

javascript crypto.  
ugly duckling with good reason?

whoami

ruby-core

ruby openssl

krypt

freelancer

whoami

germany



i love crypto

i enjoy being the nerd among nerds

i do javascript, too

been doing **java** even longer

wrote a lot of `java crypto` code on the job



wrote a lot of ruby & c  
crypto code, too

never wrote any javascript crypto code

why?

javascript cryptography  
considered harmful

<http://www.matasano.com/articles/javascript-cryptography/>

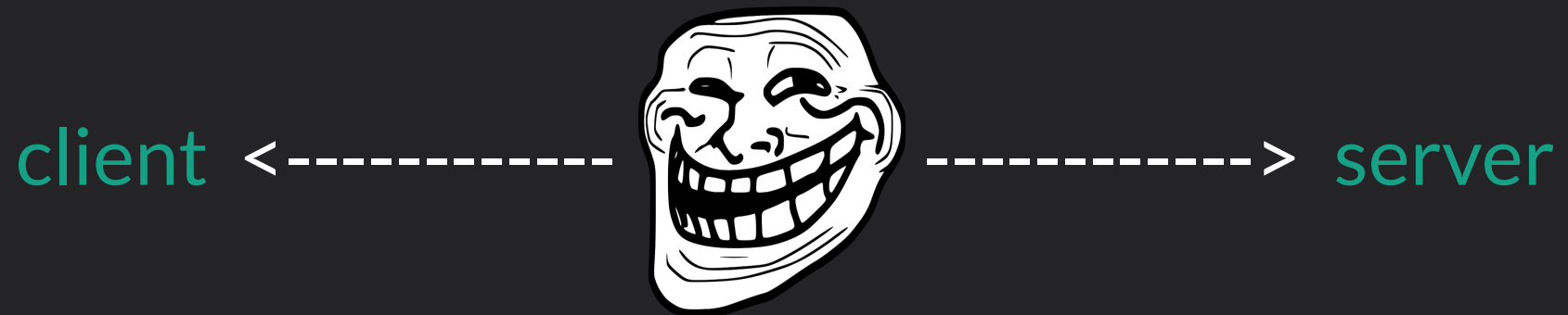
!!! client-side !!!

let's see why it's doomed

js served over http



## troll-in-the-middle attack



serve different files

alter files on the fly

inject <script> tags

etc.

alright, let's take care of the network

https

~~troll-in-the-middle attack~~



client

<----->

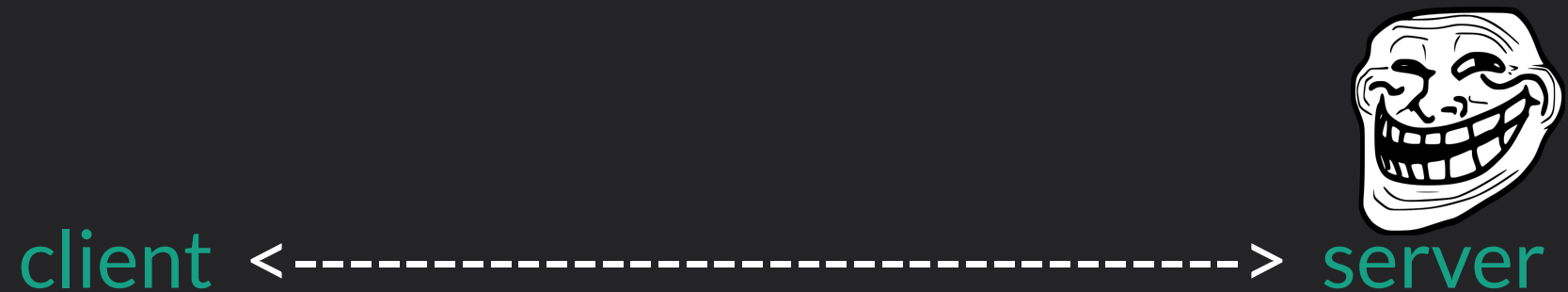
server

https



mission accomplished ?

## troll-on-the-server attack

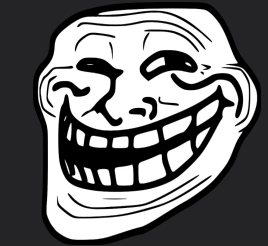


works with https, too

client



https



server

if you don't trust them to do  
crypto for you

how could you trust  
their crypto js code?

so what about signed js?

allows verification of authenticity

still, the same trust issue



easier to set up https to begin with

note:

not a javascript problem per se

tho there are javascript problems as well

crypto people love to fiddle with

bits & bytes

often algorithms require

exact-width integer operations  
(e.g. on 8 bit, 32 or 64 bit)

self-fulfilling prophecy:

„i know c, so i design for c“

in their defense:

c is a good choice for  
system-level programming



(algorithms need to run on hardware, too)

no out-of-the-box support  
for binary data

no out-of-the-box support  
for bigintegers

-> workarounds lack native support

-> workarounds are slow

then: browser js problems

lack of a universally supported

„cryptographically secure  
pseudo-random  
number generator“

(aka csprng)

Math.random is predictable



csprng is at the heart of crypto

without it, crypto becomes a farce

workarounds using mouse movement  
and whatnot

meh

clearly something that should be built-in

```
window.crypto.getRandomValues
```



lacks wide-spread support

what makes javascript fun



is also what makes javascript crypto hard

dynamic runtime environment

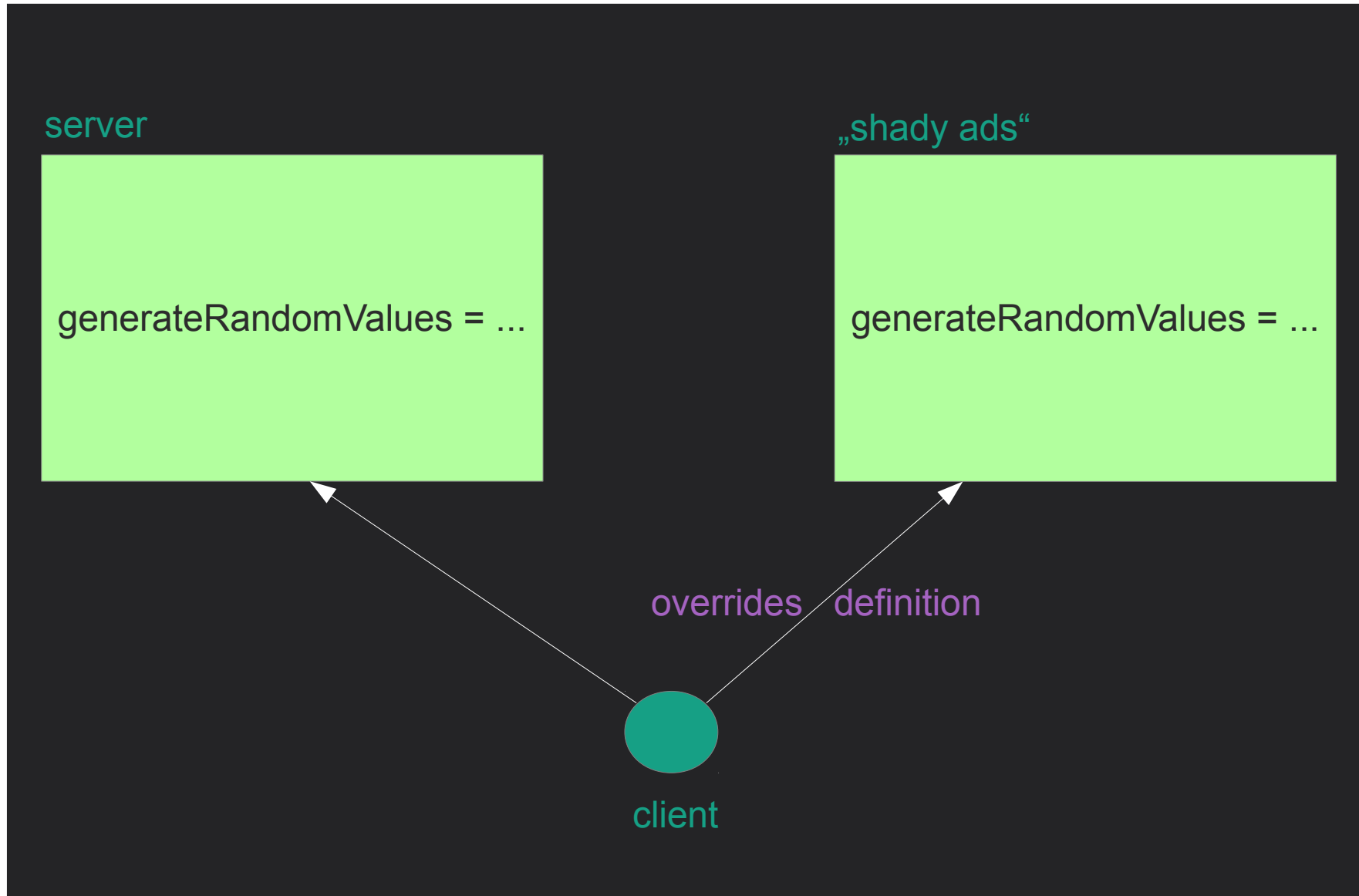


le demo

```
crypto.generateRandomValues = function(array) {  
    array[0] = 42;  
};
```

doesn't even have to be intentional

```
/**
 * FTFY. I benchmarked it and it's *really* fast.
 */
crypto.encrypt = function(value) {
  /* implement ROT26 algorithm */
  return value;
};
```



almost impossible  
to verify the environment



could be changing continuously

</ whining >

„so javascript crypto sucks,  
end of story?“

a new hope

certain things need to stay immutable

sandbox

enable-cors.org

signed javascript

(?)



widely-adopted  
browser-built-in  
crypto functionality

asm.js

exact-width integer types

= typed array support

(<http://www.khronos.org/registry/typedarray/specs/latest/>)

bit-fiddling deluxe

fast

w3c web cryptography api

bigint support



typed array support

built-in csprng

lots of good stuff

„dude, could you  
finally get to the point  
where you tell us  
why we need crypto to begin with?  
i never wrote any crypto code  
and i certainly don't intend to.“

Q: „would you feel comfortable  
sitting on a stranger's lap in the bus?“

why not?

privacy

„if you have  
nothing to hide,  
you have nothing to fear.“



bullshit

everyone has a secret  
that would embarrass  
them if it were public knowledge

people forgive, but the internet does not

with great power comes great responsibility

but not everybody can be spiderman

while our governments may be  
„benevolent in general“

it's individuals that do harm

not the government or „the system“ is evil



people are evil

a series of well-intended **myopic** decisions

may lead to an evil whole



even if companies provide perfect crypto

they store data in plain text

ready for PRISM to pick up

„what can we as individuals  
do against things like prism?“



encrypt shit

don't trust applications to do it for you

do it yourself

-> you're gonna need client-side crypto

institutions may have leverage  
over a single corp

but not over a billion individuals

surveillance

will tremendously change our path of life

by putting **determinism** in it



do we want to live in 1984?

germany has a dark history of surveillance

not a single person felt safer

people were in constant fear

you will be told that using crypto is bad

child molesters, drug lords, bla bla

in short:

„crypto is bad

because it will be abused by bad people“

while at the same time this holds true  
for their very surveillance measures



there is nothing with a light side  
that doesn't also have a dark side

except maybe

this guy



excursion. homomorphic encryption.

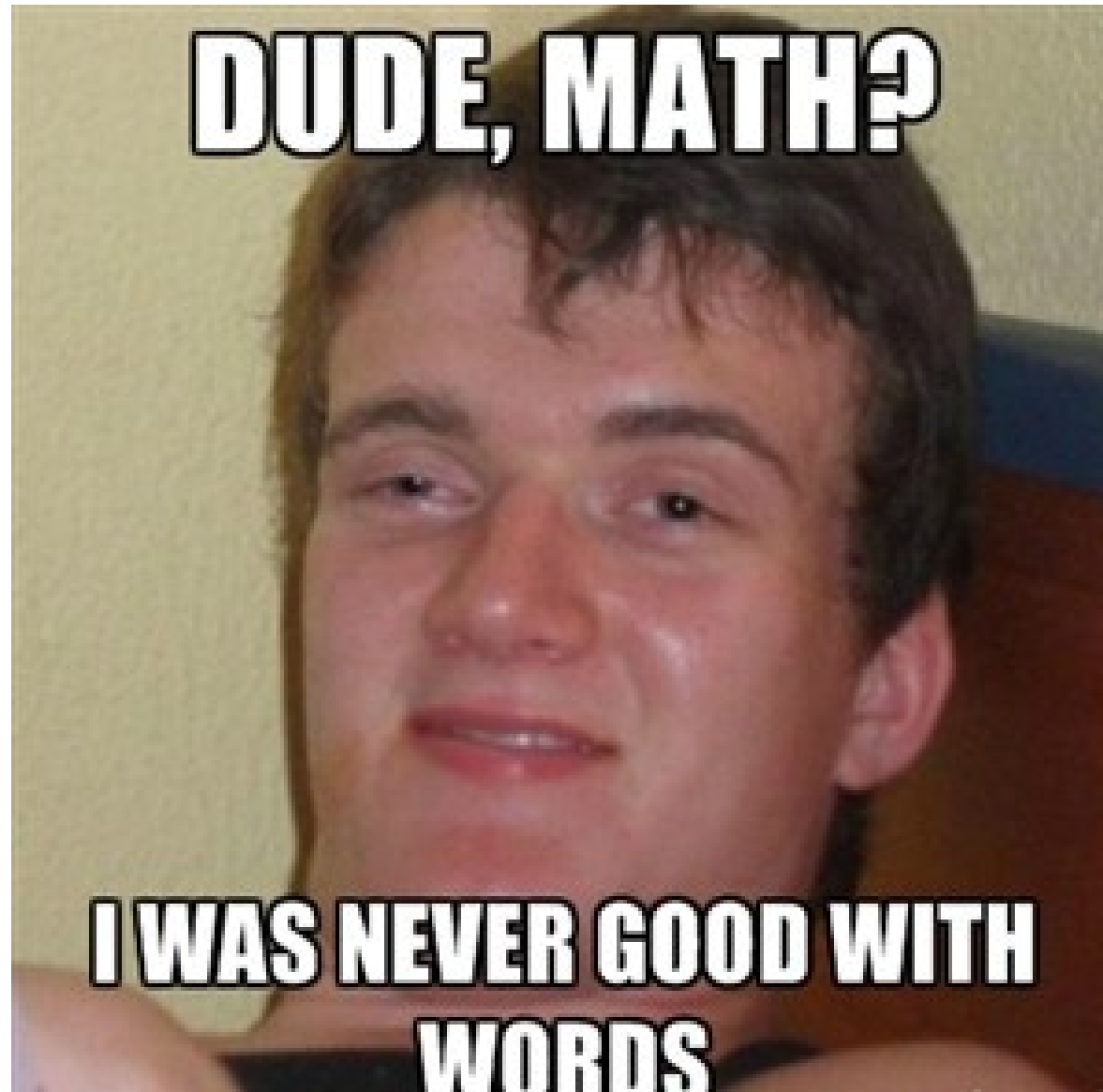
homomorphism

$$f: (G, *) \rightarrow (H, *')$$

such that

$$f(g1 * g2) = f(g1) *' f(g2)$$

for any elements  $g1, g2 \in G$ .



$$f(x) := 1/x$$

G, H := real numbers

\*, \*' := multiplication



$$f(a * b)$$

$$= 1 / (a * b)$$

$$= 1/a * 1/b$$

$$= f(a) *' f(b)$$

„group homomorphism“

rsa

public key  $e$

modulus  $m$

encryption  $E(x) := x^e \bmod m$

$$E(x1 * x2)$$

$$= (x1 * x2)^e \bmod m$$

$$= x1^e * x2^e \bmod m$$

$$= x1^e \bmod m * x2^e \bmod m$$

$$= E(x1) * E(x2)$$

but

$$E(x1+x2)$$

$$= (x1+x2)^e \bmod m$$

$$= \cancel{x1^e + x2^e \bmod m}$$

relatively easy to find

homomorphisms

for one of the two operations



homomorphism in both operations:

fully homomorphic encryption

$$f: (G, +, *) \rightarrow (H, +', *')$$

such that

$$f(g1 * g2) = f(g1) *' f(g2)$$

and

$$f(g1 + g2) = f(g1) +' f(g2)$$

for any elements  $g1, g2 \in G$ .

why is this so desirable?

it preserves the ring structure, that's why!

layman terms:

perform algorithms  
on  
encrypted data

think:

google executes your search  
and returns the correct result  
without learning anything  
about your search term

yay, porn

holy grail of privacy



craig gentry

(<http://www.americanscientist.org/issues/pub/2012/5/alice-and-bob-in-cipherspace>)

„ok, cool story, bro,  
but would you mind  
telling us what we can  
do right now?“

w3c web crypto api

major step forward

will let you do cool things like:

keep your data private in the cloud

store stuff securely in your  
offline html5 app

log into applications  
without revealing the actual password



cryptographically sign documents  
in a browser context

secure messaging

strong authentication using  
smart cards or other tokens

(goodbye, java applets!)

„wait a minute -  
didn't you say that we  
cannot trust js code  
anyway? so how is the  
w3c api gonna help?!“

it all boils down to trust

at some point, you need to trust

thinking this further:

how do you know

any of your software is authentic and/or  
benevolent?



chicken & egg

https download/verifying signature ->

need software for that ->

infinite recursion

still, major improvement

but:

## encrypting data with aes

```
var data = „Le secret“;
var clearDataArrayBufferView = convertPlainTextToArrayBufferView(data);

var aesAlgorithmKeyGen = {
  name: "AES-CBC",
  params: { length: 128 }
};

var aesAlgorithmEncrypt = {
  name: "AES-CBC",
  params: { iv: window.crypto.getRandomValues(new Uint8Array(16)) }
};

var cryptoKeyGen = window.crypto.generateKey(aesAlgorithmKeyGen,
                                              false,
                                              ["encrypt"]);

cryptoKeyGen.oncomplete = function(event) {
  var aesKey = event.target.result;
  var aesOp = window.crypto.encrypt(aesAlgorithmEncrypt,
                                    aesKey,
                                    clearDataArrayBufferView);

  aesOp.oncomplete = function(event) {
    var ciphertext = event.target.result;
  };
  aesOp.onerror = function(event) { console.error("Unable to encrypt."); };
};
```

o\_o

low-level api in the tradition of openssl

with full control



but also full possibility to hang yourself

reasons



stay compatible with **legacy apps**

easily implemented -  
just wrap the underlying c library

no secure defaults

what i want is this

```
var data = „Le secret“;  
var key = window.crypto.generateKey();  
var encrypted = window.crypto.encrypt(key, data);  
/* nuff said */
```

crypto is hard, sure



but do **crypto apis** have to be, too?



krypt. semper pi.

framework that wraps expert apis™

to make crypto accessible for human beings

so how would **you** like the sound of

krypt.js



thank you

<https://github.com/krypt>

<http://martinbosslet.de>

[martin.bosslet@gmail.com](mailto:martin.bosslet@gmail.com)

[@\\_emboss\\_](#)