Cryptography For Email

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Data Processing Application

- Email between 2 parties
- Support sending and receiving emails
- Integration with Gmail

Data Eavesdropping

- The email body is in plain text
- Personnels spying on emails
 - Government
 - Companies
 - Malicious attackers
- Forwarded emails can be read by anyone

Confidentiality

- Symmetric encryption
 - Block ciphers
 - Efficient
- AES in CBC mode
 - Randomly generated IV
- 128-bit keys

Key Exchange

- Asymmetric encryption
 - Encrypt shared key using other party's public key
 - Other party decrypts with their own private key to obtain shared key
- RSA
 - OAEP
 - SHA1 hash
- 2048-bit keys
- All keys are stored locally

Data Modification

- Man in the middle attack
- Attacker modifies email payload contents
- Attack results in miscommunication between the 2 parties

Integrity Detection

- Encrypt then MAC
 - Plaintext integrity
 - Ciphertext integrity
 - Does not leak information about plain text
 - Does not perform decryption if invalid
- HMAC using SHA256
 - Fast

Data Replay

- Attacker sends emails using data from prior emails
- Anyone can send a spoofed email with older payload

Replay Attack Detection

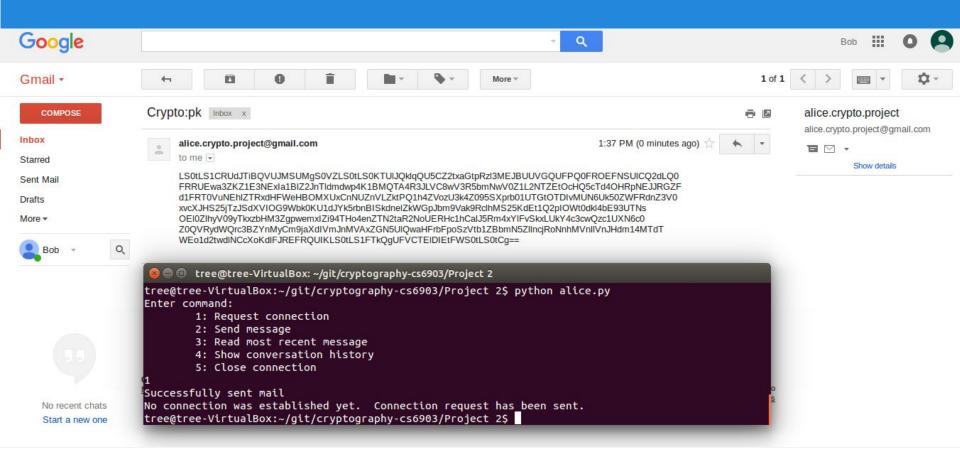
- Sender includes timestamp in payload
- Receiver compares timestamp of payload to date/time the email was sent
- Detect replay attack if difference between timestamp and email date/time too large

Implementation

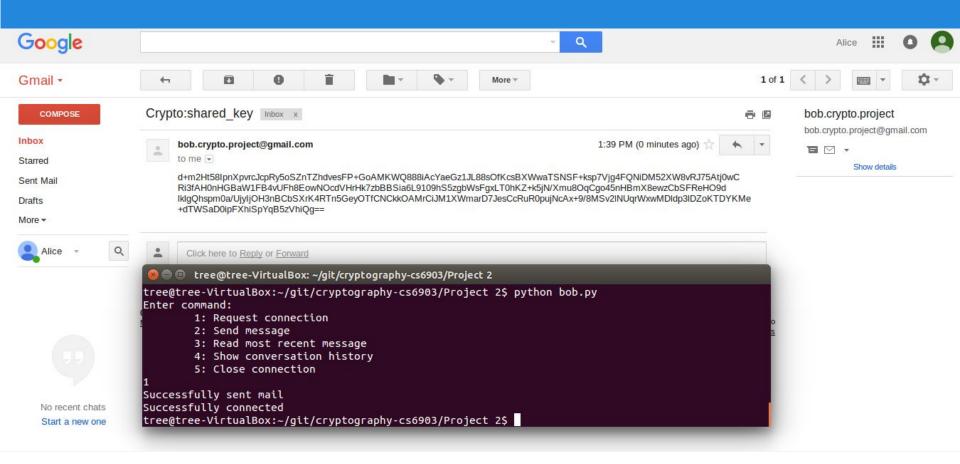
- Python
- Open source Cryptography library
- Gmail server
- Additional misc. libraries

Demonstration

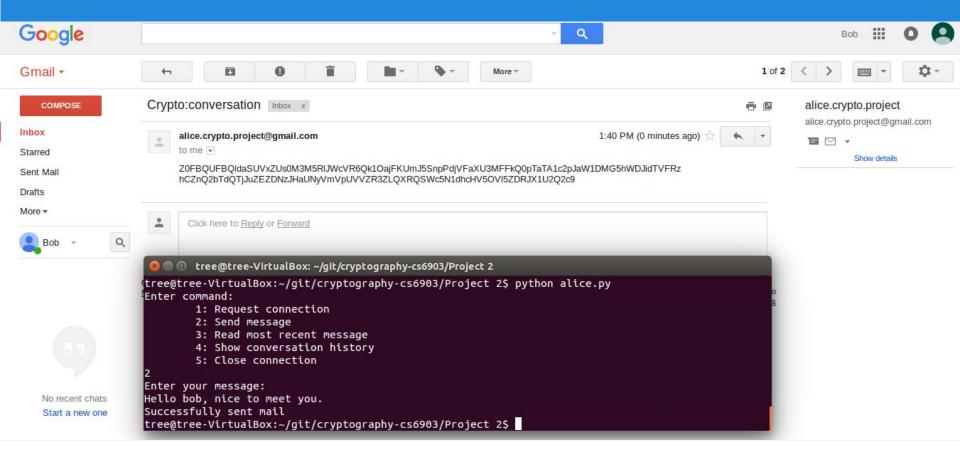
 Email conversation using our program between Alice and Bob



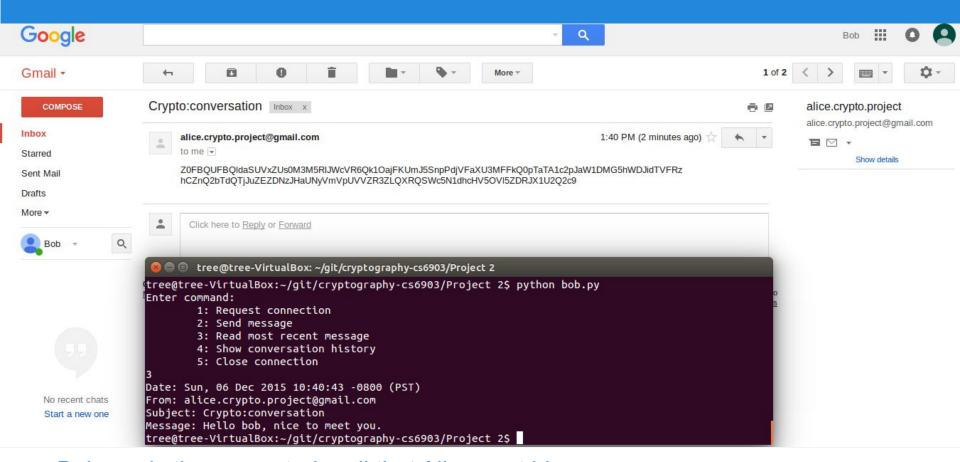
Connection step 1: Alice sends Bob her RSA public key



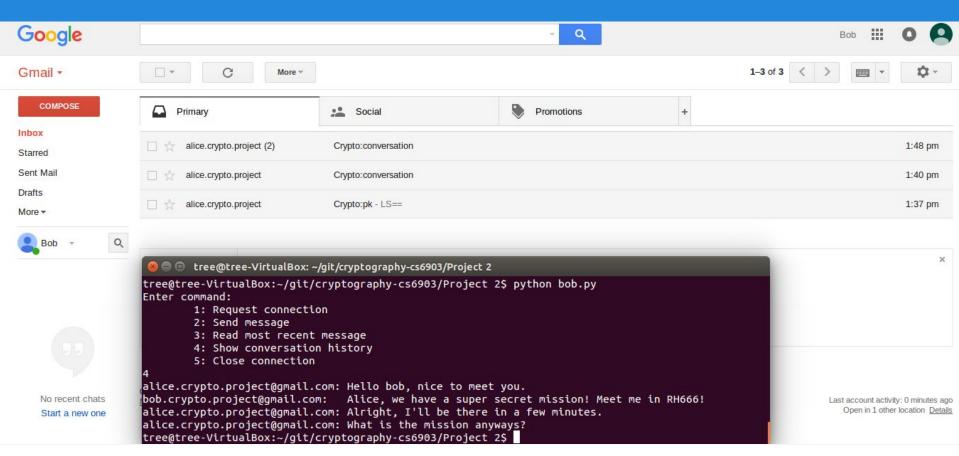
Connection step 2: Bob sends Alice an encrypted shared key



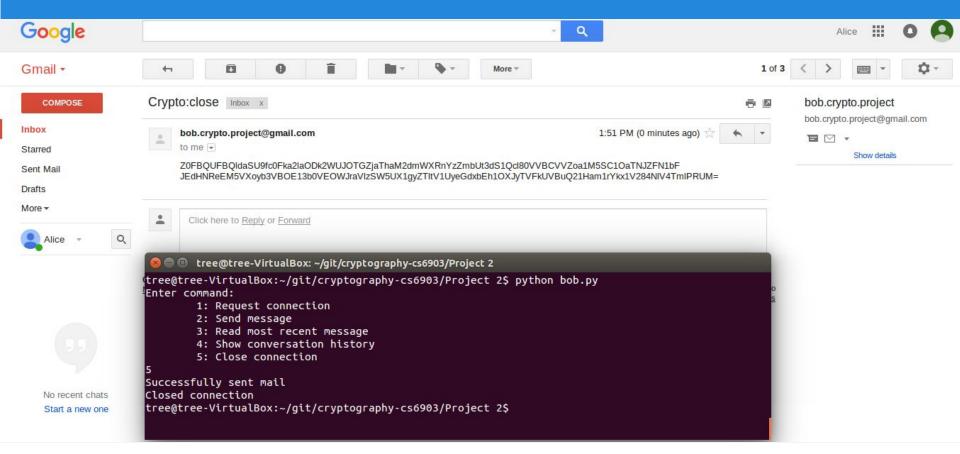
Conversation begins: Alice sends Bob an encrypted message



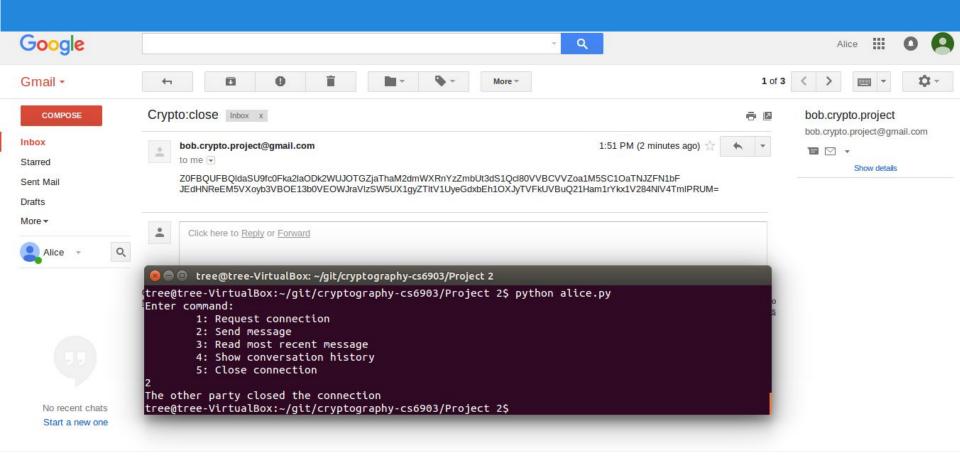
Bob reads the encrypted mail that Alice sent him



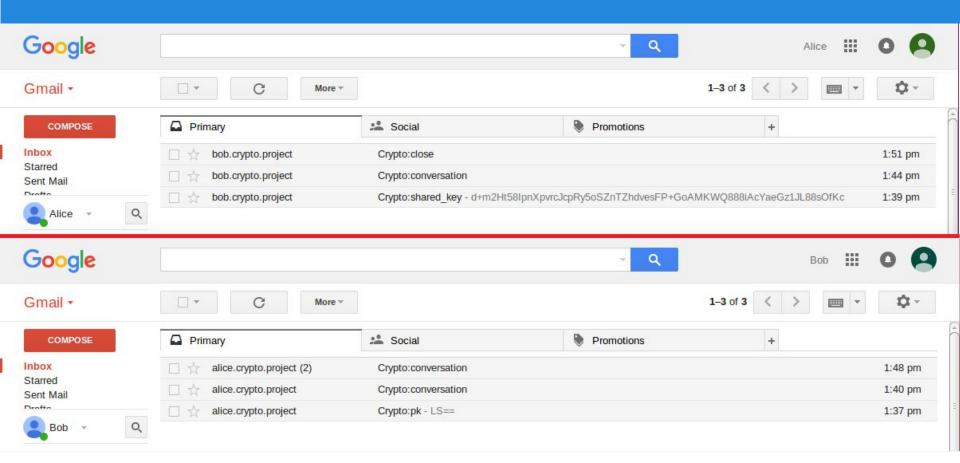
After a few more exchanges, Bob checks out the conversation history



Close connection: Bob sends Alice the encrypted shared key



Alice tries to send a message, but the connection has already been closed



Alice's (top) and Bob's (bottom) Gmail inboxes after the conversation