



# CS-3002: Information Security

## **Lecture # 7: Digital Signature, Public Key Certificates and Public Key Infrastructure**

Department of Software Engineering

FAST-NUCES



# Overview

- *What will you learn today*
  - *Digital Signatures*
  - *Public key and Signature*
  - *Public Key Infrastructure*
  - *Identity Based Encryption*



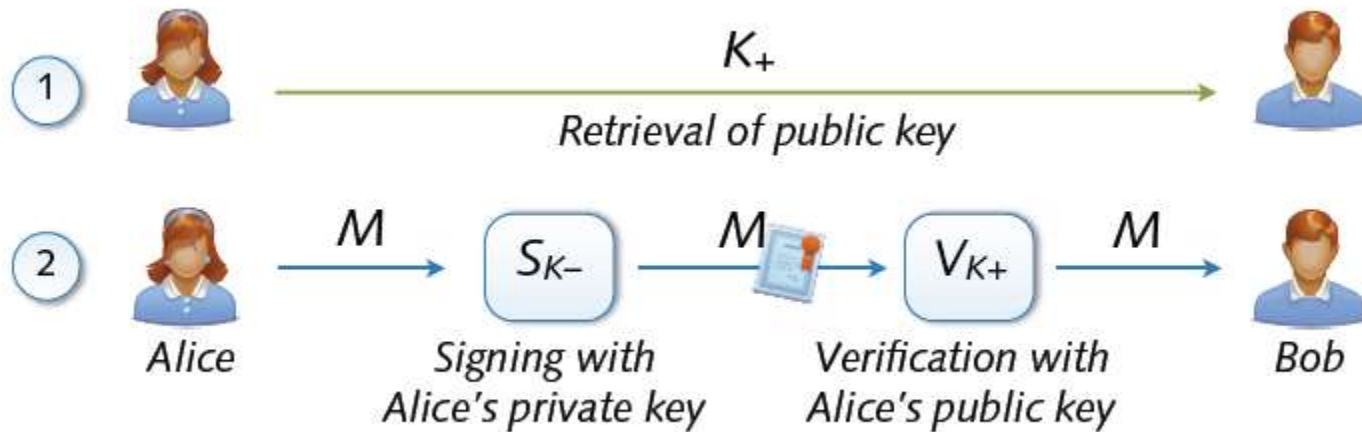
# Digital Signature

- **Authentication and Non-Repudiation**
  - Gives a recipient reason to believe that the message was created by a known sender such that they cannot deny sending it
- **Integrity**
  - The message was not altered in transit



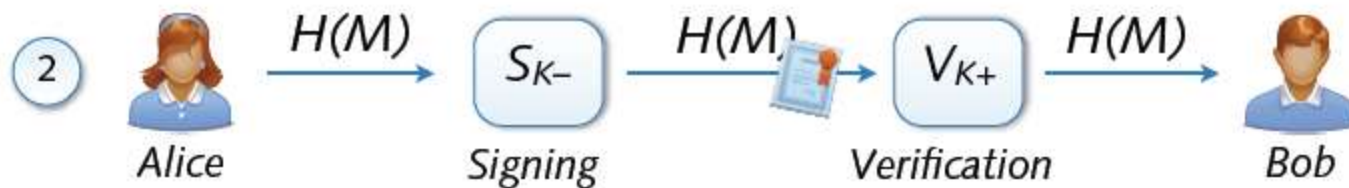
# Digital Signature

- **Digital signing: reverse application of public-key system**
  - *Signing = encryption with private key*
  - *Verification = decryption with public key*



# Signing and Hashing

- **Encryption and decryption of large messages inefficient**
  - Signing of hash  $H(M)$  instead of message  $M$
  - Verification of message  $M$  using signed hash  $H(M)$
  - One-way property: hard to find  $M'$  with  $H(M') = H(M)$
  - Support for signing emails, images, videos, ...



# Signature and RSA

- A **Signing with private key  $d$**   
Compute signature for hash  $H(M)$

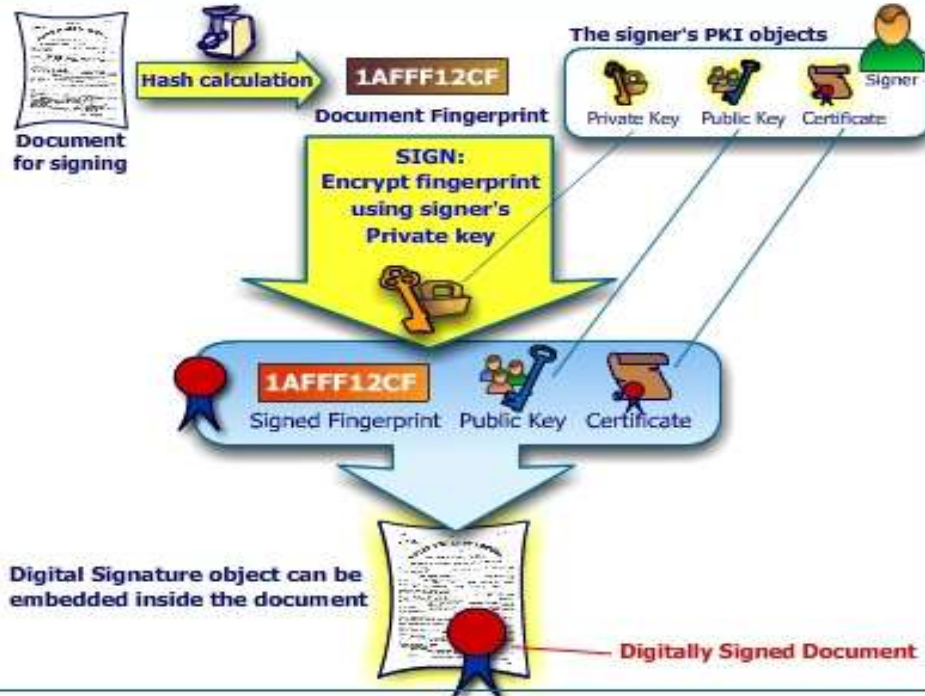
$$s = H(M)^d \bmod n$$

- B **Decryption with public key  $(e, n)$**   
Verify signature  $s$  with public key

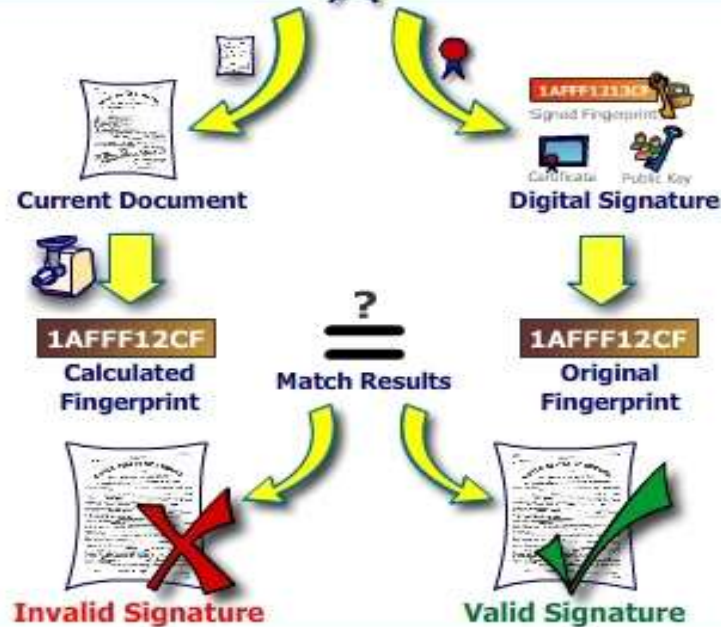
$$H(M) = s^e \bmod n$$



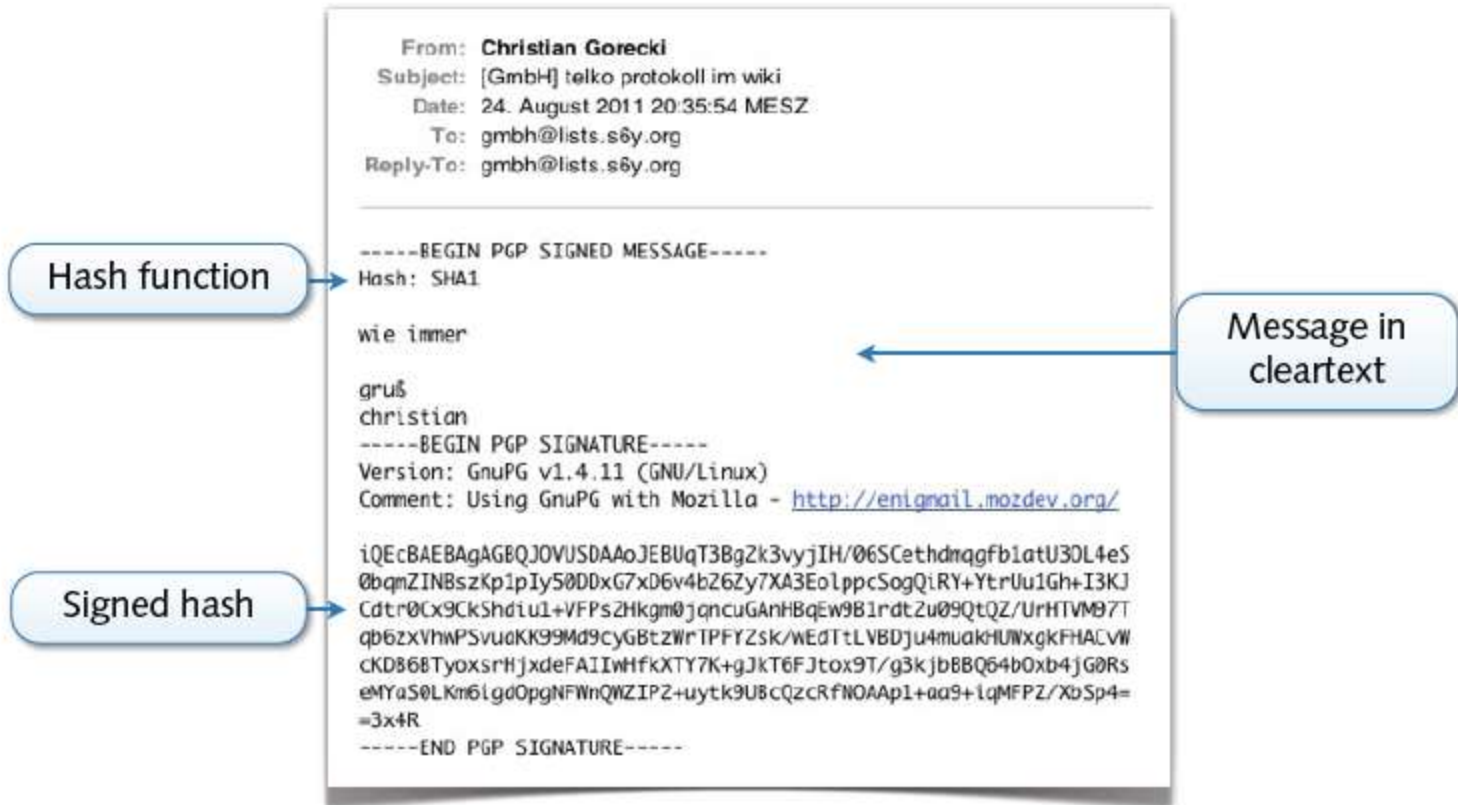
Sign



Verify



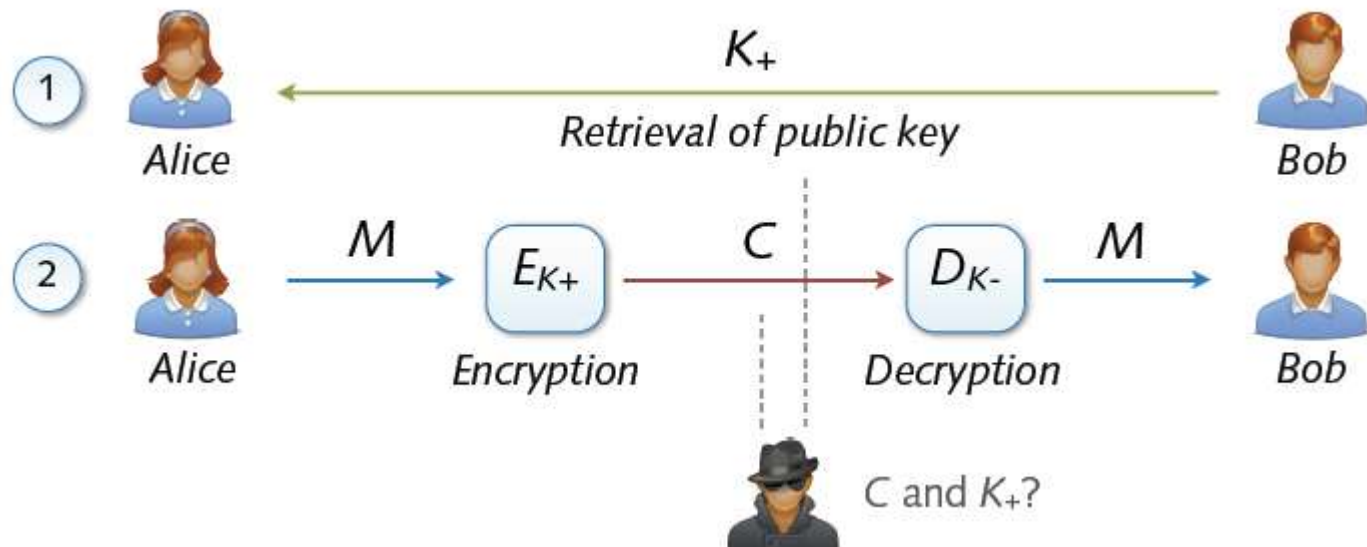
# Example: PGP Signature





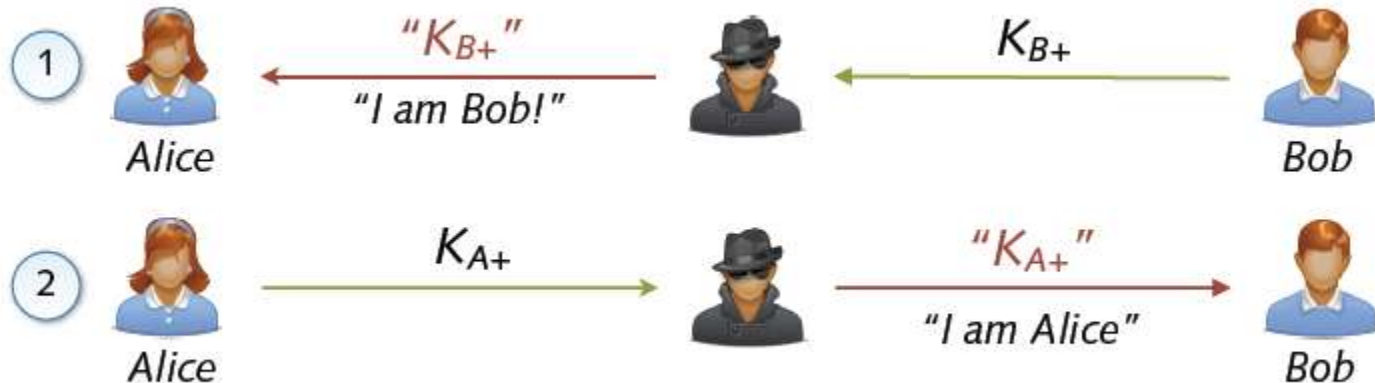
# Asymmetric Cryptosystem

- **Asymmetric cryptosystems**
  - Asymmetric encryption and decryption
  - $K_+$  (pk) = public key of Bob  $K_-$  (sk) = secret key of Bob
  - No secure key exchange necessary



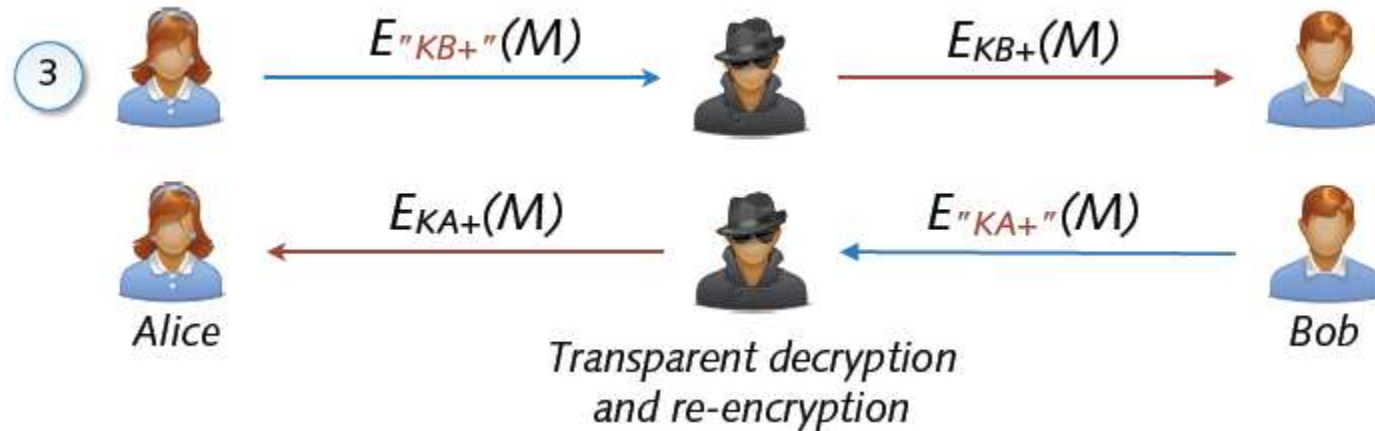
# Man in the Middle (MITM)

- **Common attack against asymmetric cryptosystems**
  - Interception of public key exchange by attacker
  - Transparent eavesdropping using forged keys



# Man in the Middle (MITM)

- **Attacker invisible to both parties**
  - Received data encrypted with correct public key
  - Sent data encrypted with forged public keys



# Key Fingerprints

- **Protection against MITM using key fingerprints**
  - Manual comparison of public keys using hash values
  - Storage of approved public keys in database
- **Example: SSH client presents fingerprint for validation**

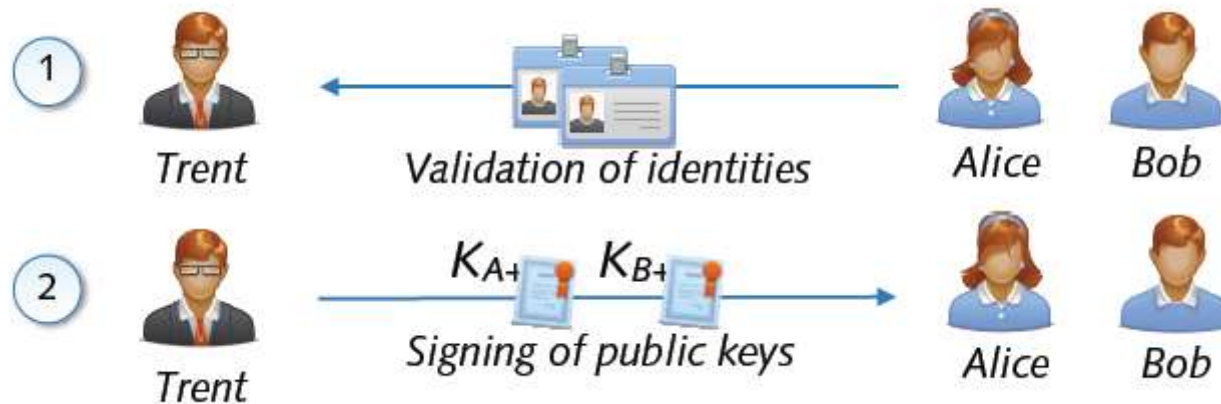
```
$ ssh login.stud.informatik.uni-goettingen.de
The authenticity of host 'login.stud.informatik.uni-goettingen.de
(134.76.81.99)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is 2a:0d:2b:7c:cb:2f:e8:20:39:29:52:28:5f:97:0e:ba.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)?
```

- **Secure exchange of fingerprints required (hen-egg problem)**



# Public Key and Signatures

- **Problem: Public keys not linked to identity of user**
- **Solution: Validation and signing of public key by third party**
  - Certification of link between identity and public key



- Acceptance of signed public keys only → no MITM attack

# Public Key Certificates

- Electronic document that uses a digital signature to bind a public key with an identity
  - Information such as the name of a person or an organization, their address, and so forth.
  - The certificate can be used to verify that a public key belongs to an individual.

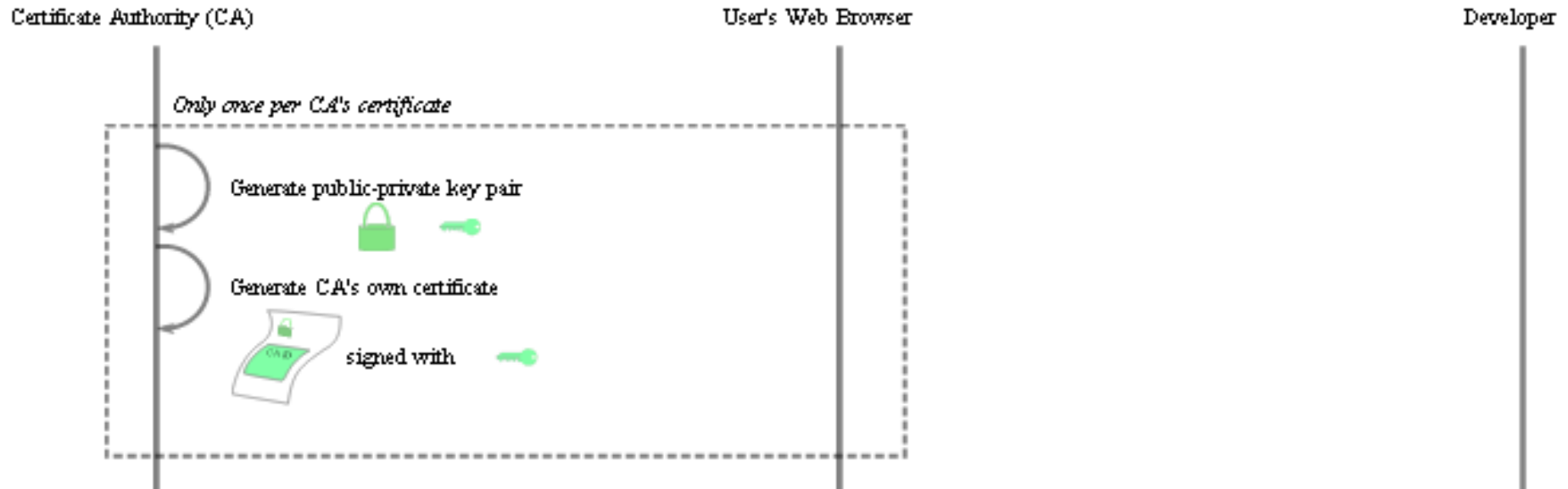
## Two Types of Signature on a Certificate

- In public key infrastructure (PKI) scheme
  - Signature will be of a certificate authority (CA).
- In web of trust scheme
  - Signature is of either the user (a self-signed certificate) or other users ("endorsements").
  -

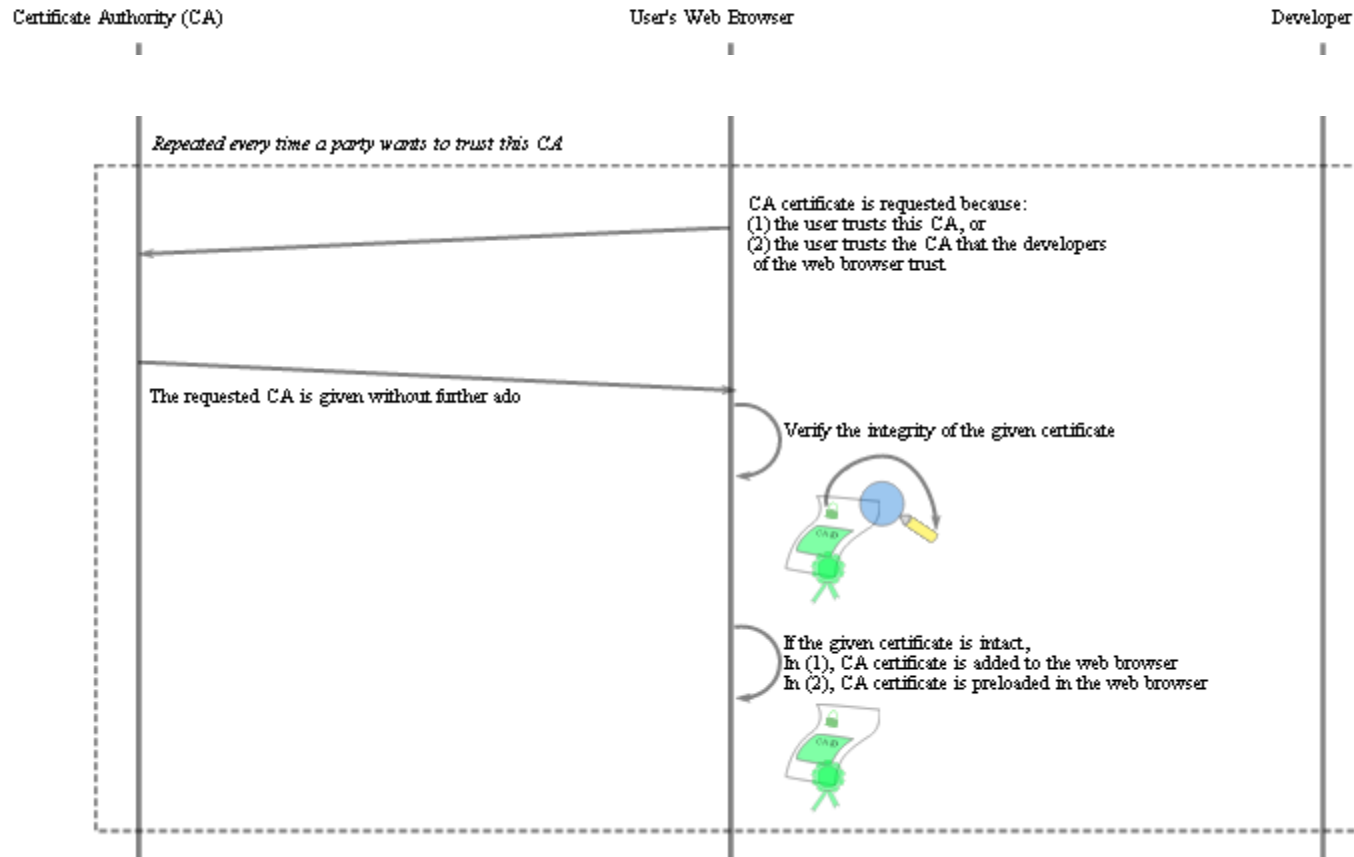
In either case, the signatures on a certificate are attestations by the certificate signer that the identity information and the public key belong together.



# Certificate Creation (Step 1)

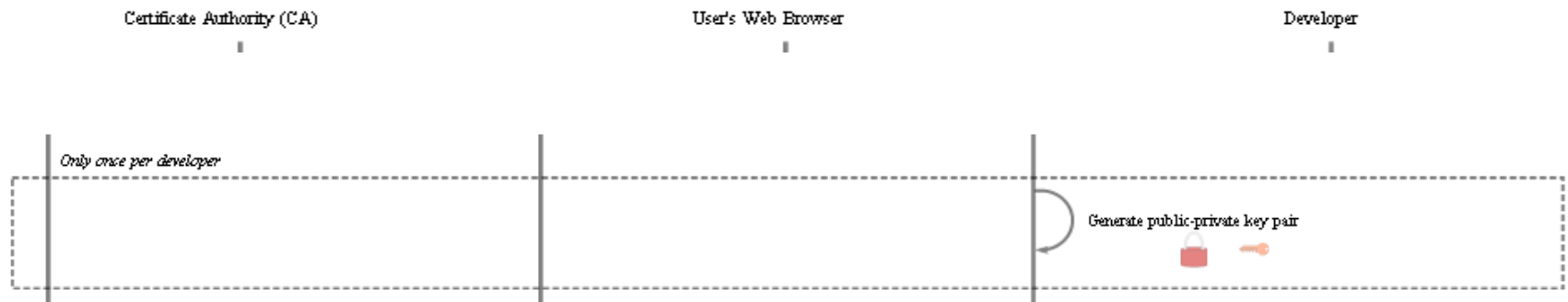


# Certificate Creation (Step 2)





# Certificate Creation (Step 3)



# Certificate Creation (Step 4)

Certificate Authority (CA)

User's Web Browser

Developer

*Repeated for each CA by which the developer wants to be certified*

Generate CSR (Certificate Signing Request) per PKCS10 (Public-key Cryptography Standard #10)

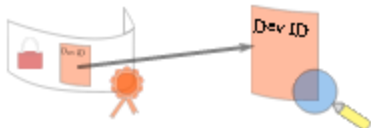


Send CSR

Check the integrity of the CSR



If the CSR is intact, verify that the developer's true identity matches the one contained in the CSR



If CSR integrity is intact and the true identity matches the one contained in the CSR, generate developer's certificate



Send the signed developer's certificate

The signed certificate is kept



# Certificate Creation (Step 5)

Certificate Authority (CA)

User's Web Browser

Developer

*Repeated for each digital object for distribution*

Request the digital object

If the user has the signing CA certificate in the browser, the user has decided to trust the signing CA

If the signing CA is trusted, the CA's public key is used to verify the integrity of the developer's certificate

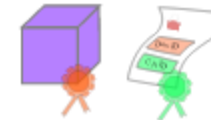
If the developer's certificate is intact, which implies that the CA has guaranteed that the information is correct, the user that trusts the CA can trust that the developer's ID is valid and the public key really belongs to the developer. Then the public key can be used to verify the integrity of the requested object

If the object is intact, the user can assume that the object really originates from the developer because only the developer can sign the object with the right private key and the developer that signs the object is really the developer with the claimed ID since the CA has verified it.

Sign a digital object to be distributed



Distribute the digital object and the certificate



# Contents of Typical Digital Certificate

- **Serial Number:** Used to uniquely identify the certificate.
- **Subject:** The person, or entity identified.
- **Signature Algorithm:** The algorithm used to create the signature.
- **Signature:** The actual signature to verify that it came from the issuer.
- **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.
- **Key-Usage:** Purpose of the public key (e.g. encipherment, signature, certificate signing...).
- **Public Key:** The public key.
- **Thumbprint Algorithm:** The algorithm used to hash the public key certificate.
- **Thumbprint:** The hash itself, used as an abbreviated form of the public key certificate.



# Vendor defined classes

VeriSign uses the concept of classes for different types of digital certificates

- **Class 1** for individuals, intended for email.
- **Class 2** for organizations, for which proof of identity is required.
- **Class 3** for servers and software signing, for which independent verification and checking of identity and authority is done by the issuing certificate authority.
- **Class 4** for online business transactions between companies.
- **Class 5** for private organizations or governmental security.

Other vendors may choose to use different classes or no classes at all as this is not specified in the PKI standards.



# No more MITM?

- **Case: Forged Google certificate**
  - Issued by legitimate CA
  - Valid for \*.google.com
  - Used by unknown holder
  - Reported by Iranian users
- **Large-scale attack against CA**
  - Break-in at CA DigitNotar
  - 539 forged certificates

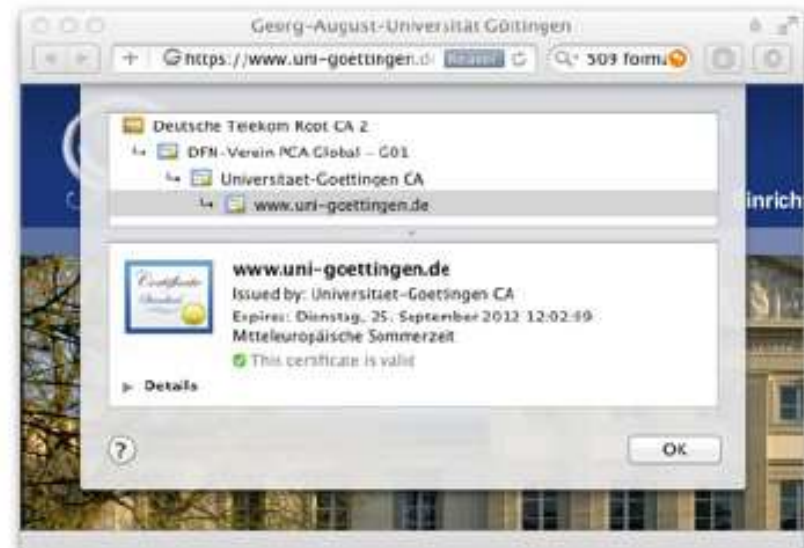


Reported on August 28, 2011

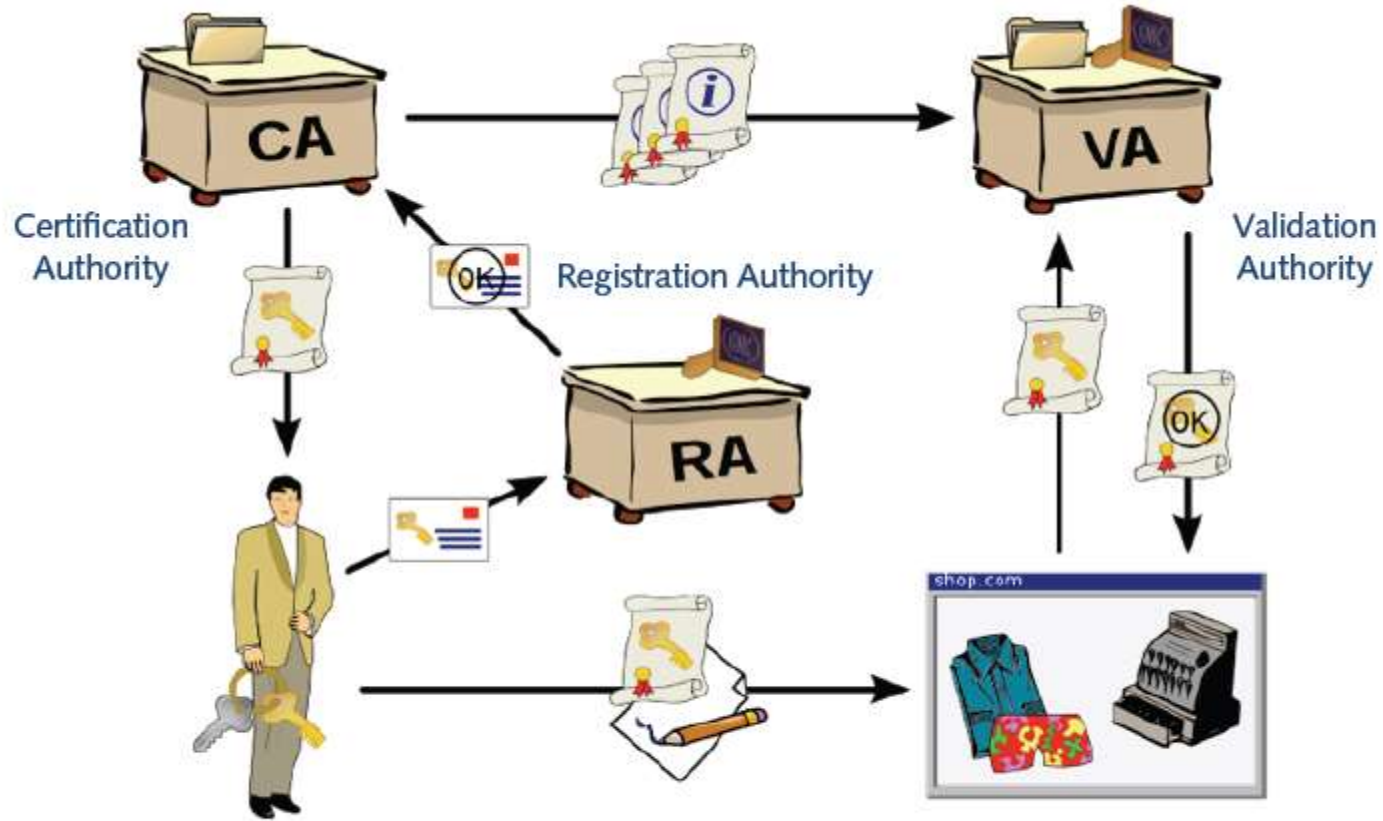


# Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

- **Public-key infrastructure (PKI)** is a set of hardware, software, people, policies, and procedures needed to create, manage, distribute, use, store, and revoke digital certificates.
- **Management of trust using public-key cryptography**
  - Digital certificates (signatures) on keys, attributes, ...
  - Certificate authorities (CA) as trusted parties
  - Chain of trust with multiple layers
- **Different architectures**
  - Hierarchical PKI,
    - e.g. X.509 standard
  - Web of trust,
    - e.g. PGP software



# Roles In PKI



(taken from wikipedia.org)





# Roles In PKI

- **Certification Authority (CA)**
  - Trusted third party that binds public keys with respective user identities
- **Validation Authority (VA)**
  - The user identity must be unique within each CA domain. The third-party Validation Authority (VA) can provide this information on behalf of CA.
- **Registration Authority (RA)**
  - The binding is established through the registration and issuance process, which, depending on the level of assurance the binding has, may be carried out by software at a CA, or under human supervision. The PKI role that assures this binding is called the Registration Authority (RA). *The RA ensures that the public key is bound to the individual to which it is assigned in a way that ensures non-repudiation.*



# Acknowledgements

Material in this lecture are taken from the slides prepared by:

- Prof. Dr. Konrad Rieck (Uni-Göttingen)

