CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH
College of Engineering

CECS 303: Networks and Network Security

PKI and DNSSEC

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Week 15 – 2nd Lecture
4/28/2022

Course Information

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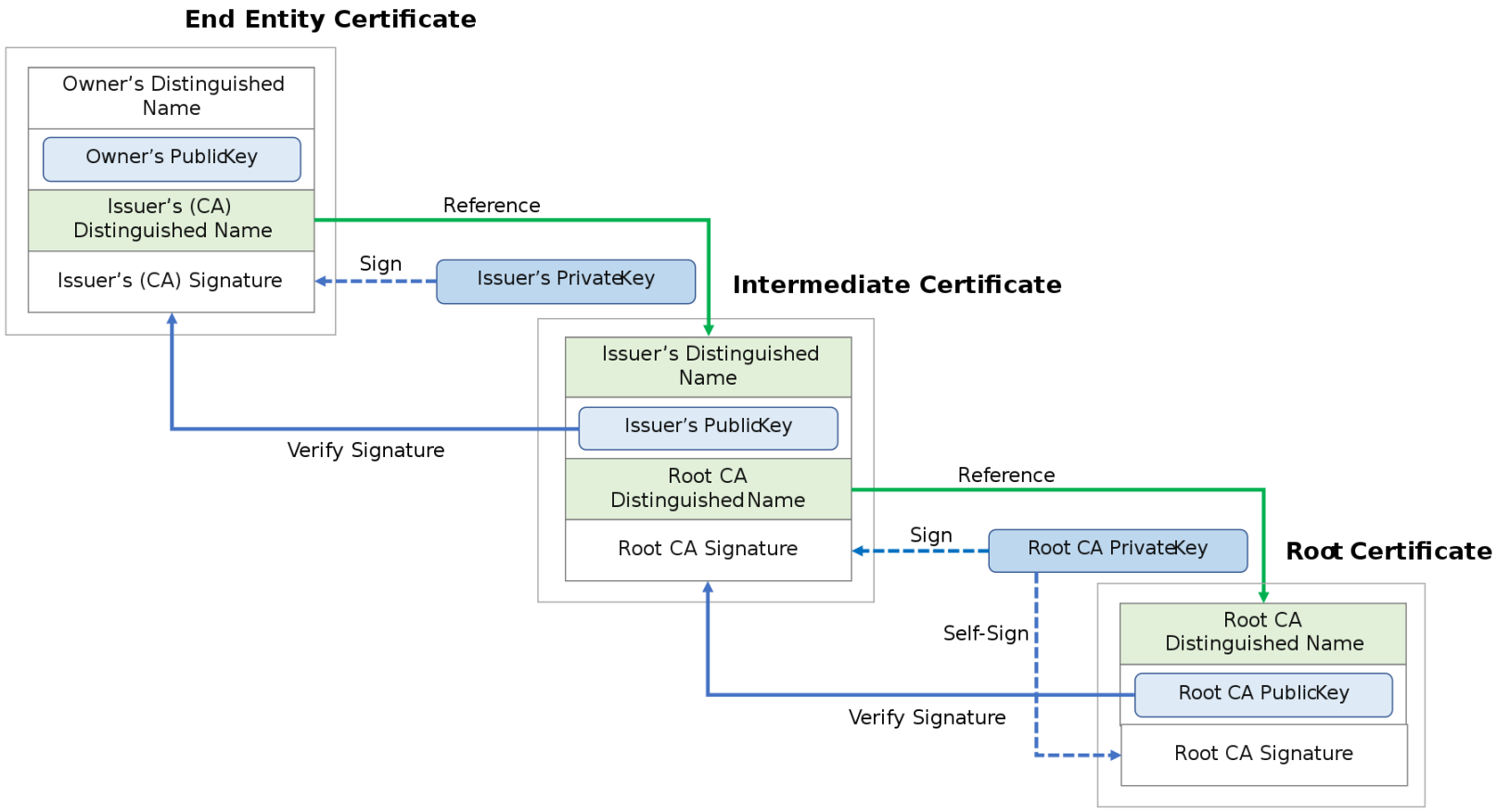
- CECS 303
  - Networks and Network Security – 3.0 units
- Class meeting schedule
  - TuTH 5:00PM to 7:15PM
  - Lecture Room: VEC 402
  - Lab Room: ECS 413
- Class communication
  - chris.samayoa@csulb.edu
  - Cell: 562-706-2196
- Office hours
  - Thursdays 4pm-5pm (VEC-404)
  - Other times by appointment only

Objectives

- PKI
  - Chain of Trust
- DNSSEC
  - Record Types
  - ZSK (Zone-signing Key)
  - KSK (Key-signing Key)
  - Chain of Trust

PKI Chain of Trust



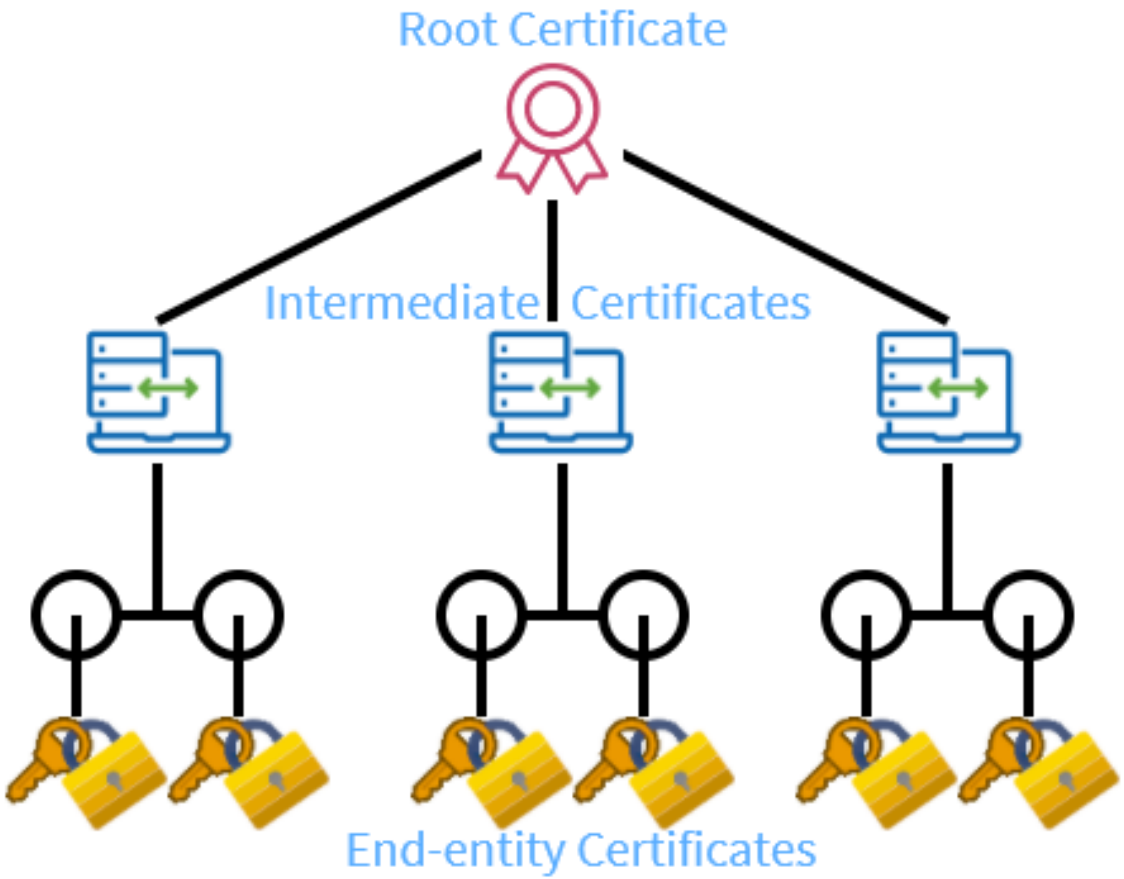
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chain_of_trust#/media/File:Chain_Of_Trust.svg

Chain of Trust

- Types of entities
  - Root CA
    - Self-signed certificate -> “trust anchor”
    - Must be trusted for entire process to work
    - Very closely guarded – often kept “offline”
    - Expire every 15-20 years
  - Intermediate CA
    - Responsible for issuing certificates
      - To other intermediate CAs
      - To end-entity
    - Provides extra level of security between end-entity servers and root CA
  - End-entity Certificate
    - Does not guarantee that subject is trustworthy
    - Certificates are typically issued for organizations (not directly to employees)
    - Parameters specified within certificate(s)

Source: https://www.keyfactor.com/blog/certificate-chain-of-trust/

Typical Trust Model



Source: https://www.keyfactor.com/blog/certificate-chain-of-trust/

Digital Certificate Risks

- What happens if private keys are compromised?
  - End-entity
    - Communication to that server can no longer be authenticated
    - Certificate needs to be revoked
    - New certificate needs to be issued
  - Intermediate CA
    - All end-entity certificates issued by the CA must be revoked and reissued
    - New asymmetric keys
    - New certificate must be issued by root CA (or other authority)
  - Root CA
    - All child CA certificates and end-entity certificates issued by those child CAs must be reissued
    - Root CA must be re-established

Certificate Revocation Lists

- Each CA must issue its own certificate revocation lists
  - Part of the standard for X.509 certificates
- Consumers must check CRLs for them to be effective
  - Slows down authentication process
    - Slower for each part of the hierarchy checked
- Were not commonly used before
- Have grown in usage by consumers
  - Due to internet security concerns

Check CRL

Source: https://www.thesslstore.com/blog/crl-explained-what-is-a-certificate-revocation-list/

Browser Lists - Chrome

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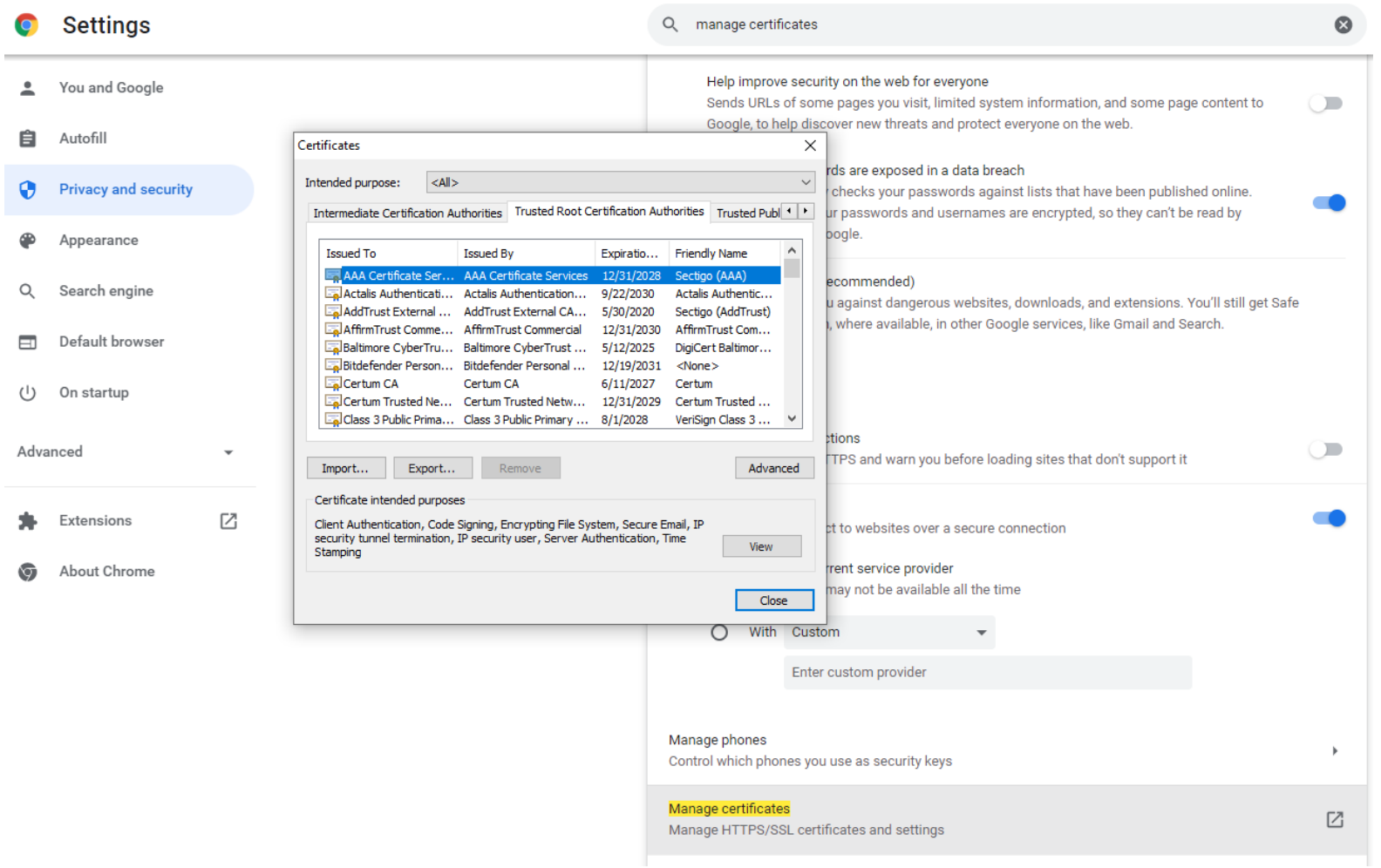

Browser Lists - Firefox

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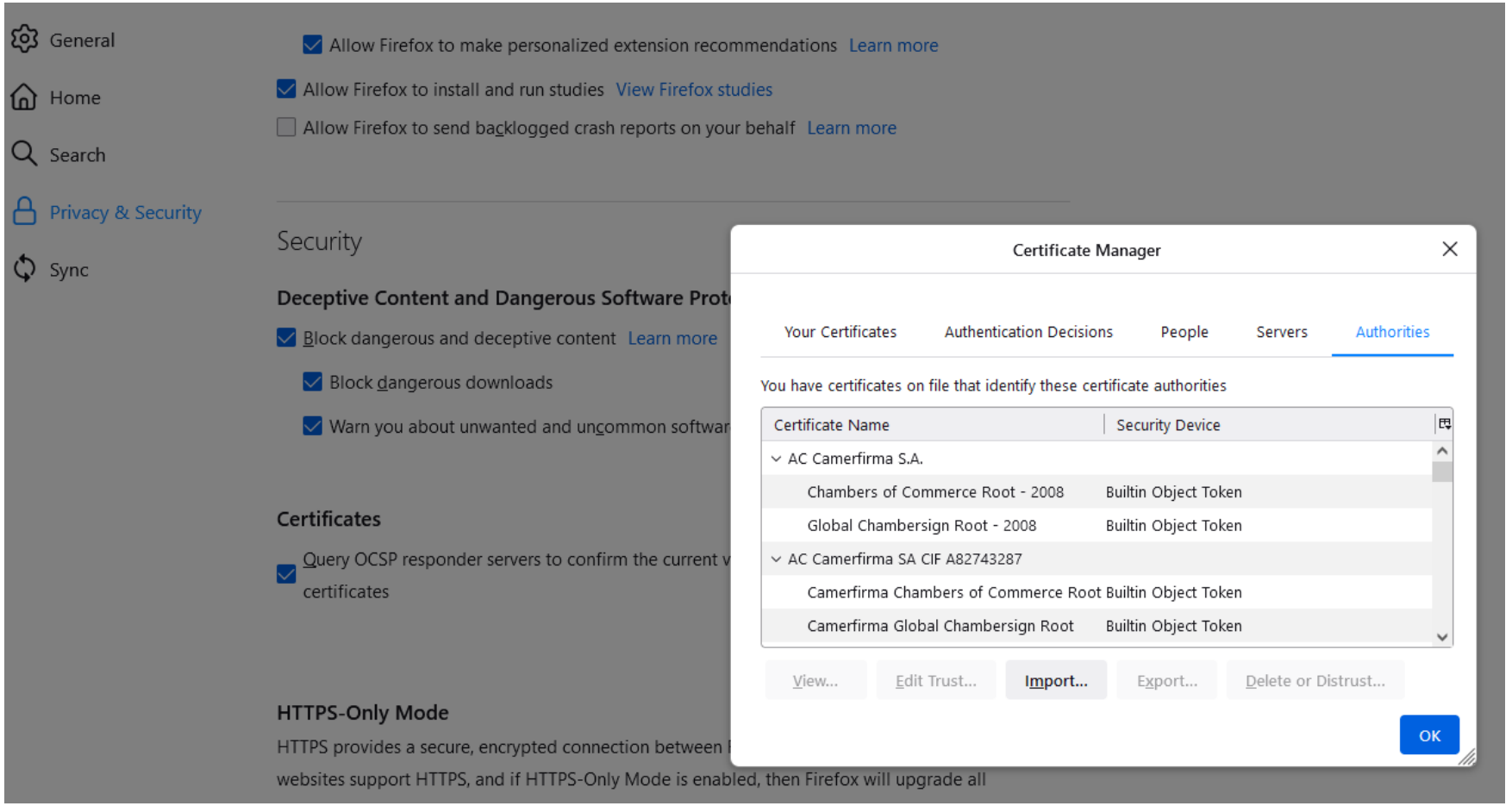
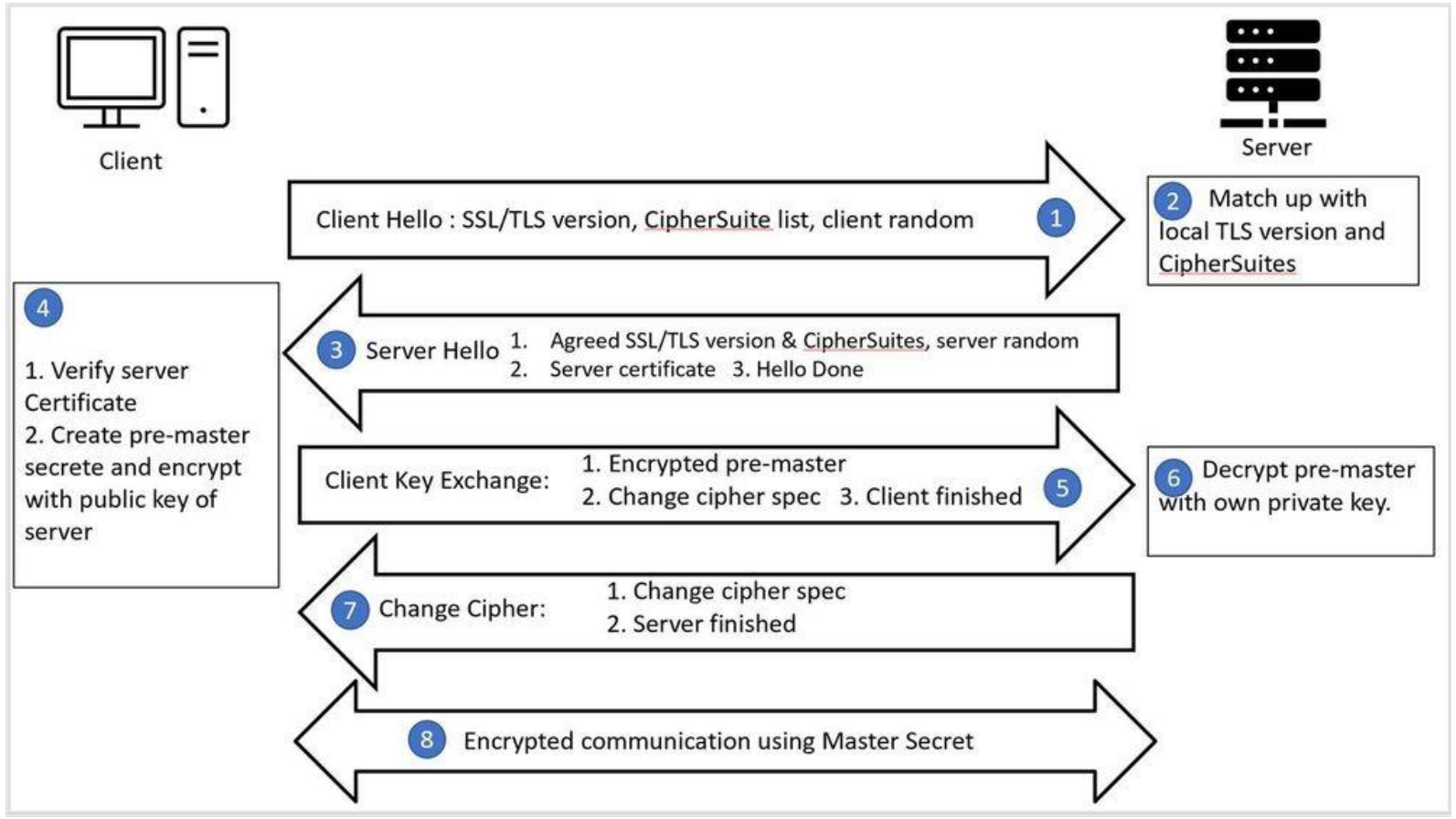


TLS



Source: Microsoft

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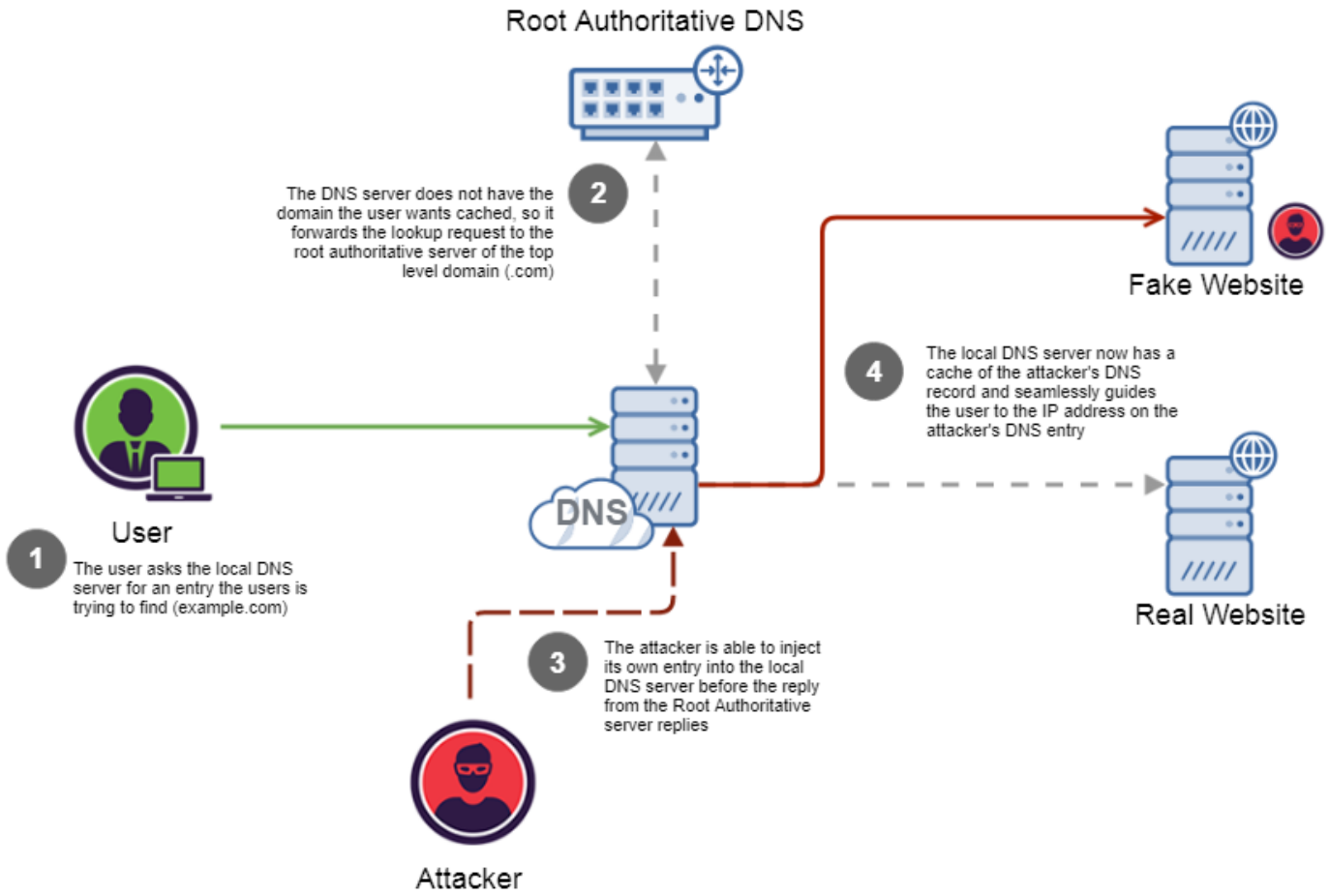
DNSSEC

- Background
  - Security not a primary design consideration for DNS initially
    - No authentication for DNS query responses
    - Source IP of expected DNS server can be spoofed
  - IETF RFC 3757, 4033, 4034, 4035, 4509, 4641, 5155
  - DNS Cache Poisoning
    - If recursive resolver accepts false DNS response, then any devices querying for the data will be sent the incorrect address
- DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC)
  - Suite of extensions meant to strengthen DNS security
  - Strengthens DNS authentication using digital signatures
    - Based on PKI
  - DNS data itself is signed by owner of data
  - Each DNS zone has public/private key pair
    - Each zone owner signs DNS data within the zone using the private key
    - Public key can be used by any resolver to validate the authenticity of DNS data received
  - Failure to authenticate signature results in discarded data and an error
- Two most important features added
  - Data origin authentication – verify that the data received came from the expected zone
  - Data integrity protection – resolver can ensure that they data received has not been modified in transit

Source: ICANN

DNS Cache Poisoning



Source: https://medium.com/iocscan/dns-cache-poisoning-bea939b5afaf

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DNSSEC (cont'd)

- DNSSEC resource record types
  - RRSIG (Resource Record Signature)
    - Contains cryptographic signature for a given record set
  - DNSKEY
    - Holds the zone's public key
    - Used to verify signatures of zone's other records
    - Authoritative name server previously used private key to sign records
  - DS (Delegation Signer)
    - Used to verify delegation of DNS authority for child zones
  - NSEC (Next Secure record)
    - Returns next valid record name to prove that a particular DNS record does not exist
  - NSEC 3 (Next Secure version 3 record)
    - Hashes all record names in a zone (resolved NSEC-walking problem)
  - NSEC3PARAM (NSEC3 Parameter)
    - Specifies which NSEC3 records to include in responses for non-existent names
  - More information: https://simpledns.plus/help/dns-record-types

Source: https://www.imperva.com/learn/application-security/dnssec/

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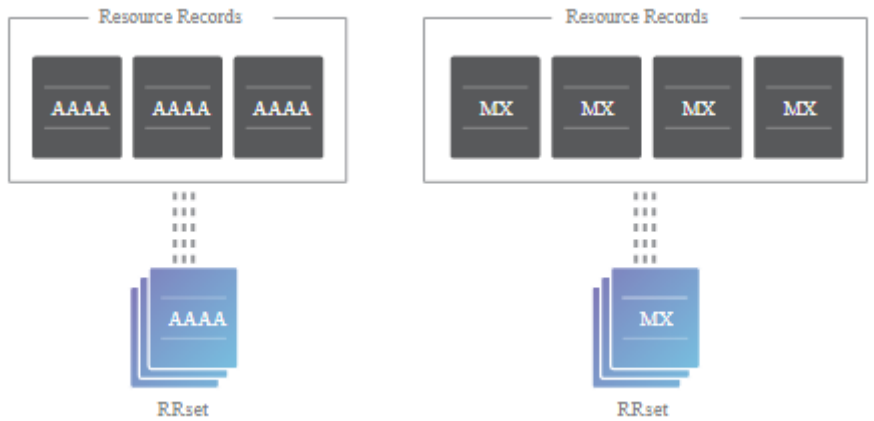
Zone-Signing Keys

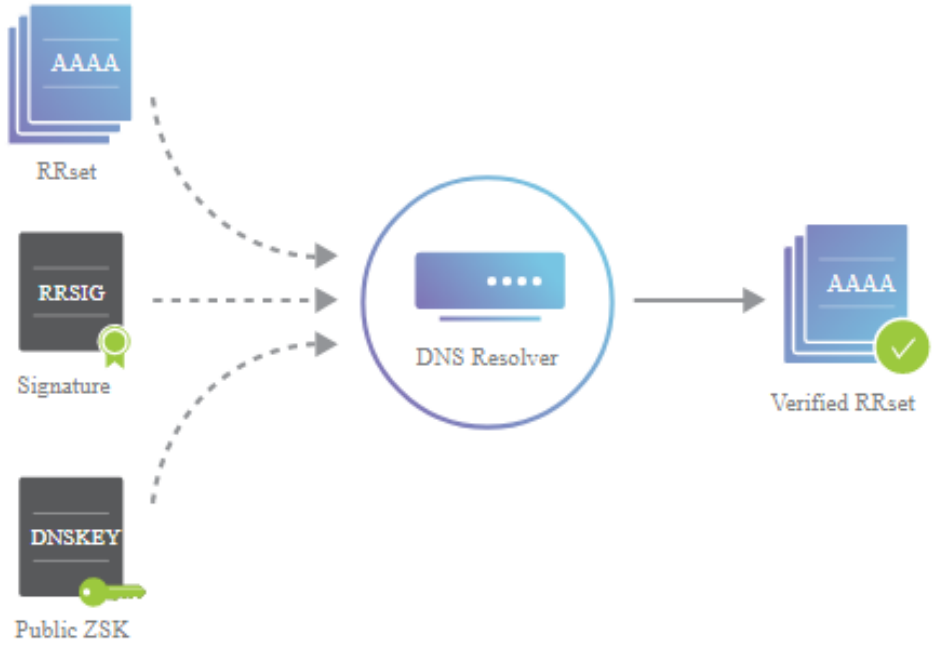
- Each zone has a Zone-Signing Key (ZSK) pair
  - Used to sign data in a zone routinely
  - Can be updated with no interaction outside of the zone it serves
  - Private portion signs each RRset
    - Public portion used to verify signature
    - Public key stored in zone operator's DNSKEY record
  - Signed RRset stored as RRSIG records
  - RRset
    - Grouping of same type of resource records within a zone



Source: https://www.cloudflare.com/dns/dnssec/how-dnssec-works/

ZSK (cont'd)

- How is public ZSK used by a DNSSEC resolver?
  - When a record type is requested (e.g. A record), the answer returns along with the appropriate RRSIG
    - ➢ Resolver can then request the zone's DNSKEY record (public ZSK) to validate the response received



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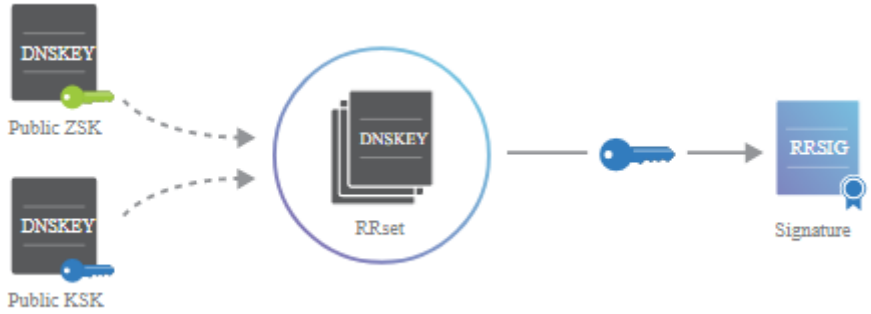
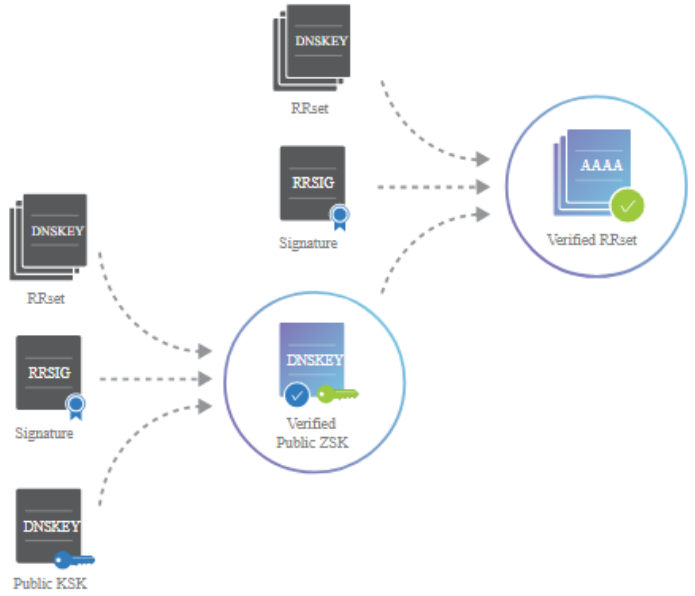
Key-Signing Keys

- Key-signing Key (KSK) is used to validate the DNSKEY record for the requested zone
  - Only used to sign DNSKEY RRsets
  - This key needs action outside of zone to be updated
  - Used to sign the public ZSK
    - Separate DNSKEY record
    - RRset exists for public ZSK and public KSK
- Validate process for DNSSEC record is as follows:
  - RRset requested
    - Returned with corresponding RRSIG record
  - Request DNSKEY with public ZSK and public KSK
    - Returned with RRSIG for DNSKEY Rrset
  - RRSIG of requested RRset verified with public ZSK
  - RRSIG of DNSKEY RRset verified with public KSK





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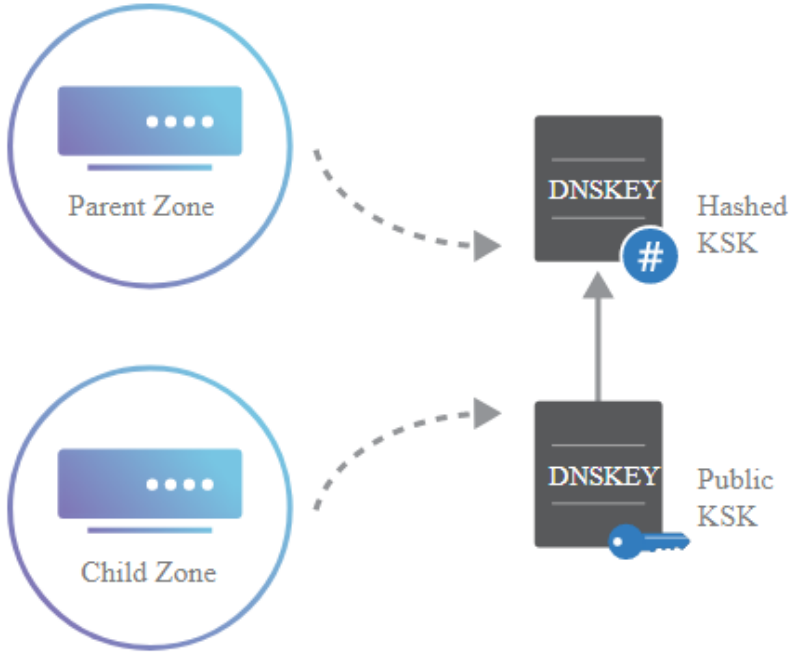
Delegation Signer (DS) Record

- DS record transfers trust from a parent zone to a child zone
  - e.g. “.com” can transfer trust for “cecs303.com” from it’s own authoritative DNS servers to one chosen by the zone operator for “cecs303.com”
- KSK use between zones
  - Zone operator hashes DNSKEY record and provides it to the parent zone to be stored as a DS record
    - ➢ When parent zone redirects a request to a child zone, it also provides the corresponding DS record
  - Resolver can verify validity of child zone’s public KSK by hashing it and comparing it to the parent zone’s corresponding DS record
  - Change of KSK in any given zone requires that the parent zone’s DS record be updated



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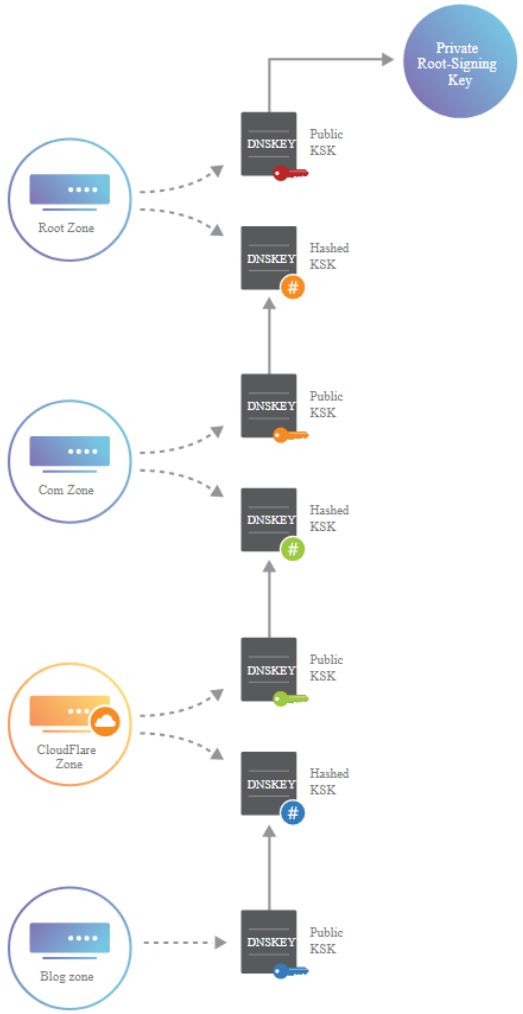
DNSSEC Chain of Trust

- Similar to Chain of Trust used for SSL/TLS Certificate Authorities
  - Uses PKI
  - "Trust Anchor" necessary to establish chain of trust
    - ICANN maintains a trusted root server for DNSSEC
      - Public KSK often used as trusted root server (trust anchor)
    - DNSSEC enabled resolver must have at least one trust anchor's public key installed
      - Similar to trusted root CAs in web browsers
    - Root signed in public and highly auditable manner to produce RRSIG at that level
- DS records are also signed and have a corresponding RRSIG record
  - This allows for a repeatable process to validate signatures until the root is reached



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DNSSEC Process Summary

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- User requests a URL (e.g. abc.com)
  - Kicks off query to local DNS server
    - IP address returned to browser if cached
  - If not cached locally, then request made to a recursive resolver (e.g. ISP's DNS server)
    - IP address returned to browser if cached at this level
    - Otherwise, recursive query launched to find authoritative DNS server for requested domain
- Recursive resolver contacts root DNS server to find top-level domain (TLD) DNS server for requested domain
  - e.g. "abc.com"s TLD would be ".com"
- TLD DNS server redirects to the authoritative name server for the requested domain
  - Authoritative name server for requested domain holds a list of DNS records for it (e.g. www.abc.com A record)
- During each step of this search, a corresponding DNSSEC record is requested by the resolver
  - e.g. for "abc.com" query -> RRSET, RRSIG, and public ZSK are obtained
    - RRSIG is validated using public ZSK
    - ZSK DNSKEY record (public key) is requested and validated using public KSK key (also a DNSKEY record)
    - KSK public key validated by checking parent zone's corresponding DS record for domain
- One DNSSEC validation has concluded, DNS request with the correct IP address is sent to client

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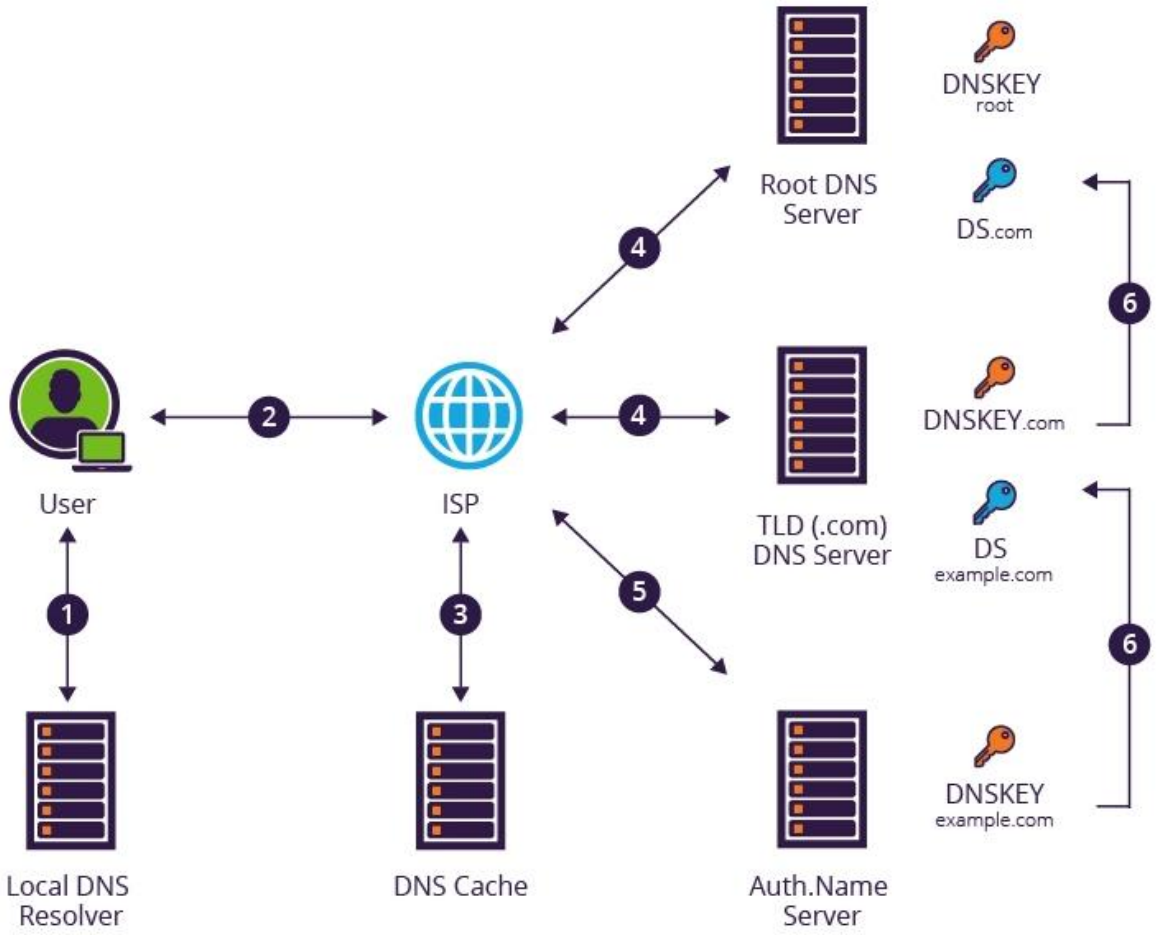

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