

Asymmetric Cryptography and Key Management

Key Distribution and Management

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Module: Key Distribution and Management

Key distribution overview

Key hierarchy

Public-key authority

Public-key certificates

Key Distribution and Management

Key distribution/management are complex

Alice and Bob establish:

- Shared secret key for symmetric cryptography
- Valid/authenticated public keys for asymmetric cryptography

Key Distribution Approaches

1. User A can select a key and physically deliver it to User B
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4. If A and B have secure communications w/ a trusted third party C, C can deliver key

Key Hierarchy

Session key:

- Temporary; used for one or few sessions
- Used between users for data encryption

Master key:

- Encrypt session keys
- Shared between user and key distribution center

Decentralized Key Distribution

Assume symmetric key (K_m) distributed for both Alice and Bob

Use K_m to distribute and share K_s

Alice

Bob

$ID_A || N_1$ ----->

Alice

Bob

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<----- $E(K_m, [K_s || ID_A || ID_B$
 $|| f(N_1) || N_2])$

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Bob

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$E(K_s || f(N_2))$ ----->

Need $n(n-1)/2$ keys for n users

Public-Key Authority

Builds on public directory securely
registering $\{ID_i, K_i\}$

K_i public key of user i
and k_i private key of user i

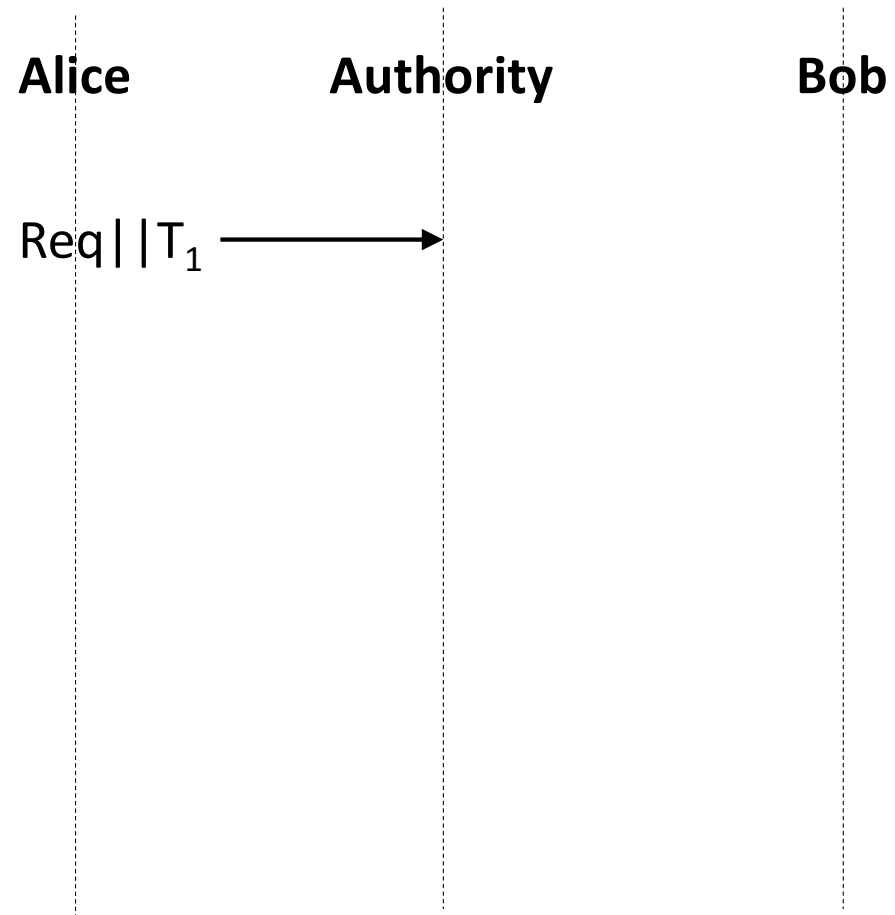
Public-Key Authority

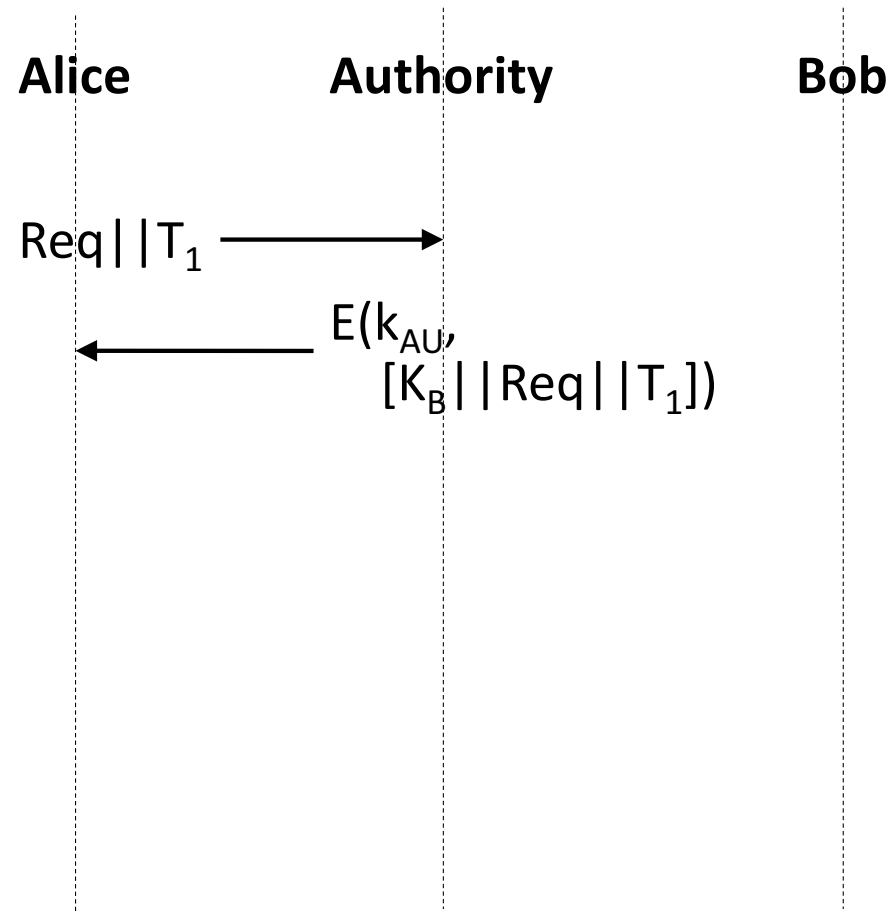
Builds on public directory securely registering $\{ID_i, K_i\}$

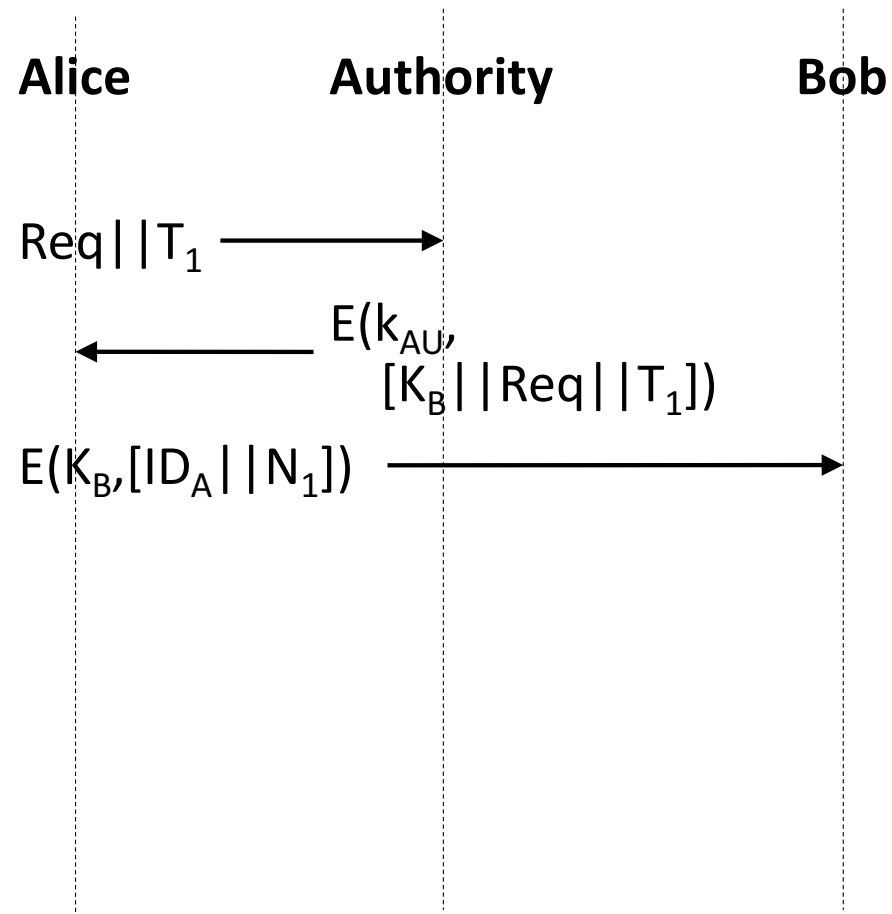
Securely distribute keys from directory

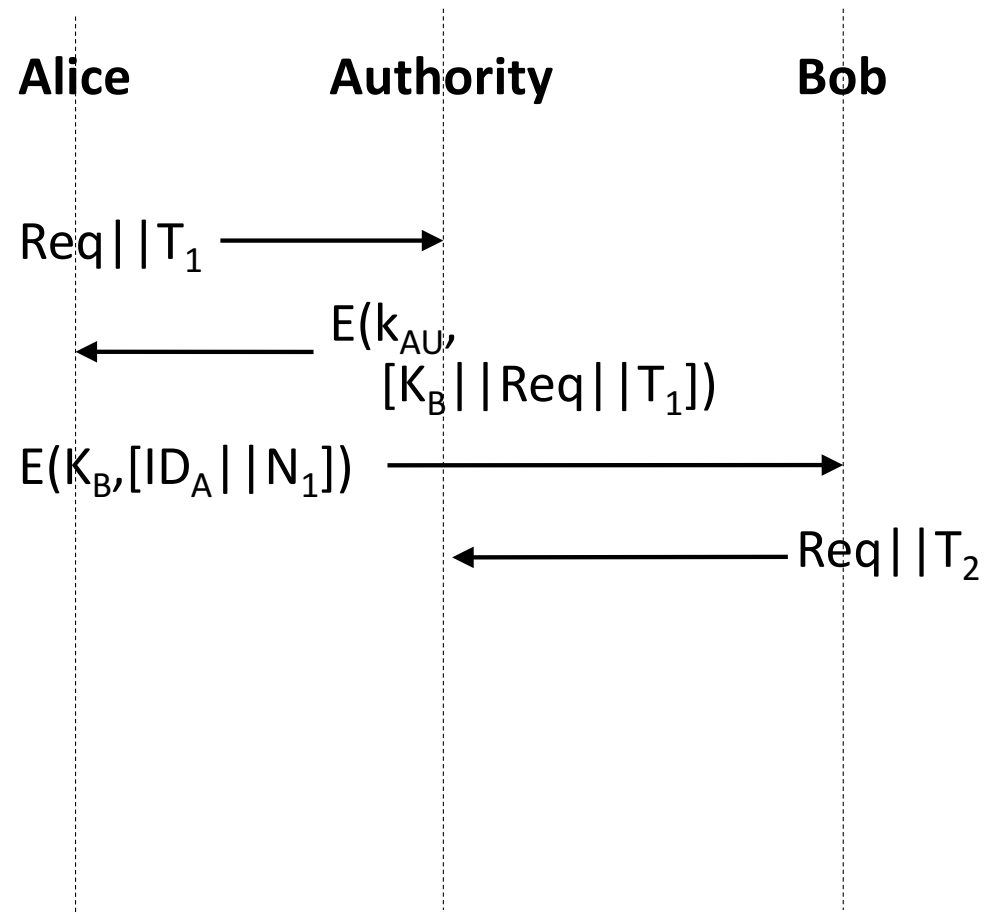
Require users to know authority's K_{AU}

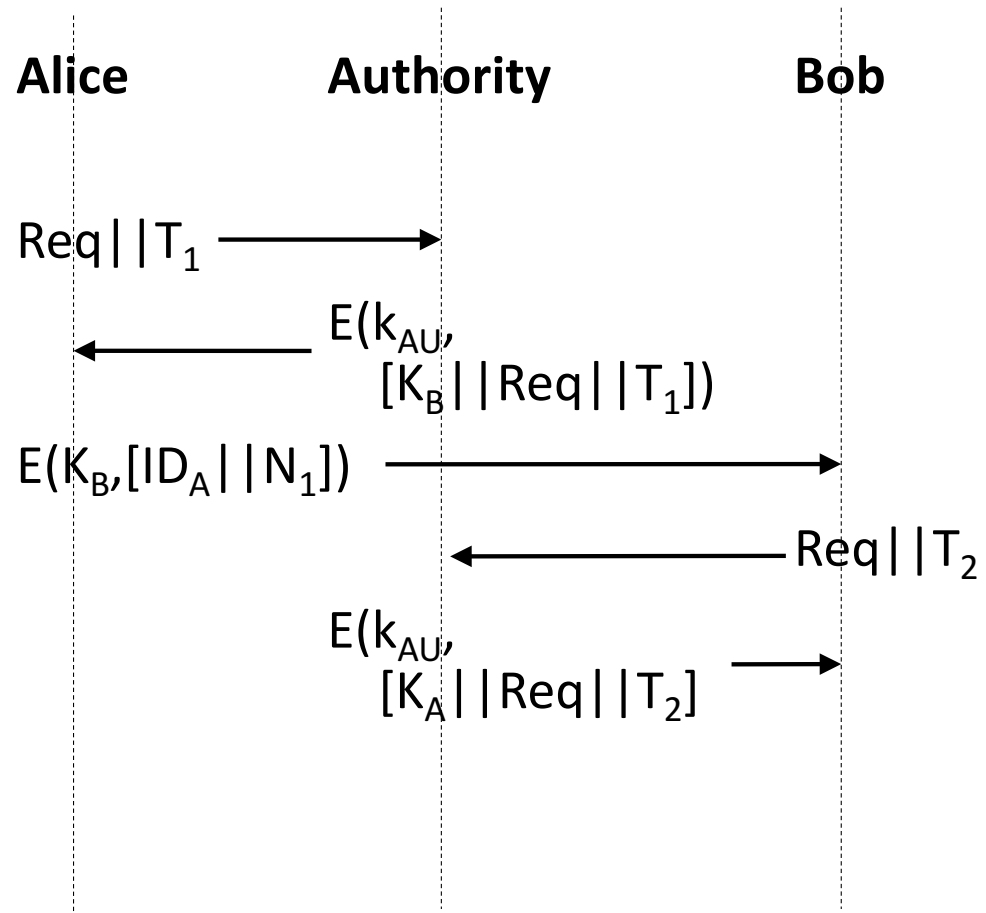
Require real-time access to authority

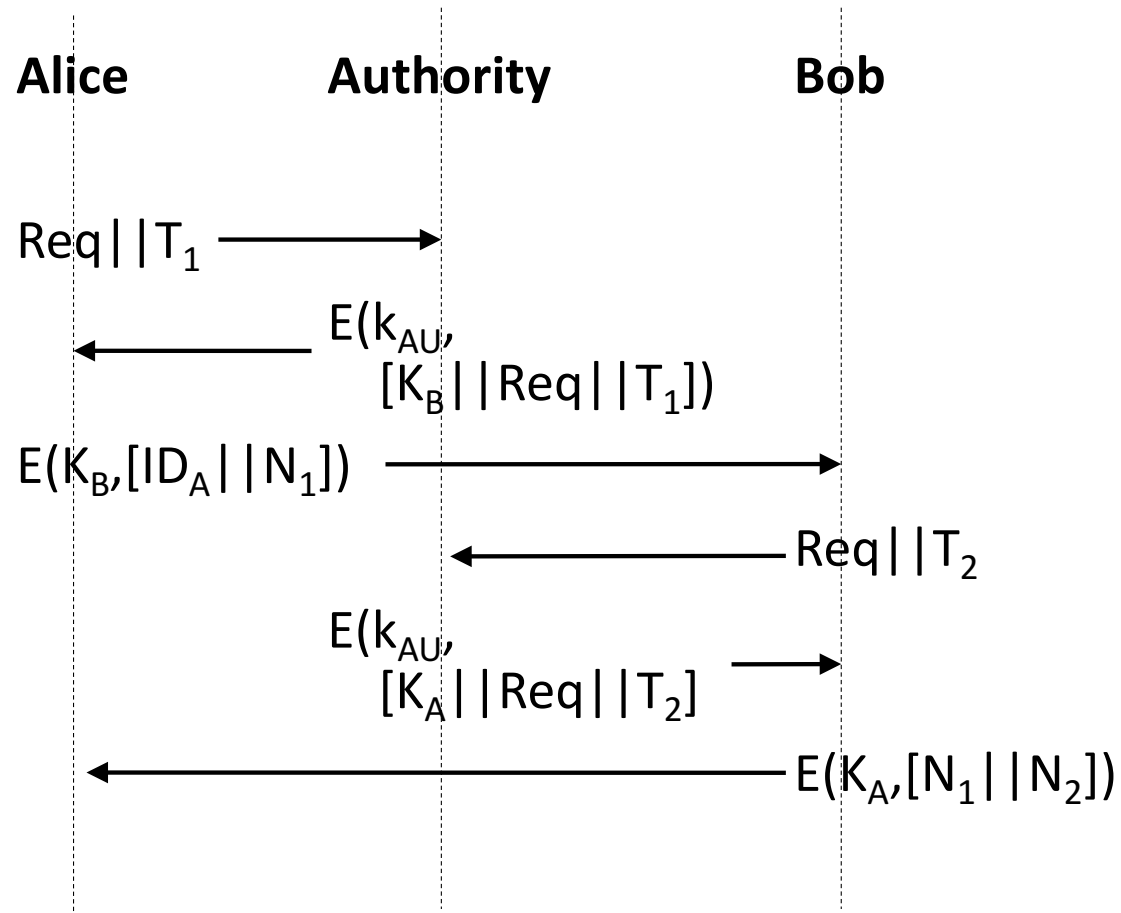


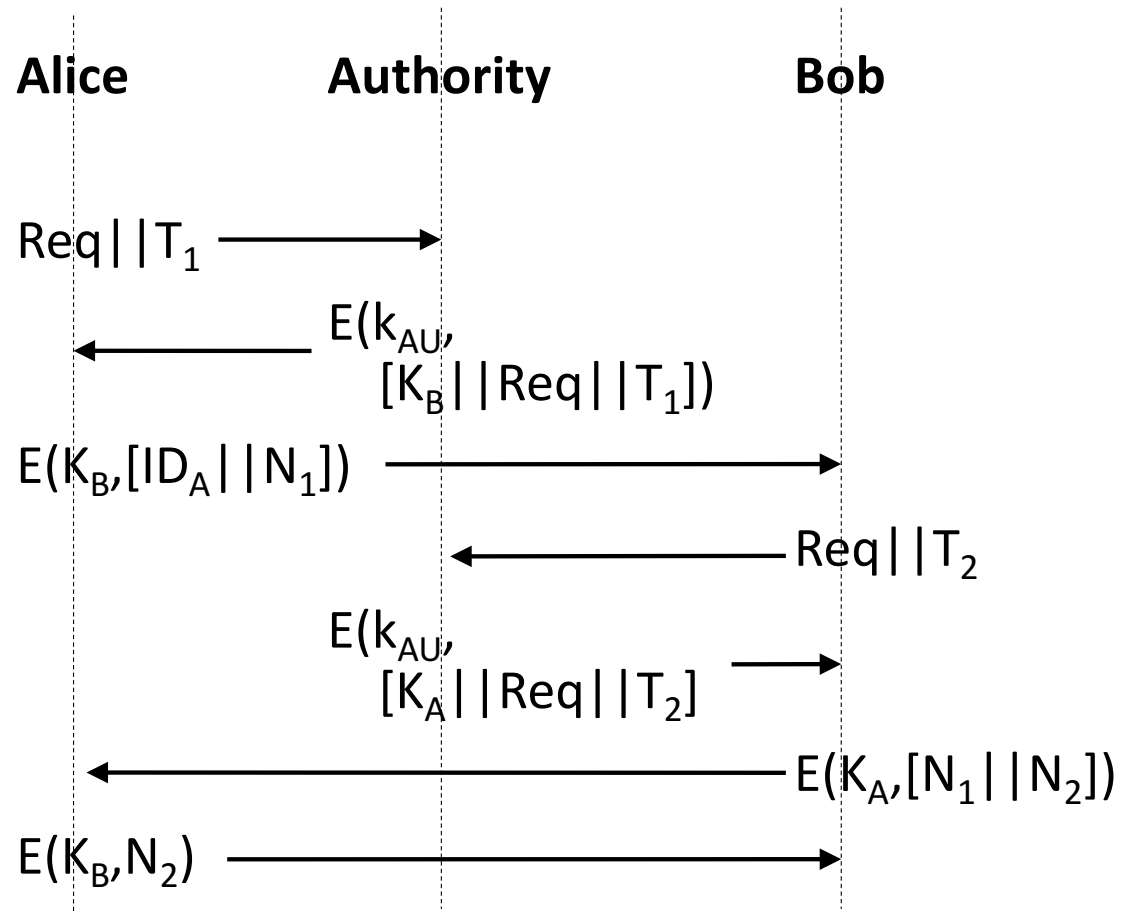


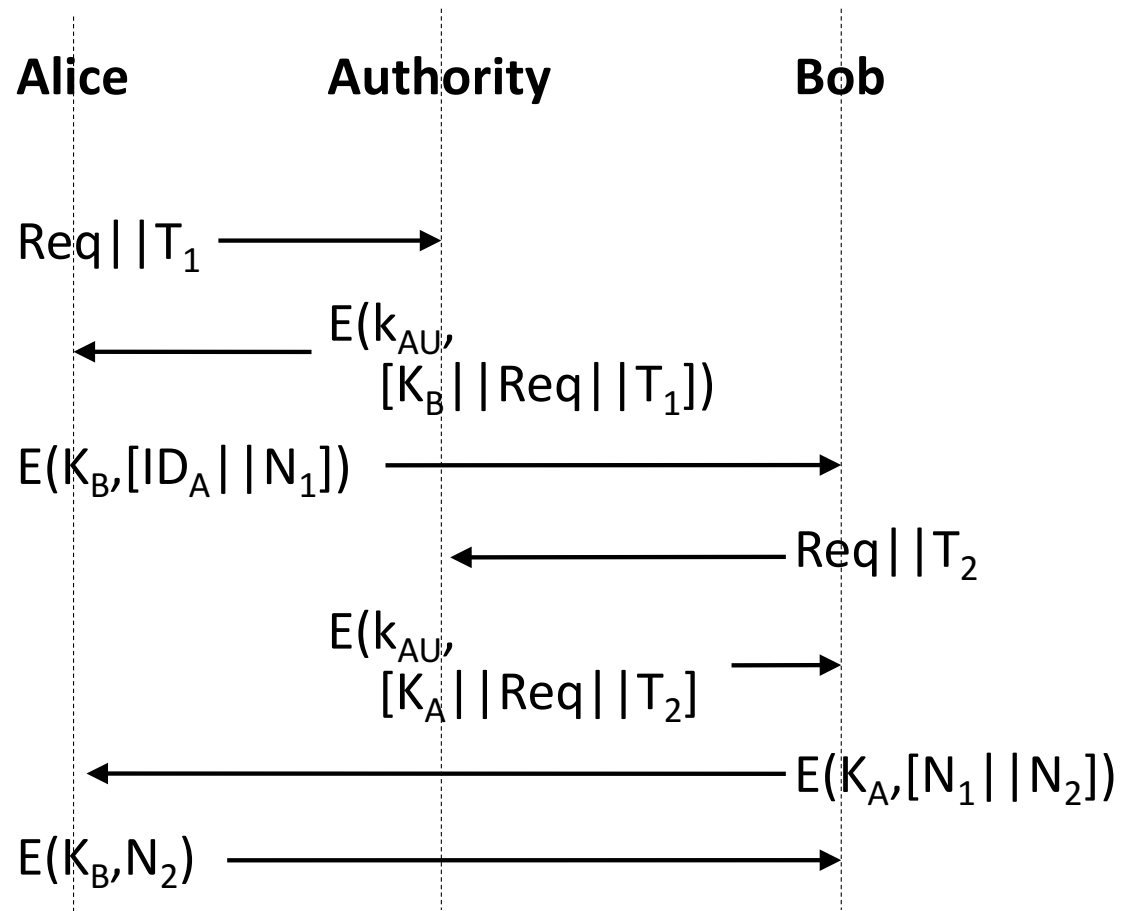












Real-time access of authority when key is needed

Public-Key Certificate

Builds on p.-k. authority; binds i to K_i

But allows key exchange without
real-time access to the authority

Contains validity period, rights of use

Signed by Certificate Authority (CA)

Public-Key Certificate Requirements

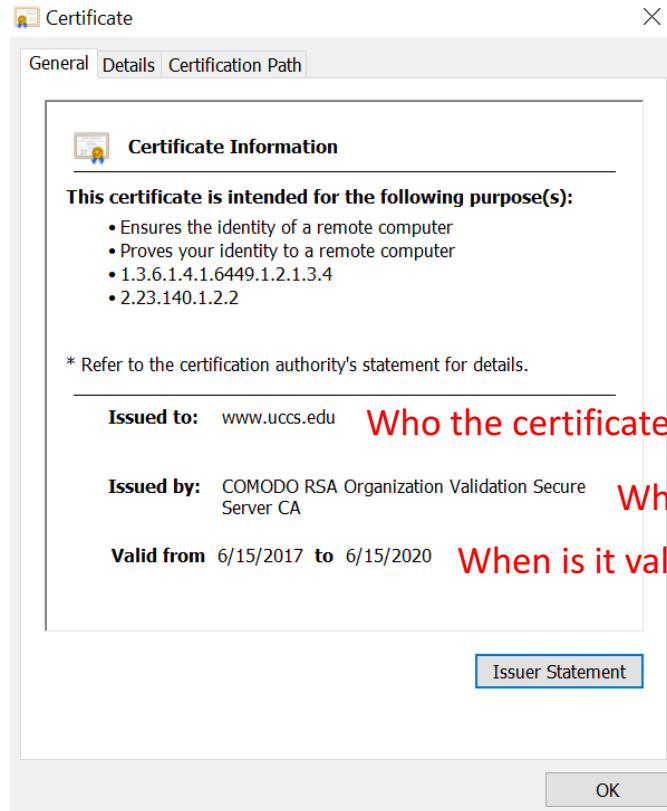
1. Any user can read a certificate
2. Any user can verify the certificate
3. Only CA can create/update certificates
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E.g., X.509 certificate standard

TLS Digital Certificate Example



Who the certificate belongs to

Who signed the certificate

When is it valid

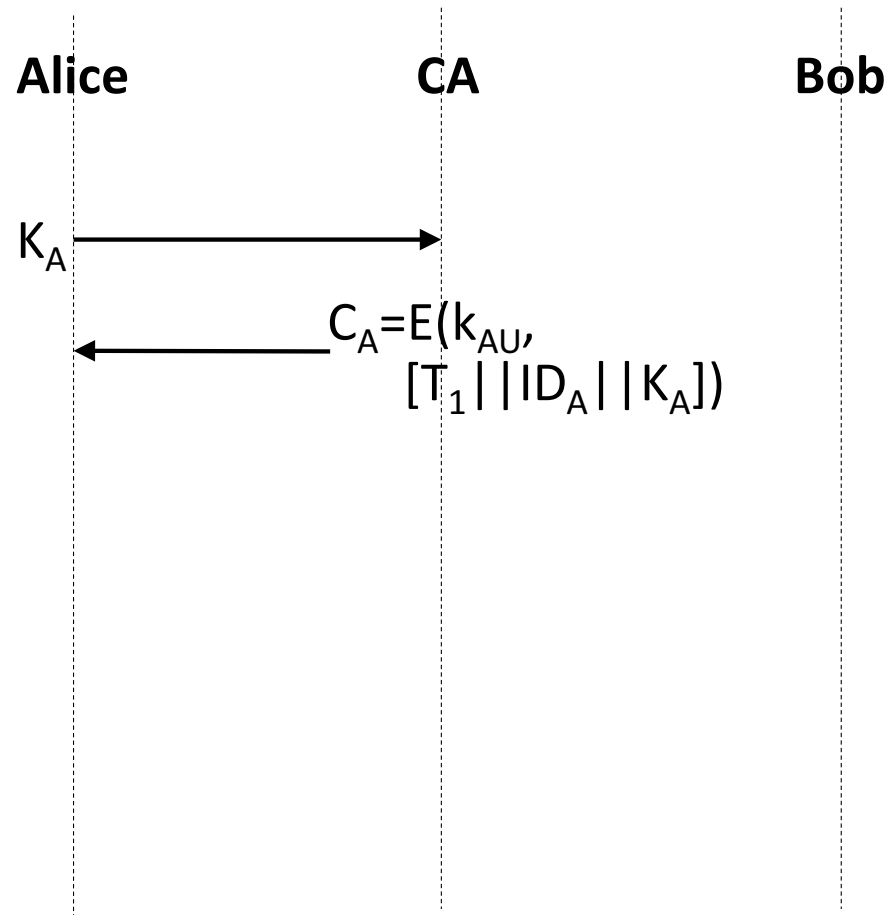
Alice

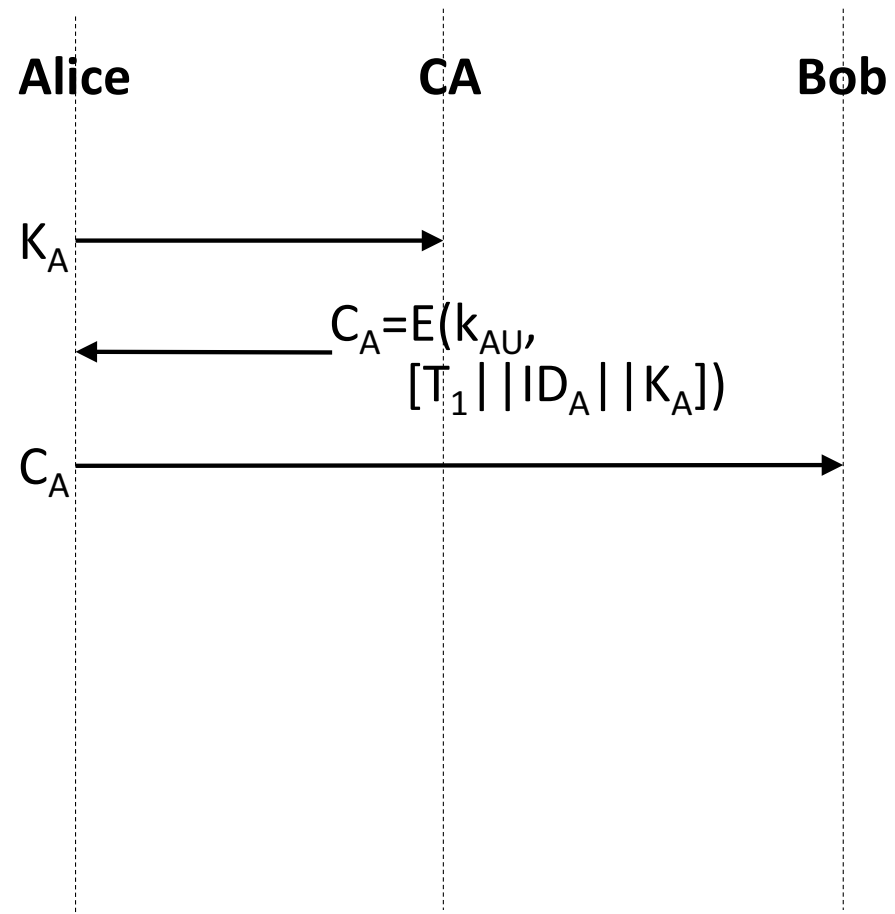
CA

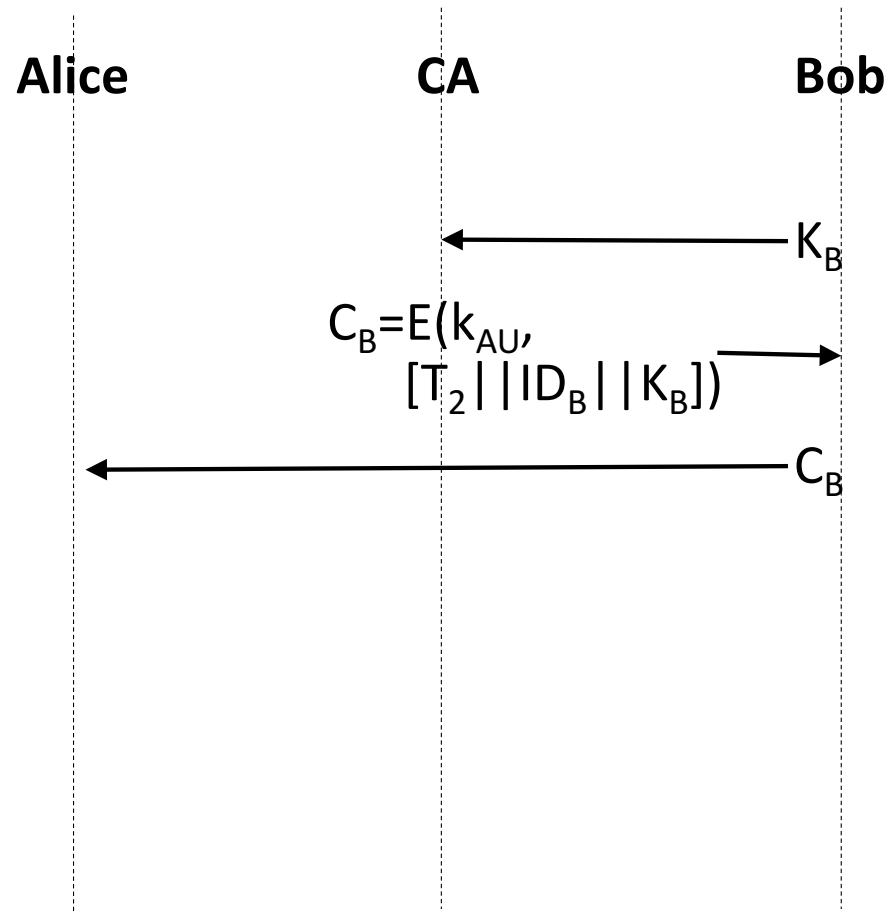
Bob

K_A









Public Key Infrastructure

PKI is the system comprised of hardware, software, people policies, and procedures needed to create, manage, store, distribute, and revoke digital certificates

Enable secure, convenient, and efficient acquisition of public keys

