

L7: Key Distributions



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Acknowledgement

- ❑ Many slides are from or are revised from the slides of the author of the textbook
 - Matt Bishop, Introduction to Computer Security, Addison-Wesley Professional, October, 2004, ISBN-13: 978-0-321-24774-5. [Introduction to Computer Security @ VSU's Safari Book Online subscription](#)
 - <http://nob.cs.ucdavis.edu/book/book-intro/slides/>

Outline

- ❑ Key exchange
 - Session vs. interchange keys
 - Classical, public key methods
- ❑ Cryptographic key infrastructure
 - Certificates
- ❑ Key storage
 - Key revocation
- ❑ Digital signatures

Key Management

- ❑ Distributions of cryptographic keys
- ❑ Mechanisms used to bind an identity to a key
- ❑ Generation, maintenance, and revoking the keys
- ❑ Assumption and definition
 - Meaning of *a user's key*
 - ❑ e.g., Bob's key: a key bound to the identify "Bob"
 - Assume that authentication has been completed and that identify is assigned
 - ❑ Chapter 11 Authentication
 - ❑ Chapter 13. Representing Identify

Notation

- $X \rightarrow Y : \{ Z \parallel W \}_{k_{X,Y}}$
 - X sends Y the message produced by concatenating Z and W enciphered by key $k_{X,Y}$, which is shared by users X and Y
- $A \rightarrow T : \{ Z \}_{k_A} \parallel \{ W \}_{k_{A,T}}$
 - A sends T a message consisting of the concatenation of Z enciphered using k_A , A 's key, and W enciphered using $k_{A,T}$, the key shared by A and T
- r_1, r_2 : nonces, i.e., nonrepeating random numbers
- Alice, Bob: commonly used placeholder names in cryptography and computer security

Session and Interchange Keys

❑ Interchange key

- A cryptographic key associated with a principal to a communication

❑ Session key

- A cryptographic key associated with the communication itself

Example

- ❑ Alice wants to send a message m to Bob
 - Assume public key encryption
- ❑ Alice generates a random cryptographic key k_s and uses it to encipher m
 - To be used for this message *only*
 - k_s called a ***session key***: may change each communication
- ❑ She enciphers k_s with Bob's public key k_B
 - k_B enciphers all session keys Alice uses to communicate with Bob
 - k_B called an ***interchange key***: do not change often
- ❑ Alice sends to Bob $\{m\}_{k_s} \parallel \{k_s\}_{k_B}$

Session Key: Benefits

- ❑ Make cryptanalysis more difficult
 - Limits amount of traffic enciphered with single key
 - Standard practice is to decrease the amount of traffic an attacker can obtain
- ❑ Prevents some attacks
 - Replay attack
 - Forward search attack

Forward Searches

- ❑ A forward search attack
 - Precomputed ciphertexts
 - ❑ The adversary enciphers all plaintexts using the target's public key
 - Intercept and compare
 - ❑ The adversary intercepts a ciphertext and compare with the precomputed ciphertexts to quickly obtain the plaintext.
- ❑ Effective when the set of plaintext messages is small
 - Example
 - ❑ Alice will send Bob message that is either “BUY” or “SELL”.
 - ❑ Eve computes possible ciphertexts $\{ \text{“BUY”} \} k_B$ and $\{ \text{“SELL”} \} k_B$. Eve intercepts enciphered message, compares, and gets plaintext at once

Key Exchange

- ❑ Goal: Alice, Bob get shared key
- ❑ Design criteria
 - Key cannot be transmitted in the clear
 - ❑ Attackers can listen in
 - ❑ Key can be transmitted enciphered, or derived from exchanged data plus data not known to an eavesdropper
 - Alice, Bob may trust a third party, Cathy
 - All cryptosystems, protocols publicly known
 - ❑ Only secret is the keys, ancillary information known only to Alice and Bob needed to derive keys
 - ❑ Anything transmitted is assumed known to attackers

Key Change

❑ Classical Cryptographic Key Exchange

■ For classical cryptographic approaches

- ❑ Classical cryptographic approaches rely on a secret key that is shared between the two communicating parties.
- ❑ Require effort to authenticate the origin of the key

❑ Public Key Cryptographic Key Exchange

■ For public key cryptographic approaches

- ❑ Public key is readily to be shared
- ❑ Require effort to authenticate the origin of the public key

Classical Cryptographic Key Exchange Algorithms

- ❑ Goal: Let Alice and Bob get their shared key
- ❑ The shared key allows the secret communication between Alice and Bob using a classical cryptographic method
- ❑ Key exchange algorithms go through multiple attack & fix cycles
 - Protocol → attack → fix → new protocol → attack → fix ...

Solution Criteria

- ❑ Key cannot be transmitted in the clear
 - Otherwise, an attacker can listen in
 - Key can be sent enciphered, or derived from exchanged data plus data not known to an eavesdropper
- ❑ All cryptosystems, protocols publicly known
 - Only secret data is the keys, ancillary information known only to Alice and Bob needed to derive keys
 - Anything transmitted is assumed known to attacker
- ❑ Alice and Bob may trust a third party (called “Cathy” here)

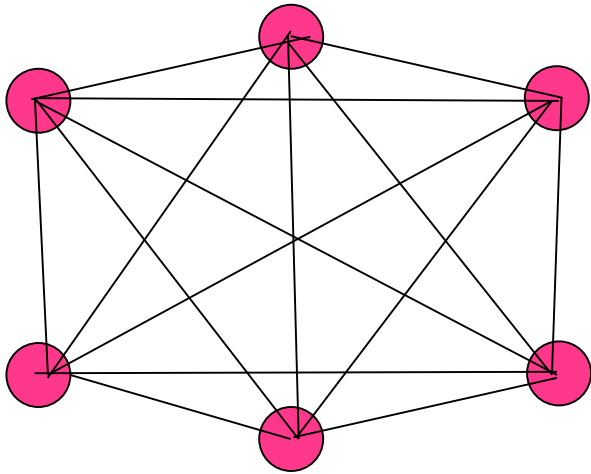
Bootstrap Problem

- ❑ Alice cannot transmit the key to Bob in the clear!
- ❑ how do Alice and Bob begin?

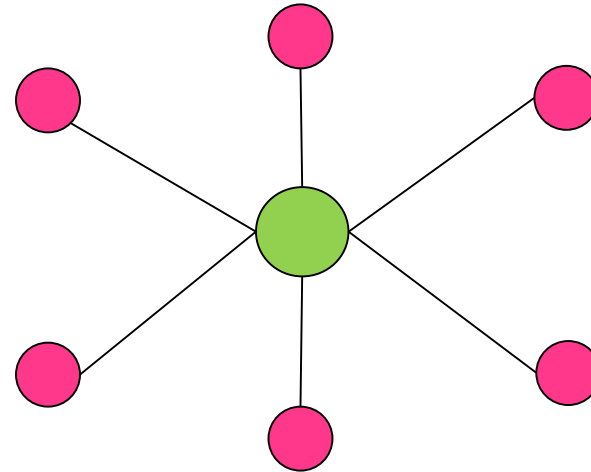
With or Without 3rd Party

- Example: share key via arranged “*physical meetings*”

Without the 3rd party



With the 3rd party

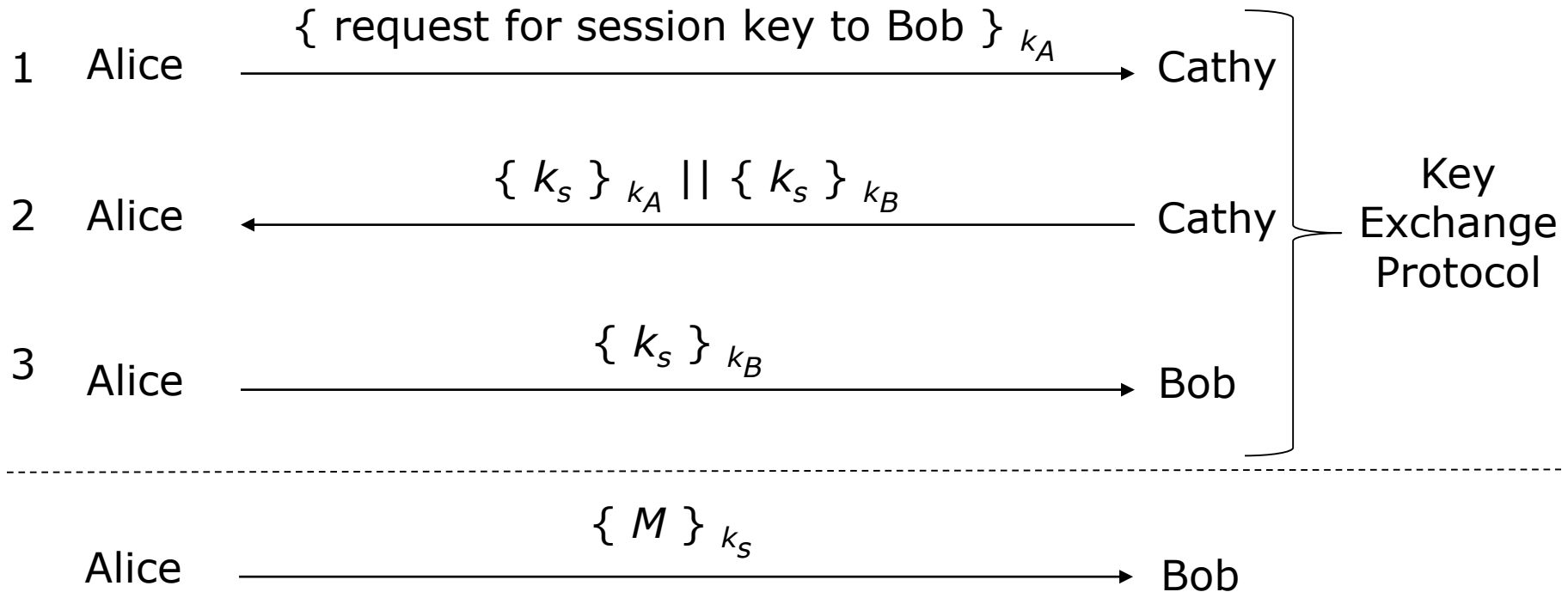


Trusted 3rd Party

- Assume trusted third party, Cathy
 - Alice and Cathy share secret key k_A
 - Bob and Cathy share secret key k_B
- Rely on Cathy to exchange shared *session key* k_s

Simple Protocol

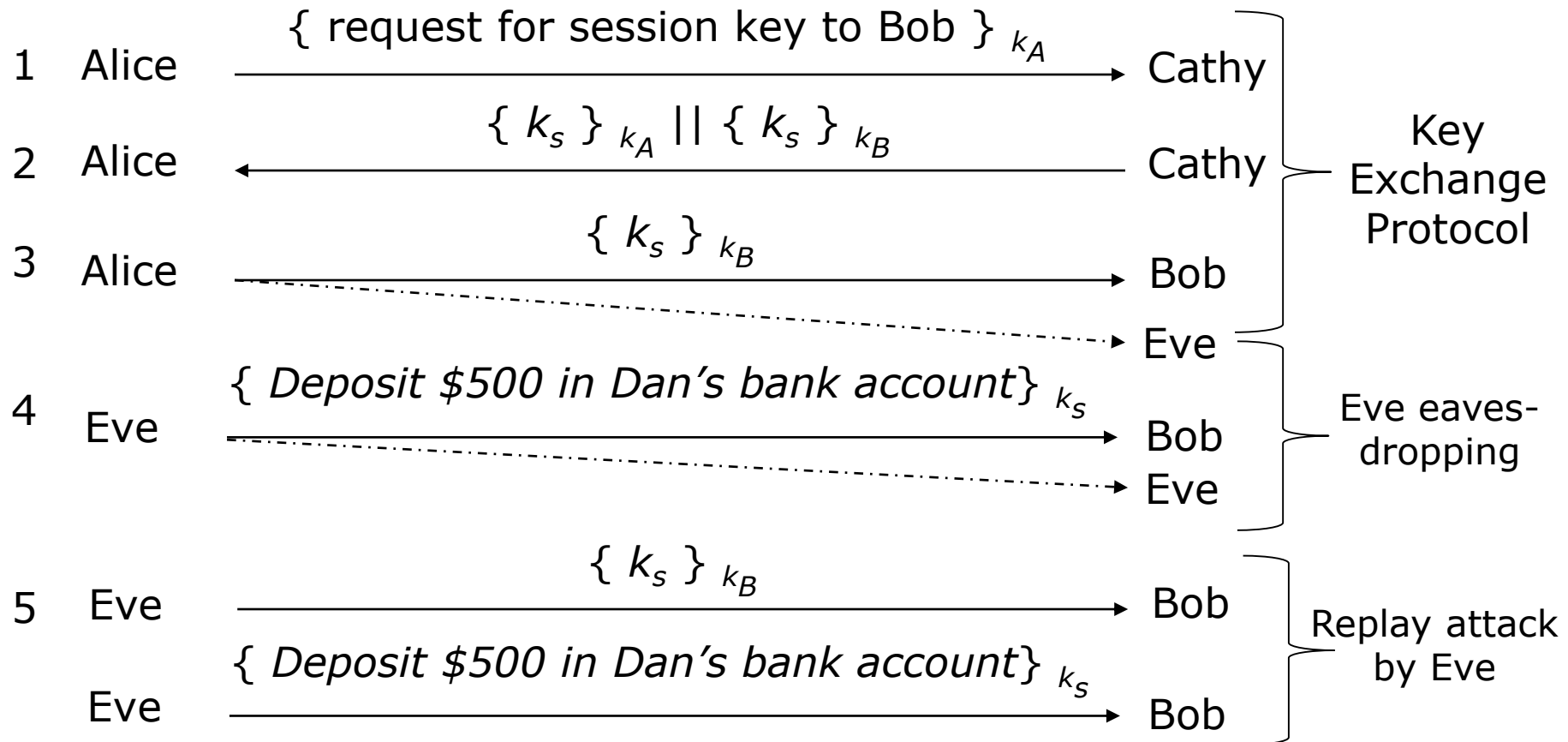
- Alice wants to start a secret communication with Bob



Simple Protocol: Replay Attack

- ❑ Bob does not know to whom he is talking
- ❑ Replay attack
 - Alice transmits to Bob an enciphered message, e.g.,
 $\{\text{“Deposit \$500 in Dan’s bank account today”}\}_{k_s}$
 - Eve eavesdrops the communication and records the message and $\{k_s\}_{k_B}$
 - Eve later replays $\{k_s\}_{k_B}$ followed by $\{\text{“Deposit \$500 in Dan’s bank account today”}\}_{k_s}$
 - Bob may think he is talking to Alice, but he is not. He is actually talking to Eve

Simple Protocol: Replay Attack



Simple Protocol: Problems

- ❑ Replay attack
 - Bob does not know to whom he is talking. Eve can record and replay messages
- ❑ Session key reuse
 - When Eve replays message from Alice to Bob, Bob re-uses session key
- ❑ Protocols must provide authentication and defense against replay

Needham-Schroeder Protocol

- Adds authentication with random nonces

Alice || Bob || r_1

1 Alice → Cathy

$\{ \text{Alice} || \text{Bob} || r_1 || k_s || \{ \text{Alice} || k_s \}_{k_B} \}_{k_A}$

2 Alice ← Cathy

$\{ \text{Alice} || k_s \}_{k_B}$

3 Alice → Bob

$\{ r_2 \}_{k_s}$

4 Alice ← Bob

$\{ r_2 - 1 \}_{k_s}$

5 Alice → Bob

Authentications via Key Sharing and Nonces

- ❑ Alice needs to know she is talking to Cathy and Bob
- ❑ Bob needs to know he is talking to Alice
- ❑ How?
 - Nonces: non-repeating random numbers r_1 and r_2
 - Key sharing: shared keys (K_A and K_B) are a secret between the parties who shared the keys
- ❑ Assumption: all keys are secure
 - Alice shares K_A with Cathy and nobody else
 - Bob shares K_B with Cathy and nobody else
 - Nonces and session keys are non-repeating

Is it *Alice* that Bob is talking to?

□ Third message (Alice \rightarrow Bob)

- Bob deciphered the message enciphered using key (K_B) that only he, Bob knows
- The messages names *Alice* and contains session key K_S
- Note that Alice does not know K_B . It must have been Cathy that provided session key and named *Alice* is other party

Is it *Alice* that Bob is talking to?

- ❑ Note that the third message only provides evidence that Alice at sometime initiated the *communication*. Is the message a replay by Eve?
- ❑ Assumption: Cathy does not recycle K_S
- ❑ Fourth message (Bob \rightarrow Alice)
 - Bob initiates a *challenge*, *i.e.*, uses session key to determine if it is a replay from Eve
 - The challenging message contains a non-repeating random number, nonce r_2 , generated by Bob.
 - ❑ If not, Alice will respond correctly in fifth message
 - ❑ If so, Eve cannot decipher r_2 and so cannot respond, or responds incorrectly

Is it *Alice* that Bob is talking to?

□ Fifth message (Alice \rightarrow Bob)

- Alice answers the challenge by deciphering the message, obtaining nonce r_2 , do a simple agreed computation, and returns the answer.
- If the answer to the challenge is correct, it is *Alice* who responds the challenge
- Eve cannot decipher r_2 and so cannot respond, or responds incorrectly

□ Bob can determine if it is *Alice* that he is talking to

Is it *Bob* that Alice is talking to?

- Second message (Cathy \rightarrow Alice)
 - Alice decipher the message.
 - Message enciphered using key K_A that only Cathy knows besides herself. It is Cathy who transmits the message.
 - It is a response to the first message, as r_1 in it matches r_1 in first message. The message is *fresh* and not a replay.

Is it *Bob* that Alice is talking to?

□ Third message (Alice → Bob)

- The message is received from Cathy, the trusted third party. Alice forwards the message to Bob.
- The message is enciphered using Bob's key K_B .
- Alice knows only Bob can read it, as only Bob can derive session key from message that is enciphered using K_B
- Any messages enciphered with that key are from Bob

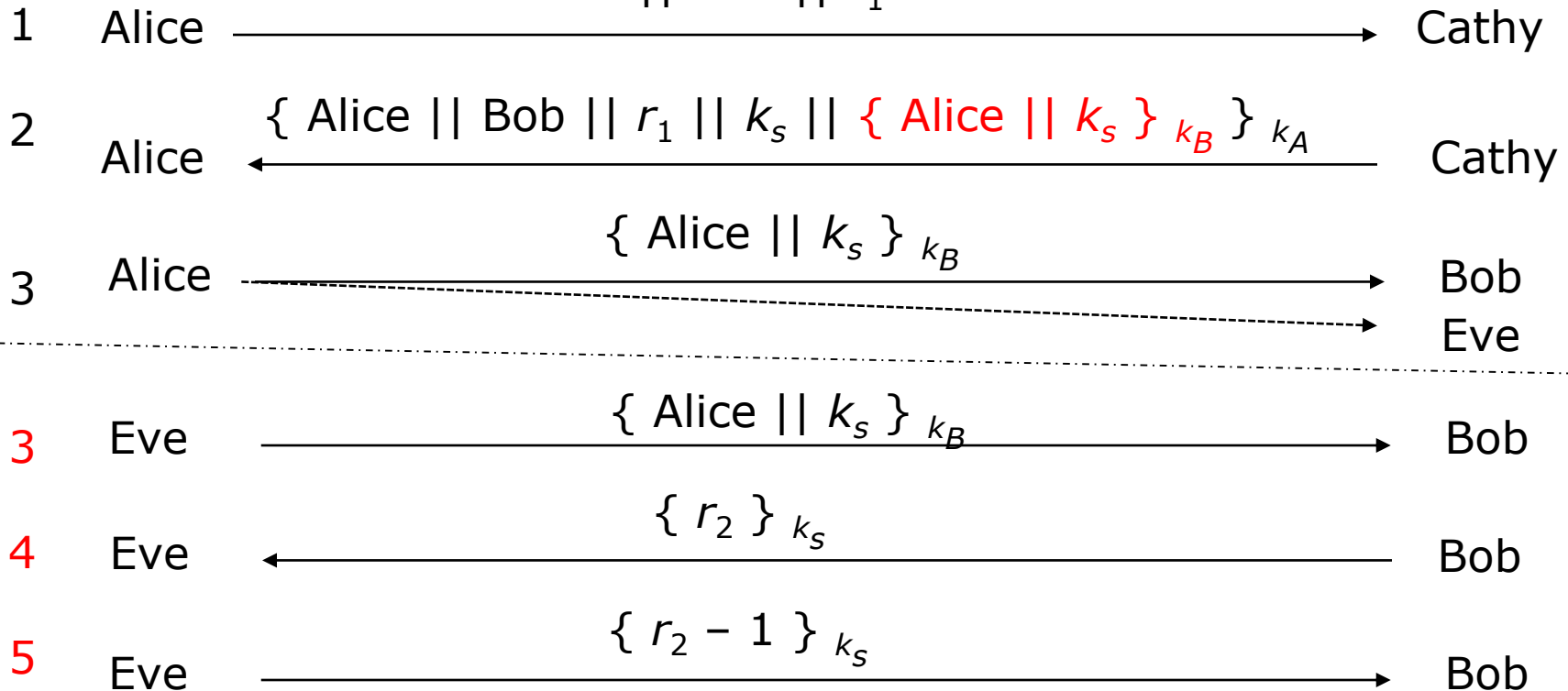
Denning & Sacco's Argument

- ❑ Assumption of the Needham-Schroeder protocol:
all keys are secure
- ❑ Question: suppose Eve can obtain session key.
How does that affect the Needham-Schroeder
protocol?

Denning & Sacco's Argument

□ In what follows, Eve knows k_s

Alice || Bob || r_1

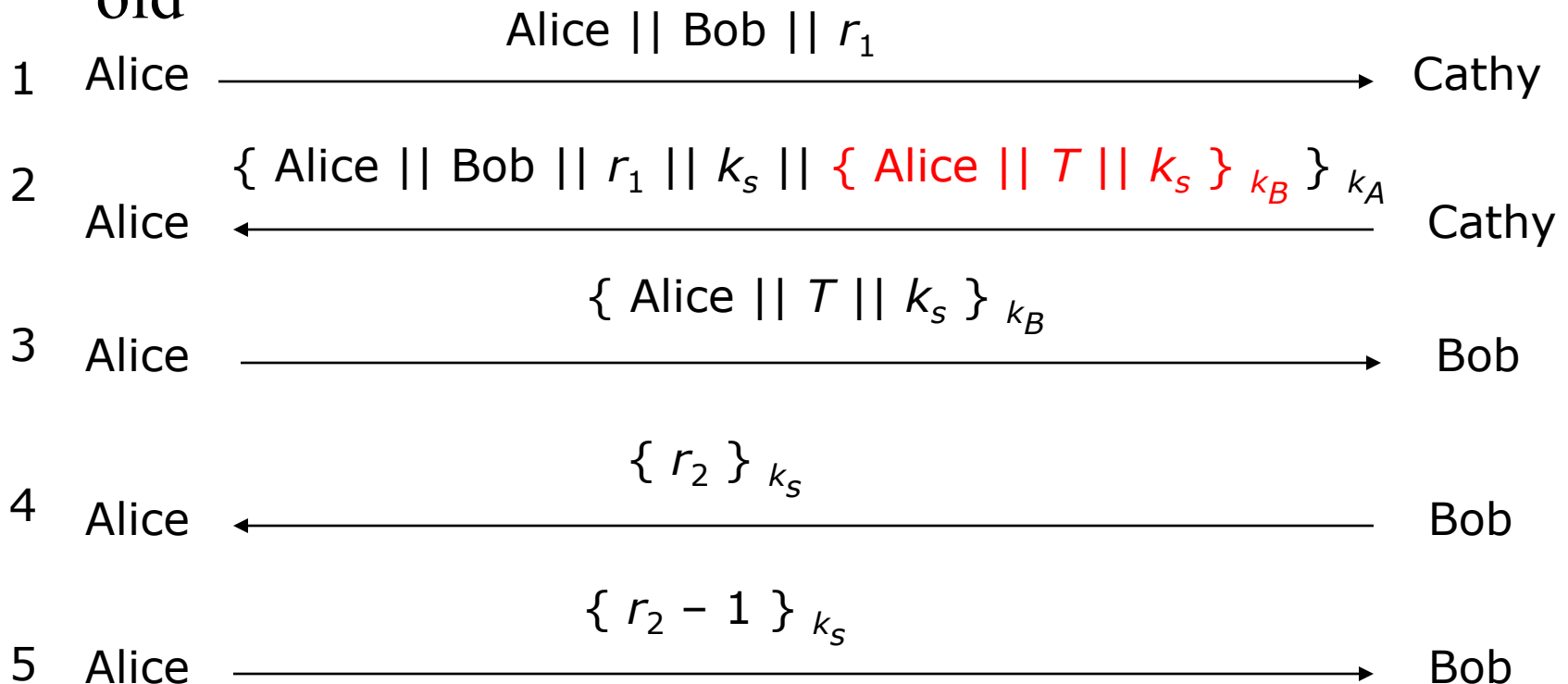


Denning-Sacco's Solution

- ❑ In protocol above, Eve impersonates Alice
- ❑ Problem: Eve replays intercepted third message in third step
- ❑ Solution: use time stamp T to detect replay

Needham-Schroeder with Denning-Sacco Modification

- Introduce a time stamp. Reject messages that are too old



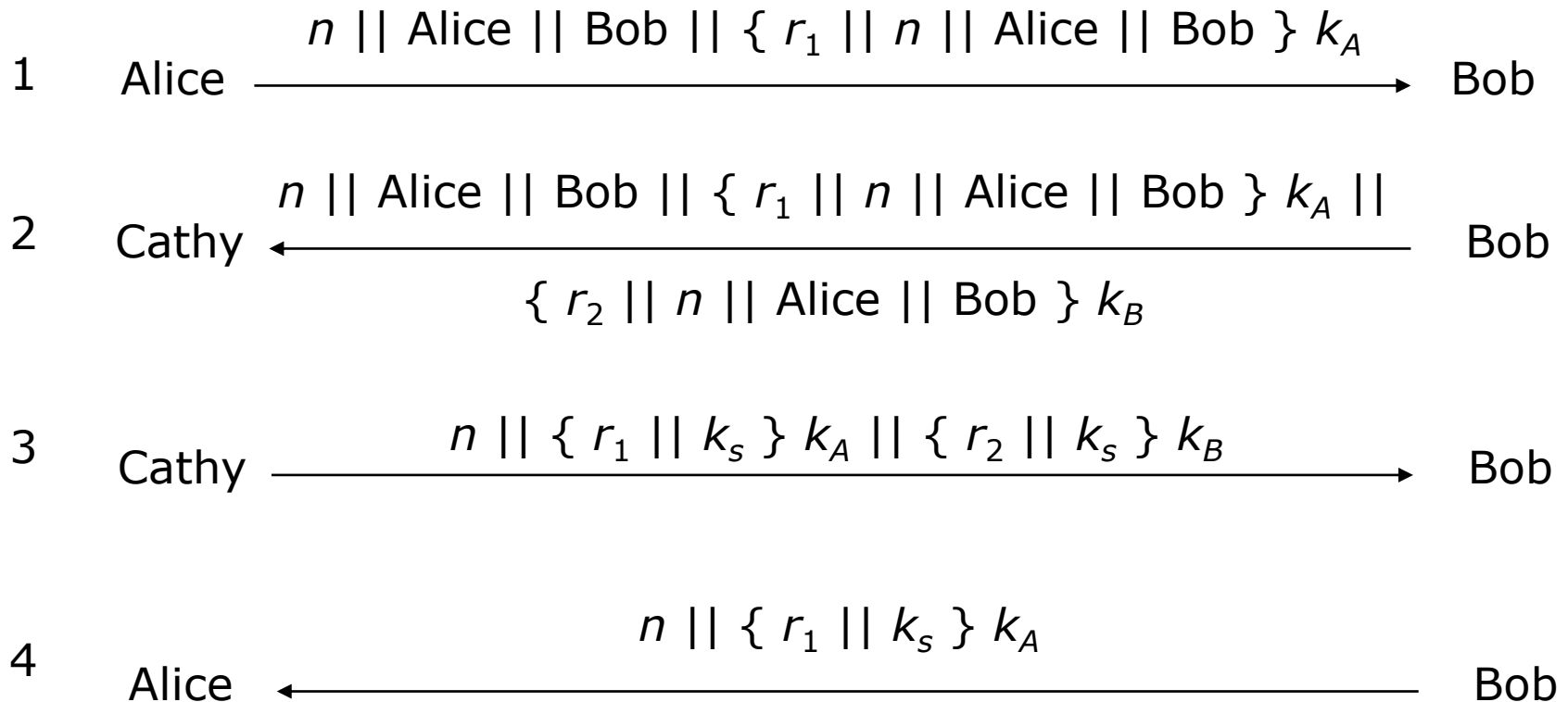
Denning-Sacco's Solution: Weakness

- ❑ Solution: use time stamp T to detect replay
- ❑ Weakness: if clocks *not synchronized*, may either reject valid messages or accept replays
 - Parties with either slow or fast clocks vulnerable to replay
 - Resetting clock does *not* eliminate vulnerability

Otway-Rees Protocol

- ❑ Corrects problems with introducing an integer n and avoiding using timestamp
 - That is, to detect Eve's replaying the third message in the protocol
- ❑ Does not use timestamps
 - Not vulnerable to the problems that Denning-Sacco modification has
- ❑ Uses integer n to associate all messages with particular exchange

Otway-Rees Protocol



Is it *Alice* that Bob is talking to?

□ Third message (Cathy → Bob)

- If n matches second message, Bob knows it is part of this protocol exchange
- Cathy generated k_s because only she and Bob know k_B
- Enciphered part belongs to this protocol exchange as r_2 matches r_2 in encrypted part of second message

Is it *Bob* that Alice is talking to?

□ Fourth message (Bob \rightarrow Alice)

- If n matches first message, Alice knows it is part of this protocol exchange
- Cathy generated k_s because only she and Alice know k_A
- Enciphered part belongs to this protocol exchange as r_1 matches r_1 in encrypted part of first message

Replay Attack

- ❑ Eve acquires old k_s , message in third step and attempts to impersonate Bob
 - $n \parallel \{ r_1 \parallel k_s \} k_A \parallel \{ r_2 \parallel k_s \} k_B$
- ❑ Eve forwards appropriate part to Alice
 - Alice has no ongoing key exchange with Bob: n matches nothing, so is rejected
 - Alice has ongoing key exchange with Bob: n does not match, so is again rejected

Replay Attack

- ❑ The only way that Eve can impersonate Bob is that Eve's replay is for the current key exchange
- ❑ Eve sent the relevant part *before* Bob did.
- ❑ If this is the scenario, Eve could simply listen to traffic
- ❑ No replay would be involved

Classical Cryptographic Key Exchange in Practice

❑ Kerberos

- A client, Alice, wants to use a server S.
- Kerberos requires her to use two servers to obtain a credential that will authenticate her to S
 - ❑ First, she must authenticate herself to the Kerberos System
 - ❑ Second, she must obtain a ticket to use S

❑ Use Classical Cryptographic Key Exchange

- Requires a trusted third party

❑ Unix & Unix-like operating systems (e.g., Linux, OS X) and Windows

Kerberos

□ Authentication system

- A client, Alice, wants to use a server S . Kerberos requires her to use two servers (*authentication server* and *ticket-granting server*) to obtain a credential that will authenticate her to server S .
- Based on Needham-Schroeder with Denning-Sacco modification
 - Authentication server plays role of trusted third party (“Cathy”)
 - Ticket: Issuer vouches for identity of requester of service
 - Authenticator (authentication server): Identifies sender

Main Idea

- ❑ User u authenticates to Kerberos *authentication server*
- ❑ User u obtains ticket $T_{u,TGS}$ for Kerberos *ticket-granting service* (TGS)
- ❑ User u wants to use service s :
 - User u sends (authenticator A_u , ticket $T_{u,TGS}$) to TGS asking for a *ticket for service*
 - TGS sends ticket $T_{u,s}$ to user u
 - User u sends (A_u , $T_{u,s}$) to server as a request to use s

Ticket

- ❑ Credential vouchering issuer has identified ticket requester
- ❑ Example ticket issued to user u for service s

$$T_{u,s} = s \parallel \{ u \parallel u\text{'s address} \parallel \text{valid time} \parallel k_{u,s} \} k_s$$

where:

- $k_{u,s}$ is session key for user and service
- Valid time is interval for which ticket valid
- u 's address may be IP address or something else
 - ❑ Note: more fields, but not relevant here

Authenticator

- ❑ Credential containing identity of sender of ticket
 - Used to confirm sender is entity to which ticket was issued
- ❑ Example: authenticator that user u generates for service s

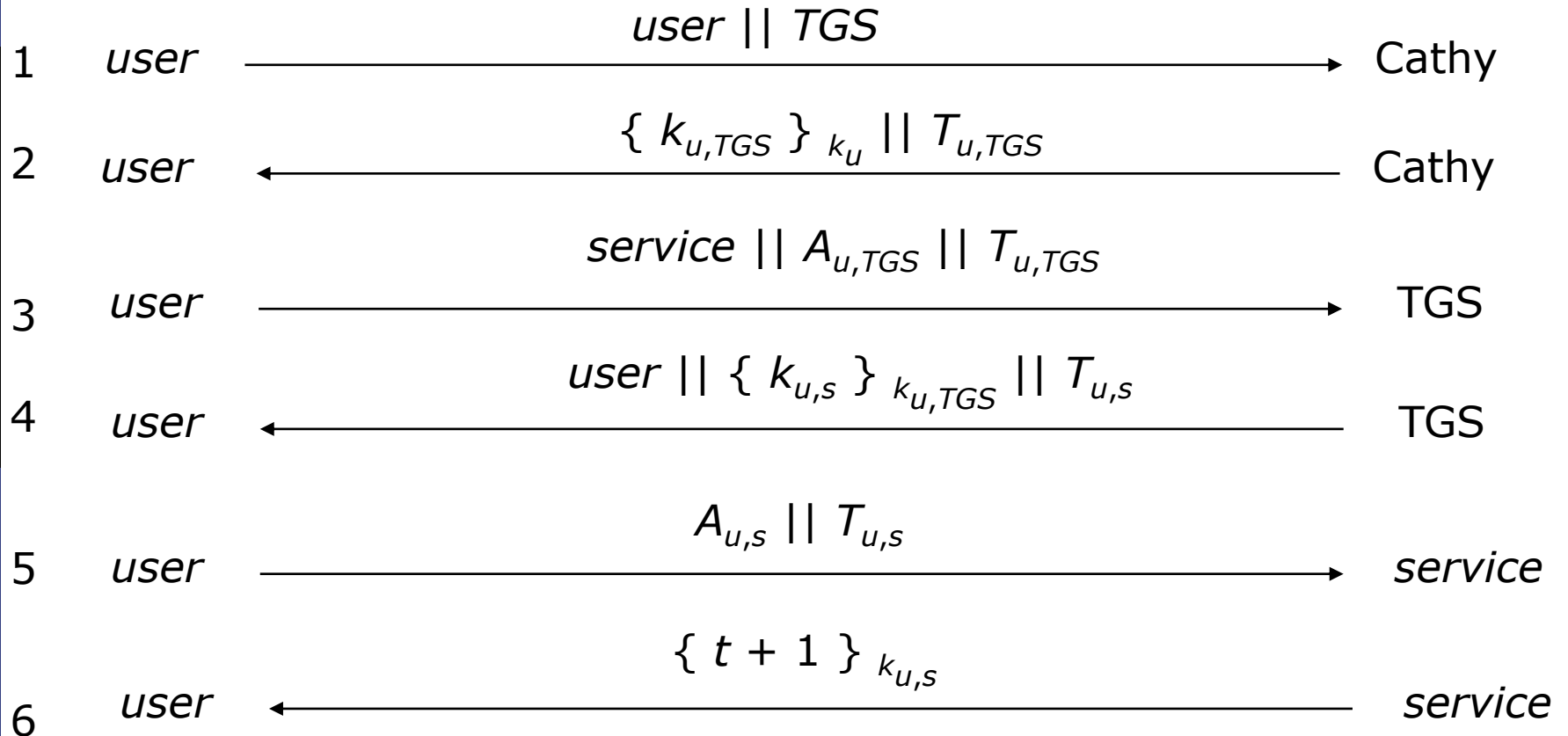
$$A_{u,s} = \{ u \parallel \text{generation time} \parallel k_t \}_{k_{u,s}}$$

where:

- k_t is alternate session key
- Generation time is when authenticator generated
 - ❑ Note: more fields, not relevant here

Protocol

- Where “Cathy” is the Kerberos authentication server



Analysis: Steps 1 - 2

- First two steps get user ticket to use TGS
 - User u can obtain session key only if u knows key shared with Cathy (K_u)

Analysis: Steps 3 - 6

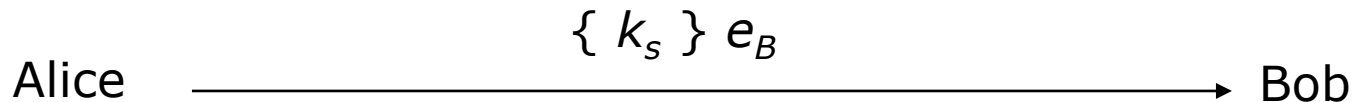
- Next four steps show how u gets and uses ticket for service s
 - Service s validates request by checking sender (using $A_{u,s}$) is same as entity ticket issued to
 - Step 6 optional; used when u requests confirmation

Problems

- ❑ Relies on synchronized clocks
 - If not synchronized and old tickets, authenticators not cached, replay is possible (Bellovin & Merritt, 1991)
- ❑ Tickets have some fixed fields
 - Dictionary attacks possible
 - Weakness in Kerberos 4 (Dole, Lodin, and Spafford, 1997)
 - ❑ Session keys weak (had much less than 56 bits of randomness);
 - ❑ Researchers at Purdue found them from tickets in minutes
- ❑ Kerberos 5
 - Improvements (e.g., adopted AES)
 - Authenticators are valid for 5 minutes

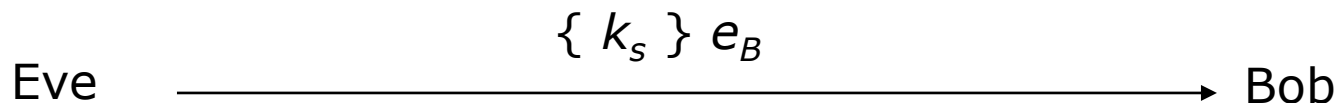
Public Key Cryptographic Key Exchange

- ❑ Public key cryptographic makes exchanging keys very easy
 - e_A, e_B Alice and Bob's *public keys known to all*
 - d_A, d_B Alice and Bob's private keys known only to owner
- ❑ Simple protocol
 - k_s is desired session key



Problem

- ❑ Similar flaw to the original classical key exchange protocol
- ❑ Vulnerable to forgery or replay
 - Because e_B known to anyone, Bob has no assurance that Alice sent message
 - Eve can forge such a message



Solution

□ Authenticate Sender, i.e., Alice

- Simple fix: Alice signs the session key K_s using her private key d_A

Alice $\xrightarrow{\{ \{ k_s \}_{d_A} \}_{e_B}}$ Bob

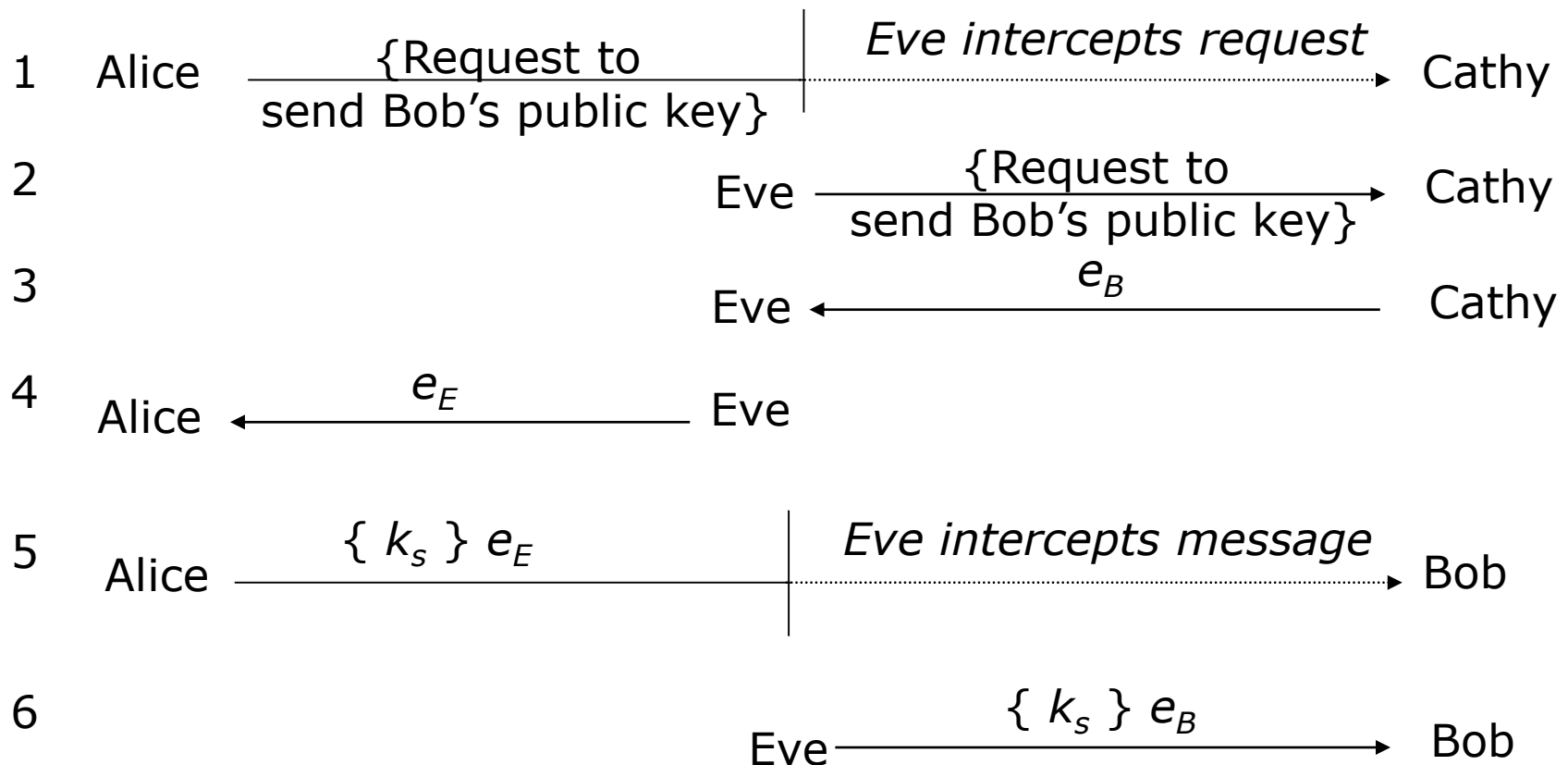
- Bob deciphers the message using his *private key* (d_B) to obtain $\{k_s\}_{d_A}$
- Bob deciphers $\{k_s\}_{d_A}$ using Alice *public key* and thereby *authenticates Alice*

Discussion

- ❑ Can also include message enciphered with k_s (Schneier, 1996)
- ❑ Man-in-the-middle attack
 - The above assumes Bob has Alice's public key, and *vice versa*
 - If *not*, each must get it from public server
 - If keys not bound to identity of owner, attacker Eve can launch a *man-in-the-middle* attack

Man-in-the-Middle Attack

□ Cathy is public server providing public keys



Man-in-the-Middle Attack

- ❑ When presented with a public key purportedly belonging to Bob, Alice has no way to verify that the public key in fact belongs to Bob
- ❑ Solution
 - binding identity to keys
 - Discussed later as public key infrastructure (PKI)

Summary

- ❑ Key management critical to effective use of cryptosystems
 - Different levels of keys (session vs. interchange)
- ❑ Key Exchange for Classical Cryptography
- ❑ Key Exchange for Public Key Cryptography
- ❑ Lessons learned from attack and fix cycles