MFA: Multifactor Authentication

2FA vs MFA

- **2FA** Two-Factor authentication
  - Something you **know** (password)
  - Something you **have** (smartphone or security key)

- search "`google titan`"
- search "`yubico security key`"

- We will consider 2FA and **MFA** synonyms

Second factors

- **Smartphone**
  - OTP SMS
  - OTP Authenticator App
  - Push notifications
- **SecurityKey** (USB/NFC/Bluetooth)

- SecurityKey **much more secure** than other methods
- **All enormously** more secure than password only

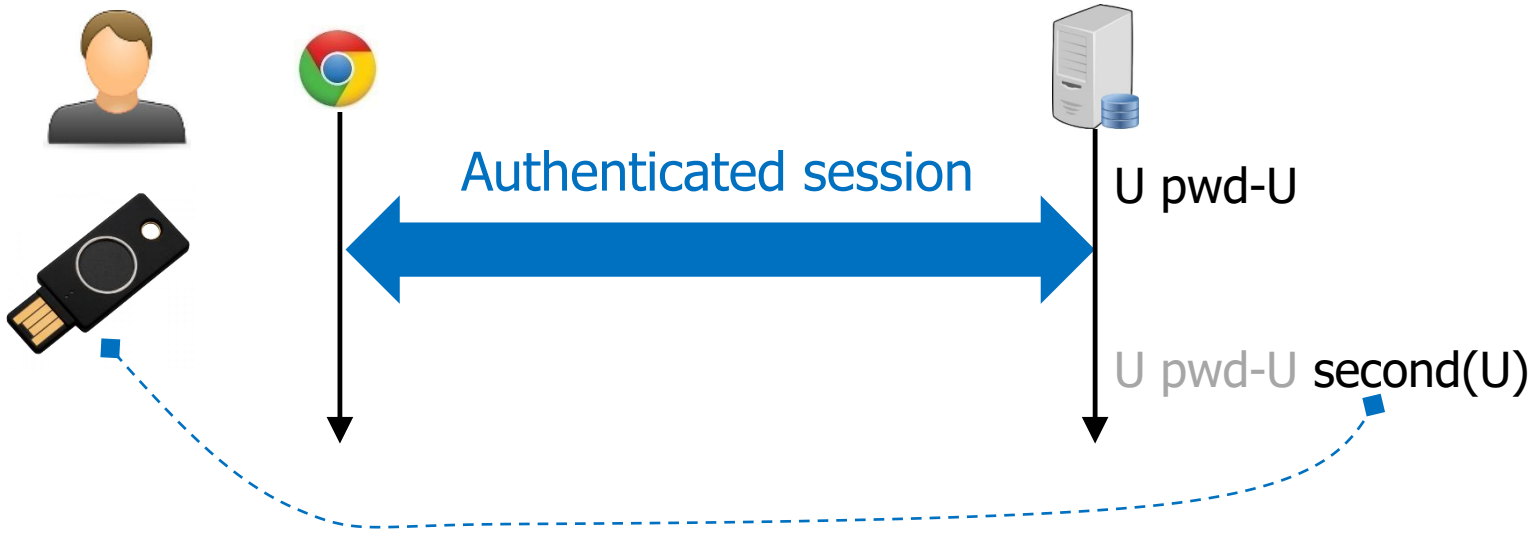
Our Focus

- **Web app** (BASIC/FORM over HTTPS)
- **Different** organizations
- Extremely relevant in practice

- Very useful also for
  - Authentication for "legacy" protocols (SMTP, POP, SSH, ...)
  - Same organization

  - Much less used (very difficult to deploy on legacy applications)

Step 1: Linking 2nd factor (once)



- User selects 2FA in account options (Service must support 2FA)
- Message exchange depends on Service and 2FA technique

Linking Example (I): Google

Turn on 2-Step Verification

With 2-Step Verification (also known as two-factor authentication), you add an extra layer of security to your account. After you set it up, you'll sign in to your account in two steps using:

- Something you know (your password)
- Something you have (like your phone or a security key dongle)

Computer | Android | iPhone & iPad

Step 1: Set up 2-Step Verification

1. Go to your Google Account .
2. On the left navigation panel, click **Security**.
3. On the *Signing in to Google* panel, click **2-Step Verification**.
4. Click **Get started**.
5. Follow the steps on the screen.

Linking Example (II): Lastpass

Enable Multifactor Authentication

As a LastPass user, you can enable Multifactor Authentication for your account as follows:

1. Log in to LastPass and access your Vault by doing either of the following:
    - Go to https://lastpass.com/?ac=1 and log in with your username and Master Password.
    - In your web browser toolbar, click the LastPass icon then click **Open My Vault**.
2. Select **Account Settings** in the left navigation.
3. Click on the **Multifactor Options** tab.
4. Click the Edit icon to the right of your desired multifactor option.

Linking Example (III): Facebook

Cos'è l'autenticazione a due fattori e come funziona?

Assistenza per computer Assistenza per mobile Condividi l'articolo

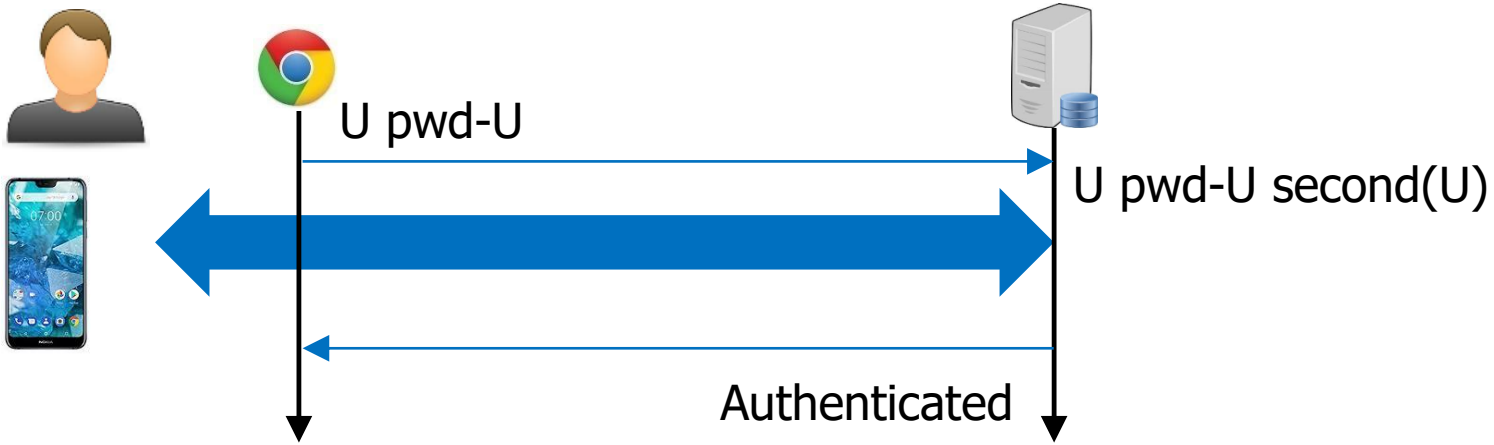
Se stai riscontrando problemi nell'accedere al tuo account Facebook, consulta prima questi suggerimenti.

Aiutandoti a proteggere il tuo account Facebook, l'autenticazione a due fattori è una funzione di protezione ulteriore rispetto alla password. Se attivi l'autenticazione a due fattori, ti verrà richiesto di inserire un codice di accesso speciale o di confermare il tentativo di accesso ogni volta che qualcuno prova ad accedere a Facebook con il tuo account da un computer o dispositivo mobile non riconosciuto. Puoi anche ricevere avvisi quando qualcuno prova a effettuare l'accesso con il tuo account da un computer non riconosciuto.

Per attivare o gestire l'autenticazione a due fattori:

1. Accedi alle impostazioni di Protezione e accesso cliccando su nell'angolo in alto a destra di Facebook, quindi su **Impostazioni** > **Protezione e accesso**.
2. Scorri fino a **Usa l'autenticazione a due fattori** e clicca su **Modifica**.

Step 2: Login (every time)

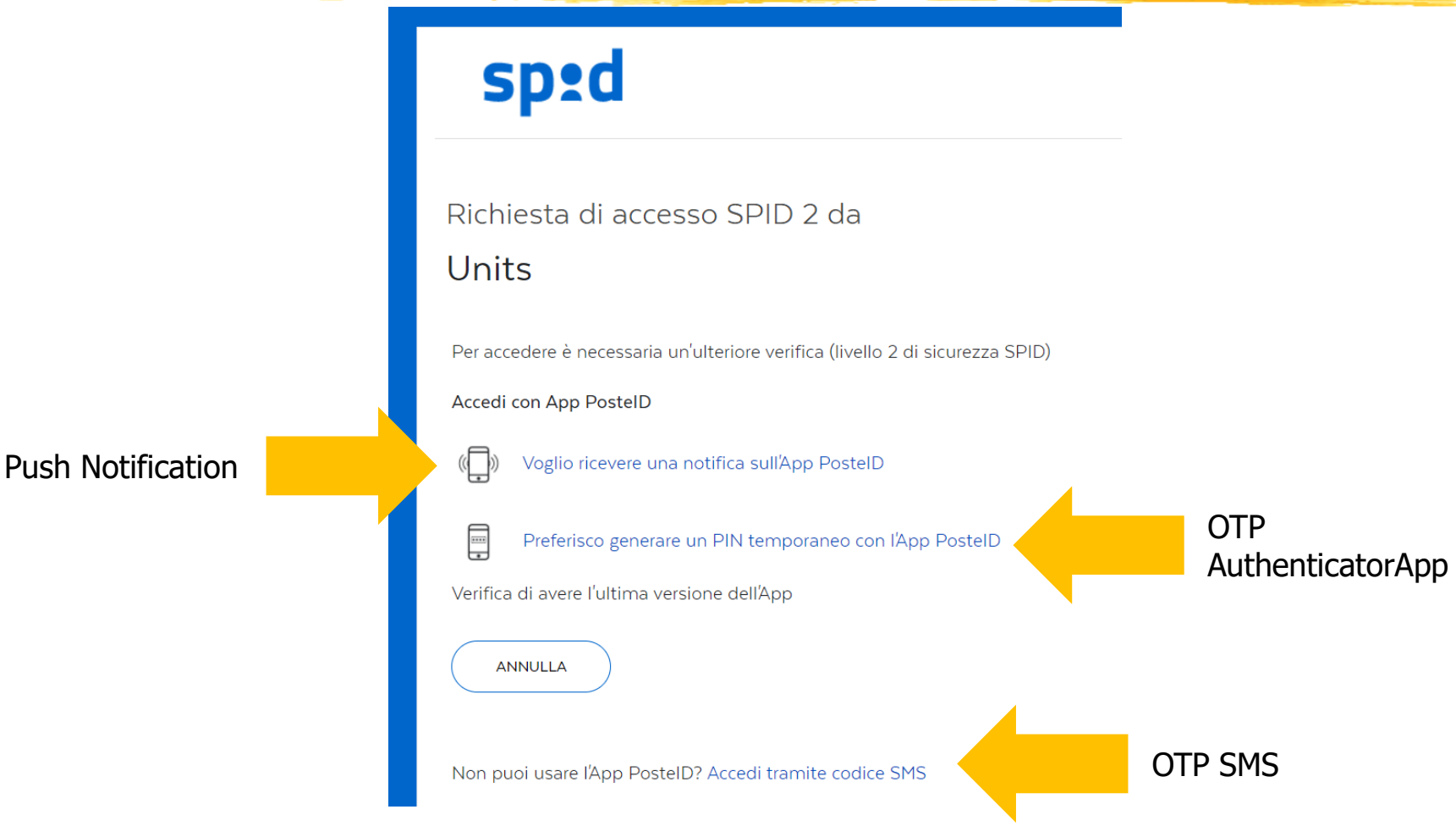


- Message exchange depends on Service and 2FA technique

Login Example (I): Unicredit

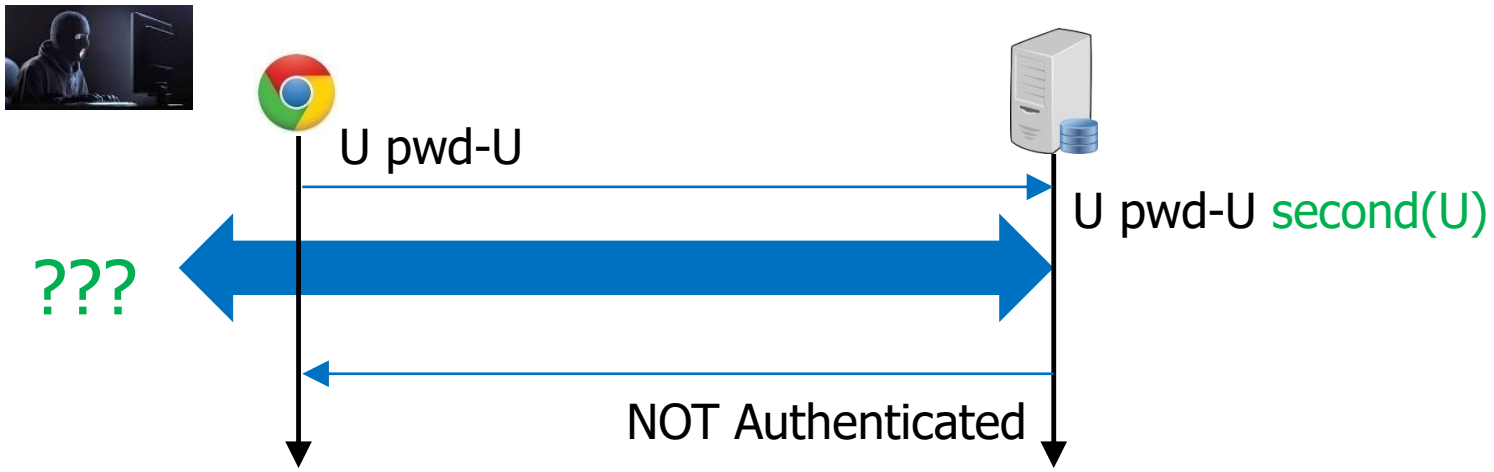
Push Notification

Login Example (II): SPID-PosteID



Threat Model: Stolen Password (I)

- Adversary has <U,P>



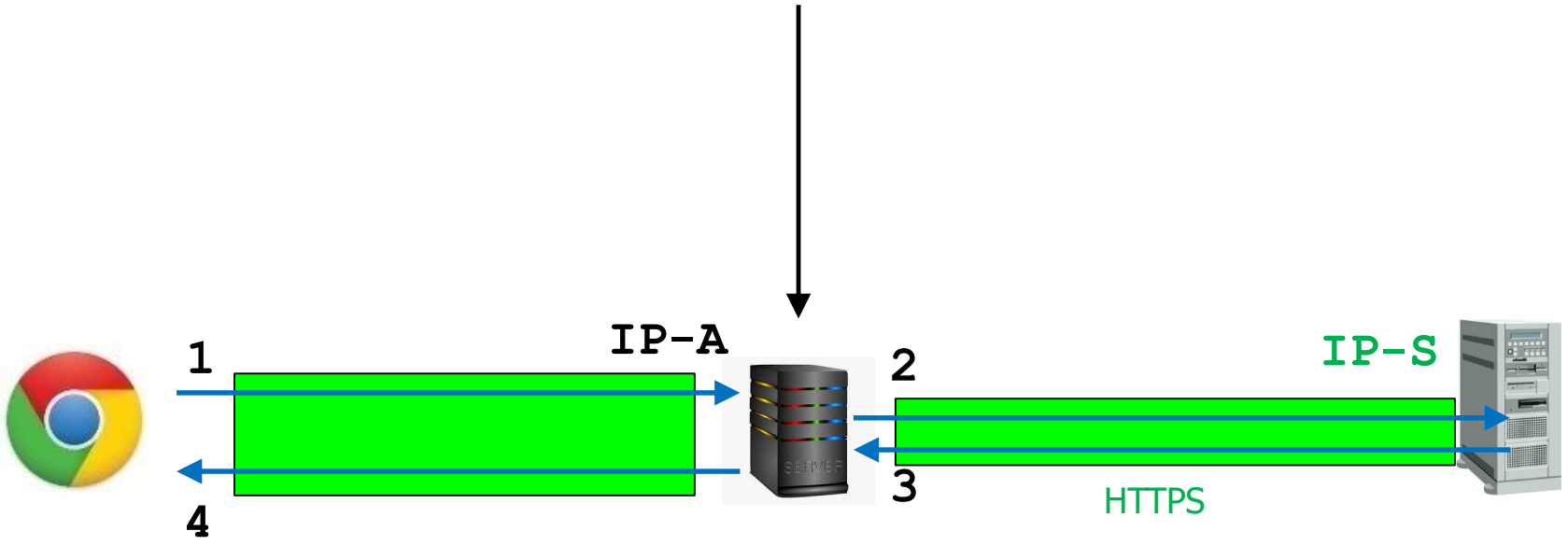
Threat Model: Stolen Password (II)

- **Smartphone**
  - OTP SMS — Solved
  - OTP Authenticator App — Solved
  - Push notifications — Solved
- **SecurityKey** (USB/NFC/Bluetooth) — Solved

Evil Proxy

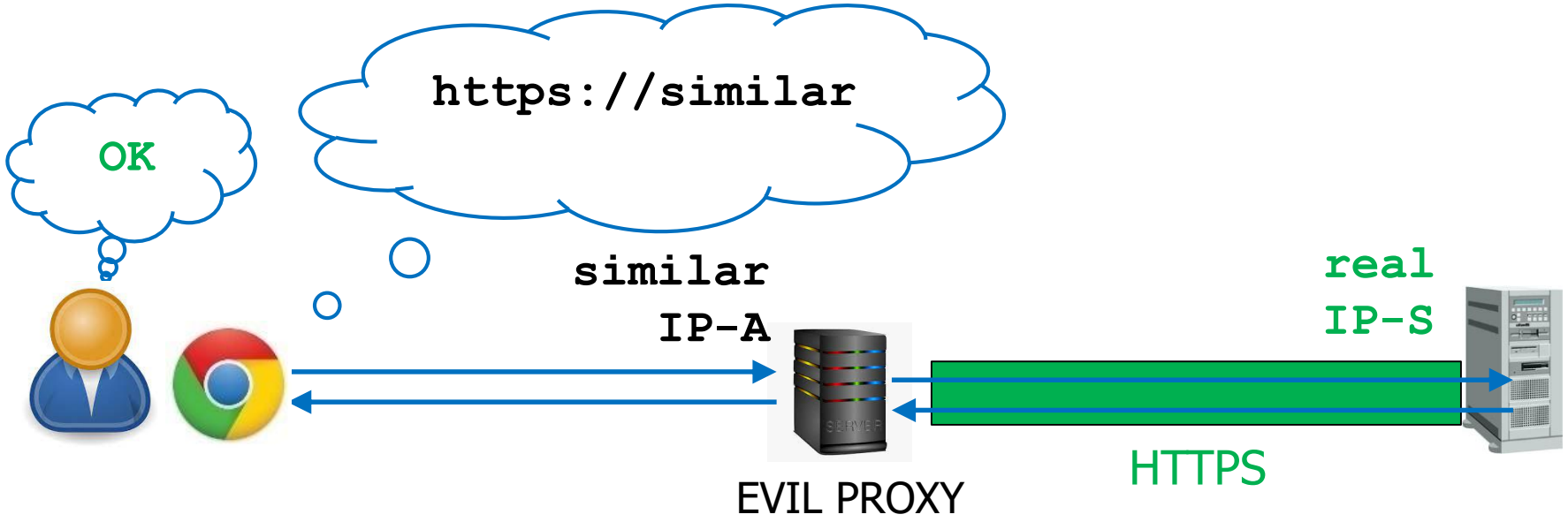
Proxy **specialized** for **AitM**

- Presents to C **all** resources of target website **without any local copy**
- Can target **many different** websites at the same time
- **Configuration** specifies what to **modify** and what to **log**



Threat Model: "Real-time Phishing" (I)

- User does **not** detect that is accessing the **wrong** URL



Threat Model: "Real-time Phishing" (II)

- **Smartphone**
  - OTP SMS — Not Solved
  - OTP Authenticator App — Not Solved
  - Push notifications — Not Solved
- **SecurityKey** (USB/NFC/Bluetooth) — Solved

Keep in mind

MFA is extremely important

- Very effective for very realistic threat model
- Enabling 2FA is a very high priority defensive investment

MFA is essential … Use of anything beyond the password significantly increases the costs for attackers, which is why **the rate of compromise of accounts using any type of MFA is less than 0.1% of the general population**.

Alex Weinert, Director of Identity Security Microsoft
November 2020

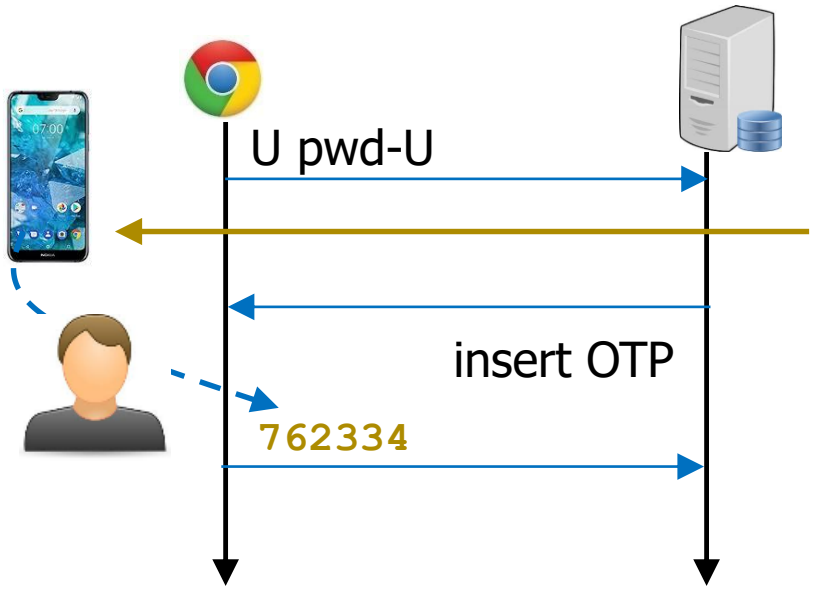
One-Time Passwords (OTP)

Second factor **(REMIND)**

- **Smartphone**
  - OTP SMS
  - OTP Authenticator App
  - Push notifications
- **SecurityKey** (USB/NFC/Bluetooth)

- SecurityKey **much more secure** than other methods
- **All enormously** more secure than password only

OTP SMS



One-Time Password (**OTP**):

- 6-digit code with uniform distribution in [0,999999]
- Valid only for **this** login attempt

OTP AuthApp: Linking

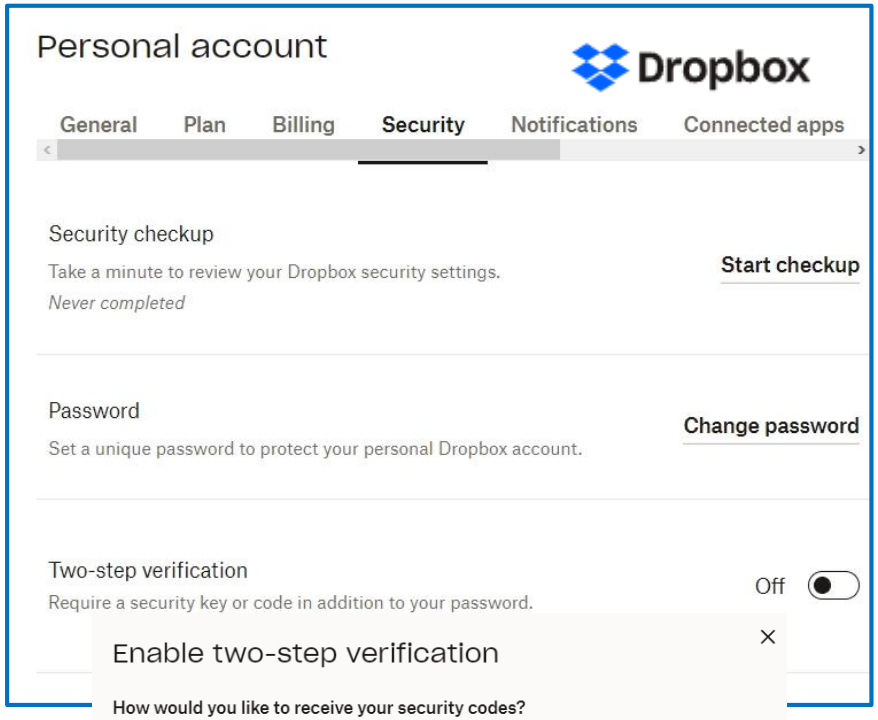
- **Generic** "Authenticator App" installed on User smartphone

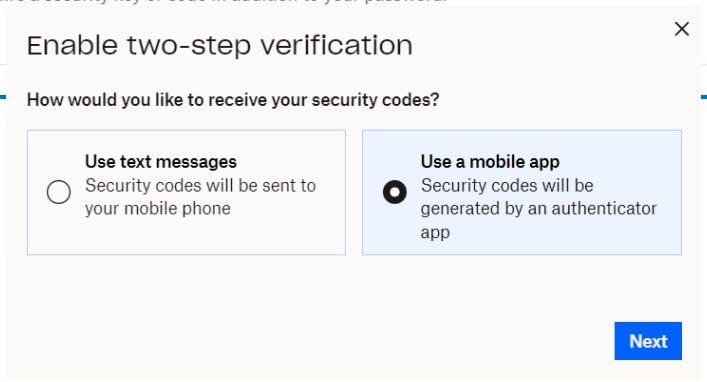
- User:
  1. Enable 2FA
  2. Choose AuthApp and Install on smartphone (if not installed already)

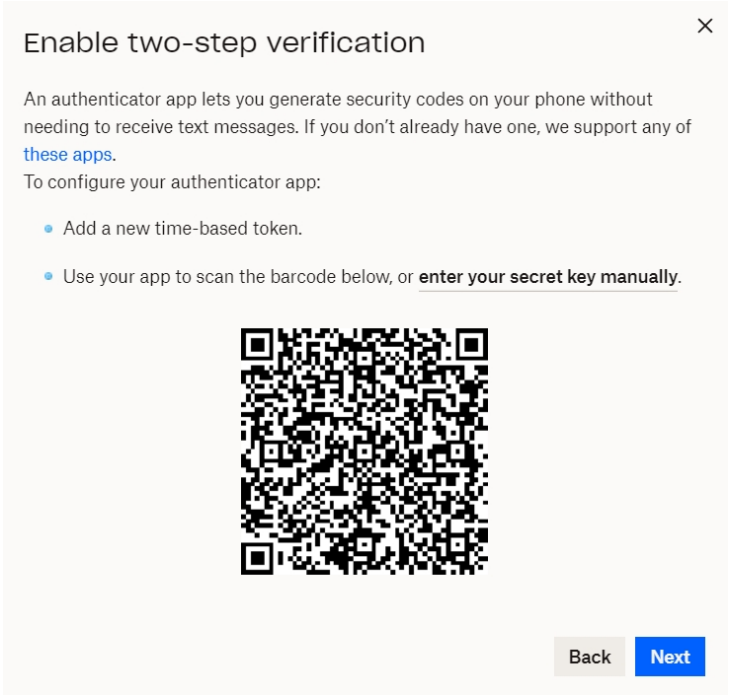
- Use the LastPass Authenticator
- Use the Google Authenticator
- Use Microsoft Authenticator

  3. Link account at Service with AuthApp on smartphone

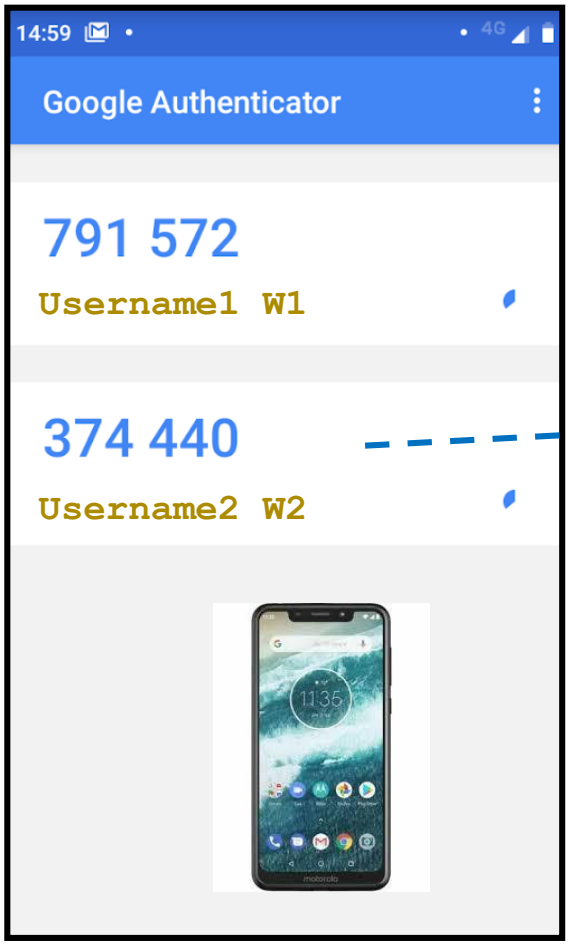
Example (outline)

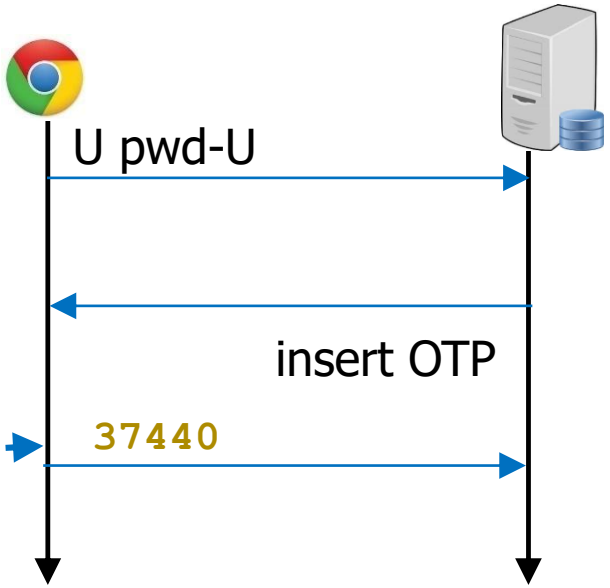






OTP AuthApp: Login

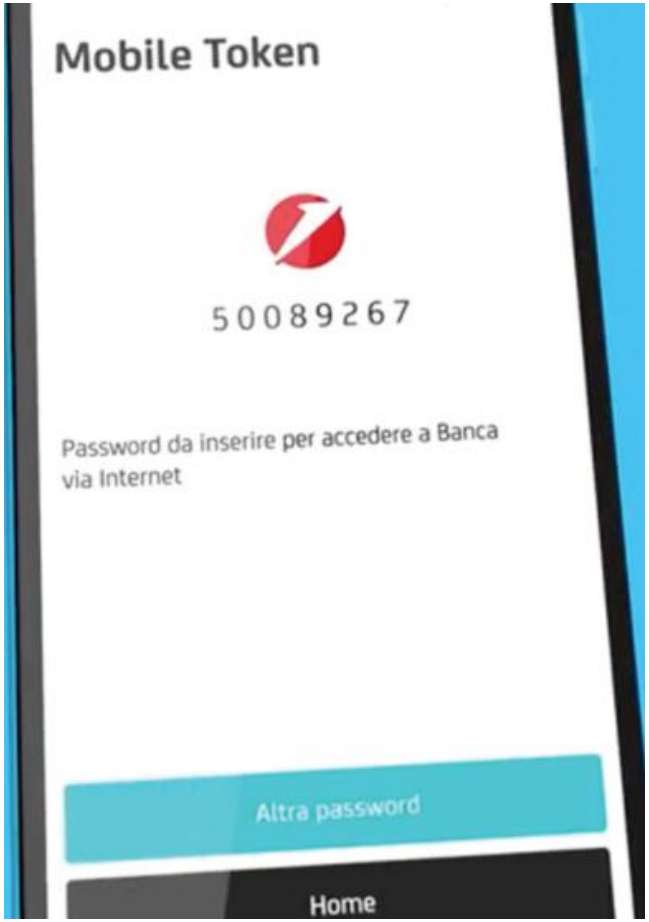




Remark

- A Service might use only "its own" Authenticator App

- Conceptually identical



OTP AuthApp: Implementation

AuthApp Linking: Requirement (I)

U1, K1 Dropbox

U1, K1

- Private key K1
  - Generated by service
  - Securely sent to AuthApp upon activation

AuthApp Linking: Requirement (II)

U1, K1
U2, K2
U3, K3

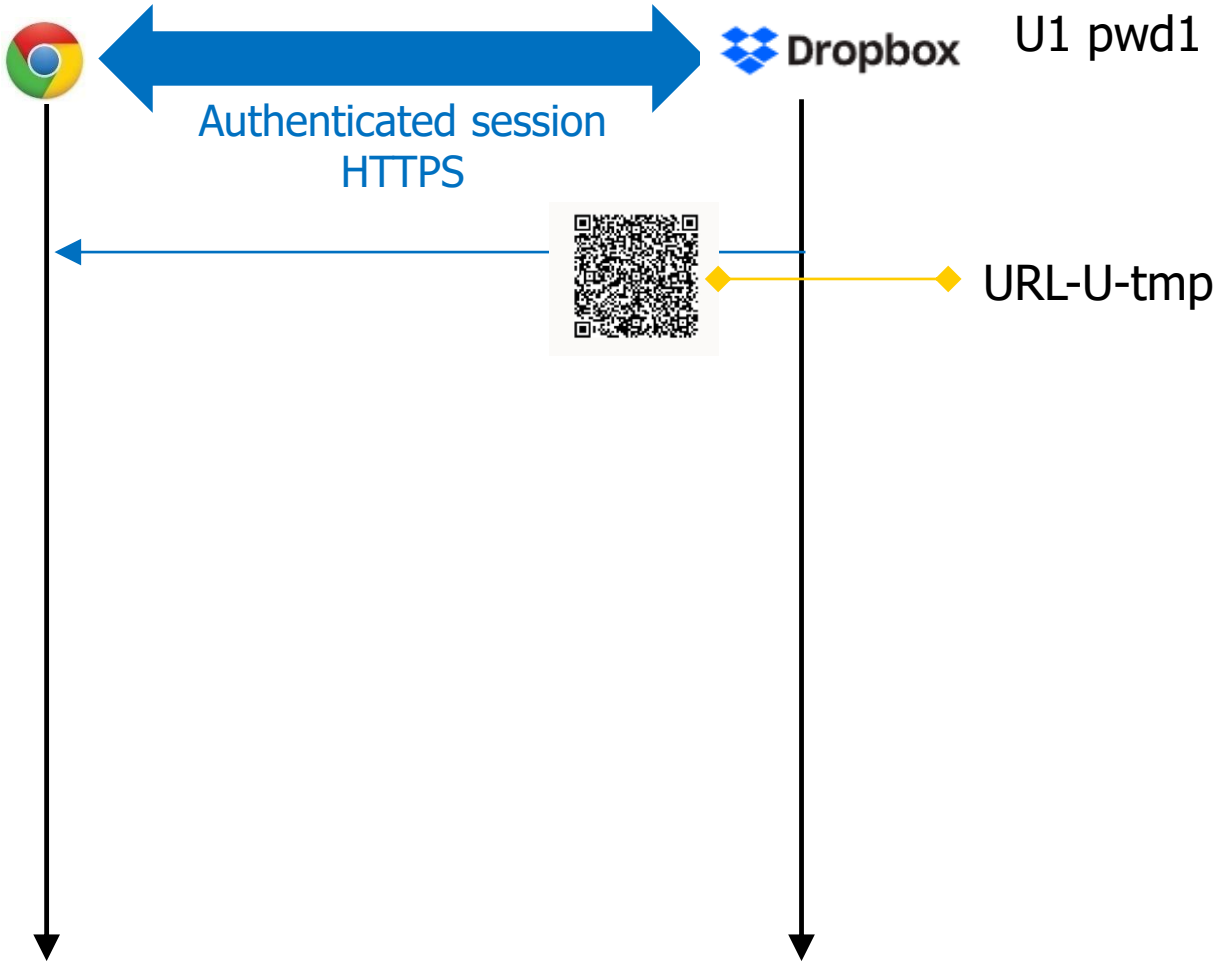
AuthApp usually linked to **several** services

U1, K1 Dropbox

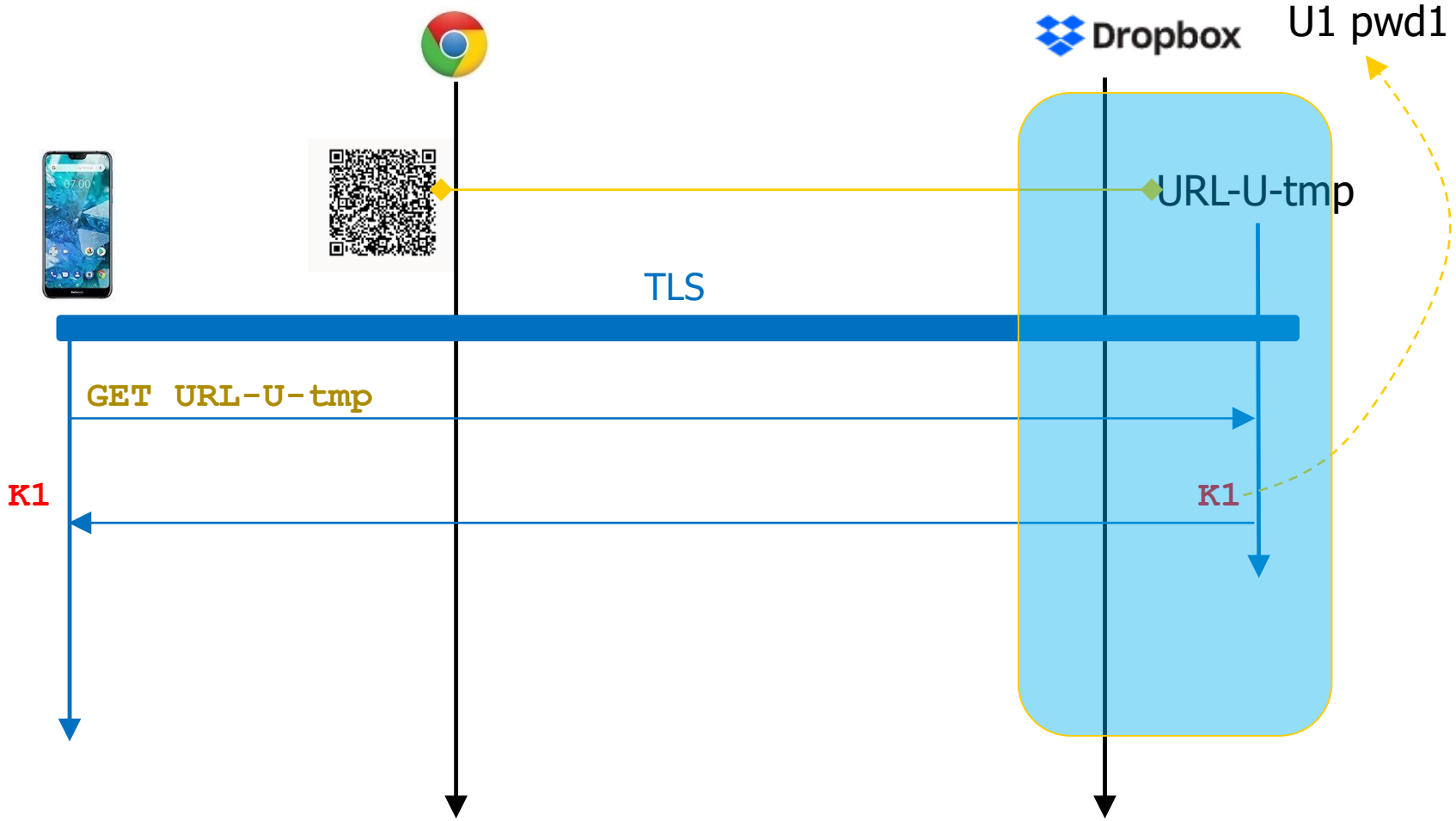
U2, K2

U3, K3 LastPass

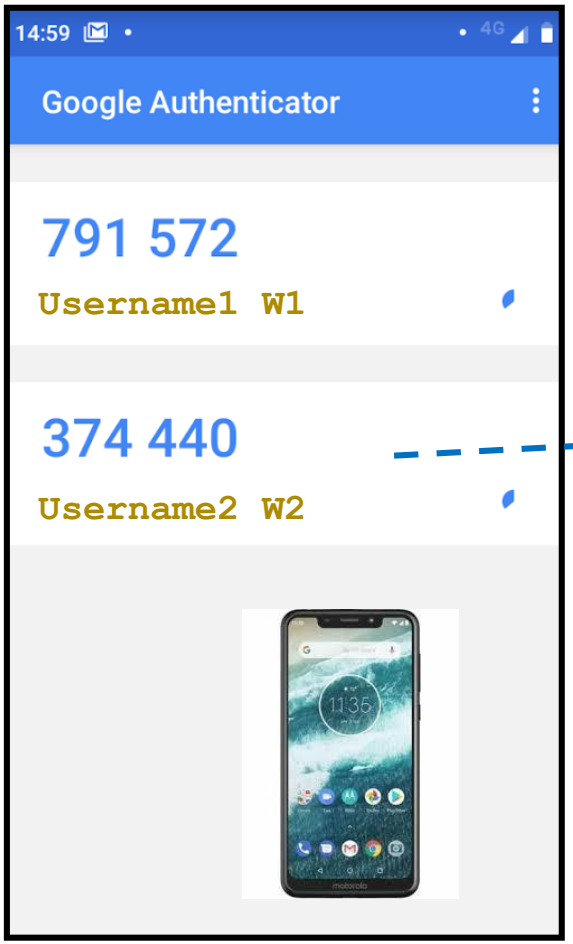
AuthApp Linking (I)

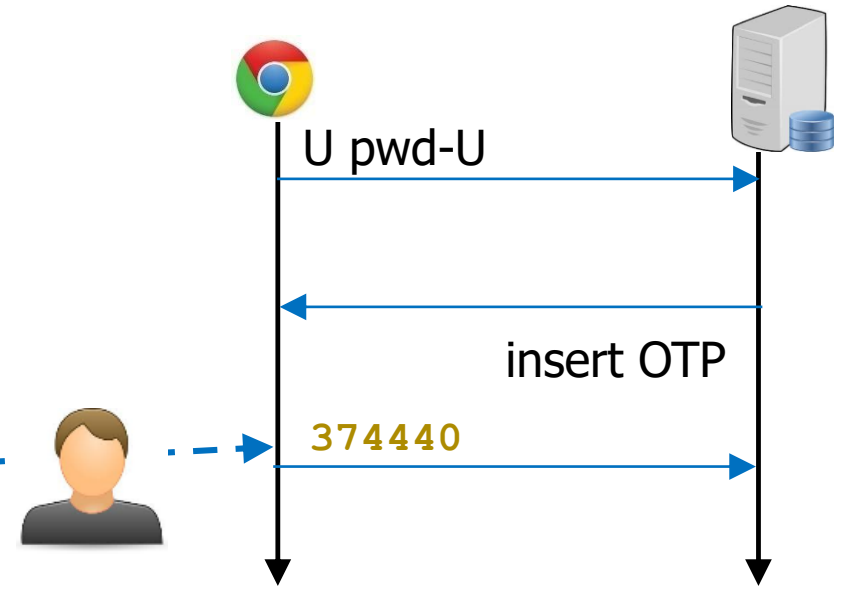


AuthApp Linking (II)



AuthApp Login: Requirement





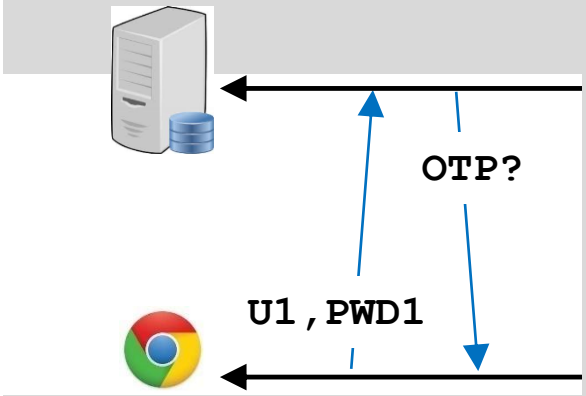
No communication Service - AuthApp

how can they agree?

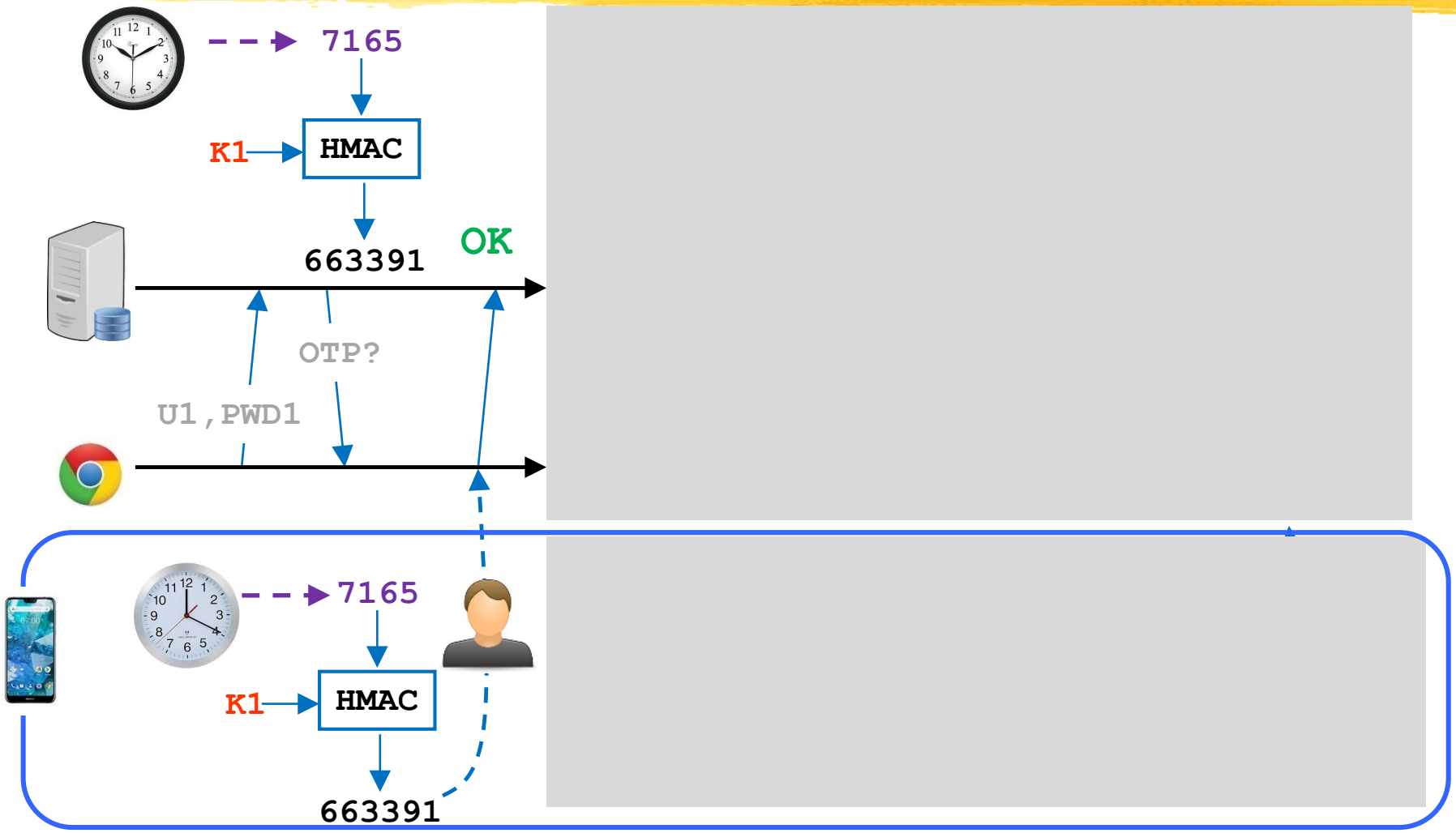
TOTP (Time-Based OTP): Basic Idea

- OTP(**t**) = ENCRYPT$_{K}$(**t** - T0) *// T0 conventional zero time*
- Read the clock and encrypt the result

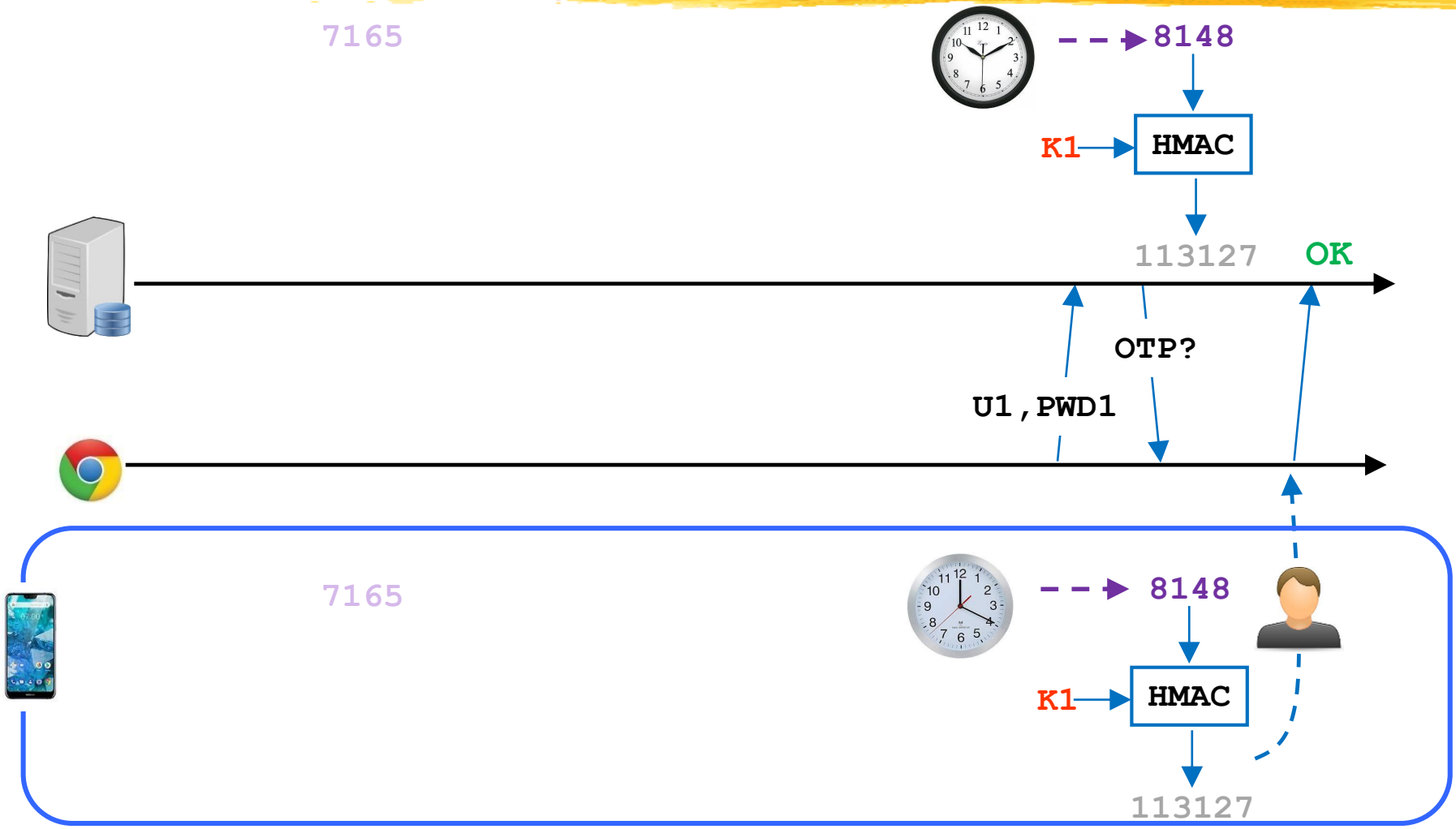
Example (I)



Example (II)



Example (III)


7165
8148
K1
HMAC
113127
OK
OTP?
U1,PWD1
7165
8148
K1
HMAC
113127

TOTP (Time-Based OTP): Some details

- Clocks cannot be perfectly synchronized
- Messages have latency

- OTP(**t**) = ENCRYPT$_K$(**t** - T0) **cannot work in practice**

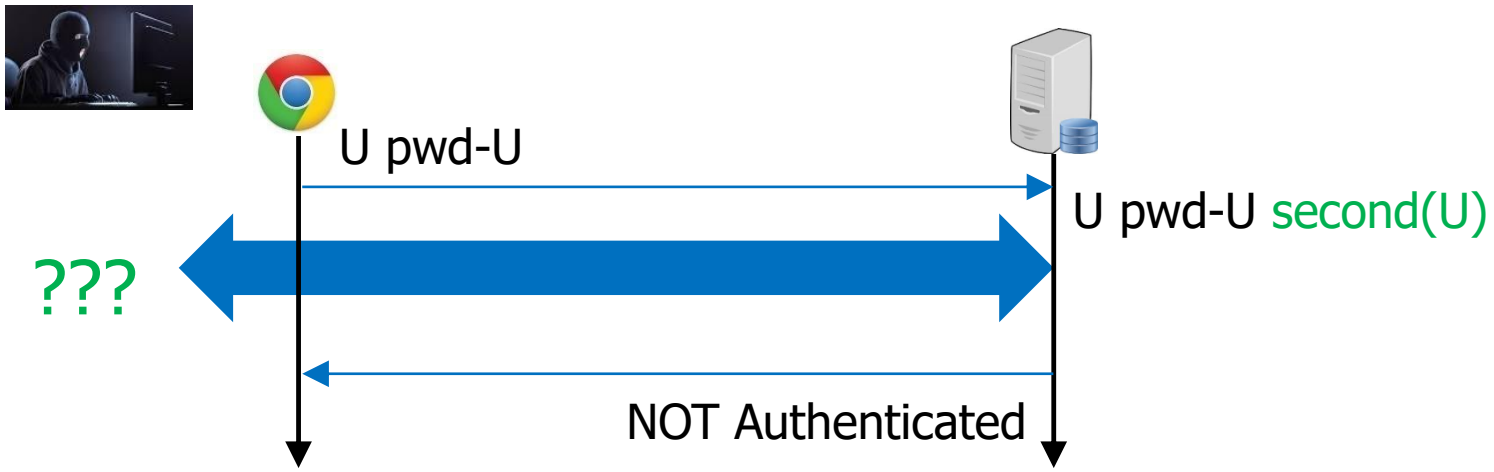
- OTP(**t**) = ENCRYPT$_K$(**t** - T0 **/ DX**) // DX = 30 s
- One-time password changes every 30 seconds

- Actual algorithm more complex
  https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time-based_one-time_password

OTP Attacks

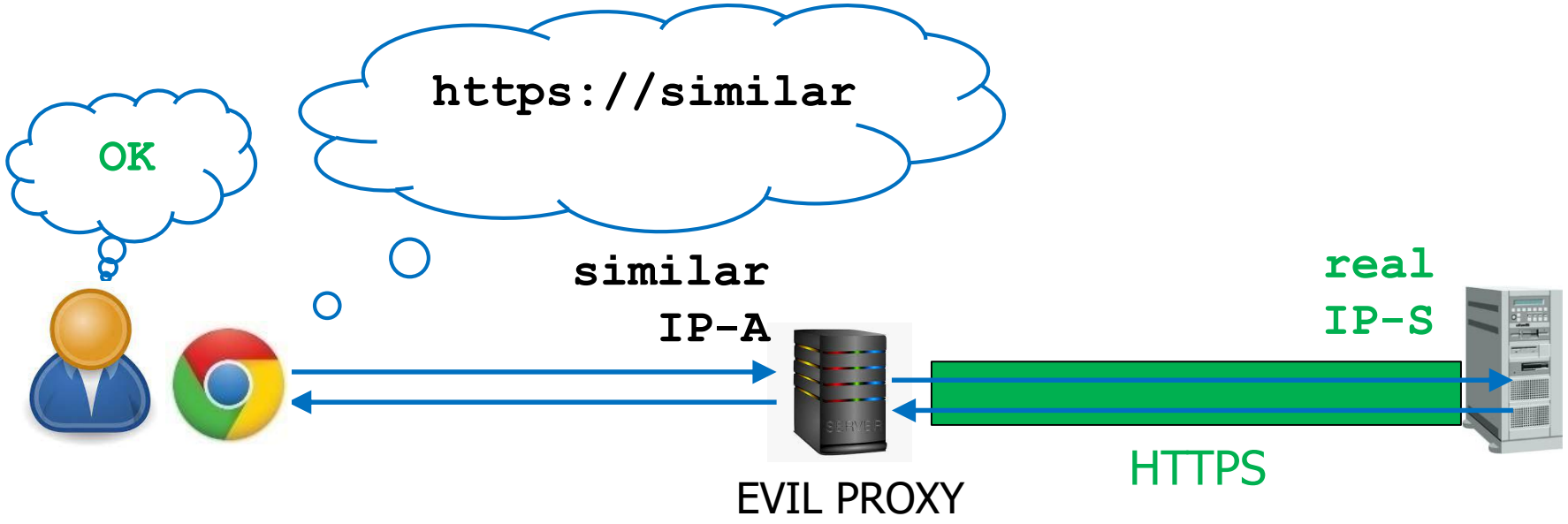
Threat Model: Stolen Password

- Adversary has <U,P>
- **Solved!**
- **Always keep in mind**

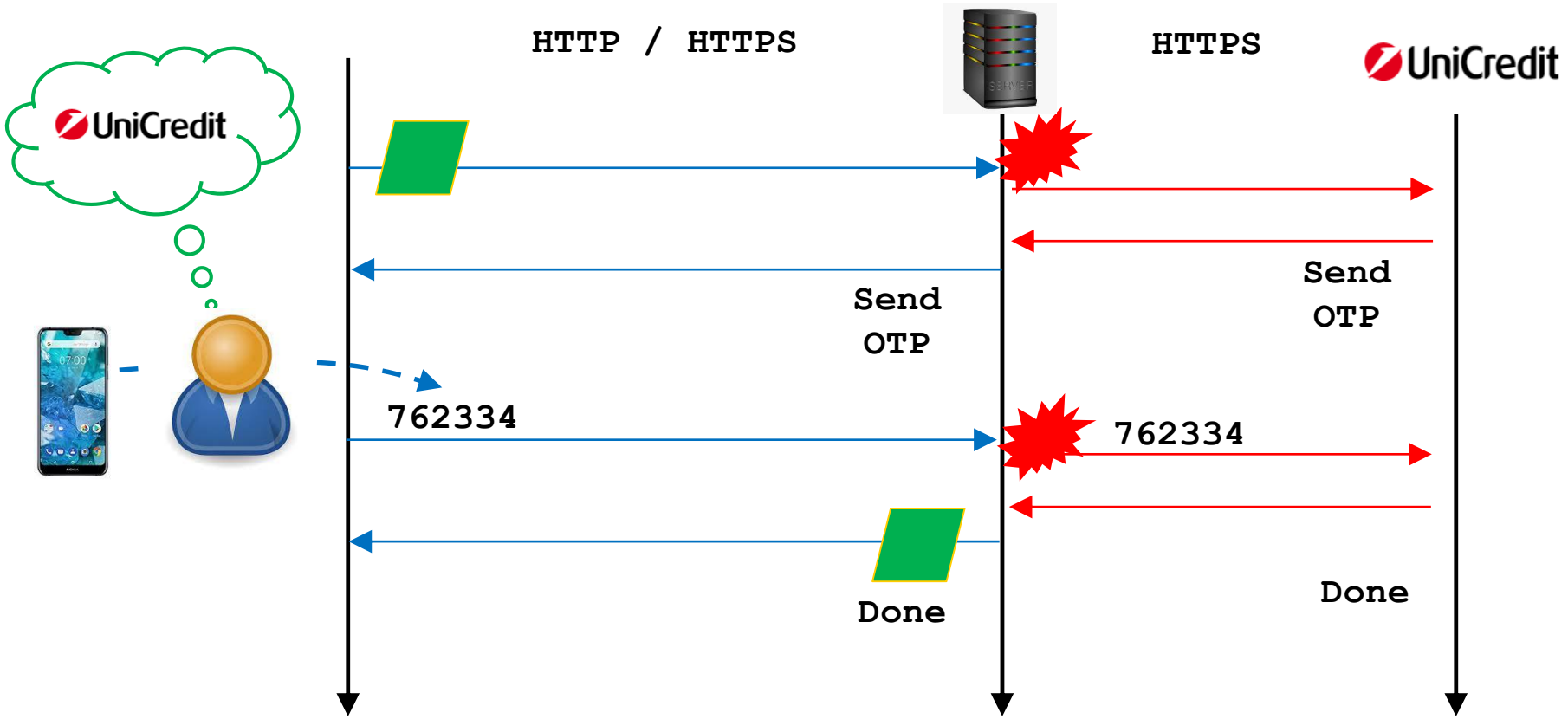


Threat Model: "Real-time Phishing" (REMIND)

- User does **not** detect that is accessing the **wrong** URL

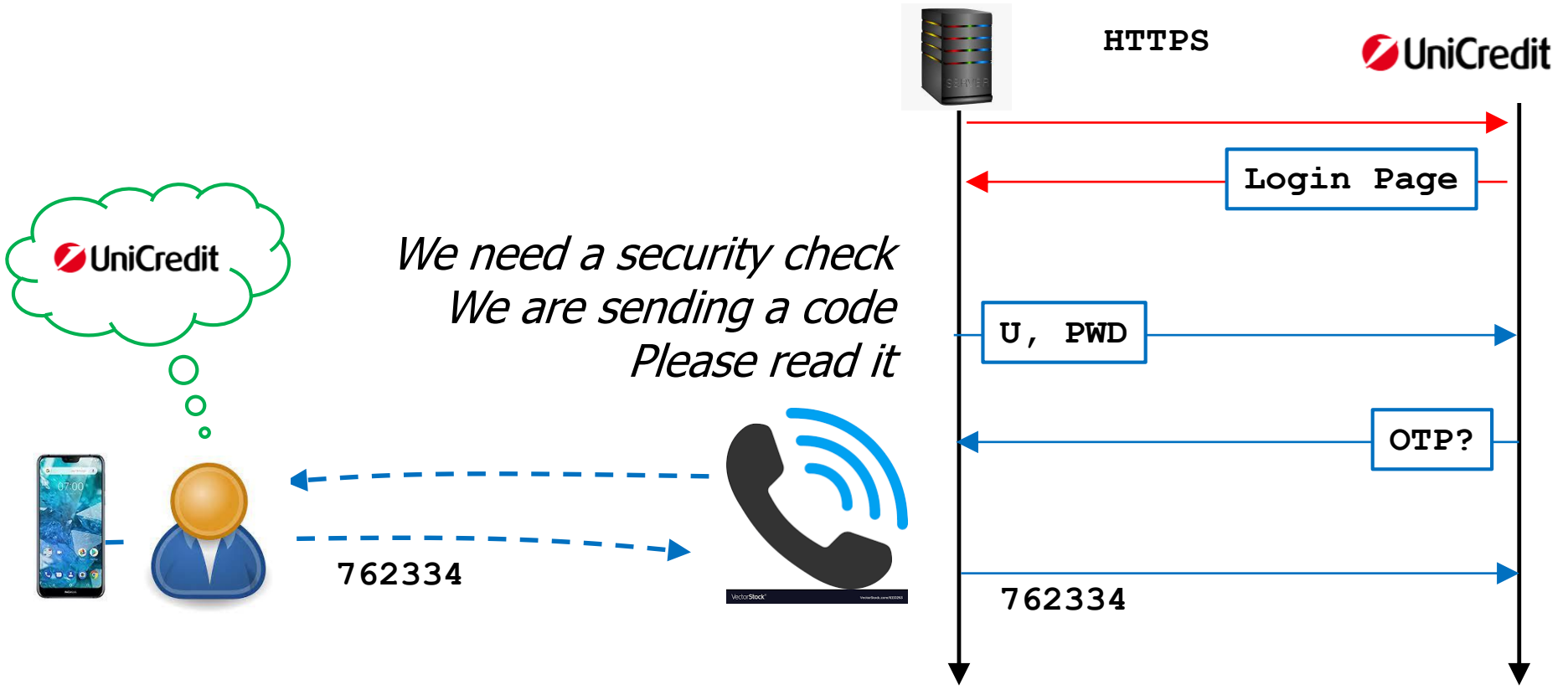


Threat Model: "Real-time phishing"



NOT Solved!

Other Threat Model: Vishing ("voice" phishing)



Unfortunately, it works…

IL PICCOLO

Cybertruffa vocale: 20 mila euro spariti

Chiamata e invio di un codice sul cellulare che la vittima è invitata a leggere a voce alta ma è l'ok a una transazione

04 Agosto, 2020

Search also "vishing" on Companion website

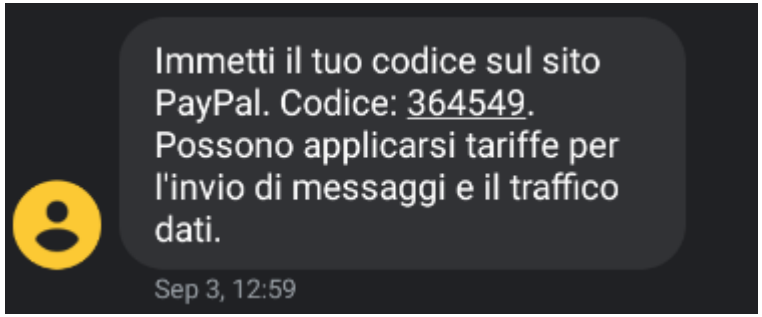
Keep in mind

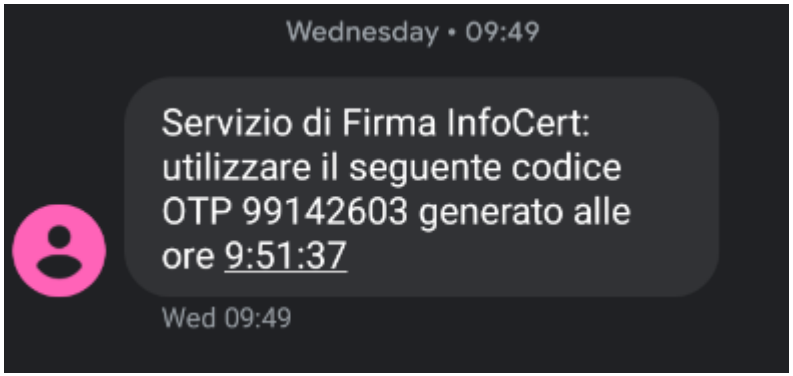
- OTP does **not** solve phishing

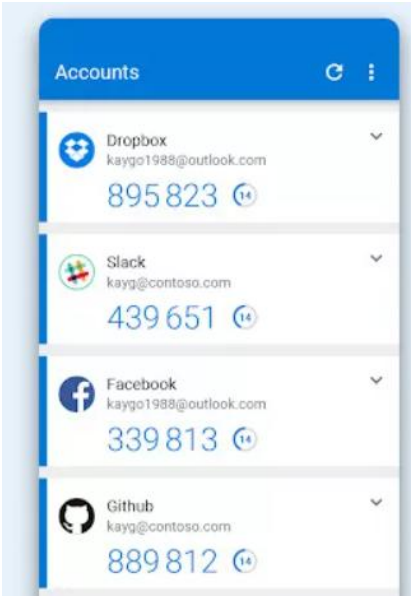
- OTP makes phishing much **more costly** to attackers
- ...but it is still a real danger

- Who am I giving this OTP to?
- For doing what?

Not very informative...







Much better


BBVA: Per eseguire il bonifico immediato di 610 EUR al conto di destinazione IT****[redacted] usa il codice 327272
Il tuo codice di verifica per accedere all'home banking 962341
BBVA: Per confermare il pagamento di 30,32 EUR effettuato con la tua carta ****[redacted] presso PAGOPA - WORLDLINE utilizza il codice 744660
30 nov, 18:16

Other Threat Models: OTP SMS

- Attacker knows password

  +

- Malware on smartphone
  - Read, forward, delete SMS
- SIM swap (fraudulent SIM change)
  - Phone number fraudulently taken by another SIM
- SMS routing attacks
  - SS7 phone protocol weakness: SMS sent to Attacker

- **Realistic** (search "MFA Attacks" on Companion website)
- **Not solved**

Other Threat Models: OTP AuthApp

- Attacker knows password
  +
- Malware on smartphone
  - Read, forward, delete SMS
- SIM swap (fraudulent SIM change)
  - Phone number fraudulently taken by another SIM
- SMS routing attacks
  - SS7 phone protocol weakness: SMS sent to Attacker

AuthApp does not grant any "screenshot rights" to any other app

OTP do not travel across phone network

- **Realistic** (search "MFA Attacks" on Companion website)
- **Solved**

SMS vs AuthApp

... it's time to start your **move away from the SMS** and voice Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) mechanisms.

... It bears repeating, however, that **MFA is essential** – we are discussing **which** MFA method to use, not **whether** to use MFA.....

Alex Weinert, Director of Identity Security Microsoft
November 2020

OTP: Privacy Implications

- OTP-SMS:
  - Service must know User **phone number**
  - Service **might abuse** this information
    (e.g. as an identifier for linking identities across different marketing databases)

LILY HAY NEWMAN SECURITY OCT 9, 2019 2:32 PM

WIRED

Never Trust a Platform to Put Privacy Ahead of Profit

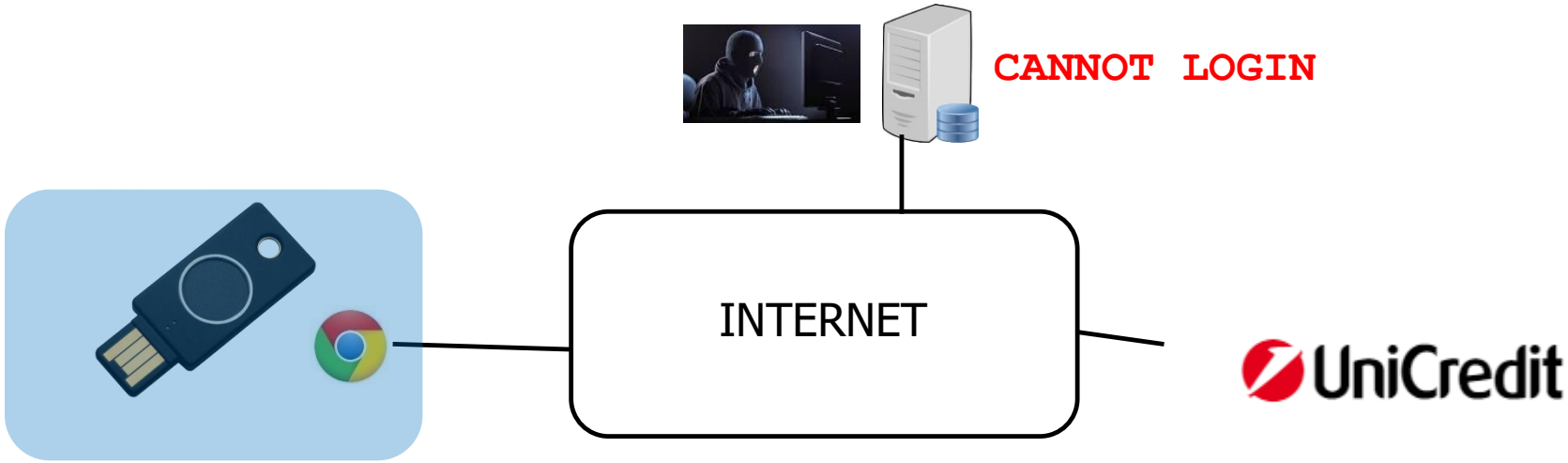
Twitter used phone numbers provided for two-factor authentication to target ads—just like Facebook did before.

- OTP-AuthApp:
  - Service need not know User phone number

Security Keys

Security Key

SecKey must be close to the Browser
(USB / Bluetooth / NFC)



Security Key Linking: Requirement

DNS NAME

W1, U1, Kpriv-1, Kpub-1
W2, U2, Kpriv-2, Kpub-2
W3, U3, Kpriv-3, Kpub-3

One SecKey associated with **many** services

W1 U1, Kpub1 — Dropbox

W2 U2, Kpub2

W3 U3, Kpub3 — LastPass

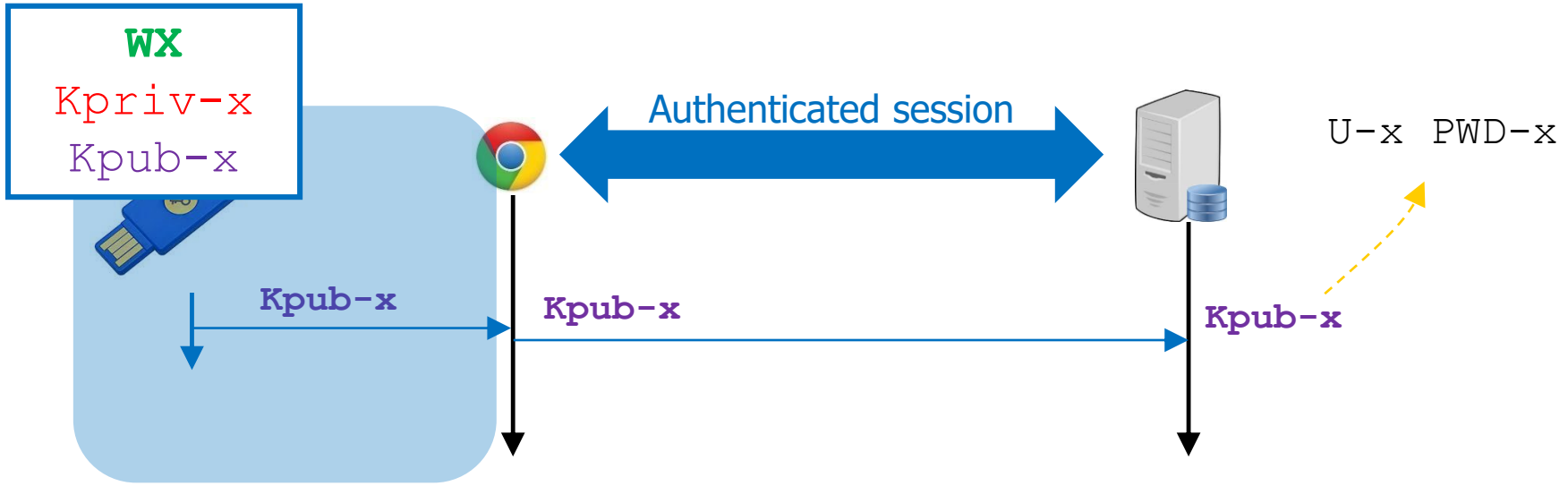
Remark

- Username omitted from next slides for ease of description
  - **One** username and keypair for each service

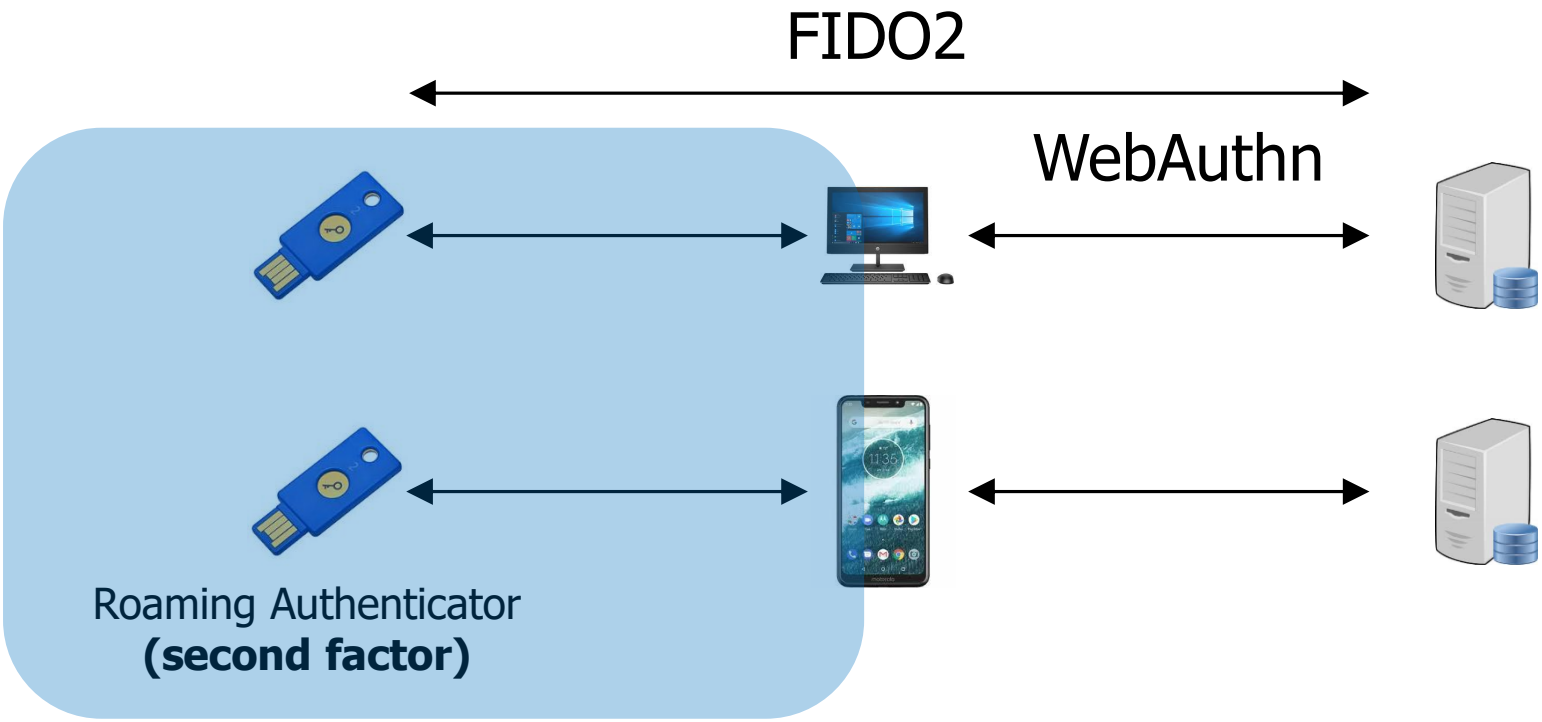
W1, ~~U1,~~ Kpriv-1, Kpub-1
W2, ~~U2,~~ Kpriv-2, Kpub-2
W3, ~~U3,~~ Kpriv-3, Kpub-3

Security Key Linking: Implementation

1. User authenticates to WX with `U-x, PWD-x`
2. SecKey generates <`Kpriv-x`, `Kpub-x`> to be used **only** with WX
3. SecKey sends `Kpub-x` to WX securely
4. **WX associates** `Kpub-x` with `U-x`

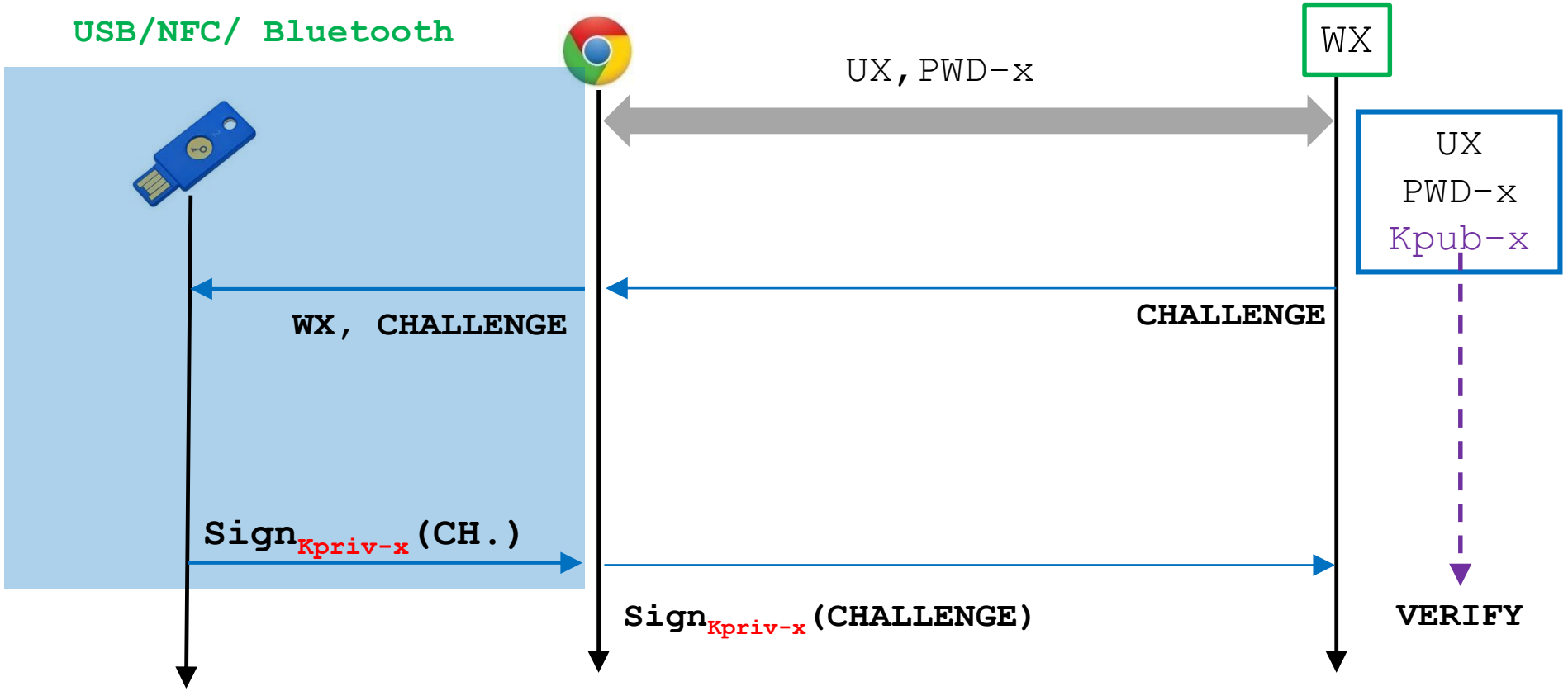


Open Standards (very complex...)



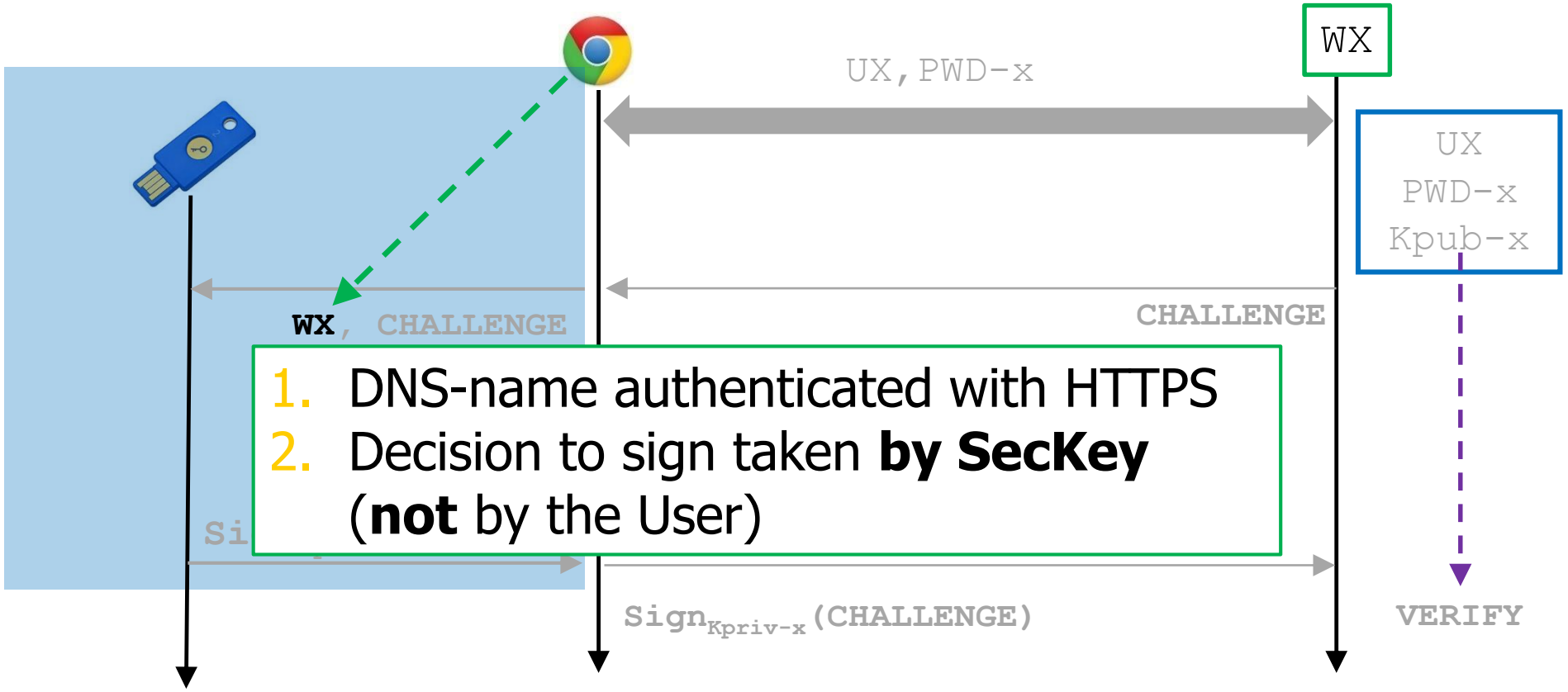
No direct communication
Service ↔ Second factor

Security Key: Login



Real flow more complex

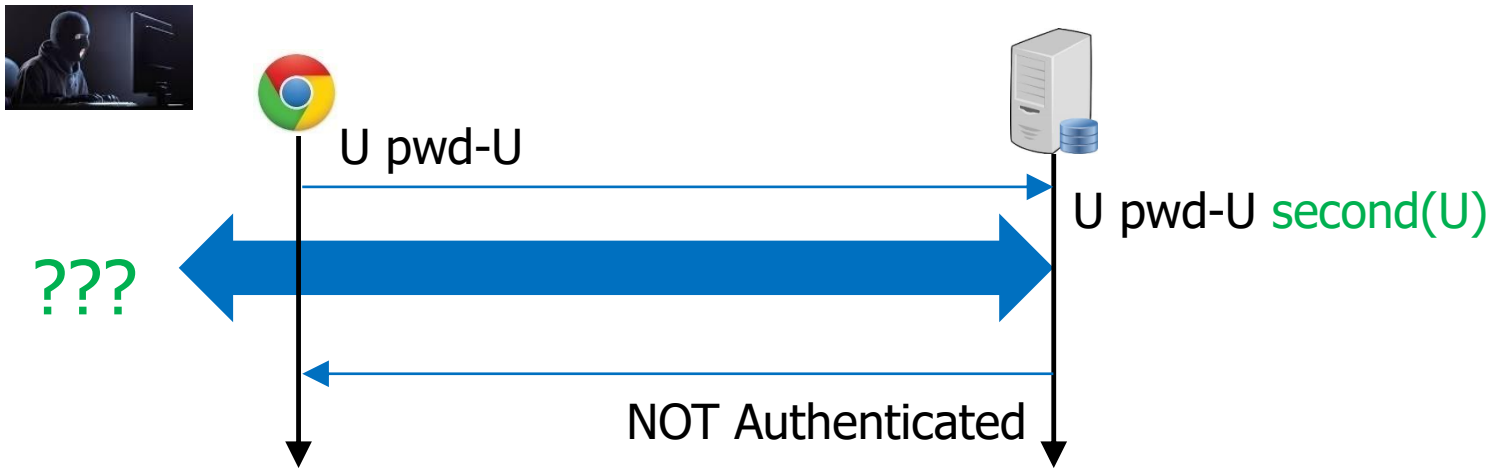
Key facts


WX
UX, PWD-x
UX
PWD-x
Kpub-x
WX, CHALLENGE
CHALLENGE
1. DNS-name authenticated with HTTPS
2. Decision to sign taken **by SecKey** (**not** by the User)
Sign$_{Kpriv-x}$(CHALLENGE)
VERIFY

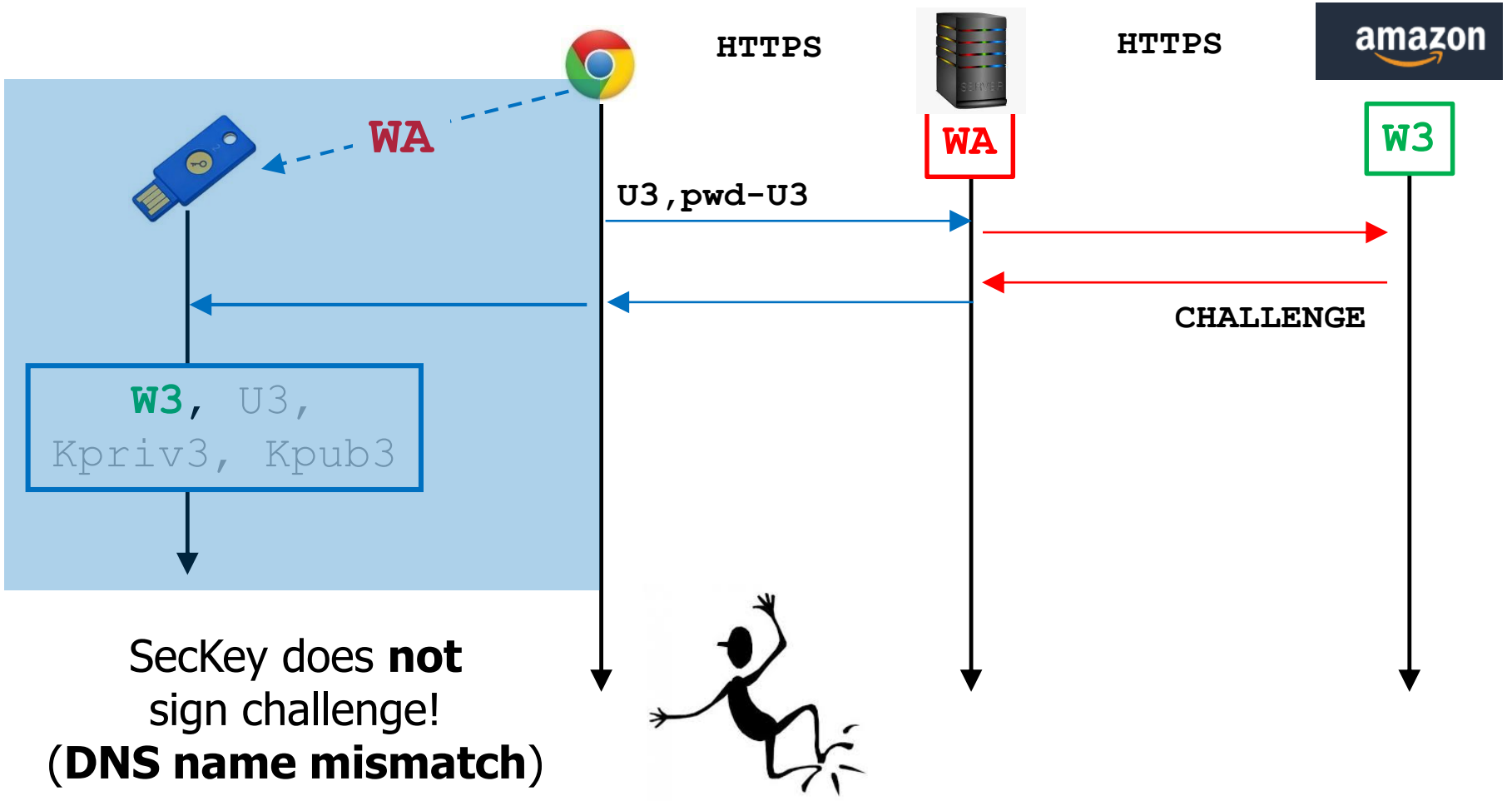
Security Key: Attacks

Threat Model: Stolen Password

- Adversary has <U,P>
- **Solved!**
- **Always keep in mind**

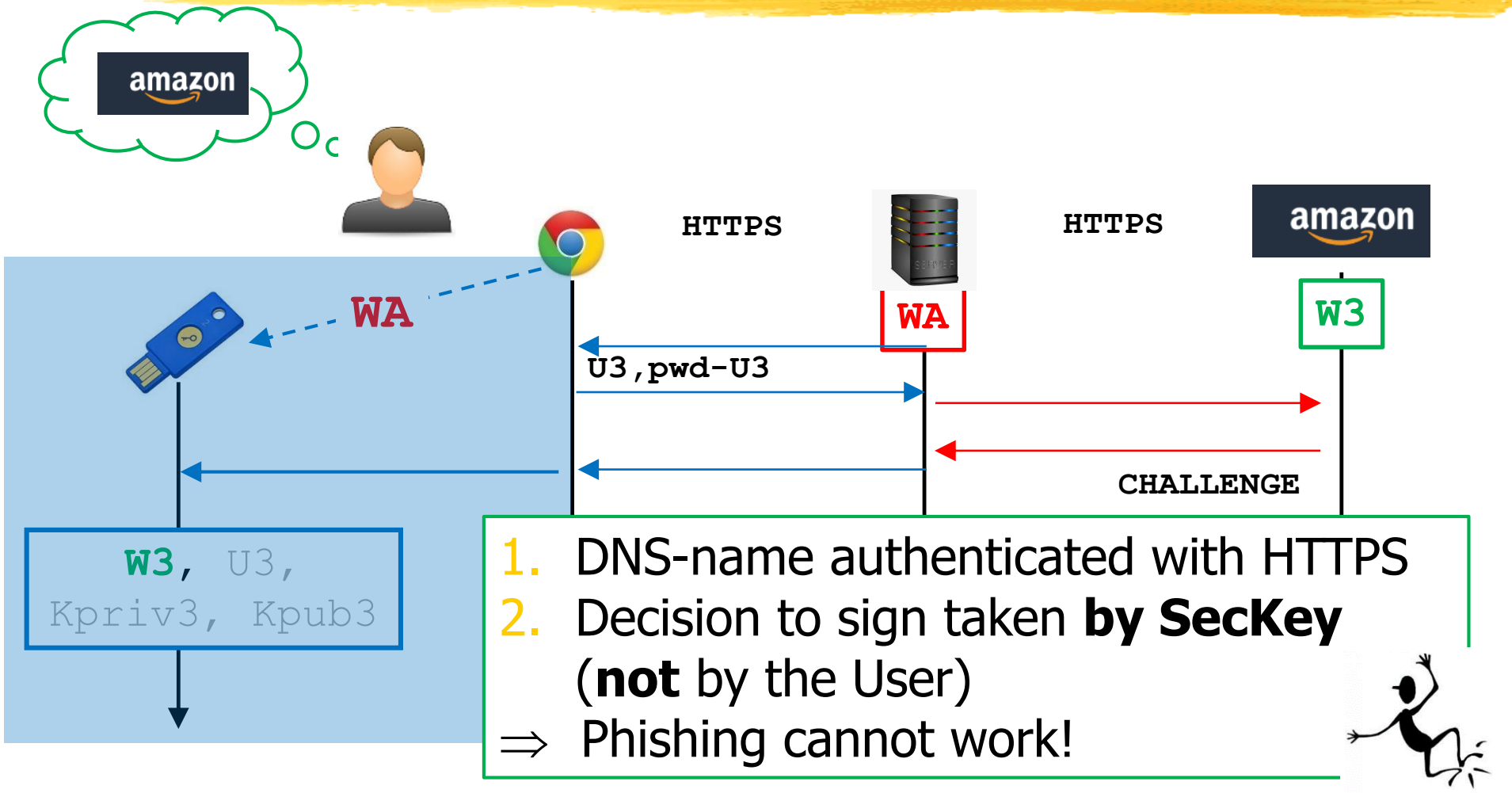


Real-time Phishing Solved! (I)



SecKey does **not** sign challenge! (**DNS name mismatch**)

Real-time Phishing Solved! (II)



Unsolved Threat models (out of scope)

1. Attacker has **valid certificate for S name**
   - Browser cannot discriminate between real and fake service

2. Attacker has **malware on Browser device**
   - Malware can alter/forge Browser / SecKey traffic

Remark

MANY (omitted) complex details for coping with crucial requirements

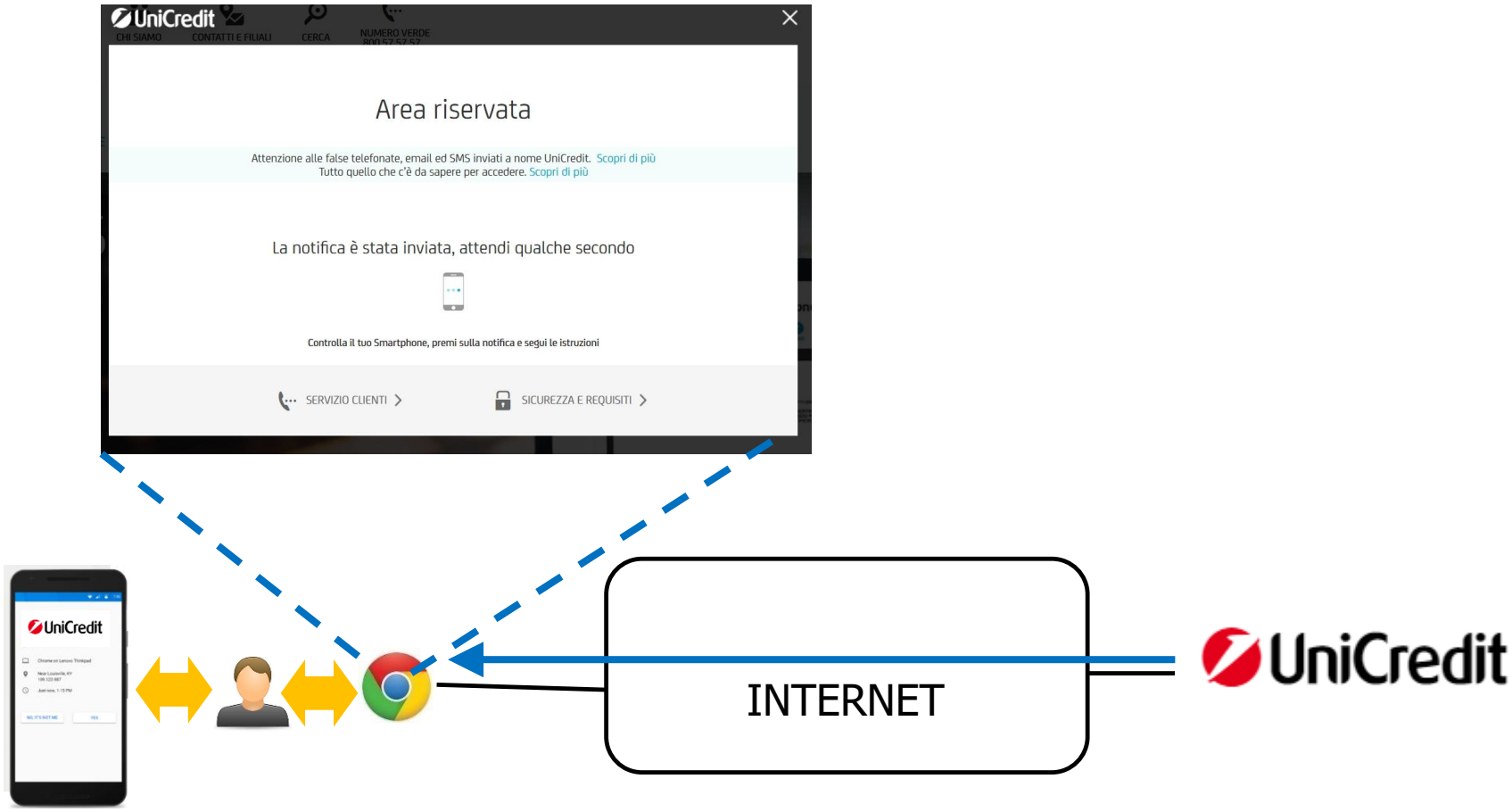
- Attacker has physical access to SecKey (loss, stealing, brief access)
  - Cloning must be very difficult
  - Extracting set of service names must be very difficult
- Attacker may be the Manufacturer
  - If and when we realize it, certain SecKeys can no longer be trusted; Service must be able to know who the Manufacturer and product id are
- Sets of Services might collude to link the respective user identities
  - Service cannot identify which specific SecKey it is interacting with

Push notifications

Second factor (REMIND)

- **Smartphone**
  - OTP SMS
  - OTP Authenticator App
  - Push notifications
- **SecurityKey** (USB/NFC/Bluetooth)

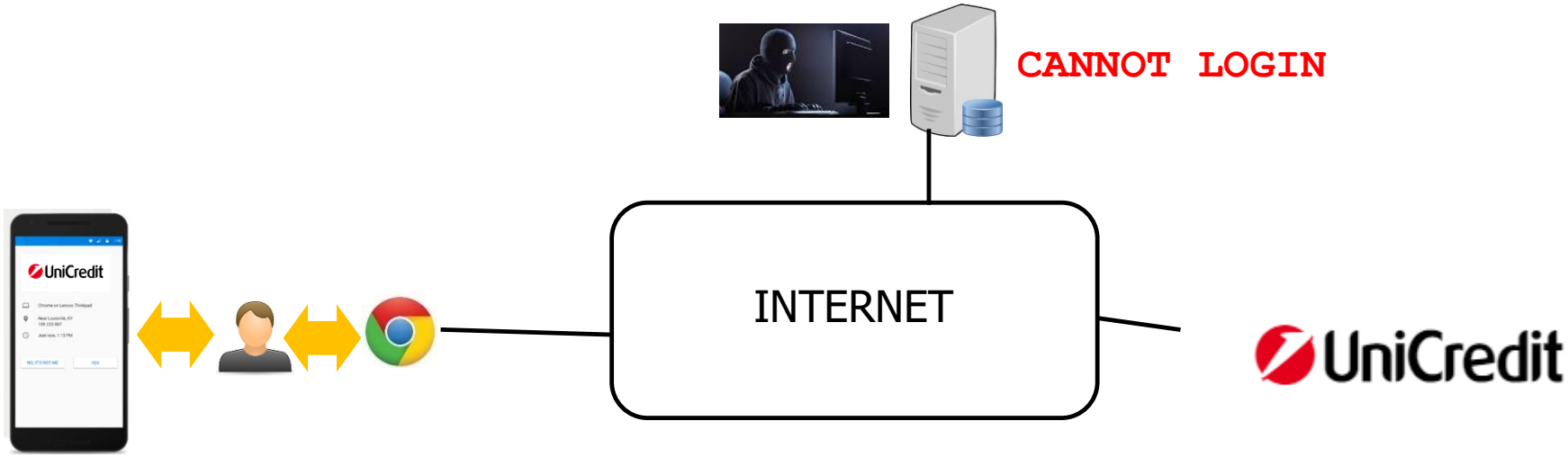
Smartphone Push Notification (I)



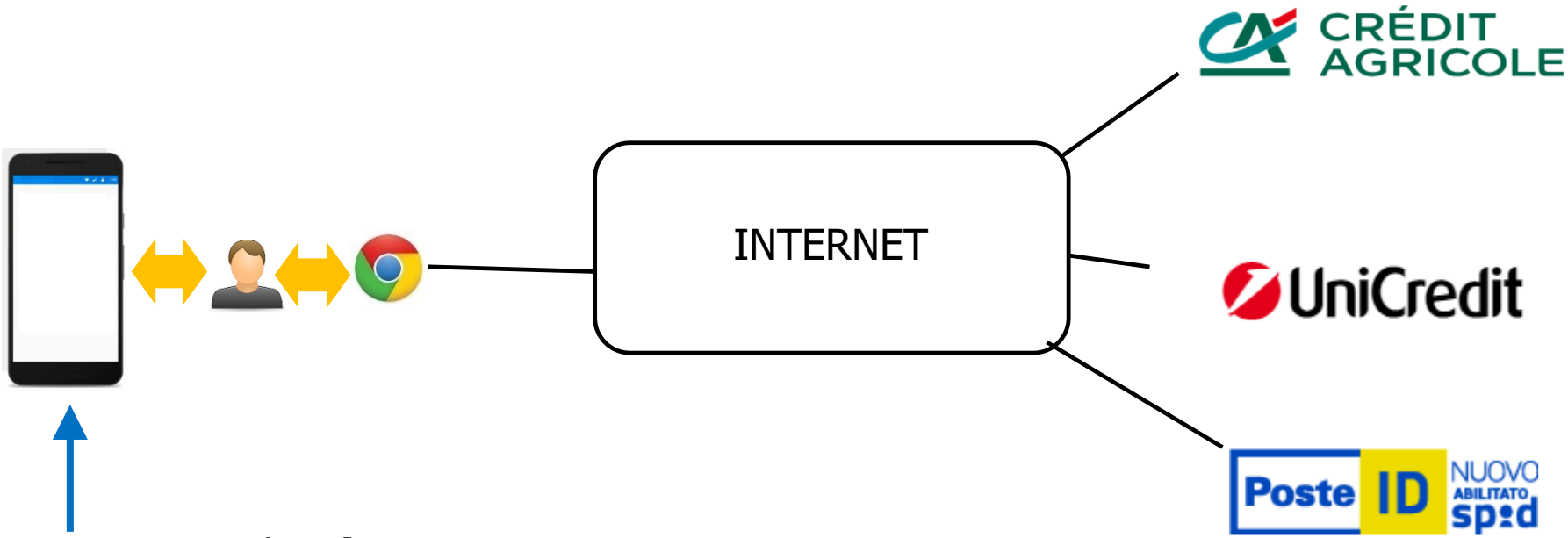
Smartphone Push Notification (II)

~~SecKey must be close to the Browser~~
~~(USB / Bluetooth / NFC)~~

Smartphone must be close to the User

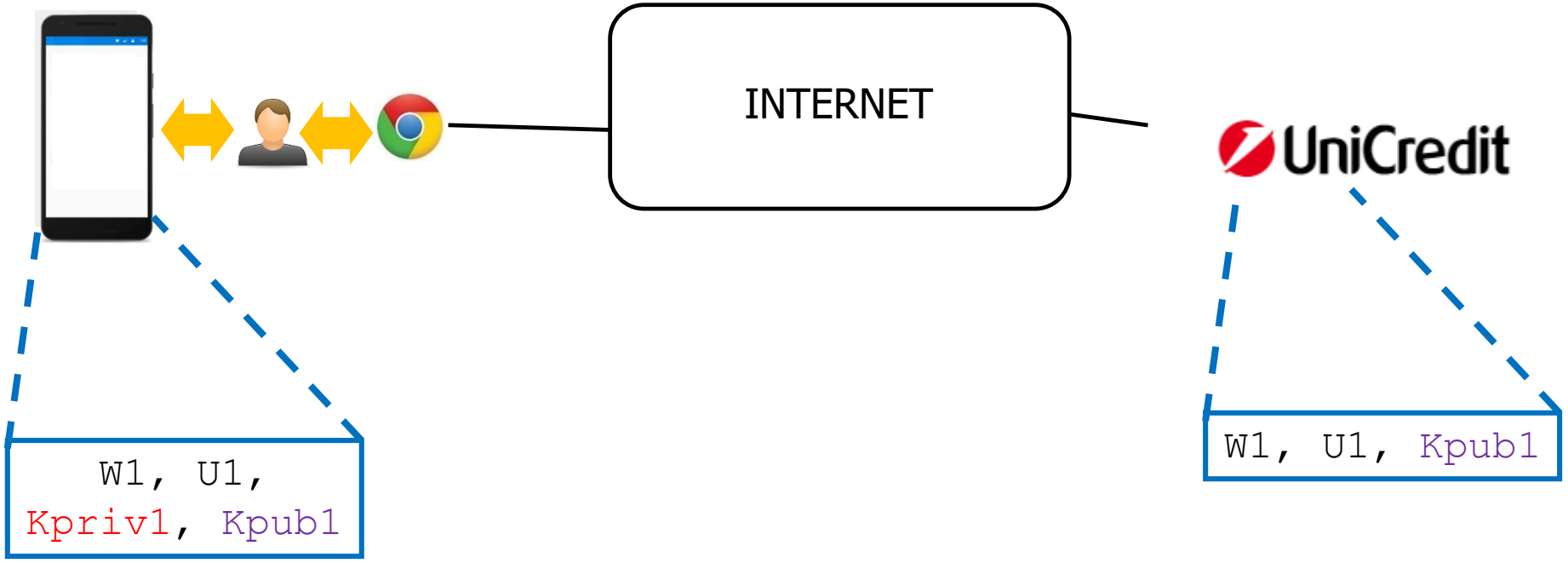


Smartphone Push Notification (III)

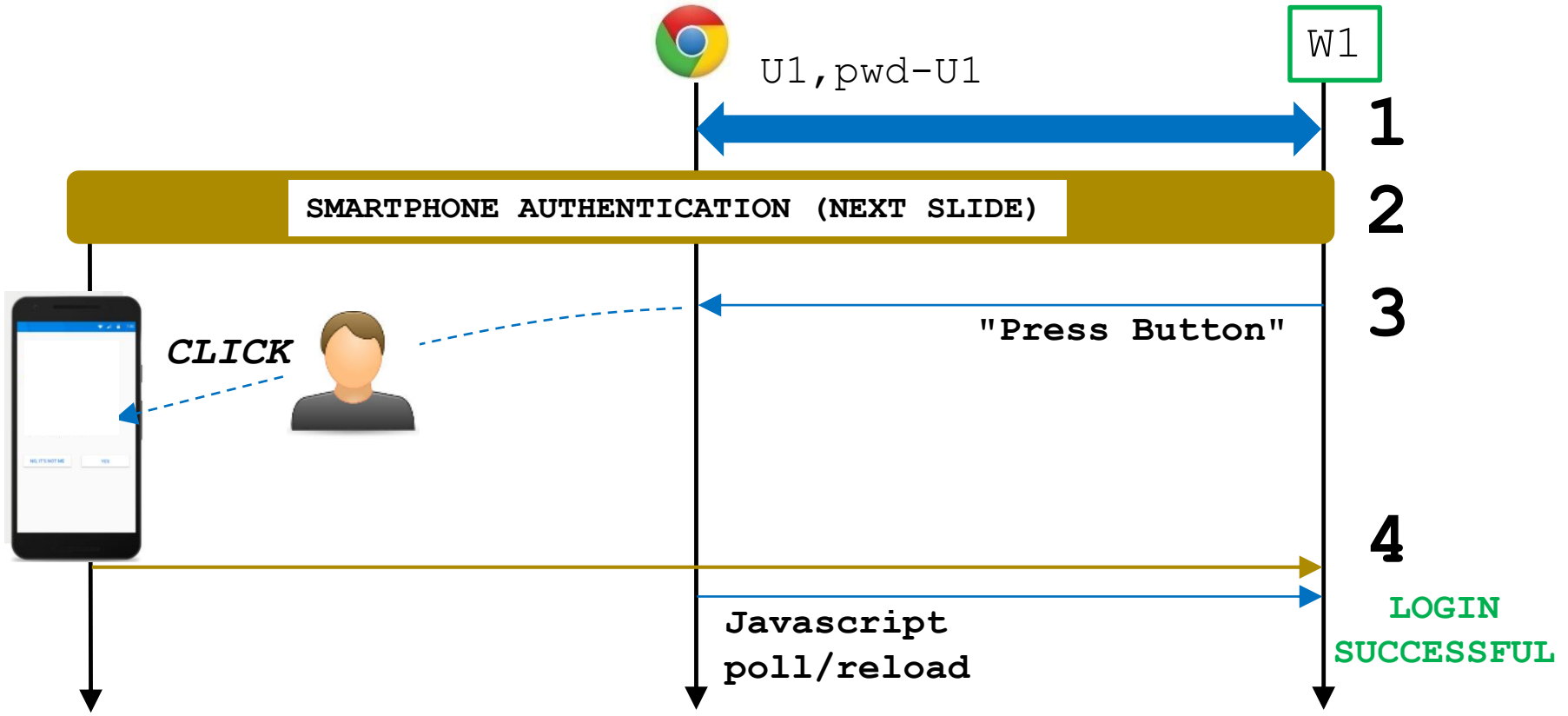


Every service has **its own** App where it sends notifications

Linking Requirement (Implementation omitted)



Login (Outline) (I)



Key Problem

U1,pwd-U1

W1

1

2

- "**push**" ⇒
  Service should connect to **Smartphone**
- What is its IP-address?
- It is usually **private** and **dynamic**

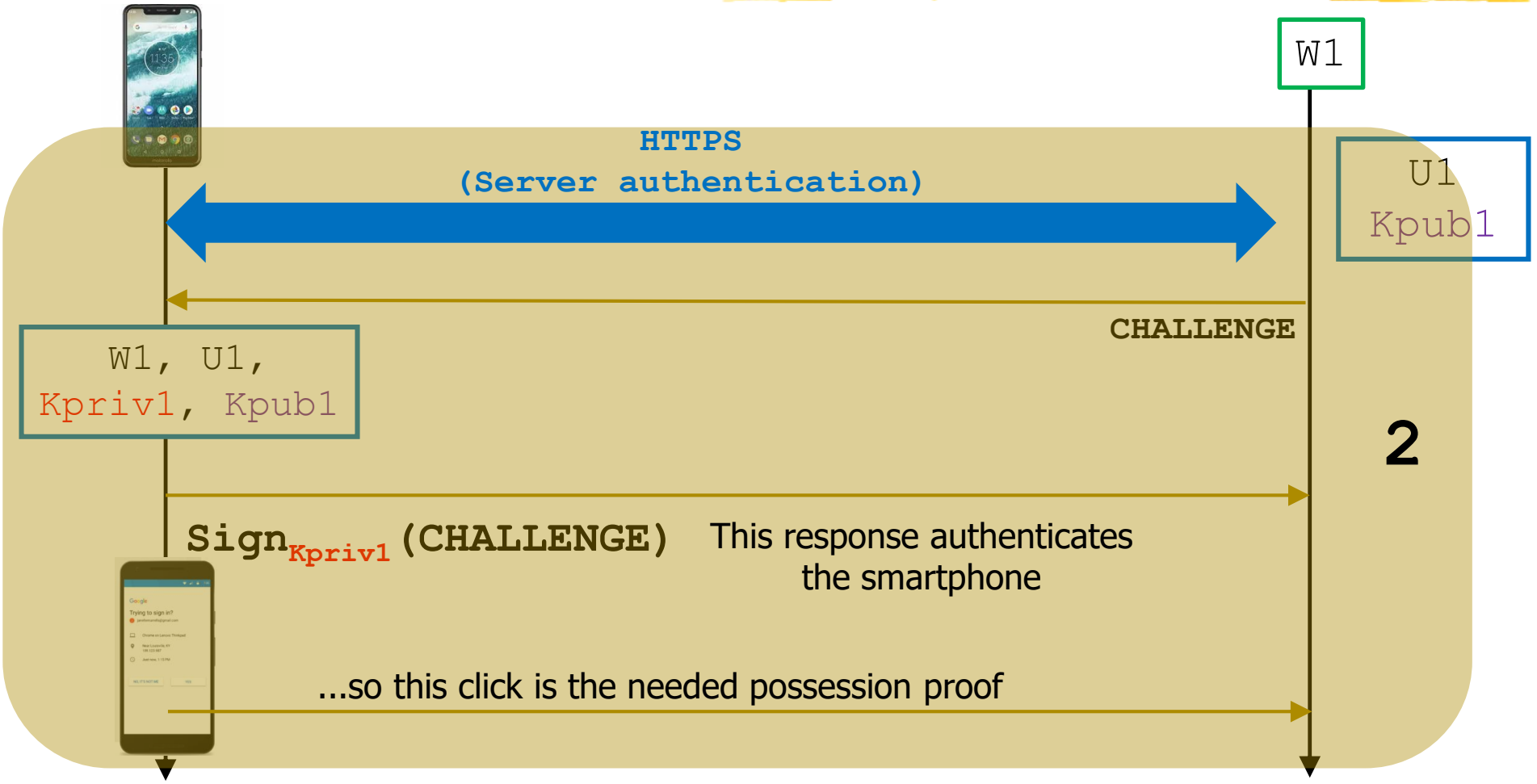
Solution (Outline)

- Service should connect to Smartphone

- What is its IP-address?
- It is usually **private** and **dynamic**
- Service sends notifications to a **cloud service**
- Every smartphone:
  - Continuously **polls** that cloud service
  - Connects as a TCP client and checks whether there is any notification

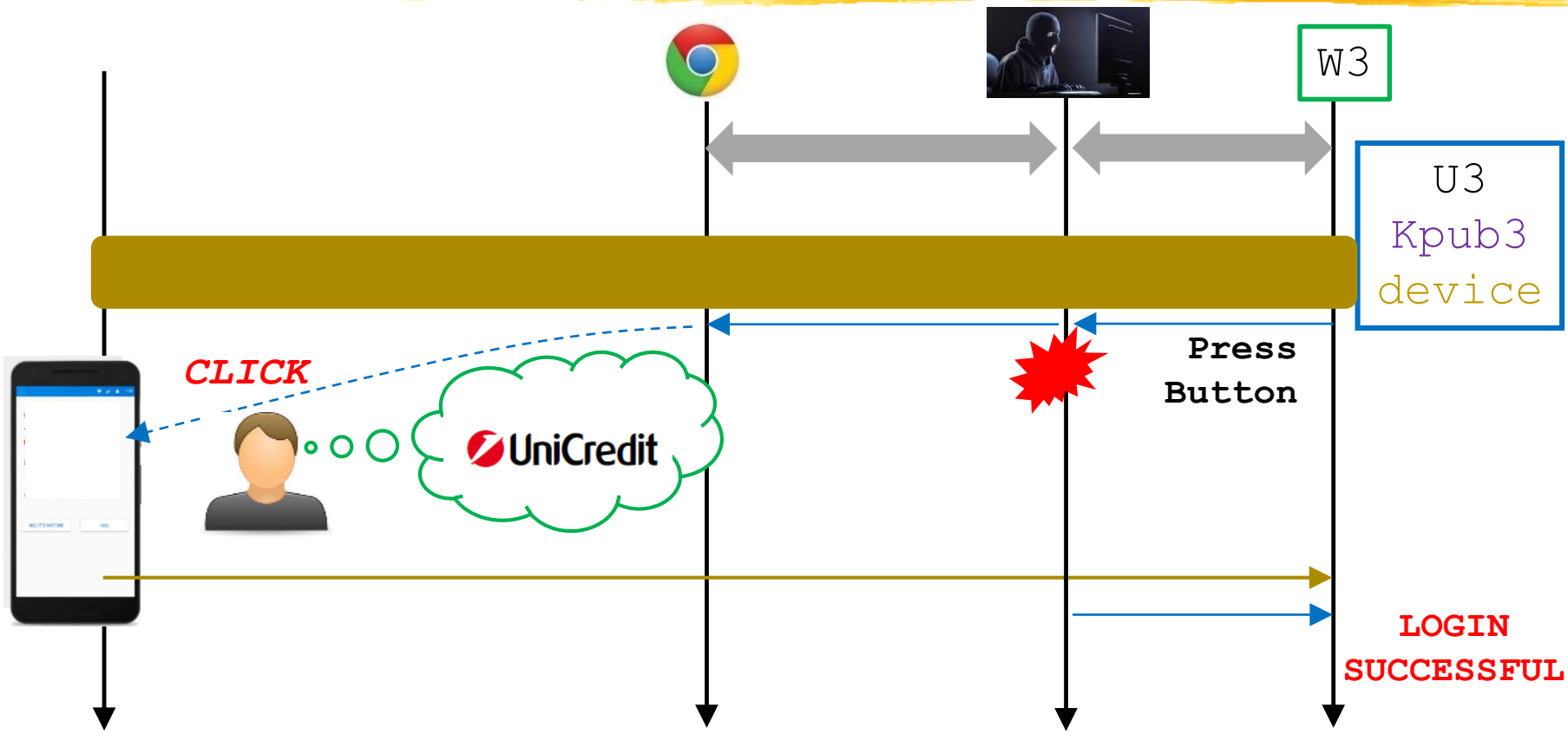
- Alternative implementation:
  - User launches smartphone app that acts as a client and connects to the service
  - Next slide assumes this pattern

Login (Outline) (II)



Push notifications Attacks

Threat Model: "Real-time phishing"



NOT Solved!

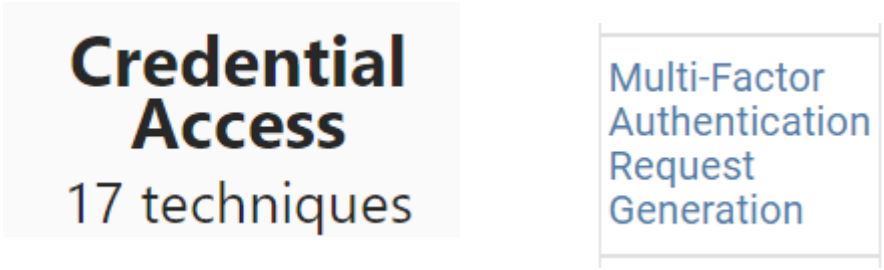
Keep in mind: Not Phishing-Resistant

W3

U3
Kpub3
device

- User might not understand which **Browser** is logging in
- User must read and be careful (exactly the phishing issue)

MFA Bombing



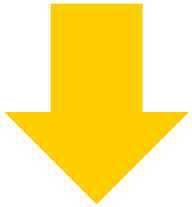
- Adversaries may **continuously** repeat login attempts in order to **bombard** users with MFA push notifications, SMS messages, and phone calls, potentially resulting in **the user finally accepting the authentication request** in response to "MFA fatigue."

- Unbelievable but it may indeed work...

MFA: Summary of Limitations

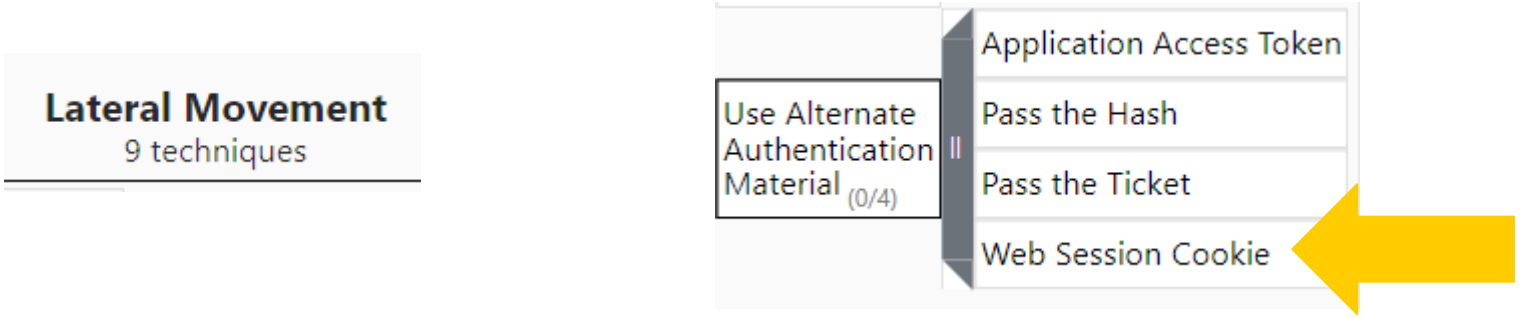
Does 2FA protect AFTER authentication?

- 2FA is checked **only** at the **beginning** of a session
  - Webapp login
  - Workstation logon (if it were deployed in such a setting)



- 2FA does **not** defend against attacks **during** an authenticated session
  - Stealing of authentication cookie
  - Pass-the-hash / Pass-the-ticket

Use Alternate Authentication Material



- Alternate authentication material is **legitimately generated** by systems **after** a user or application successfully authenticates by providing a valid identity and the required authentication factor(s).
- By **stealing** alternate authentication material, adversaries are able to bypass system access controls and authenticate to systems **without knowing the plaintext password** or **any additional authentication factors**.

Summary of Limitations (I)

- **Everything but SecKey**
  - Phishing / Voice Phishing
  - Who am I authorizing?
  - For doing what?

- OTP AuthApp better than OTP – SMS
  - Malware
  - SIM swap
  - SMS routing

Summary of Limitations (II)

- **Everything**
  - Attacks **after** initial authentication

  (discussed in the Appendix)
  - Recovery procedures for **loss** of second factor
    - Be careful of your **email password**

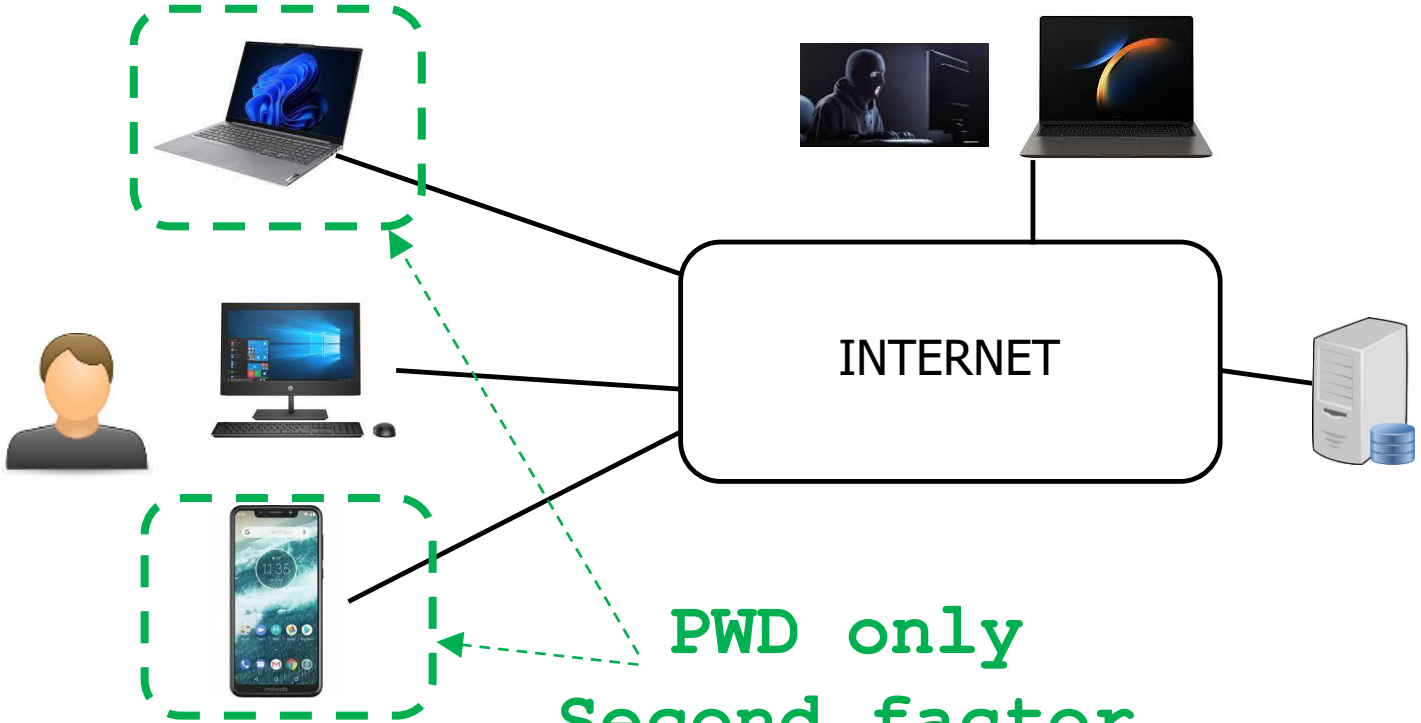
Passwordless Login (Passkey)

Warning: Terminology

- "Special" handling of **2FA@S** from **certain devices**
  - Only password (no 2FA)
  - Not even password (!)

- **Terminology not uniform** across vendors / consortia
- **Myriad** of different scenarios:
  - We will give a "simplified and general" description
  - Mapping to specific cases not easy
  - Search "passwordless" on companion website
- Key terms:
  - Trusted device
  - Passwordless device (or login)
  - **Passkey**

Trusted Device: Example



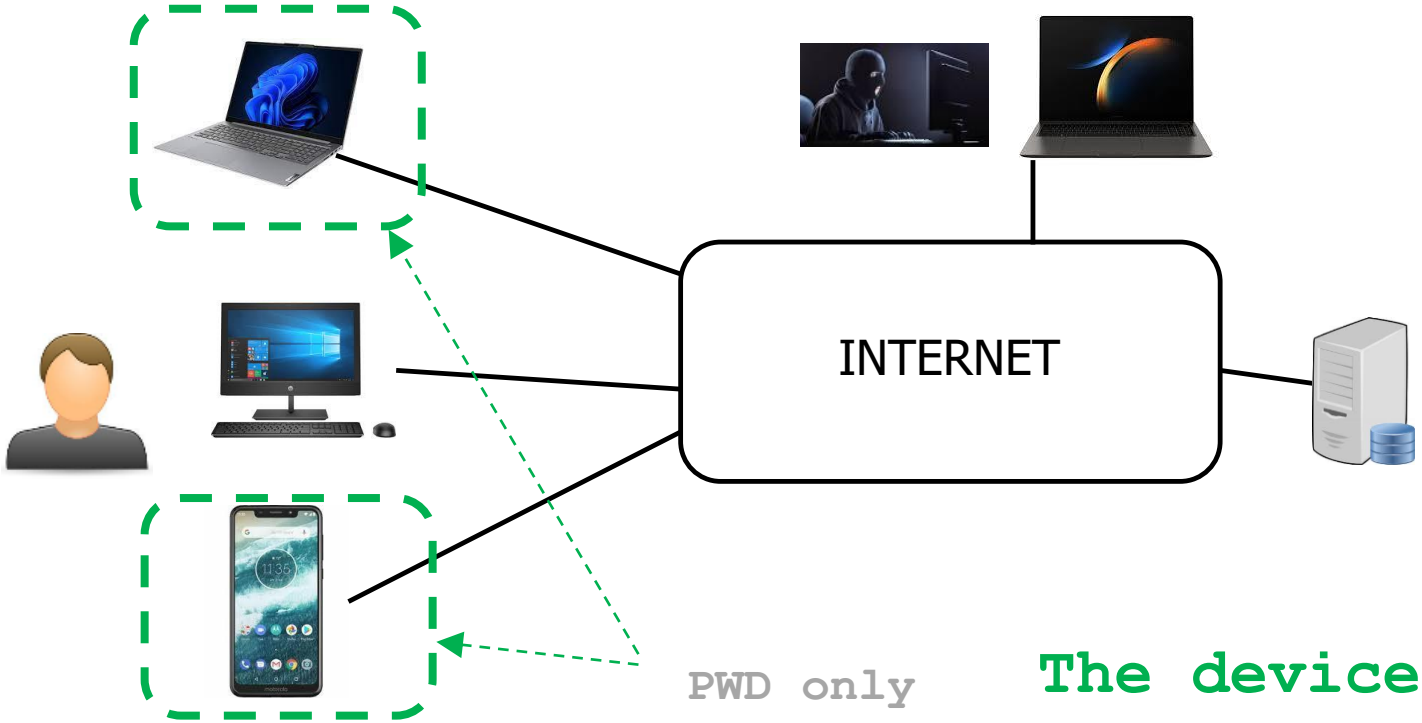
Trusted Device: Functionality

- Scenario:
  - User has activated **2FA** on Service S

- User may declare a certain device D-K **trusted**:
  - User authenticates from D-K with **password only**

- Much easier to use

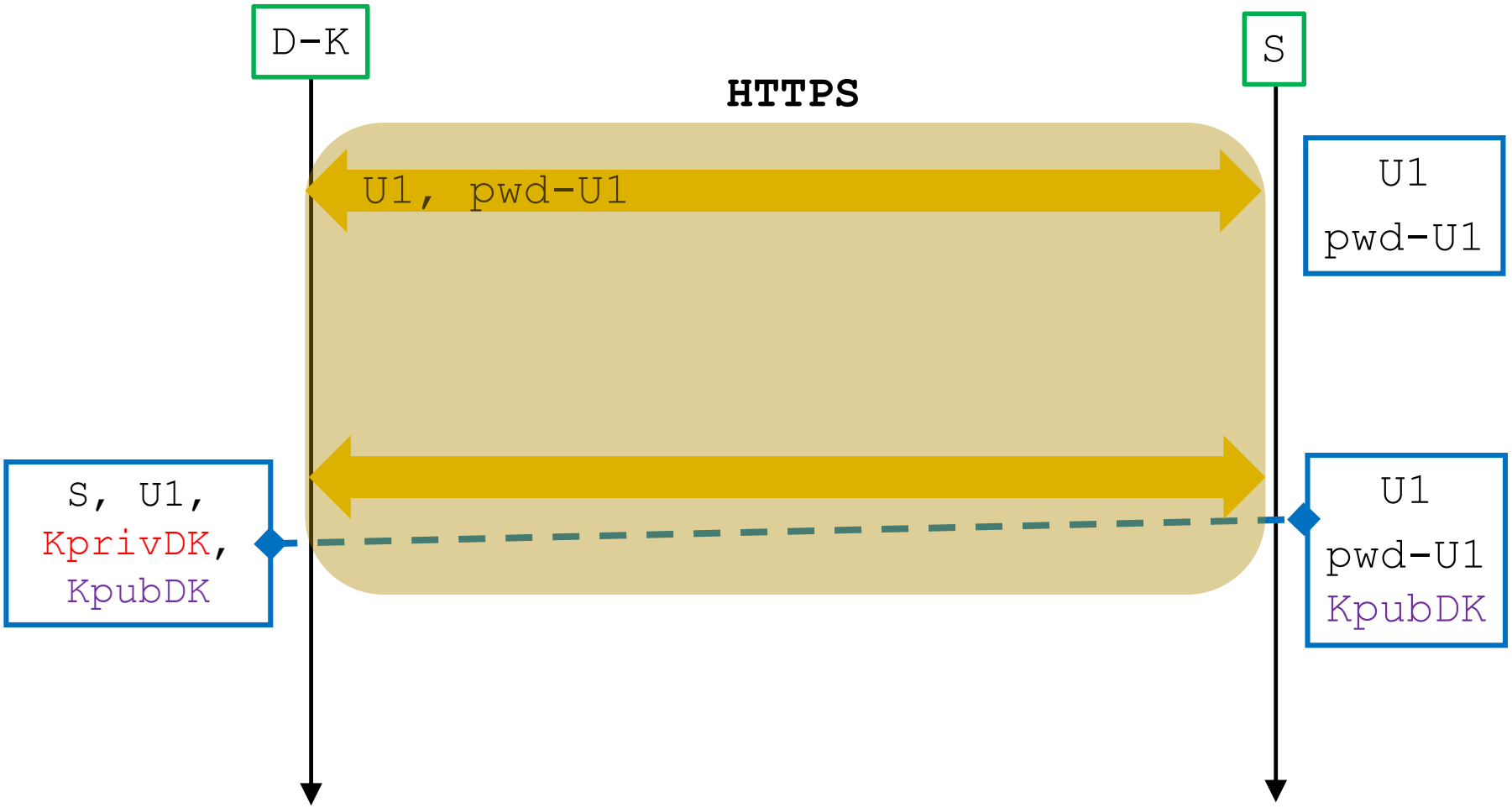
Trusted Device ≈ 2nd Factor



PWD only
Second factor
NOT needed

The device itself is the second factor

Trusted Device Establishment (Outline)

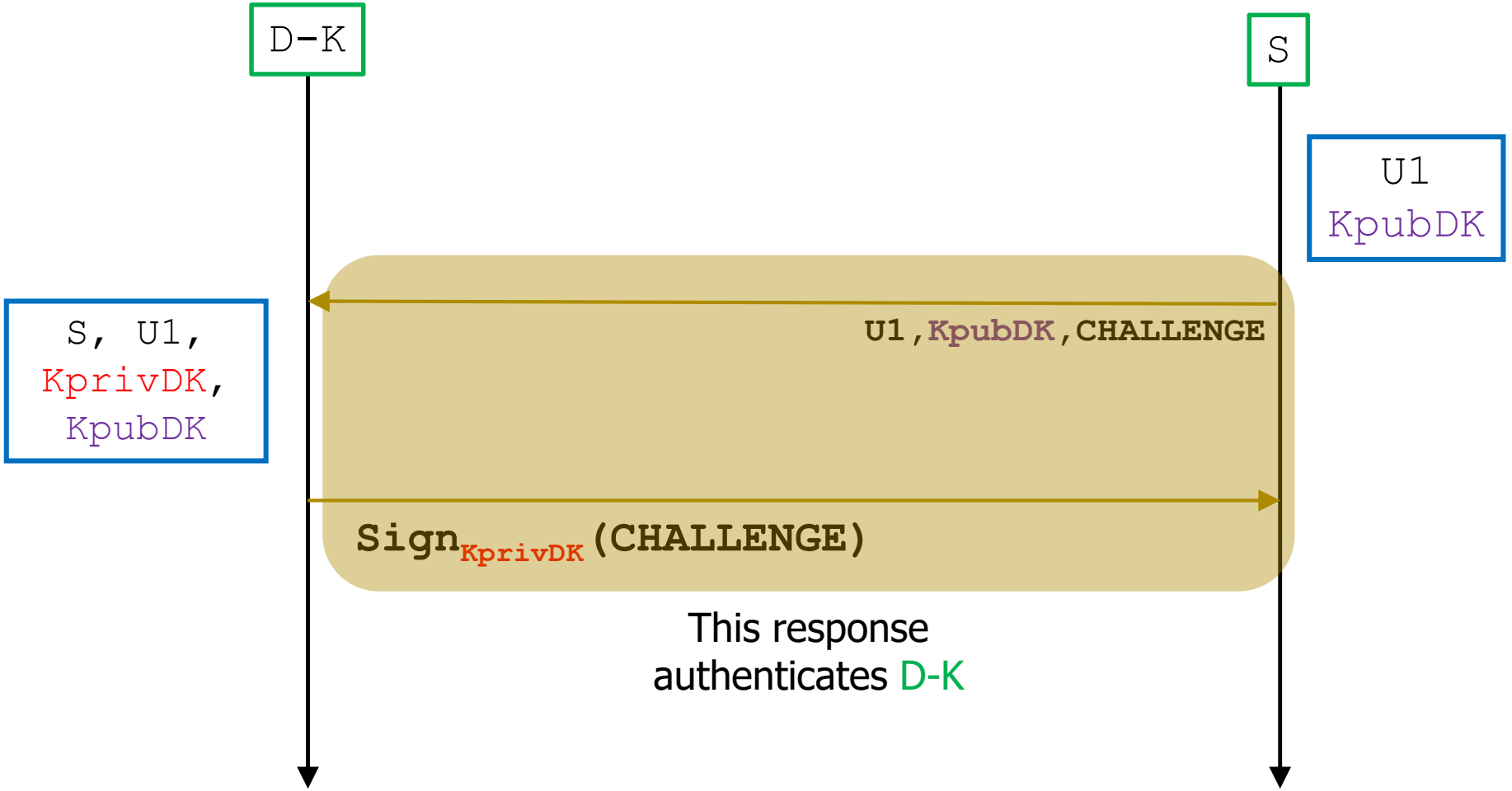


Remark 1

- User may declare device D-K **trusted**:
- This can **only** happen while User is logged in from D-K with password **and 2nd factor**

- Obvious

Trusted Device Authentication (Outline)



Remark 2

- User may declare device D-K **trusted**:
  - User authenticates from D-K with **password only**

- S can decide **autonomously** to occasionally **require second factor** anyway
  - D-K connects from an anomalous geographic location
  - D-K was declared trusted long time ago
  - …

Hhmmm…

- User may declare device D-K **trusted**:
  - User authenticates from D-K with **password only**

- Attacker knows U, PWD-U@S
- Attacker **steals** trusted device D-K
  - Or **physical access** for some time

- Attacker can access S

Remark 3

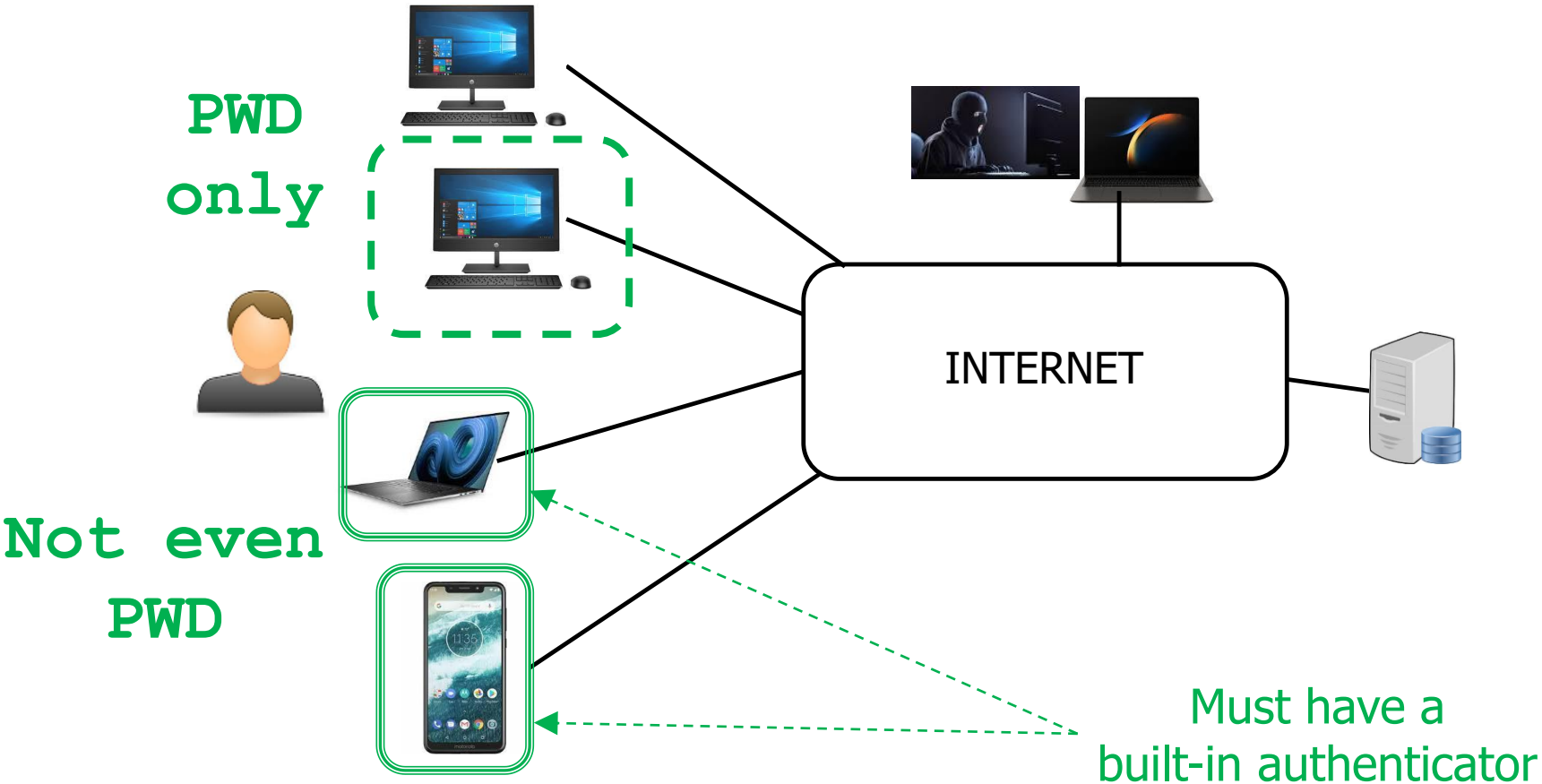
- User may declare device D-K **trusted**:
  - User authenticates from D-K with **password only**

- U must:
  - **Protect** access to D-K with password **different** from PWD-U@S (as soon as D-K is declared trusted)
  - **Revoke** trusted status of D-K asap (in case D-K is lost / stolen)

Passwordless Device: Functionality

- User has declared D-K **trusted**:
  - User authenticates from D-K with password only
- ...and **passwordless**:
  - User authenticates from D-K **without any password** (!)
- Requirement: D-K must have a "**built-in authenticator**"
  - Fingerprint reader
  - Face recognition

Passwordless Device: Example

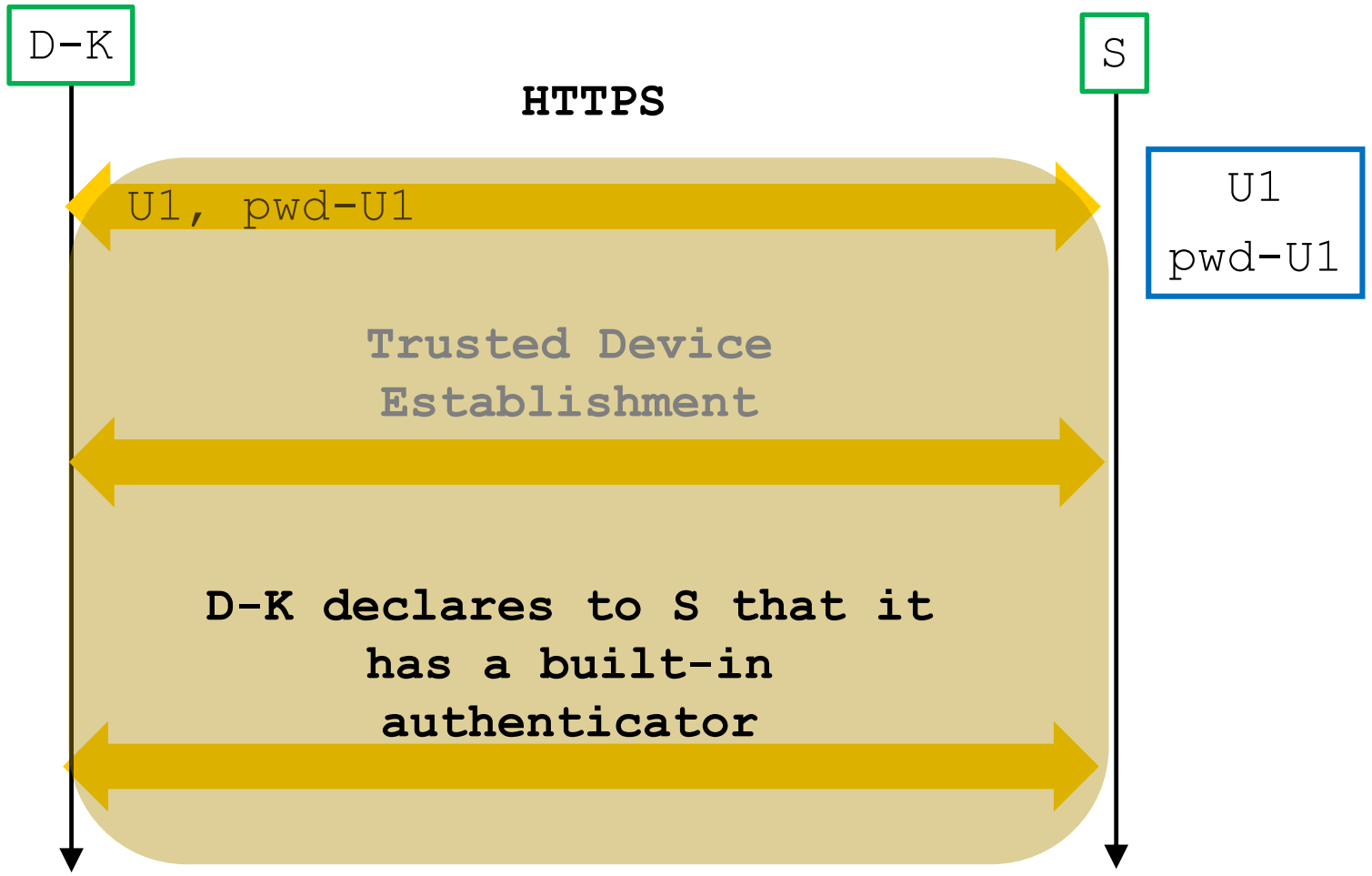


Remark

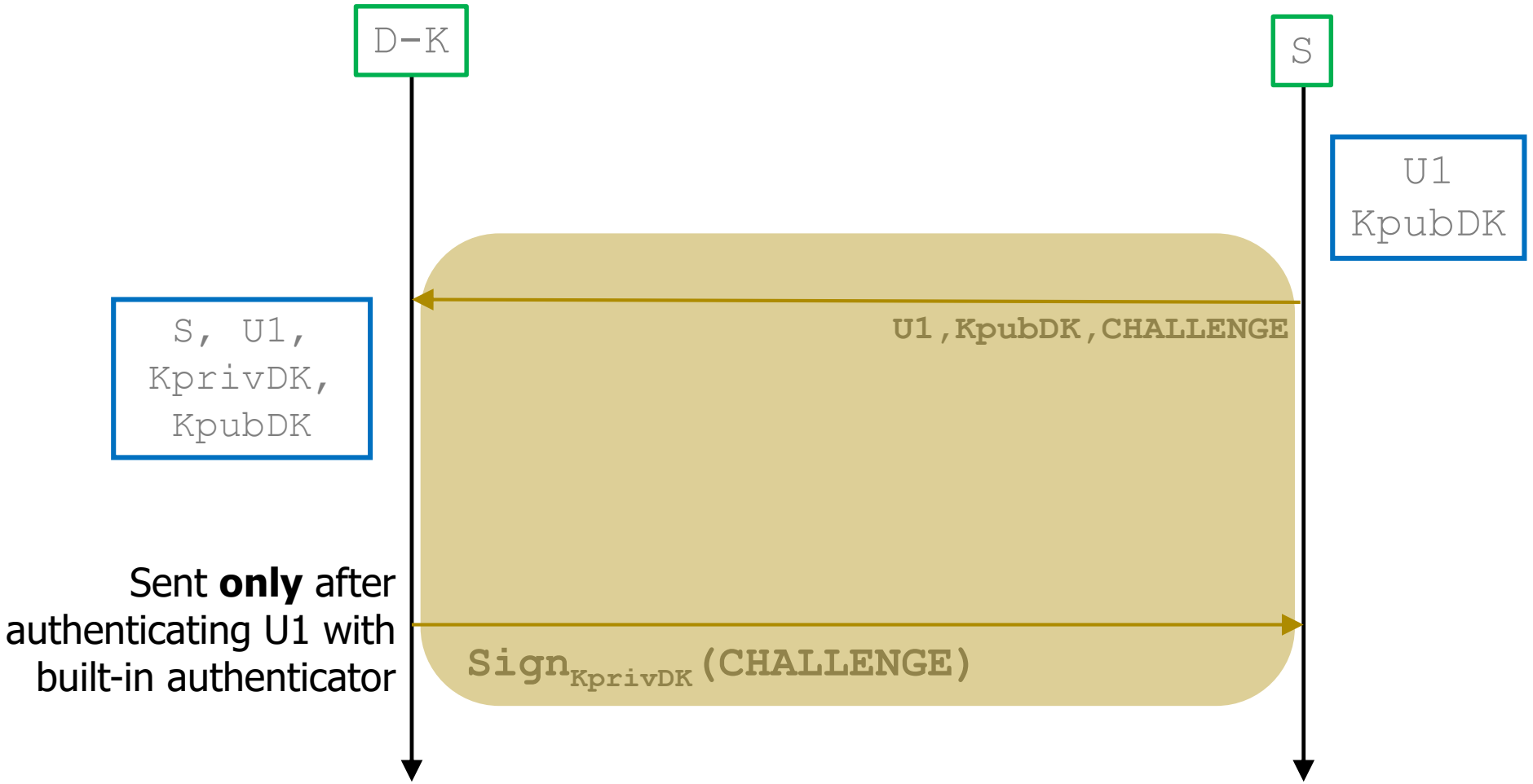
- User declare D-K **trusted** and **passwordless**:
  - User connects from D-K **without any password (!)**

- Common scenario when:
  - S = bank, SPID-enabled app
  - D-K = smartphone

Passwordless Device Establishment (Outline)



Passwordless Device Login (Outline)



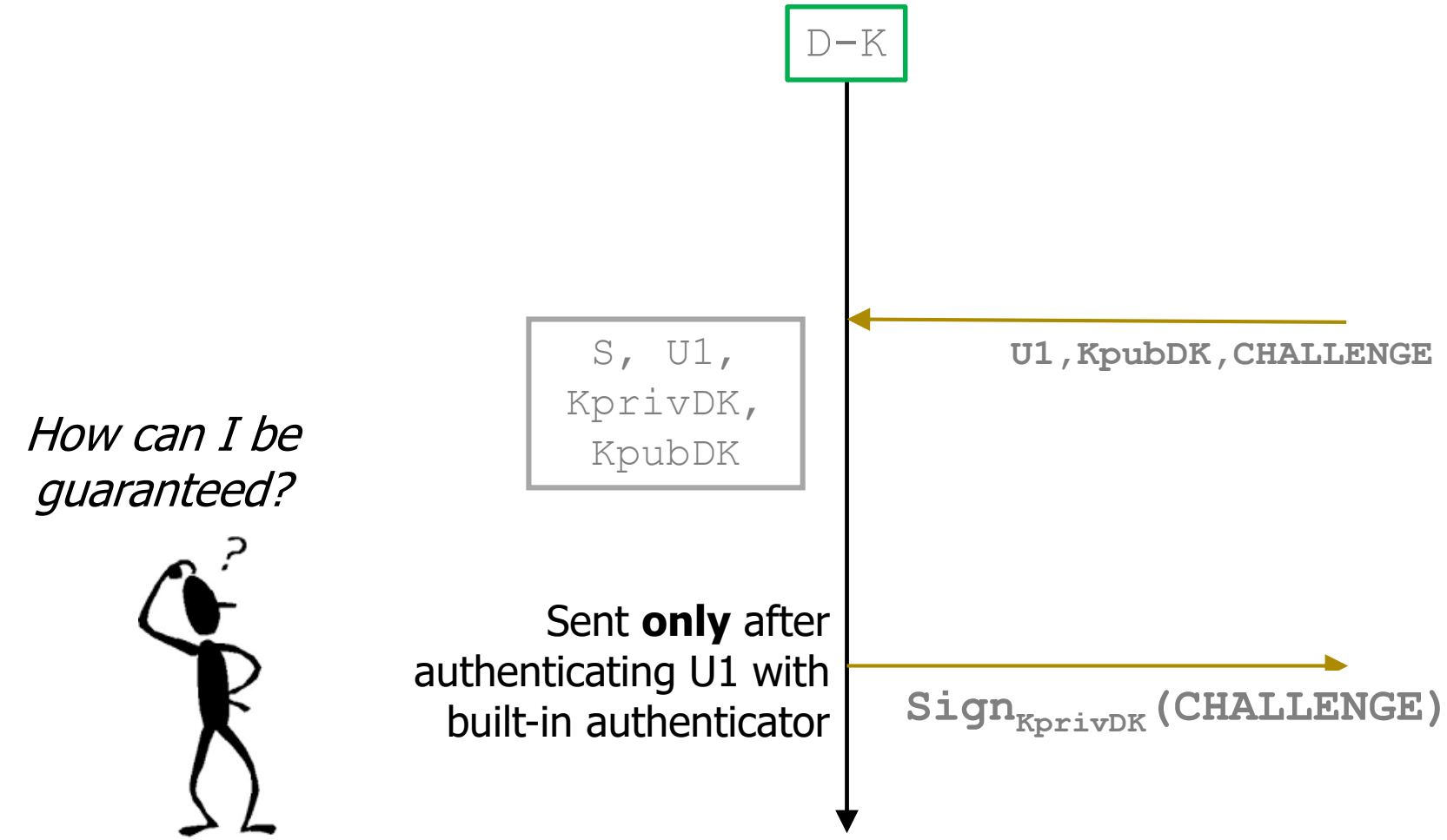
Passkeys in a nutshell

- Prevalent terminology:
  - D-K is trusted and passwordless for service S

    ≡
  - "**Passkey** for S stored on D-K"

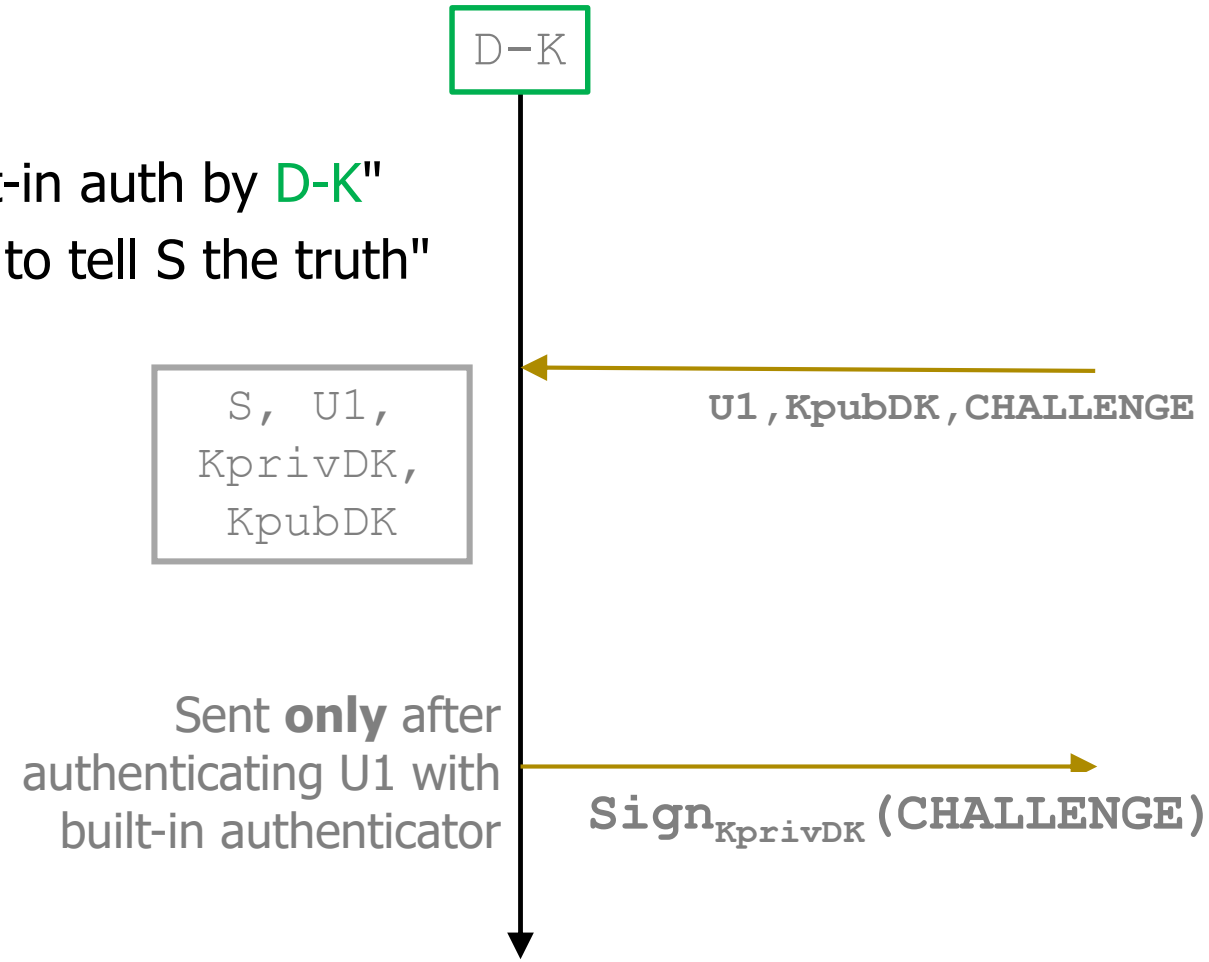
- Passkey ≈ KPRIV-DK
- In certain cases, passkey can be migrated to other (trusted) devices

Hhmmm…


D-K
S, U1, KprivDK, KpubDK
U1,KpubDK,CHALLENGE
How can I be guaranteed?
Sent only after authenticating U1 with built-in authenticator
Sign KprivDK (CHALLENGE)

TRUSTED device!

- User point of view:
  1. "I **trust** built-in auth by D-K"
  2. "I **trust** D-K to tell S the truth"



Summary

- Trusted device
  - Proves knowledge of private key to S
- Passwordless device
  - Trusted device with biometric authenticator

- **Login** from trusted device
  1. Device proves knowledge of private key to S
  2. User proves knowledge of password to S
- **Login** from passwordless device
  1. Device proves knowledge of private key to S
  2. User proves biometric property **to device**

Passwordless is "more secure"!

- **Login** from trusted device
  2. User proves knowledge of password to S
- **Login** from passwordless device
  2. User proves biometric property **to device**

- Passwords are **phishable**
- **No** risk of disclosing password from passwordless device!

Passkey vs Long term Cookie

- IF Adversary can read information on D-K
- THEN They are "≈equivalent"

- Cookies:
  - Used after authentication
  - Transmitted in every request
  - Stored on Service

- Passkeys:
  - Used for authentication
  - Never leave the device