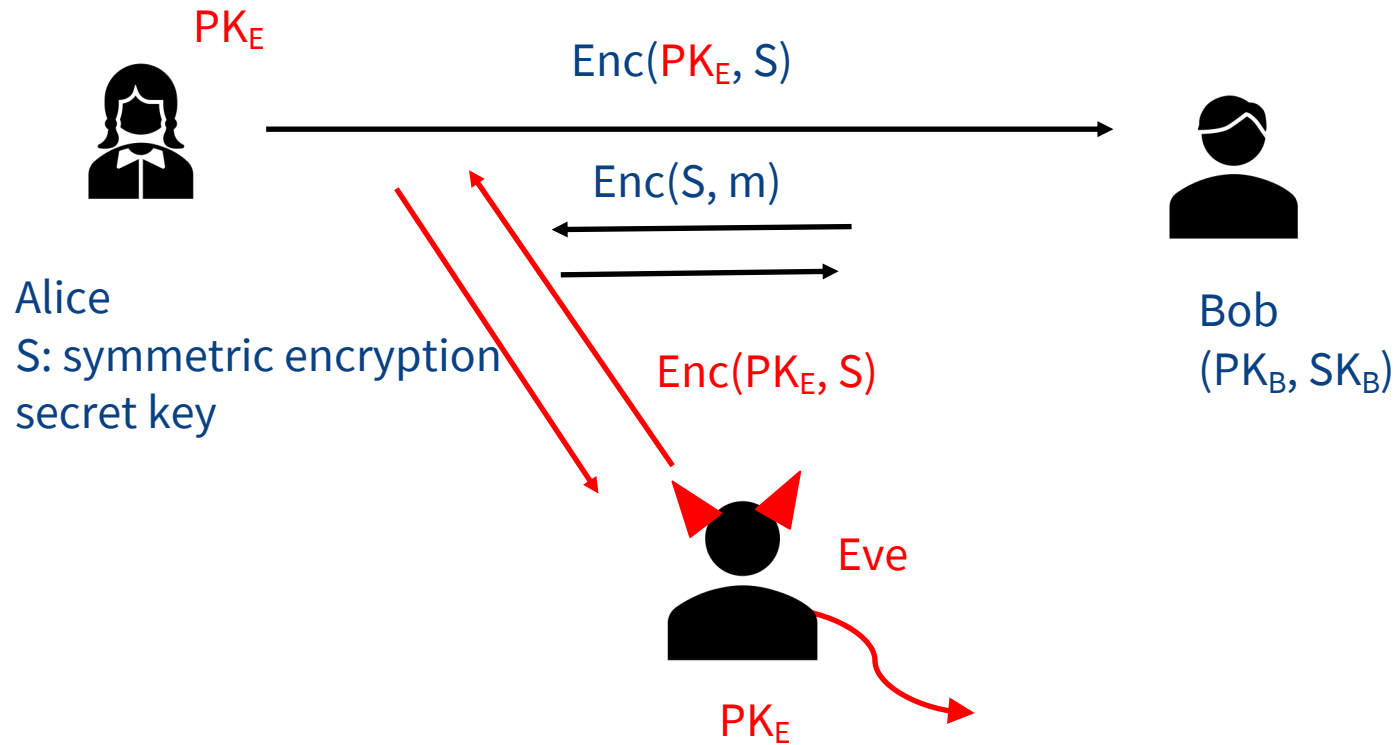


- Confidentiality: satisfied because the message is encrypted and the secret key is encrypted using PK_B.

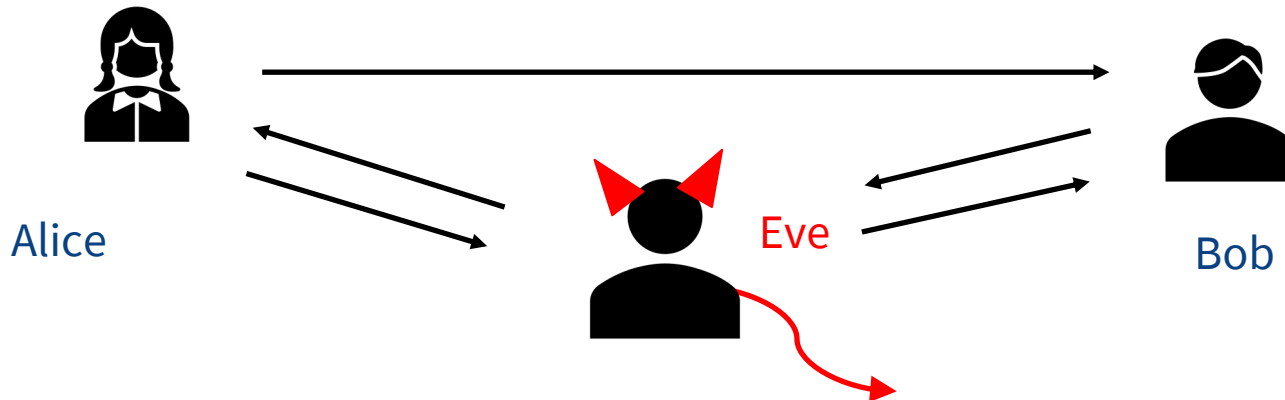
- Integrity: whether when Bob receives the cipher text of encrypted S and when Alice received a cipher text of encrypted message from Bob, Bob doesn't know that S is tampered, Alice doesn't know the message is tampered ?

????

Why



Human-in-the-middle Attack aka Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attack



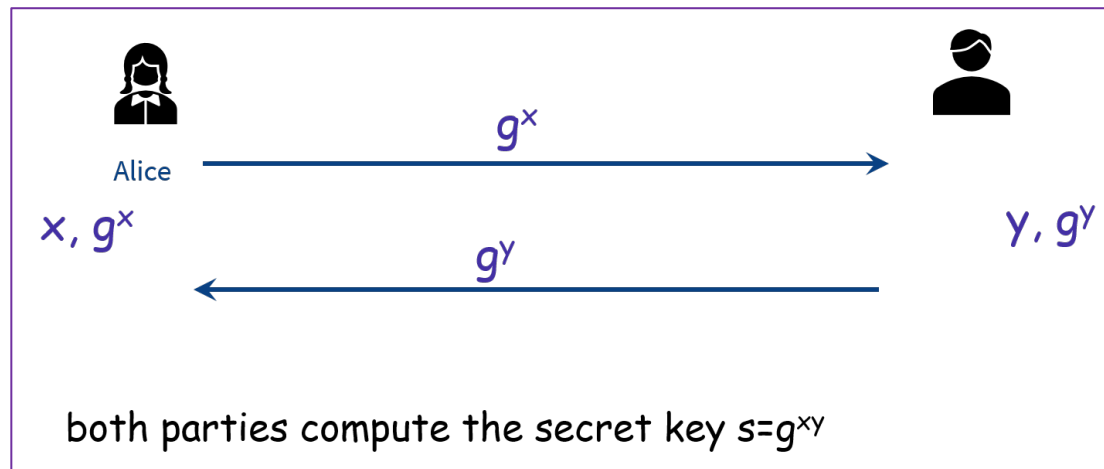
Attack: network traffic between Alice and Bob goes via Eve who:

- Trick Alice into thinking it is communicating with Bob and vice versa by modifying the messages (**impersonation**)
- Silently snoops on the messages sent between Alice and Bob (**eavesdropping**)

Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange and MITM

- Is DH secure against impersonation attack?
- Is DH secure against eavesdropping attack?

g, p publicly known





Purpose of certificates

- Securely associate identities with cryptographic public keys
 - Name, domain, organisation, etc.
 - e.g., for SSL/TLS and HTTPS for authenticated and encrypted web browsing, code signing, client authentications
- The certificate itself is signed (*Certificate Signature*) – often by a third party



Certificate Example

- certificate = $(PK_{\text{Alice}}, \text{Alice}, \dots)$
- Signing: $s = \text{Sign}(SK_{\text{Issuer}}, \text{certificate})$, certificate contains d and other details such as issuer, algorithms, validity date
- Certificate: Issuer, Signature s , certificate = $(\text{Issuer}, PK_{\text{Alice}}, \text{Alice}, \dots)$
- Verification: $\text{Verify}(PK_{\text{Issuer}}, s, \text{certificate})$



Certificate format

X.509 the most common standard format

Consists of: Version Number, Serial Number, Signature Algorithm ID, Issuer Name, Validity Period (not before and not after), Subject name, Subject Public Key Info (Public Key Algorithm and Subject Public Key) , Issuer Unique Identifier (optional) Subject Unique Identifier (optional), Extensions (optional), Certificate Signing Algorithm, Certificate Signature, subject alternative names

Certificate Hierarchies

- The signer is vouching for the identity behind the public/private key pair
- Certificates can be chained: A signs B's Certificate, B signs C's certificate and C runs a website or issues digital signatures
- Trust flows down the hierarchy, if you trust A, then you trust all certificates A signs, and in turn, all certificates signed with certificates signed by A, i.e. trusting A implies trusting C
- Limiting purpose is critical (BasicConstraints - id-ce 19)



Chained Signing & Verification: Example

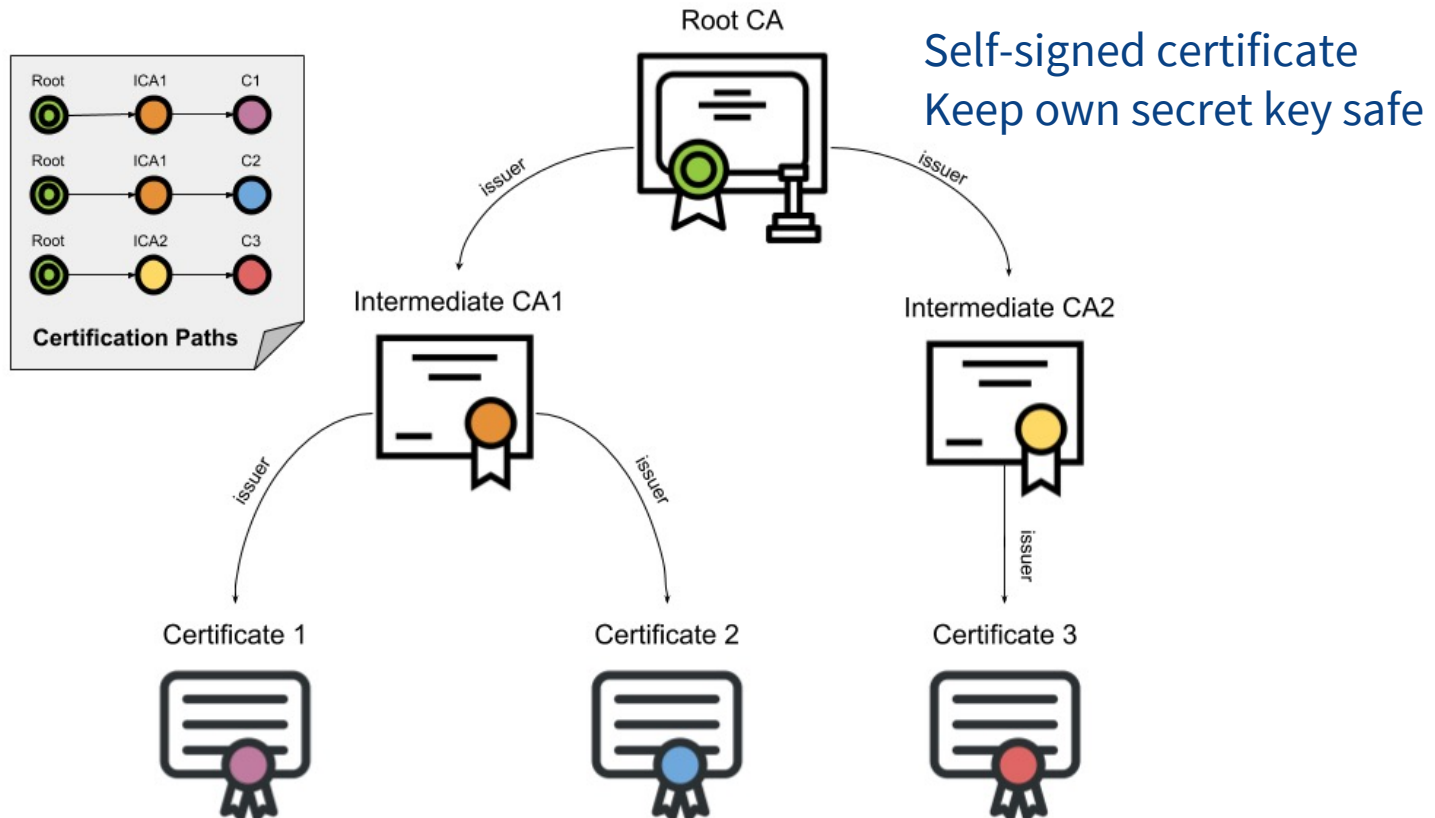
- PK_A, SK_A, PK_B, SK_B , verification/signing keys of a digital signature
- A signs B's certificate, B signs C's certificate
 - A: $s_B = \text{Sign}(SK_A, \text{certificate}_B)$, certificate_B contains PK_B
 - B: $s_C = \text{Sign}(SK_B, \text{certificate}_C)$, certificate_C contains Charlie's domain address www.foobar
- Alice wants to verify www.foobar is Charlie's using certificate_C :
 - $\text{Verify}(PK_B, s_C, \text{certificate}_C)$
 - $\text{Verify}(PK_A, s_B, \text{certificate}_B)$



Trust anchors and certificate authorities

- Trust anchors are entities that are explicitly trusted
 - Most commonly found as root certificates
- They are the points from which all other trust is derived
- Certificate Authorities (CA) are the most common trust anchors
 - Sign certificates for others
 - Root certificates are shipped, pre-loaded, with your Operating System/Browser
 - Root certificate is self-signed
 - Sub-CA – intermediate CA that is not a root, but has been signed by a root
 - Cross-signing – Sub-CA signed by multiple root CAs (compatibility/robustness)

Certificate Hierarchy (Image)



<https://www.ssl.com/article/browsers-and-certificate-validation/>



Trusting root certificates

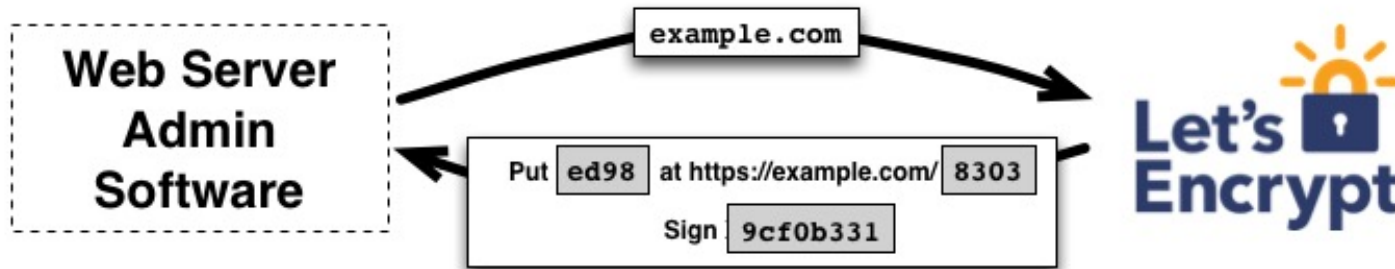
- Machine will contain 50+ root certificates
 - issued by governments, companies
- Should we really trust all those organisations?



Certificate Issuance

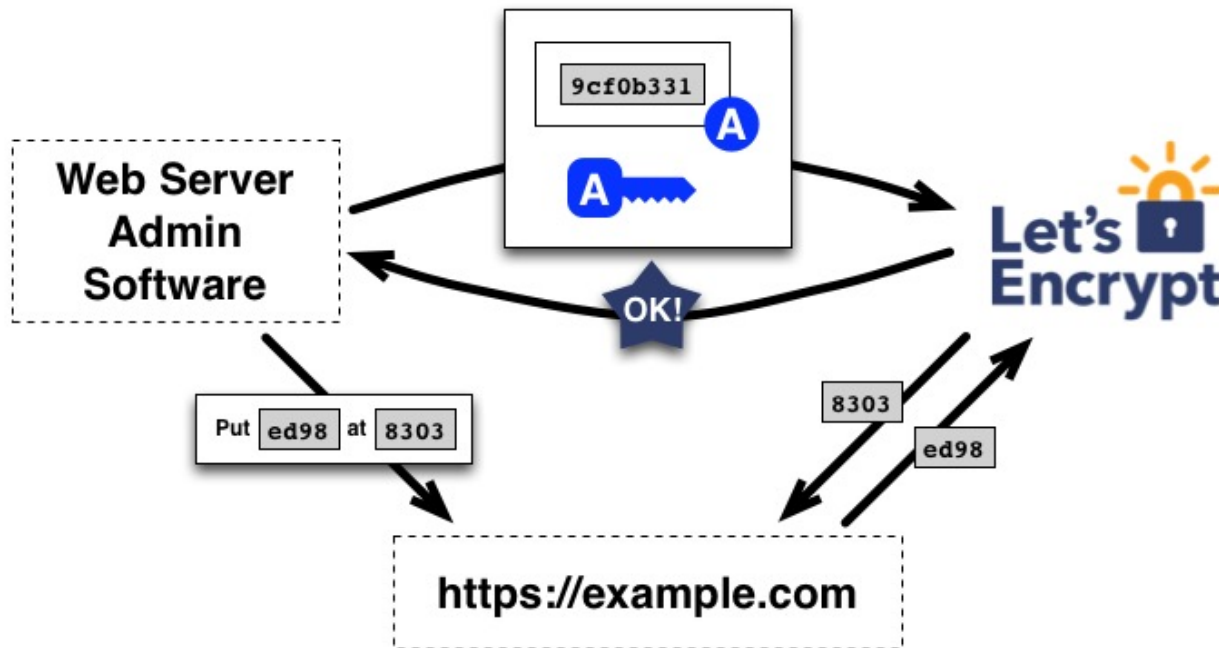
- Domain Validation (DV)
 - Most common
 - Ties a certificate to a domain and checks the requester has some control over the domain
 - Validation via email/DNS/URL – possible weakness
- Organisation Validation (OV)
 - Ties a certificate to a domain and a legal entity (e.g., an operating business)
- Extended Validation (EV)
 - Establishes legal entity, jurisdiction, and presence of authorised officer (e.g., physical address, phone #)
 - Offline process + expensive

Domain Validation Example



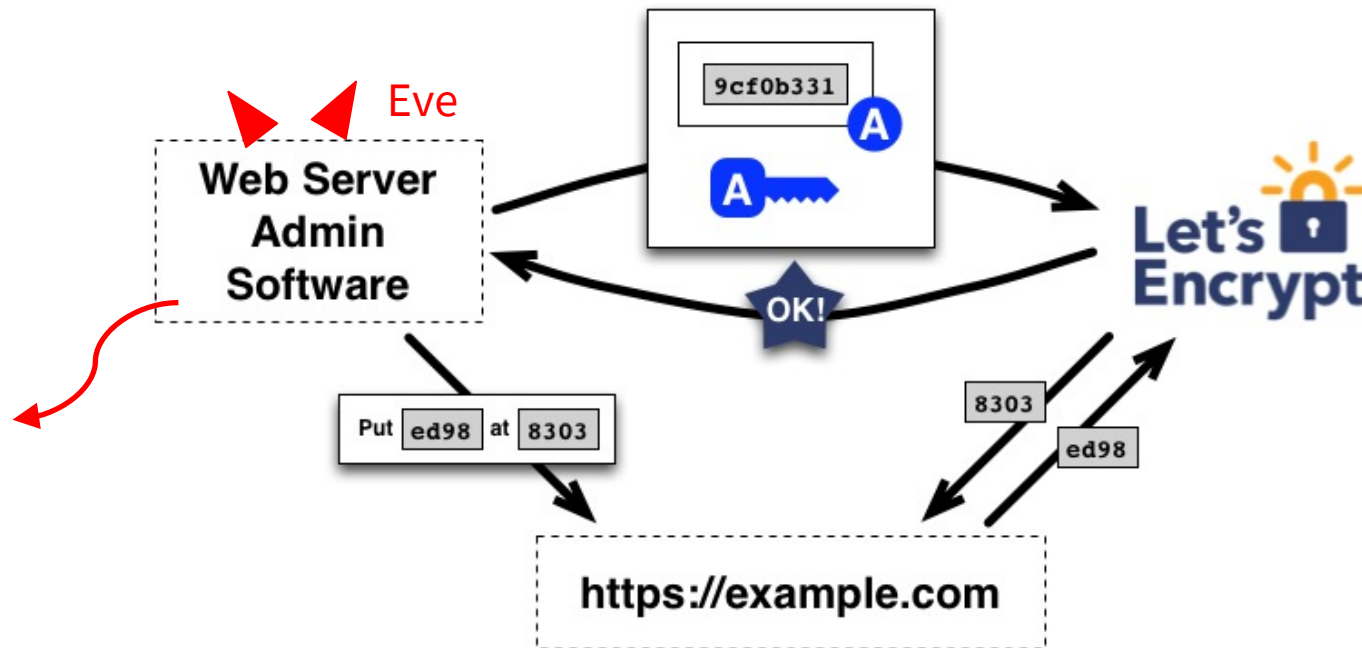
<https://letsencrypt.org/how-it-works/>

Domain Validation Example



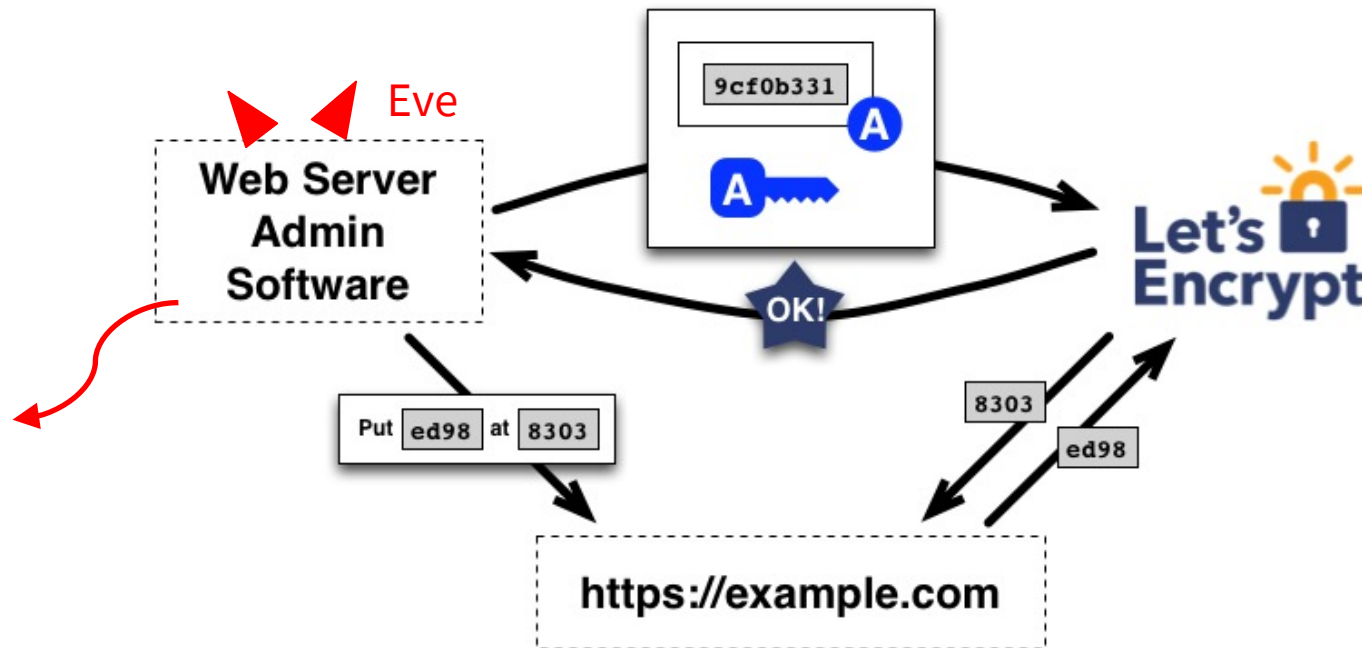
<https://letsencrypt.org/how-it-works/>

Domain Validation Example



<https://letsencrypt.org/how-it-works/>

Domain Validation Example



Question: why verify ownership of PK **AND** domain address?

<https://letsencrypt.org/how-it-works/>



Certificate Issuance - problems

- DV certificates do not establish a link between the domain and a real world entity
 - LetsEncrypt has issued 14,000 Certificates containing the word “paypal”¹
 - WoSign incorrectly issued certificates for github²
- Even EV certificates are not immune
 - Symmantec issued an EV certificate for Google.com³

¹ <https://www.thesslstore.com/blog/lets-encrypt-phishing/>

² <https://www.schrauger.com/the-story-of-how-wosign-gave-me-an-ssl-certificate-for-github-com>

³ <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2999146/encryption/google-threatens-action-against-symantec-issued-certificates-following-botched-investigation.html>



Certificate Revocation

- Revocation occurs when a certificate is:
 - Mistakenly issued (Let's Encrypt, February 2020)
 - Private key is compromised



Certificate Revocation

- Revocation occurs when a certificate is:
 - Mistakenly issued (Let's Encrypt, February 2020)
 - Private key is compromised

Unfortunately, this means we need to revoke the certificates that were affected by this bug, which includes one or more of your certificates. To avoid disruption, you'll need to renew and replace your affected certificate(s) by Wednesday, March 4, 2020. We sincerely apologize for the issue.

If you're not able to renew your certificate by March 4, the date we are required to revoke these certificates, visitors to your site will see security warnings until you do renew the certificate.

<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2020/03/lets-encrypt-revoking-https-certs-due-to-certificate-authority-bug/>

Certificate Revocation

- Revocation occurs when a certificate is:
 - Mistakenly issued (Let's Encrypt, February 2020)
 - Private key is compromised
- Performed via Certificate Revocation Lists and OCSP (Online Certificate Status Protocol) [CRLite, Mozilla]
 - Performance vs privacy
- When root certificates are revoked all certificates below that become untrusted
 - Example: DigiNotar, CNNIC, WoSign
 - Hence cross-signing root certificates
- Only useful if aware of incorrectly issued certificate



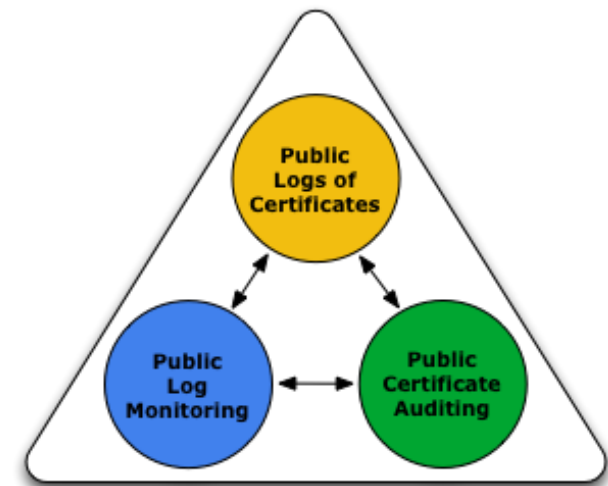
Certificate Transparency

- Open framework for monitoring and auditing certificates
- Intended to provide a way of monitoring certificates that have been issued
- Detect:
 - misissued certificates
 - maliciously acquired certificates
 - rogue CAs

Certificate Transparency (CT)




- Uses a cryptographic append-only log to record the issuance of certificates
 - Merkle Trees: consistency and membership verification
- Server should send SCT (signed certificate timestamp)
 - SCT is issued by CT log to prove inclusion
- Browser may choose to decline certificates not on CT log
- SCT is an extension in X.509


As of Mar 24, 2022, there have been 17,910,600,871 entries made to the set of Certificate Transparency logs that Google monitors.



<https://www.certificate-transparency.org/what-is-ct>

Certificates and CAs examples

 QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
↳  QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
↳  *.unimelb.edu.au



***.unimelb.edu.au**
Issued by: QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
Expires: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at 2:24:00 pm
Australian Eastern Daylight Time
✔ This certificate is valid

> **Trust**
▼ **Details**

Subject Name _____
Country or Region AU
County Victoria
Locality Melbourne
Organisation University of Melbourne
Common Name *.unimelb.edu.au


Issuer Name _____
Country or Region BM
Organisation QuoVadis Limited
Common Name QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

Certificates and CAs examples

QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3

↳ QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

↳ *.unimelb.edu.au



***.unimelb.edu.au**

Issued by: QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

Expires: Wednesday, 16 November 2022 2:24:00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time

✓ This certificate is valid

> Trust

> Details

Subject Name	
Country or Region	AU
County	Victoria
Locality	Melbourne
Organisation	University of Melbourne
Common Name	*.unimelb.edu.au
Issuer Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3

↳ QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

↳ *.unimelb.edu.au


Common Name	QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
Serial Number	2D 36 86 28 25 2E D4 69 9E 22 AC DF 5F A5 7C 91 21 93 66 37
Version	3
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 with RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)
Parameters	None
Not Valid Before	Tuesday, 16 November 2021 at 2:15:00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
Not Valid After	Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at 2:24:00 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time
Public Key Info	
Algorithm	RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)
Parameters	None
Public Key	256 bytes: B0 B7 5C 9B 35 80 B8 1E ...
Exponent	65537
Key Size	2,048 bits
Key Usage	Encrypt, Verify, Wrap, Derive

Certificates and CAs examples

QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3

QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

*.unimelb.edu.au


 **QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3**
Intermediate certificate authority
Expires: Tuesday, 3 November 2026 at 4:41:00 am Australian Eastern Daylight Time
✔ This certificate is valid

> Trust

▼ Details

Subject Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
Issuer Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
Serial Number	65 32 47 81 4F 5F A6 6B B8 54 DA F0 53 F3 29 26 5D 72 65 38

Certificates and CAs examples



QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
Intermediate certificate authority
Expires: Tuesday, 3 November 2026 at 4:41:26
Eastern Daylight Time
✔ This certificate is valid


> Trust
▼ Details

Subject Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
Issuer Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
Serial Number	65 32 47 81 4F 5F A6 6B B1 26 5D 72 65 38

QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3

↳ QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

↳ *.unimelb.edu.au



QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
Root certificate authority
Expires: Monday, 13 January 2042 at 5:59:32 am Australian Eastern Daylight Time
✔ This certificate is valid

> Trust
▼ Details

Subject Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
Issuer Name	
Country or Region	BM
Organisation	QuoVadis Limited
Common Name	QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
Serial Number	44 57 34 24 5B 81 89 9B 35 F2 CE B8 2B 3B 5B A7 26 F0 75 28

QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3

↳ QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3

↳ *.unimelb.edu.au

?

OK

Certificates and CAs examples

<https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT212140>

Trusted Certificates

Certificate name	Issued by	Type	Key size	Sig alg	Serial number	Expires
AAA Certificate Services	AAA Certificate Services	RSA	2048 bits	SHA-1	01	23:59:59 Dec 31, 2028
AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM	AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-256	5D 93 8D 30 67 36 C8 06 1D 1A C7 54 84 69 07	00:00:00 Jan 1, 2030
Actalis Authentication Root CA	Actalis Authentication Root CA	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-256	57 0A 11 97 42 C4 E3 CC	11:22:02 Sep 22, 2030
AddTrust Class 1 CA Root	AddTrust Class 1 CA Root	RSA	2048 bits	SHA-1	01	10:38:31 May 30, 2020

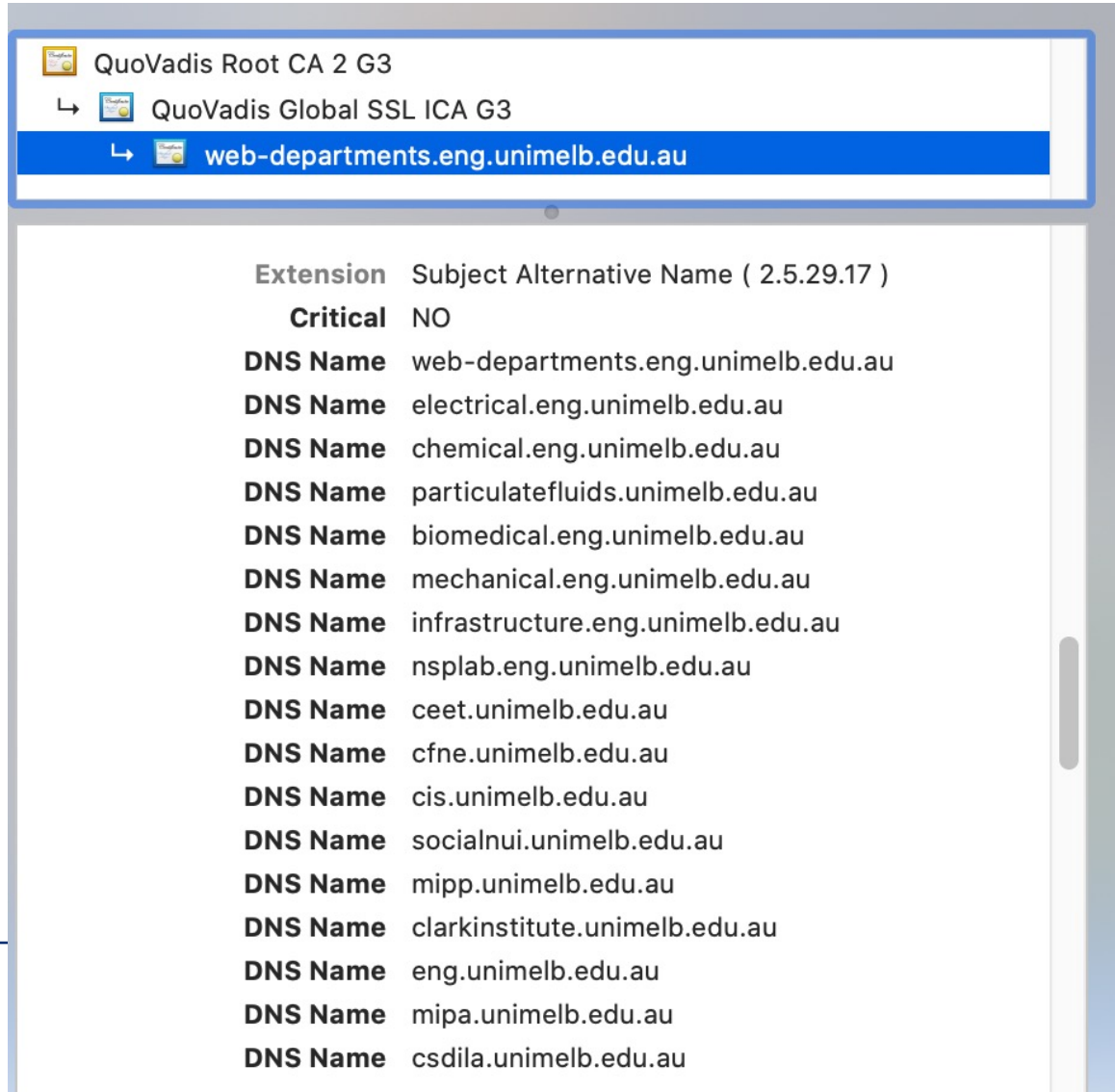
Certificates and CAs examples

<https://support.apple.com/en-au/HT212140>

Trusted Certificates

Certificate name	Issued by	Type	Key size	Sig alg	Serial number	Expires
AAA Certificate Services	AAA Certificate Services	RSA	2048 bits	SHA-1	01	23:59:59 Dec 31, 2028
AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM	AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM	QuoVadis Root CA 1 G3	QuoVadis Root CA 1 G3	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-256
		QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3	QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-256
Actalis Authentication Root CA	Actalis Authentication Root CA	QuoVadis Root CA 2	QuoVadis Root CA 2	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-1
		QuoVadis Root CA 3 G3	QuoVadis Root CA 3 G3	RSA	4096 bits	SHA-256
AddTrust Class 1 CA Root	AddTrust Class 1 CA Root					

Subject alternative names



QuoVadis Root CA 2 G3
↳ QuoVadis Global SSL ICA G3
↳ web-departments.eng.unimelb.edu.au

Extension	Subject Alternative Name (2.5.29.17)
Critical	NO
DNS Name	web-departments.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	electrical.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	chemical.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	particulatefluids.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	biomedical.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	mechanical.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	infrastructure.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	nsplab.eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	ceet.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	cfne.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	cis.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	socialnui.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	mipp.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	clarkinstitute.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	eng.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	mipa.unimelb.edu.au
DNS Name	csdila.unimelb.edu.au



Summary

- Public Key Infrastructure
- Certificate authorities
- Certificates



SSL/TLS

Protocol for secure communication over Internet
Transport Layer Security protocol

- Supported by all popular web browsers , web servers, internet commerce sites
- HTTPS: implementation of TLS over HTTP



Secure Communication

- This objective has been explored since the early days of networks, with proposals as early as 1993
- It is a good case study on why security is difficult, how things can go wrong, and how fixing those problems can be challenging
- Even with the best of intentions and extremely smart people, flaws in security persist



History of the SSL/TLS Protocol

- SSL (Secure Socket Layer)
 - Secure TCP connection
 - Designed by Netscape in 1994
 - Version 1.0 was never released because of security flaws
 - Version 2.0 was the first to be made public
 - It too had security flaws
 - Version 3.0 (1996) – complete redesign, the basis on which TLS was designed

TLS – Transport Layer Security

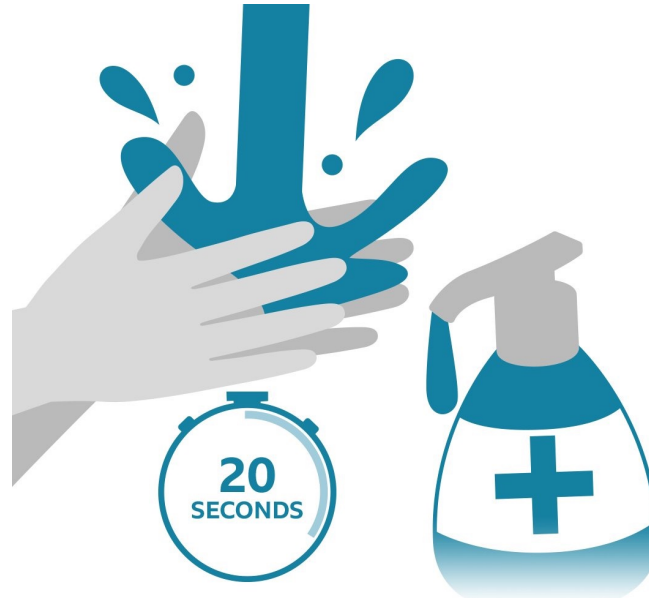
- TLS 1.0 (1999) – upgrade to SSL 3.0, with further improvements to security
- TLS 1.1 (2006) – further upgrades and defences against known attacks
- TLS 1.2 (2008) – updated primitives (moves from MD5-SHA1 to SHA-256 for pseudorandom number generation)
 - Added support for AES and various advanced modes of AES
 - 2011 further update to prevent downgrade attacks
 - Where a server can be tricked into downgrading to weaker SSL 2.0
- TLS 1.3 – significant differences, not backwards compatible, removing weaker crypto primitives, enforcing forward secrecy
 - 11 years and nearly 30 IETF drafts
 - dropped support for less/in secure cryptographic features (MD5)
 - performance (number of roundtrips 0 or 1)



TLS Basics

- Handshake protocol:
 - Uses public-key cryptography to establish several shared secret keys between the client and the server
 - An initial negotiation between client and server that establishes the parameters of their subsequent interactions within TLS
- Record protocol:
 - Uses the secret keys established in the handshake protocol to protect confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of data exchange between the client and the server

Handshake



**Wash hands for about 20 seconds
with soap and hot water or use a
sanitiser gel**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51711227>



Handshake Protocol

Runs between a client and a server

For example, client = Web browser, server = website

Negotiate version of the protocol and the set of cryptographic algorithms to be used:

- Interoperability between different implementations

Authenticate server and client (optional)

- Use digital certificates to learn each other's public keys and verify each other's identity
- Often only the server is authenticated

Use public keys to establish a shared secret

ClientHello



Alice

Client (in plaintext):

- Protocol version
- Cryptographic algorithms
- random nonce



Bob



ServerHello



Alice

Server (in plaintext) :

- Highest protocol version supported by both the client and the server
- Strongest cryptographic suite selected from those offered by the client

...



Bob



ServerKeyExchange



Alice

Server (in plaintext) :

- Highest protocol version supported by both the client and the server
- Strongest cryptographic suite selected from those offered by the client

...



Bob



Server sends its public-key certificate containing either its public key, or its Diffie-Hellman public key g^y (depending on chosen crypto suite)

Validate the certificate

ClientKeyExchange



Alice

The client generates secret key material and sends it to the server encrypted with the server's public key or g^x if DH



Bob

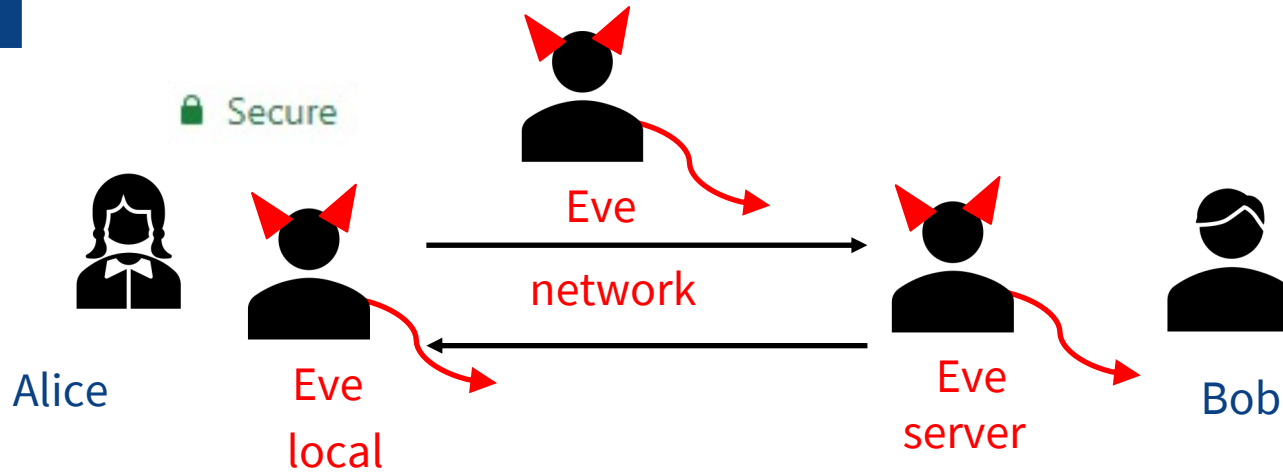


TLS Handshake

[over a *reliable* network connection]

- Client sends ClientHello to server asking for secure connection, listing its supported cipher suites
- Server responds with ServerHello and selects one of the cipher suites presented that it supports, also includes its certificate, and can request the client send its certificate (mutual authentication)
- Client confirms validity of certificate
- Client generates session key
 - Either directly by picking a random key and encrypting it with the public key of the server, or
 - By running the Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange protocol that provides better security
- Handshake concludes and both parties share a key that is then used for encrypting/decrypting messages

Beyond TLS



- Certificates and Certificate Authorities provide authentication
- TLS provides private communication with integrity guarantees
- It's on this basis that the public are told to check for the padlock to know their communication is secure and protected between their web browser and the server, and is with the genuine server



Summary

- Secure communication is complex
- Relies on several cryptographic protocols
- TLS (see LMS for links on attacks against TLS)



Acknowledgement

- The slides were prepared by Olya Ohrimenko based on some material developed previously by Chris Culnane
- Reference: KR 8.3, 8.6