





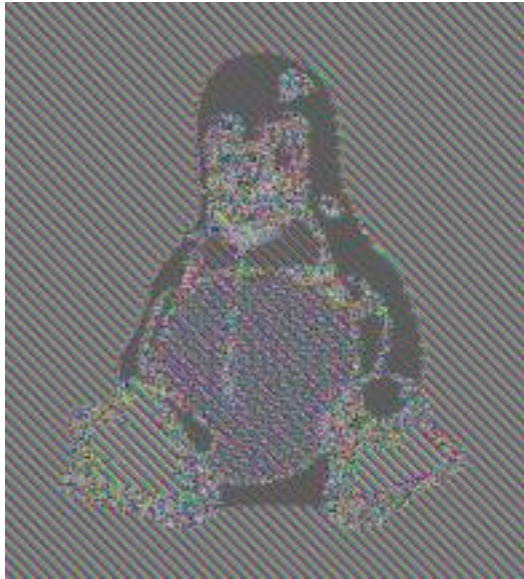


BLOCKCHAINS AND THE IV

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Block\\_cipher\\_operation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Block_cipher_operation)



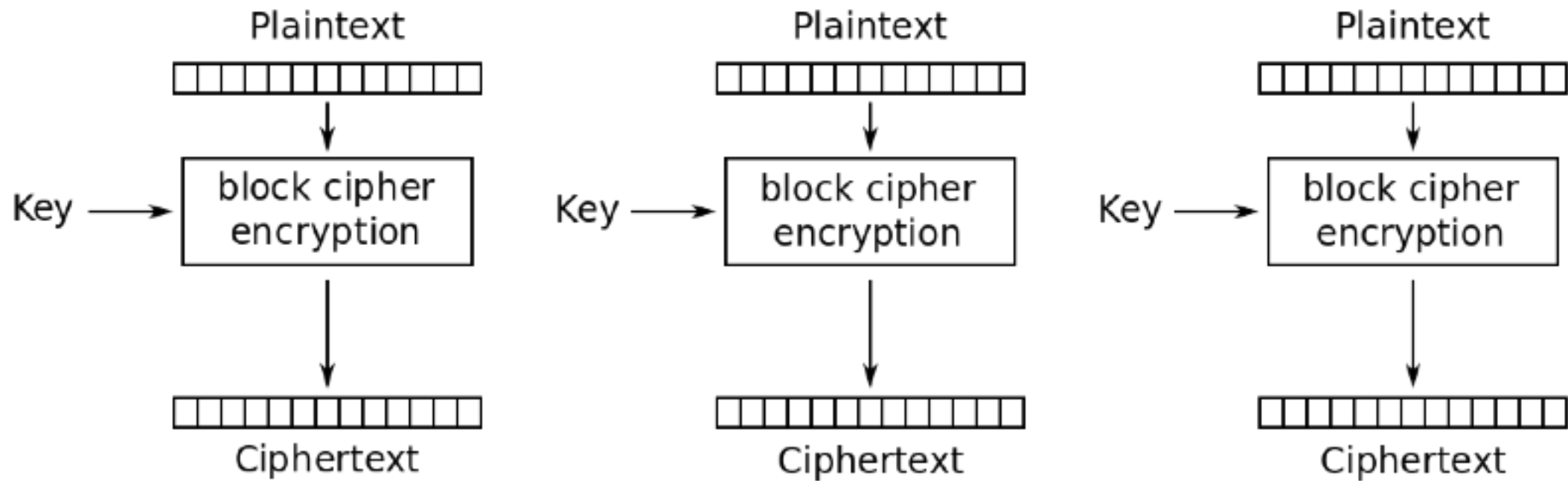
Original



ECB

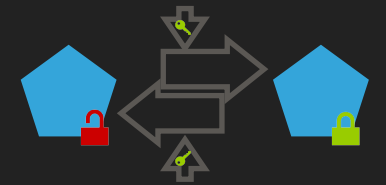


CBC (or other)



Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode encryption

# SOLUTIONS FOR SECURING KEY(S)



Master key in  
different storage

E.g. records in DB, master key  
on filesystem.

Baseline. Easy. Protects  
(only) against DB theft  
(e.g. SQL injection)

Encrypt master  
key

Use baked in 'obfuscation key'  
to encrypt master key. Better:  
Store master key in OS keyring.

Easy. Some protection  
against FS access (e.g.  
remote file inclusion)

Derive per-  
record key

Unique per record key derived  
from master key.  
*Bonus: Protect integrity. Bind to record.*

Mostly easy. Protects  
against some cipher text  
attacks. Use [AEAD](#)!

Crypto Host

All crypto operations on a  
dedicated host. (Master)key  
never leaves Crypto Host.

Depends on architecture.  
Helps w. key distribution.  
Makes key theft difficult.

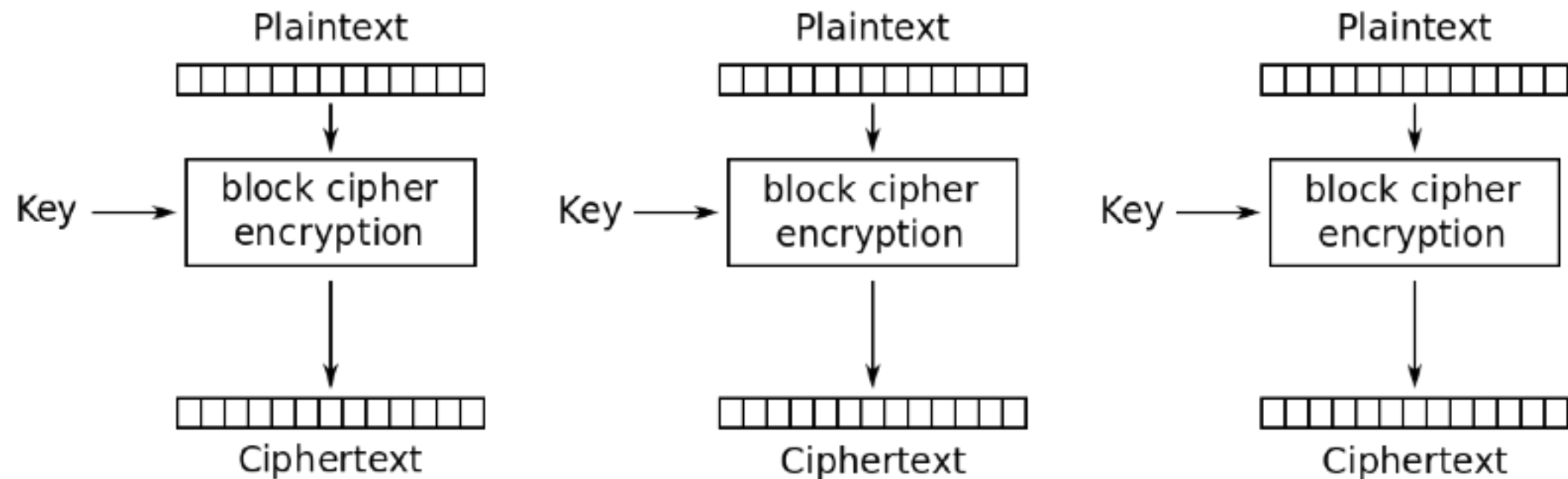
HSM

Use Hardware Security Module  
as Crypto Host.

Expensive & difficult.  
"Crypto Host on  
steroids".



## BLOCK CIPHERS AND THE IV



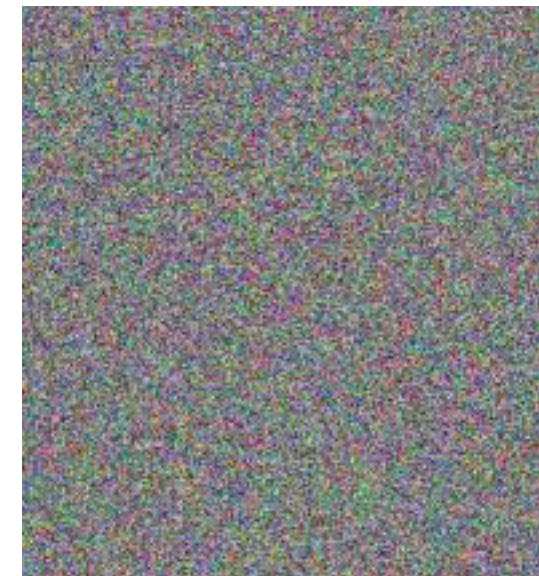
Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode encryption



Original



ECB



CBC (or other)