

PQ TLS and WebPKI

(or: Are we PQ yet?)

Thom Wiggers



Thom Wiggers

- Cryptography researcher at PQShield
 - Oxford University spin-off
 - We develop and license PQC hardware and software IP
 - Side-channel protected hardware designs
 - FIPS 140-3 validated software
 - We also do fundamental research
- Research interest: applying PQC to real-world systems
 - Post-Quantum TLS
 - Secure messaging
- Ph.D from Radboud University (2024)
 - Dissertation: [Post-Quantum TLS](#)





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think openly, build securely

Our expertise, clarity and care have enabled us to deliver new global standards alongside real-world, post-quantum hardware and software upgrades – modernizing the vital security systems and components of the world's technology supply chain.



Hardware IP

Modular hardware-software co-designs delivering post-quantum security, co-processing and side channel protection.

[Find out more >](#)

Software IP

FIPS 140-3 ready modular cryptographic libraries, APIs and SDKs delivering post-quantum security and hybrid transition.

[Find out more >](#)

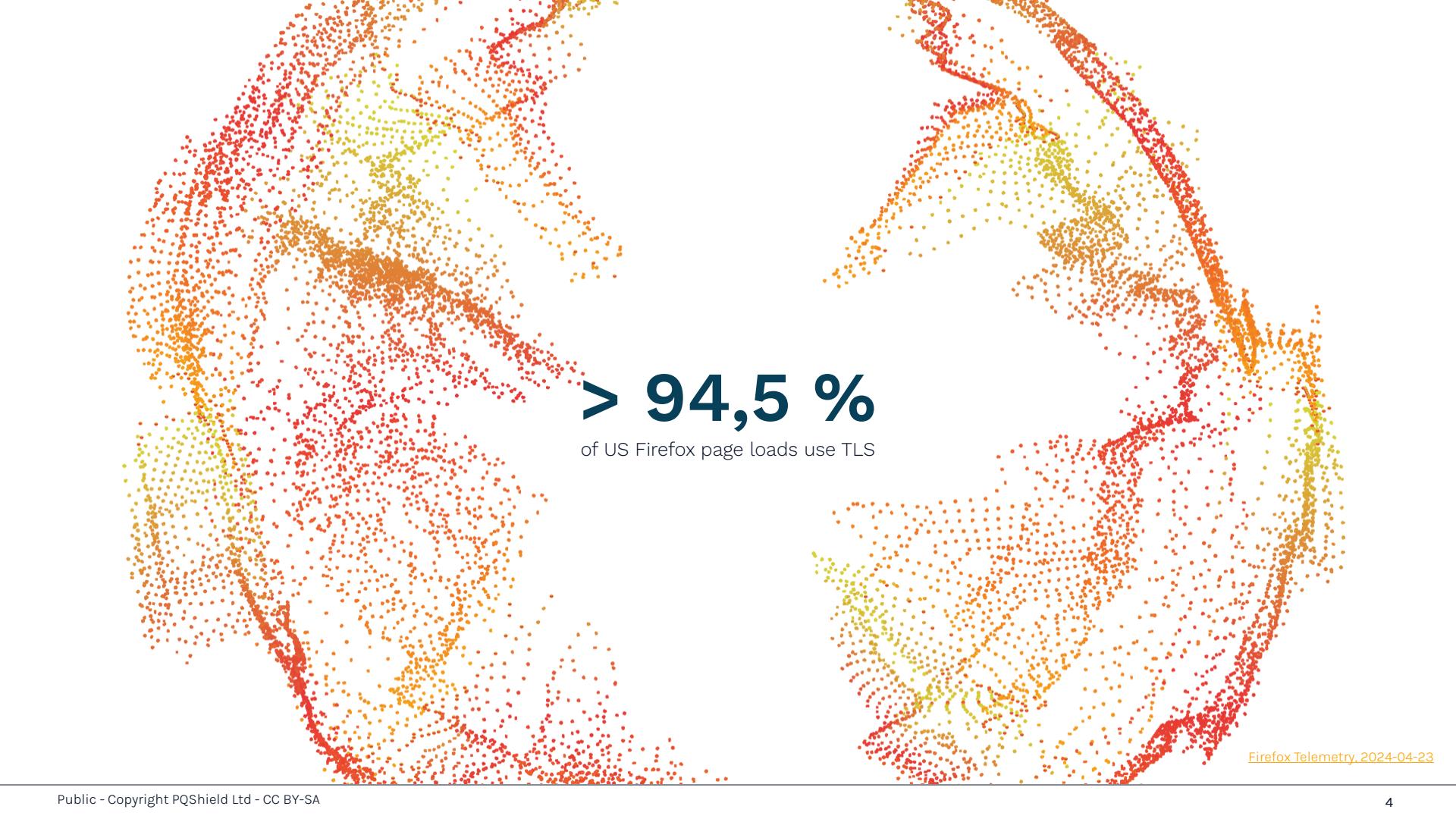
Research IP

Setting the standards at NIST, RISC-V, IETF, NCCoE, World Economic Forum and many more platforms beyond. 20+ Patents.

[Find out more >](#)

“TLS allows client/server applications to communicate over the Internet in a way that is designed to prevent eavesdropping, tampering, and message forgery.”

RFC 8446: The Transport Layer Security (TLS) Protocol Version 1.3



> 94,5 %

of US Firefox page loads use TLS

[Firefox Telemetry, 2024-04-23](#)

The image displays two large, triangular point clouds composed of numerous small, colored dots. The dots are primarily red and orange, with some yellow and green ones interspersed. The two triangles are positioned side-by-side, pointing towards each other. In the center where their bases meet, the letters "TLS" are printed in a black, sans-serif font.

TLS

Imagine it's 1997

1. You want to set up a web shop
2. You need to process credit card information
 - a. If bad guys obtain a credit card number...
3. You are advertising in newspapers
 - a. You can hardly distribute key material beforehand

TLS Handshake Requirements

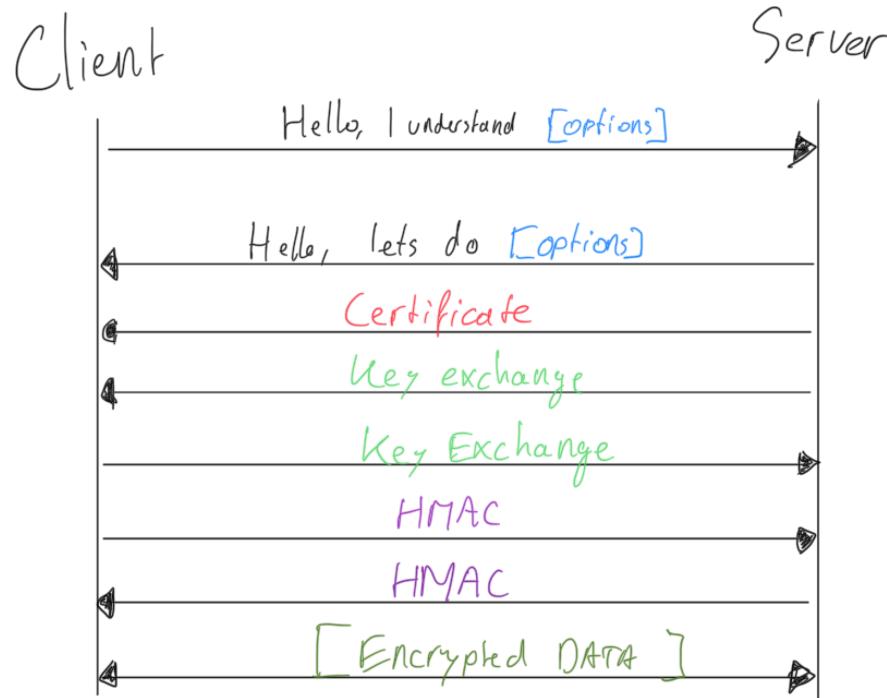
- ❑ Set up a shared secret key for encrypting application traffic
- ❑ Transmit the identity and key material during the protocol handshake
 - ❑ Don't require prior knowledge of the server
- ❑ Be secure

TLS Version history

- 1995: SSL 2.0 (“Secure Sockets Layer”) 💀 (insecure)
- 1996: SSL 3.0 update 💀 (insecure)
 - Already fixes many problems in 2.0
- 1999: TLS 1.0 💣 (deprecated)
- 2006: TLS 1.1 💣 (deprecated)
- 2008: TLS 1.2 (okay with the right config)
- 2018: TLS 1.3



TLS 1.2 and earlier



TLS 1.2 problems

- Too many round-trips
- Certificates are sent in the clear
 - Everybody can see you're connecting to wggrs.nl
 - Especially problematic for client authentication
- A lot of legacy cryptography and patches against attacks



Attacks on TLS (subset)

- 1998, 2006: **Bleichenbacher** breaks RSA encryption and RSA signatures using errors as side-channel
- 2011: **BEAST**: breaks SSL 3.0 and TLS 1.0 (nobody was using TLS 1.1 (2006) or 1.2 (2008)...)
 - avoid attack by using RC4 (but since 2013 RC4 is considered ...)
- 2012/2013: **CRIME / BREACH**: compression in TLS is bad
- 2013: **Lucky Thirteen**: timing attack on encrypt-then-MAC
- 2014: **POODLE**: destroys SSL 3.0
- 2014: Bleichenbacher again (**BERserk**): signature forgery
- 2015/2016: **FREAK / Logjam**: implementation flaws downgrade to EXPORT cryptography
- 2016: **DROWN**: use the server's SSLv2 support to break SSLv3/TLS 1.{0,1,2}
- 2018: **ROBOT**: Bleichenbacher's 1998 attack is still valid on many TLS 1.2 implementations
- 2023: **Everlasting ROBOT**: Bleichenbacher's 1998 attack is still, still valid on many TLS 1.2 implementations

Common Themes

- Attacks on old versions of TLS remain valid for decades
 - XP, Vista, Android <5 never supported TLS 1.1, 1.2
- Many attacks are possible because legacy algorithms are never turned off by servers
 - FREAK/Logjam: 512-bit RSA/Diffie-Hellman ('Export' crypto)
- Setting up TLS servers is a massive headache
 - So many ciphersuites, key exchange groups, ...

Ciphersuites in TLS

This isn't even all of them!



Room for improvement

- TLS 1.2 is not very robust against attacks
- TLS 1.2 leaks server and user identities in the handshake
- TLS 1.2 is not super efficient in the handshake

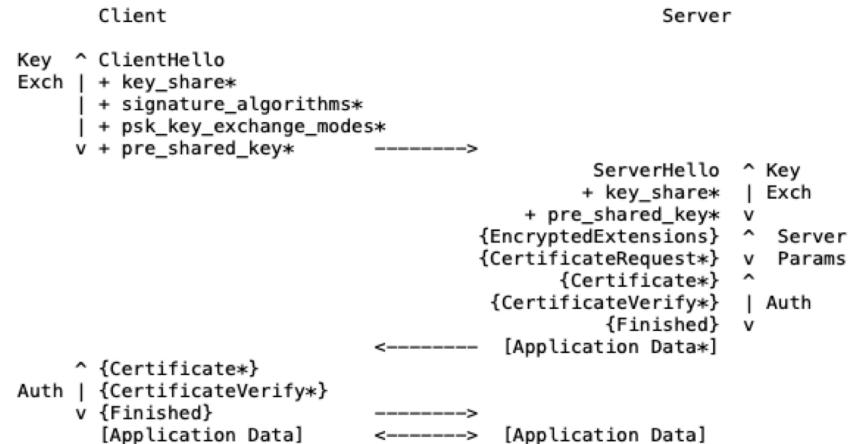
TLS 1.3 wishlist

- ❑ Secure handshake
 - ❑ More privacy
 - ❑ Only forward secret key exchanges
 - ❑ Get rid of MD5, SHA1, 3DES, EXPORT, NULL, ...
- ❑ Simplify parameters
- ❑ More robust cryptography
- ❑ Faster, 1-RTT protocol
- ❑ 0-RTT resumption



TLS 1.3: RFC 8446 (2018)

- Move key exchange into the first two messages
- Encrypt everything afterwards
- Be done as soon as possible





TLS 1.3 full handshake

- Key exchange via ECDH
 - Only ephemeral key exchange
- Server authentication: Signature
- Handshake authentication: HMAC-SHA256
 - “Key confirmation”
- AEAD: Only AES-GCM or ChaCha20-Poly1305

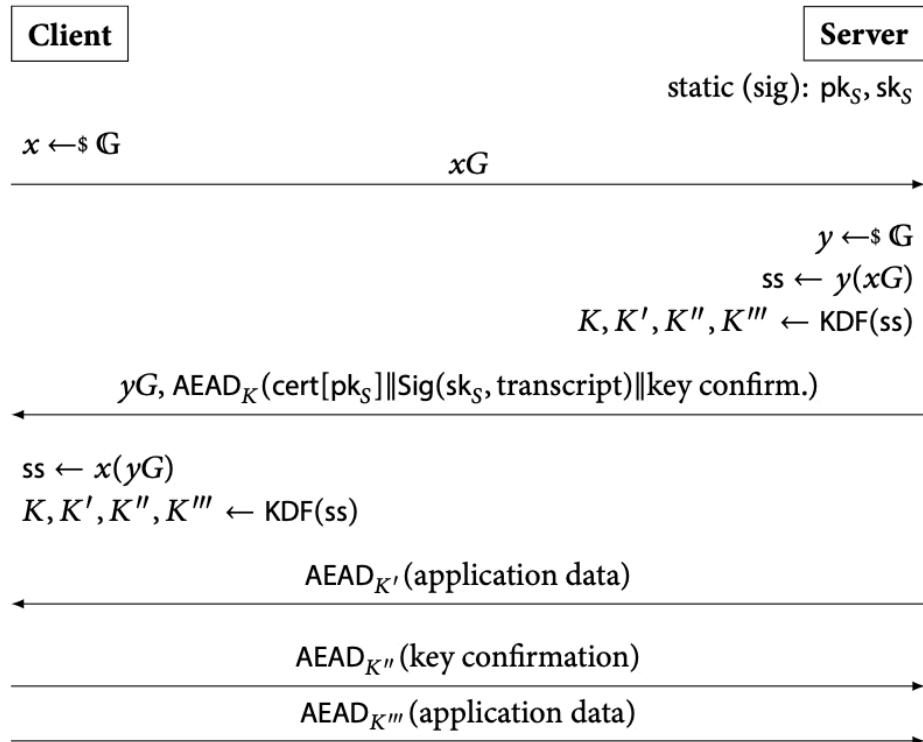
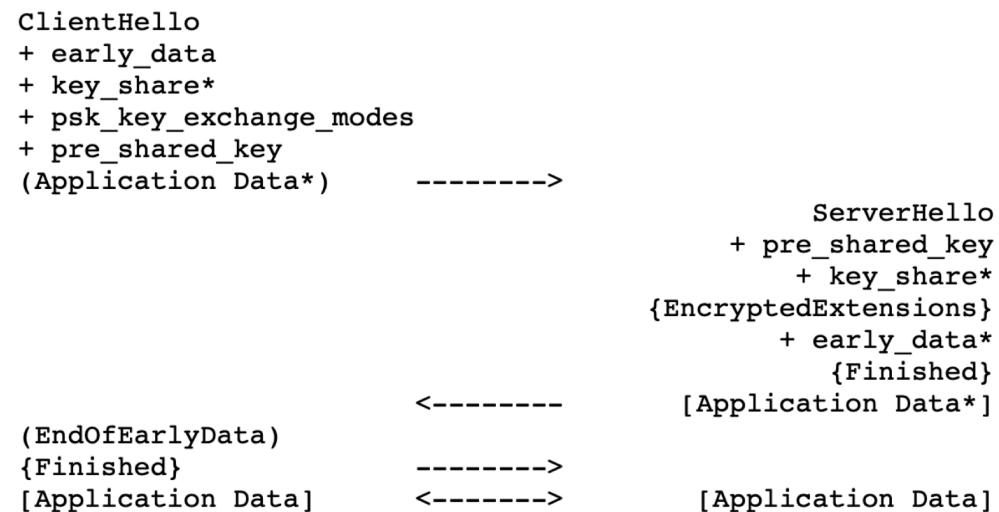


Figure 3.1: High-level overview of the TLS 1.3 handshake.



TLS 1.3 Resumption and 0-RTT

- If you have a pre-shared key, you can do a bunch of stuff faster!
- Use PSK to compute traffic secret
- Ephemeral key exchange **optional**
- **No certificates**
- Use PSK to encrypt “**Early Data**”





0-RTT caveats

IMPORTANT NOTE: The security properties for 0-RTT data are weaker than those for other kinds of TLS data. Specifically:

1. This data is **not forward secret**, as it is encrypted solely under keys derived using the offered PSK.
2. There are **no guarantees of non-replay** between connections.

Protection against replay for ordinary TLS 1.3 1-RTT data is provided via the server's Random value, but 0-RTT data does not depend on the ServerHello and therefore has weaker guarantees.

This is especially relevant if the data is authenticated either with TLS client authentication or inside the application protocol. The same warnings apply to any use of the `early_exporter_master_secret`.

0-RTT data cannot be duplicated within a connection (i.e., the server will not process the same data twice for the same connection), and an attacker will not be able to make 0-RTT data appear to be 1-RTT data (because it is protected with different keys). Appendix E.5 contains a description of potential attacks, and Section 8 describes mechanisms which the server can use to limit the impact of replay.



Why 0-RTT?

- Siri requests
- GET requests on websites*
- Other **stateless** stuff

But are you sure your application is completely robust to replays?

```
GET /?query=INSERT into payments (to, amount)
    VALUES ("Thom", 1000);
```

TLS 1.3 standardization

- Strong collaboration with academics for protocol evaluation
 - Proofs on pen/paper, and using tools like ProVerif, Tamarin
- Academic results influenced protocol design
- But TLS working group gonna TLS working group
 - State machines are still only in the appendix

Much less ad-hoc design: **design-break-patch-release** process instead of **design-release-break-patch**

TLS 1.3 wishlist

- ✓ Secure handshake
 - ✓ More privacy
 - ✓ Only forward secret key exchanges
 - ✓ Get rid of MD5, SHA1, 3DES, EXPORT, NULL, ...
- ✓ Simplify parameters
- ✓ More robust cryptography
- ✓ Faster, 1-RTT protocol
- ✓ 0-RTT resumption

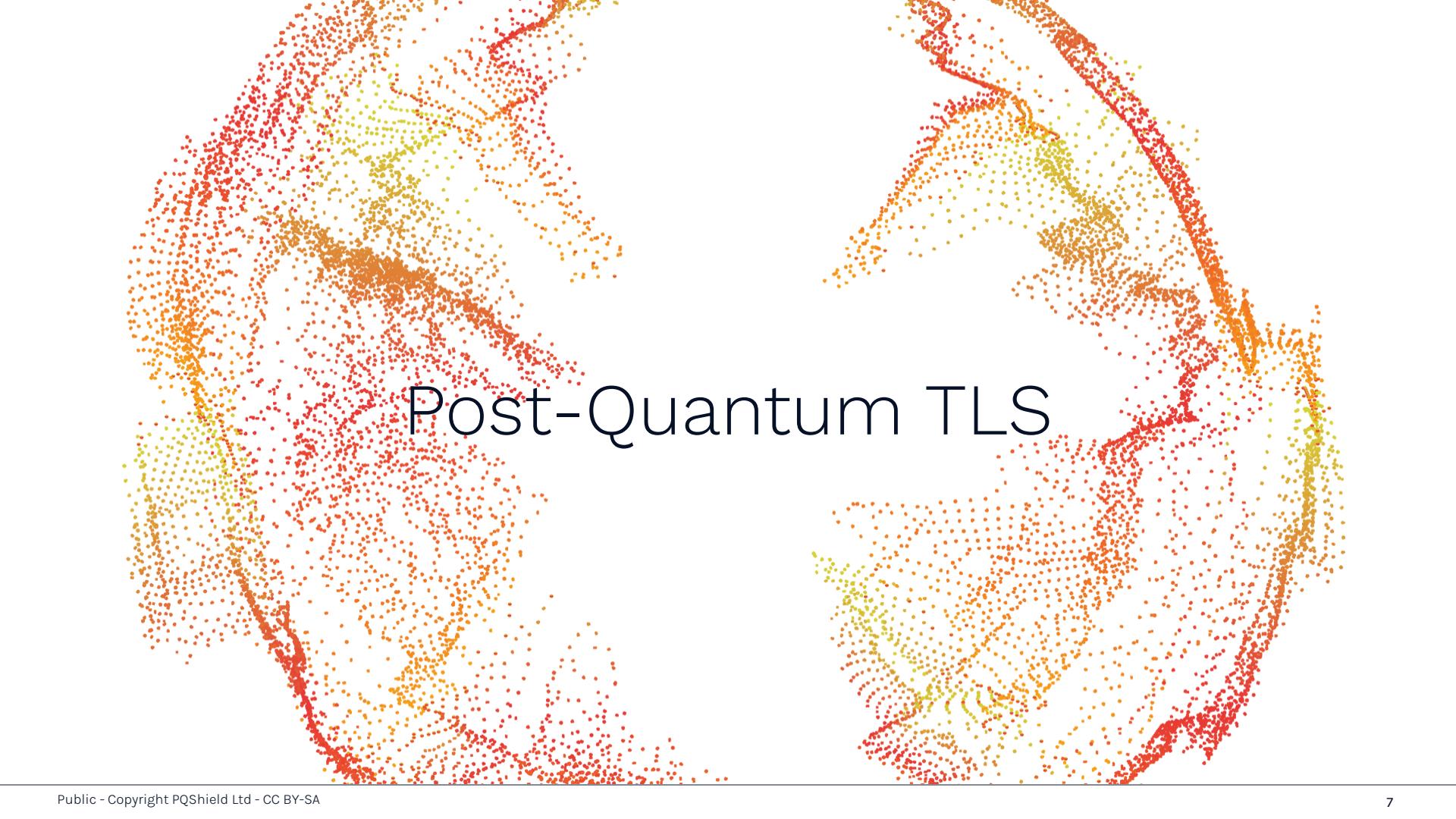


Post-quantum?



Server Name Indication: the remaining privacy problem

- TLS 1.3 encrypts the ServerCertificate and ClientCertificate messages
- But, Client includes the domain that they want to talk to in ClientHello in **plain text!**
- This allows CDNs / "virtual hosts" to serve many sites off of one IP address
- Problem: no keys established beforehand to encrypt the hostname
- Current proposed solution: put HPKE (RFC9180) keys in DNS so that server name can be encrypted (ECH: Encrypted Client Hello, WIP)
 - Post-Quantum challenges: DNS has significant size restrictions; adds additional ciphertext
- Only a real solution when many names map to the same IP (i.e. big-enough anonymity set implies CDN)
- ECH KEM keys are not useful for server (host) authentication (due to anonymity set)

The background of the slide features a large, abstract diamond shape composed of numerous small, semi-transparent colored dots. The dots are primarily red and orange, with some yellow and green ones interspersed. They are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and motion, resembling a stylized flame or a microscopic view of a crystal lattice.

Post-Quantum TLS

A dramatic scene from a movie or book illustration. A massive, dark-colored dragon is shown from the side, its head turned back as it breathes a powerful stream of bright orange and yellow fire. The fire forms a long, luminous trail that cuts through a dark, smoky sky. In the background, a city is engulfed in flames, with buildings and trees reduced to charred remains. The overall atmosphere is one of destruction and power.

Peter Shor

ECC
RSA
 g_x



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PROJECTS

Post-Quantum Cryptography PQC

Overview

Public comments are available for [Draft FIPS 203](#), [Draft FIPS 204](#) and [Draft FIPS 205](#), which specify algorithms derived from CRYSTALS-Dilithium, CRYSTALS-KYBER and SPHINCS⁺. The public comment period closed November 22, 2023.

[PQC Seminars](#)

Next Talk: April 23, 2024

[4th Round KEMs](#)

[Additional Digital Signature Schemes - Round 1 Submissions](#)

[PQC License Summary & Excerpts](#)

Background

NIST initiated a process to solicit, evaluate, and standardize one or more quantum-resistant public-key cryptographic algorithms. [Full details can be found in the Post-Quantum Cryptography Standardization page](#).

In recent years, there has been a substantial amount of research on quantum computers – machines that exploit quantum

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TLS 1.3

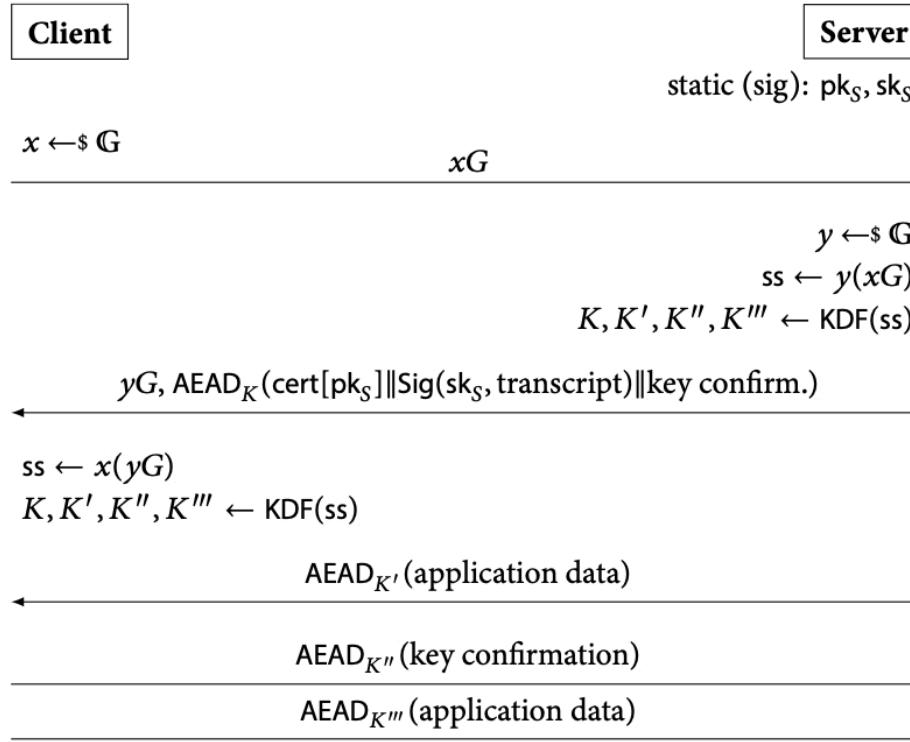


Figure 3.1: High-level overview of the TLS 1.3 handshake.

Post-Quantum TLS 1.3

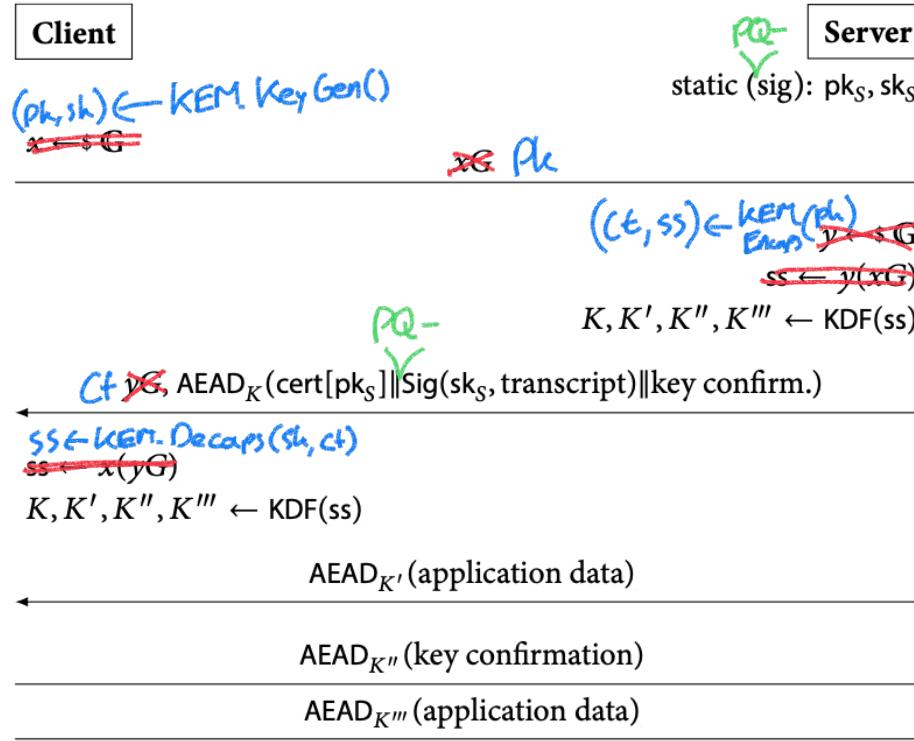


Figure 3.1: High-level overview of the TLS 1.3 handshake.

(AES-128 is fine btw)



Post-Quantum KEMs

Operation	Description
$(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{KEM-KeyGen}()$	Generates a public/private key pair.
$(K, ct) \leftarrow \text{KEM-Encaps}(pk)$	Generates shared key K and encapsulates it to public key pk as ct .
$K \leftarrow \text{KEM-Decaps}(ct, sk)$	Decapsulates ct using sk to obtain K

	Public key	Ciphertext
ML-KEM 512	800 b	768 b
ML-KEM 768	1184 b	1088b
ML-KEM 1024	1568 b	1568 b

X25519: 64 bytes



Post-Quantum Signatures: NIST Standards

	Public key	Signature
ML-DSA 44	1312 b	2420 b
ML-DSA 65	1952 b	3309 b
ML-DSA 87	2592 b	4627 b

Formerly Dilithium

	Public key	Signature
Falcon-512	897 b	666 b
Falcon-1024	1793 b	1280 b



Falcon signing uses 64-bit floats:
side-channel issues

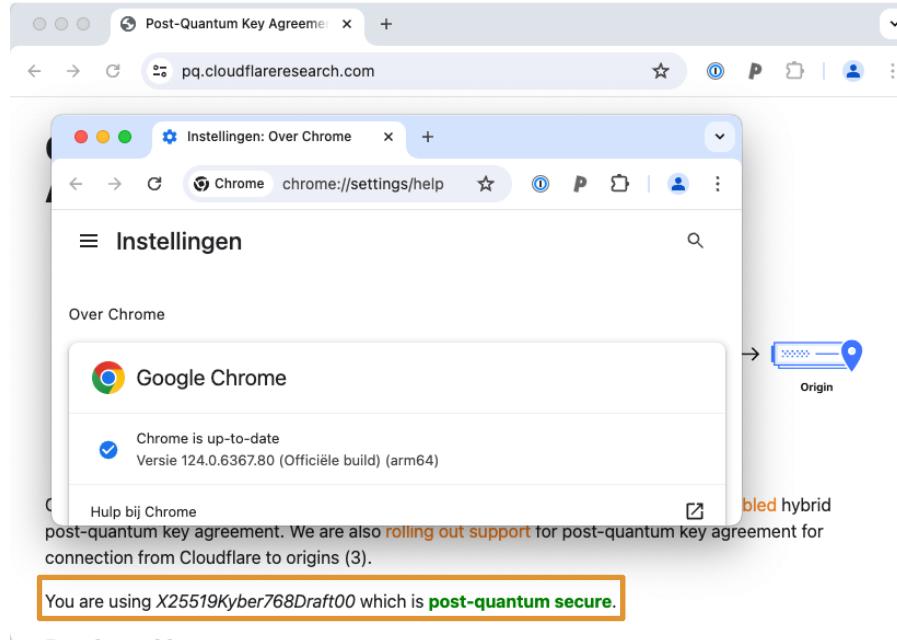
SLH-DSA	Public Key	Signature
128s	32 b	7856 b
128f	32 b	17088 b
192s	48 b	16224 b
192f	48 b	35664 b
256s	64 b	29792 b
256f	64 b	49856 b

Formerly known as SPHINCS+

RSA-2048: 544 bytes



By the way: Chrome 124.0





DA David Adrian

[TLS]Re: Curve-popularity data?

Aan: [REDACTED] Kopie: [REDACTED] <tls@ietf.org> <tls@ietf.org>

Archief...omwiggers.nl

3 juni 2024 om 16:21

[Details](#)

I don't really see why popularity of previous methods is relevant to picking what the necessarily new method will be is, but from the perspective of Chrome on Windows, across all ephemeral TCP TLS (1.2 and 1.3, excluding 1.2 RSA), the breakdown is roughly:

15% P256

3% P384

56% X25519

26% X25519+Kyber

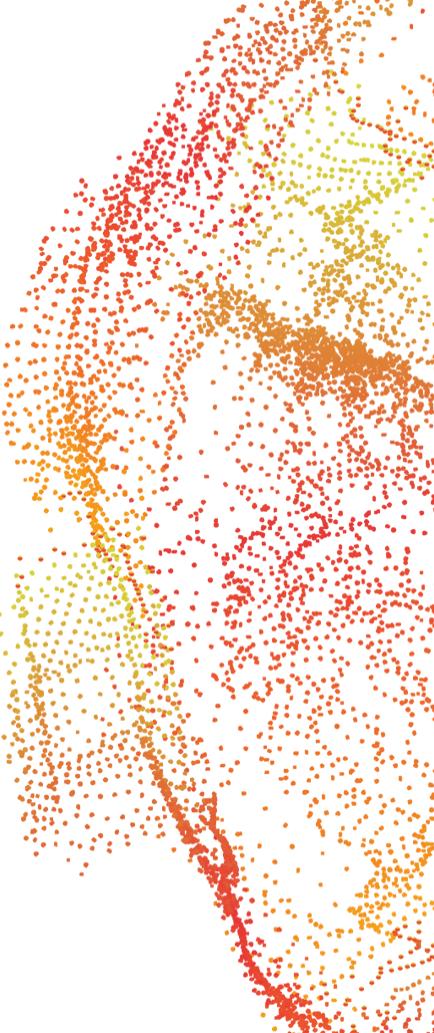


Authentication

1. CAs just buy new hardware
2. We buy new certificates
3. ???
4. Profit?



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Server.svg>



Muhammad Mahdi Karim/www.micro2macro.net
GFDL 1.2 [Source](#)



The image displays a complex network graph composed of numerous small, semi-transparent red and orange dots, representing nodes, connected by thin black lines forming a dense web of paths. The graph is highly interconnected, with many loops and dead ends. It is set against a white background and is centered around a large, bold, black sans-serif font text "WebPKI".

WebPKI

Page Info — <https://thomwiggers.nl/>

General Media Permissions Security

Website Identity

Website: thomwiggers.nl
Owner: This website does not supply ownership information
Verified by: Cloudflare, Inc. [View Certificate](#)

Privacy & History

Have I visited this website prior to today? Yes, 112 times
Is this website storing information on my computer? No [Clear Cookies and Site Data](#)

Have I saved any passwords for this website? No [View Saved Passwords](#)

Technical Details

Versleutelde verbinding (TLS_AES_128_GCM_SHA256, 128-bits sleutels, TLS 1.3)
De pagina die u bekijkt is versleuteld voordat deze over het internet werd verzonden.
Versleuteling maakt het moeilijk voor onbevoegde personen om gegevens te bekijken die tussen computers worden uitgewisseld. Het is daarom onwaarschijnlijk dat iemand deze pagina heeft gelezen terwijl hij over het netwerk werd verzonden.

3 Certificates

Certificate

sni.cloudflaressl.com	Cloudflare Inc ECC CA-3	Baltimore CyberTrust Root
Subject Name		
Country	US	
State/Province	California	
Locality	San Francisco	
Organization	Cloudflare, Inc.	
Common Name	sni.cloudflaressl.com	
Issuer Name		
Country	US	
Organization	Cloudflare, Inc.	
Common Name	Cloudflare Inc ECC CA-3	
Validity		
Not Before	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 00:00:00 GMT	
Not After	Wed, 15 Jun 2022 23:59:59 GMT	
Subject Alt Names		
DNS Name	thomwiggers.nl	
DNS Name	sni.cloudflaressl.com	
DNS Name	*.thomwiggers.nl	

Pre-installed

Public Key Info

Algorithm	Elliptic Curve
Key Size	256
Curve	P-256
Public Value	04:04:FF:B8:9F:66:B9:D5:CE:40:91:4B:B7:B4:8C:B4:D2:C4:17:E7:AA:75:2...

Miscellaneous

Serial Number	05:E1:B4:51:22:F8:E4:1A:9F:87:F0:61:D0:40:BD:07
Signature Algorithm	ECDSA with SHA-256
Version	3
Download	PEM (cert) PEM (chain)

Fingerprints

SHA-256	B3:D7:D5:C2:9A:ED:DE:A1:AA:7C:EA:9E:21:E9:A7:4F:6C:DA:7C:40:86:CA:8...
SHA-1	8E:D8:3E:CC:C1:95:D9:25:32:E9:97:47:30:13:6D:9D:42:93:E6:83

① Basic Constraints

Certificate Authority	No
-----------------------	----

② Key Usages

Purposes	Digital Signature
----------	-------------------

Extended Key Usages

Purposes	Server Authentication, Client Authentication
----------	--

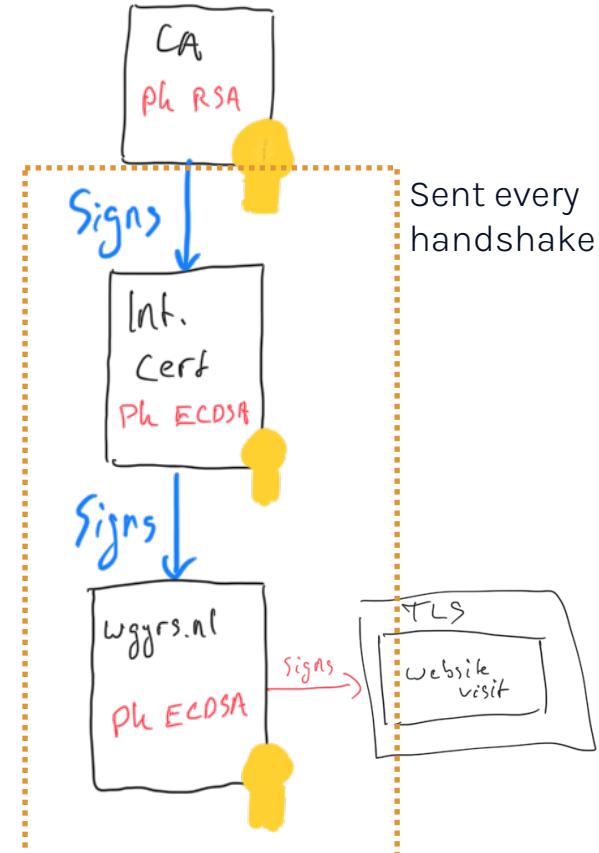
handshake signature

+ leaf certificate public key + intermediate certificate signature
+ root signature on intermediate
= 3 signatures and 2 public keys



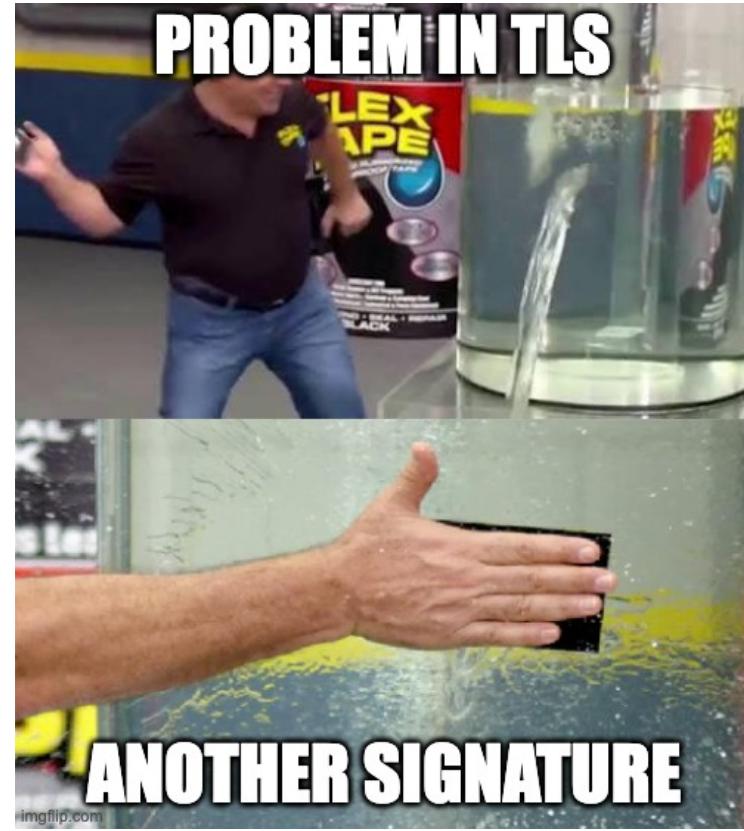
Public Key Infrastructure

- Certificate Authorities (CA)
- Become a trusted CA by:
 - spending 💰 💰 on audits
 - convince vendors to install your certificate
- Vendors trust CAs to check if I own wggrs.nl
- Intermediate CA certs make key management easier
 - (offline master signing key, etc)



Aside: PKI open problems

- Certificate issuance
- Certificate Revocation
 - Certificate Revocation Lists (CRL)
 - Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)
- Any trusted CA can issue a certificate for anyone
 - Famously abused by Iran(?) to attack Gmail in [DigiNotar.nl](#) hack
 - “Certificate Transparency” (CT)



Slap another signature on it

Online Certificate Status Protocol

Authority Info (AIA)	
Location	http://ocsp.digicert.com
Method	Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)
Location	http://cacerts.digicert.com/CloudflareIncECCA-3.crt
Method	CA Issuers

+ = 1 signature

Embedded SCTs	
Log ID	29:79:BE:F0:9E:39:39:21:F0:56:73:9F:63:A5:77:E5:BE:57:7D:9C:60:0A:F8:...
Name	Google "Argon2022"
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Version	1
Timestamp	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 17:11:33 GMT
Log ID	22:45:45:07:59:55:24:56:96:3F:A1:2F:F1:F7:6D:86:E0:23:26:63:AD:C0:4B...
Name	DigiCert Yeti2022
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Version	1
Timestamp	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 17:11:33 GMT
Log ID	51:A3:B0:F5:FD:01:79:9C:56:6D:B8:37:78:8F:0C:A4:7A:CC:1B:27:CB:F7:9E...
Name	DigiCert Nessie2022
Signature Algorithm	SHA-256 ECDSA
Version	1
Timestamp	Wed, 16 Jun 2021 17:11:33 GMT

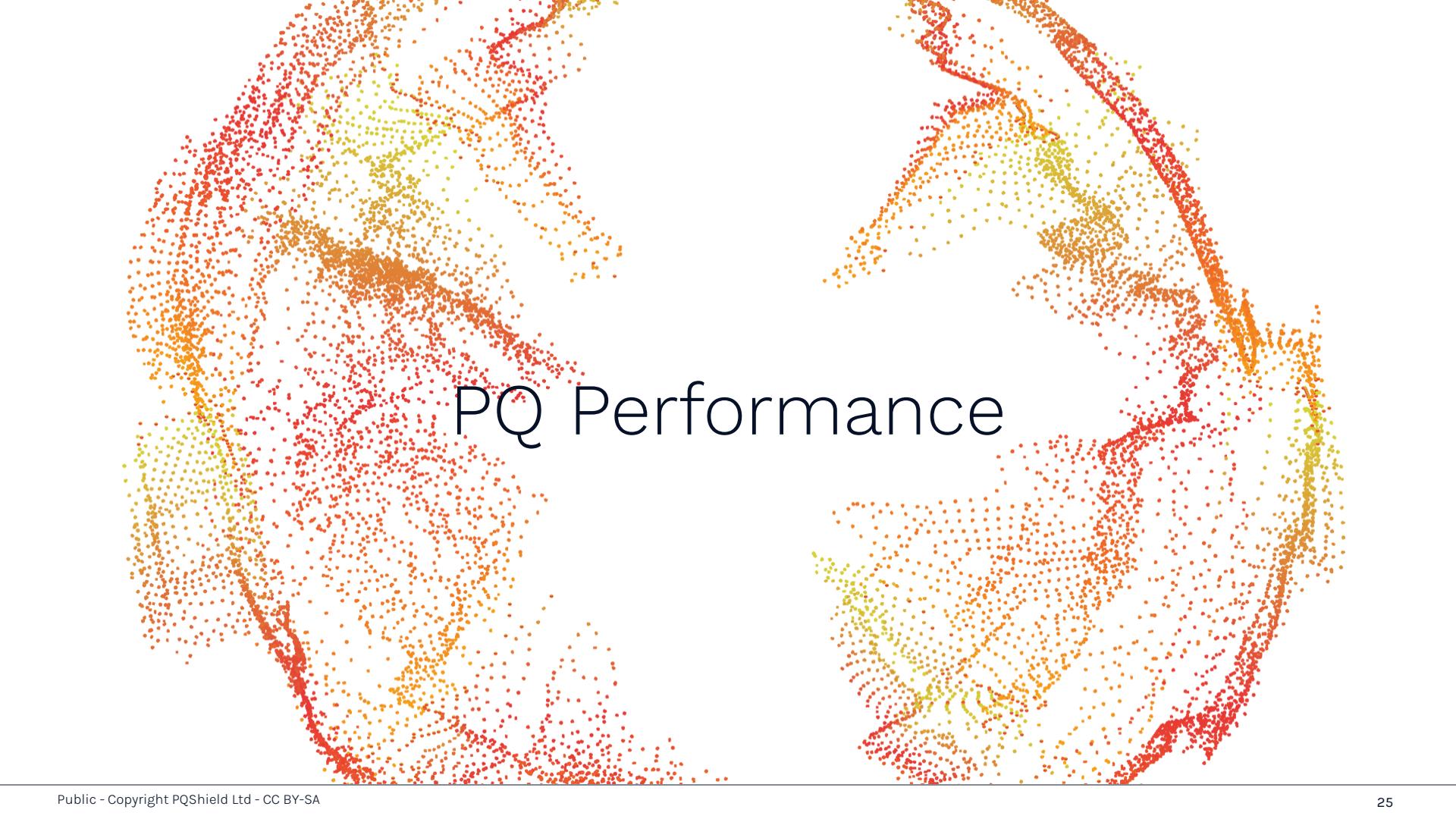
+ = 3 signatures

Certificate Transparency

- Chrome, Safari require all certificates to be submitted to at least 2 certificate transparency logs
- Log is a Merkle tree of hostnames and hashes of included certificates
 - No privacy! You can search this using <https://crt.sh>
- Auditing, etc, are part of the design
- SCT proofs in certificates are **promises of inclusion** within 24 hours for deployment reasons
- CT logs typically only accept certificates from trusted issuers

Summarising

- Typical **web** TLS handshake:
 - **ephemeral key exchange**
 - **handshake signature**
 - leaf certificate:
 pk
 - + signature by intermediate CA crt
 - + OCSP staple
 - + 3x SCT
 - intermediate CA certificate:
 $pk + \text{signature by root CA}$
 - root certificate (preinstalled)
- 1 **online** keygen+key exchange
- 1 **online** signing operation
- 6 **offline** signatures

The background of the slide features a large, abstract diamond shape composed of numerous small, semi-transparent colored dots. The color palette includes shades of red, orange, yellow, and green, creating a vibrant, pixelated effect. The dots are more densely packed along the perimeter and become more sparse towards the center of the diamond.

PQ Performance



Impact of PQ

- KyberML-KEM key exchange: ~1.5kB
- ML-DSA-44: **18 kB** of certificates!!
- Falcon-512: ~5 kB

Note: TCP congestion control

On connection establishment, TCP will allow you to send some amount of data before acknowledgement from the other side.

This window (and thus available connection bandwidth) scales as the connection is proven reliable when receiving TCP ACKs.

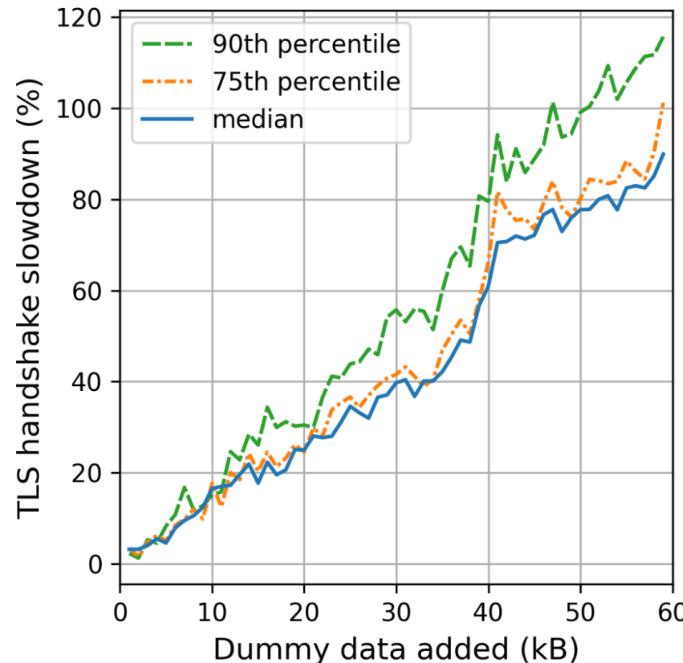
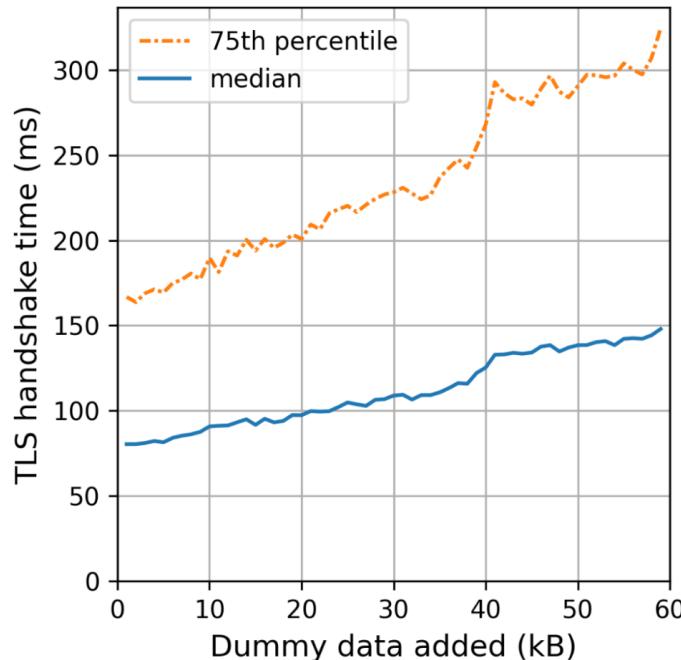
The default initial window on Linux is 10 packets, so **if you send more than ~15 kB of data, you're stuck waiting for an extra round-trip!**

**Even without congestion control,
more bytes = more slowlier**

sizes per <https://blog.cloudflare.com/sizing-up-post-quantum-signatures/>



Cloudflare live internet experiment: More data results in slowdown



Bas Westerbaan, <https://blog.cloudflare.com/sizing-up-post-quantum-signatures/>. Cloudflare has a 30 MSS = ~40kb congestion window

Table 11.1: Instantiations at NIST level I of unilaterally authenticated post-quantum TLS handshakes and the sizes of the public-key cryptography elements in bytes.

Experiment	Key Ex-change	Leaf certificate			Int. CA certificate			Offline
		Handshake auth.	Int. CA signature	Sum	Int. CA public key	Root CA signature	Sum	
handle	pk+ct	pk+sig	sig		pk	sig	pk	
Pre-quantum errr	X25519	RSA-2048 64	RSA-2048 528	RSA-2048 256	RSA-2048 848	RSA-2048 272	RSA-2048 256	RSA-2048 1 376
Primary KDDD	Kyber-512 1568	Dilithium2 3732	Dilithium2 2420	7 720	Dilithium2 1312	Dilithium2 2420	11 452	Dilithium2 1312
Falcon KFFF	Kyber-512 1568	Falcon-512 1563	Falcon-512 666	3 797	Falcon-512 897	Falcon-512 666	5 360	Falcon-512 897
Falcon offline KDF	Kyber-512 1568	Dilithium2 3732	Falcon-512 666	5 966	Falcon-512 897	Falcon-512 666	7 529	Falcon-512 897



Severe performance impact

- Kyber-768 “only” adds 2.3 kB to the handshake
- Google notes this already slows down handshakes by 4%
- Google observes a significant impact on lower-quality internet connections
 - This is why they’re only enabling this on Chrome Desktop right now
- To stay under 10% slowdown, we seem to have a budget of at most 10kB including KEX
 - We need something better than just replacing signatures

<https://dadrian.io/blog/posts/pqc-signatures-2024/>

<https://blog.chromium.org/2024/05/advancing-our-amazing-bet-on-asymmetric.html>

<https://securitycryptographywhatever.com/2024/05/25/ekr/>



Not just speed

- Larger Hello messages can lead to **fragmentation**
- Not all implementations are prepared to deal with fragmented packets
- Especially **middle boxes** affected

Product	Status	Discovered	Via	Patched	Links
Vercel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2023-08-15	Chrome Beta	2023-08-23	Twitter
ZScalar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2023-08-17	Chrome Beta	2023-09-28	
Cisco		2024-04-23	Chrome 124	Unknown	Cisco Bug
Envoy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2024-04-29	Chrome 124	n/a (config-only)	Github

Table last updated 2024-05-13

(List not exhaustive)

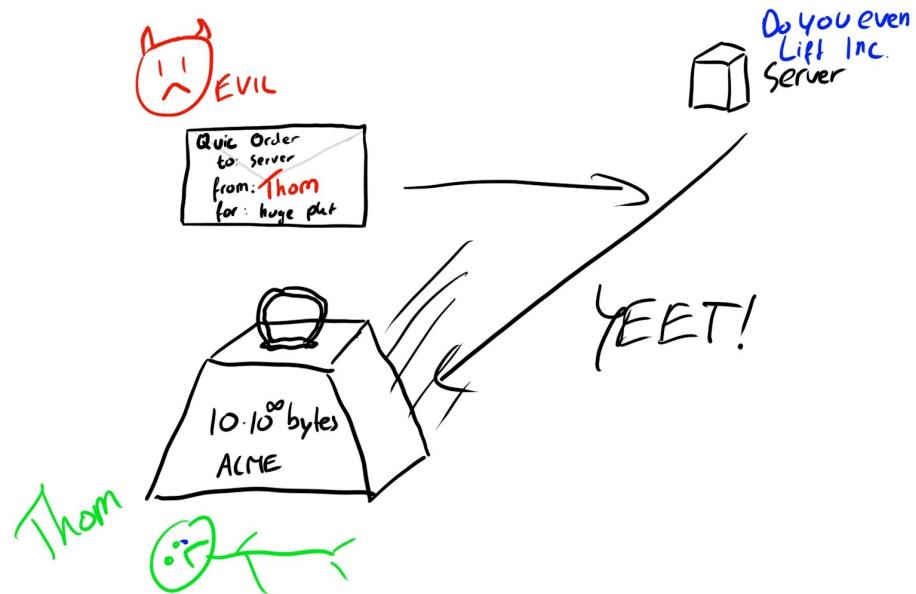


<https://tldr.fail>



More problems with sizes

- Variant protocols DTLS and QUIC are based on UDP: no TCP SYN/ACK sequence
- ClientHello message received by server could be **spoofed**, so QUIC allows sending back at most 3x the ClientHello size (avoids DoS amplification)
- Sending back 18kB of ML-DSA requires the client to pad its ClientHello message with ~5kB





Avoiding the costs of certificates

- Certificates are already very large, PQ makes this **much** worse
- We have multiple signatures that prove validity in each certificate:
 - Signature on certificate itself
 - OCSP staple that proves that certificate is currently valid
 - Certificate Transparency log inclusion proves that certificate was from a trusted issuer

Can we do things in a smarter way?



New WebPKI?



Combining different algorithms

- handshake signature Robust against side-channels, pk+sig small, fast signing
 - leaf certificate:
 - pk ML-DSA
 - + signature by intermediate CA crt Signature-verification only, pk+sig small
 - + OCSP staple Falcon
 - + 3x SCT
 - intermediate CA certificate:
 - pk
 - + signature by root CA Signature-verification only, signature small
 - root certificate (preinstalled) UOV? (NIST additional call for signatures)

Note: using multiple algorithms also has cost!



Avoiding the costs of certificates

- Certificates are very large, PQ makes this **much** worse
- We have multiple signatures that prove validity in each certificate:
 - Signature on certificate itself
 - OCSP staple that proves that certificate is currently valid
 - Certificate Transparency log inclusion proves that certificate was from a trusted issuer

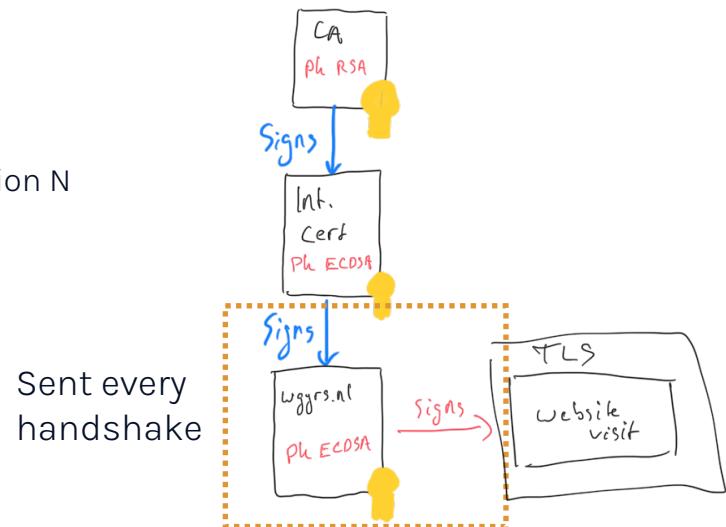
Can we do things in a smarter way?

Now is the time for redesigning the PKI



Abridged Compression for WebPKI Certificates

- Browser vendors control the root certificates that are included
- Step 1: Just ship the intermediate certificates as well
 - Client indicates to the server it has version N of the intermediate certificates list
 - Server omits intermediate certificate if present in list version N
 - Immediate savings: 1 certificate including 1 public key + 1 signature



Dennis Jackson, Mozilla

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-tls-cert-abridge/>



Abridged Compression for WebPKI Certificates

- Certificates contain **many** common strings
 - policy urls, CA names, CT urls, extensions ...
 - RFC 8879 already specifies certificate compression using zlib, brotli, zstd
- **Step 2:** Instead of applying compression algorithm directly, **pre-train a compression dictionary** based on sample certificates from all issuers
- **Ship compression dictionary in browser**

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-tls-cert-abridge/>

Dictionary compression

```
function a() {
    console.log("Hello World!");
}

function b() {
    console.log("I am here");
}
```

Original

```
function () {
    console.log("");
}
```

Dictionary



```
*a()&Hello World!$  
*b&I am here$
```

Compressed

https://gigazine.net/gsc_news/en/20240307-shared-dictionary-compression-chrome/



Abridged Certificate Compression for TLS

- Step 3: compress certificates before sending using the pre-trained dictionary (if client up-to-date)
- Shipping compression dictionary out-of-band massively improves compression results
- Gain ~3000 bytes, i.e. space for 1 ML-DSA
- Remember that public keys and signatures themselves don't compress at all
- Security analysis very easy: just uncompress and you have the same TLS handshake

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-tls-cert-abridge/>

Scheme	Storage	p5	p50	p95
	Footprint			
Original	0	2308	4032	5609
TLS Cert Compression	0	1619	3243	3821
Intermediate Suppression and TLS Cert Compression	0	1020	1445	3303
This Draft	65336	661	1060	1437
This Draft with opaque trained dictionary	3000	562	931	1454
Hypothetical Optimal Compression	0	377	742	1075



Merkle Tree Certificates

What if we build the PKI on Certificate Transparency's ideas, combined with OCSP?

Transport Layer Security
Internet-Draft
Intended status: Experimental
Expires: 5 September 2024

D. Benjamin
D. O'Brien
Google LLC
B. E. Westerbaan
Cloudflare
4 March 2024

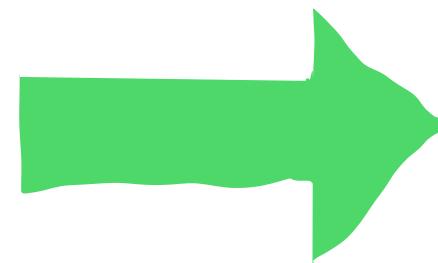
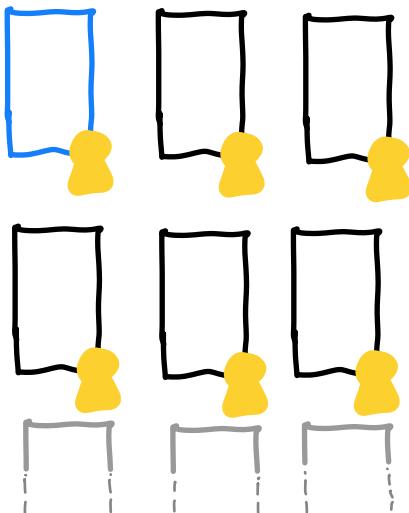
Merkle Tree Certificates for TLS
draft-davidben-tls-merkle-tree-certs-02

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-davidben-tls-merkle-tree-certs/>

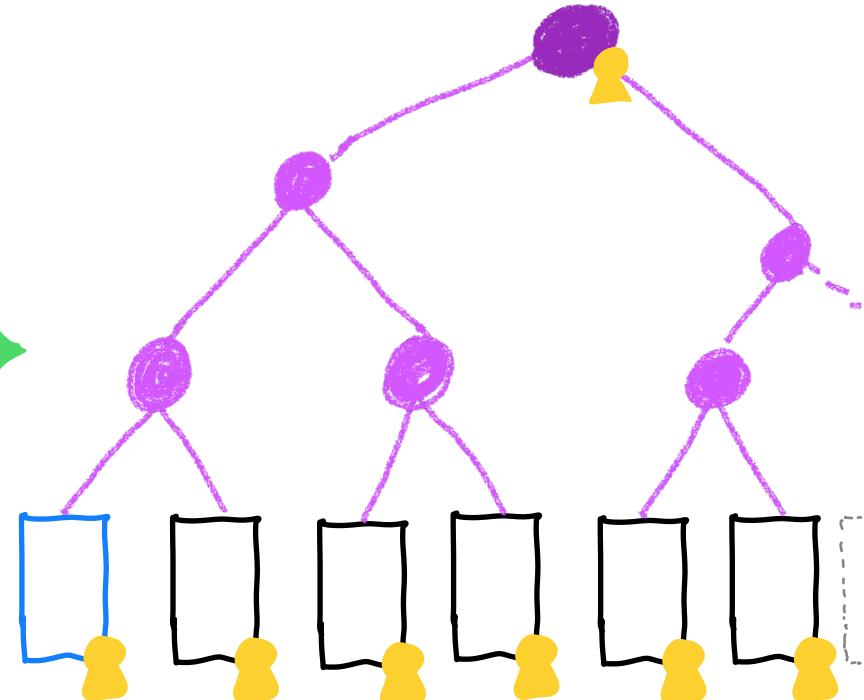


MTC: Step 1

Thom trust Inc.*



Merkle tree
of valid certs



* Fund my startup



MTC: Step 2

Thom trust



moz://a



- Audits
- Transparency



Bascert

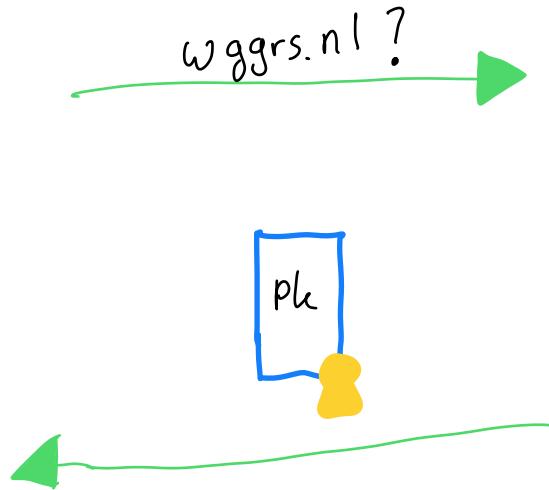
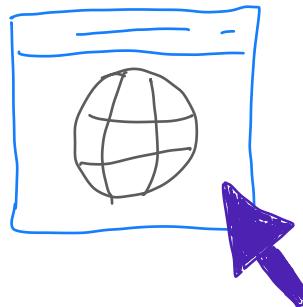


LetsEkrypt



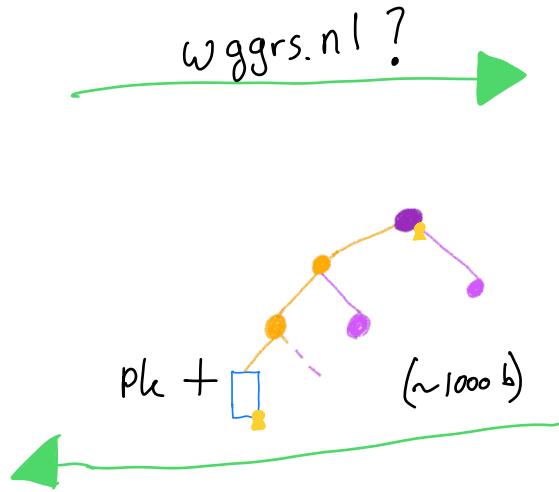
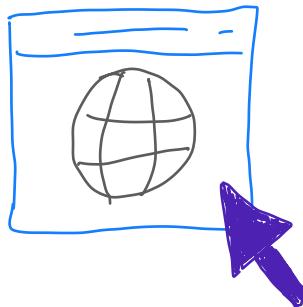


MTC: Step 3



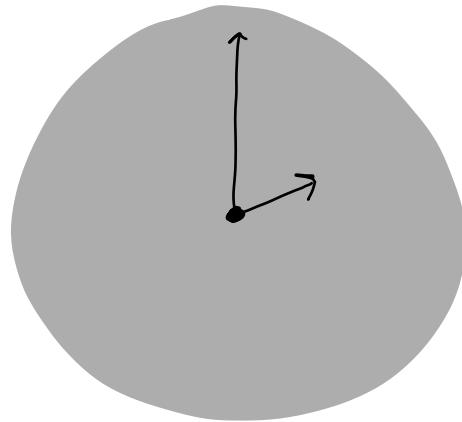


MTC: Step 3





Merkle Tree Certificates



Repeat every
hour



Merkle Tree Certificates

- Big changes necessary to every part of the ecosystem
 - Short-lived certificates
 - Webserver must continuously fetch the latest authentication paths
 - Clients must keep downloading currently valid tree heads
 - Automated certificate provisioning such as ACME [RFC8555] should help with this
- New trust model makes security analysis more complicated
- Both MTC and Abridged Compression designed for big deployments and publicly trusted CAs
 - What about IoT? What about a bank's internal stuff?



Save even more data?

- Handshake authentication still uses signatures, so ~3.5 kB (pk + sig) for Dilithium2
- **KEMTLS**: (implicitly) authenticate handshake by using **key exchange** instead
 - Put **KEM public key** in certificate / Merkle Tree Cert
 - Authentication in ~2 kB (ML-KEM 768)
 - **Redesigns TLS handshake**
 - IETF: draft-celi-wiggers-tls-authkem

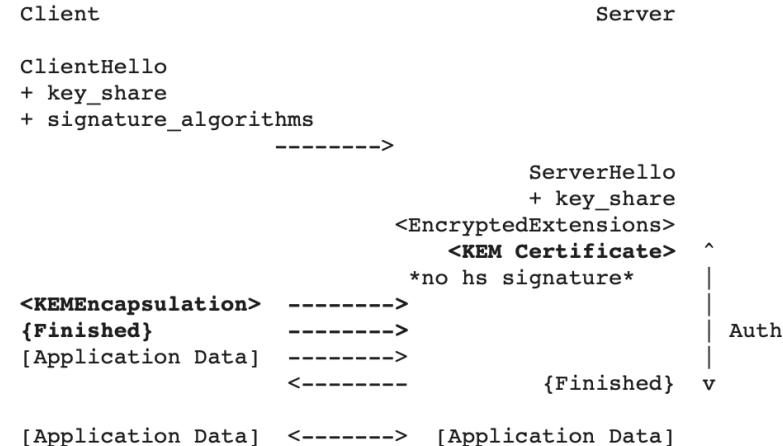
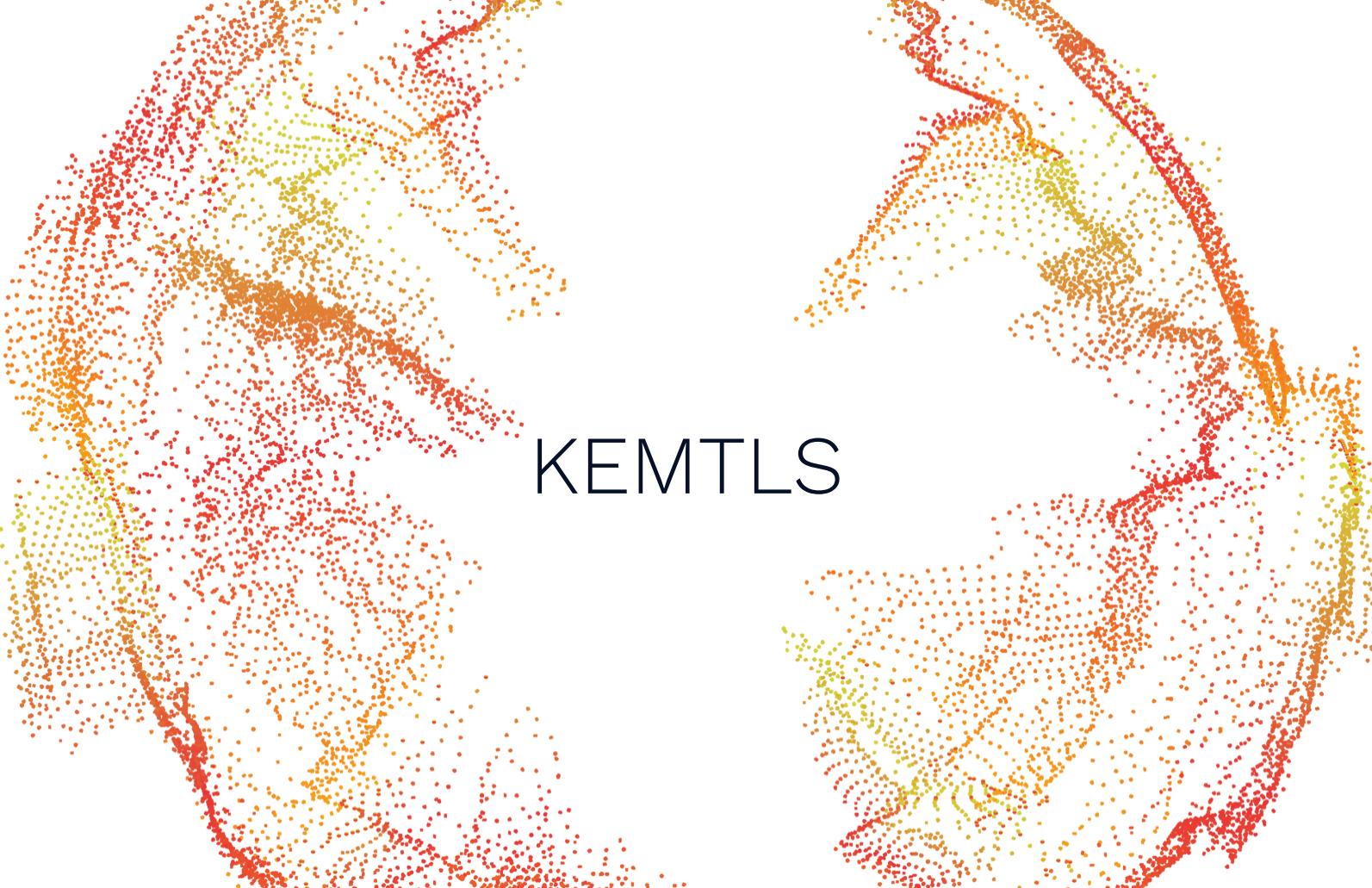
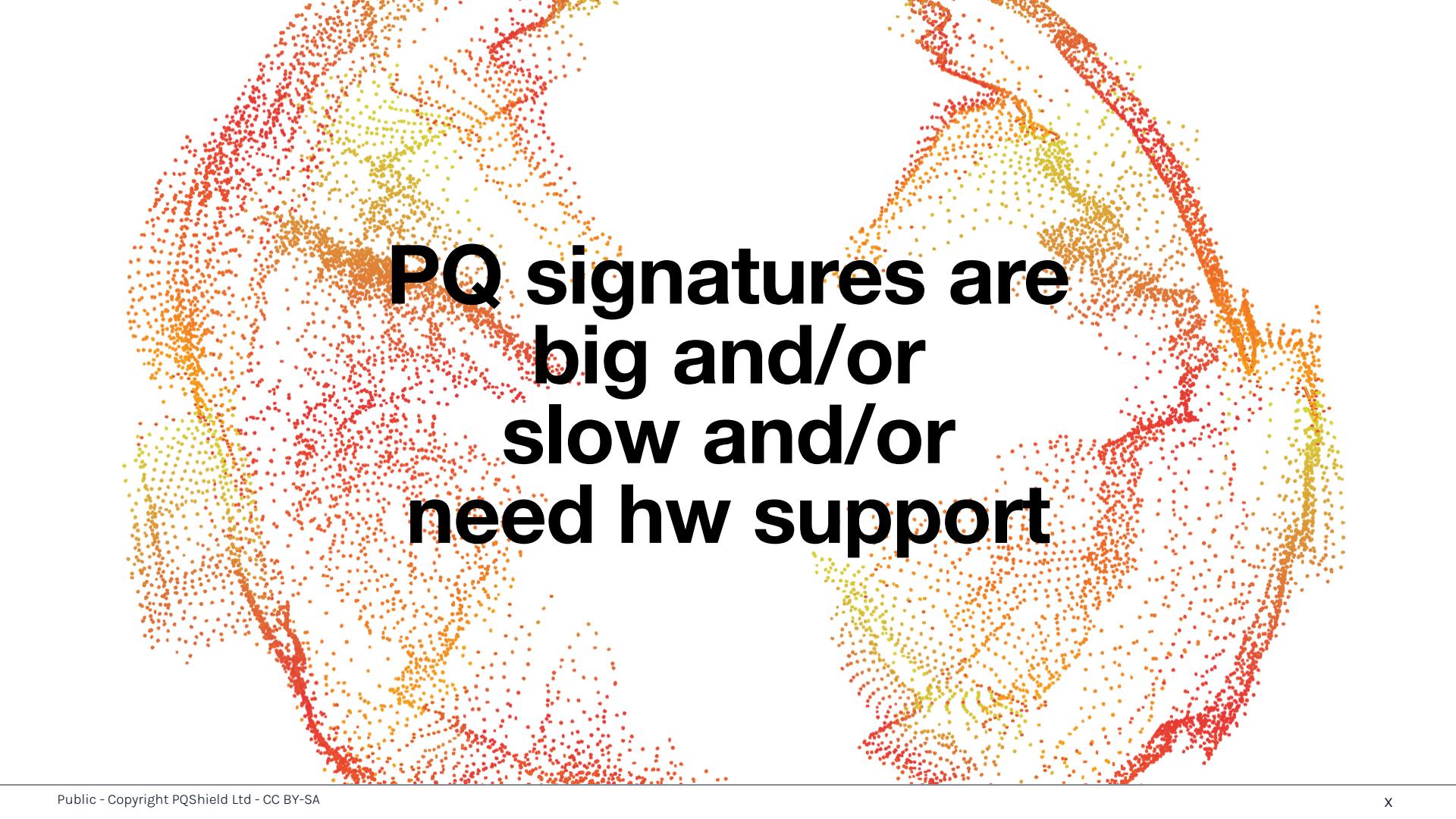


Figure 1: Message Flow for KEM-Authentication (KEM-Auth) Handshake without client authentication.

- <https://kemtls.org>



KEMTLS



PQ signatures are
big and/or
slow and/or
need hw support



Use key exchange for authentication



Authentication

Explicit authentication:

Alice receives assurance that she really is talking to Bob

- Signed Diffie-Hellman
- SIGMA
- TLS 1.3

Implicit authentication:

Alice is assured that only Bob would be able to compute the shared secret

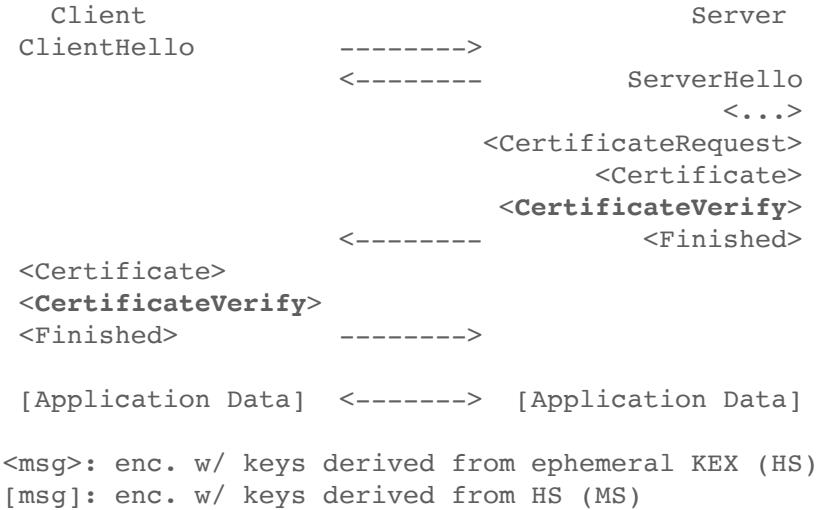
- Signal
- Wireguard
- Noise framework

Can always use MAC to confirm key

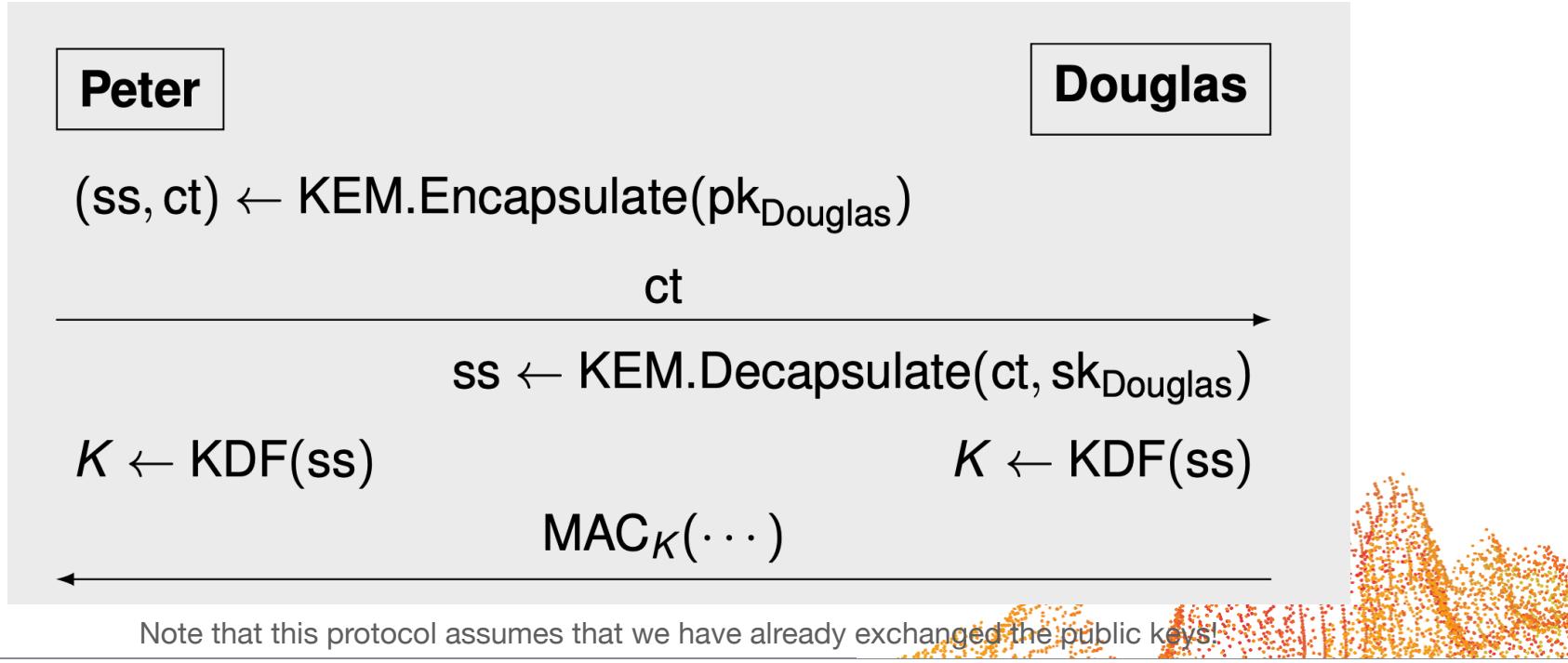


TLS handshake authentication

- Signatures allow us to authenticate immediately!

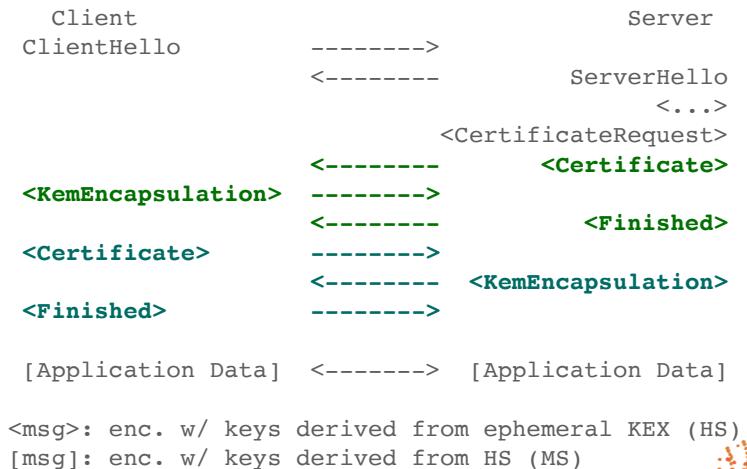


Authenticated Key Exchange via KEM



TLS authentication via KEM

- Signatures allow us to authenticate immediately!
- KEMs require interactivity
- Exercise for the reader: see how Diffie–Hellman's **non-interactive key exchange** property would have allowed us to do this more efficiently
 (See OPTLS by Krawczyk and Wee)



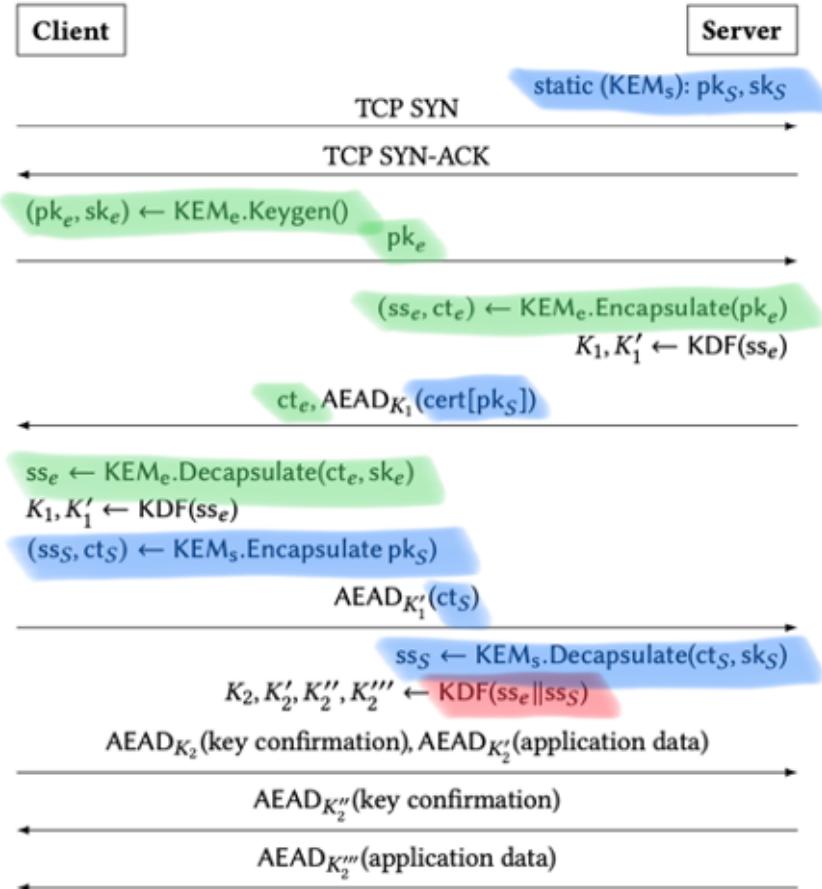


KEMTLS

KEM for
ephemeral key exchange

KEM for
server-to-client
authenticated key exchange

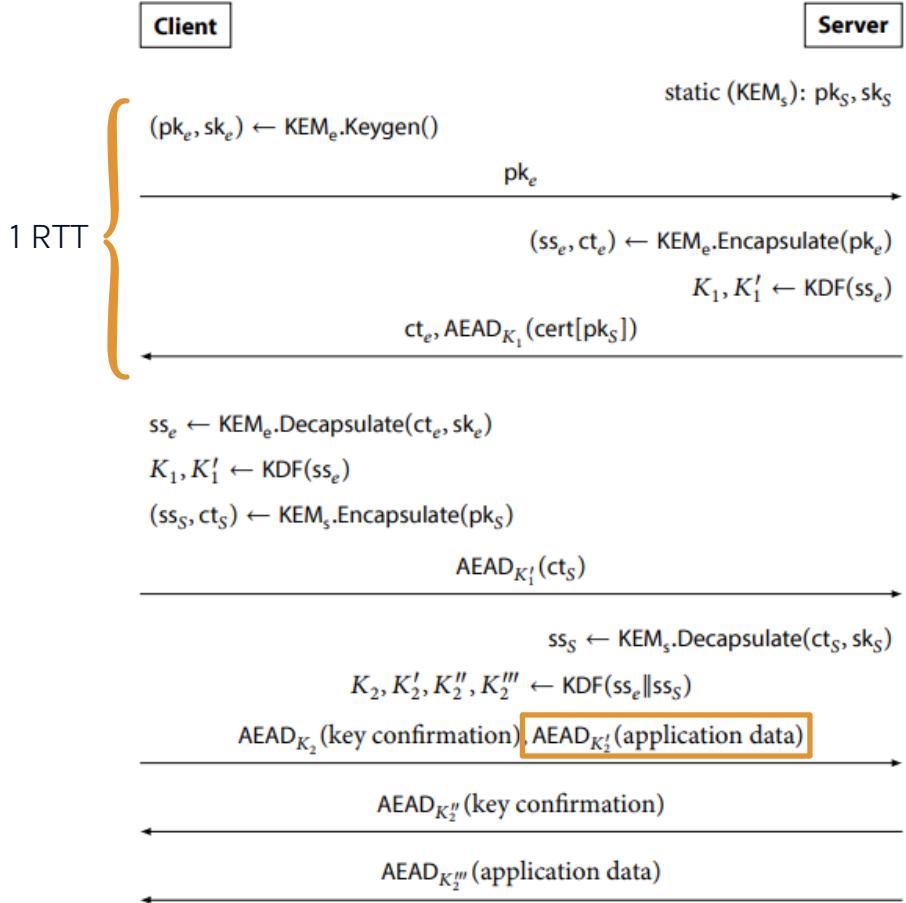
Combine shared secrets





KEMTLS

- What can a server send to a client, before the client has said what they wanted?
- Use **implicitly authenticated key** to encrypt application message (request) to server **before receiving Server's Finished message**
- Avoid 2-RTT protocol
- Client can send HTTP request in same place as in TLS 1.3



Sizes of KEMTLS

Table 13.1: Instantiations at NIST level I of unilaterally authenticated KEMTLS handshakes and the sizes of the public-key cryptography elements in bytes.

Experiment	Key Ex-change pk+ct	Leaf certificate			Int. CA certificate			Offline Root CA public key pk
		Handshake auth. pk+ct	Int. CA signature sig	Sum	Int. CA public key pk	Root CA signature sig	Sum	
Primary KKDD	Kyber-512 1568	Kyber-512 1568	Dilithium2 2420	5 556	Dilithium2 1312	Dilithium2 2420	9 288	Dilithium2 1312
Falcon KKFF	Kyber-512 1568	Kyber-512 1568	Falcon-512 666	3 802	Falcon-512 897	Falcon-512 666	5 365	Falcon-512 897
SPHINCS ⁺ -f	Kyber-512 1568	Kyber-512 1568	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128f	20 224	SPHINCS ⁺ -SPHINCS ⁺ - 128f	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128f	37 344	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128f
KKSfSf					32	17 088		32
SPHINCS ⁺ -s	Kyber-512 1568	Kyber-512 1568	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128s	10 992	SPHINCS ⁺ -SPHINCS ⁺ - 128s	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128s	18 880	SPHINCS ⁺ - 128s
KKSsSs					32	7856		32
Hash-based CA KKXX	Kyber-512 1568	Kyber-512 1568	XMSS _s ^{MT} -I 4 115	XMSS _s ^{MT} -I	XMSS _s ^{MT} -I 32	XMSS _s ^{MT} -I 979	5 126	XMSS _s ^{MT} -I 32

Table excludes OCSP, SCT

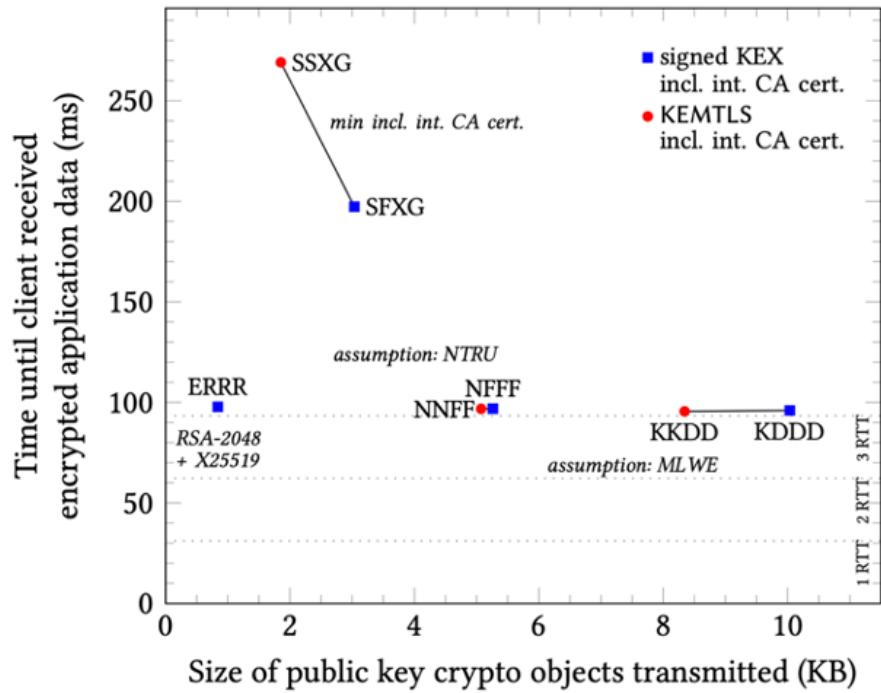
Table 13.5: Comparison of handshake size and time until the client receives a response from the server (30.9 ms, 1000 Mbps), between unilaterally authenticated post-quantum TLS 1.3 and KEMTLS instances at NIST level I.

Experiment	Handshake size (bytes)				Time until response (ms)			
	No int.	Δ%	With int.	Δ%	No int.	Δ%	With int.	Δ%
TLS KDDD	7720	-28.0 %	11 452	-18.9 %	94.8	-0.4 %	95.0	-0.3 %
KEMTLS KKDD	5556		9288		94.4		94.8	
TLS KFFF	3797	+0.1 %	5360	+0.1 %	95.8	-1.3 %	96.1	-1.2 %
KEMTLS KKFF	3802		5365		94.5		94.9	
TLS KDFF	5966	-36.3 %	7529	-28.7 %	94.8	-0.3 %	95.2	-0.3 %
KEMTLS KKFF	3802		5365		94.5		94.9	
TLS KKSsSsS	17 312	-36.5 %	25 200	-25.1 %	197.7	-52.0 %	198.0	-36.2 %
KEMTLS KKSsSs	10 992		18 880		94.9		126.4	

Signed KEX versus KEMTLS

Labels ABCD:
A = ephemeral KEM
B = leaf certificate
C = intermediate CA
D = root CA

Algorithms: (all level 1)
Dilithium,
ECDH X25519,
Falcon,
GeMSS,
Kyber,
NTRU,
RSA-2048,
SIKE,
XMSS'



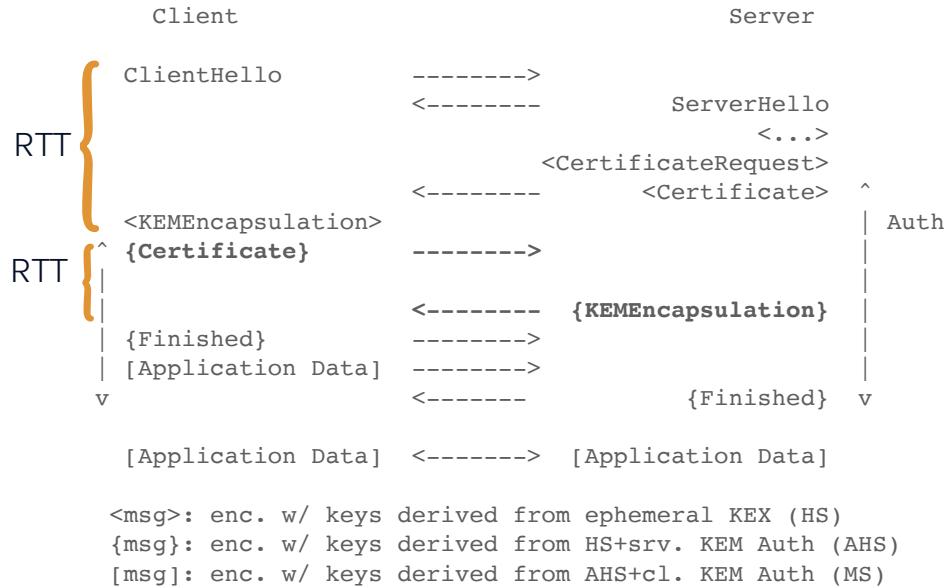
Rustls client/server with some AVX2 implementations. Emulated network: latency 31.1 ms, bandwidth 1000 Mbps, 0% packet loss. Average of 100000 iterations.

24



KEMTLS client auth

- Unfortunately, no nice tricks exist for the client certificate ...
- **Full extra round-trip** in KEMTLS
- Also: we need an extra “authenticated” handshake traffic secret to protect the client certificate



KEMTLS-PDK

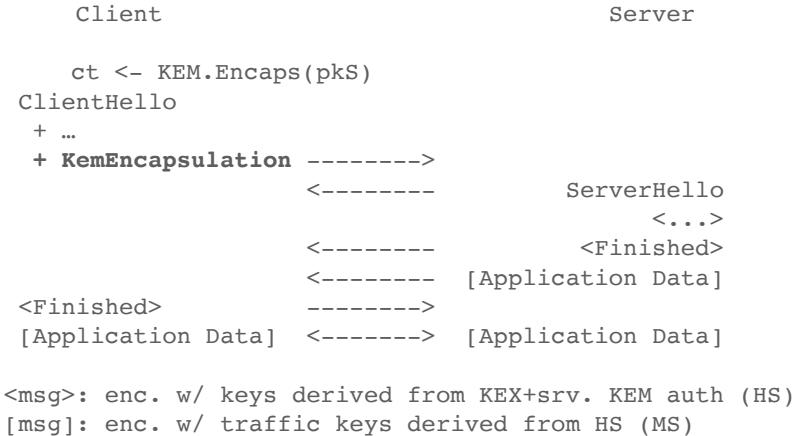
- The client often knows the server:
 - It's the 10th time you refreshed the front page of Reddit in the past 5 minutes
 - You've been doom-scrolling /r/wallstreetbets  for two hours already
 - Or the client is a too-cheap IoT security camera ~~spying on you for China~~ checking firmware updates from the same server every day



The client reasonably might know the server's long-term key

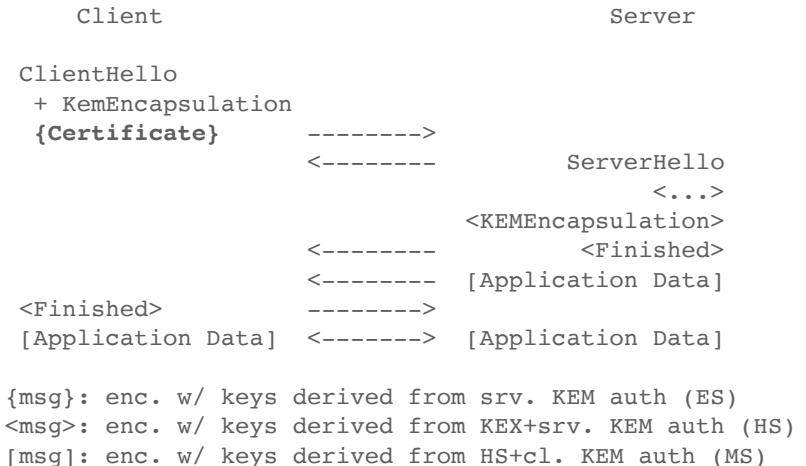
KEMTLS-PDK

- Use server's long-term (certificate) public key to encaps before ClientHello
- Send the ciphertext with ClientHello
- Don't transmit certificates anymore
- Save even more bytes



KEMTLS-PDK

- We now have an implicitly authenticated key already before we sent the ClientHello message!
- Use this to also encrypt and send over the client's certificate
- Or 0-RTT?
- ! No replay protection
- ! No forward secrecy



TLS ecosystem challenges

- Datagram TLS
- Use of TLS handshake in other protocols
 - e.g. QUIC
- Application-specific behaviour
 - e.g. HTTP3 SETTINGS frame not server-authenticated
- PKI involving KEM public keys
- Long tail of implementations
- ...

Standardizing KEMTLS

- Authentication bits from KEMTLS have been submitted to the TLS working group at the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) (aka the RFC people)
 - <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-celi-wiggers-tls-authkem/>
 - <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-wiggers-tls-authkem-psk/>
 - <https://wggrs.nl/docs/authkem-abridged/>

Transitioning to PQ

- The transition to post-quantum means:
 - KEMs are less flexible than Diffie–Hellman
 - No non-interactive key exchange
 - PQ is bigger than ECC we got used to
 - Post-Quantum Signatures are big
- **Big changes to surrounding ecosystems might be necessary**
 - “Slapping another signature on it” is no longer a cheap solution
 - The WebPKI may see a big redesign
 - Even with the big redesign, we may still need **KEMTLS** (AuthKEM @ IETF) to mitigate the cost of the handshake signature to keep the slowdown under 10%