

# Asymmetric key management



## Asymmetric key management : Goals

- ▷ Key pair generation
  - ♦ When and how should they be generated
- ▷ Exploitation of private keys
  - ♦ How can they be kept private
- ▷ Distribution of public keys
  - ♦ How can them be distributed correctly worldwide
- ▷ Lifetime of key pairs
  - ♦ Until when should they be used
  - ♦ How can one check the obsolescence of a key pair



## Generation of key pairs: Design principles

- ▷ Good random generators for producing secrets
  - ♦ Bernoulli  $\frac{1}{2}$  generator
    - Memoryless generator, unpredictability is crucial!!
    - $P(b=1) = P(b=0) = 1/2$
- ▷ Facilitate without compromising security
  - ♦ Efficient RSA public keys
    - Few bits, typically  $2^k+1$  values (3, 17, 65537 =  $2^{16} + 1$ )
    - Accelerates operations with public keys
    - No security issues
- ▷ Self-generation of private keys
  - ♦ To maximize privacy
  - ♦ This principle can be relaxed when not involving signatures



## Exploitation of private keys

- ▷ Correctness
  - ♦ The private key represents a subject
    - Its compromise must be minimized
    - Physically secure backup copies can exist in some cases
  - ♦ The access path to the private key must be controlled
    - Access protection with password or PIN
    - Correctness of applications
- ▷ Confinement
  - ♦ Protection of the private key inside a (reduced) security domain (ex. cryptographic token)
    - The token generates key pairs
    - The token exports the public key but never the private key
    - The token internally encrypts/decrypts with the private key

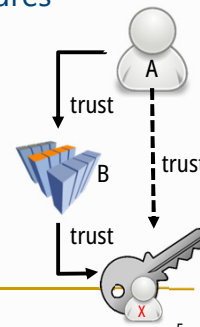


## Distribution of public keys

- ▷ Distribution to all **senders** of confidential data
  - Manual
  - Using a shared secret
  - Ad-hoc using digital certificates
- ▷ Distribution to all **receivers** of digital signatures
  - Ad-hoc using digital certificates
- ▷ Trustworthy dissemination of public keys
  - Transitive trust paths / graphs

If entity A trusts entity B and B trust in  $K_X^+$ ,  
then A trusts in  $K_X^+$

  - Certification hierarchies / graphs



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## Public key (digital) certificates

- ▷ Documents issued by a Certification Authority (CA)
  - Bind a public key to an entity
    - Person, server or service
  - Are public documents
    - Do not contain private information, only public one
  - Are cryptographically secure
    - Digitally signed by the issuer, cannot be changed
- ▷ Can be used to distribute public keys in a trustworthy way
  - A certificate receiver can validate it
    - With the CA's public key
  - If the signer (CA) public key is trusted, and the signature is correct, then the receiver can trust the (certified) public key
    - As the CA trust the public key, if the receiver trusts on the CA public key, the receiver can trust on the public key



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# Public key (digital) certificates

## ▷ X.509v3 standard

### ♦ Mandatory fields

- Version
- Subject
- Public key
- Dates (issuing, deadline)
- Issuer
- Signature
- etc.

### ♦ Extensions

- Critical or non-critical

## ▷ PKCS #6

- ♦ Extended-Certificate Syntax Standard

## ▷ Binary formats

### ♦ ASN.1 (Abstract Syntax Notation)

- DER, CER, BER, etc.

### ♦ PKCS #7

- Cryptographic Message Syntax Standard

### ♦ PKCS #12

- Personal Information Exchange Syntax Standard

## ▷ Other formats

### ♦ PEM (Privacy Enhanced Mail)

- ♦ base64 encodings of X.509



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# Key pair usage

## ▷ A key pair is bound to a usage profile by its public key certificate

- ♦ Public keys are seldom multi-purpose

## ▷ Typical usages

### ♦ Authentication / key distribution

- Digital signature, Key encipherment, Data encipherment, Key agreement

### ♦ Document signing

- Digital signature, Non-repudiation

### ♦ Certificate issuing

- Certificate signing, CRL signing

## ▷ Public key certificates have an extension for this

- ♦ Key usage (critical)



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# Certification Authorities (CA)

- ▷ Organizations that manage public key certificates
- ▷ Define policies and mechanisms for
  - ♦ Issuing certificates
  - ♦ Revoking certificates
  - ♦ Distributing certificates
  - ♦ Issuing and distributing the corresponding private keys
- ▷ Manage certificate revocation lists
  - ♦ Lists of revoked certificates



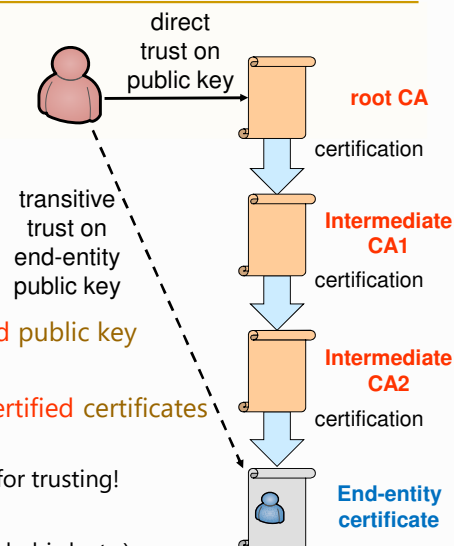
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## CA types

- ▷ Intermediate CAs
  - ♦ CAs certified by other CAs
- ▷ Root CAs
  - ♦ CAs for which one has a **trusted** public key
  - ♦ **Trust anchor**
  - ♦ Usually implemented by **self-certified** certificates
    - Issuer = Subject
    - Self-certification is not a reason for trusting!
  - ♦ **Manual distribution**
    - Tools' repositories (Firefox, Thunderbird, etc.)
    - Operating systems' repositories



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# Certificates of Root CAs: Windows 10

Issued To	Issued By	Expiration Date
127.0.0.1	127.0.0.1	05/08/2032
AAA Certificate Services	AAA Certificate Services	31/12/2028
AdiTrust External CA Root	AdiTrust External CA Root	30/05/2020
Andre Zuquete Root CA	Andre Zuquete Root CA	21/09/2025
Baltimore CyberTrust Root	Baltimore CyberTrust Root	12/05/2025
Certum CA	Certum CA	11/06/2027
Certum Trusted Network CA	Certum Trusted Network CA	31/12/2029
Check Point Mobile	Check Point Mobile	08/11/2030
Class 3 Public Primary Certification Authority	Class 3 Public Primary Certification Authority	01/08/2028
COMODO RSA Certification Authority	COMODO RSA Certification Authority	18/01/2038
Copyright (c) 1997 Microsoft Corp.	Copyright (c) 1997 Microsoft Corp.	30/12/1999
DigiCert Assured ID Root CA	DigiCert Assured ID Root CA	10/11/2031
DigiCert Global Root CA	DigiCert Global Root CA	10/11/2031
DigiCert Global Root G2	DigiCert Global Root G2	15/01/2038
DigiCert High Assurance EV Root CA	DigiCert High Assurance EV Root CA	10/11/2031
DST Root CA X3	DST Root CA X3	30/09/2021
Entrust Root Certification Authority - G2	Entrust Root Certification Authority - G2	07/12/2030
Global Chambersign Root - 2008	Global Chambersign Root - 2008	31/07/2038
GlobalSign	GlobalSign	18/03/2029
GlobalSign	GlobalSign	15/12/2021
GlobalSign Root CA	GlobalSign Root CA	28/01/2028
Go Daddy Class 2 Certification Authority	Go Daddy Class 2 Certification Authority	29/06/2034
Go Daddy Root Certificate Authority - G2	Go Daddy Root Certificate Authority - G2	31/12/2037
Hotspot 2.0 Trust Root CA - G3	Hotspot 2.0 Trust Root CA - G3	08/12/2043
Microsoft Authenticode(tm) Root Authority	Microsoft Authenticode(tm) Root Authority	31/12/1999
Microsoft ECC Product Root Certificate Authority 2018	Microsoft ECC Product Root Certificate Authority 2018	27/02/2043
Microsoft ECC TS Root Certificate Authority 2018	Microsoft ECC TS Root Certificate Authority 2018	27/02/2043
Microsoft Root Authority	Microsoft Root Authority	31/12/2020
Microsoft Root Certificate Authority	Microsoft Root Certificate Authority	08/05/2021
Microsoft Root Certificate Authority, 2010	Microsoft Root Certificate Authority, 2010	13/06/2036



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# Certs. of Intermediate CAs: Windows 10

Issued To	Issued By	Expiration Date	In
(Teste) EC de Assinatura Digital Qualificada do Cartão de Cidadão 0008	(Teste)Cartão de Cidadão	17/06/2019	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 001	ECRaEstado	29/01/2019	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 002	ECRaEstado	30/05/2025	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 003	ECRaEstado	22/04/2026	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 004	ECRaEstado	15/09/2029	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 005	ECRaEstado	19/06/2030	Se
Cartão de Cidadão 006	ECRaEstado 002	20/03/2034	Se
COMODO RSA Code Signing CA	COMODO RSA Code Signing CA	08/05/2028	Se
EC de Assinatura Digital Qualificada do Cartão de Cidadão 0014	Cartão de Cidadão 004	01/03/2030	Se
EC de Assinatura Digital Qualificada do Cartão de Cidadão 0017	Cartão de Cidadão 006	06/02/2032	Se
EC de Autenticação do Cartão de Cidadão 0014	Cartão de Cidadão 004	01/03/2030	Se
EC de Autenticação do Cartão de Cidadão 0017	Cartão de Cidadão 006	06/02/2032	Se
ECRaEstado	MULTICERT Root Certification Authority	16/04/2030	Se
GlobalSign Extended Validation CodeSigning CA - SHA256 - G3	GlobalSign	15/06/2024	Se
Microsoft ECC Update Secure Server CA 2.1	Microsoft ECC Update Secure Server CA 2.1	28/09/2033	Se
Microsoft Windows Hardware Compatibility	Microsoft Root Authority	31/12/2002	Se
Root Agency	Root Agency	31/12/2039	Se
www.verisign.com/CPS Incorp.by Ref. LIABILITY LTD.(c)97 VeriSign	Class 3 Public Primary Certification Authority	24/10/2016	Se

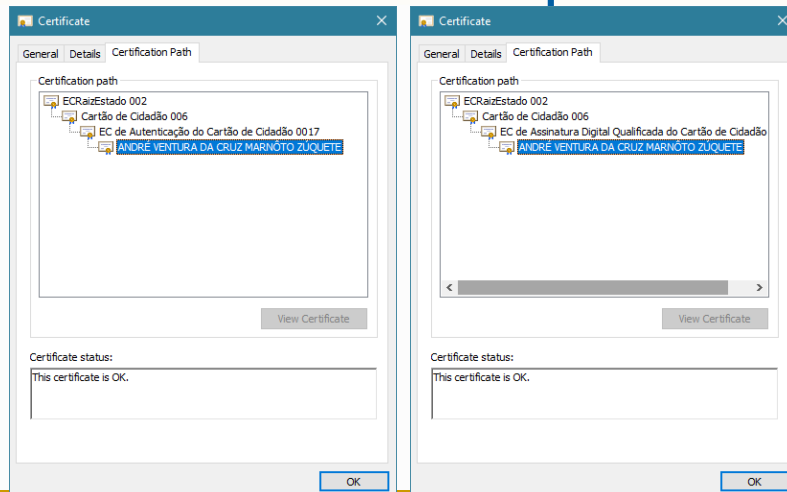


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## Certification hierarchies (or chains, paths): Cartão de Cidadão example



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## Certification hierarchies: PEM (Privacy Enhanced Mail) model

- ▷ Distribution of certificates for PEM (secure e-mail)
  - ♦ Worldwide hierarchy (**monopoly**)
  - ♦ Single root (IPRA)
  - ♦ Several PCA (Policy Creation Authorities) bellow the root
  - ♦ Several CA below each PCA
    - Possibly belonging to organizations or companies
- ▷ Never implemented
  - ♦ Forest of hierarchies
    - Each with its independent root CA
    - **Oligarchy**
  - ♦ Each root CA negotiates the distribution of its public key along with some applications or operating systems
    - ex. Browsers, Windows



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# Certification hierarchies:

## PGP (Pretty Good Privacy) model

### Web of trust

- No central trustworthy authorities
  - Each person is a potential certifier
  - Can certify a public key (issue a certificate) and publish it
- People uses 2 kinds of trust
  - Trust in the **keys they know**
    - Validated using any means (FAX, telephone, etc.)
  - Trust in the **behavior of certifiers**
    - Assumption that they know what they are doing when issuing a certificate

### Transitive trust

- If
  - Alice trusts Bob is a correct certifier; and
  - Bob certified the public key of Carl,
- then
  - Alice trusts the public key belongs to Carl

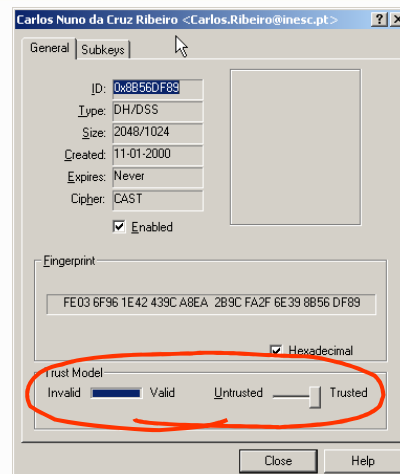
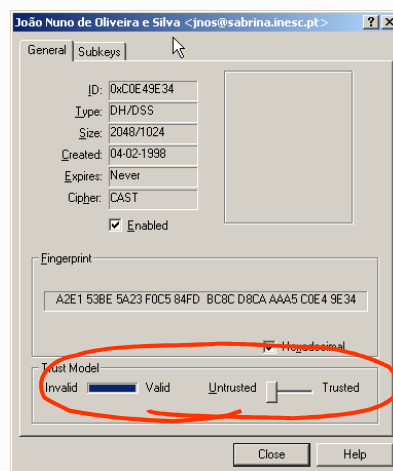


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## PGP public key certificates: Validity vs. trust



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## Refreshing of asymmetric key pairs

- ▷ Key pairs should have a limited lifetime
  - Because private keys can be lost or discovered
  - To implement a regular update policy
- ▷ Problem
  - Certificates can be freely copied and distributed
  - The universe of certificate holders is unknown!
    - Thus, cannot be told to eliminate specific certificates
- ▷ Solutions
  - Certificates with a validity period
  - Certificate revocation lists
    - To revoke certificates before expiring their validity



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## Certificate revocation lists (CRL)

- ▷ Base or delta
  - Complete / differences
- ▷ Signed list of identifiers of **prematurely invalidated** certificates
  - Can tell the revocation reason →
  - Must be regularly fetched by verifiers
    - e.g. once a day
- ▷ Single certificate validations
  - OCSP (RFC 6960) query/response
  - OCSP stapling (RFCs 6066, 6961, 8446)
- ▷ Publication and distribution of CRLs
  - Each CA keeps its CRL and allows public access to it
  - CAs exchange CRLs to facilitate their widespreading

### RFC 3280

unspecified (0)  
keyCompromise (1)  
CACompromise (2)  
affiliationChanged (3)  
superseded (4)  
cessationOfOperation (5)  
certificateHold (6)  
  
removeFromCRL (8)  
privilegeWithdrawn (9)  
AACompromise (10)

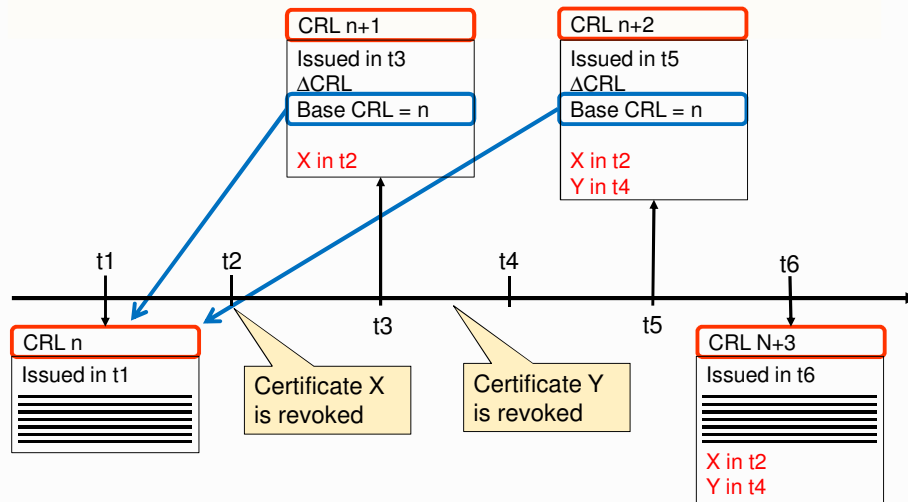


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## CRL and Delta CRL

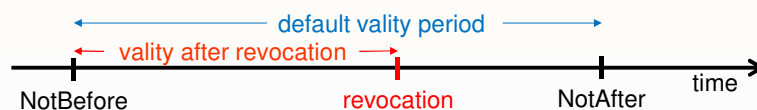


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## Validity of signatures



- ▷ A signature is **valid** if it was generated during the **validity period** of the corresponding pub key certificate
  - ♦ The validity period starts on the certificate's **NotBefore** date field
  - ♦ By default, the validity ends on the **NotAfter** date field
    - Unless revoked
- ▷ A private key can be used out of that period
  - ♦ But the signature it produces is invalid
- ▷ A public key certificate can be used anytime
  - ♦ Namely, after the validity period to check past signatures



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## Distribution of public key certificates

- ▷ Integrated with systems or applications
- ▷ Directory systems
  - ♦ Large scale
    - ex. X.500 through LDAP
  - ♦ Organizational
    - ex. Windows 2000 Active Directory (AD)
- ▷ Together with signatures
  - ♦ Within protocols using certificates for peer authentication
    - e.g. secure communication protocols (SSL, IPSec, etc.)
  - ♦ As part of document signatures
    - PDF/Word/XML, etc. documents, MIME mail messages



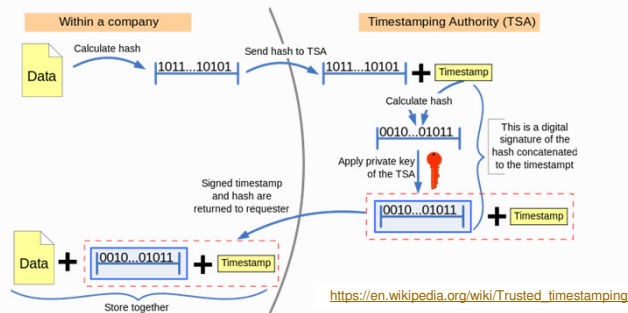
## Distribution of public key certificates

- ▷ Explicit (voluntarily triggered by users)
- ▷ User request to a service for getting a required certificate
  - ♦ e.g. request sent by e-mail
  - ♦ e.g. access to a personal HTTP page
- ▷ Useful for creating certification chains for frequently used terminal certificates
  - ♦ e.g. certificate chains for authenticating with the Cartão de Cidadão



## Time Stamping Authority (TSA)

- ▷ A service that provides signatures over a timestamp
  - Linked with a data digest **Trusted timestamping**



- ▷ This is useful for adding trust to a data signature date
  - The signature date becomes linked to the signed data



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## PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)

- ▷ Infrastructure for enabling the use of keys pairs and certificates
  - Creation of asymmetric key pairs for each enrolled entity
    - Enrolment policies
    - Key pair generation policies
  - Creation and distribution of public key certificates
    - Enrolment policies
    - Definition of certificate attributes
  - Definition and use of certification chains (or paths)
    - Insertion in a certification hierarchy
    - Certification of other CAs
  - Update, publication and consultation of CRLs
    - Policies for revoking certificates
    - Online CRL distribution services
    - Online OCSP services
  - Use of data structures and protocols enabling inter-operation among components / services / people



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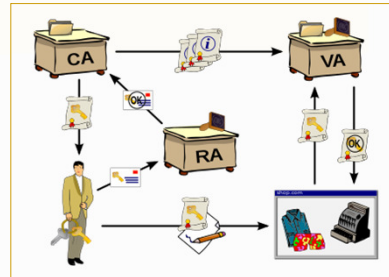
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## PKI entities: Registration Authority (RA)

### ▷ The actual interface with certificate owners

- ♦ Identification and authentication of certificate applicants
- ♦ Approval or rejection of certificate applications
- ♦ Initiating certificate revocations or suspensions under certain circumstances
- ♦ Processing subscriber requests to revoke or suspend their certificates
- ♦ Approving or rejecting requests by subscribers to renew or re-key their certificates



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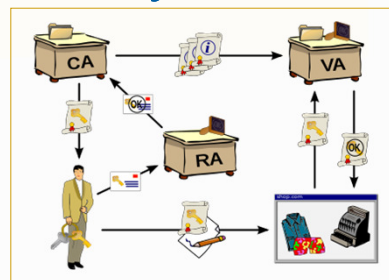
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## PKI entities: Validation Authority (VA)

### ▷ A service that helps to validate certificates

- ♦ OCSP service



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## PKI:

### Example: Cartão de Cidadão policies

- ▷ Enrollment
  - In loco, personal enrolment
- ▷ Multiple key pairs per person
  - One for authentication
  - One for signing data
  - Generated in smartcard, not exportable
  - Require a PIN in each operation
- ▷ Certificate usage (authorized)
  - Authentication
    - SSL Client Certificate, Email (Netscape cert. type)
    - Signing, Key Agreement (key usage)
  - Signature
    - Email (Netscape cert. type)
    - Non-repudiation (key usage)
- ▷ Certification path
  - PT root CA below global root (before 2020)
  - PT root CA (after 2020)
  - CC root CA below PT root CA
  - CC Authentication CA and CC signature CA below CC root CA
- ▷ CRLs
  - Signature certificate revoked by default
    - Removed if owner explicitly requires the usage of signatures
  - Certificates revoked upon a owner request
    - Requires a revocation PIN
  - CRL distribution points explicitly mentioned in each certificate



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## PKI:

### Trust relationships

- ▷ A PKI defines trust relationships in two different ways
  - By issuing certificates for the public key of other CAs
    - Hierarchically below; or
    - Not hierarchically related
  - By requiring the certification of its public key by another CA
    - Above in the hierarchy; or
    - Not hierarchically related
- ▷ Usual trust relationships
  - Hierarchical
  - Crossed (A certifies B and vice-versa)
  - Ad-hoc (mesh)
    - More or less complex certification graphs



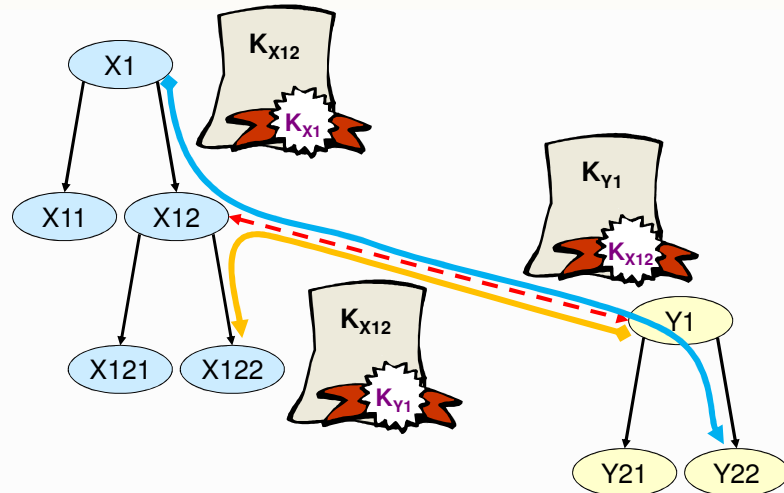
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## PKI:

### Hierarchical and crossed certifications

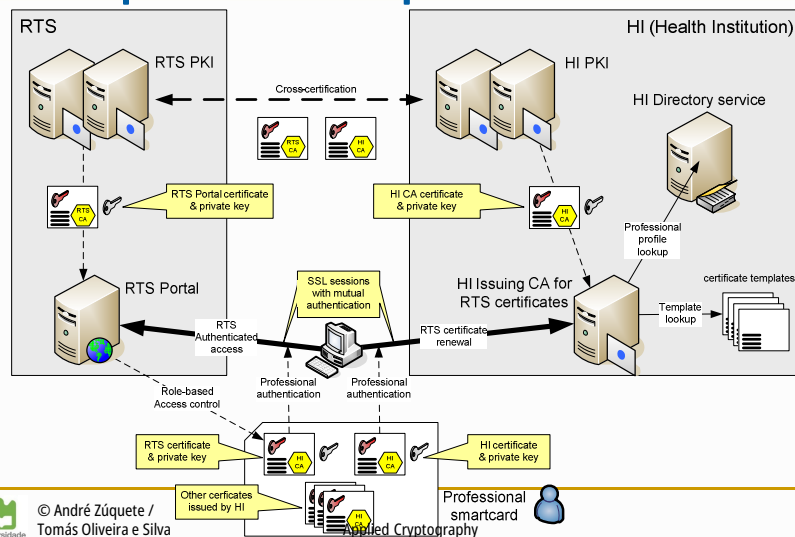


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## Cross-certification of PKIs: A practical example



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## Additional documentation

- ▷ [\[RFC 5280\]](#) Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure: Certificate and CRL Profile
  - Updated by RFCs 6818, 8398 and 8399
- ▷ Other RFCs
  - [\[RFC 4210\]](#) Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Management Protocol (CMP) (+ [RFC 6712](#))
  - [\[RFC 4211\]](#) Internet X.509 Public Key Infrastructure Certificate Request Message Format (CRMF) (+ [RFC 9045](#))
  - [\[RFC 3494\]](#) Lightweight Directory Access Protocol version 2 (LDAPv2) to Historic Status
  - [\[RFC 6960\]](#) X.509 Internet Public Key Infrastructure Online Certificate Status Protocol – OCSP (+ [RFC 8954](#))
  - [\[RFC 2585\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI Operational Protocols: FTP and HTTP
  - [\[RFC 4523\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI LDAPv2 Schema
  - [\[RFC 5519\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI Data Validation and Certification Server Protocols
  - [\[RFC 3161\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI Time-Stamp Protocol (TSP) (+ [RFC 5816](#))
  - [\[RFC 3279\]](#) Algorithms and Identifiers for the Internet X.509 PKI Certificate and Certificate Revocation List (CRL) Profile (+ [RFCs 4055, 5756, 4491, 5480, 8813, 5758](#) and [8692](#))
  - [\[RFC 5755\]](#) An Internet Attribute Certificate Profile for Authorization
  - [\[RFC 3647\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI Certificate Policy and Certification Practices Framework
  - [\[RFC 3709\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI: Logotypes in X.509 Certificates (+ [RFC 3709](#))
  - [\[RFC 3739\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI: Qualified Certificates Profile
  - [\[RFC 3779\]](#) X.509 Extensions for IP Addresses and AS Identifiers
  - [\[RFC 3820\]](#) Internet X.509 PKI Proxy Certificate Profile

