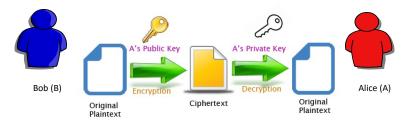
Public-Key Infrastructure



Question

How to confirm the correct public key

Bind an identity with a key.

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- Could we self-sign? Alice signs their own public key with their own signing key.
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- Kohnfelder,1978: Use a certificate

Certificates

- A statement containing
 - Identity (e.g. University of Birmingham)
 - Public Key
 - Timestamp
 - Other Informations.
- Authentication of Certificate: Signed by a certifying authority (eg.GEANT, Google CA)

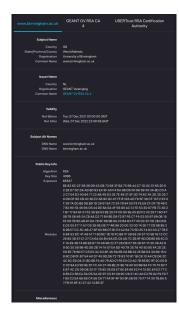
- Suppose our browser is Bob and University of Birmingham weberver be Alice.
- Bob obtains Alice's certificate.
- If Bob knows GEANT's (Certifying Authority) public key then verify the signature.
- Now Bob has Alice's Public Key.

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 - How long should we go?

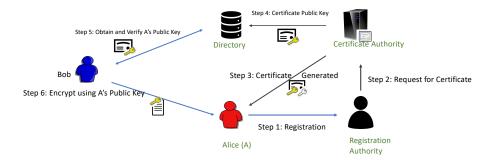
- If Bob does not know CA's public key
 - Repeat the process for CA's public key.
 - How long should we go?
 - Create certificate signature chains (tree like hierarchy) with public key of the root hard coded in browser. (X.509 certificate signature chains)

X.509 certificate





Public Key Infrastructure



Revoked Certificates

- CA may revoke certificates.
 - Certificate Expiration (Very Common)
 - Compromised Private key
 - User Details changed.

Key Recovery and Key Escrow

- Unaccessible keys can be recovered in principle (from Key Recovery Server).
- Human Entity (Key Recovery Agent); often more than one is required.
- Copies of private key is often kept in a key archival system too.
- Requested by law enforcement with proper court order.