SECURITY (COMP0141): DIGITAL CERTIFICATES

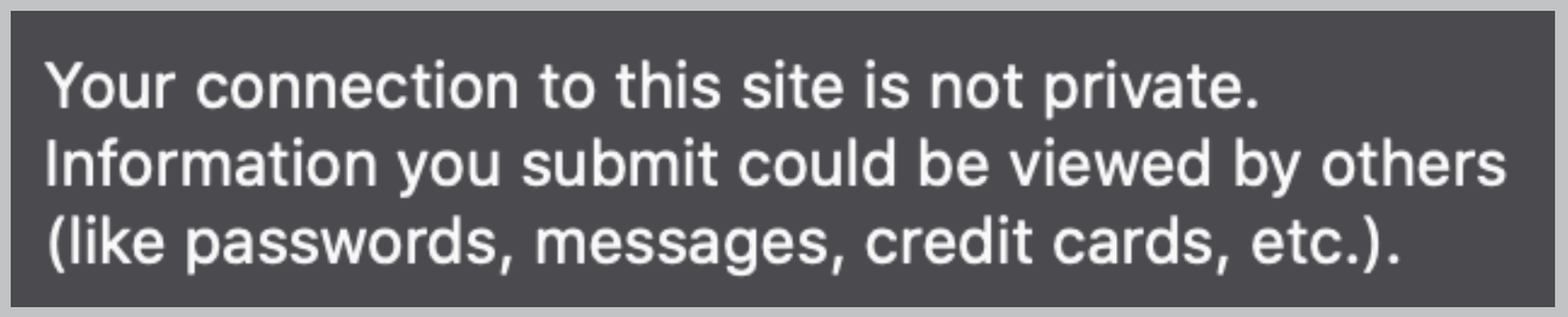
HTTPS INDICATORS TODAY: DEMO

The page you are viewing was encrypted before being transmitted over the Internet.

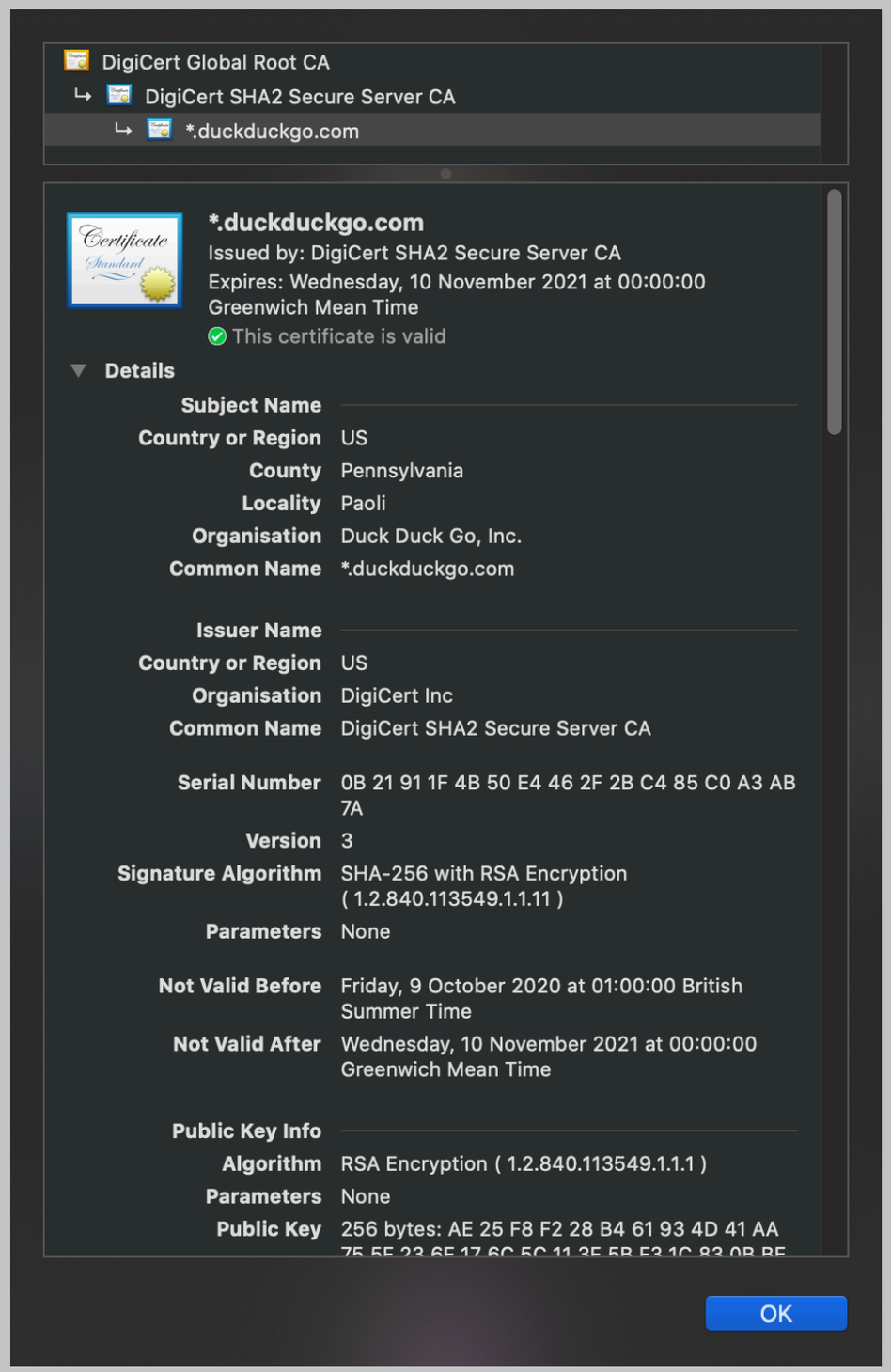
Encryption makes it difficult for unauthorised people to view information travelling between computers. It is therefore unlikely that anyone read this page as it travelled across the network.

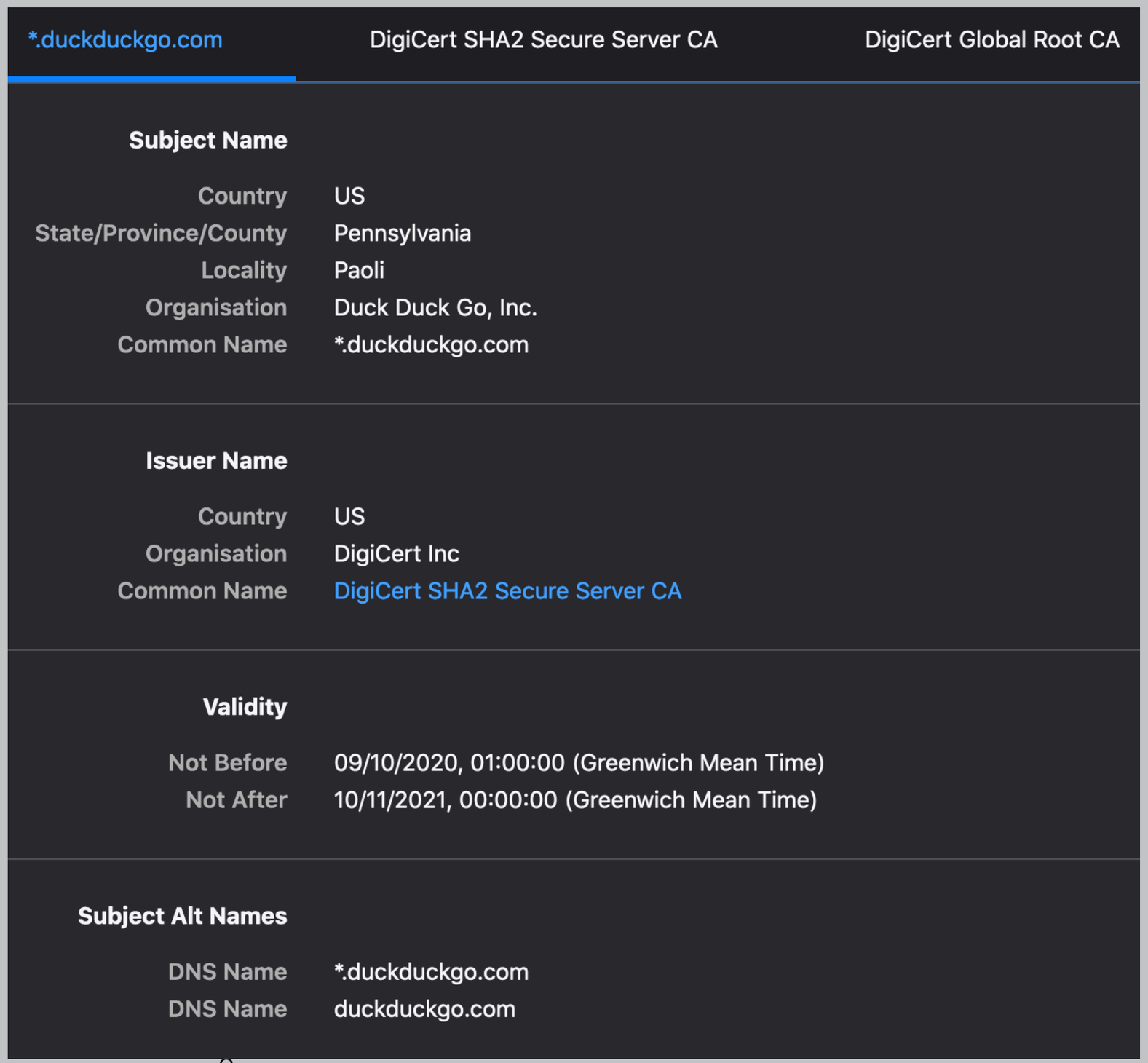
secure
(encrypted)

insecure
(unencrypted)



DIGITAL CERTIFICATES DEMO





DIGITAL CERTIFICATES

Public Key Info

Algorithm	RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)
Parameters	None
Public Key	256 bytes: AE 25 F8 F2 28 B4 61 93 4D 41 AA 75 5F 23 6F 17 6C 5C 11 3F 5B F3 1C 83 0B BE 6C C2 CD C8 D4 BB 2A BF BD 1C 82 9C 5B 6B B5 1F ED 06 43 74 8F D3 B9 CE 0D 52 95 D0 61 C8 A0 8B 68 C0 CE 10 C2 C4 2D B4 45 A4 CB C9 E5 A0 A9 5B 01 95 1F 12 0D 78 D7 BF C1 4A C4 F5 B2 44 EC D6 AC 21 A2 3F 0A 3F EE B6 E4 85 9F C7 EA C5 EE 46 D4 75 65 37 DA 6F 76 42 66 32 CB 9A A4 04 AA 48 8F 1B
Exponent	65537
Key Size	2,048 bits
Key Usage	Encrypt, Veri

Signature 256 bytes: 7D 27 FF F8 16 E0 0C 27 FD 35 76 01 BA 00 C6 BE 5C 33 65 E3 2E 3E AA 13 00 99 64 25 D5 DB BF 52 48 01 1B 69 E4 65 5E 62 33 A9 F7 36 49 FD 15 06 3C A7 C2 49 9B AF EE F7 9A 74 13 15 F9 44 57 38 ED D6 50 65 DD 20 02 A8 8A DE C8 C3 C9 20 FD 53 C5 77 87 5E AA 10 C8 8E BA 9C 87 F6 F3 73 FB 2E 93 67 55 2E AC DF 35 3D B4 3D CF 97 21 A8 2B AC D0 72 2C 5D 41 44 1A 08 D5 C2 96 62 F5 75 BA 56 F0 37 0D 73 49 F1 E4 6B 33 0C 5E 84 DE 69 00 3E 93 35 20 A7 28 D7 3E 4A A8 E1 41 F9 84 75 E7 A7 A6 CB 56 48 5C 8D 2A 5F D5 DF C3 9D 12 56 EA 4A 71 C2 FB 9C 1C C1 98 D6 BC 32 7F 2E F6 7A 87 AD D4 7D B2 C7 F3 A9 45 B4 D7 7B C4 32 AB 7D C 49 C2 D B5 8F C 9C 43 C

Fingerprints

SHA-256	90 9E 42 E3 FF 35 8C 03 0E FB 0E 1F CB 3D 8A 1F DA 8E 52 EB F9 0B 12 D3 8A 3C A8 D9 EE 14 AF 25
SHA-1	27 DA 3A F2 0C 25 C6 8B D1 3E 36 82 90 C2 8A 42 7B 42 34 94

how to communicate secretly?

is this the right key?

is this the right certificate?

STANDARDS

Public Key Info

Algorithm RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)

public-key encryption

FDH digital signature
(also DSA,ECDSA)

Signature Algorithm SHA-256 with RSA Encryption
(1.2.840.113549.1.1.11)

AEAD

collection of protocols

Technical Details

Connection Encrypted (TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384, 256 bit keys, TLS 1.3)

The page you are viewing was encrypted before being transmitted over the Internet.

hash functions
(also SHA-3)

Fingerprints

SHA-256 90 9E 42 E3 FF 35 8C 03 0E FB 0E 1F CB 3D 8A 1F
DA 8E 52 EB F9 0B 12 D3 8A 3C A8 D9 EE 14 AF 25

SHA-1 27 DA 3A F2 0C 25 C6 8B D1 3E 36 82 90 C2 8A 42
7B 42 34 94

SSL/TLS HANDSHAKE

step 1: agree on **cipher suite**

step 2: validate certificate

check H(certificate) = fingerprint

check Verify(pk_{CA}, sig, $pk_{service}$)

oversimplified!

step 3: establish session key

client sends c=Enc($pk_{service}$, sk)

service uses sk=Dec($sk_{service}$, c)

step 4: use sk to do AEAD

step 5: terminate connection (FIN)

TLS

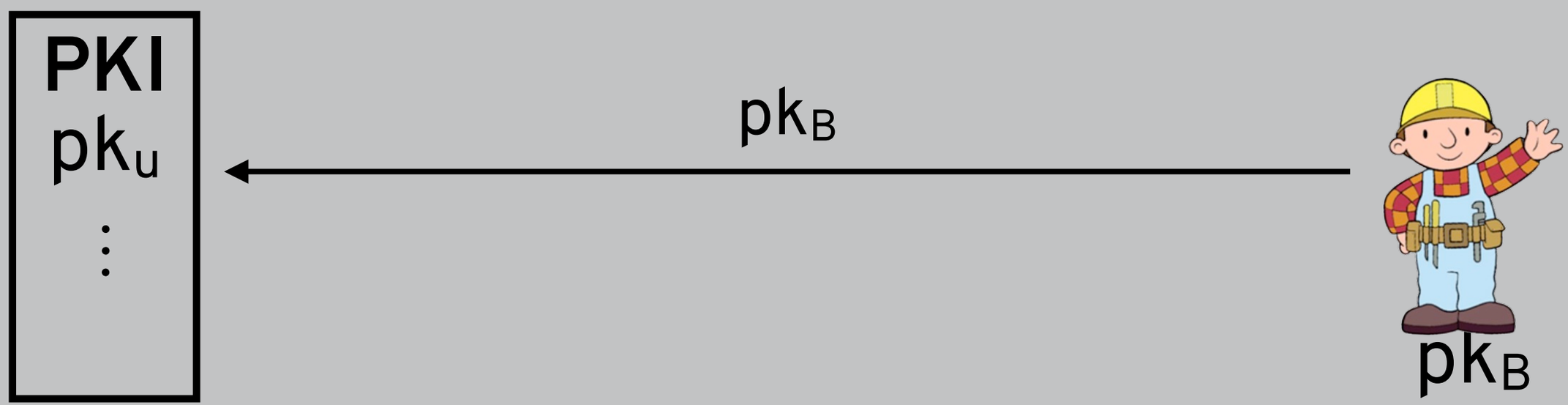
TLS (Transport Layer Security) is the standard for secure communication on the Internet today, **SSL** (Secure Socket Layer) is its predecessor

HTTPS (Secure HTTP) means you are running HTTP over TLS

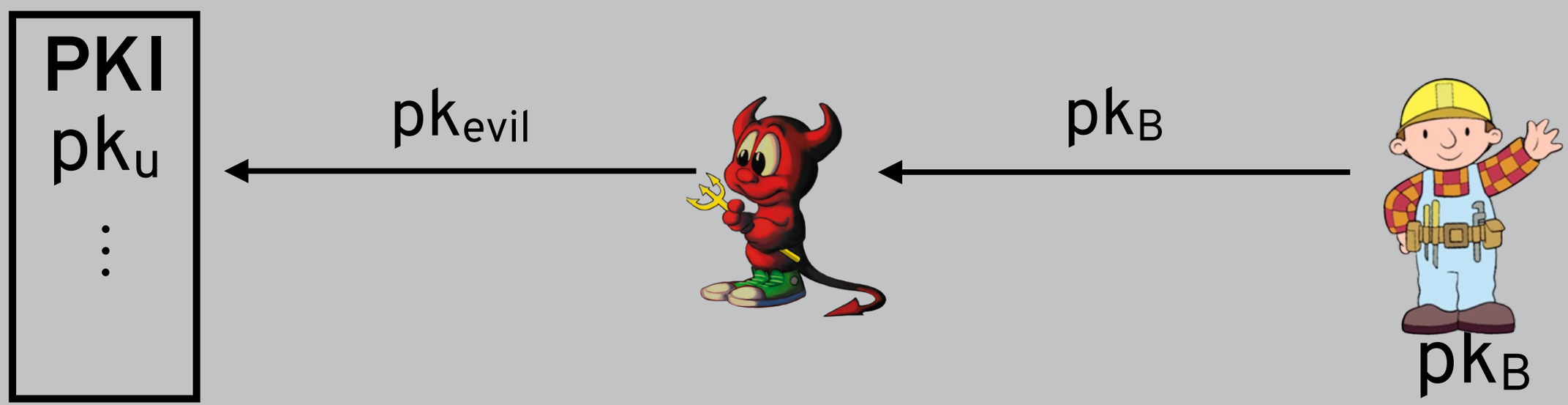
AS ALWAYS, SOME QUESTIONS…

q: did we really provide a public-key infrastructure (PKI)?

PUBLIC-KEY INFRASTRUCTURE



PUBLIC-KEY INFRASTRUCTURE



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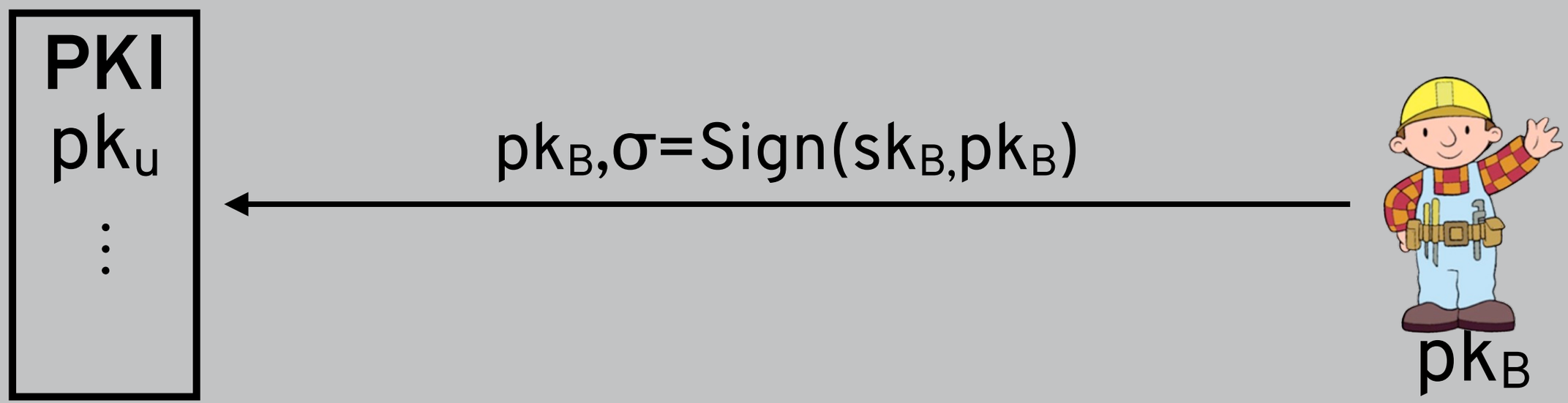

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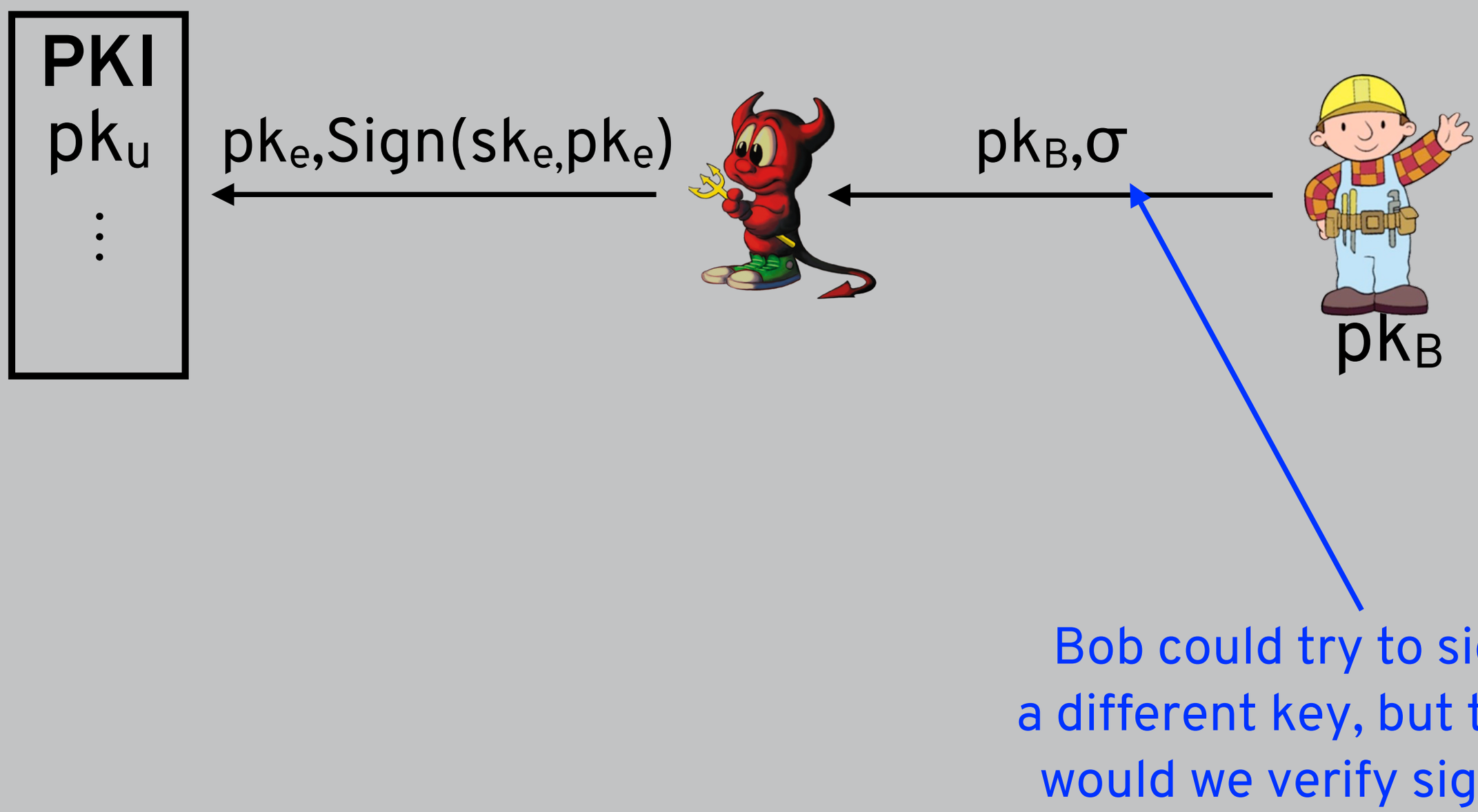


PUBLIC-KEY INFRASTRUCTURE

PKI

pku

alice.com	pk_A	Sign(sk_{CA},pk_A)
eve.com	pk_E	Sign(sk_{CA},pk_E)
...	...	...
bob.com	pk_B	Sign(sk_{CA},pk_B)

pk_B

check Verify(pk_{CA}, sig, $pk_{service}$)

(pk_{CA}, sk_{CA})

certificate authority

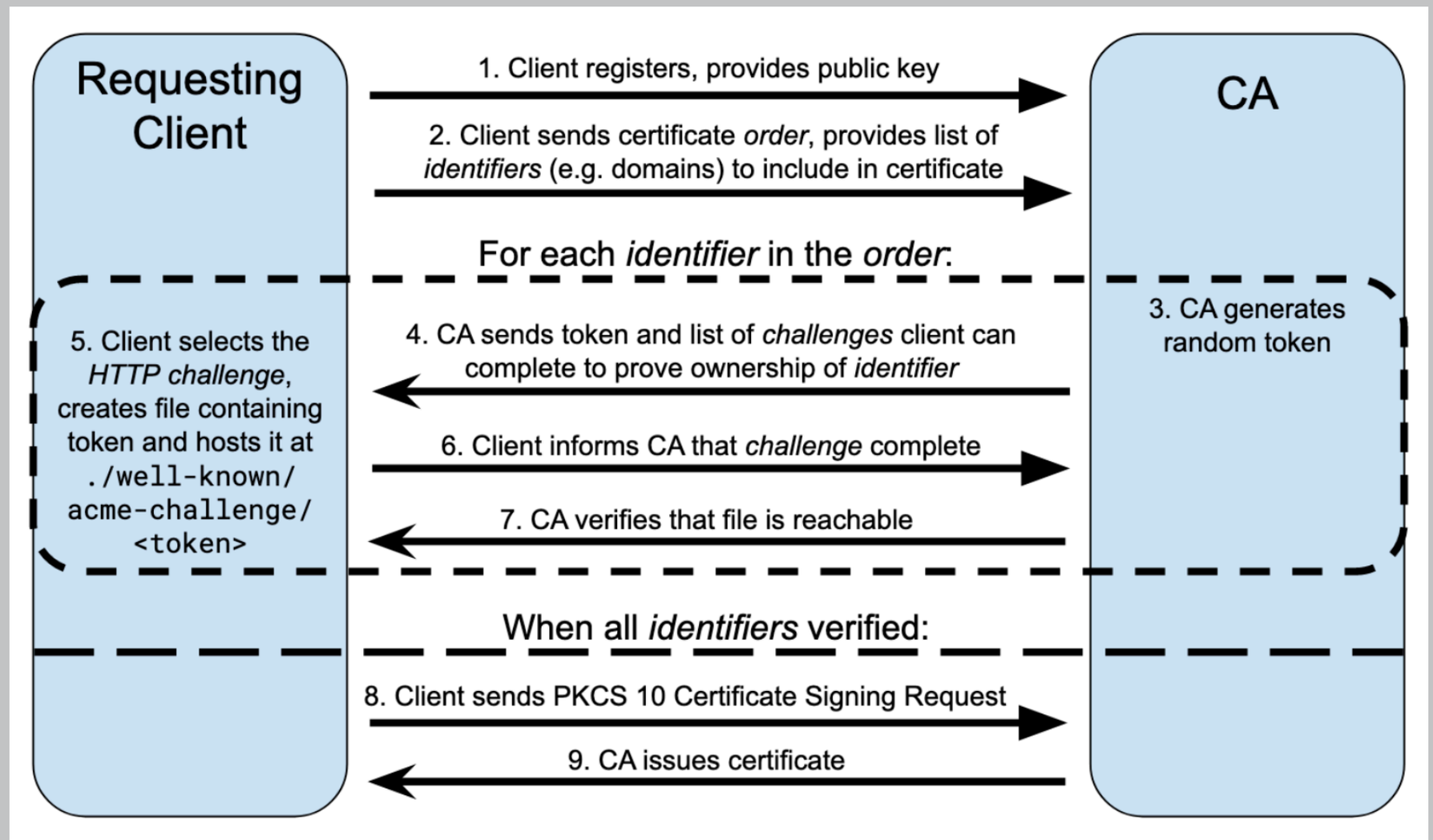
certificate signing request

so we've reduced key distribution problem to CA keys

LET'S ENCRYPT

Let's Encrypt is a fully automated (and free!) CA

- Performs only **domain validation**, stronger validations (organisational and extended) require human intervention
- Automated validation via ACME protocol



HTTPS ADOPTION

62,142 in September 2015

20,362 in January 2019

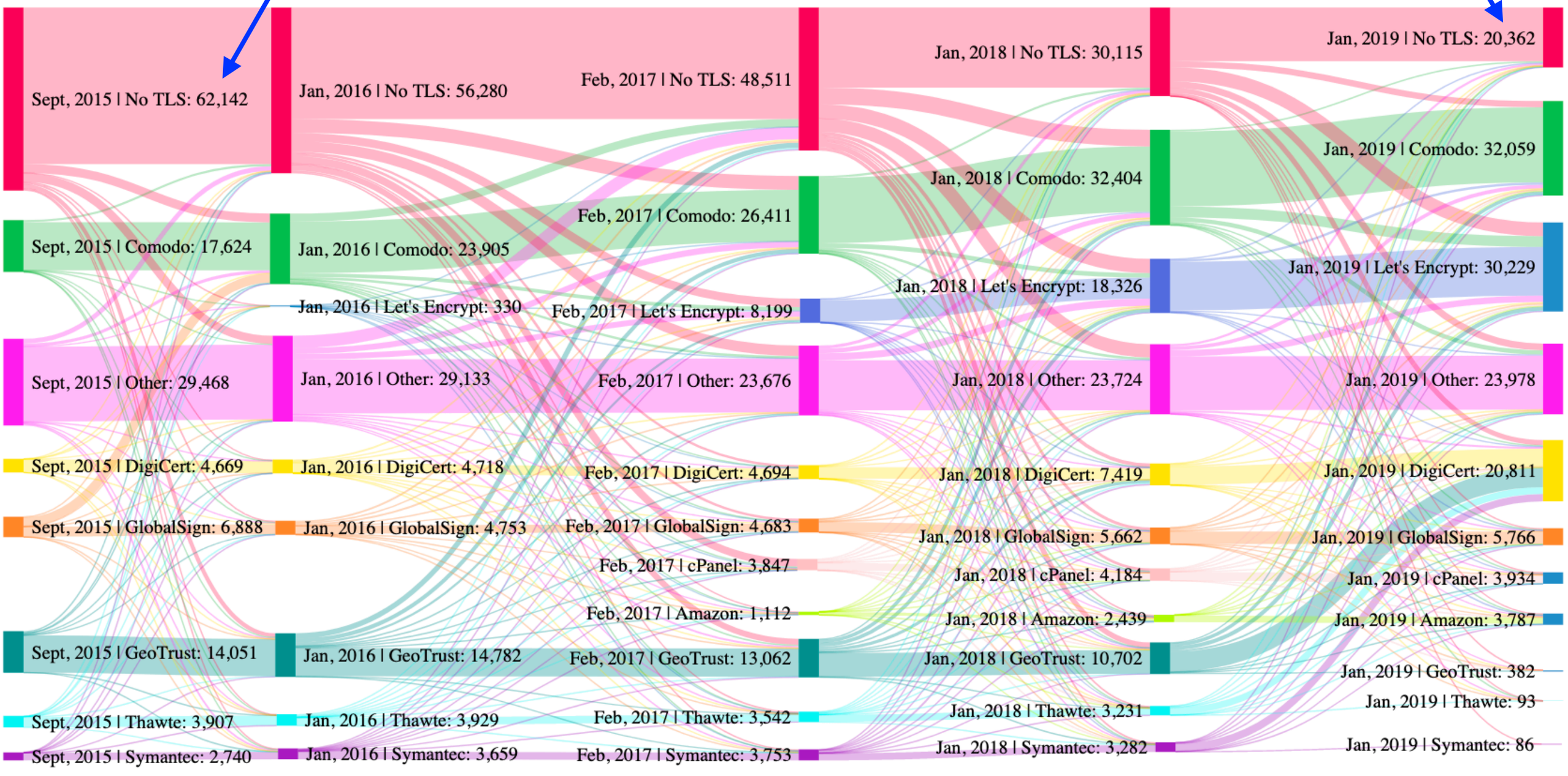


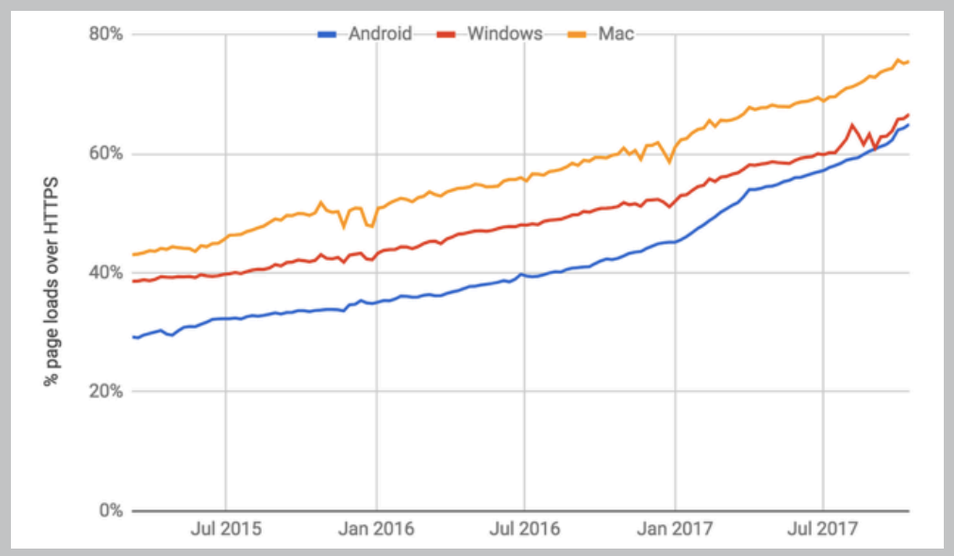
Figure 8: Certificate authority flow among stable, popular sites. We track CA choice for 141K domains over five snapshots, from 7/2015 to 1/2019. The included sites are those that were ranked in the Alexa Top Million at every snapshot, and so are likely more popular and long-lived than the top million overall.

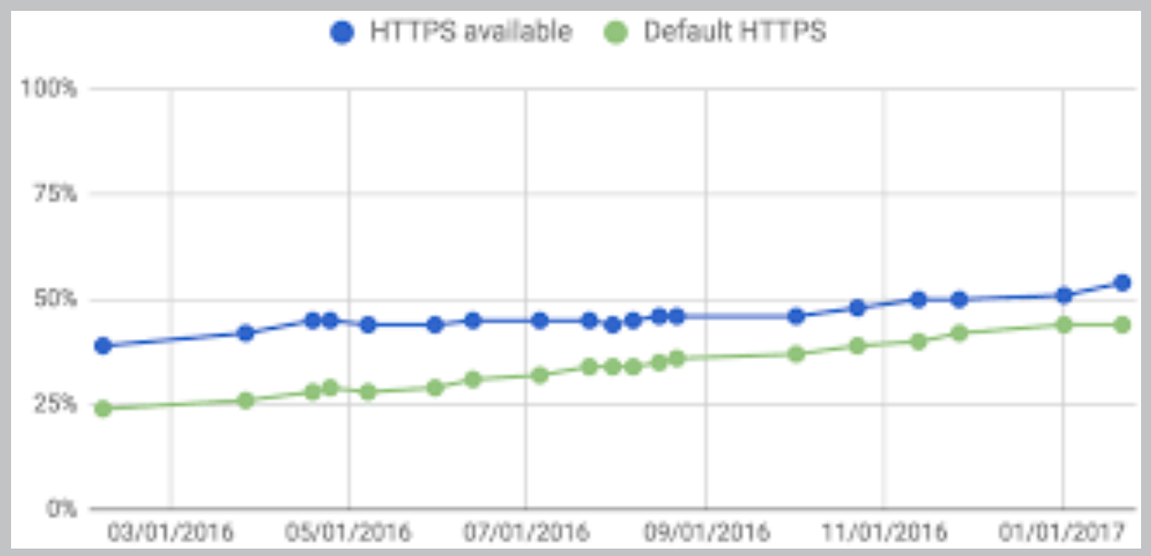
HTTPS ADOPTION

Success story for usable security!

- Studies showed that old (positive) indicators were not usable and thus did not protect users
- As a result, browsers moved or are moving towards negative indicators instead

This was enabled by technological advances (which we'll see next week) that also made HTTPS much more widespread

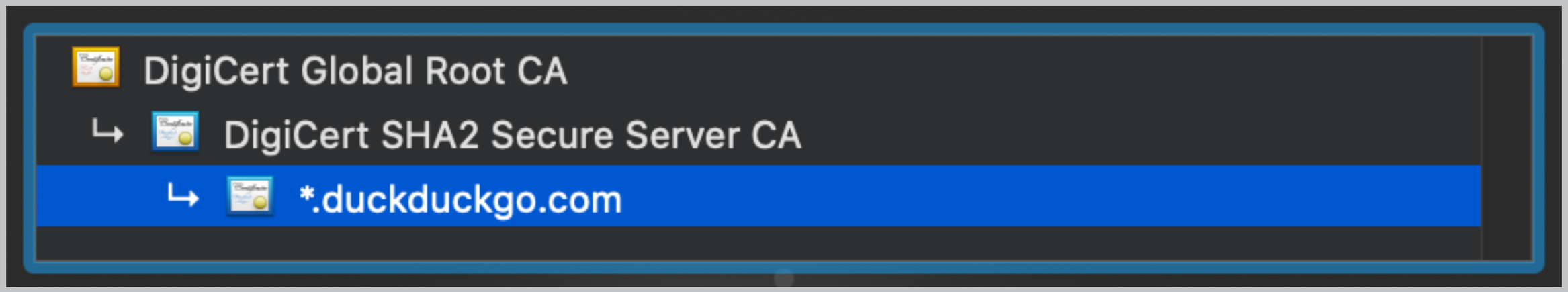




X.509 CERTIFICATES

The process we've just seen is typical of the X.509 standard

This also defines the structure of certificates and the concept of a **certificate chain**



Root certificate in the chain is treated as a **trust anchor**

ROOT CERTIFICATES

Name	Kind	Expires	Keychain
AAA Certificate Services	certificate	31 Dec 2028 at 23:59:59	System Roots
AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM	certificate	1 Jan 2030 at 00:00:00	System Roots
Actalis Authentication Root CA	certificate	22 Sep 2030 at 12:22:02	System Roots
Admin-Root-CA	certificate	10 Nov 2021 at 07:51:07	System Roots
AffirmTrust Commercial	certificate	31 Dec 2030 at 14:06:06	System Roots
AffirmTrust Networking	certificate	31 Dec 2030 at 14:08:24	System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium	certificate	31 Dec 2040 at 14:10:36	System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium ECC	certificate	31 Dec 2040 at 14:20:24	System Roots
Amazon Root CA 1	certificate	17 Jan 2038 at 00:00:00	System Roots
Amazon Root CA 2	certificate	26 May 2040 at 01:00:00	System Roots
Amazon Root CA 3	certificate	26 May 2040 at 01:00:00	System Roots
Amazon Root CA 4	certificate	26 May 2040 at 01:00:00	System Roots
ANF Global Root CA	certificate	5 Jun 2033 at 18:45:38	System Roots
Apple Root CA	certificate	9 Feb 2035 at 21:40:36	System Roots
Apple Root CA - G2	certificate	30 Apr 2039 at 19:10:09	System Roots
Apple Root CA - G3	certificate	30 Apr 2039 at 19:19:06	System Roots
Apple Root Certificate Authority	certificate	10 Feb 2025 at 00:18:14	System Roots
Atos TrustedRoot 2011	certificate	31 Dec 2030 at 23:59:59	System Roots
Autoridad de...nal CIF A62634068	certificate	31 Dec 2030 at 08:38:15	System Roots
Autoridad de...Estado Venezolano	certificate	17 Dec 2030 at 23:59:59	System Roots
Baltimore CyberTrust Root	certificate	13 May 2025 at 00:59:00	System Roots
Belgium Root CA2	certificate	15 Dec 2021 at 08:00:00	System Roots
Buypass Class 2 Root CA	certificate	26 Oct 2040 at 09:38:03	System Roots

AS ALWAYS, SOME QUESTIONS...

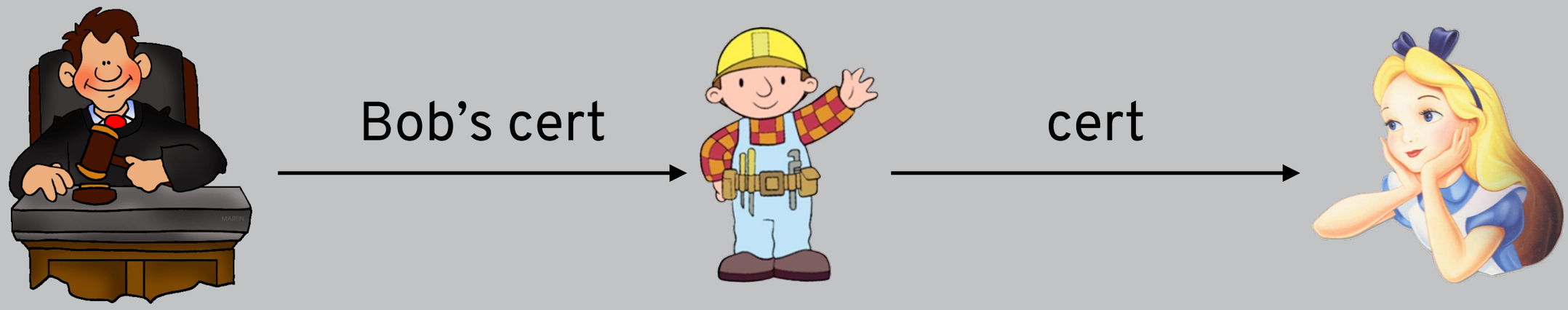
q: did we really provide a public-key infrastructure (PKI)?

a: yes, but we still need to distribute keys for CAs.

q: so we're really trusting those CAs, huh?

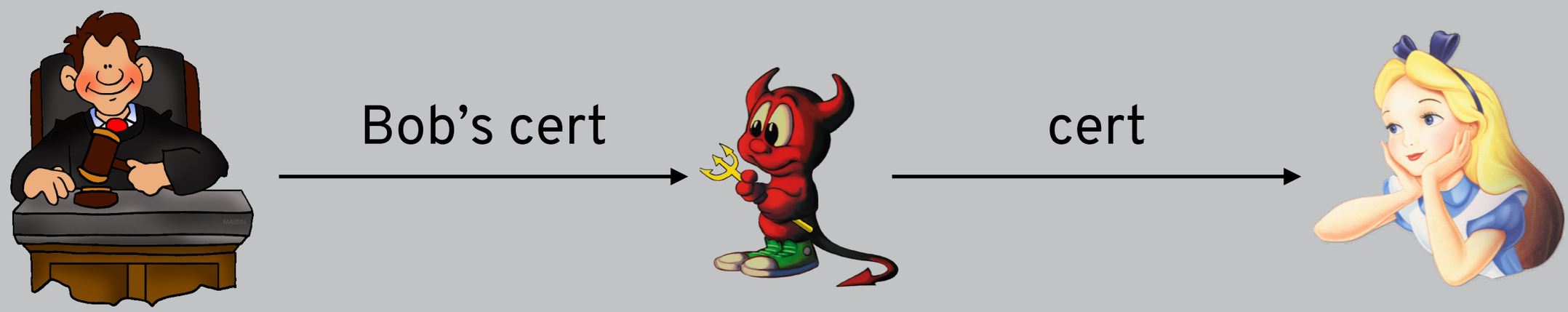
a: yes! but Certificate Transparency (CT) tries to reduce this trust.

CERTIFICATE MISISSUANCE

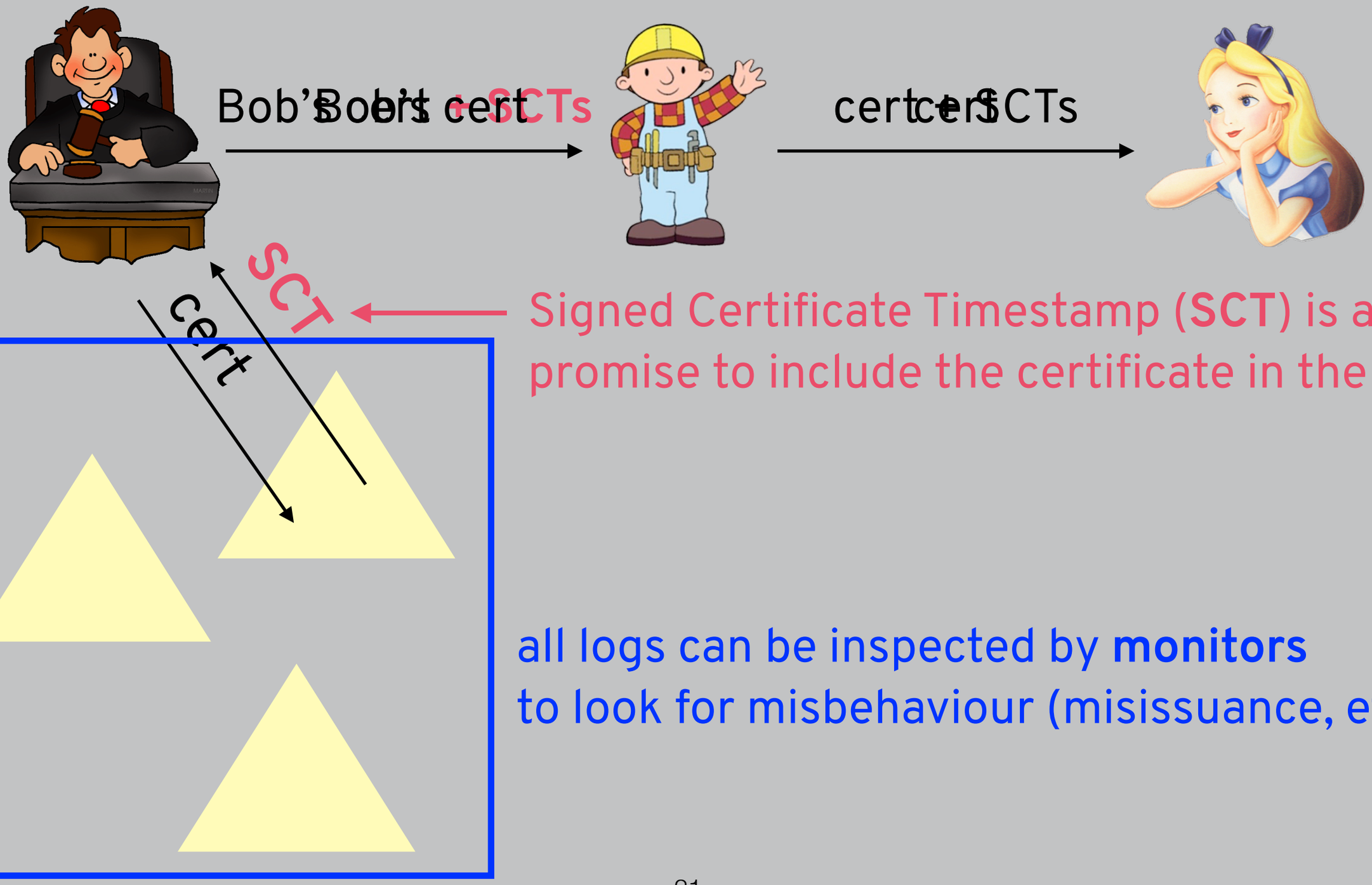


vs.

certificate misissuance



CERTIFICATE TRANSPARENCY



Signed Certificate Timestamp (**SCT**) is a promise to include the certificate in the log

all logs can be inspected by **monitors**
to look for misbehaviour (misissuance, etc.)

CERTIFICATE TRANSPARENCY DEMO

SCT Version	1
Log Operator	Google
Log Key ID	F6 5C 94 2F D1 77 30 22 14 54 18 08 30 94 56 8E E3 4D 13 19 33 BF DF 0C 2F 20 0B CC 4E F1 64 E3
Timestamp	Friday, 9 October 2020 at 16:08:06 British Summer Time
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Signature	71 bytes: 30 45 02 20 34 5D 6E D2 …
SCT Version	1
Log Operator	DigiCert
Log Key ID	5C DC 43 92 FE E6 AB 45 44 B1 5E 9A D4 56 E6 10 37 FB D5 FA 47 DC A1 73 94 B2 5E E6 F6 C7 0E CA
Timestamp	Friday, 9 October 2020 at 16:08:06 British Summer Time
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Signature	71 bytes: 30 45 02 20 29 B7 04 F4 …

Embedded SCTs

Log ID	F6:5C:94:2F:D1:77:30:22:14:54:18:08:30:94:56:8E:E3:4D:13:19:33:BF:DF:...
Name	Google “Argon2021”
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Version	1
Timestamp	09/10/2020, 16:08:06 (Greenwich Mean Time)
Log ID	5C:DC:43:92:FE:E6:AB:45:44:B1:5E:9A:D4:56:E6:10:37:FB:D5:FA:47:DC:A...
Name	DigiCert Yeti2021
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Version	1
Timestamp	09/10/2020, 16:08:06 (Greenwich Mean Time)

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a: yes, but we still need to distribute keys for CAs.

q: so we're really trusting those CAs, huh?

a: yes! but Certificate Transparency (CT) tries to reduce this trust.

q: does the client authenticate itself to the server?

a: no! we'll see client authentication later on.

PUBLIC-KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY

secrecy without shared secrets

anyone can encrypt to Bob (or many other websites)

important in huge open environment like the Internet

integrity without key exchange

use digital signatures

small number of distributed keys

small key distribution

restricted to certificate authorities

(disadvantages? slow, uses strong assumptions)

QUIZ!

Please go to

`https://moodle.ucl.ac.uk/mod/quiz/view.php?id=2754465`

to take this week's quiz!