THE CHINESE WALL SECURITY POLICY

Dr. David F.C. Brewer and Dr. Michael J. Nash, 1989

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Background

- Coined in 1929 following the Wall Street crash
- Chinese Wall policies are already in use
  - Not necessarily digital
  - Can have authority of law
- Other terms, as some find the original offensive
  - "Screen", "firewall", "cone of silence", and "ethical wall"

Relevance

- Before 1989, most security policies were military
  - E.g. Bell-LaPadula (more about this later)
- Need of something that holds up in court
- Relevant anywhere conflicts of interest can exist

Bell-LaPadula

- Proposed by Bell and LaPadula in 1973
- Security policy model
- Designed for military use

Terminology

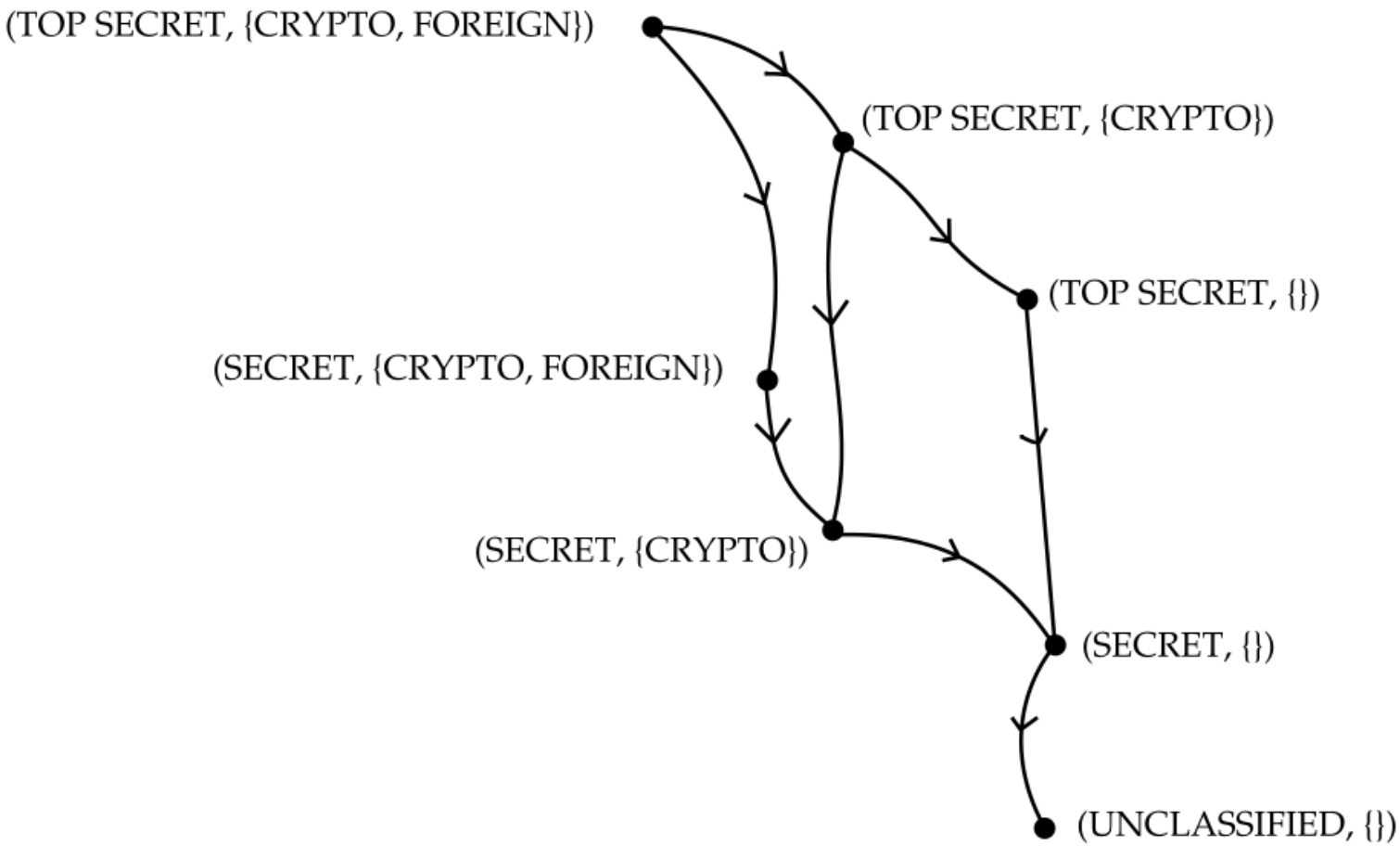
- **Security Label**
- **Object** – Data or program
  - **Classification** – Minimum security level
  - **Category** – Security group(s)
- **Subject** – Person or program
  - **Clearance** – Maximum security level
  - **Need-to-know** – Security group(s)

Access rules

Simple security: access is granted only if the subject's clearance is *greater* than the object's classification and the subject's need-to-know *includes* the object's category(ies)

***-property:** write access is granted only if the output object's classification is *greater* than the classification of all input objects, and its category *includes* the category(ies) of all input objects.

Example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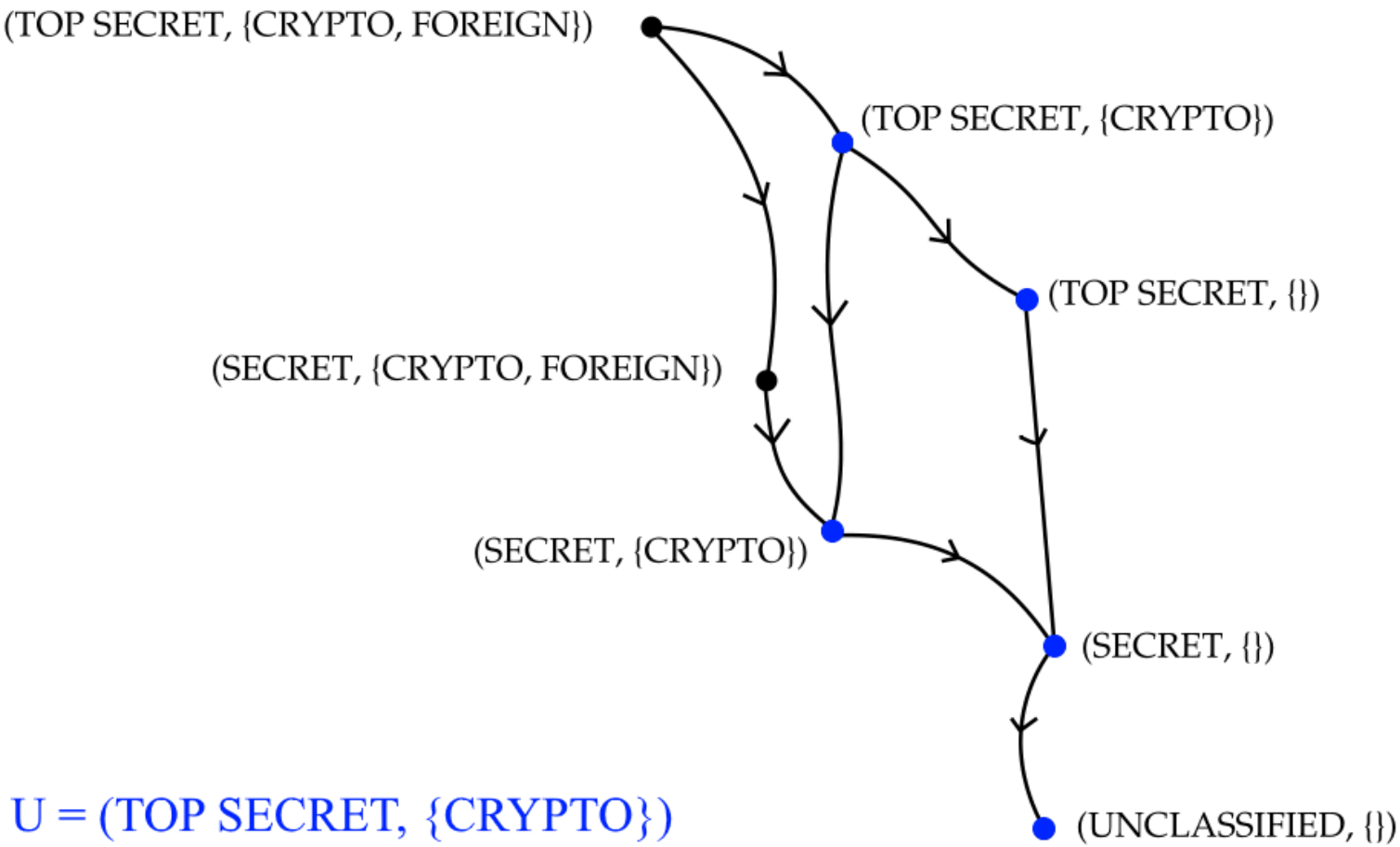
Example (2)



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Questions?

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