



DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC): Adoption and Effectiveness

Computer Security

Spring 2025

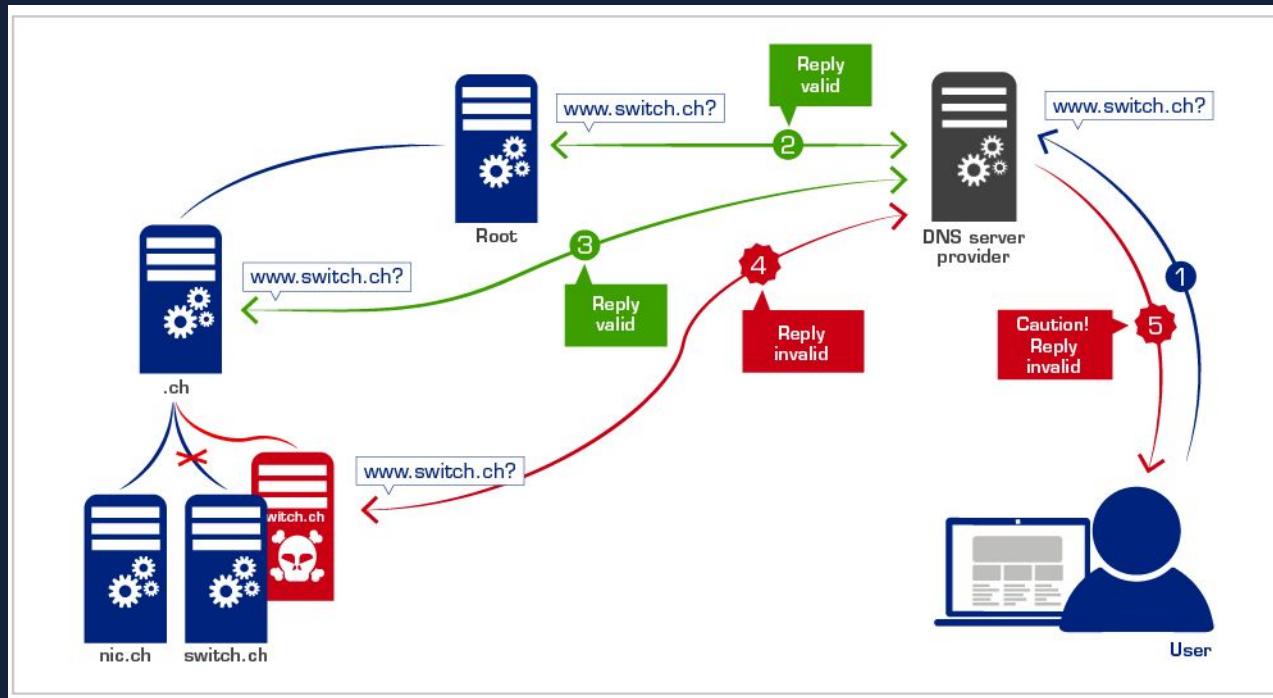
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Introduction

What problem does DNSSEC seeks to solve?

- How DNS works?
- How attackers could abuse it?
- Which aspects of the CIA triad can we achieve with DNSSEC?
- Is it a brand new protocol?

An Attack Scenario



Methodology

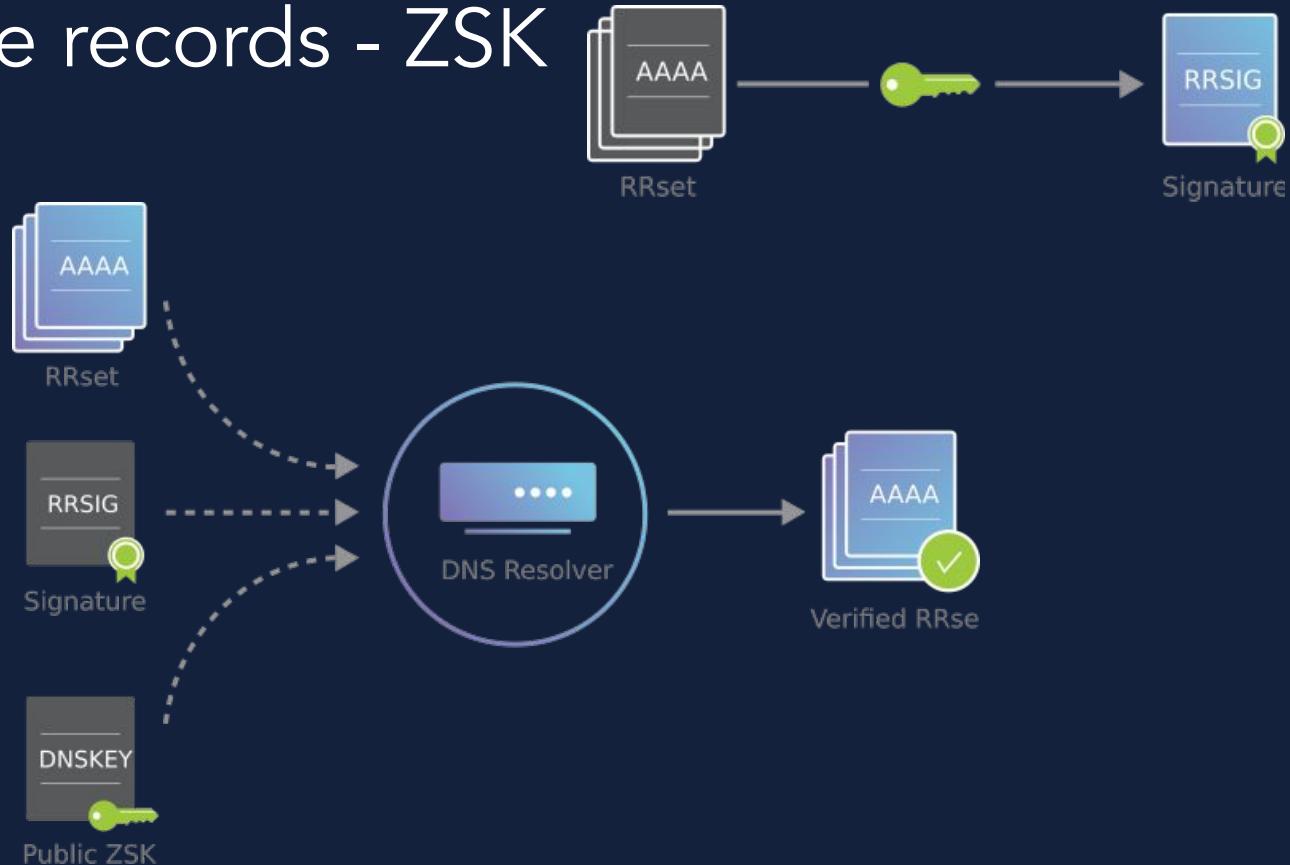
How DNSSEC works

New DNS record types

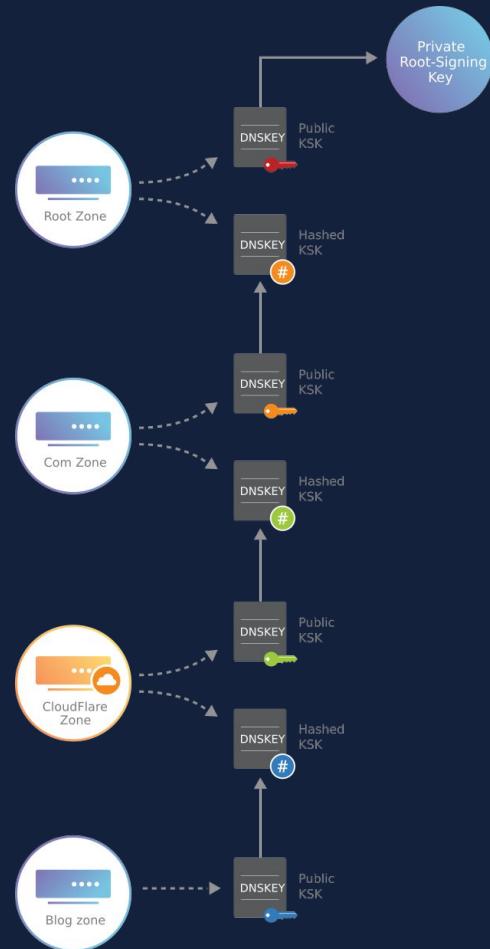
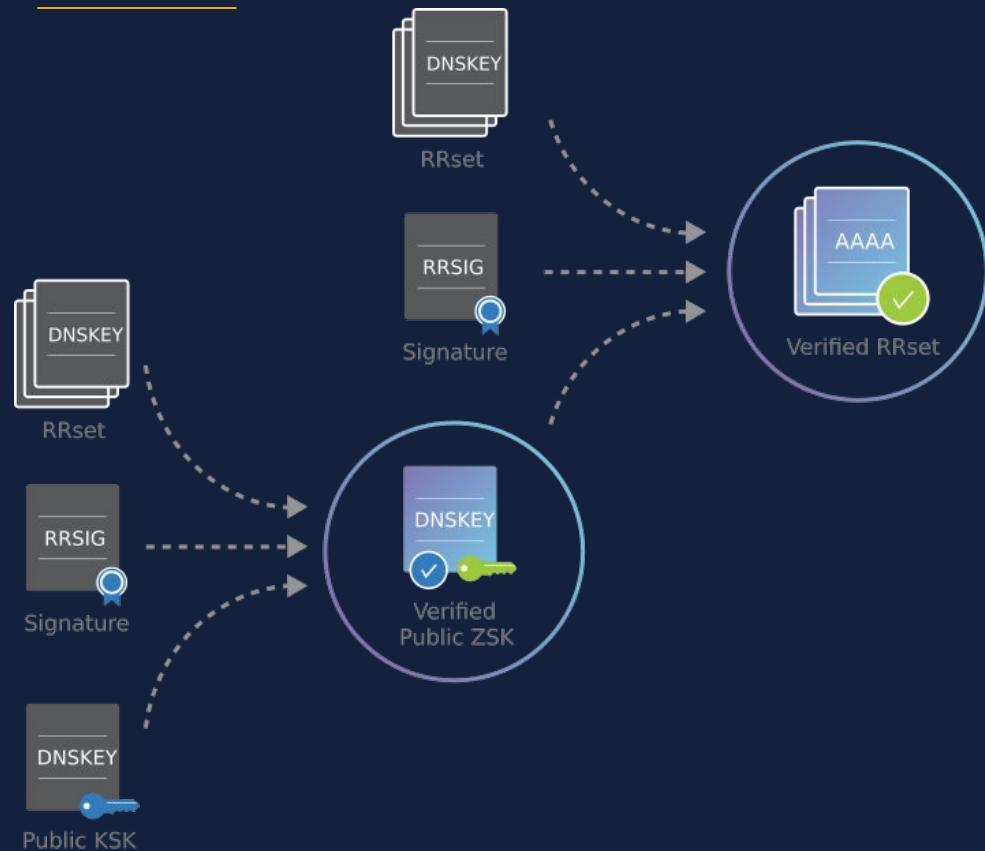
- RRSIG - Contains a cryptographic signature
- DNSKEY - Contains a public signing key
- DS - Contains the hash of a DNSKEY record
- NSEC and NSEC3 - For explicit denial-of-existence of a DNS record
- CDNSKEY and CDS - For a child zone requesting updates to DS record(s) in the parent zone.



Signing the records - ZSK



Signing the records - KSK



Challenges

- Higher load and CPU usage
 - LBs
 - Prefetch
- Deployment Challenge
 - Complexity (0.45% error on signing!)
 - Monitoring
- Adaptation
- DDoS risks

References

- [How does DNSSEC works? - Cloudflare](#)
- [Measurement survey of DNSSEC adaptation](#)
- [PREFETCHing to Overcome DNSSEC Performance Issue on Large Resolving Platform](#)
- [Deploying and Monitoring DNS Security \(DNSSEC\)](#)
- [A Performance view on DNSSEC migration](#)
- [Formal Analysis of the Kaminsky DNS Cache-Poisoning Attack Using Probabilistic Model Checking](#)

Any Questions?

Thanks.

