

# Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

## Introduction

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Ritger Teunissen (ritger@hack42.nl)

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Hack42, Arnhem

# Who am I?

- Worked in Information Security for 12 years
- *Member of Hack42* (<https://www.hack42.nl/>)

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2. Asymmetric Cryptography
3. Public Key Infrastructure
4. Certificate Life Cycle

## Background

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# What is PKI?

*PKI is a (supporting) technical solution used to secure digital communication*

# Real-life Examples

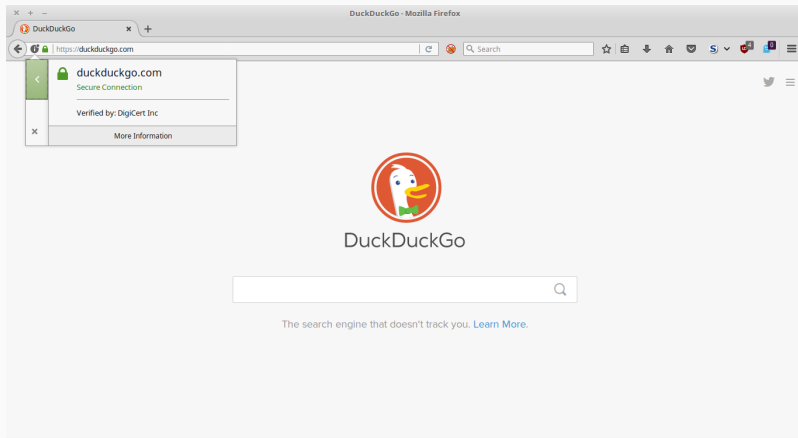


Figure 1: Duck Duck Go

# Real-life Examples

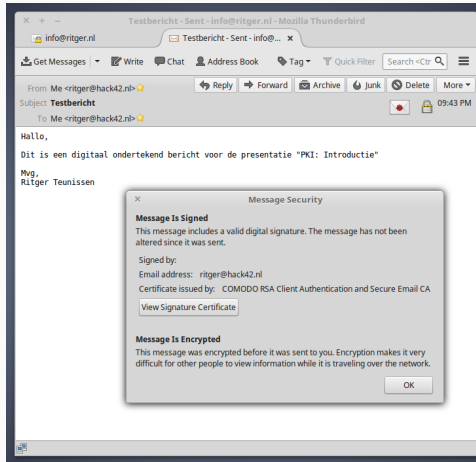


Figure 2: E-mail



Figure 3: Communication



*When can **digital communication** be considered secure?*

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## **Authenticity**

Do we know who the sender is?

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## **Non-repudiation**

Did the message really come from the sender and hasn't the message been changed?

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## **Authenticity**

Do we know who the sender is?

## **Non-repudiation**

Did the message really come from the sender and hasn't the message been changed?

## **Confidentiality**

Can the message only be read by the sender and receiver?

# Asymmetric Cryptography

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*When you use cryptography to solve a problem, you have TWO problems*

01. Generate key pair



02. Generate key pair

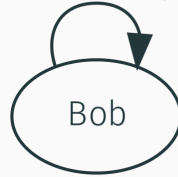


Figure 4: Key Generation

# Asymmetric Cryptography

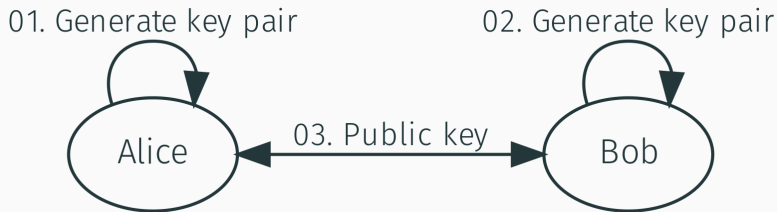


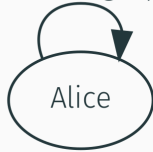
Figure 4: Key Generation

## Key Pair

A key pair has both a public and private key



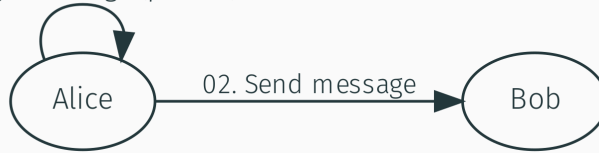
01. Sign message (private)



**Figure 5:** Digital Signature

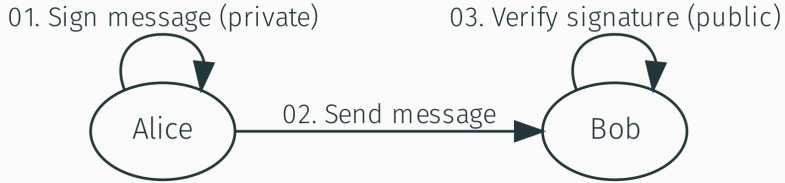
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**Figure 5:** Digital Signature

# Non-repudiation



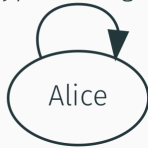
**Figure 5:** Digital Signature

# Non-repudiation

## Example

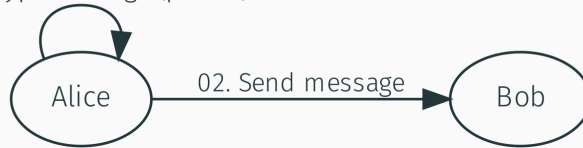
Digitally signing a document or e-mail message

01. Encrypt message (public)

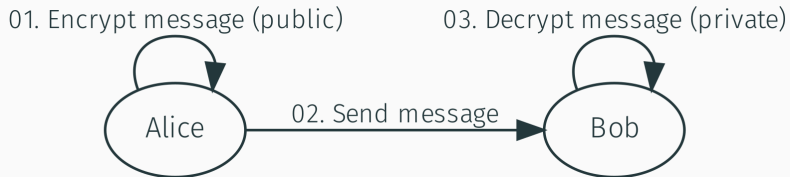


**Figure 6:** Encryption

01. Encrypt message (public)



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## Example

Encrypting a document or e-mail message



# Authenticity

## How to prove authenticity?

Prove possession of the private key for a public key

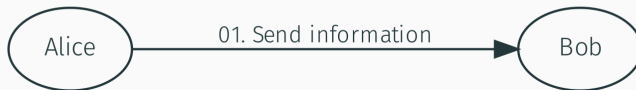


Figure 7: Authenticity

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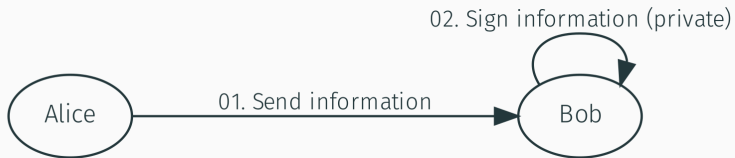


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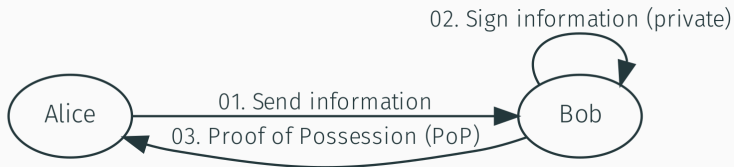


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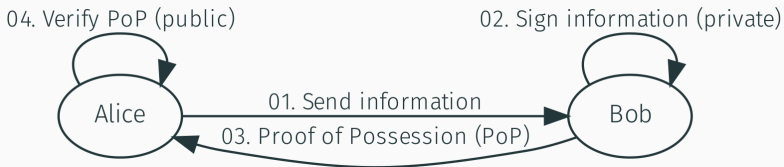


Figure 7: Authenticity

*Why is authenticity separate from non-repudiation?*

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**Answer**

Prevent **unintended** signature creation

*What do you **need** to know?*

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## **Key Pair**

Both a public and private key. *All* users need to have *all* public keys



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Sign using the private key, verify using the public key

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## **Key Pair**

Both a public and private key. *All* users need to have *all* public keys

## **Digital Signature**

Sign using the private key, verify using the public key

## **Encryption**

Encryption using the public key, decryption using the private key

# Public Key Infrastructure

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# Key Distribution

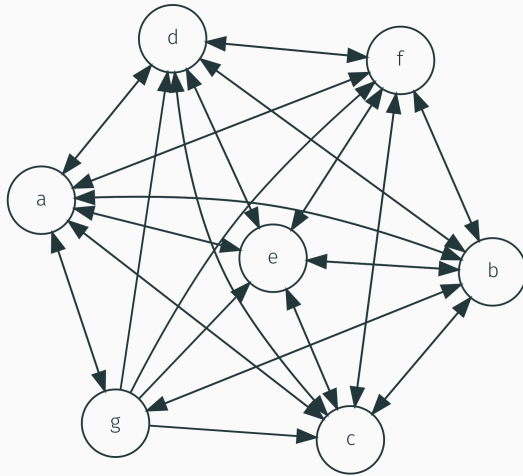


Figure 8: Key Distribution

# Delegated Trust

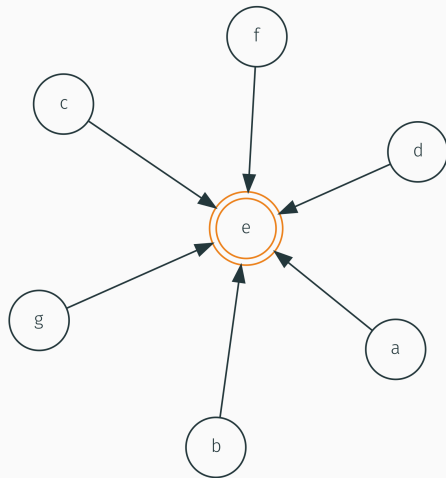


Figure 9: Delegated Trust

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- Certifies the link between an identity and a public key
- Certifies a key for specific use cases
- Can revoke trust in a public key

# X.509 Certificates

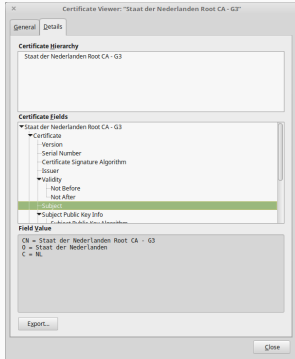


Figure 10: X.509 Certificate

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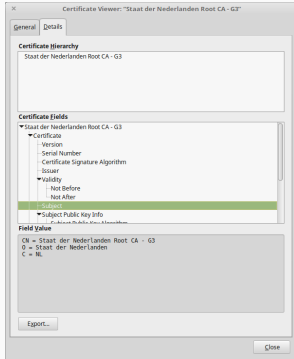


Figure 10: X.509 Certificate

- Certificate = identity + public key
- Limits key usage
- Limited validity (best-before date)
- Certificate Revocation List
- Digitally signed by issuer (CA)

## Certificate Authority (2)

- Generates its own key pair (public and private key)

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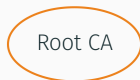
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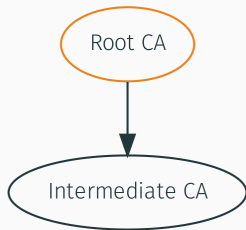
## Certificate Authority (2)

- Generates its own key pair (public and private key)
- Issues its own X.509 CA certificate
- Issues X.509 certificates for end entities
- Makes X.509 certificate non-reputable through a digital signature

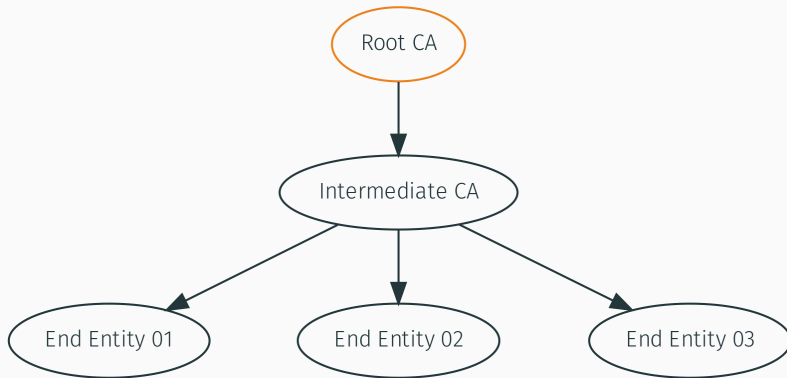


**Figure 11:** PKI Architecture





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## End-entity & Intermediate CA

Trusted when the digital signature created by the CA is valid and the certificate has not been revoked

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## End-entity & Intermediate CA

Trusted when the digital signature created by the CA is valid and the certificate has not been revoked

## Root CA

Trusted through the use of an Access Control List

*Prove authenticity of devices*

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## Web Server

Is issued an end entity certificate by a CA, which allows clients to trust the web server by its address (FQDN)

- Private CAs issue X.509 certificates for a closed (usually corporate) environment



- Private CAs issue X.509 certificates for a closed (usually corporate) environment
- Publicly trusted CAs issue X.509 certificates which are **automatically** trusted



Figure 12: CA/B Forum

# Problem?

*What could possibly go wrong?*



*What do you **need** to know?*

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## **Key Distribution**

Key distribution is a difficult problem to solve at scale

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## **Delegated Trust**

Key distribution is much easier when trust is centralised

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## **Key Distribution**

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## **Certificate Authority**

In PKI, the Certificate Authority manages trust. Everything start (or stops) with the CA



- A **key pair** (public and private key) is used to secure digital communication.

# Conclusion

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- A **key pair** (public and private key) is used to secure digital communication.
- Trust is delegated to a **Certificate Authority** (CA)
- Certificate Authorities certify the combination of identity + key (including the CA public key itself)
- Global trust is managed by a small group of (very powerful) companies (**CA/B Forum**)

Questions?

# Certificate Life Cycle

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**Figure 13:** Certificate Life Cycle

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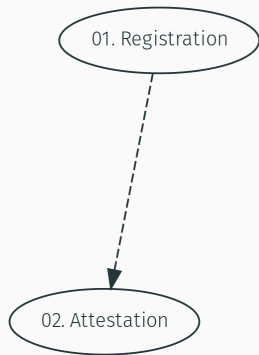
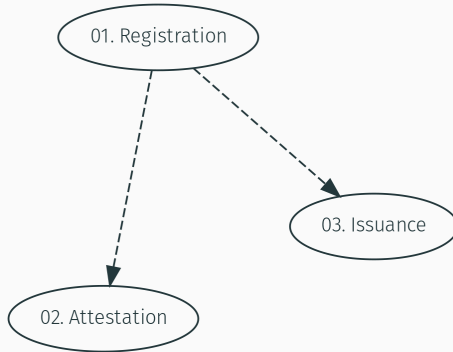


Figure 13: Certificate Life Cycle

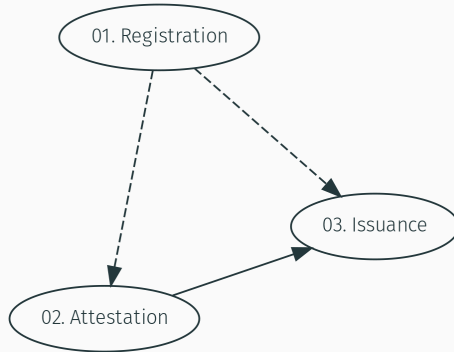


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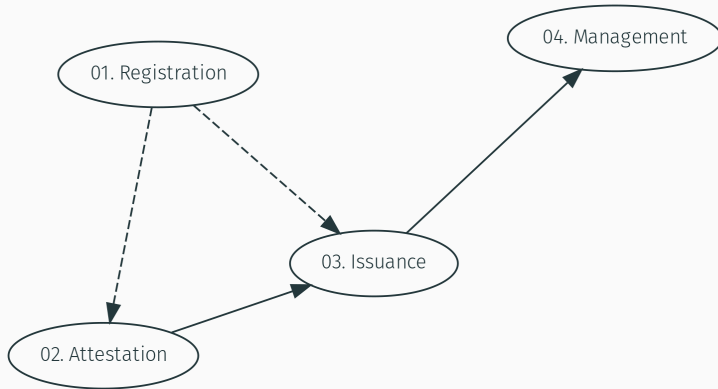


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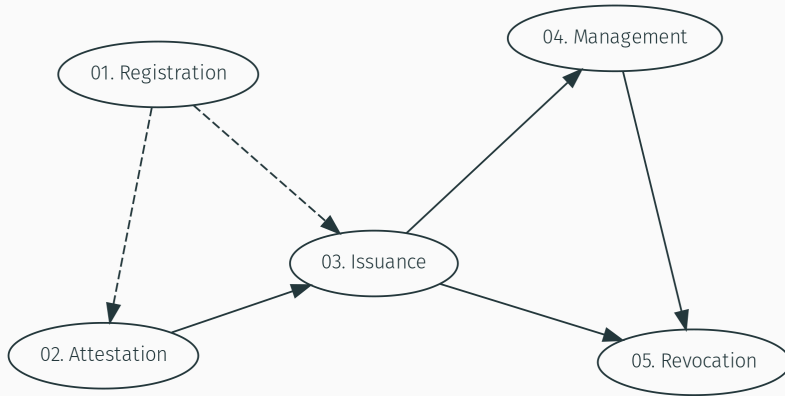


Figure 13: Certificate Life Cycle

# Certificate Life Cycle

## Registration

Create a new certificate request

## Attestation

Attestation (validation) of the certificate request

## Issuance

Issuance of an X.509 certificate

## Management

Management of issued X.509 certificates

## Revocation

Revocation of issued X.509 certificates

# Challenges

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- "Bob" manages certificates using Excel
- Manual work, does not scale and is expensive



# Solution?

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- Certificate Management System (CMS)

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- Certificate Management System (CMS)
- Provisioning Agents

Questions?