

Information Security

Lecture 4: Network Security Protocols

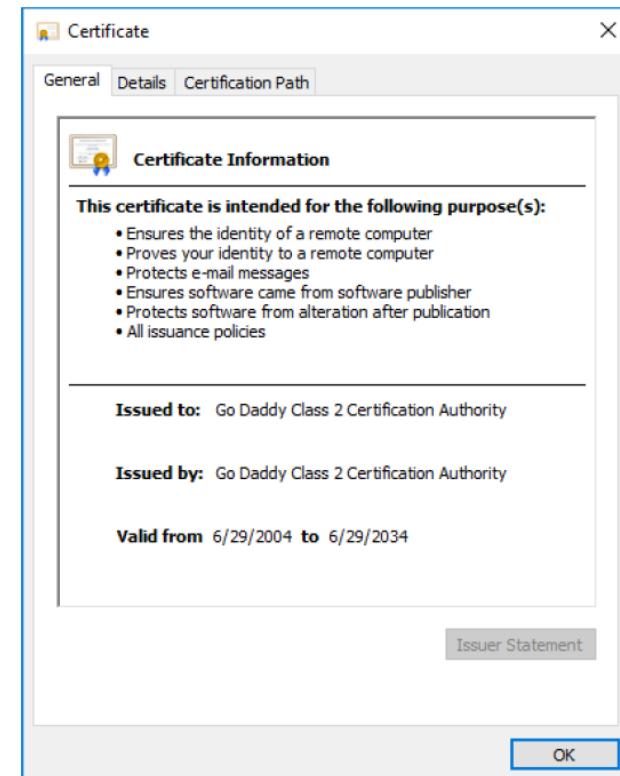
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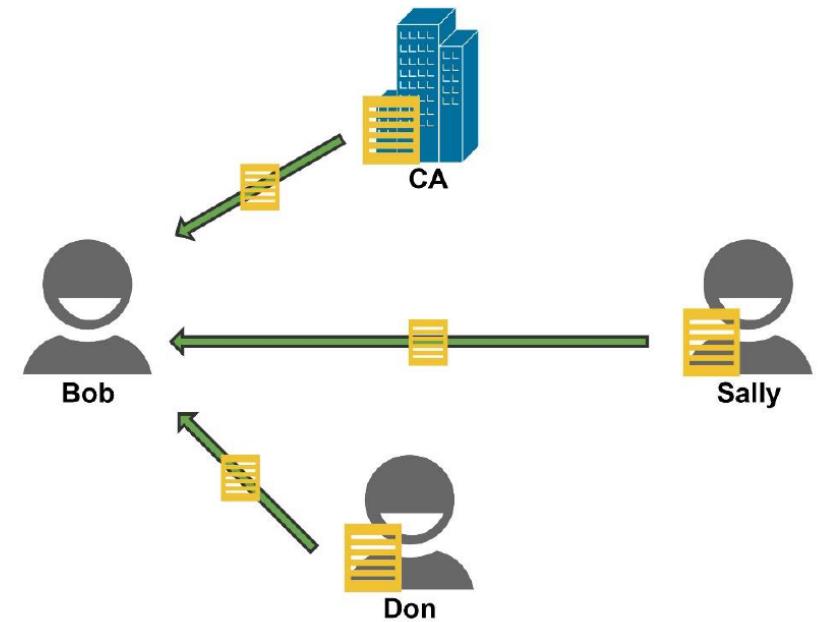
What Is a Digital Certificate?

- A **digital certificate** is an electronic document used to identify an individual, a server, an organization, or some other entity and associate that entity with a **public key**.
- Digital certificates are used in **public key infrastructure (PKI)** encryption.
- We can think of a digital certificate as our “online” **digital credential** that verifies our identity.



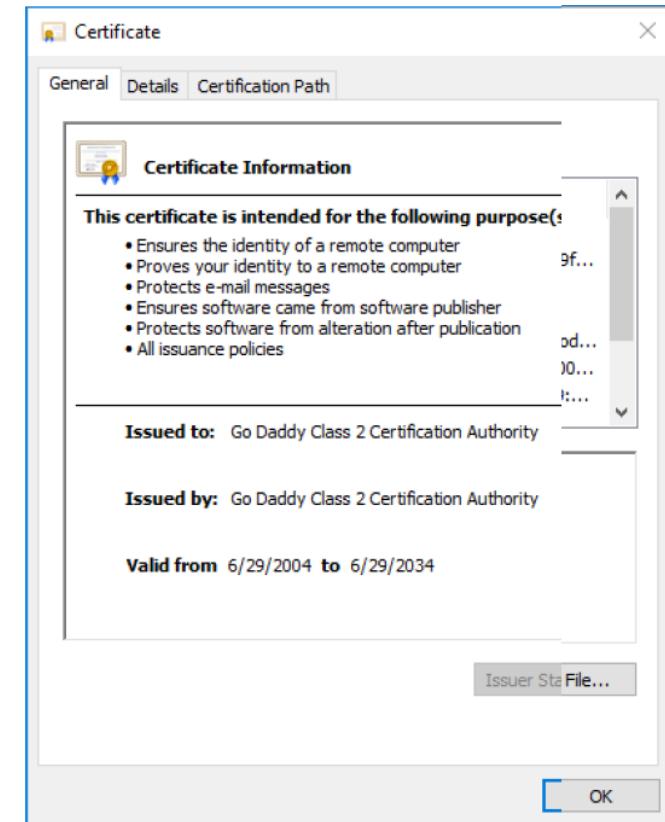
The Role of Certificate Authorities

- Digital certificates are issued by a **Certificate Authority (CA)**.
- **Certificate Authorities** are a trusted entity, typically an organization such as VeriSign, that verifies an entity's identity, issues, manages, and signs that entity's digital certificate.
- Just like we trusted SAAQ to issue driver's licenses, we trust CAs to issue digital certificates.



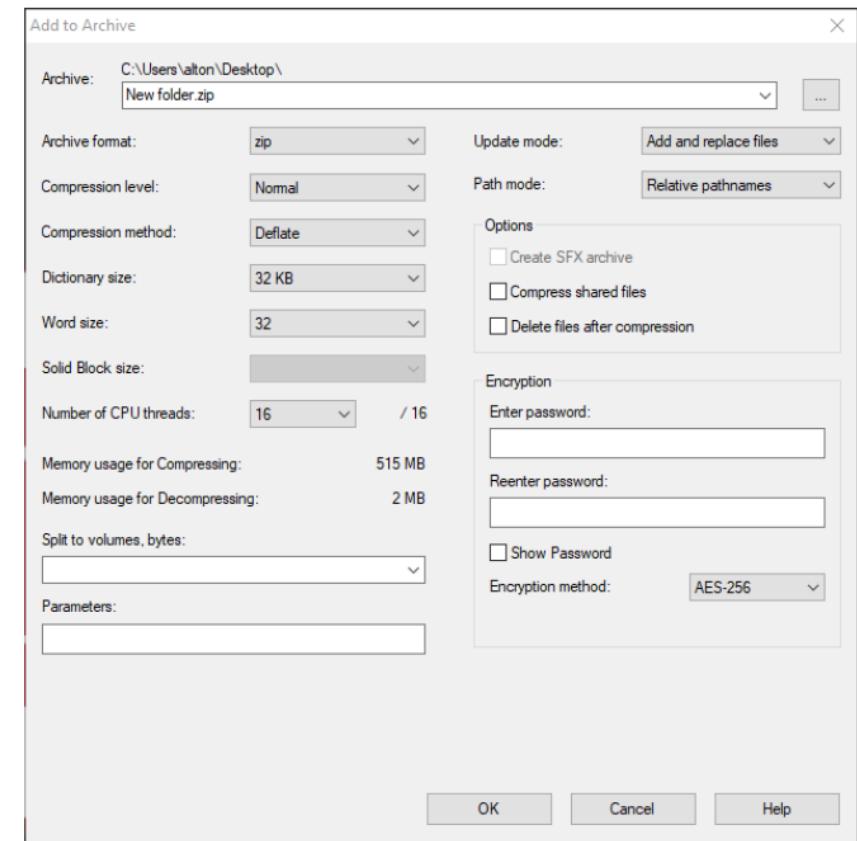
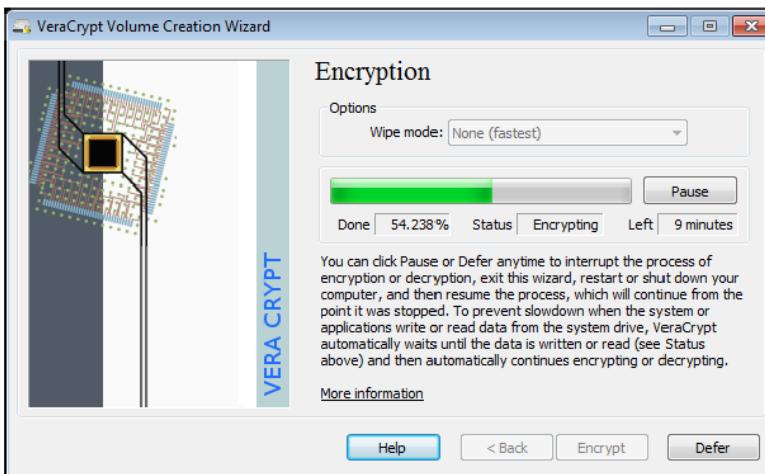
What's Included in a Digital Certificate?

- **Serial Number:** Used to uniquely identify the certificate.
- **Signature Algorithm:** The algorithm used to create the signature.
- **Issuer:** The entity that verified the information and issued the certificate.
- **Valid-From:** The date the certificate is first valid from.
- **Valid-To:** The expiration date.
- **Public Key:** The public key.
- Plus Additional Information.



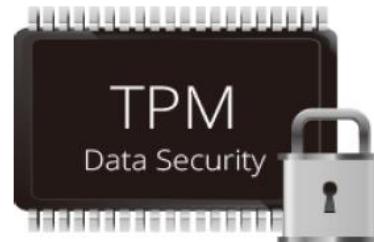
Software-Based Encryption

- Uses software tools to encrypt your data:
 - BitLocker, Windows EFS, VeraCrypt, 7zip
- Typically as secure as the Operating System.
- A vulnerability in the Operating System can compromise the encryption software.

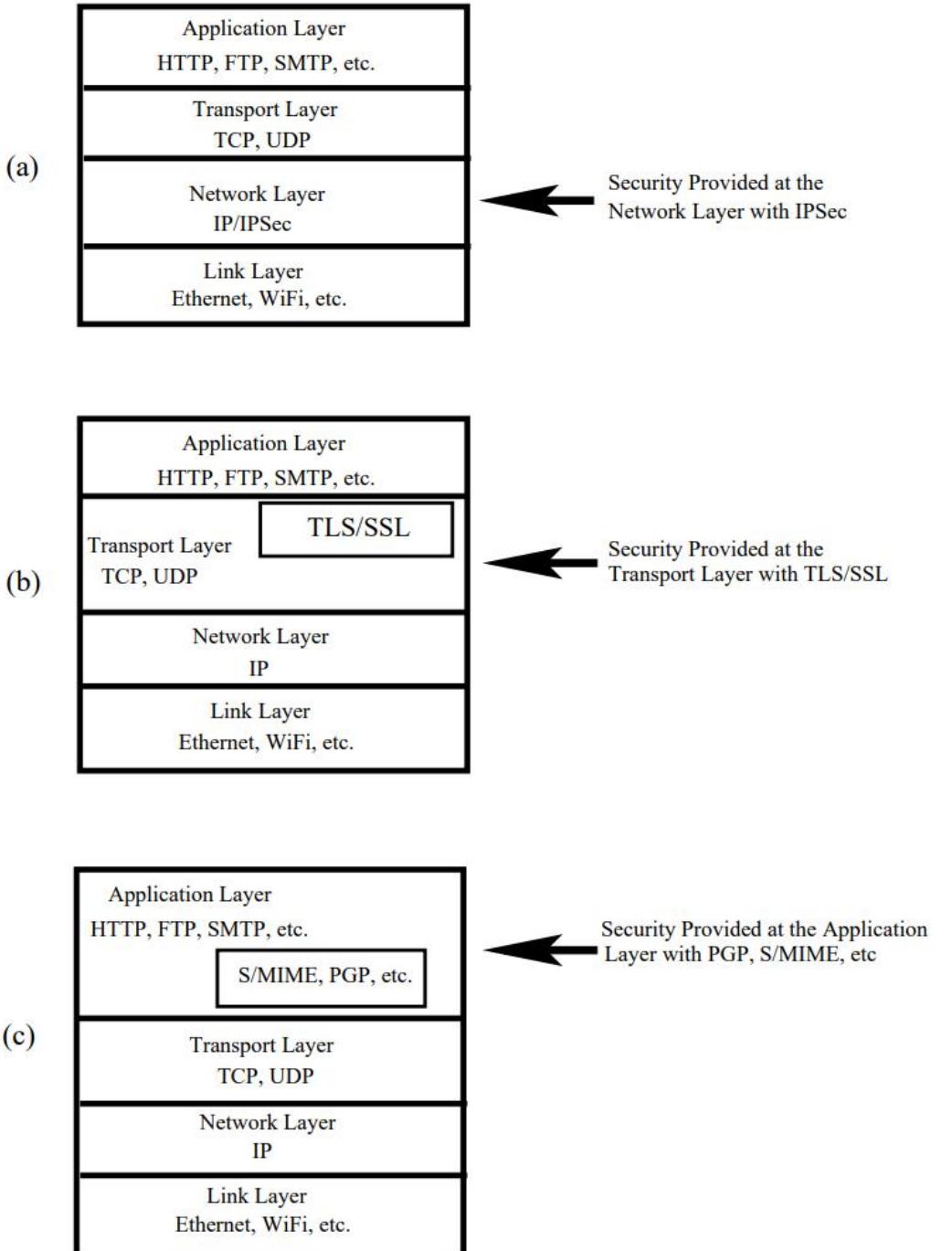


Hardware-Based Encryption

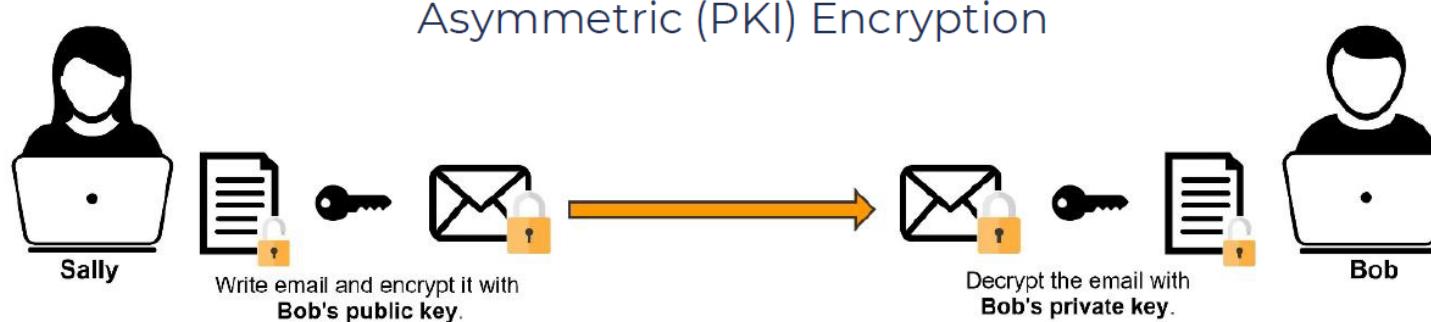
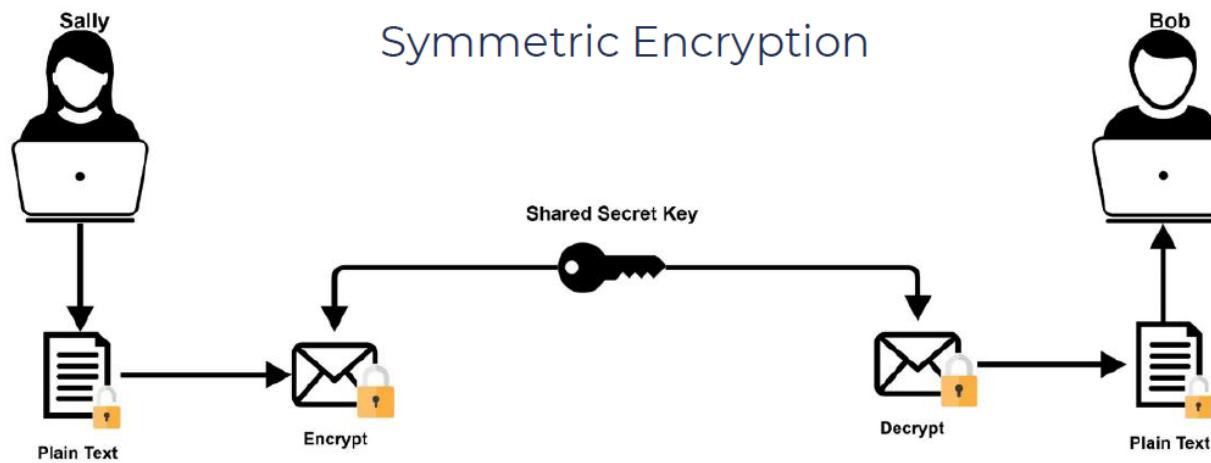
- Uses hardware to perform encryption:
 - TPM (Crypto Processor)
 - Processors with x86 Instruction Set (AES Encryption)
- Many times, stand alone USB hard drives.



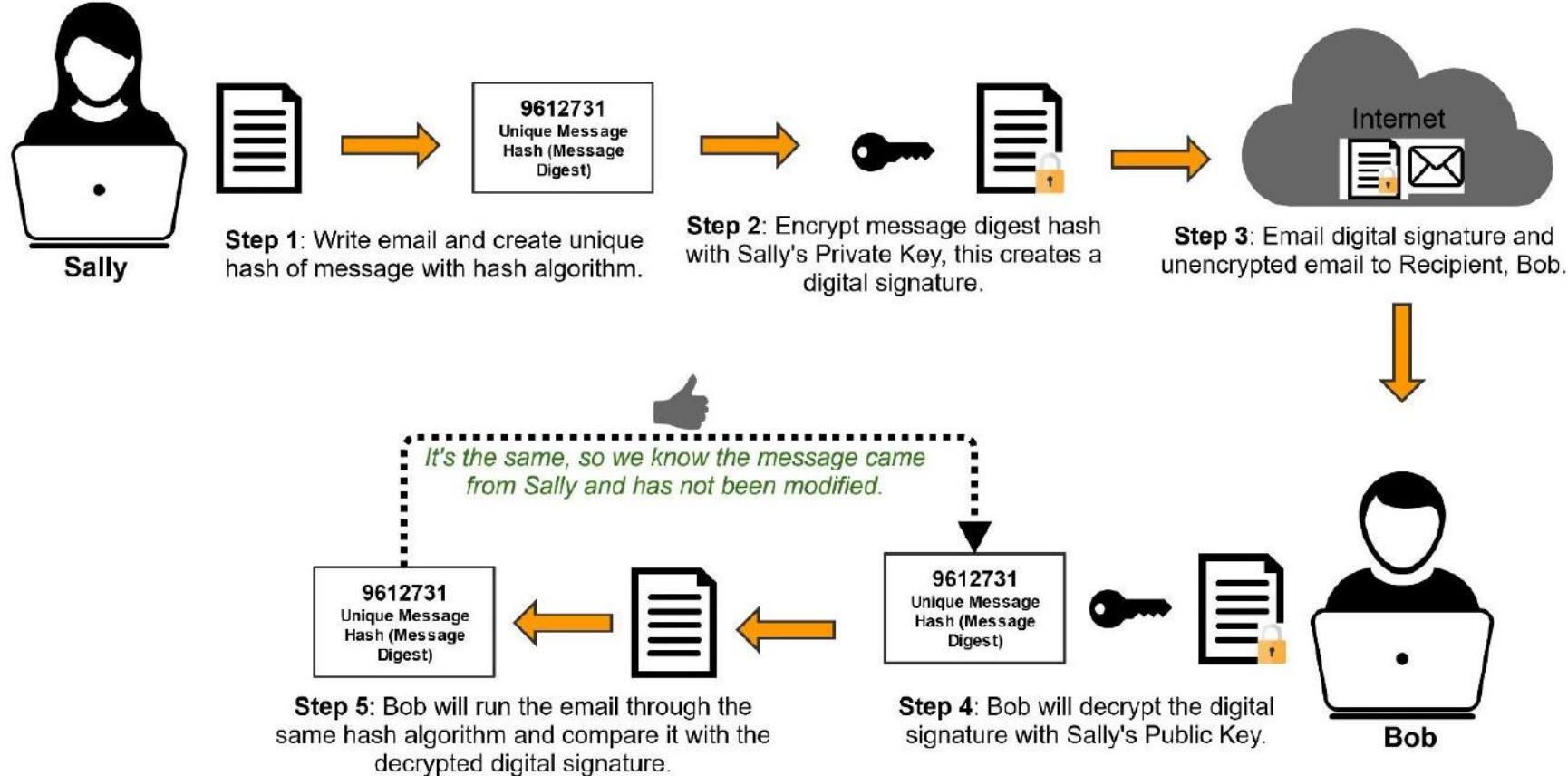
Four Layer Representation of the TCP/IP Protocol Stack



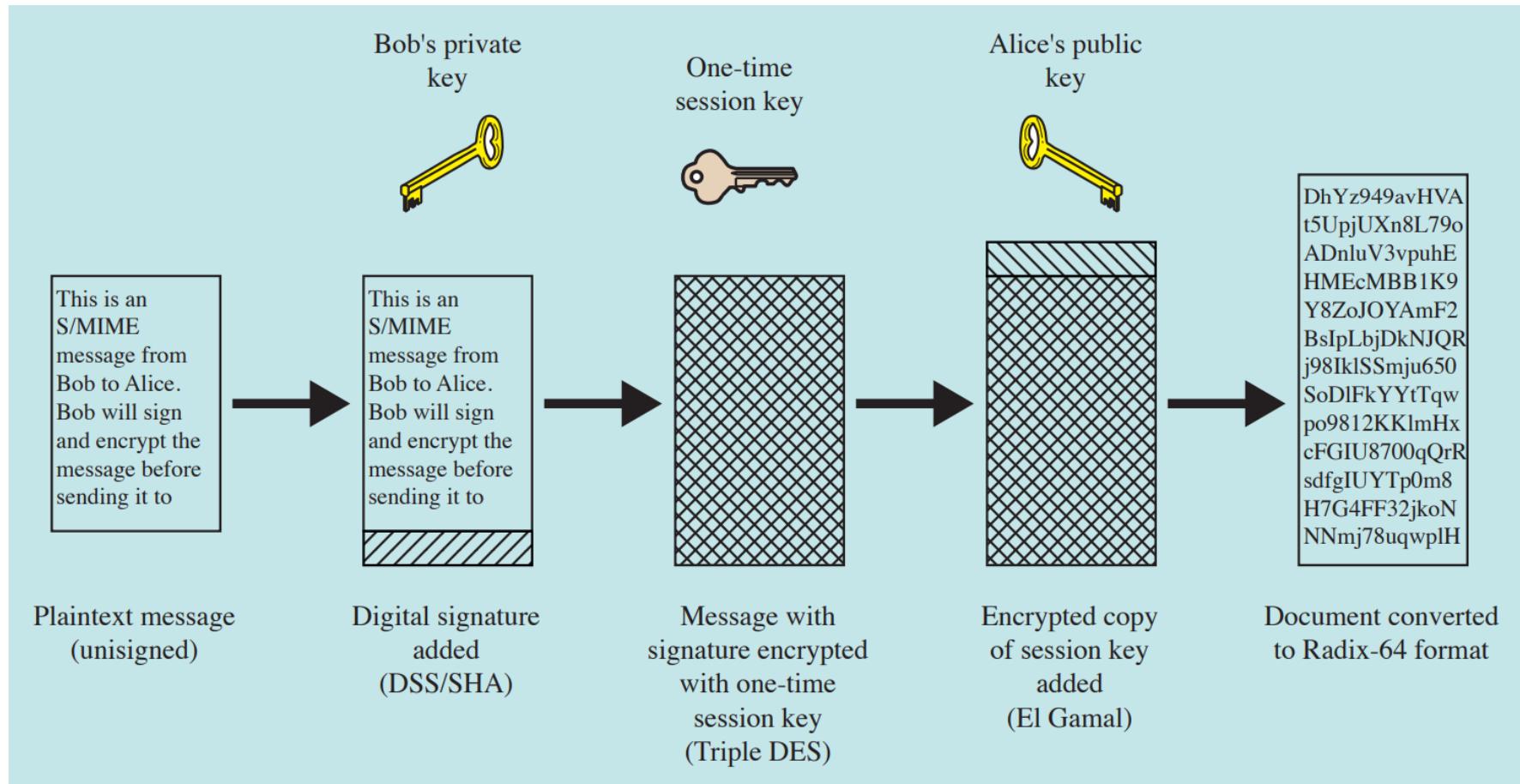
Email Confidentiality



Email Integrity, Authentication & Non-Repudiation



Typical S/MIME Process



PGP FOR EMAIL SECURITY

- PGP stands for Pretty Good Privacy. It was developed originally by Phil Zimmerman. However, in its incarnation as OpenPGP, it has now become an open-source standard. The standard is described in the document RFC 4880.
- What makes PGP particularly important is that it is now widely used for protecting data in long-term storage.
- Since encryption, even when it is limited to the signature, results in arbitrary binary strings, and since network message transmission is character oriented, we must represent binary data with ASCII strings. PGP uses Base64 encoding for this purpose.

PGP FOR EMAIL SECURITY

- Base64 encoding is referred to as Radix 64 encoding in the PGP documentation. It has emerged as probably the most common way to transmit binary data over a network. To briefly review Base64, it first segments the bytes of the object that needs to be encoded into 6-bit words. The $2^6 = 64$ different possible 6-bit words are represented by printable characters as follows: The first 26 are mapped to the uppercase letters A through Z, the next 26 to the lowercase a through z, the next 10 to the digits 0 through 9, and the last two to the characters '/' and '+'. This causes each triple of adjoining bytes to be mapped into four ASCII characters. The Base64 character set includes a 65th character, '=', to indicate how many characters the binary string is short of being an exact multiple of 3 bytes. When the binary string is short one byte, that is indicated by terminating the Base64 string with a single '='. And when it is short two bytes, the termination becomes '=='

HTTP and TLS

HTTP and TLS Protocols

*if the **client** visits a website then the data will be fetched from the server with*



Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is used for viewing web pages. It is a **request-response protocol** in the client-server computing model

*every single website is stored on a so-called **server** (images, texts and all the data)*

HTTP and TLS Protocols

- The problem with standard **HTTP** is that it does not use any cryptographic related encryption algorithm
- All information is sent in plain text format (without encryption)
- Usernames, passwords and credit card related details are public
- **THIS IS WHY WE NEED MORE SECURE APPROACHES** and this is exactly why **HTTPS** came to be.

HTTP and TLS Protocols

- **HTTPS** is **Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol**
- It encrypts the data that is being retrieved by **HTTP**
- There are several **public key** and **private key cryptography** related approaches it supports (**RSA, ECC, AES, DES** etc.)
- **Https** uses protocols to ensure data security: **ssl** and **tls**
- **SSL** stands for **secure socket layer**
- It is no longer secure this is why back in **1999** it was updated to become **Transport Layer Security (TLS)**

Transport Layer Security

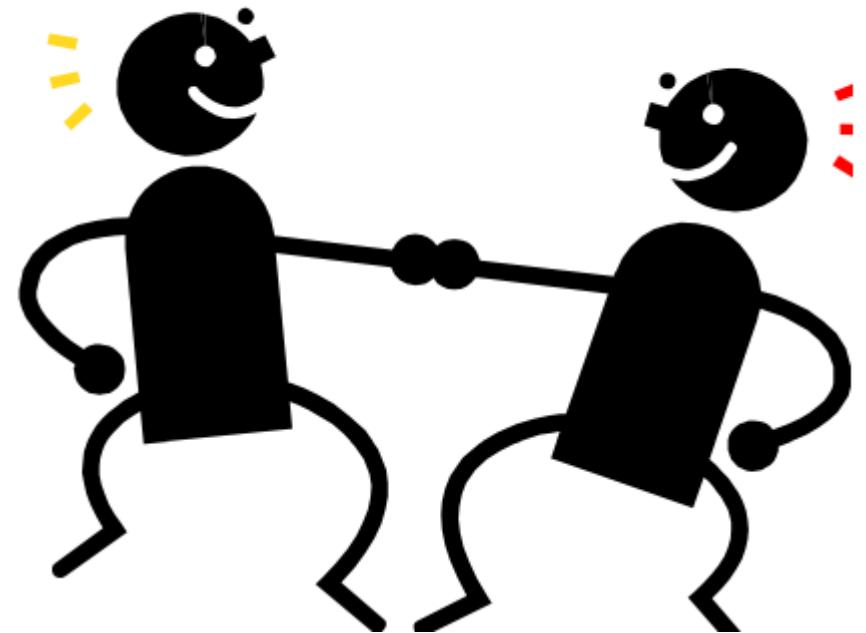
- 1994: Netscape Communications developed the network authentication protocol Secure Sockets Layer, SSLv2.
 - Badly broken, officially deprecated 2011
- 1995: Netscape release their own improvements SSLv3.
 - Broken, officially deprecated 2015
- In January 1999, RFC 2246 was issued by the IETF,
- Transport Layer Security Protocol: TLS 1.0
 - Similar to, but incompatible with SSLv3
 - Followed by TLS 1.1 (2006) and TLS 1.2 (2008)
 - Current version: TLS 1.3 (2018), removes all old/insecure features/algorithms

TLS: Overview

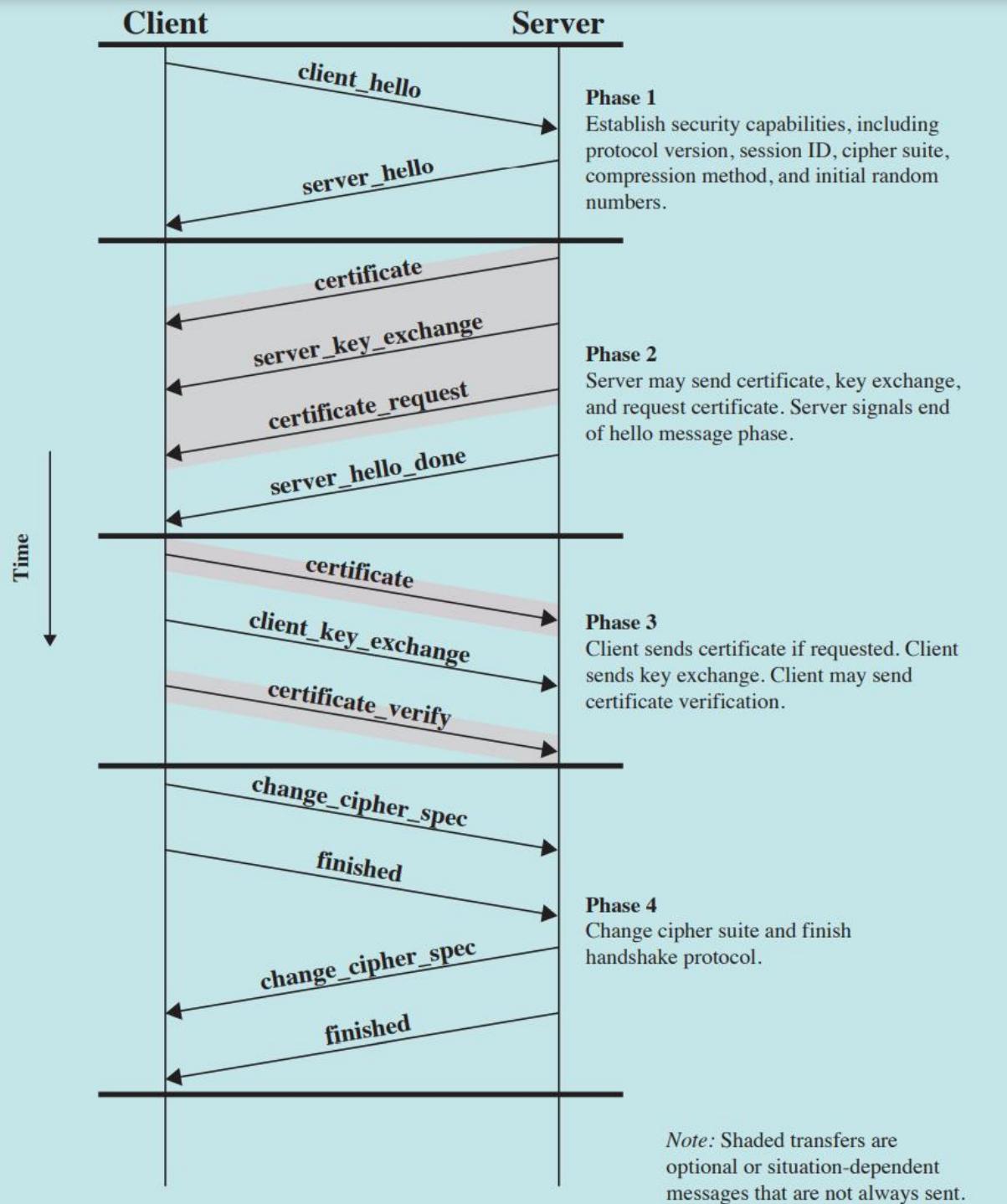
- TLS is a cryptographic services protocol based on the Browser PKI and is commonly used on the Internet.
 - Each server has a server certificate and private key installed
 - Allows browsers to establish secure sessions with web servers.
- Port 443 is reserved for HTTP over TLS/SSL and the protocol https is used with this port.
 - `http://www.xxx.com` implies using standard HTTP using port 80.
 - `https://www.xxx.com` implies HTTP over TLS/SSL with port 443.

Handshake Protocol

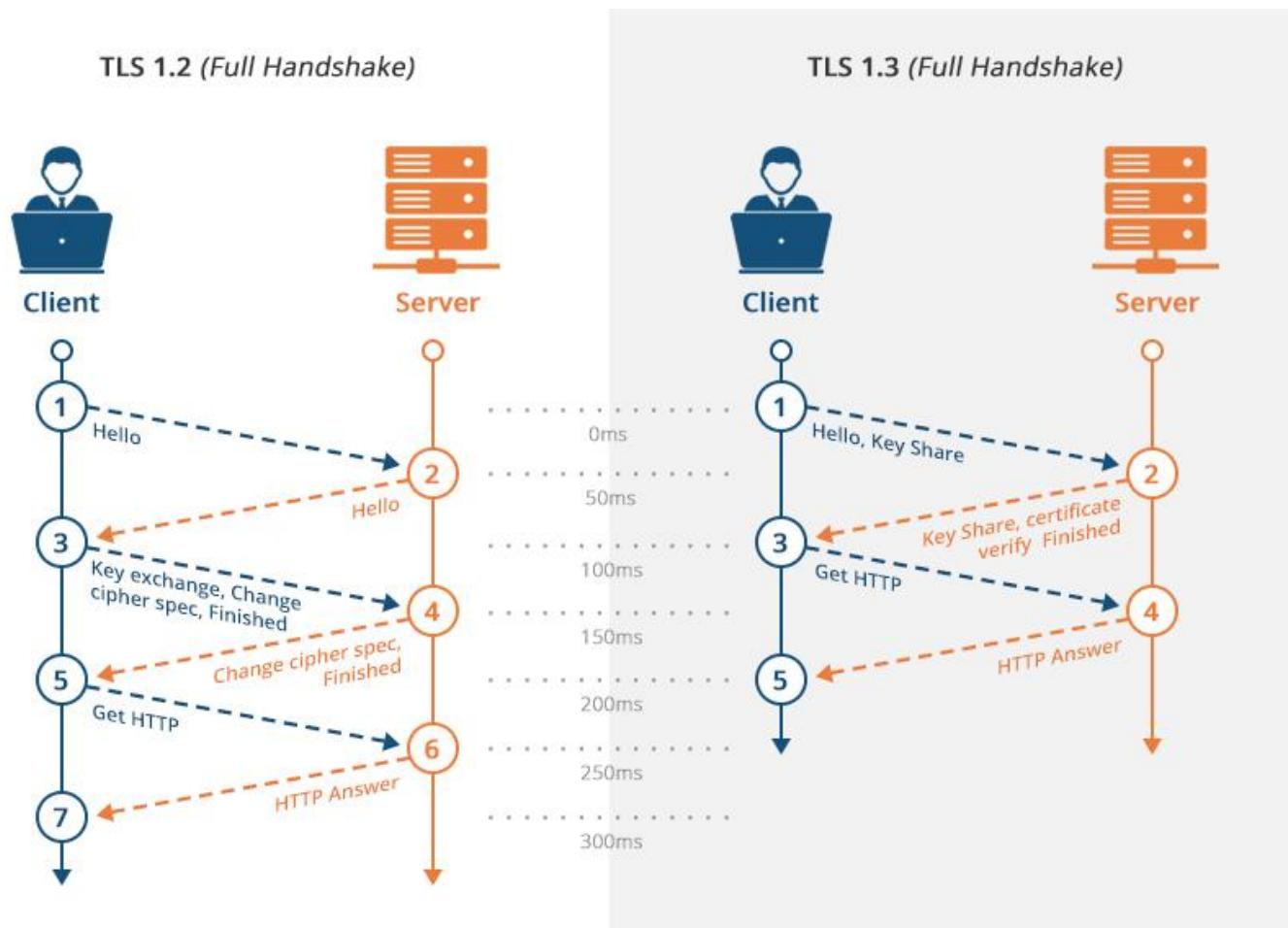
- The handshake protocol
 - Negotiates the encryption to be used
 - Establishes a shared session key
 - Authenticates the server
 - Authenticates the client (optional)
- After the handshake, application data is transmitted securely (encrypted + integrity protected)



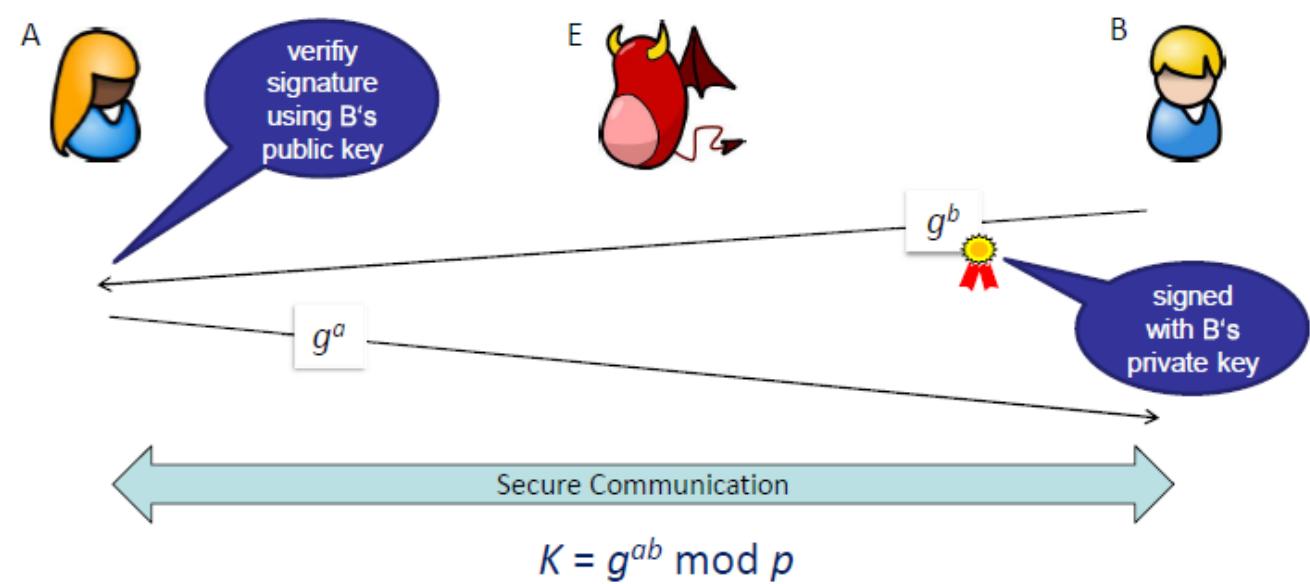
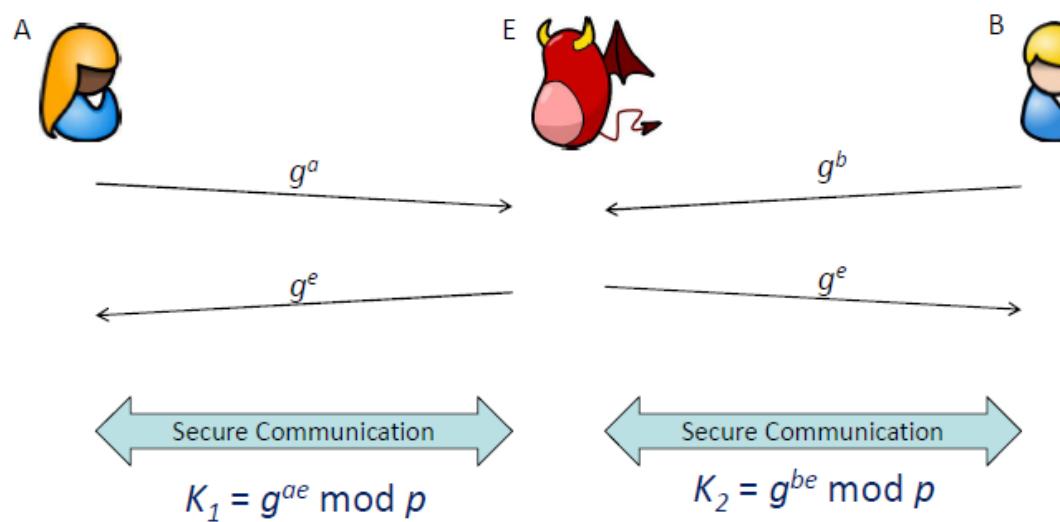
SSL Handshake Protocol



TLS Protocols

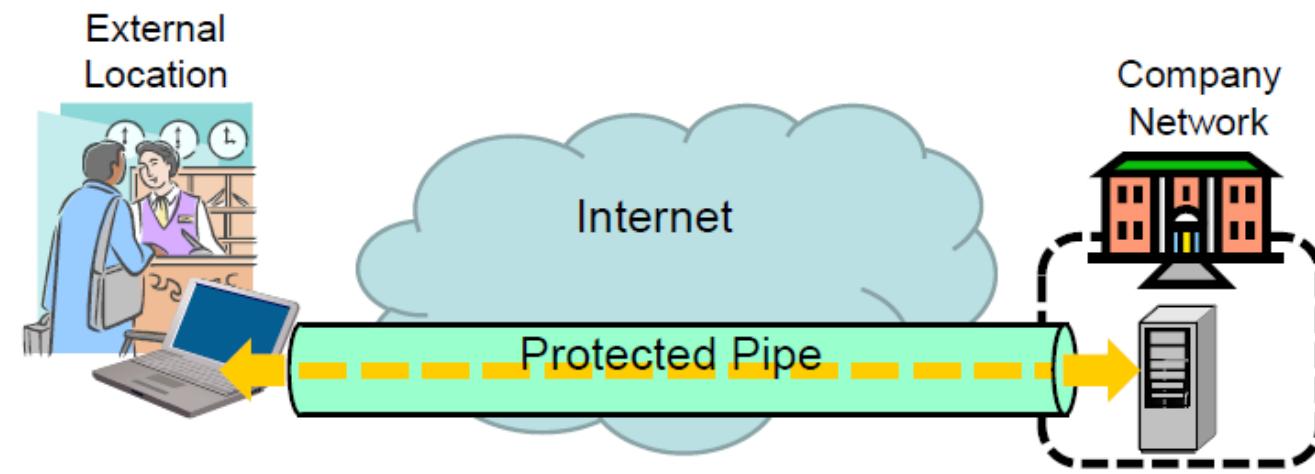


Weakness of DH Key Exchange



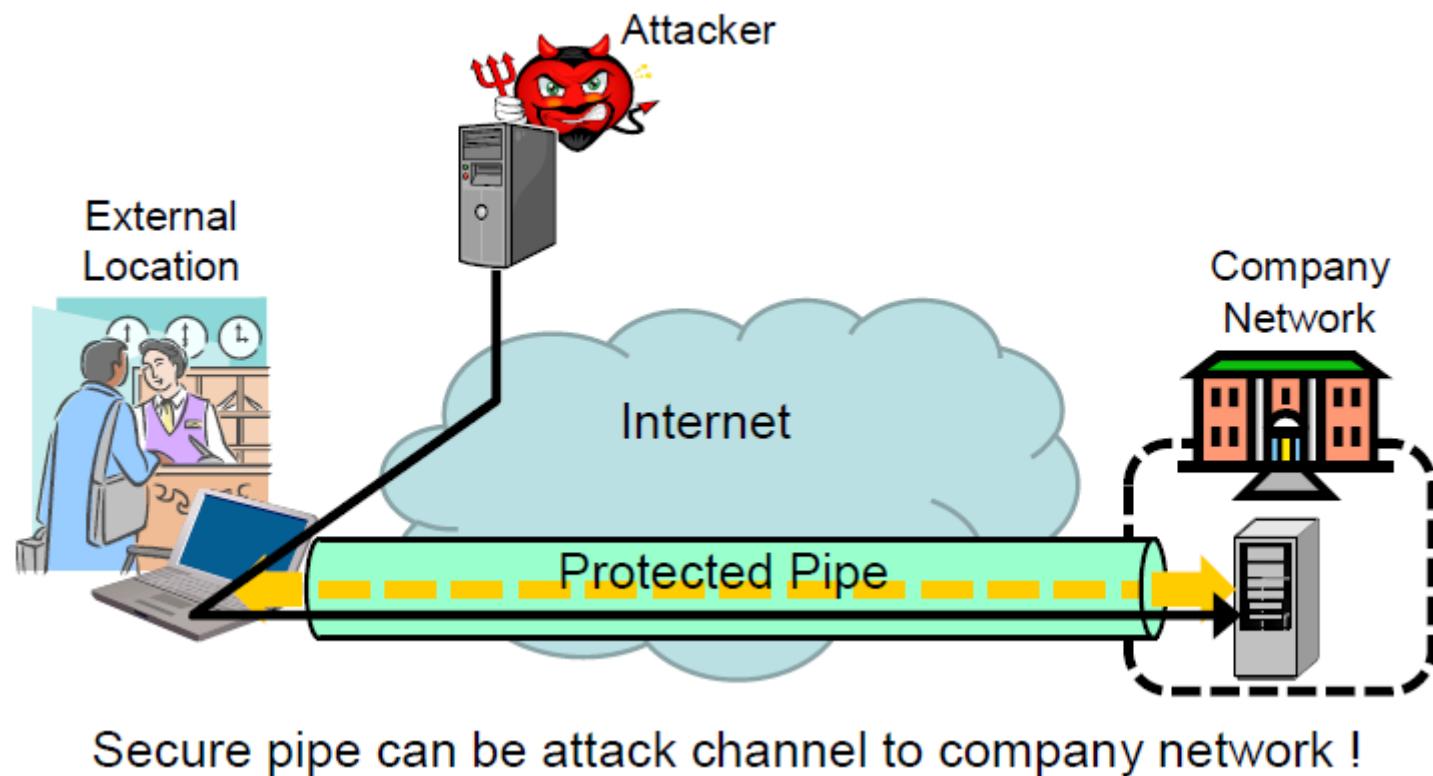
Virtual Private Networks & Firewall

VPN



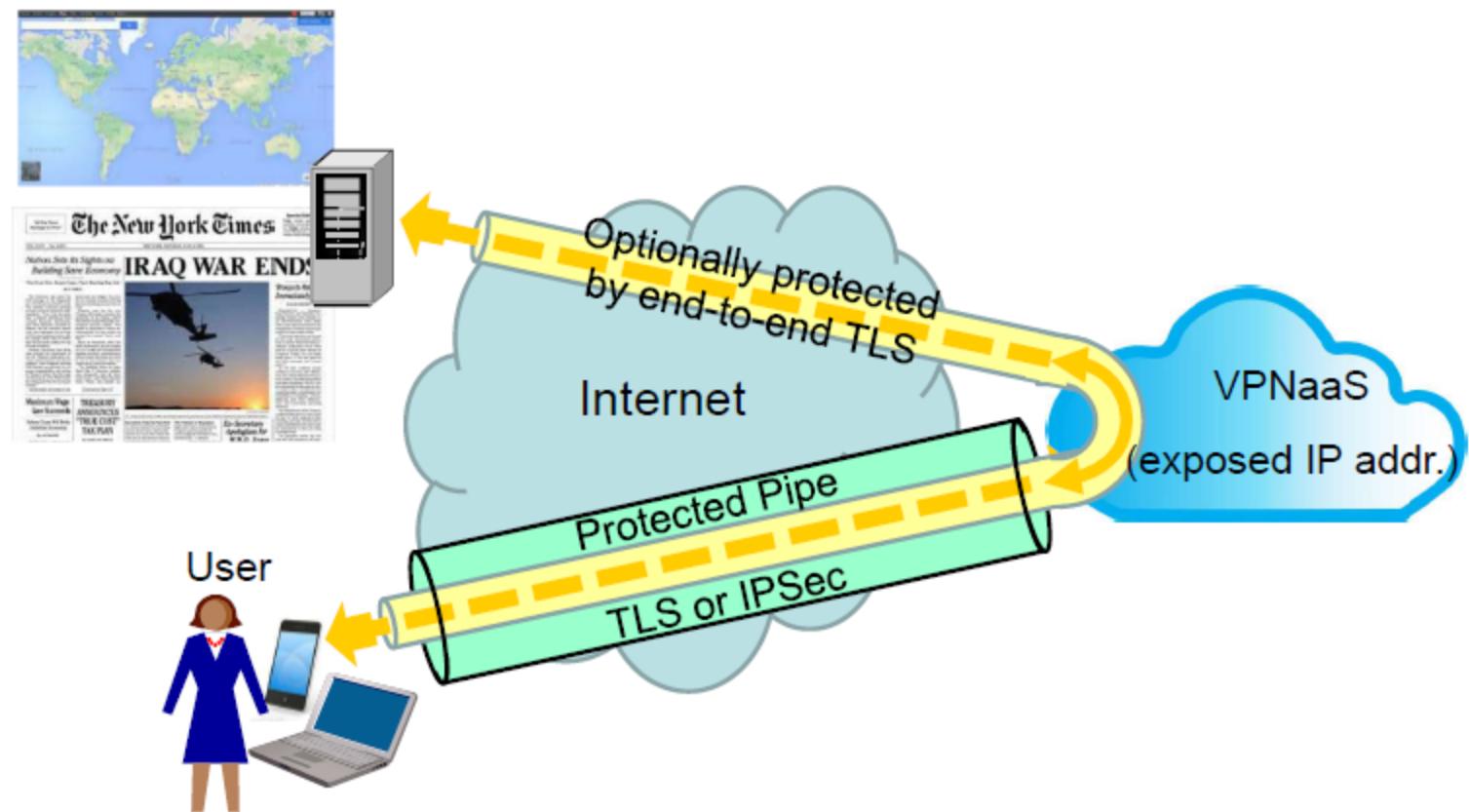
- TLS secures only a single TCP connection
- Sometimes:
 - all communication from a computer shall be secured
 - also non-TCP communication shall be secured
- Typical application:
 - VPN tunnel into a company network
 - Tunnel can only be established after authentication
 - All communication is routed (and secured) through the tunnel
 - Client is virtually part of the local company network
 - Client gets access to internal services

Risk of using VPN



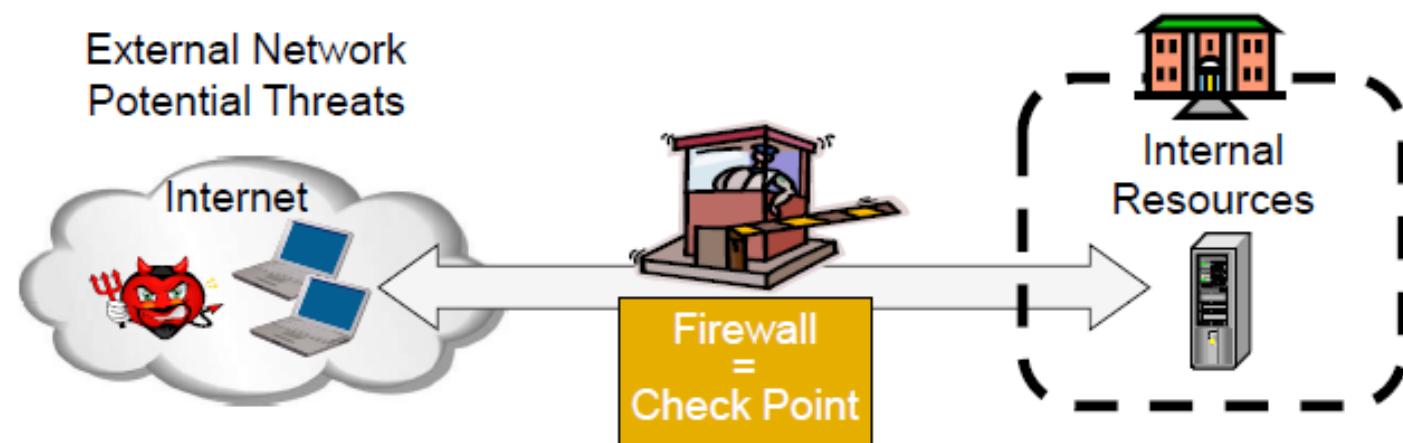
VPN Browsing via VPN Proxy

- Usage Examples:
 - Access to services subscribed by own organization
 - Hide users true location



Firewalls

- A firewall is a check point that protects the internal networks against attack from outside networks
- The check point decides which traffic can pass in & out based on rules



Firewall

- If the risk of having a connection to the Internet is unacceptable, the most effective way of treating the risk is to avoid the risk altogether and disconnect completely.
- If disconnection from the Internet is not practical, then firewalls may provide an effective level of protection that can reduce the risk to an acceptable level.
- Firewalls are often the first line of defense against external attacks but should not be the only defense.

Firewall

- Firewalls are the foundation of a defense-in-depth network security strategy.
- They're designed to protect organizations from network-based attacks. Firewalls do this by filtering data packets that go through them.
- The network owner must define criteria for what is (un)authorized
- The effectiveness of firewalls depends on specifying authorized traffic in terms of rules
 - The rules defines what to let pass through;
 - The rules defines what to block.
- They can be a standalone network device or software on a computer system, meaning **network-based** (hardware) or **host-based**(software).

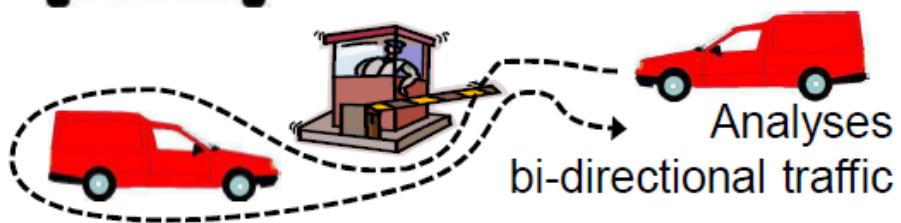
3 Common Types of Firewalls

Packet Filters



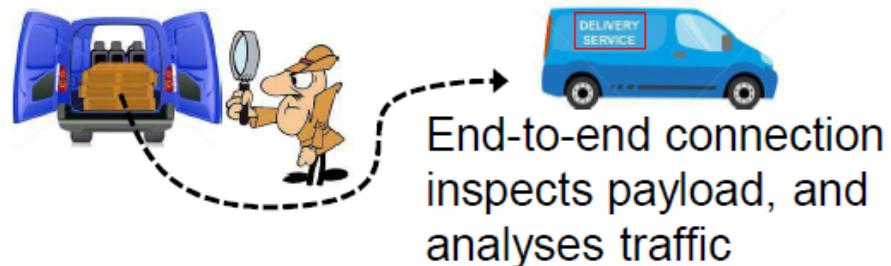
Inspects packet
headers only

Stateful Packet Filters



Analyses
bi-directional traffic

Application Level Gateway/
Next Generation Firewall



End-to-end connection
inspects payload, and
analyses traffic

1st Gen: Packet Filtering Firewalls

- 1st generation and most basic type of firewall.
- They inspect all data packets that attempt to traverse it, and based on predefined rules, packets are either allowed or denied.
- These predefined rules are commonly called an Access Control List (ACL).
- Considered Stateless Firewalls.
- Packet filtering rules are common TCP/IP packet attributes:
 - **IP Address**
 - Source IP Address
 - Destination IP Address
 - **TCP/UDP Port**
 - Source TCP/UDP Port
 - Destination TCP/UDP Port
 - **Inbound or Outbound**
 - Inbound Firewall Network Interface
 - Outbound Firewall Network Interface

1st Gen: Packet Filtering Firewalls

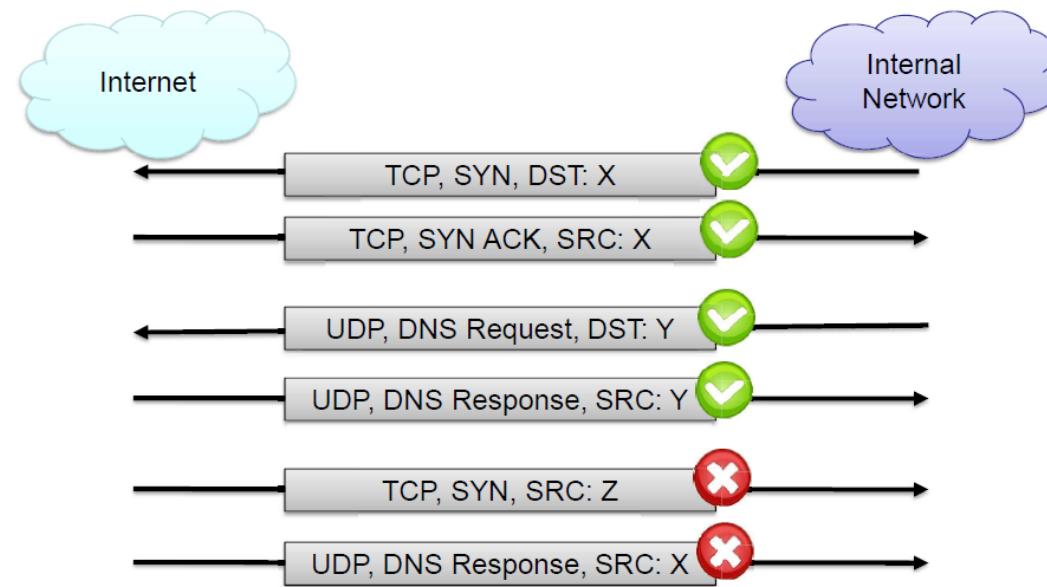
- Widespread packet filter software (Linux):
 - iptables / netfilter
 - nft / ntables
- Examples (iptables)
 - `iptables -A FORWARD -s 131.234.142.33 -j ACCEPT`
 - All packets from source IP Address **131.234.142.33** are accepted
 - `iptables -A FORWARD -p tcp d 10.0.0.56 --dport 22 -j ACCEPT`
 - All packets using transport protocol and destination address **10.0.0.56** and destination port **22** are accepted

Problems with Stateless Filtering

- Assume a typical security policy
 - Access from internal to external allowed
 - Access from external to internal prohibited
- Example application: home network
- Naive packet filter configuration:
 - outgoing packet forward
 - incoming packet reject

2nd Gen: Stateful Inspection Firewalls

- Operate at the Transport Layer of the OSI Model (Layer 4) and monitor TCP sessions.
- Determine the legitimacy of a requested session by monitoring the 3-way handshake between packets.
- Valid TCP sessions are allowed to pass, while invalid and terminated sessions are not.



(Stateful) Packet Filter: Evaluation

- Strengths:
 - Low overhead and high throughput
 - Supports almost any application
- Weaknesses:
 - Unable to interpret application layer data/commands
 - may allow insecure operations to occur
 - Allows direct connection between hosts inside & outside firewall

3rd Gen: Application-Level Firewalls

- Also known as proxy servers, these firewalls operate at the Application Layer of the OSI Model (Layer 7).
- Can be configured to filter specific user applications
 - E.g. Facebook, Youtube, LinkedIn
 - Can filter detailed elements in each specific user application
- Can provide intrusion detection and intrusion prevention
- Very high processing load in firewall
 - High volume needs high performance hardware, or else will be slow

3rd Gen: Application-Level Firewalls

- Specifically, proxy servers can provide the following services:
 - **Filter:** Filters packets based on an application or service (FTP, SMTP, etc.).
 - **Caching:** Provides caching services, for example:
 - When you request a page from a website, the proxy server will retrieve it and then cache it in its memory.
 - The next time someone requests that website, the proxy server can retrieve it from its cache.
 - This saves Internet bandwidth.
 - **Logging:** Has the ability to log user activity for auditing purposes.

3rd Gen: Application-Level Firewalls

- Strengths:
 - Easy logging and audit of all incoming traffic
 - Provides potential for best security through control of application layer data/commands
- Weaknesses:
 - May require some time for adapting to new applications
 - Much slower than packet filters
 - Much more expensive than packet filters

Intrusion Detection and Prevention System

Intrusion

- Intrusion
 - Actions aimed at compromising the security of a target network (confidentiality, integrity, availability of resources)
- Intrusions have many causes, such as malware (worms, spyware, etc...), attackers gaining unauthorized access to systems from the Internet, and authorized users of systems who misuse their privileges or attempt to gain additional privileges for which they are not authorized.
- Although many intrusions are malicious in nature, many others are not; for example: a person might mistype the address of a computer and accidentally attempt to connect to a different system without authorization.

Intrusion Detection and Prevention

- Intrusion detection
 - The identification of possible intrusion through intrusion signatures and network activity analysis
 - IDS: Intrusion Detection Systems
- Intrusion prevention
 - The process of both detecting intrusion activities and managing automatic responsive actions throughout the network
 - IPS: Intrusion Prevention Systems
 - IDPS: Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems
- IPSs combine IDSs and improved firewall technologies, they make access control decisions based on application content, rather than IP address or ports as traditional firewalls had done.

Intrusion Detection and Prevention

- IDPs are primarily focused on:
 - Identifying possible incidents, logging information about them, attempting to stop them, and reporting them to security administrators.
 - Identifying problems with security policies
 - Documenting existing threats
 - Deterring individuals from violating security policies.

IPS

- IPSs respond to a detected threat by attempting to prevent it from succeeding. They use several response techniques:
- The IPS stops the attack itself. Examples:
 - Terminate the network connection or user session that is being used for the attack. Block access to the target (or possibly other likely targets) from the offending user account, IP address, or other attacker attribute. Block all access to the targeted host, service, application, or other resource.

IPS

- The IPS changes the security environment. The IPS could change the configuration of other security controls to disrupt an attack. Such as reconfiguring a network device (e.g., firewall, router, switch) to block access from the attacker or to the target, and altering a host-based firewall on a target to block incoming attacks. Some IPSs can even cause patches to be applied to a host if the IPS detects that the host has vulnerabilities.
- The IPS changes the attack's content. Some IPS technologies can remove or replace malicious portions of an attack to make it benign. An example is an IPS removing an infected file attachment from an e-mail and then permitting the cleaned email to reach its recipient.

Classes of detection methodologies:

- **Signature-based:** compares known threat signatures to observed events to identify incidents.
- This is very effective at detecting known threats but largely ineffective at detecting unknown threats and many variants on known threats. It has fewer false positive alarms.
- Signature-based detection cannot track and understand the state of complex communications, so it cannot detect most attacks that comprise multiple events.

Example:

- An e-mail with a subject of “Free pictures!” and an attachment filename of “freepics.exe”, which are characteristics of a known form of malware

Classes of detection methodologies:

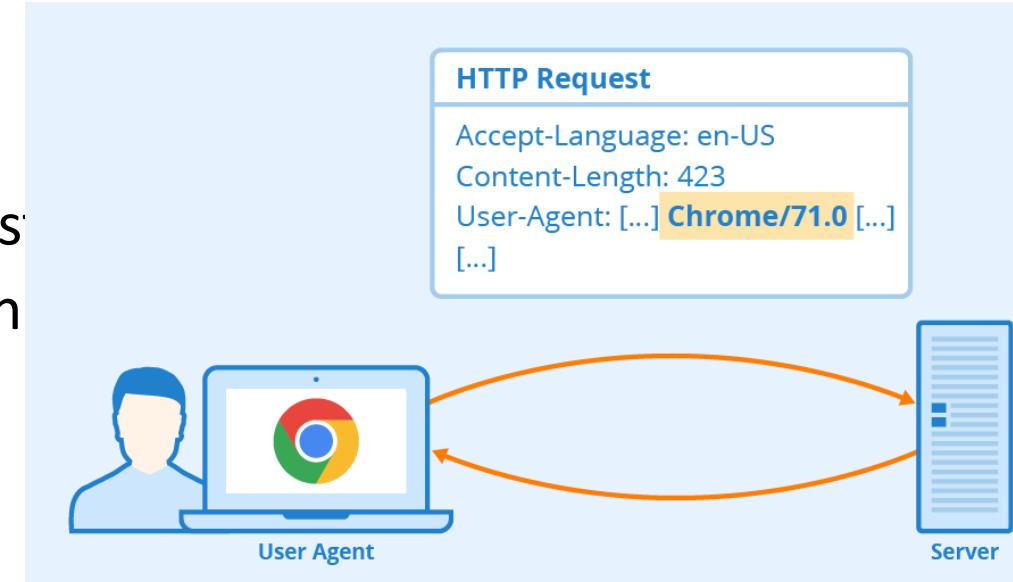
- **Anomaly-based detection:** Using a model of normal system behavior, try to detect deviations and abnormalities
- Anomaly-based detection can detect new types of attacks.
- Requires much more overhead and processing capacity than signature-based .
- May generate many false positives.

Classes of detection methodologies:

- **Anomaly detection example:** a profile for a network might show that Web activity comprises an average of 13% of network bandwidth at the Internet border during typical workday hours. The IDPS then uses statistical methods to compare the characteristics of current activity to thresholds related to the profile, such as detecting when Web activity comprises significantly more bandwidth than expected and alerting an administrator of the anomaly. Profiles can be developed for many behavioral attributes, such as the number of e-mails sent by a user, the number of failed login attempts for a host, and the level of processor usage for a host in a given period of time.

- **Stateful protocol analysis:** A key development in IDPS technologies was the use of protocol analyzers.
- Protocol analyzers can natively decode application-layer network protocols, like HTTP or FTP. Once the protocols are fully decoded, the IPS analysis engine can evaluate different parts of the protocol for anomalous behavior or exploits against predetermined profiles of generally accepted definitions of benign protocol activity for each protocol state.
- Problems with this type include that it is often very difficult or impossible to develop completely accurate models of protocols, it is very resource-intensive, and it cannot detect attacks that do not violate the characteristics of generally acceptable protocol behavior.

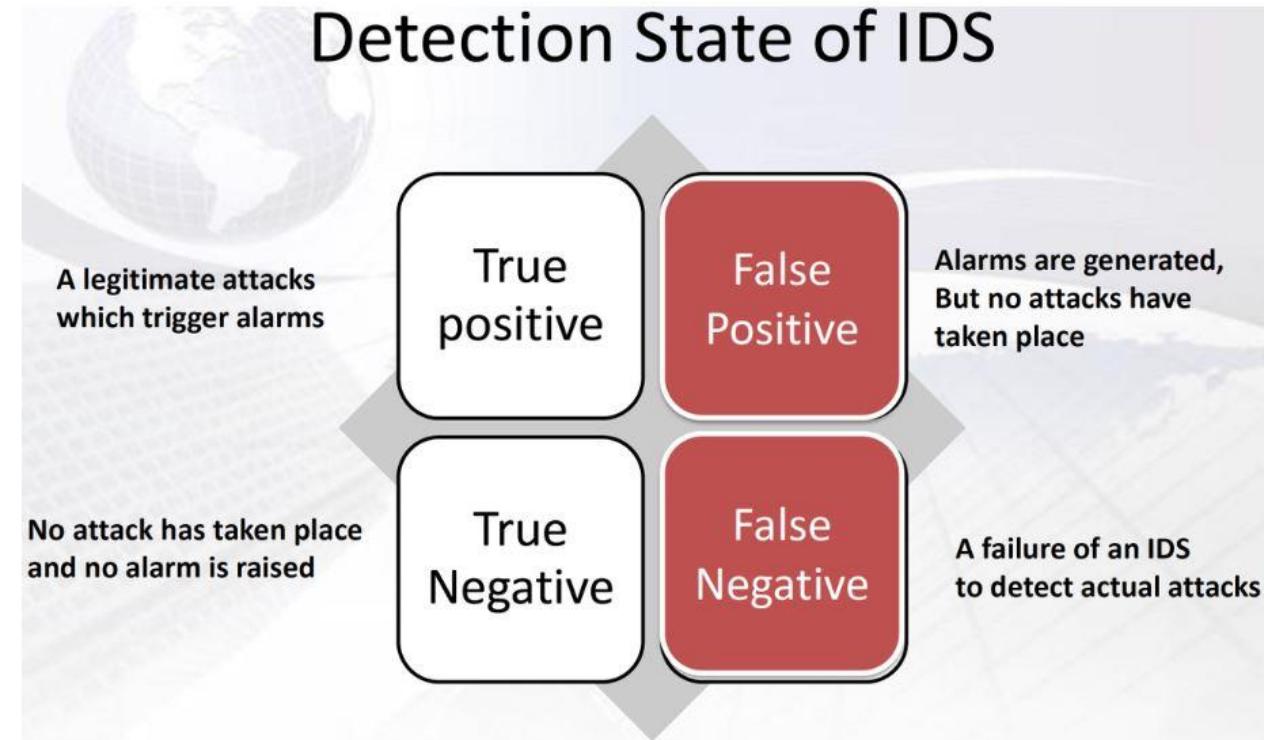
- For example: the existence of a large binary file in the User-Agent field of an HTTP request would be very unusual and likely an intrusion. A protocol analyzer could detect this anomalous behavior and instruct the IPS engine to drop the offending packets.



IDPS technologies cannot provide completely accurate detection. When an IDPS incorrectly identifies benign activity as being malicious, a false positive has occurred. When an IDPS fails to identify malicious activity, a false negative has occurred. It is not possible to eliminate all false positives and negatives; in most cases, reducing the occurrences of one increases the occurrences of the other.

Intrusion Detection Errors

- False negatives: attack is not detected
 - Big problem in signature-based misuse detection
- False positives: harmless behavior is classified as attack
 - Big problem in statistical anomaly detection
- Both types of IDS suffer from both error types



- Many organizations choose to decrease false negatives at the cost of increasing false positives, which means that more malicious events are detected but more analysis resources are needed to differentiate false positives from true malicious events. Altering the configuration of an IDPS to improve its detection accuracy is known as tuning.
- Most alarms are false positives
 - Requires automated screening and filtering of alarms
- Most true positives are trivial incidents
 - can be ignored,
 - the attacks will never be able to penetrate any system

Honeypots

- A honeypot:
 - is a computer configured to detect network attacks or malicious behavior,
 - appears to be part of a network, and seems to contain information or a resource of value to attackers.
- But honeypots are isolated, are never advertised and are continuously monitored
- All connections to honeypots are per definition malicious
- Can be used to extract attack signatures
- Honeynet is an international security club, see next slide

