

## # Distribution of public keys

Several techniques have been proposed for the distribution of public keys

(i) public announcement

(ii) publicly available directory

(iii) public key authority

(iv) public key certificate

## (i) Public Announcement

public key encryption is all about using a "public key" that anyone can access.

e.g. if you want to send a secure message to someone, you use their public key to encrypt it and only they can decrypt it using their private key

One common method of sharing public keys is to just send them out, like attaching them to emails or posting on online forums.

problem with this approach, if someone pretended to be you and shared a fake public key claiming it yours other people would start using that fake key this is called forging a public key

## (ii) Publicly available directory

can obtain security by registering keys with a public directory

directory must be trusted with properties:

- contain {name, public-key} entries

- participants register securely with directory

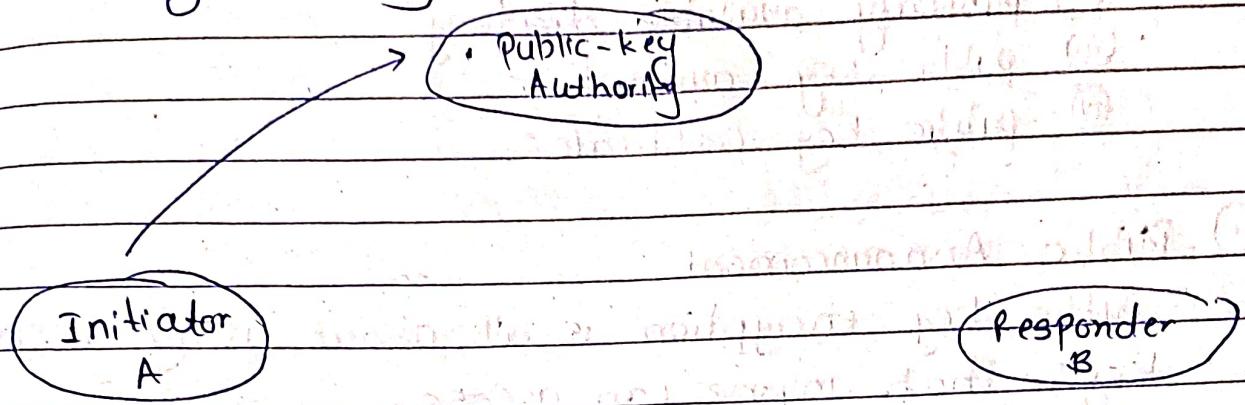
- participants can replace key at any time

- directory is periodically published

- directory can be accessed electronically

still vulnerable to tampering or forgery

## ② public key Authority



- improve security by tightening control over distribution of keys from directory
- requires users to know public key for the directory
- users interact with directory to obtain any desired public key securely
- does not require real-time access to directory when keys are needed.

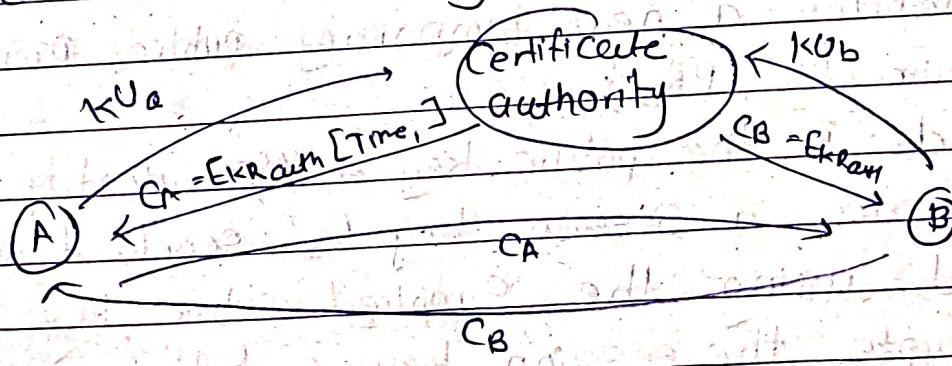
### How public key authority works

- ① A requests B's public key to the authority includes timestamp
  - ② Authority sends the response which is encrypted using authority private key, only the authority can encrypt with this key.
- A can verify the message authenticity by decrypting it with the authority public key
- response contains
- B's public key
  - A's request copy
  - timestamp

- (3) A receive message and encrypt message for B.
- (4) A send message which contain A's ID and a random number (nonce) which is unique to this transaction and ensure the message
- (5) B receive the message it check authenticity by taking A's public key from authority

#### ④ public key Certificates

- public key authority could be a bottleneck in the system
- must appeal to the authority for the key of every other user
- Certificates allow key exchange without real time access to public key authority
- certificate binds identity to public key with all contents signed by a trusted public-key or certificate authority (CA)



- a user can present his or her public key to the authority in a secure manner and obtain a certificate.
- then user can publish Certificate

- anyone needing this user's public key can obtain the certificate and verify that it is valid by way of the attached trusted signature

## Public-key Distribution of secret keys

- public-key algorithms have relatively slow data rates so few users make exclusive use of public key encryption
- usually prefer private-key encryption to protect message contents
- hence session key is needed  
public-key encryption helps distribution of secret keys

### ① Simple Secret key Distribution

- A generates a new temporary public private key pair  $\{PU_A, PR_A\}$
- A sends B the public key & A's identity
- B generates a session key  $ks$  sends it to A encrypted using the supplied public key
- A decrypts the session key & both use

problem is that an opponent can intercept and impersonate both halves of protocol

# Diffie-Hellman key Exchange

- first public-key type schema proposed for key distribution only
- it is a practical method for public exchange of a secret key
- two parties agree on a common key without sharing it directly over the network
- value of key depends on the participants (and their private and public key info.)

## Algorithm

Alice

Bob

Alice & Bob

Share a prime no.  $q$  and an integer  $\alpha$  such that  $\alpha < q$  and  $\alpha$  is primitive root of  $q$

Alice & Bob share

a prime no.  $q$  and an integer  $\alpha$  such that  $\alpha < q$  and  $\alpha$  is primitive root of  $q$

Alice generates a private key  $x_A$  such that  $x_A < q$

Bob generates a private key  $x_B$  such that  $x_B < q$

Alice calculates a public key  $y_A = \alpha^{x_A} \pmod{q}$

Bob calculates a public key  $y_B = \alpha^{x_B} \pmod{q}$

Alice receives Bob's public key  $y_B$  in plaintext

Bob receives Alice's public key  $y_A$  in plaintext

Alice calculates shared secret key

$$k = (y_B)^{x_A} \pmod{q}$$

Bob calculates shared secret key

$$k = (y_A)^{x_B} \pmod{q}$$

$K$  is used as session key in private key encryption schema.

If Alice & Bob subsequently communicate, they will have the same key as before, unless they choose new public keys.

Eg

- Alice & Bob agree on prime no.  $q = 853$  and  $\alpha = 3$
- Select random private key

$$x_A = 97 \quad x_B = 233$$

$$y_A = (3)^{97} \mod 853 = 40 \quad \alpha^{x_A} \mod q$$

$$y_B = (3)^{233} \mod 853 = 248 \quad \alpha^{x_B} \mod q$$

compute shared session key

$$\begin{aligned} K_{AB} &= (y_B)^{x_A} \mod q \\ &= (248)^{97} \mod 853 \\ &= 160 \end{aligned}$$

$$K_{AB} = (40)^{233} \mod 853 = 160$$