

# Cryptography and Systems

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**CS-576 Systems Security**

Instructor: Georgios Portokalidis

Spring 2018

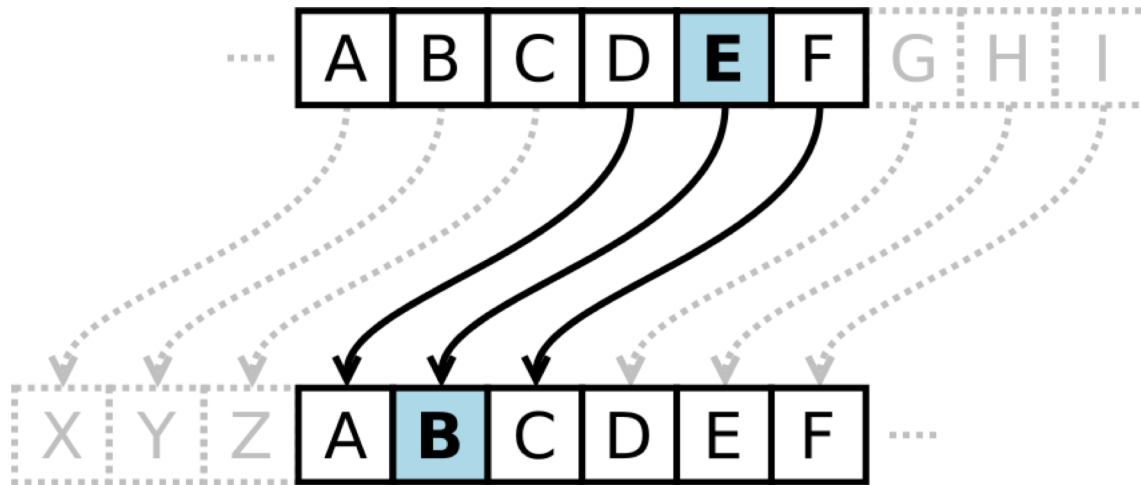
# History of Cryptography



## Scytale

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scytale>

# Caesar Cipher



Shift by 3  
and  
substitute

Plaintext:

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

Ciphertext:

QEB NRFZH YOLTK CLU GRJMP LSBQ QEB IXWV ALD

# Caesar Cipher

$$E_n(x) = (x + n) \bmod 26, n = 3$$

Plaintext:

THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

Ciphertext:

QEB NRFZH YOLTK CLU GRJMP LSBQ QEB IXWV ALD



# Goals of Cryptography

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## Confidentiality

- Keep content secret from unauthorized entities

## Integrity

- Protect content from unauthorized modification

## Authentication

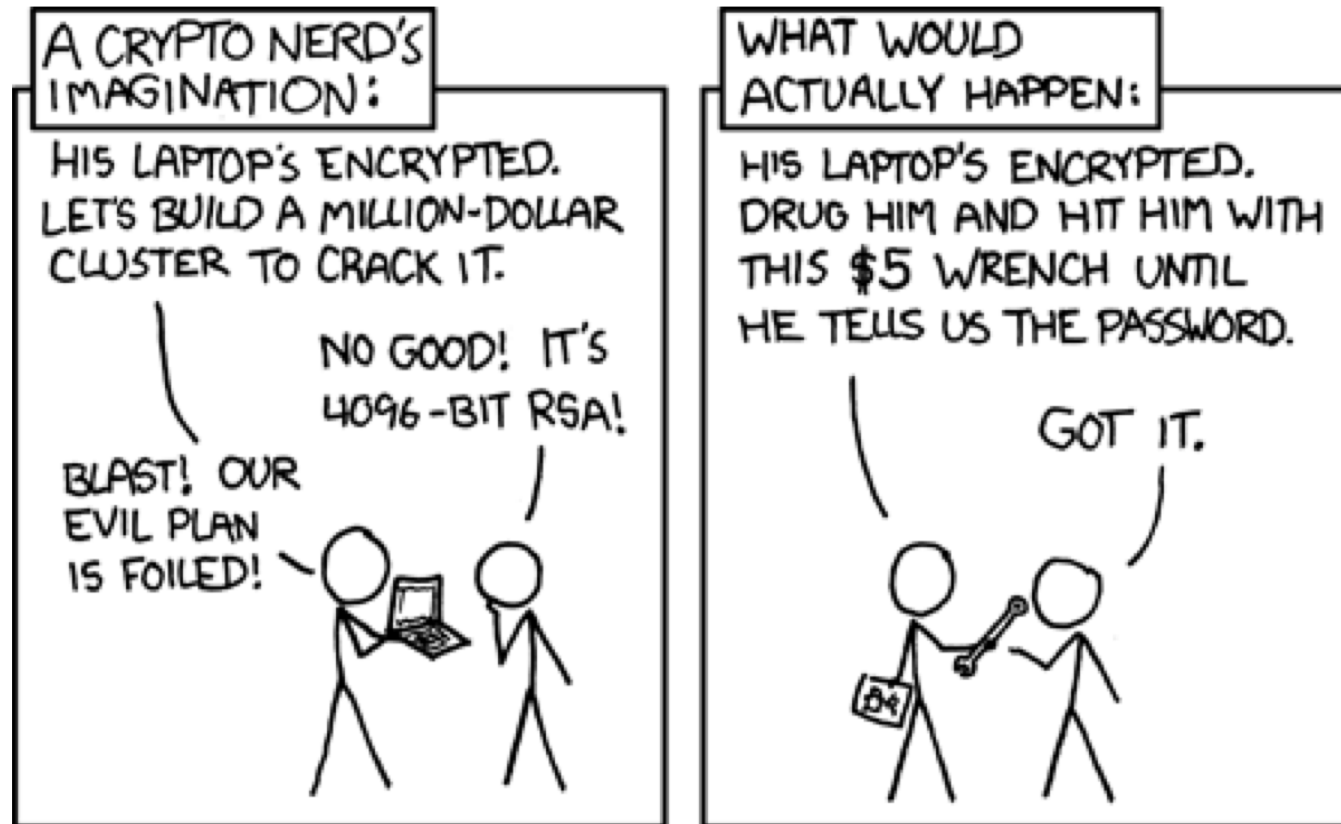
- Confirm the identity of communicating entities
- Confirm the identify of data author

## Non-repudiation

- Prevent entities from denying previous commitments or actions

# How to Break Crypto

Adi Shamir: "Crypto is typically bypassed, not penetrated"



# This Lecture

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Symmetric encryption

Public-key encryption

Hashing and message authentication codes

Secure channels in practice

Public key authentication

TLS/SSL and attacks

# Symmetric Encryption

# Symmetric Encryption

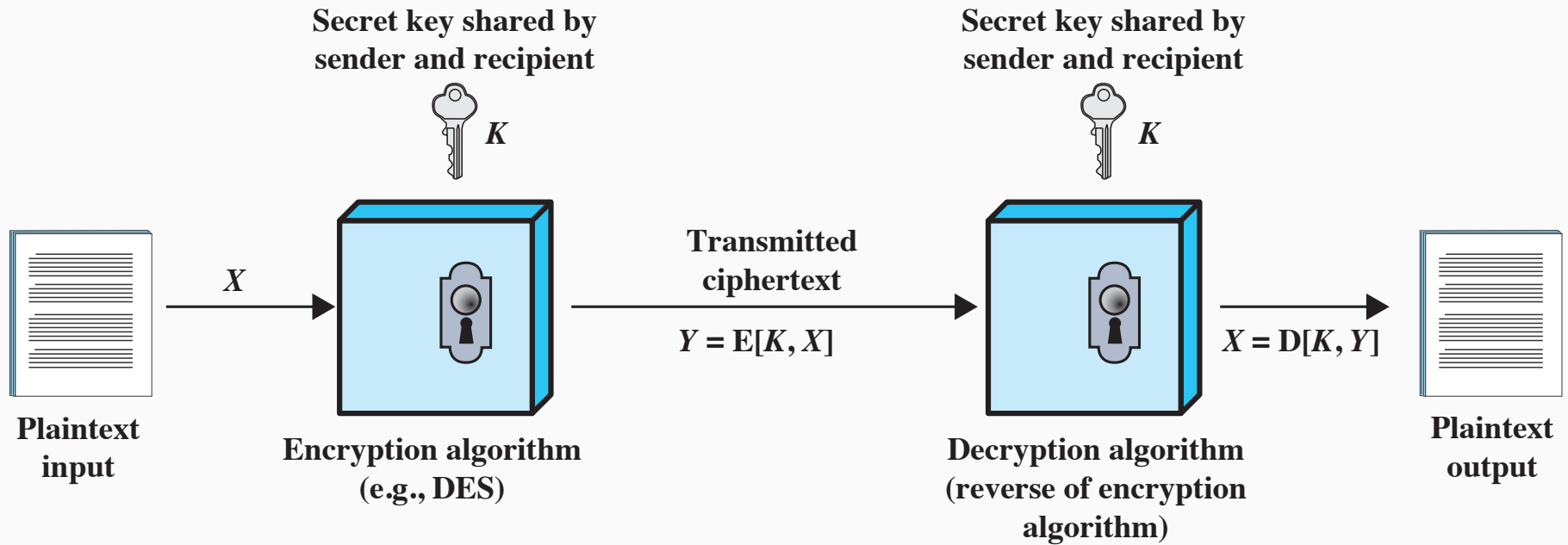
The universal technique for providing confidentiality for transmitted or stored data

Also referred to as conventional encryption or single-key/secret-key encryption

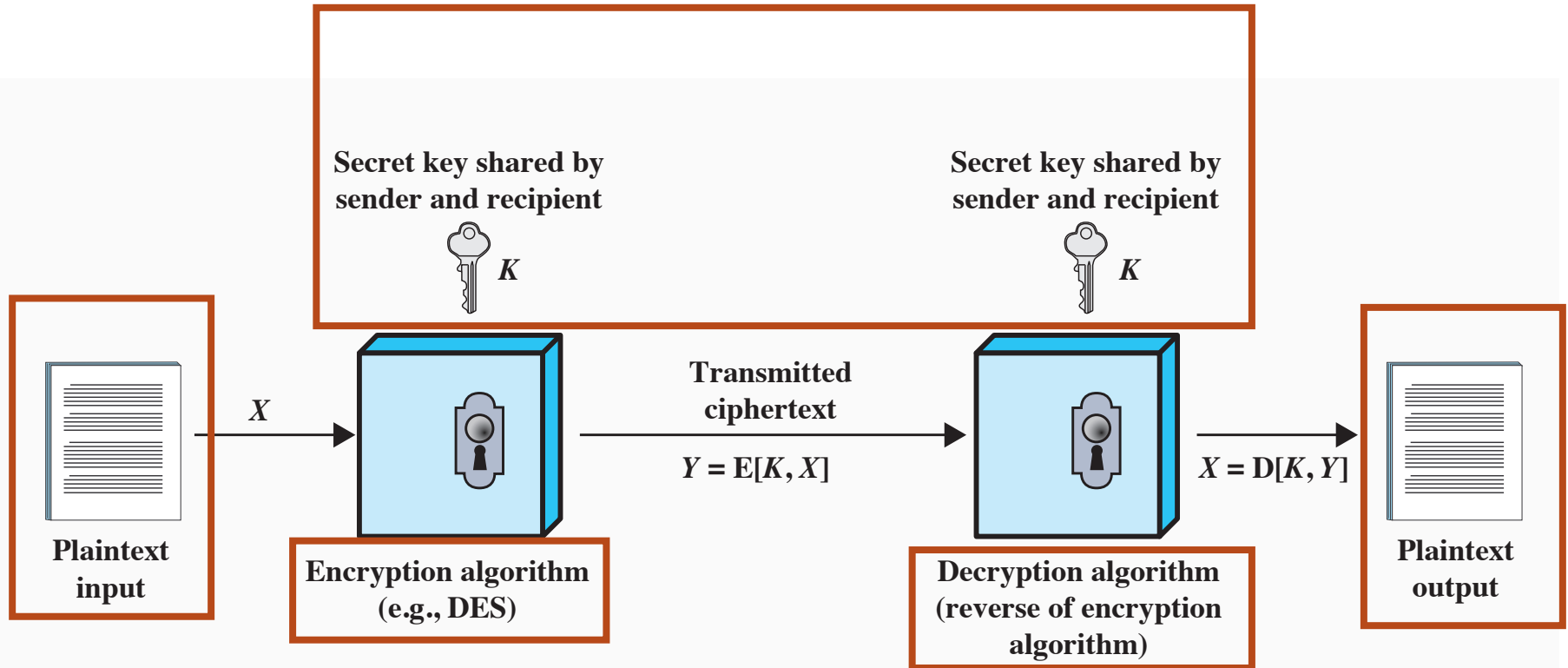
Two requirements for secure use:

- A strong encryption algorithm
- Sender and receiver **must have obtained copies of the secret key in a secure fashion** and **must keep the key secure**

# Overview



# Terminology



# Types of Ciphers

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## **Block ciphers**

Processes the input one block of elements at a time

Produces an output block for each input block

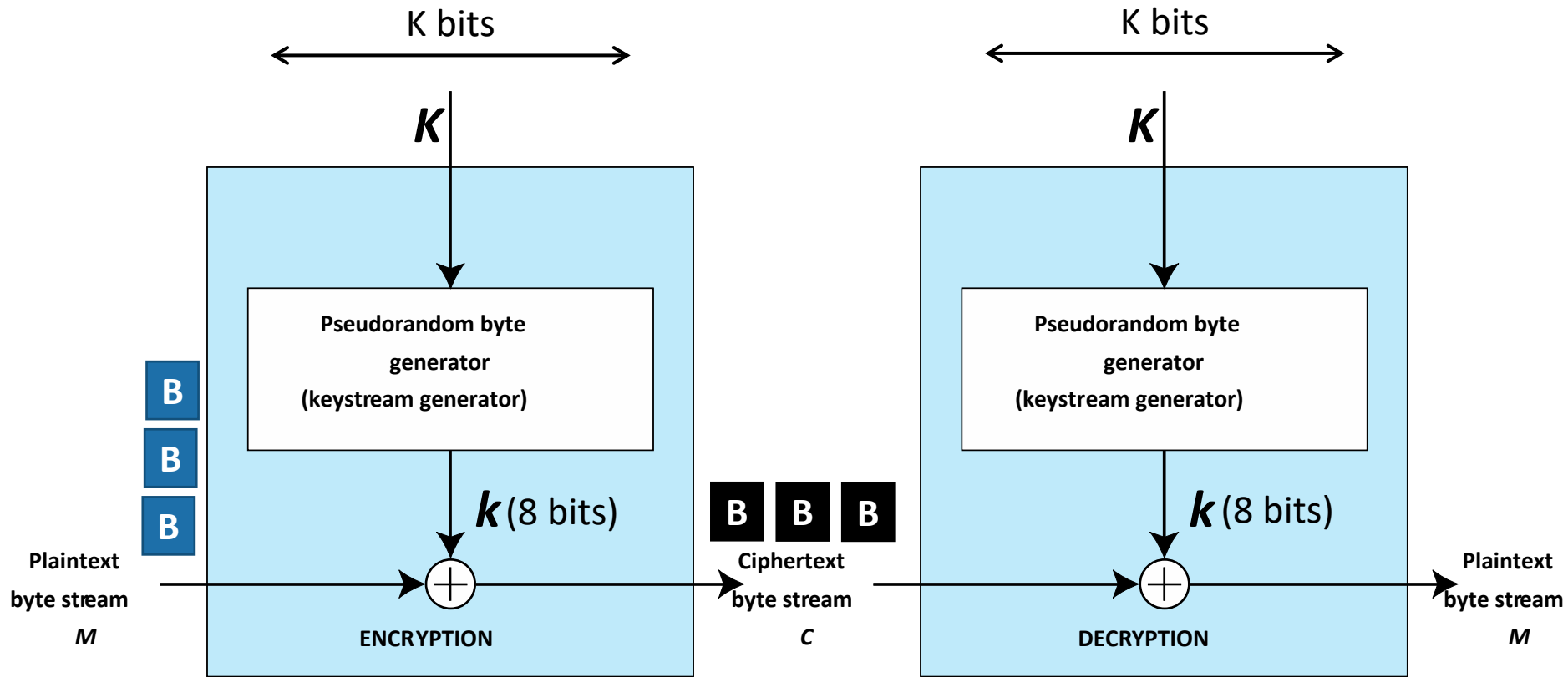
## **Stream ciphers**

Processes the input and produces output one element at a time

Requires unpredictable pseudorandom stream independent of the key



# Stream Ciphers



# Beware of Randomness

Cryptographic algorithms frequently require random numbers

A true random number generator (TRNG)

- Uses a nondeterministic source to produce randomness
- Most operate by measuring unpredictable natural processes
  - e.g., radiation, gas discharge, leaky capacitors
- Available on modern systems, but cannot provide high-volume of data

Pseudorandom numbers are

- Sequences produced that satisfy statistical randomness tests
- Likely to be predictable
- **Likely to be used by implementations**

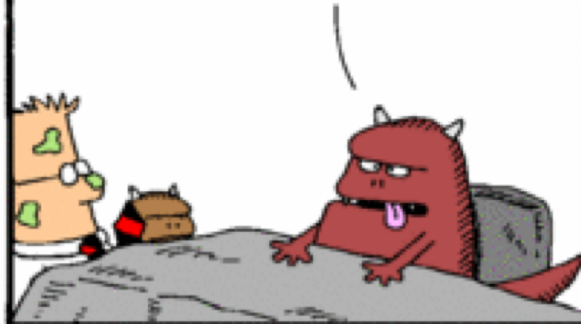
TOUR OF ACCOUNTING

OVER HERE  
WE HAVE OUR  
RANDOM NUMBER  
GENERATOR.



www.dilbert.com scottadams@aol.com

NINE NINE  
NINE NINE  
NINE NINE



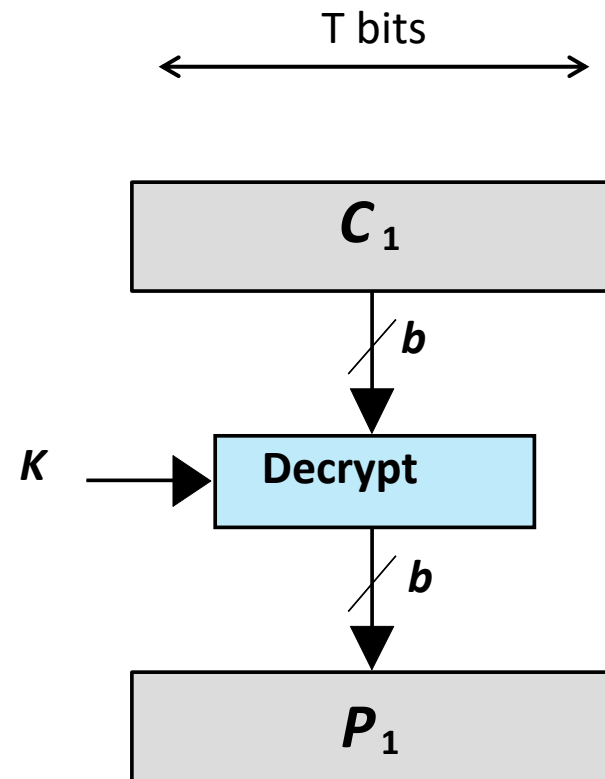
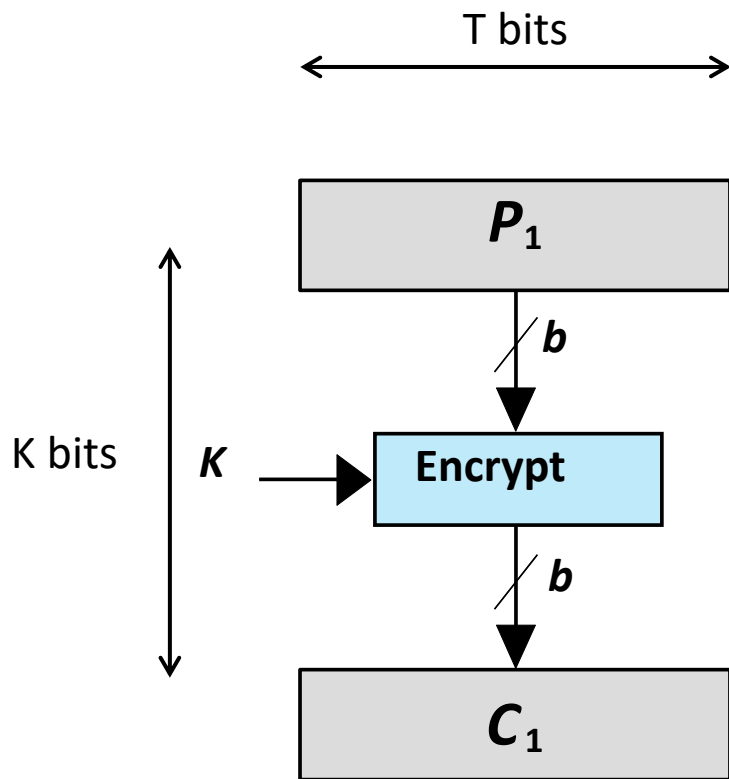
© 2001 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

ARE  
YOU  
SURE  
THAT'S  
RANDOM?

THAT'S THE  
PROBLEM  
WITH RAN-  
DOMNESS:  
YOU CAN  
NEVER BE  
SURE.



# Blocking Ciphers



# Block Ciphers - DES

## Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- The most widely used encryption scheme in 1970-2000
- **Block size: 64 bits, key size: 56 bits**

## Problems

- 56-bit key is too small
- Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) announced in July 1998 that it had broken a DES key in 56 hours

# Block Ciphers - 3DES

## Triple DES (3DES)

- Repeats basic DES algorithm three times using either two or three unique keys
- **Key size: 168 bits, block size: 64 bits**

## Problems

- Algorithm is sluggish in software
- Small block size

# Block Ciphers - AES

## Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

- A specification for the encryption of electronic data established by the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in 2001
- A subset of the Rijndael cipher
- **Multiple key sizes: 128, 192 or 256 bits**
- **Block size: 128 bits**

Currently considered safe to use

# Attacks

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## Brute force attacks

- Try all possible keys on some ciphertext until an intelligible translation into plaintext is obtained
- On average half of all possible keys must be tried to achieve success



# Time Required to Brute-force

| Key size (bits) | Cipher     | Number of Alternative Keys           | Time Required at $10^9$ decryptions/s     | Time Required at $10^{13}$ decryptions/s |
|-----------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 56              | DES        | $2^{56} \approx 7.2 \times 10^{16}$  | $2^{55}$ ns = 1.125 years                 | 1 hour                                   |
| 128             | AES        | $2^{128} \approx 3.4 \times 10^{38}$ | $2^{127}$ ns = $5.3 \times 10^{21}$ years | $5.3 \times 10^{17}$ years               |
| 168             | Triple DES | $2^{168} \approx 3.7 \times 10^{50}$ | $2^{167}$ ns = $5.8 \times 10^{33}$ years | $5.8 \times 10^{29}$ years               |
| 192             | AES        | $2^{192} \approx 6.3 \times 10^{57}$ | $2^{191}$ ns = $9.8 \times 10^{40}$ years | $9.8 \times 10^{36}$ years               |
| 256             | AES        | $2^{256} \approx 1.2 \times 10^{77}$ | $2^{255}$ ns = $1.8 \times 10^{60}$ years | $1.8 \times 10^{56}$ years               |

# Attacks

## Brute force attacks

- Try all possible keys on some ciphertext until an intelligible translation into plaintext is obtained
- On average half of all possible keys must be tried to achieve success

## Cryptanalytic attacks

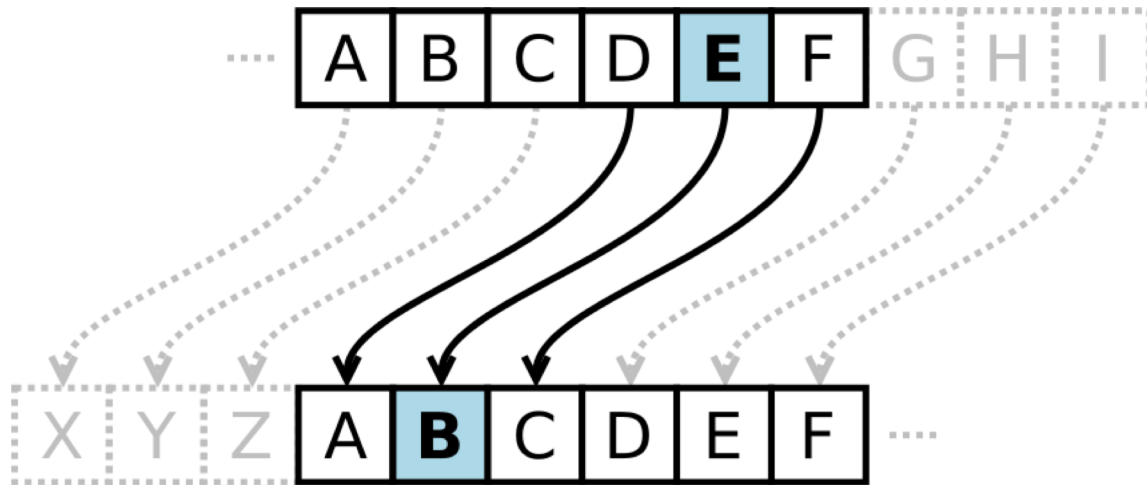
- Exploit the characteristics of the algorithm and attempt to deduce a **specific plaintext** or the **key** being used
- Requires...
  - ... knowledge of the general characteristics of the plaintext
  - ... sample plaintext-ciphertext pairs

## Attack Type

## Information Known by Attacker

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Ciphertext only   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Encryption algorithm</li><li>•Ciphertext to be decoded</li></ul>   |
| Known plaintext   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Encryption algorithm</li><li>•Ciphertext to be decoded</li><li>•One or more plaintext-ciphertext pairs formed with the secret key</li></ul>  |
| Chosen plaintext  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Encryption algorithm</li><li>•Ciphertext to be decoded</li><li>•Plaintext message chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding ciphertext generated with the secret key</li></ul>   |
| Chosen ciphertext | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Encryption algorithm</li><li>•Ciphertext to be decoded</li><li>•Purported ciphertext chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding decrypted plaintext generated with the secret key</li></ul>   |
| Chosen text       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Encryption algorithm</li><li>•Ciphertext to be decoded</li><li>•Plaintext message chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding ciphertext generated with the secret key</li><li>•Purported ciphertext chosen by cryptanalyst, together with its corresponding decrypted plaintext generated with the secret key</li></ul> |

# Attacking the Caesar Cipher



Shift by 3  
and  
substitute

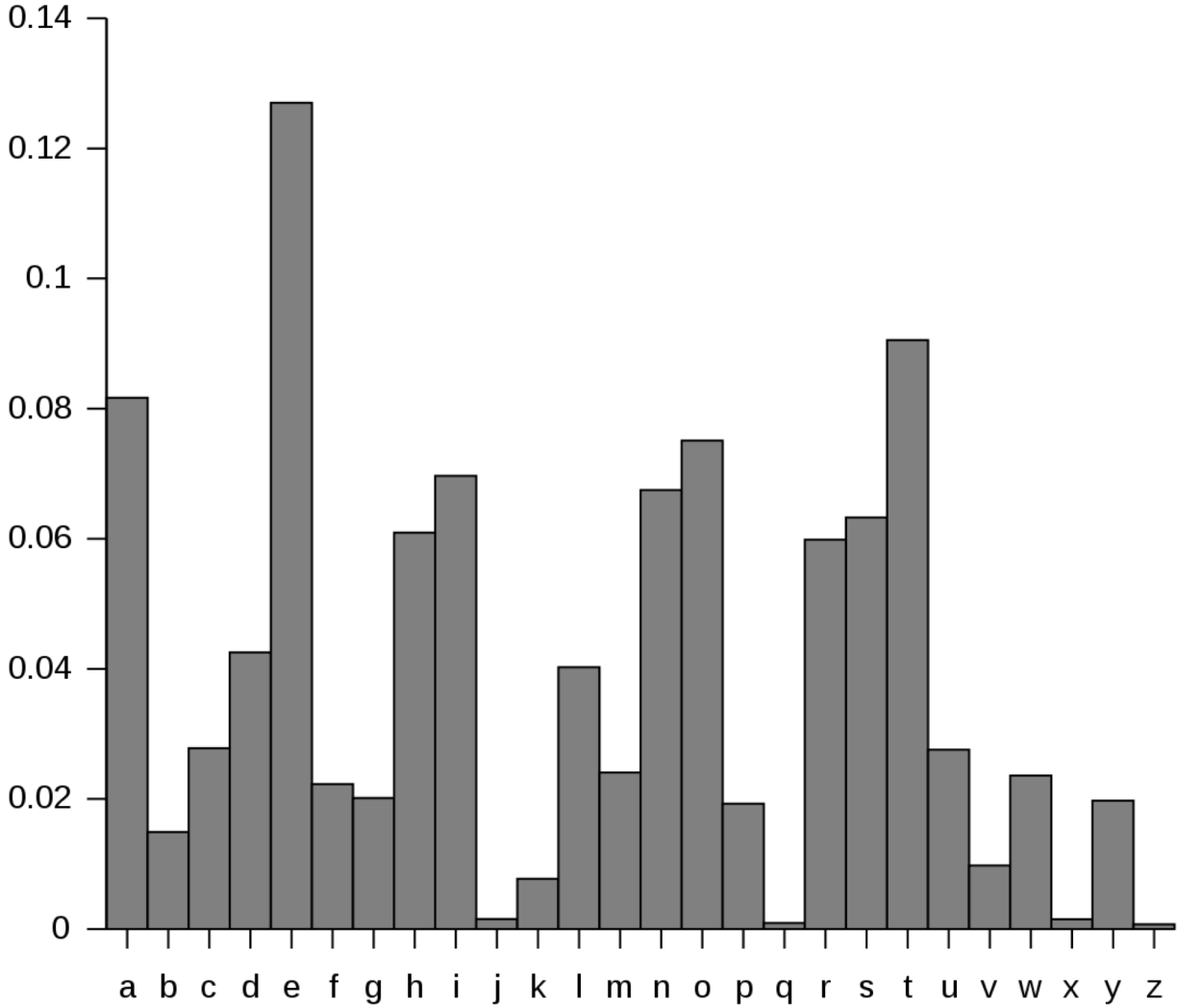
Plaintext:

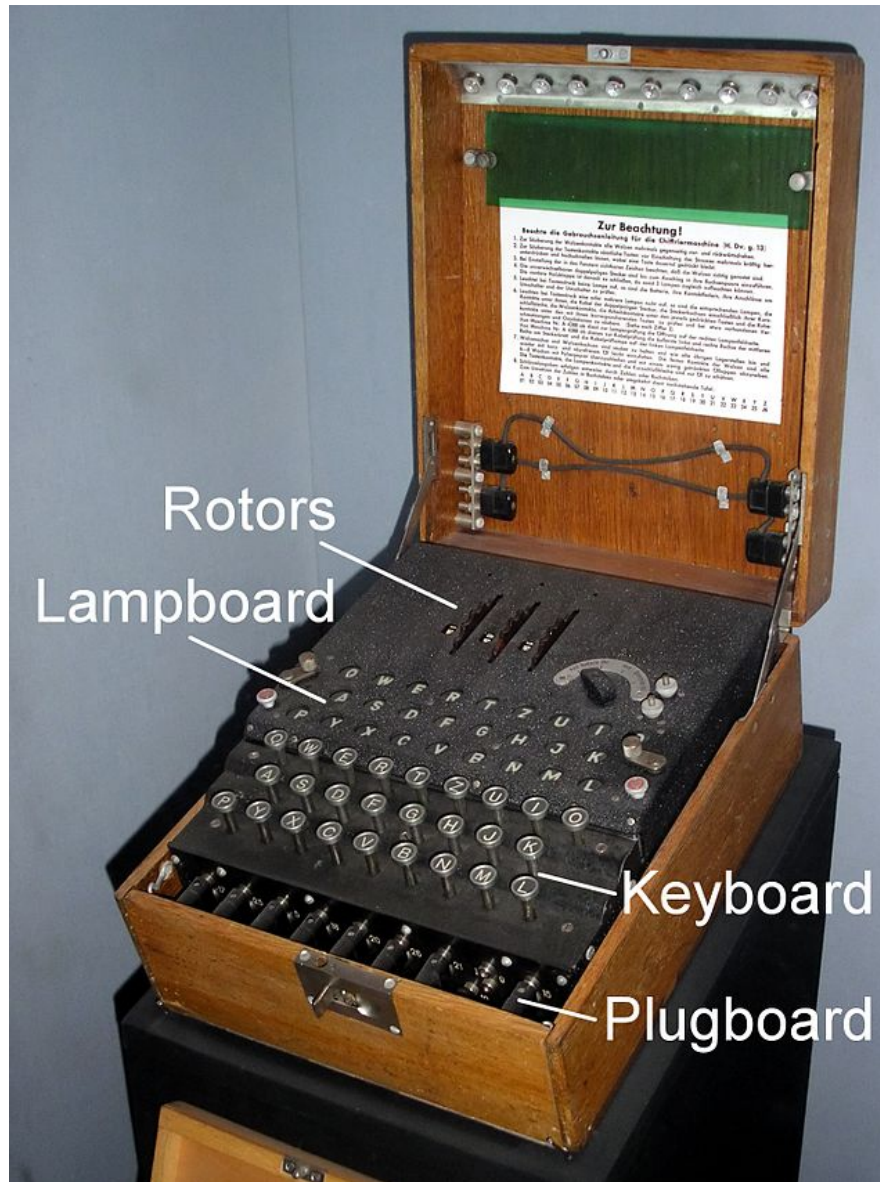
THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG

Ciphertext:

QEB NRFZH YOLTK CLU GRJMP LSBQ QEB IXWV ALD

# English Letter Frequency





# Modes of Operation

Direct use of block ciphers is not very useful

- Attackers can build a “code book” of plaintext/ciphertext equivalents
- Message-length needs to be multiple of cipher block size

Solution! Modes of operation

- Five standard modes

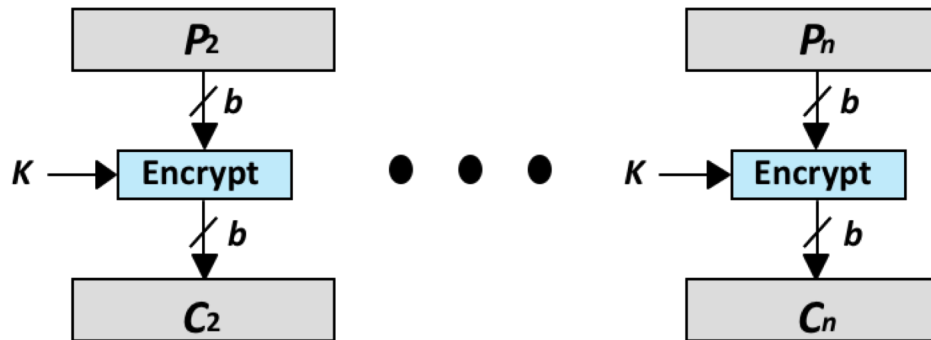
| Mode                        | Description  | Typical Application   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Electronic Codebook (ECB)   | Each block of 64 plaintext bits is encoded independently using the same key.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Secure transmission of single values (e.g., an encryption key)</li> </ul>                           |
| Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) | The input to the encryption algorithm is the XOR of the next 64 bits of plaintext and the preceding 64 bits of ciphertext.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•General-purpose block-oriented transmission</li> <li>•Authentication</li> </ul>                     |
| Cipher Feedback (CFB)       | Input is processed $s$ bits at a time. Preceding ciphertext is used as input to the encryption algorithm to produce pseudorandom output, which is XORed with plaintext to produce next unit of ciphertext. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•General-purpose stream-oriented transmission</li> <li>•Authentication</li> </ul>                    |
| Output Feedback (OFB)       | Similar to CFB, except that the input to the encryption algorithm is the preceding DES output.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Stream-oriented transmission over noisy channel (e.g., satellite communication)</li> </ul>          |
| Counter (CTR)               | Each block of plaintext is XORed with an encrypted counter. The counter is incremented for each subsequent block.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•General-purpose block-oriented transmission</li> <li>•Useful for high-speed requirements</li> </ul> |



# ECB Mode

In electronic codebook (ECB) mode each block of plaintext is encrypted using the same key

- Easy to parallelize



## Problems

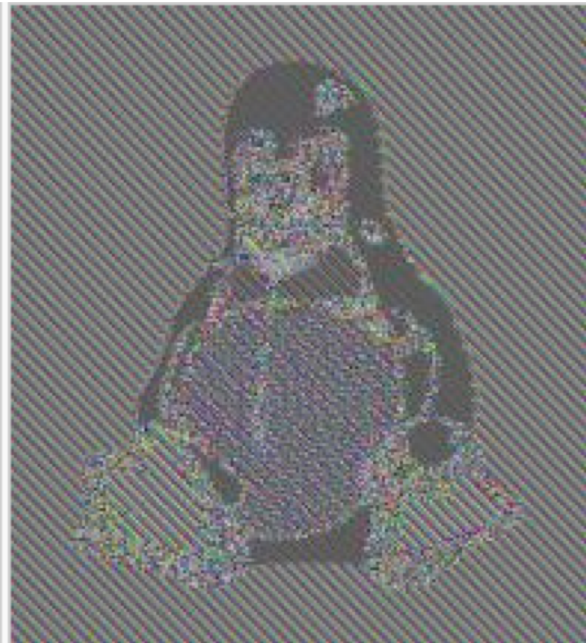
- Cryptanalysts may be able to exploit regularities in the plaintext (e.g., if  $p_i == p_j$  then  $c_i == c_j$ )
- Data patterns may remain visible

# ECB Mode

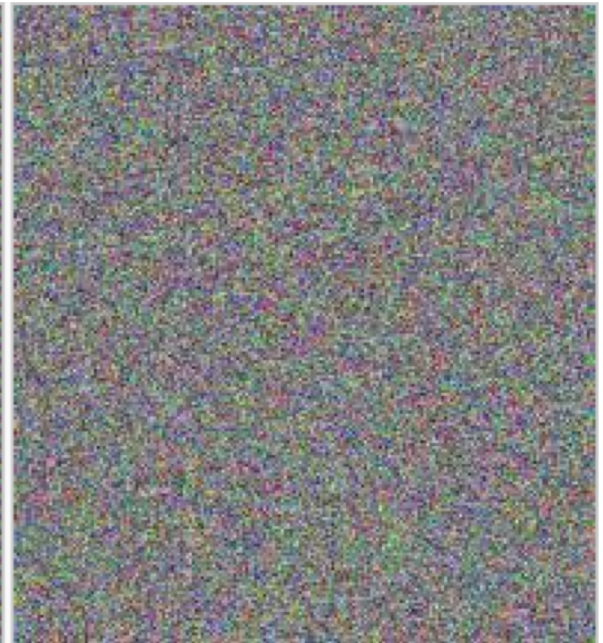
ECB mode is not recommended



Original image



Encrypted using ECB mode

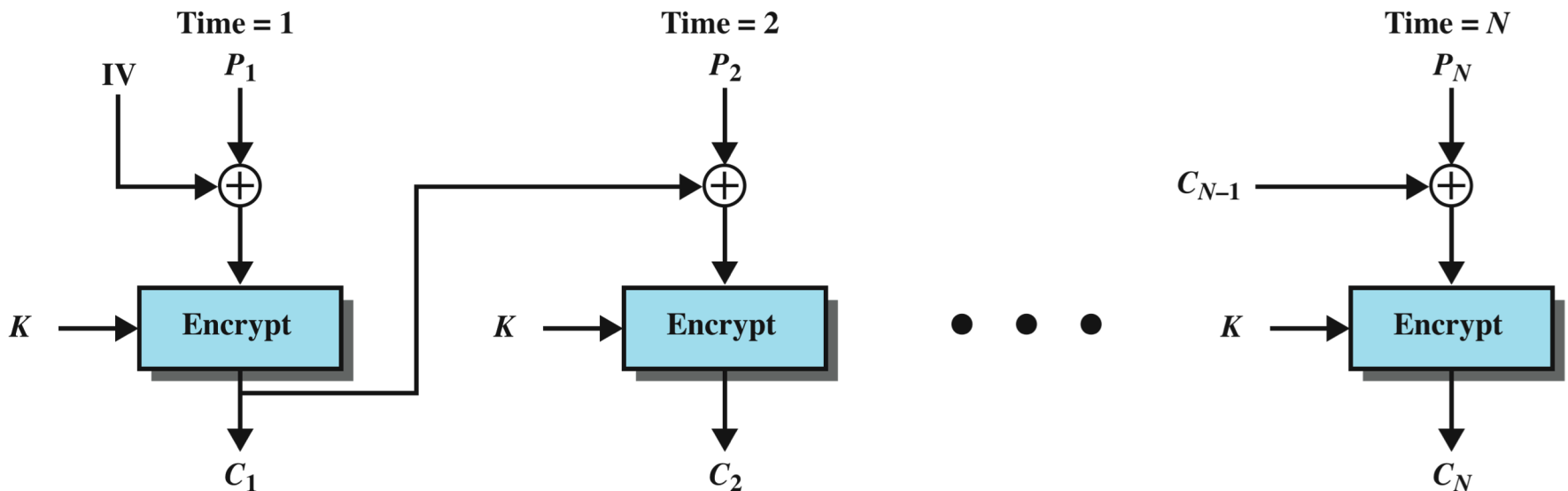


Modes other than ECB result in pseudo-randomness

# CBC Mode

In Cipher Block Chaining mode the input is the XOR of the current plaintext block and the preceding ciphertext block

- **Initialization vector (IV)**
  - Must be random and must not be reused
- Not parallelizable

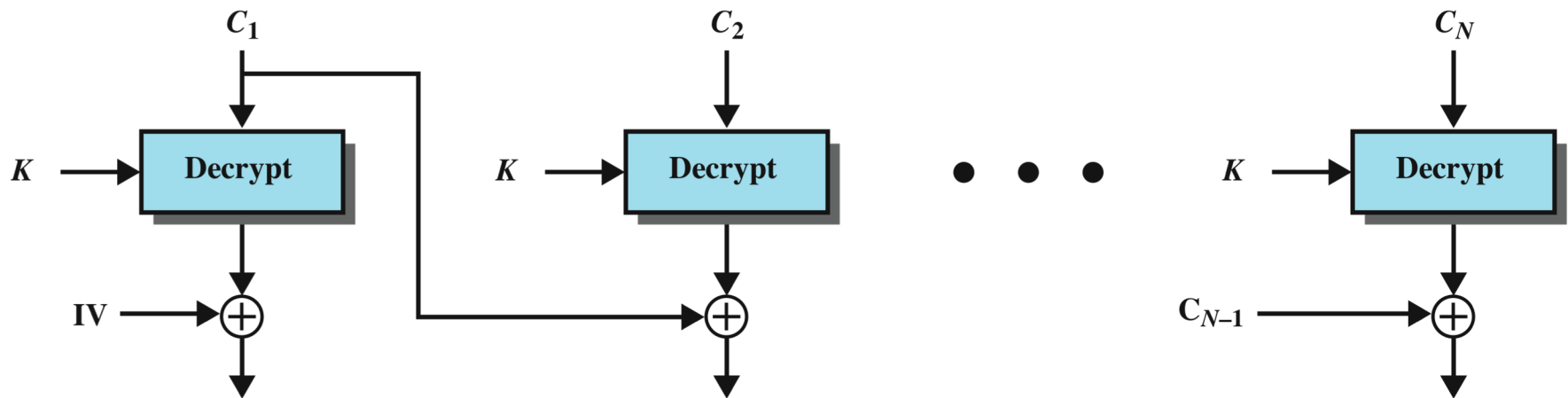


# CBC Mode

During decryption the same IV must be used

- Can be transmitted with the message

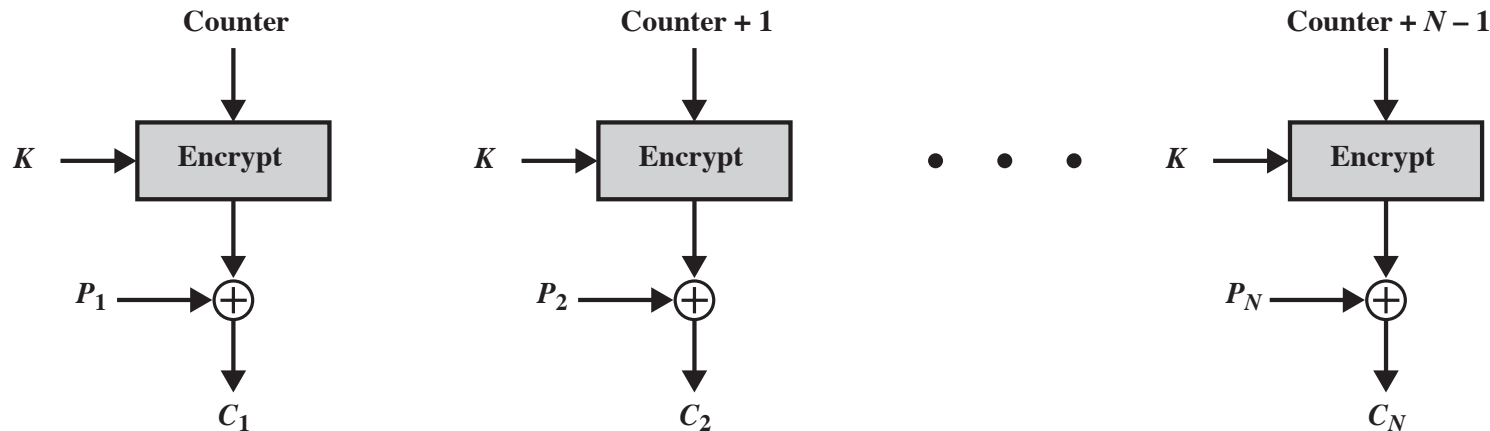
An error in a transmitted block also affects the following block but not subsequent ones



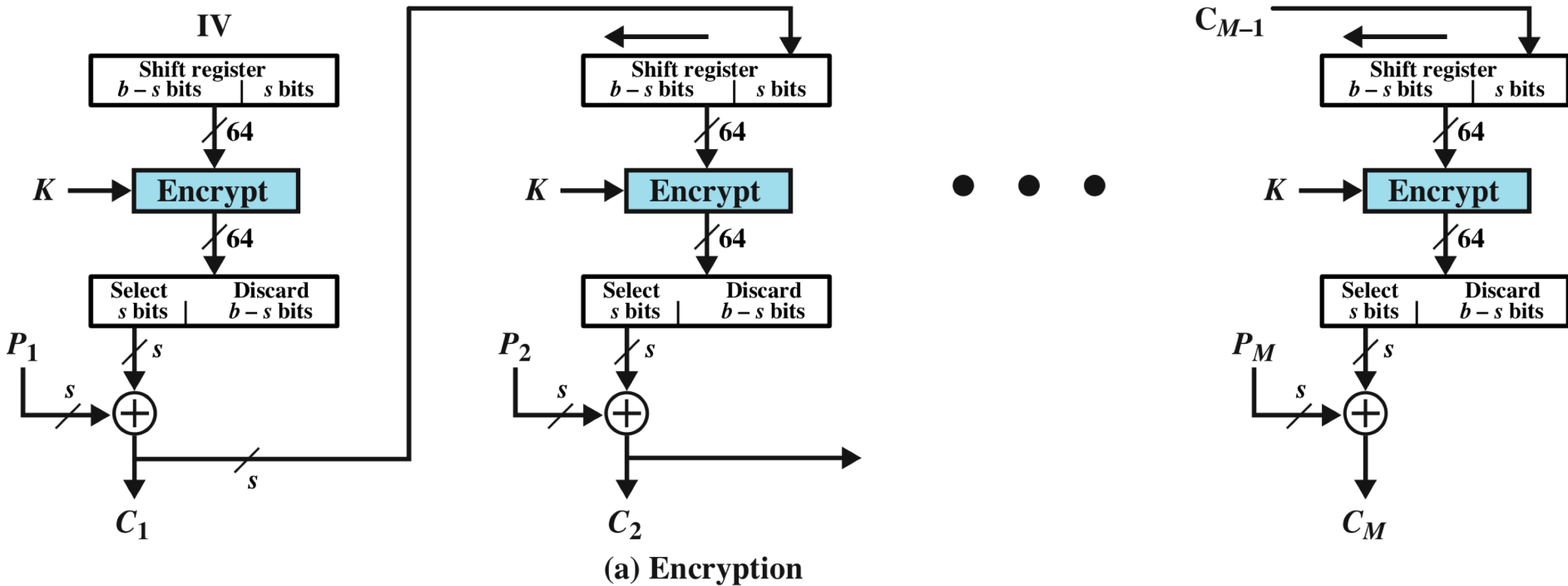
# CTR Mode

Counter mode can be used to turn any blocking cipher to a stream cipher

- The counter is a combination of an integer (0..N-1) with an nonce (IV)
- **Parallelizable!**



# Cipher Feedback (CFB)



# Public-key Encryption

# Public-Key Encryption

Publicly proposed by Diffie and Hellman in 1976

Based on mathematical functions

- ...on the practical difficulty of factoring the product of two large prime numbers

Asymmetric

- Uses two separate keys a public and a private key
- Public key is made public for others to use

Multiple algorithms with different uses

- Establish a shared secret key
- Encrypt a message
- Digital signatures



# Requirements for Public-Key Cryptosystems

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Computationally easy ...

- ... to create key pairs
- ... for sender knowing public key to encrypt messages
- ... for receiver knowing private key to decrypt ciphertext

Computationally infeasible ...

- ... for opponent to determine private key from public key
- ... for opponent to otherwise recover original message

Useful if either key can be used for each role

# Symmetric vs Asymmetric

## Which one is best?

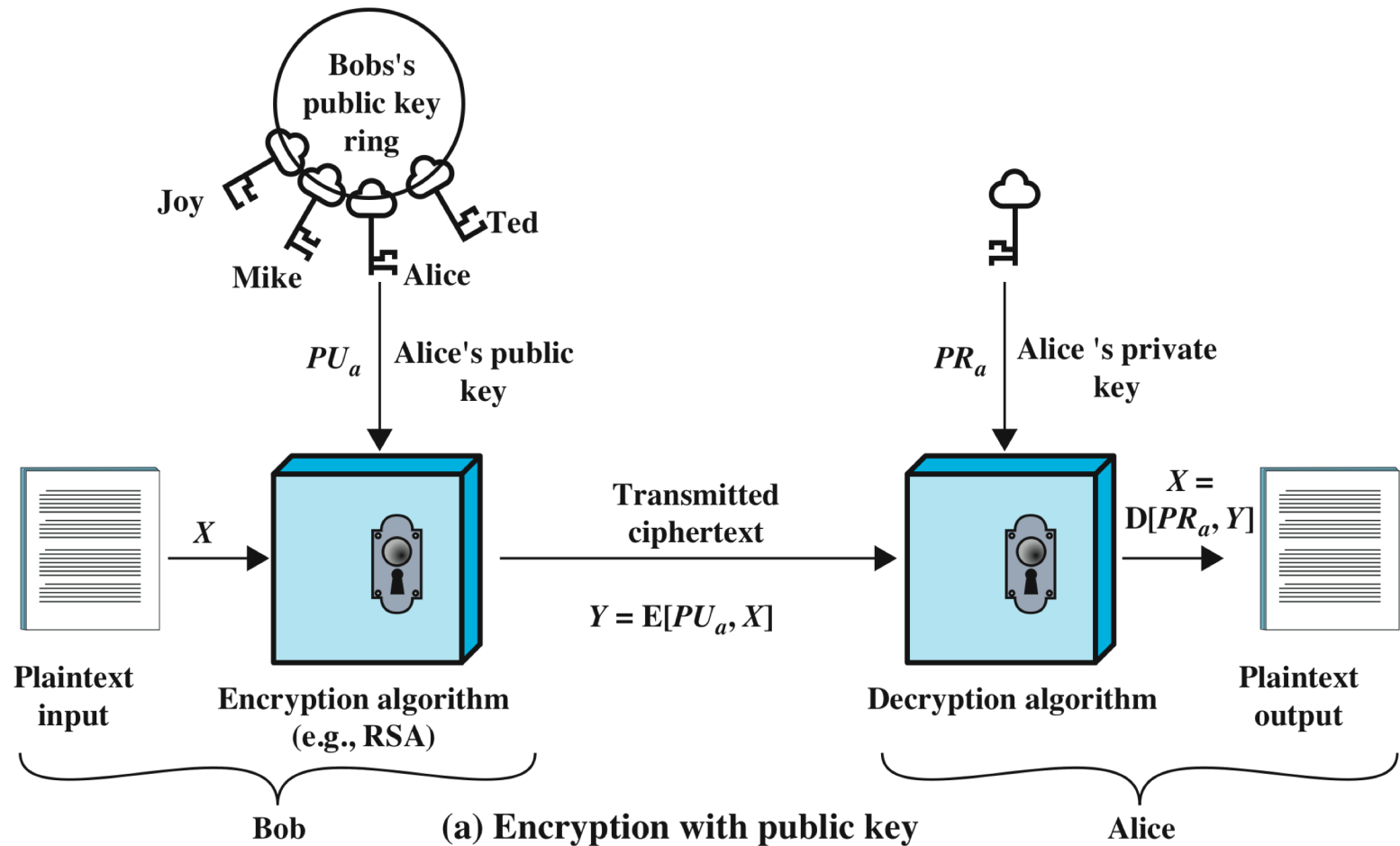
The strength of public-key cryptography depends more heavily on the length of the key

Intrinsically both offer similar guarantees against cryptanalysis

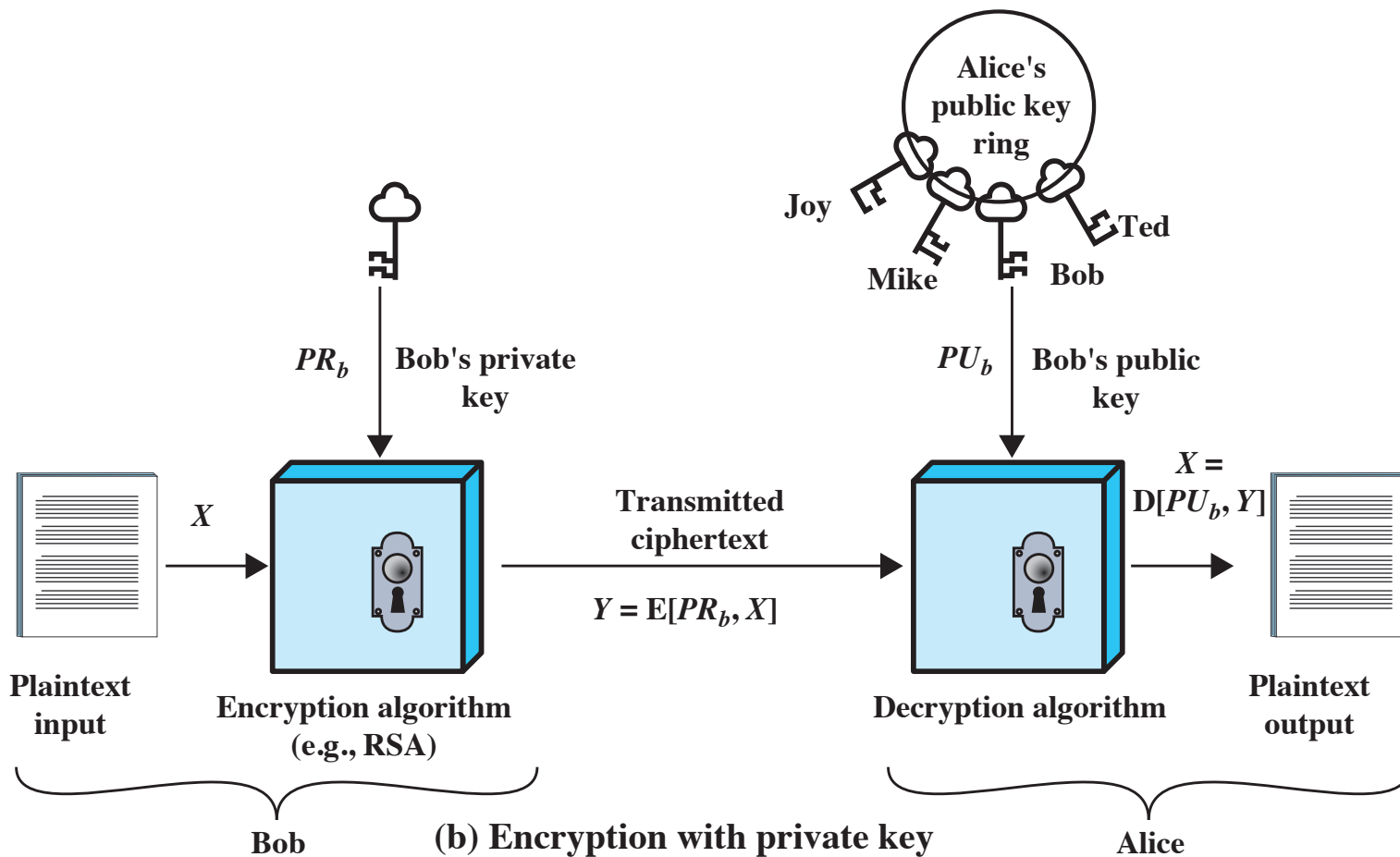
Public-key encryption is usually slower

A shared key must be kept secret, similarly to the private key, but unlike the public key

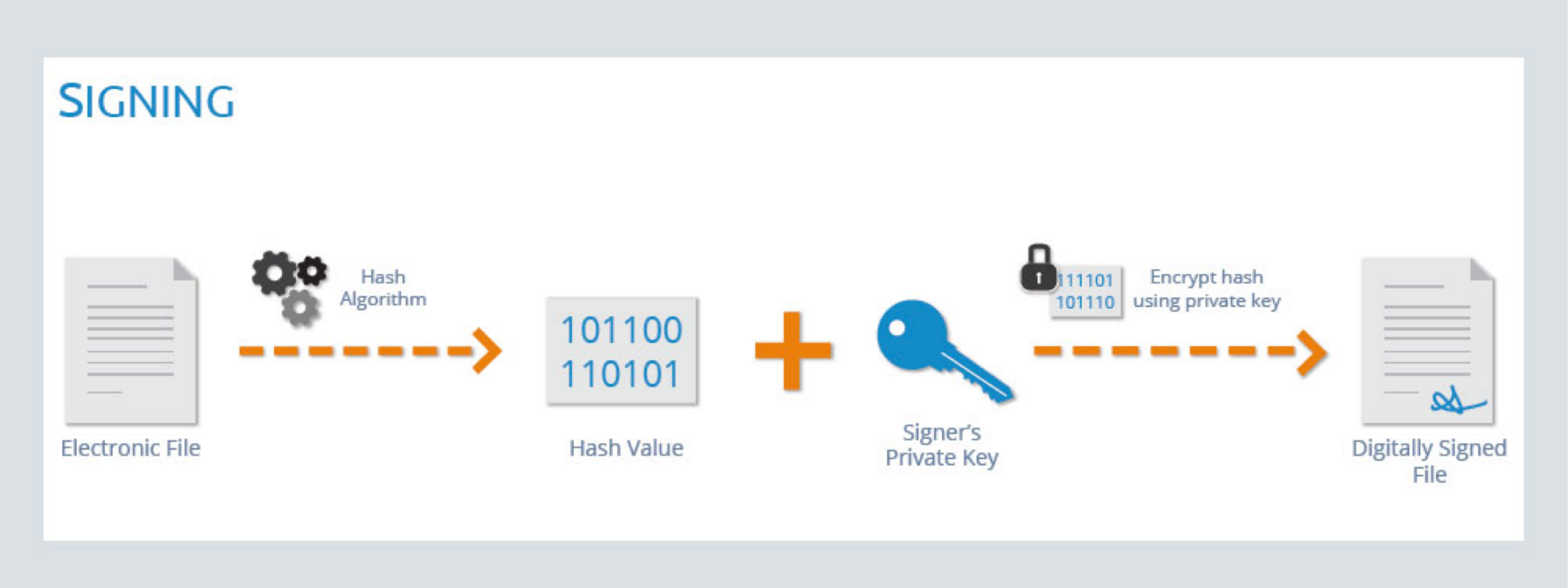
# Encryption with Public Key



# Encryption with Private Key



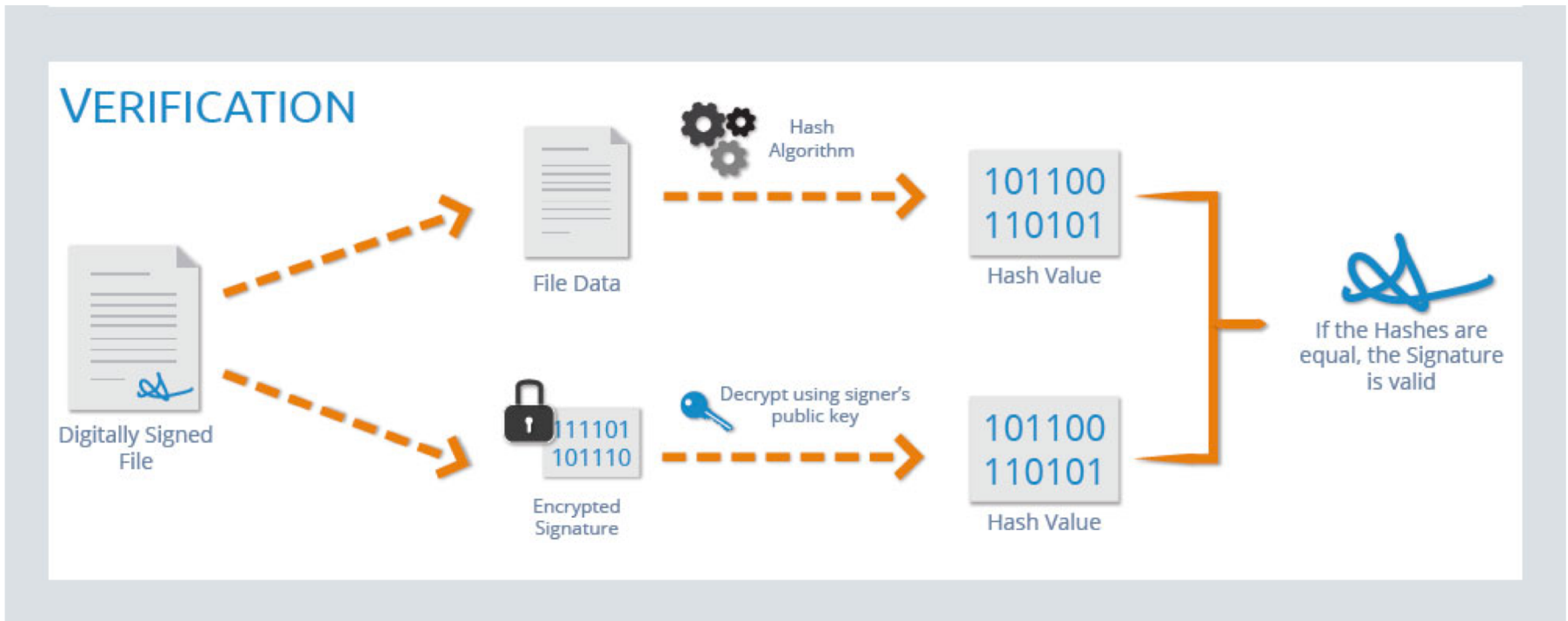
# Digital Signing



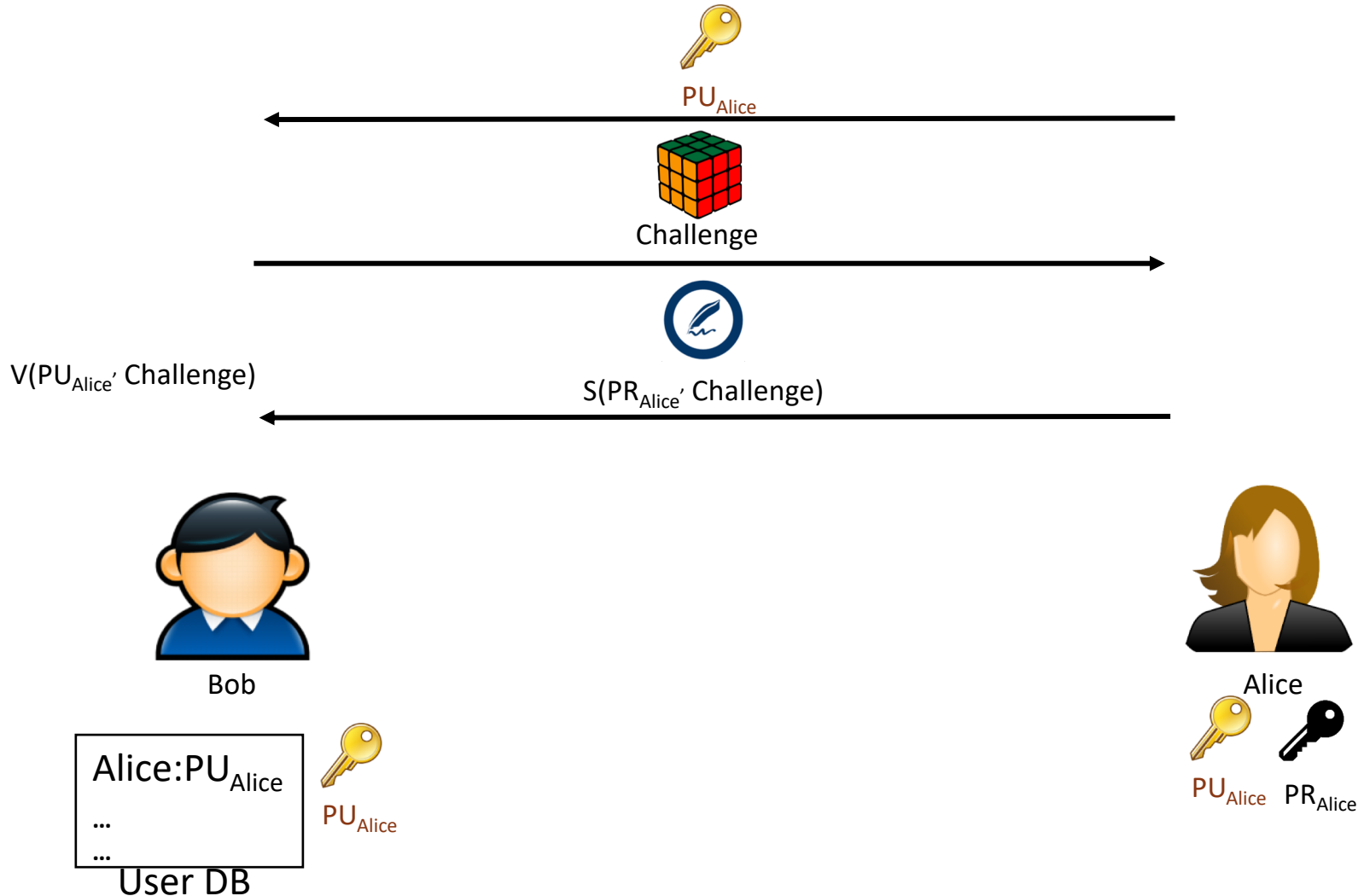
# Digital Signing

Verify ...

- ... the author of data
- ... the integrity of data



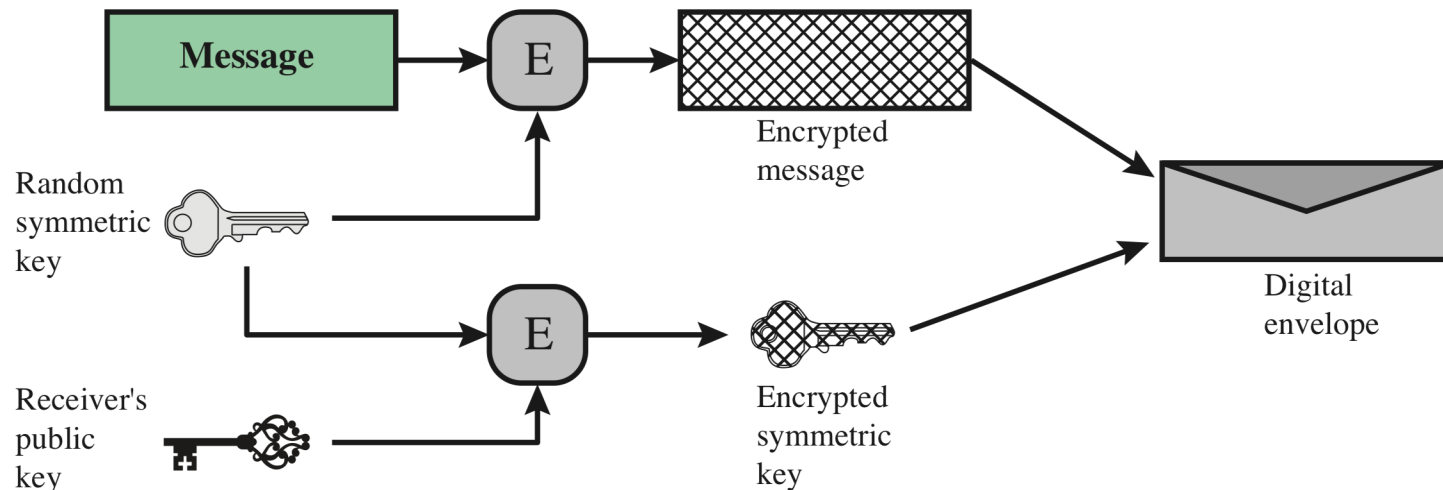
# Authentication with Digital Signatures



# Digital Envelopes

Use PK cryptography for encrypting a randomly generated symmetric key, which is used to encrypt a (large) message

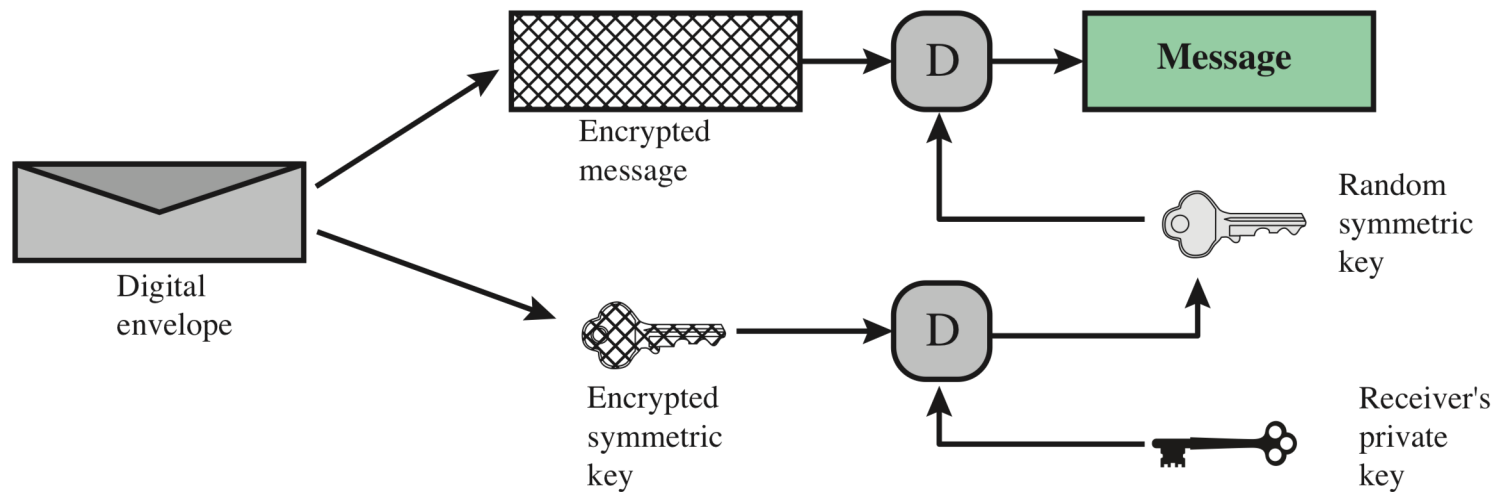
- PK is only used to encrypt the key





# Digital Envelopes

## Opening an envelope



# PK Encryption Algorithms

## Diffie-Hellman key exchange algorithm

- Enables two users to securely reach agreement about a shared secret that can be used as a secret key for subsequent symmetric encryption of messages
- Limited to the exchange of the keys

## RSA (Rivest, Shamir, Adleman)

- Developed in 1977
- Most widely accepted and implemented approach to public-key encryption

## Elliptic curve cryptography (ECC)

- Security like RSA, but with much smaller keys

# Comparison

| <b>Algorithm</b> | <b>Digital Signature</b> | <b>Symmetric Key Distribution</b> | <b>Encryption of Secret Keys</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| RSA              | Yes                      | Yes                               | Yes                              |
| Diffie-Hellman   | No                       | Yes                               | No                               |
| DSS              | Yes                      | No                                | No                               |
| Elliptic Curve   | Yes                      | Yes                               | Yes                              |

# RSA Security

Based on the assumption that factoring numbers is hard

## Variable key length

- Largest, publicly known, factored RSA number is 768 bits
- It is generally believed that 1024-bit keys may have already been broken or will soon be
- 2048-bit keys are recommended as the minimum

Part of the Public Key Cryptography Standards (PKCS)

In practice used with digital envelopes

# RSA Security

## Brute force

- Trying all possible private keys
- Defense is to use a large key space, however this slows speed of execution

## Mathematical attacks

- Several approaches, all equivalent in effort to factoring the product of two primes

## Timing attacks

- Depend on the running time of the decryption algorithm
- Comes from a completely unexpected direction and is a ciphertext-only attack
- Countermeasures: constant exponentiation time, random delay, blinding

## Chosen ciphertext attacks

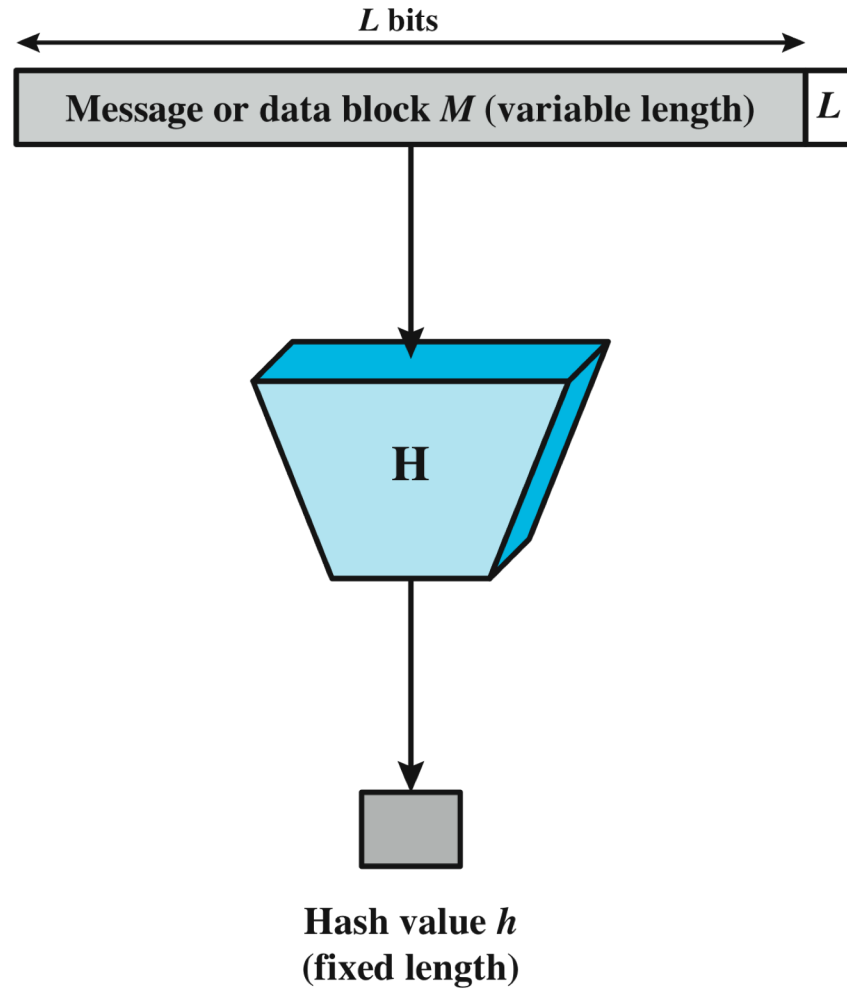
- Attack exploits properties of the RSA algorithm

# Cryptographic Key Recommendation

| Year        | Symmetric | Factoring (modulus) |             | Discrete Logarithm |             | Elliptic Curve | Hash       |
|-------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
|             |           | (1)                 | (2)         | Key                | Group       |                |            |
| 2015        | 82        | 1613                | 1248        | 145                | 1613        | 154            | 163        |
| 2016        | 83        | 1664                | 1312        | 146                | 1664        | 155            | 165        |
| <b>2017</b> | <b>83</b> | <b>1717</b>         | <b>1344</b> | <b>147</b>         | <b>1717</b> | <b>157</b>     | <b>166</b> |
| 2018        | 84        | 1771                | 1376        | 149                | 1771        | 158            | 168        |
| 2019        | 85        | 1825                | 1440        | 150                | 1825        | 160            | 169        |

<https://www.keylength.com/en/1/>

# Hashing and Message Authentication Codes





# Hash Function Properties

Can be applied to a block of data of any size

Produces a fixed-length output

Security properties:

- One-way or pre-image resistant: computationally infeasible to find  $x$  such that  $H(x) = h$
- Given  $x$  and  $H(x)$ , it is computationally infeasible to find  $y \neq x$  such that  $H(y) = H(x)$
- Collision resistant or strong collision resistance: computationally infeasible to find any pair  $(x,y)$  such that  $H(x) = H(y)$

# Simple Hash Function

Split input in blocks of n bits

$$C_i = b_{i1} \oplus b_{i2} \oplus \dots \oplus b_{im}$$

|           | Bit 1    | Bit 2    | • • • | Bit n    |
|-----------|----------|----------|-------|----------|
| Block 1   | $b_{11}$ | $b_{21}$ |       | $b_{n1}$ |
| Block 2   | $b_{12}$ | $b_{22}$ |       | $b_{n2}$ |
|           | •        | •        | •     | •        |
|           | •        | •        | •     | •        |
|           | •        | •        | •     | •        |
| Block m   | $b_{1m}$ | $b_{2m}$ |       | $b_{nm}$ |
| Hash code | $C_1$    | $C_2$    |       | $C_n$    |

# Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA)

SHA was originally developed by NIST

- Published as FIPS 180 in 1993
- Revised in 1995 as SHA-1
- Produces 160-bit hash values

SHA-2 adds 3 additional versions of SHA

- SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512 with 256/384/512-bit hash values
- Same basic structure as SHA-1 but greater security

# SHA Comparison

|                            | SHA-1      | SHA-256    | SHA-384     | SHA-512     |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Message digest size</b> | 160        | 256        | 384         | 512         |
| <b>Message size</b>        | $< 2^{64}$ | $< 2^{64}$ | $< 2^{128}$ | $< 2^{128}$ |
| <b>Block size</b>          | 512        | 512        | 1024        | 1024        |
| <b>Word size</b>           | 32         | 32         | 64          | 64          |
| <b>Number of steps</b>     | 80         | 64         | 80          | 80          |
| <b>Security</b>            | 80         | 128        | 192         | 256         |

*Notes:* 1. All sizes are measured in bits.

2. Security refers to the fact that a birthday attack on a message digest of size  $n$  produces a collision with a work factor of approximately  $2^{n/2}$ .

# SHA-3

SHA-1 considered insecure and has been phased out for SHA-2

SHA-2 shares same structure and mathematical operations as its predecessors and causes concern

Due to the time required to replace SHA-2 should it become vulnerable, NIST announced in 2007 a competition to produce SHA-3

**SHA-3**, a subset of the cryptographic primitive family  
**Keccak**

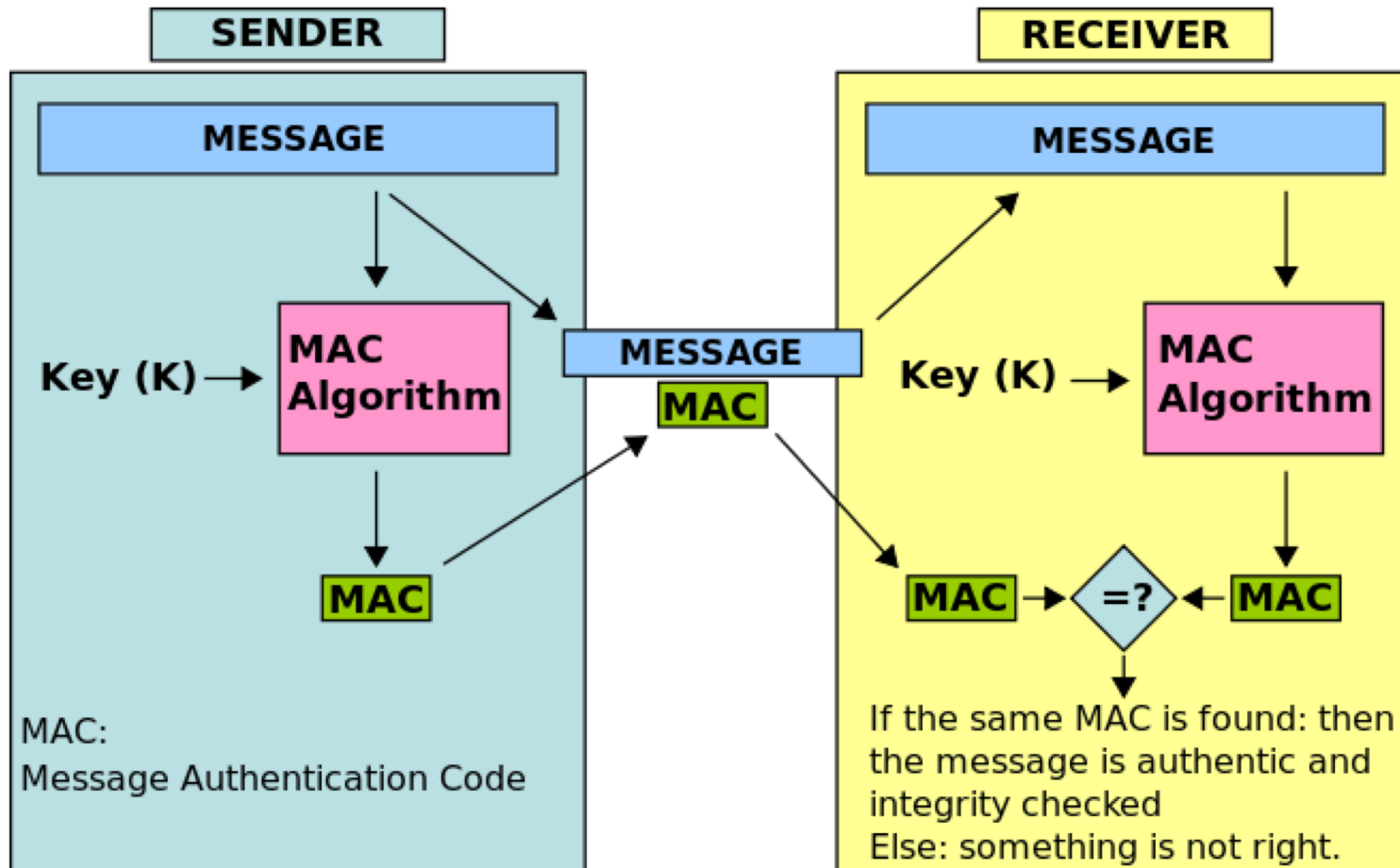
- Better security (resist attacks against SHA-2)
- Appropriate for fast implementation in hardware

# Comparison from Wikipedia

| Algorithm and variant              |             | Output size (bits) | Block size (bits) | Max message size (bits) | Security (bits)                                       | Example Performance (MiB/s) <sup>[12]</sup> |
|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| <a href="#">MD5</a> (as reference) |             | 128                | 512               | $2^{64} - 1$            | <64 (collisions found)                                | 335   |
| <a href="#">SHA-0</a>              |             | 160                | 512               | $2^{64} - 1$            | <80 (collisions found)                                | -   |
| <a href="#">SHA-1</a>              |             | 160                | 512               | $2^{64} - 1$            | <80 (theoretical attack <sup>[13]</sup> in $2^{61}$ ) | 192   |
| <a href="#">SHA-2</a>              | SHA-224     | 224                | 512               | $2^{64} - 1$            | 112   | 139   |
|                                    | SHA-256     | 256                |                   |                         | 128   |   |
|                                    | SHA-384     | 384                | 1024              | $2^{128} - 1$           | 192   | 154   |
|                                    | SHA-512     | 512                |                   |                         | 256   |   |
|                                    | SHA-512/224 | 224                |                   |                         | 112   |   |
| SHA-512/256                        | 256         | 128                |                   |                         |   |   |
| SHA-3                              | SHA3-224    | 224                | 1152              | $\infty$                | 112   |   |
|                                    | SHA3-256    | 256                | 1088              |                         | 128   |   |
|                                    | SHA3-384    | 384                | 832               |                         | 192   |   |
|                                    | SHA3-512    | 512                | 576               |                         | 256   |   |
|                                    | SHAKE128    | d (arbitrary)      | 1344              |                         | min(d/2, 128)   |   |
|                                    | SHAKE256    | d (arbitrary)      | 1088              |                         | min(d/2, 256)   |   |

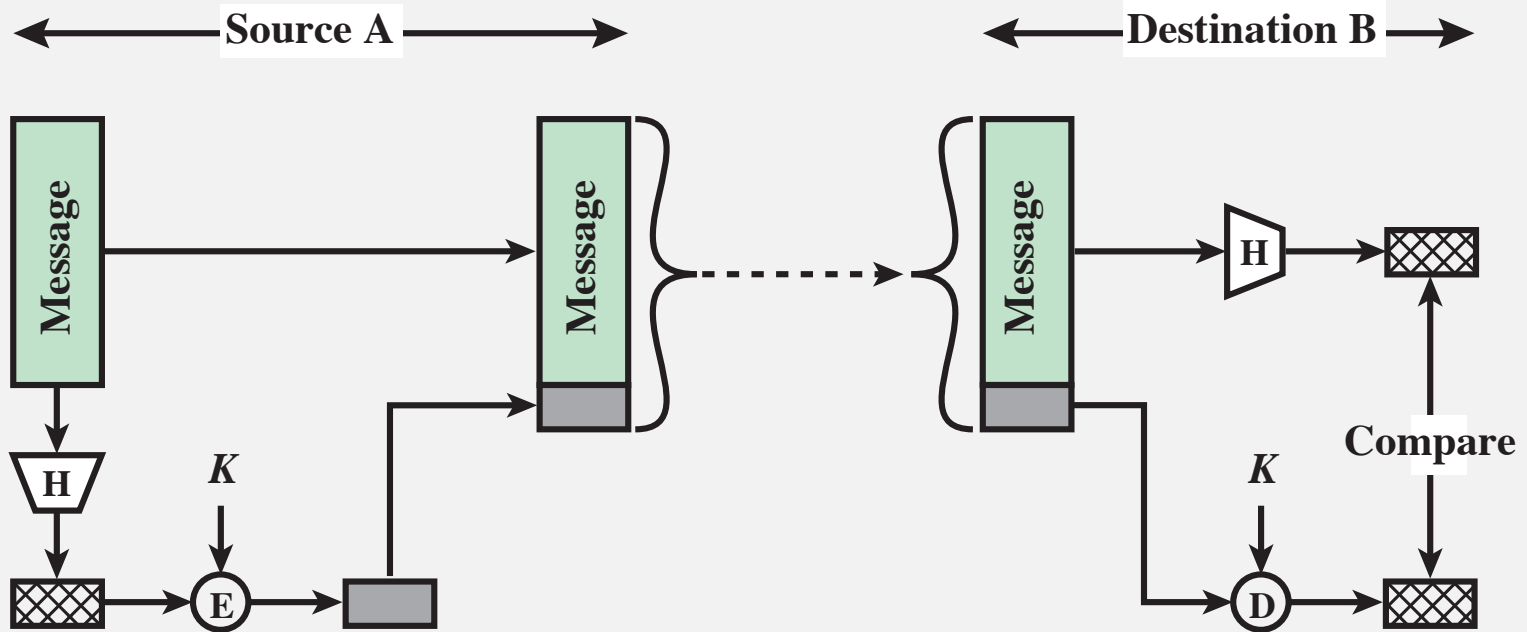
# Message Authentication Code

Verify message integrity and authenticity



# MAC with Symmetric Encryption

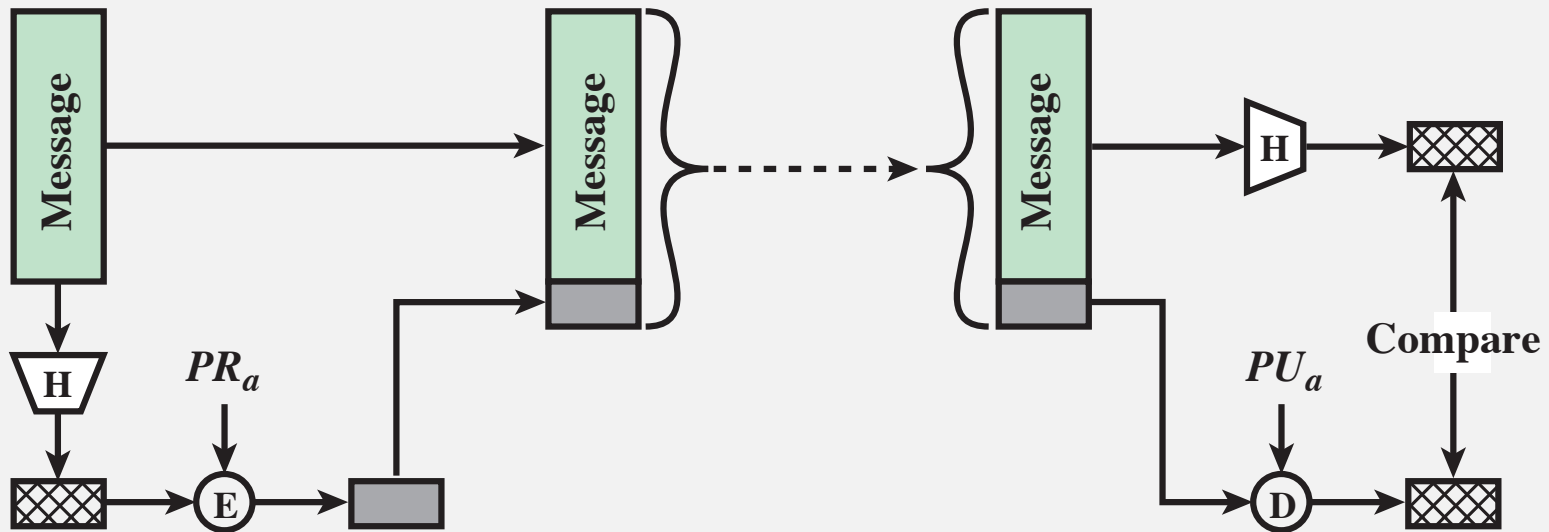
Encrypt hash of message using shared secret key, verify by decrypting with the same key





# MAC with Public-Key Encryption

Encrypt hash of message using private key, verify using public key of sender



# Digital Signatures

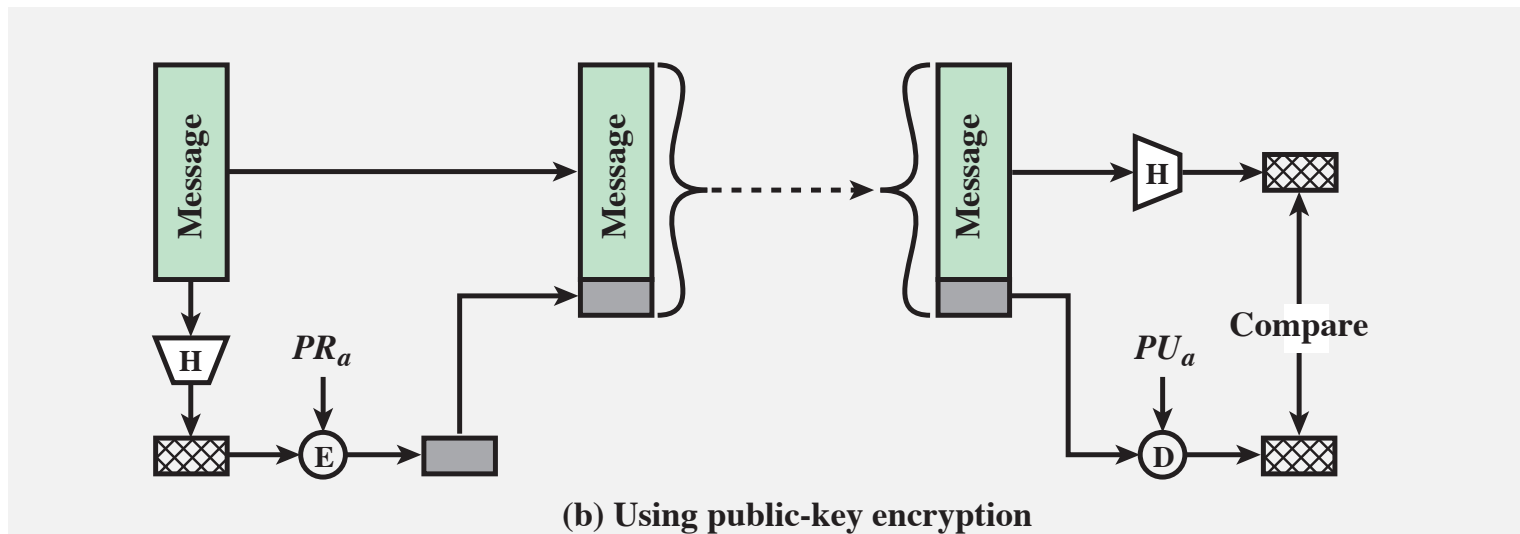
Similar to MAC using public-key cryptography

Used for authenticating both source and data integrity

Created by encrypting hash code with private key

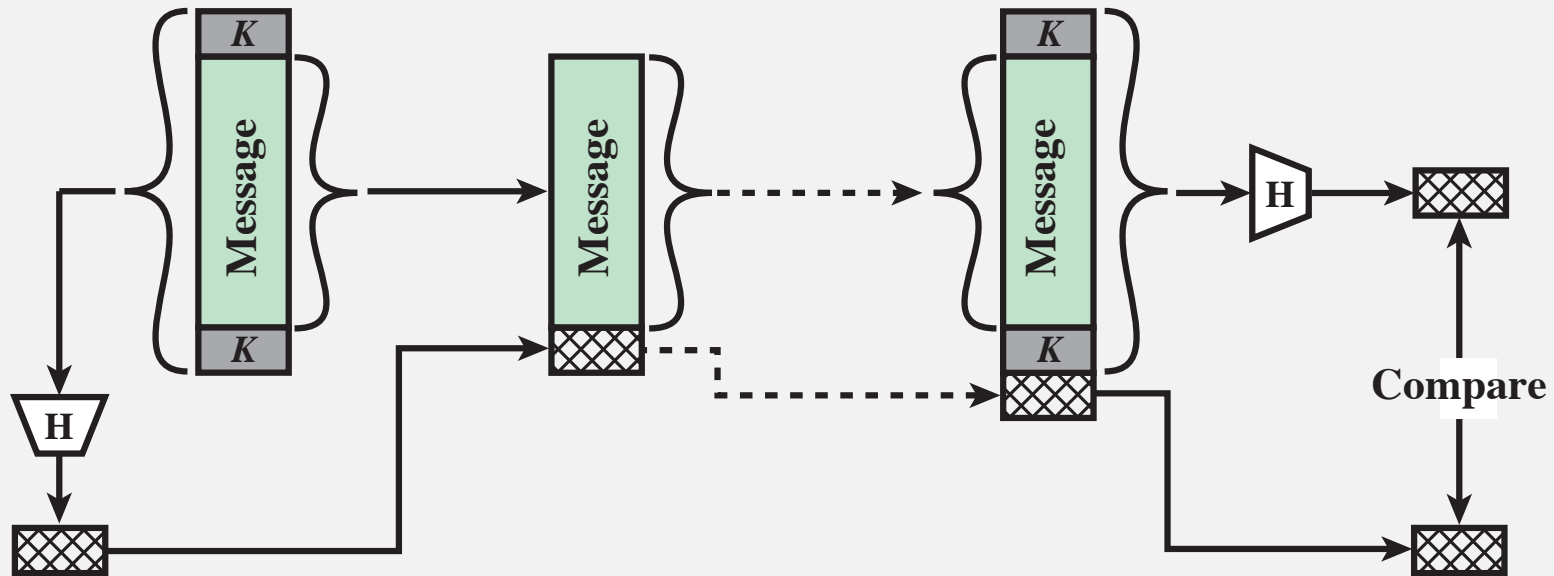
Does not provide confidentiality

- Message is safe from alteration but not eavesdropping



# MAC with Secret Value

Prefix and suffix message using nonce and hash the result, verify using the reverse



# Hashed MAC (HMAC) Standard

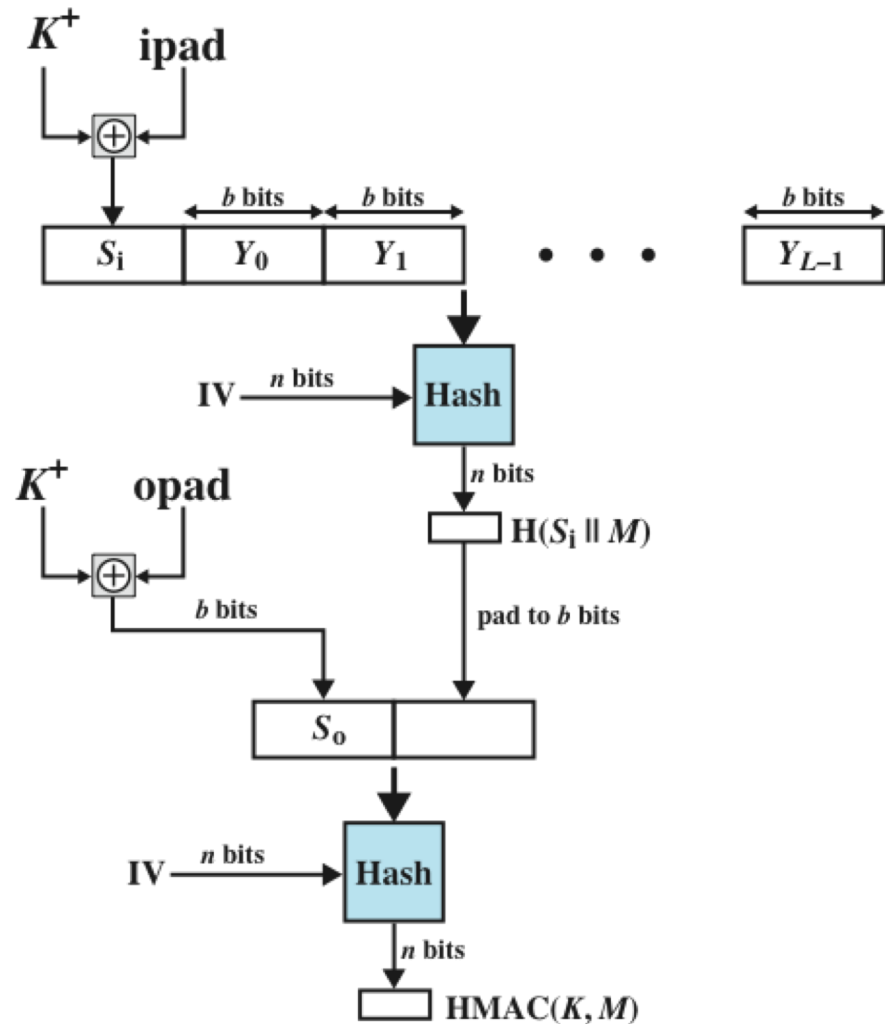
---

A MAC using a secret key that enables the use of available hash functions without modifications

To allow for easy replaceability of the embedded hash function in case faster or more secure hash functions are found or required

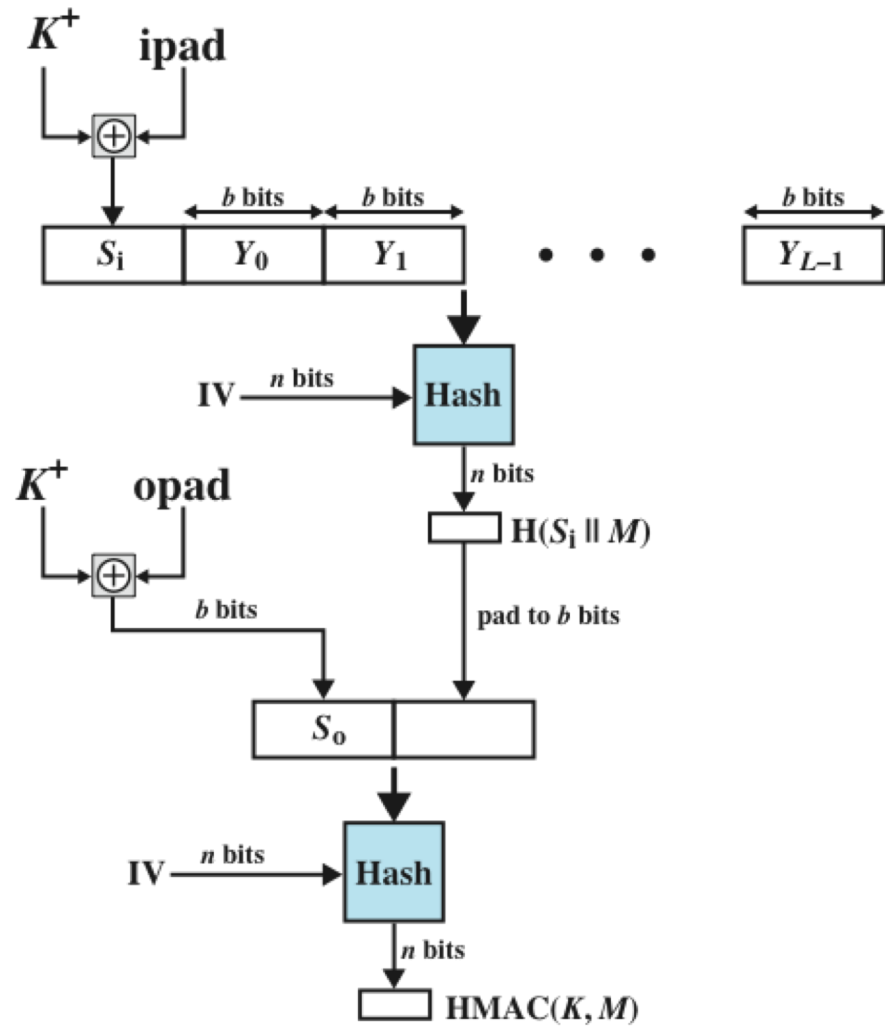
To use and handle keys in a simple way

- **K+** is K padded with zeros on the left so that the result is b bits in length
- **ipad** is a pad value of 36 hex repeated to fill block
- **opad** is a pad value of 5C hex repeated to fill block
- **M** is the message input to HMAC (including any padding)
- **IV** Initialization vector (if hash function requires one)



$$HMAC(K, M) = \text{Hash}[(K^+ \text{ XOR } opad) || \text{Hash}[(K^+ \text{ XOR } ipad) || M]]$$

- Note that the XOR with ipad results in flipping one-half of the bits of  $K$ .
- Similarly, the XOR with opad results in flipping one-half of the bits of  $K$ , *but a different set of bits*. In effect, by passing  $S_i$  and  $S_0$  through the hash algorithm, we have pseudorandomly generated two keys from  $K$ .



$$HMAC(K, M) = \text{Hash}[(K^+ \text{ XOR } \text{opad}) \parallel \text{Hash}[(K^+ \text{ XOR } \text{ipad}) \parallel M]]$$

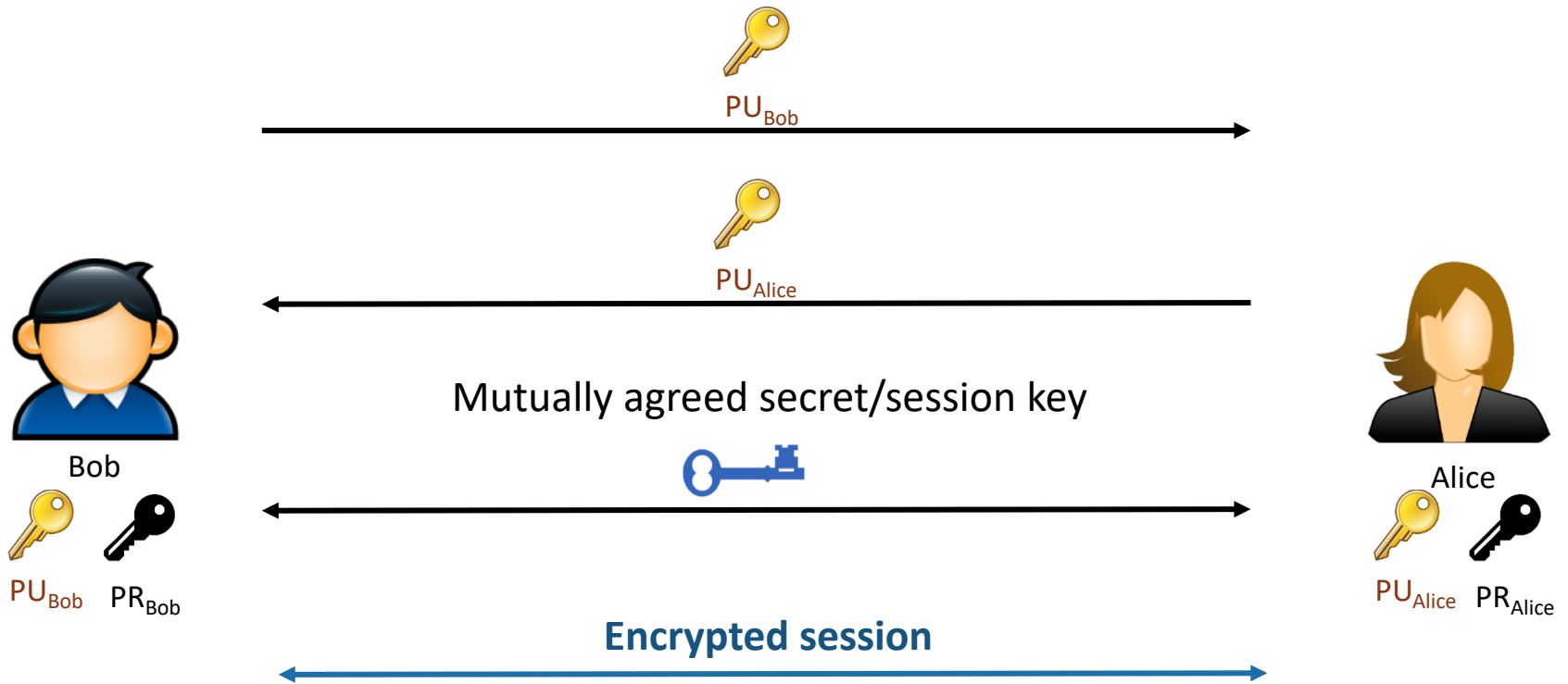
# Hashes vs MACs vs Signatures

|                 | Hash | MAC       | Signature  |
|-----------------|------|-----------|------------|
| Integrity       | ✓    | ✓         | ✓          |
| Authentication  |      | ✓         | ✓          |
| Non-repudiation |      |           | ✓          |
| Keys            | None | Symmetric | Asymmetric |

# Private Connections in Practice



# Encrypted Connections



# Passive Attacker



Bob



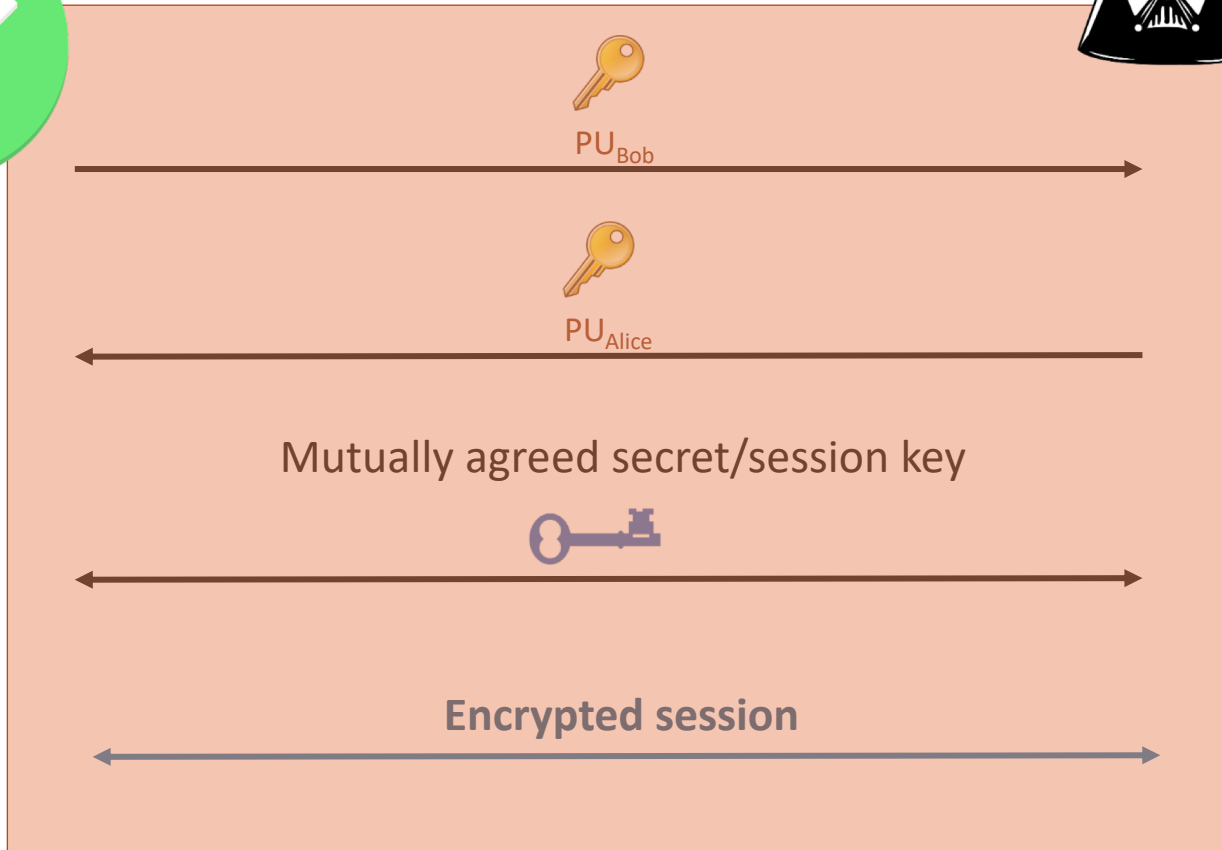
$PU_{Bob}$   $PR_{Bob}$



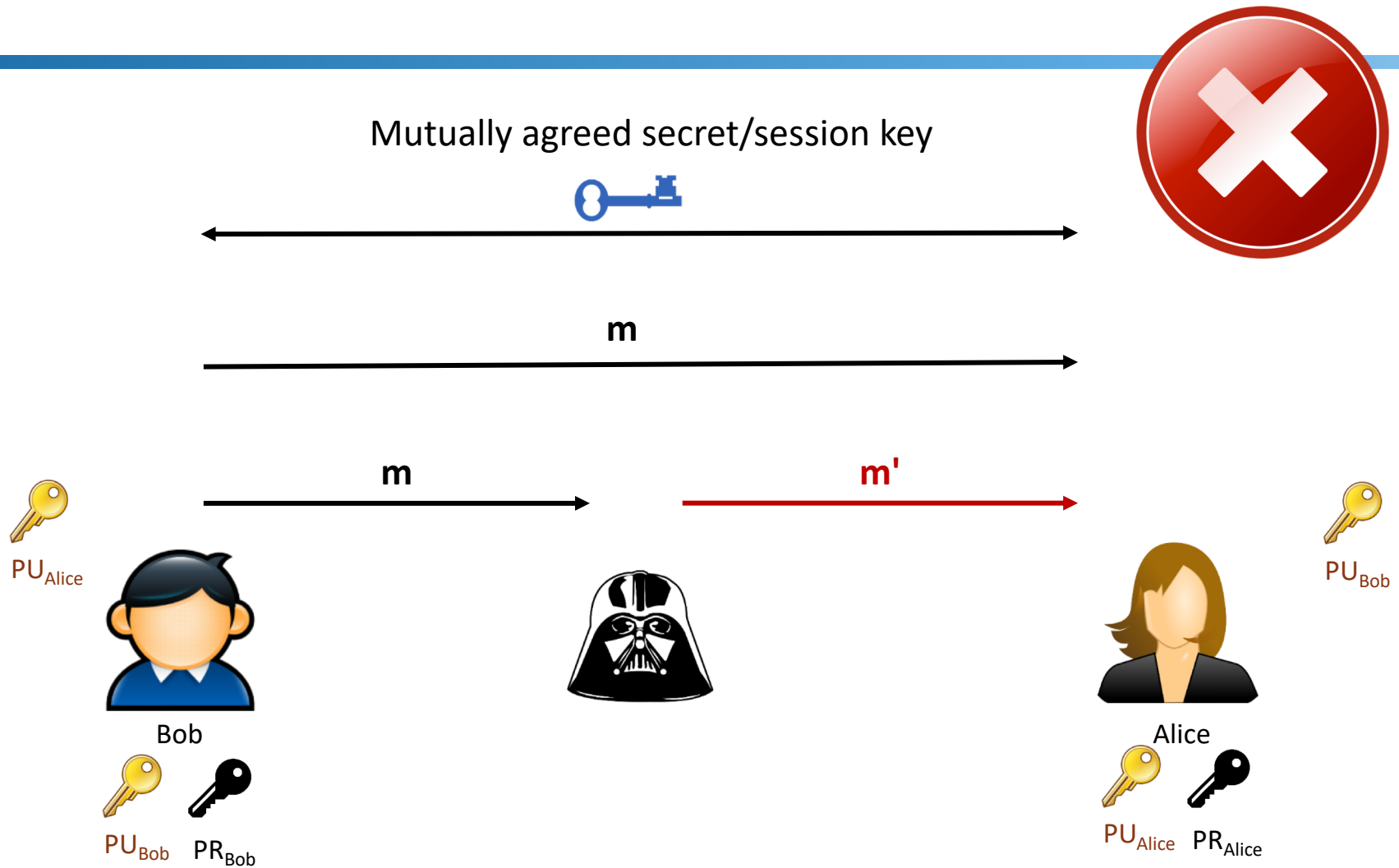
Alice



$PU_{Alice}$   $PR_{Alice}$



# Active Attacker



# Encrypt and MAC

Encrypted data need to be protected with MAC against active adversaries

MAC-and-Encrypt       $E(P) || M(P)$

- No integrity of the ciphertext

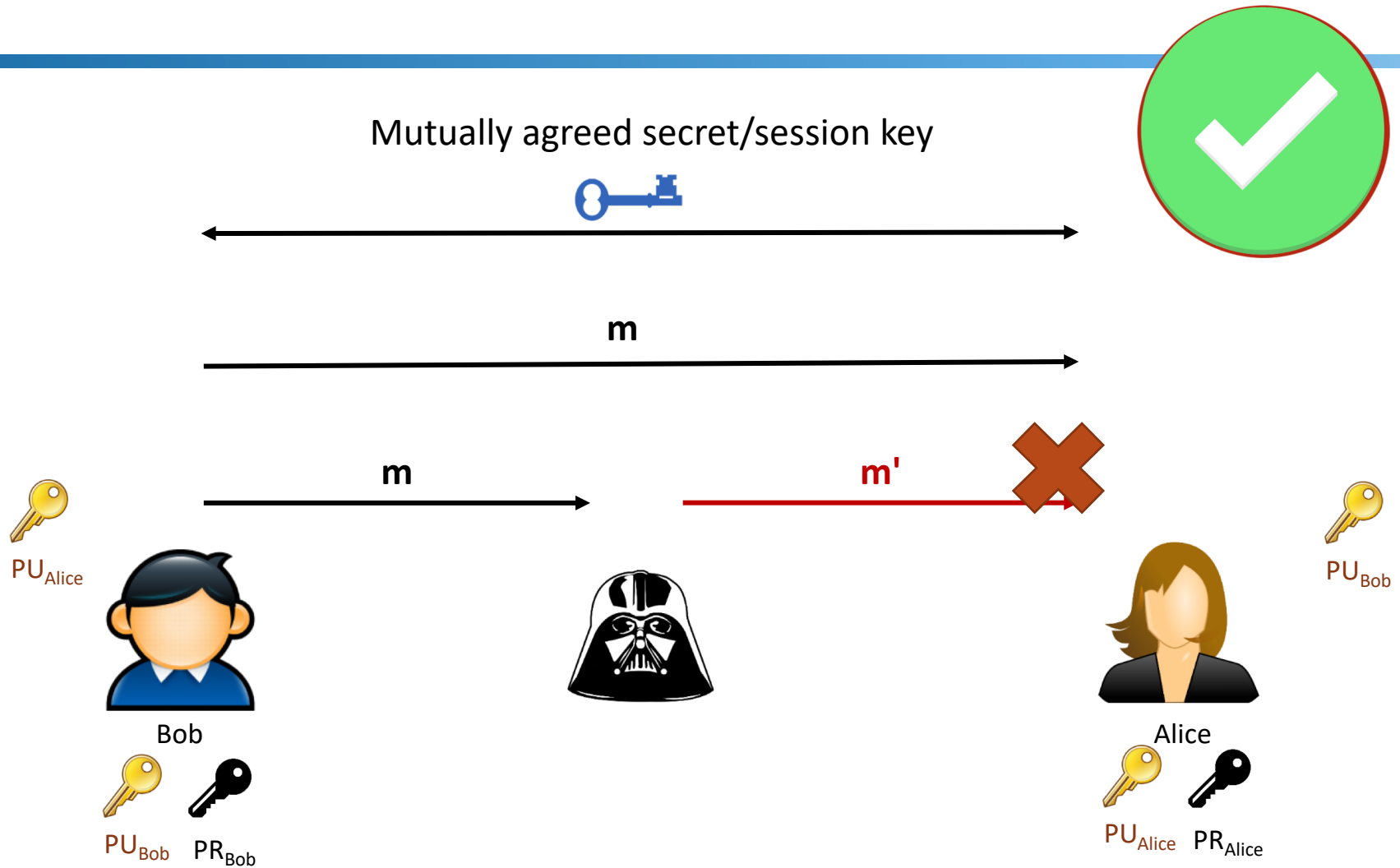
MAC-then-Encrypt       $E(P || M(P))$

- No integrity of the ciphertext

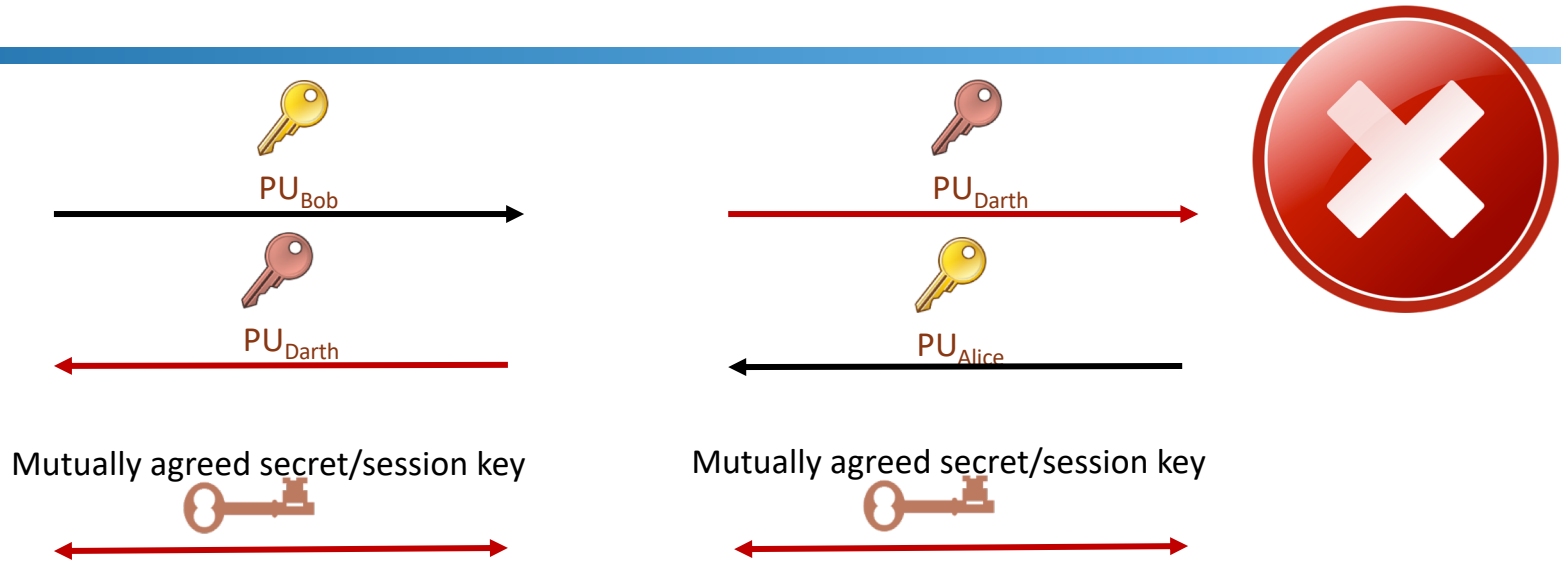
Encrypt-then-MAC       $E(P) || M(E(P))$

- The right option

# Active Attacker



# Man-in-the-middle (MITM)



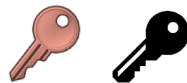
## Fully compromised channel



Bob



$PU_{Bob}$   $PR_{Bob}$



$PU_{Darth}$   $PR_{Darth}$



Alice



$PU_{Alice}$   $PR_{Alice}$

# Types of Adversaries/Attacks

---

**Passive** – does not affect system resources

- Can intercept messages but not modify

**Active** – attempt to alter system resources or affect their operation

- Can intercept, re-order, and alter messages

# Authentication of Public-keys



# Public-Key Authenticity

---

PK encryption requires that parties can establish the authenticity of public keys

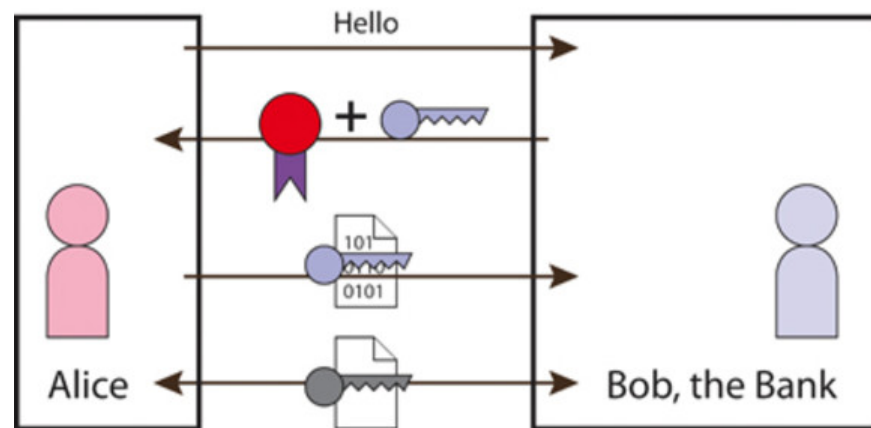
Some ways to accomplish this:

- Trust on first use (TOFU)
- Web of Trust
- **Public-key infrastructure (PKI)**

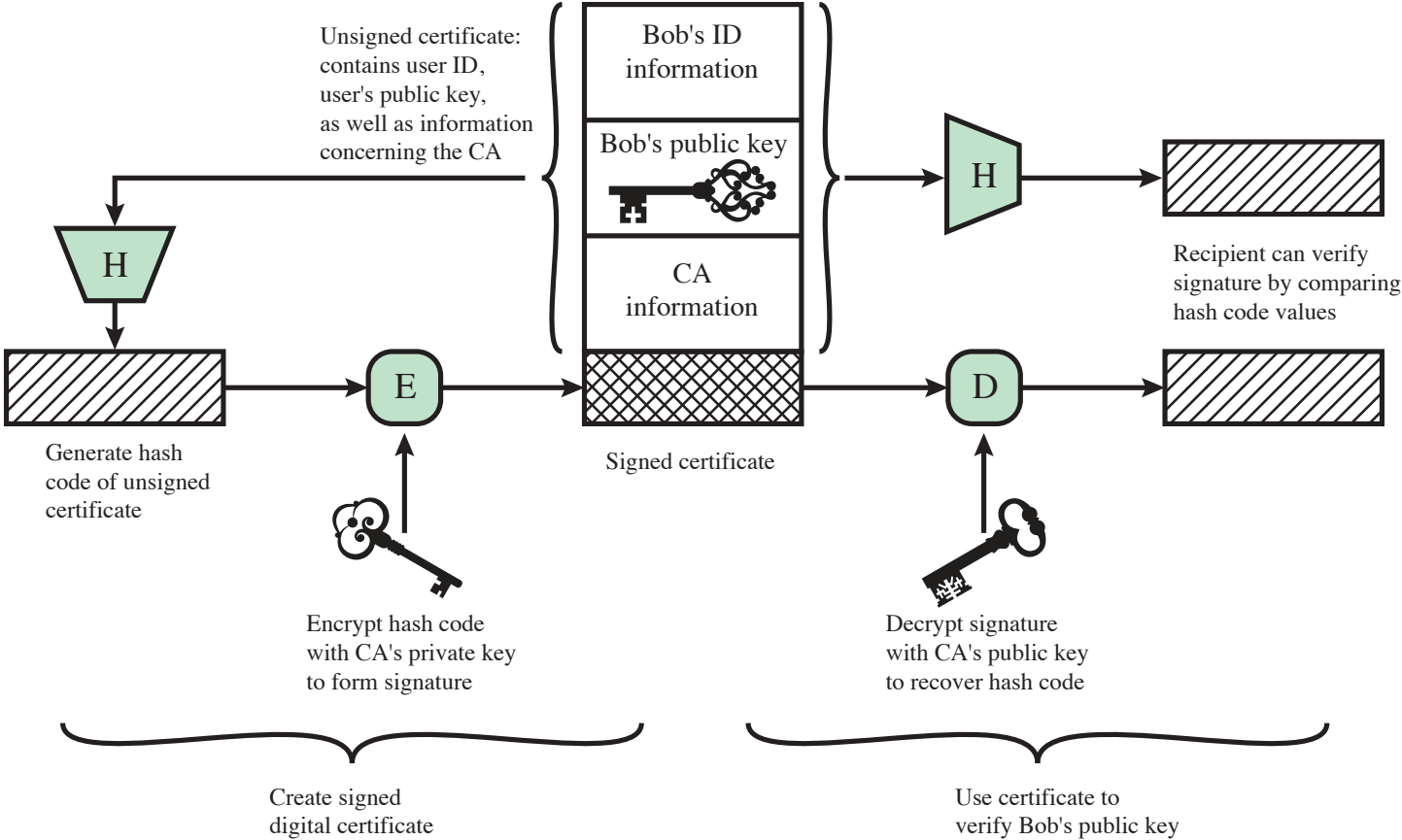
# Certificates

Certificates are essentially signed public keys

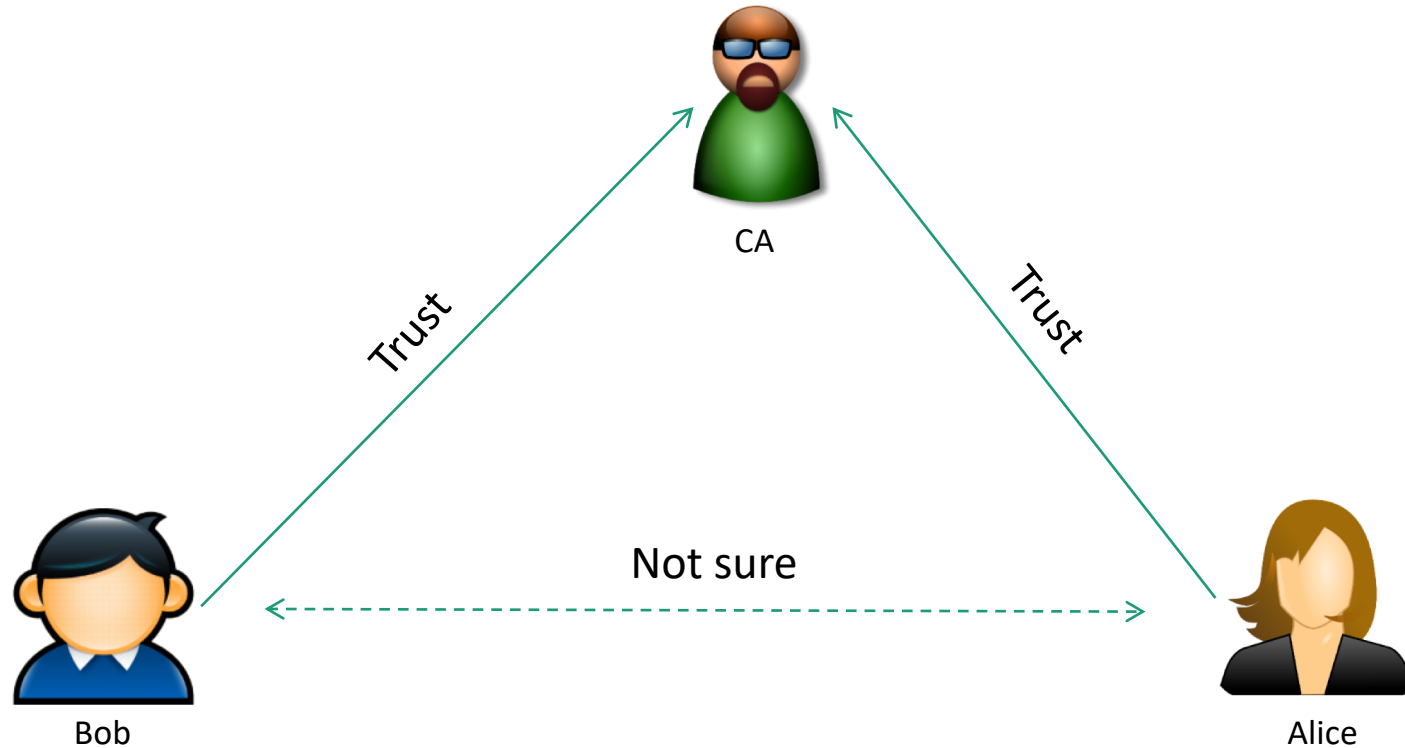
- Signed with the private key of a **certificate authority**

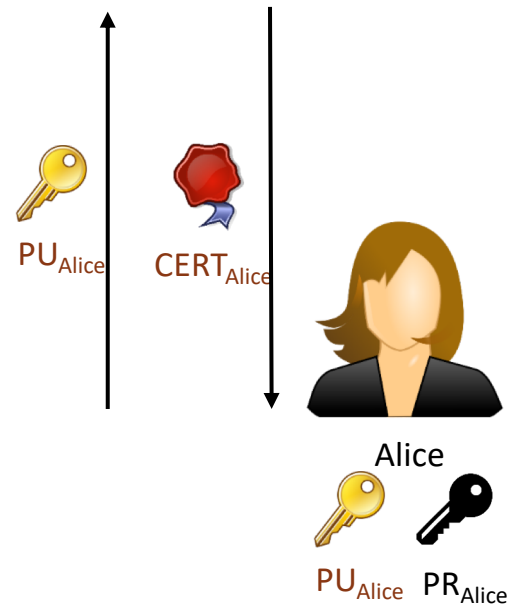
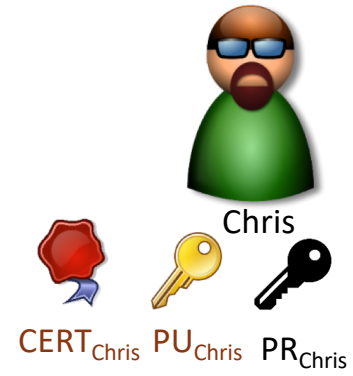
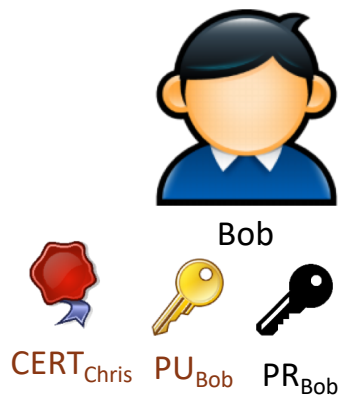


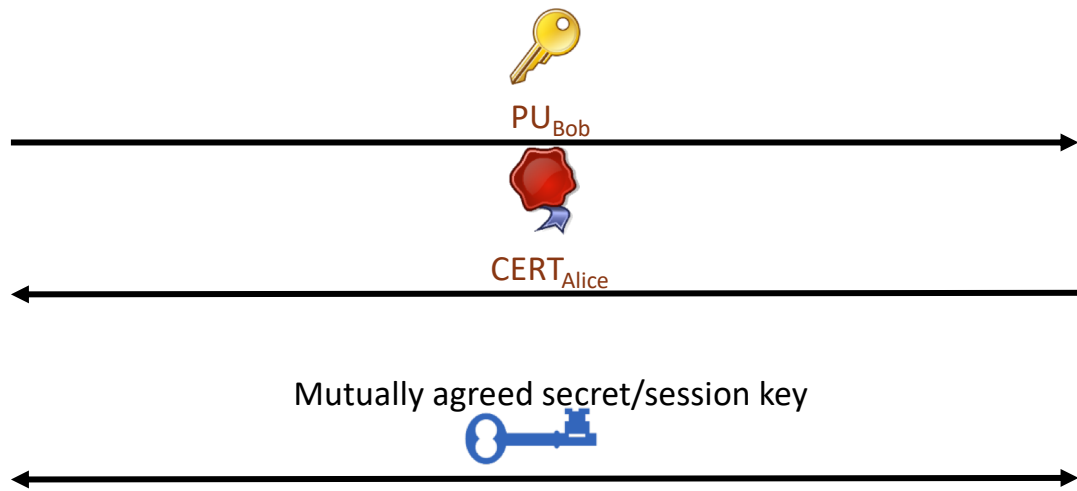
# Certificates



# Trusted Certificate Authorities







Bob



Alice



# Certificate Chains

Trust anchors: Systems are preconfigured with a list of trusted certificates

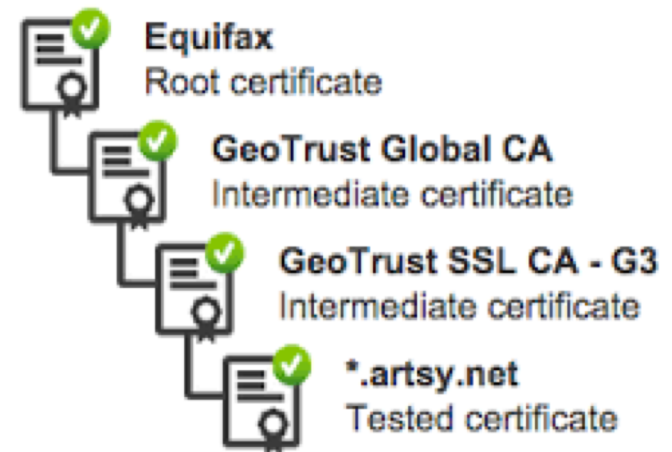
- System-wide or application-based store
- More can be added: self-signed, organization certificates, MiTM certificates, etc.

Server provides a chain of certificates

Any CA can sign certificates for any domain

- The system is as secure as the weakest CA

Certificate chain



# Problems with CAs

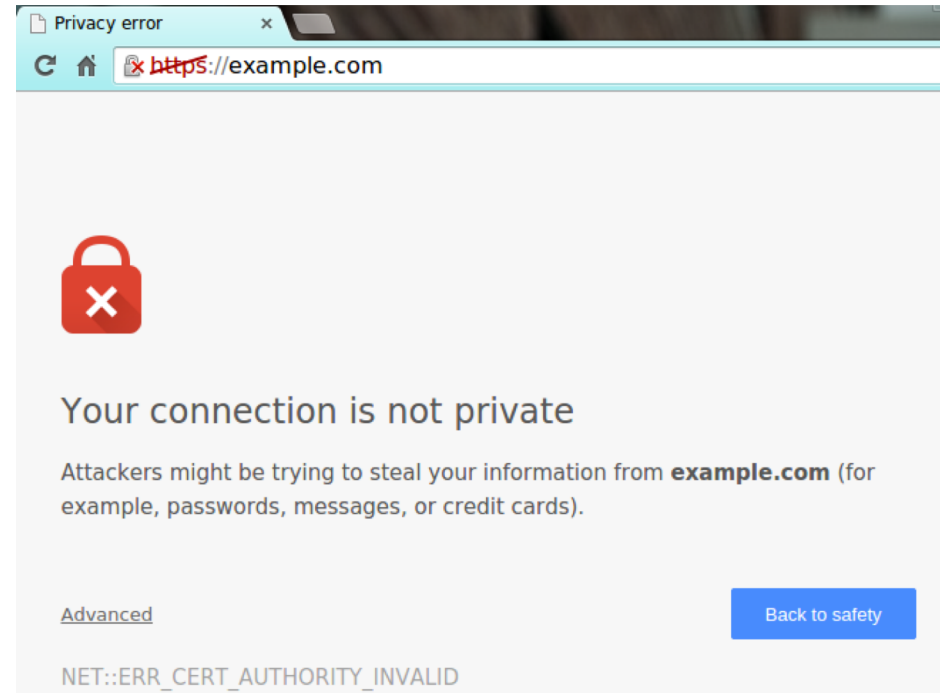
CAs are businesses doing this for profit

- Certificates are expensive  
Self-signed certs cost nothing

Despite the warnings users tend to keep going

Now you can a cert for free

- <https://letsencrypt.org/>





# Problems with CAs

## CAs issuing invalid certs

### Google Security Blog

The latest news and insights from Google on security and safety on the Internet

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#### Chrome's Plan to Distrust Symantec Certificates

September 11, 2017

Posted by Devon O'Brien, Ryan Sleevi, Andrew Whalley, Chrome Security

*This post is a broader announcement of [plans already finalized](#) on the [blink-dev mailing list](#).*

*Update, 1/31/18: Post was updated to further clarify 13 month validity limitations*

# Problems with CAs

## Misplaced “CA” keys

Spring 2018

ars TECHNICA

BIZ & IT TECH SCIENCE POLICY CARS GAMING & CULTURE FORU

DUST UP—

## 23,000 HTTPS certificates axed after CEO emails private keys

Flap that goes public renews troubling questions about issuance of certificates.

DAN GOODIN - 3/1/2018, 8:36 AM



unrequited life

Enlarge

# Problems with CAs

Why is this root cert in my browser?



The screenshot shows the top of an Ars Technica article. The navigation bar includes 'ars TECHNICA' and categories like 'BIZ & IT', 'TECH', 'SCIENCE', 'POLICY', 'CARS', 'GAMING & CULTURE', and 'FOR'. The article title is 'Turkish government agency spoofed Google certificate "accidentally"', with a sub-headline 'NOTHING "DISHONEST"? —'. The byline is 'SEAN GALLAGHER - 1/4/2013, 3:44 PM'. There are three social media icons: a speech bubble, Facebook, and Twitter. The main text discusses a security advisory from Microsoft regarding a fraudulent digital certificate for Google domains created by a Turkish subsidiary Certificate Authority.

ars TECHNICA

BIZ & IT TECH SCIENCE POLICY CARS GAMING & CULTURE FOR

NOTHING "DISHONEST"? —

## Turkish government agency spoofed Google certificate "accidentally"

CA mistakenly gave Ankara's transit authority even more authority.

SEAN GALLAGHER - 1/4/2013, 3:44 PM

 Microsoft has released a [security advisory](#) concerning a fraudulent digital certificate for all Google domains apparently created by the Turkish government. The certificate, which was created by a subsidiary Certificate Authority issued to the transportation directorate of [the city government of Ankara](#), could have been used to intercept SSL traffic as part of a "man in the middle" attack to spoof Google's encryption certificate and decrypt secure Web sessions to Google Plus and Gmail.



 According to a statement from the Turkish certificate authority Turktrust, the organization mistakenly issued two organizations subsidiary CA certificates in 2011—created during testing of Turktrust's certificate production system—instead of the standard SSL certificates they were supposed to receive. Subsidiary CA certificates give the holder the ability to issue SSL certificates with the original CA's authority.

# **TLS/SSL and Attacks**

# TLS

---

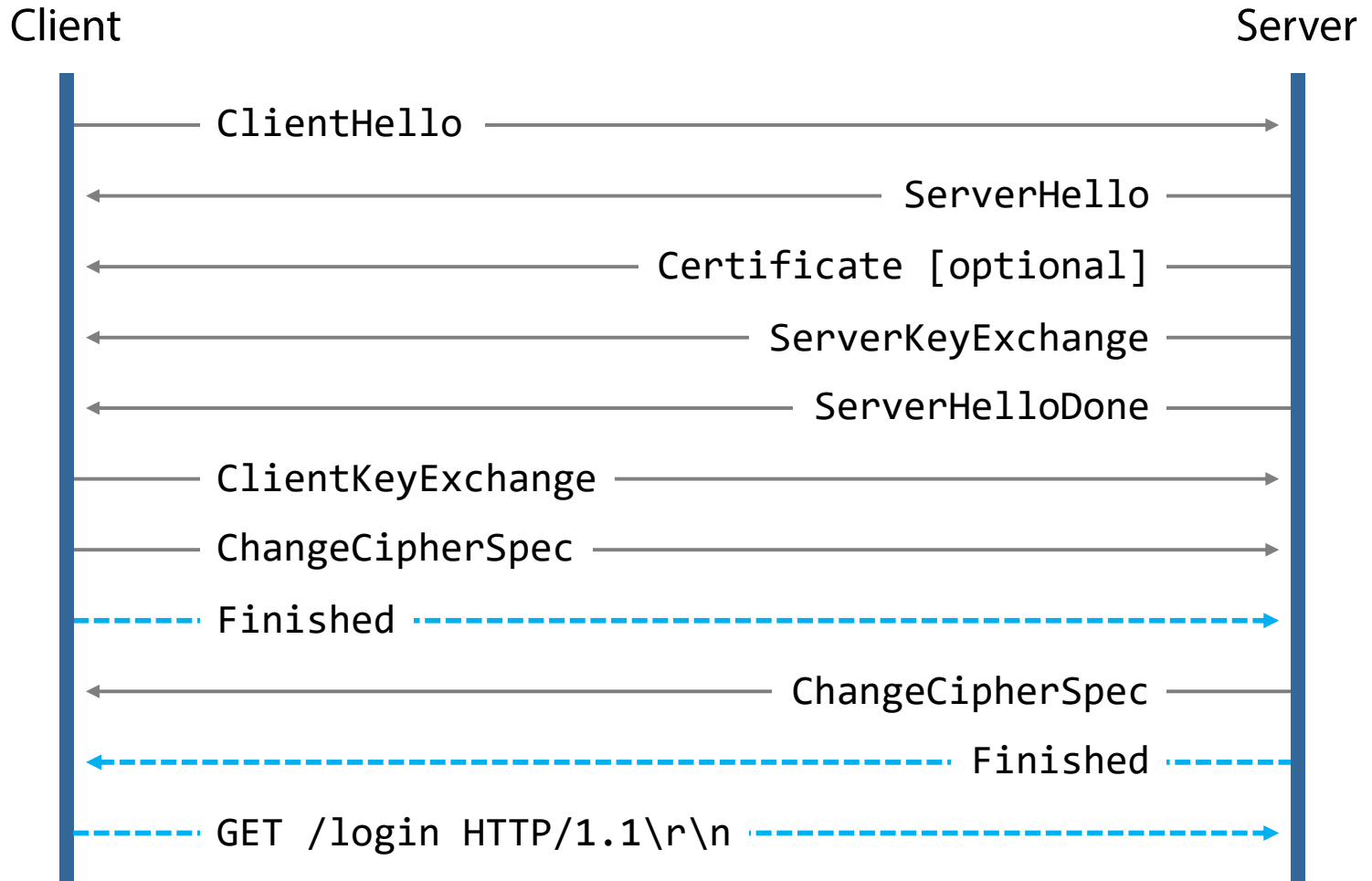
Transport Layer Security (TLS) is the most widely used protocol for secure communications over TCP

Succeeds the Secure Socket Layer (SSL)

- Plagued by various security issues

Used in HTTPS, IMAPS, SMTP, etc.

# TLS Handshake



# TLS Protocols

## Handshake

- Negotiate sessions keys
- Authenticate server and (optionally) client

## Record

- Exchange messages encrypted and MACed with established session key
- Compression before encryption
  - **Don't do it**
- Extensible sub-protocols
  - For example, **change the cipher suit used**

# Downgrade Attacks

Goal: force the use of a weak cipher suite

Possible because browsers voluntarily downgrade the protocol upon handshake failure

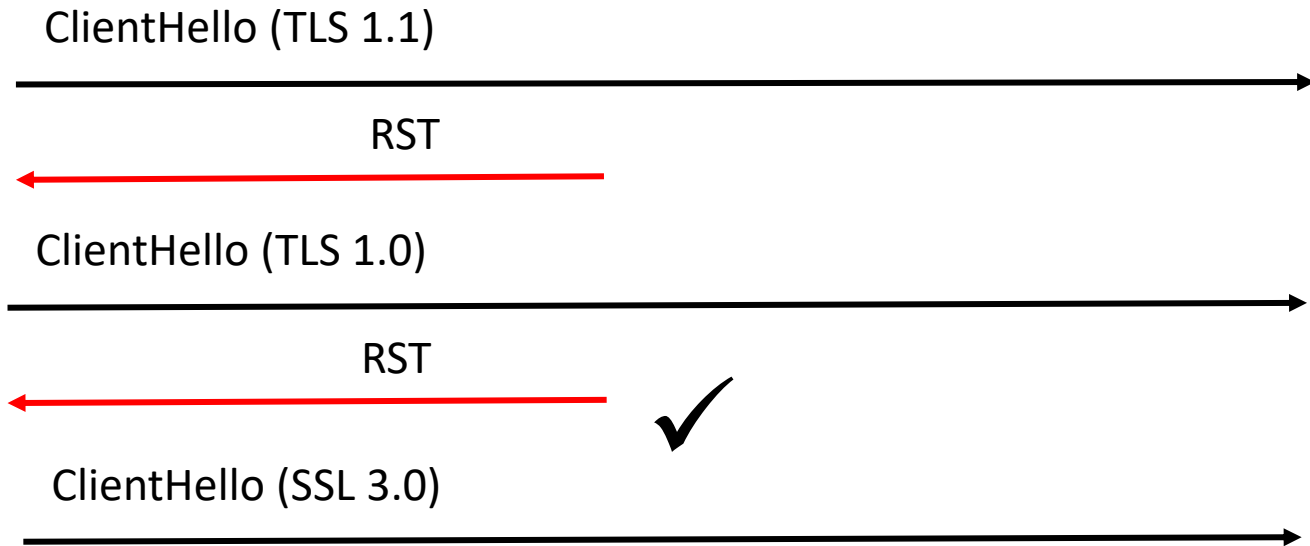
- For interoperability reasons
- Due to server bugs
- Due to protocol weaknesses

Methods:

- Close connections until retry with lower SSL/TLS version
- Modify list of supported ciphers sent from the client



# Downgrading TLS Connection

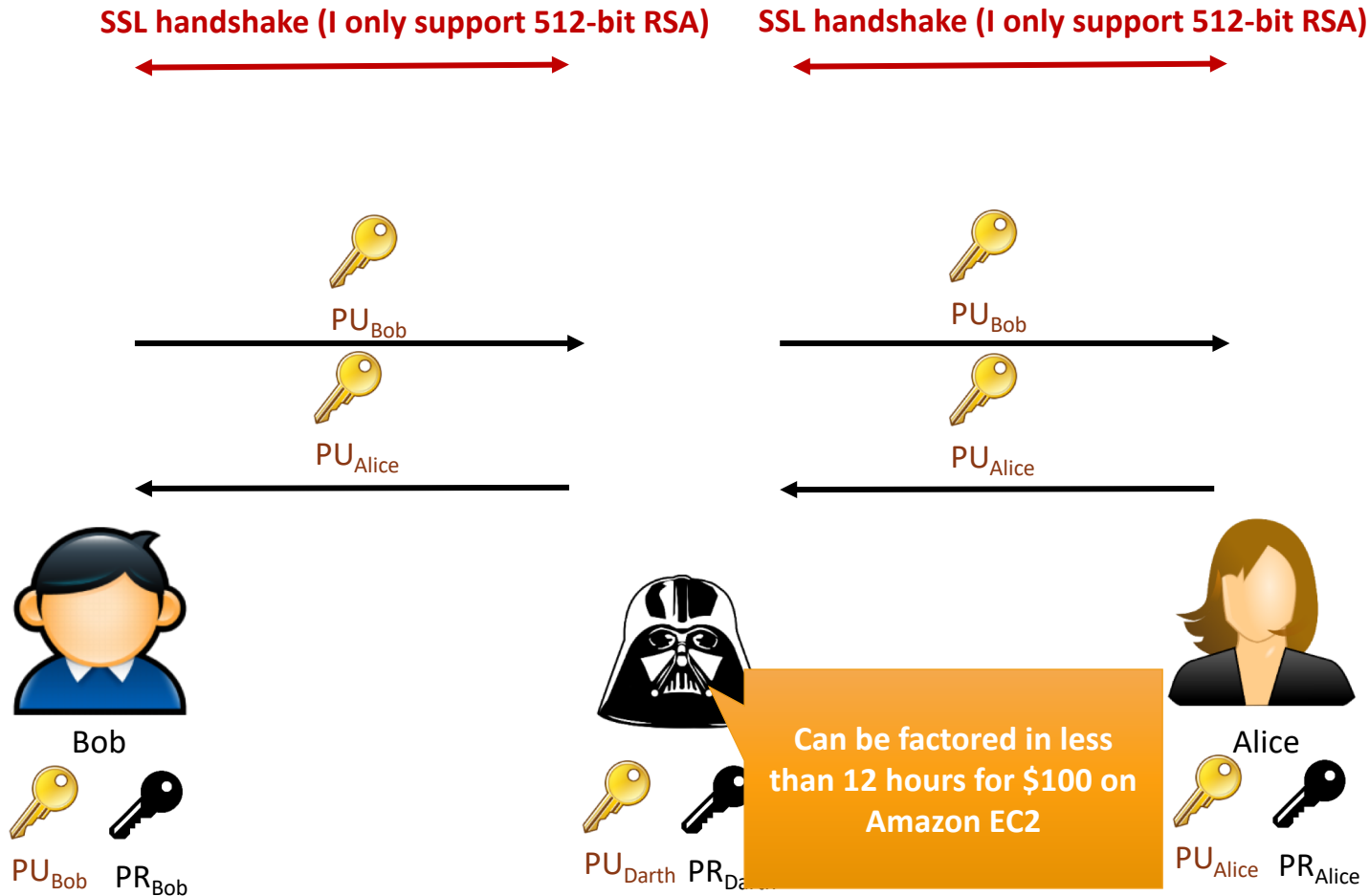


Bob

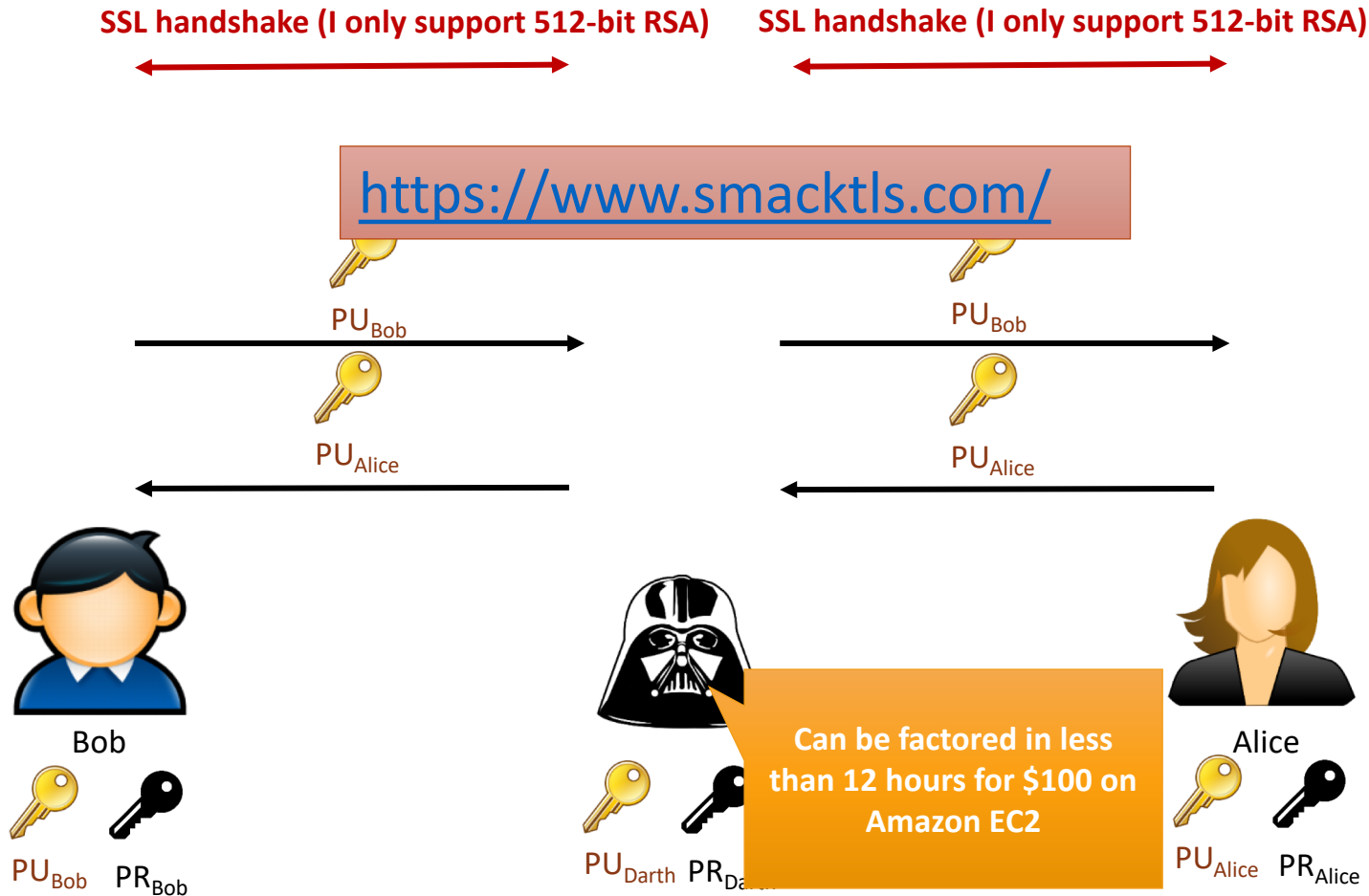


Alice

# Downgrade Cipher Suite



# Downgrade Cipher Suite



# SSL Stripping



Location: **http://...**  
<a href="**http://...**">  
<form action="**http://...**">

Location: **https://...**  
<a href="**https://...**">  
<form action="**https://...**">

# HSTS

HTTP Strict Transport Security protects against SSL stripping and other attacks

- Convert any insecure links to https
- Treat all errors as fatal

Implemented through an HTTP header

- `Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000`

You may need to safely load the site once

- Trust-on-first use

Browsers now also do HSTS-preloading

# Other Mitigations

---

HTTP Public Key Pinning

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP\\_Public\\_Key\\_Pinning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_Public_Key_Pinning)

Online Certificate Status Protocol

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online\\_Certificate\\_Status\\_Protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Online_Certificate_Status_Protocol)

# Apple Fail (<https://gotofail.com/>)

```
static OSStatus
SSLVerifySignedServerKeyExchange(SSLContext *ctx, bool isRsa, SSLBuffer signedParams,
                                uint8_t *signature, UInt16 signatureLen)
{
    OSStatus      err;
    SSLBuffer     hashOut, hashCtx, clientRandom, serverRandom;
    uint8_t       hashes[SSL_SHA1_DIGEST_LEN + SSL_MD5_DIGEST_LEN];
    SSLBuffer     signedHashes;
    uint8_t       *dataToSign;
    size_t        dataToSignLen;

    ...
    if ((err = ReadyHash(&SSLHashSHA1, &hashCtx)) != 0)
        goto ↓fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &clientRandom)) != 0)
        goto ↓fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &serverRandom)) != 0)
        goto ↓fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &signedParams)) != 0)
        goto ↓fail;
        goto ↓fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.final(&hashCtx, &hashOut)) != 0)
        goto ↓fail;

    err = sslRawVerify(ctx,
                      ctx->peerPubKey,
                      dataToSign,           /* plaintext */
                      dataToSignLen,       /* plaintext length */
                      signature,
                      signatureLen);

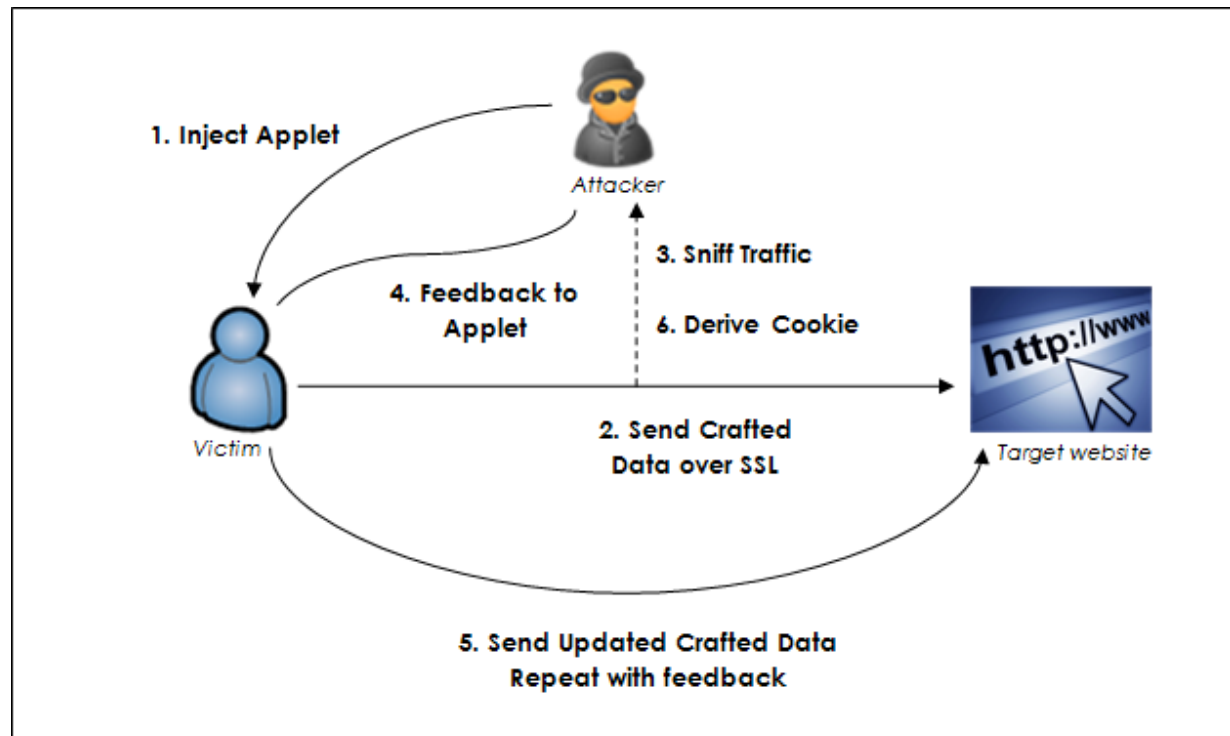
    if(err) {
        sslErrorLog("SSLDecodeSignedServerKeyExchange: sslRawVerify "
                   "returned %d\n", (int)err);
        goto ↓fail;
    }
}
```

# CRIME Attack

Leverage compression to leak HTTP cookies

Need to be able to inject a script in a webpage

Issue multiple requests to target website to brute force cookie





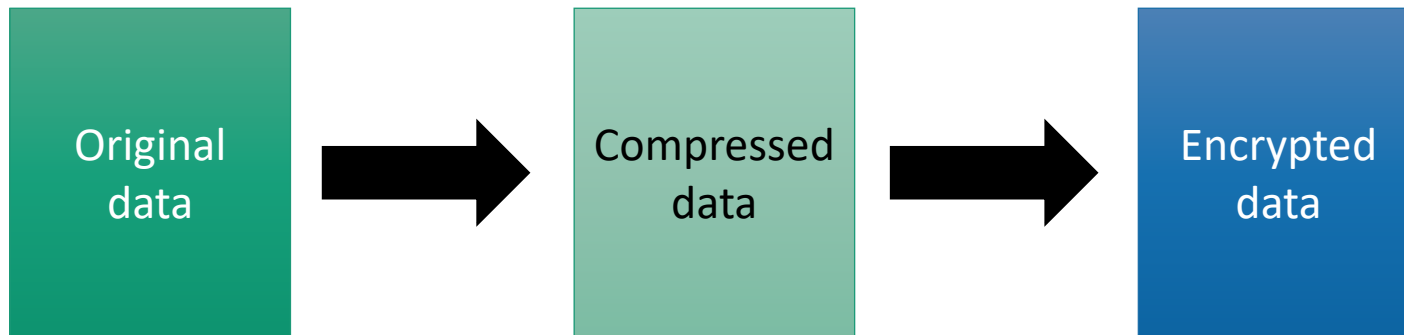
# Compression

Header sent  
with every  
request

```
POST /target HTTP/1.1  
Host: example.com  
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:14.0)  
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/14.0.1  
Cookie: sessionid=d8e8fca2dc0f896fd7cb4cb0031ba249
```

POST data

```
Slkgloirskjda13irjlnfdsvnlvsidjsdp91jnflijdsf;9jas;ofdas;dqlnds
```



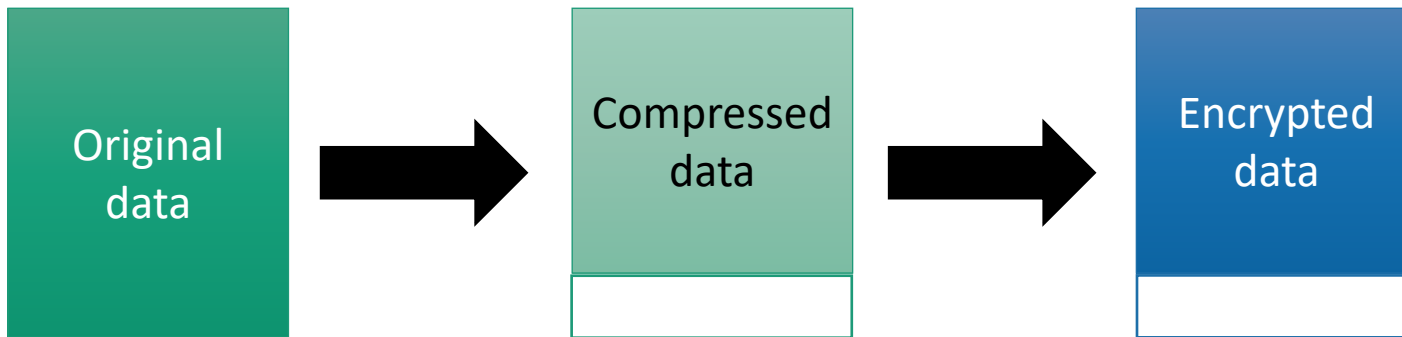
# Compression

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with every  
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Host: example.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:14.0)
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/14.0.1
Cookie: sessionid=d8e8fca2dc0f896fd7cb4cb0031ba249
```

POST data

```
Cookie: sessionid=a
```



Saved transmission bandwidth due to compression

# Compression

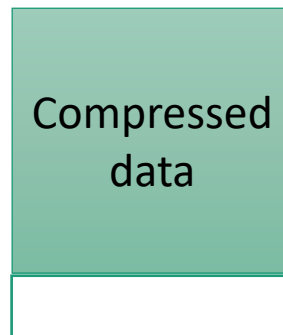
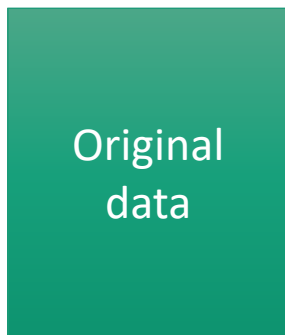
Header sent  
with every  
request

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POST /target HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; rv:14.0)
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/14.0.1
Cookie: sessionid=d8e8fca2dc0f896fd7cb4cb0031ba249
```

POST data

```
Cookie: sessionid=d
```

Observing the amount of  
data transmitted tells me  
when I get a match in the  
POST data



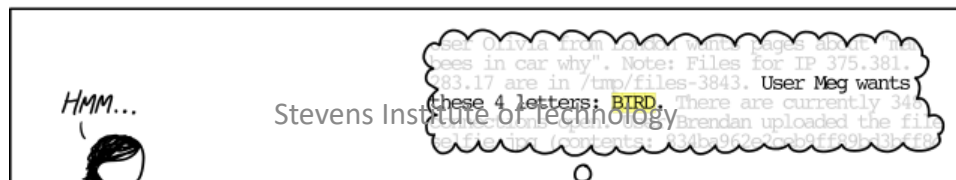
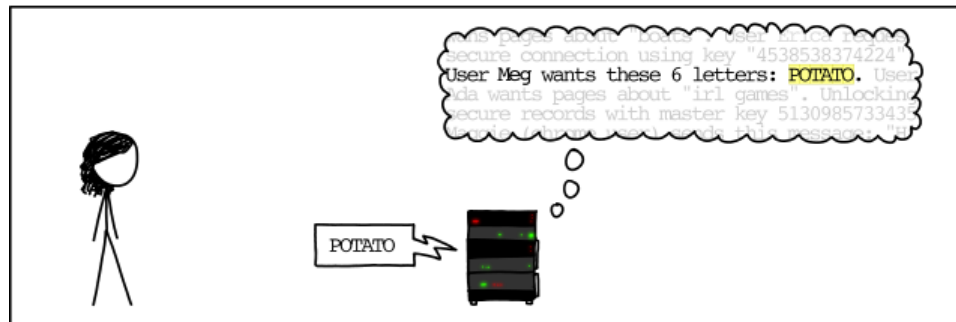
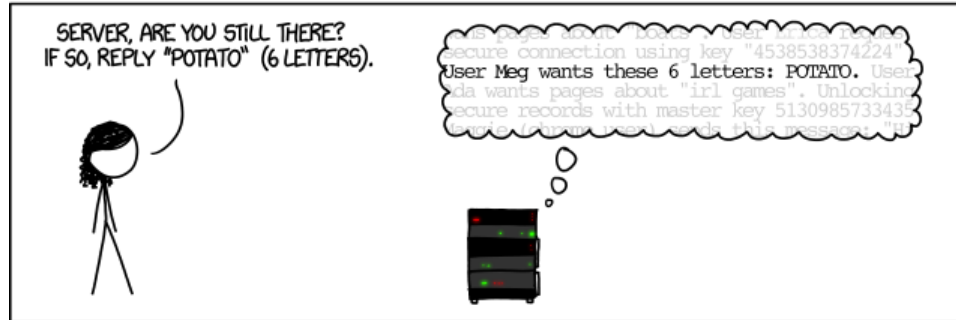
Saved transmission bandwidth due to compression

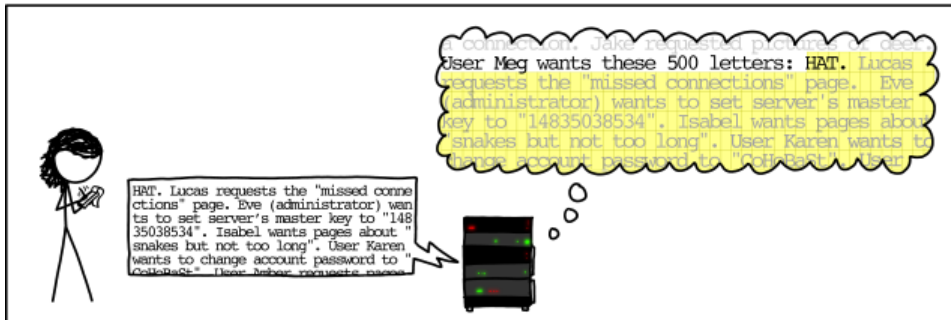
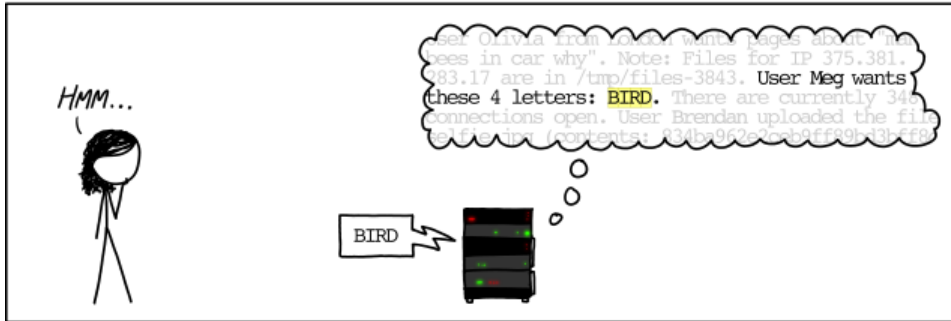
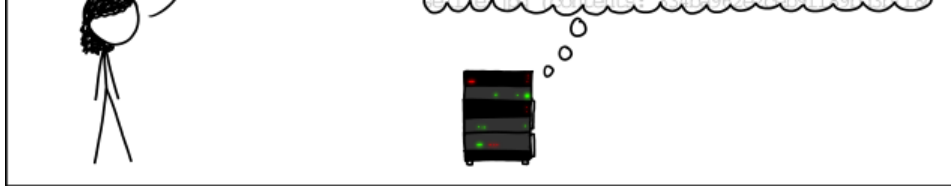
# Heartbleed

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# HOW THE HEARTBLEED BUG WORKS:





# Reading

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TLS - <https://hpbn.co/transport-layer-security-tls/>

TLS attacks - <https://mitls.org/pages/attacks/>

Analysis of the HTTPS Certificate Ecosystem

<http://conferences.sigcomm.org/imc/2013/papers/imc257-durumericAemb.pdf>