Key Management and Distribution

Class 4

Stallings: Ch 14
Why?

- Deliver a key to two parties that need to communicate securely
  - Delivery needs to be secure: only the two parties have access to the key
Key Distribution Problem

- Two parties A and B
- Symmetric encryption: most efficient way to send encrypted data
- Both parties need to share a secret
- For N parties, this means $N(N-1)/2$ secrets!
  - Not all are needed

- How to securely and efficiently establish pairwise secrets
Symmetric Key Distribution Options

- **SneakerNet**: The two parties physically deliver key
- **Hierarchy of Trust**: Trusted third party deliver key to A, B
  - **Key Distribution Center (KDC)**
- **Web of Trust (PGP)**: certify keys of other people, find chain of trust
Key Hierarchy

- Two types of keys
  1. Session keys
     - Symmetric
     - Used for one logical session then discarded
  2. Master key
     - Used to encrypt session keys
     - Shared by user & key distribution center
What Do We Cover

- Session key distribution with symmetric crypto
- Session key distribution with public key crypto
- Distribution of public keys
- X.509 certificates
Symmetric Crypto Notations

- Alice shares key $K_A$ with KDC
  - Encryption: $E_A(M) = E(K_A, M)$
  - Decryption: $D_A(M) = D(K_A, M)$
Symmetric Key Based Distribution

A and B share secret key with KDC!

1. “Hi”, A, B
2. \( E_A(K_{AB}), E_B(K_{AB}) \)
3. \( D_A(E_A(K_{AB})) = K_{AB} \)
4. \( E_B(K_{AB}) \)
5. \( D_B(E_B(K_{AB})) = K_{AB} \)
6. \( E_{AB}(M) \)

A: \( K_A \)
B: \( K_B \)
Key Distribution Problems

- Trent (the KDC) is absolutely trusted
  - If Malory corrupts KDC, all is gone
  - Malory can read all user communication
  - Why?

- Trent is a bottleneck
  - *If Trent fails, the entire system is disrupted*
What Do We Cover

- Session key distribution with symmetric crypto
- Session key distribution with public key crypto
- Distribution of public keys
- X.509 certificates
Public Key Based Distribution

- A and B use public key crypto
  - To agree on a session key
  - Session key is used to encrypt communications
- How do A and B know each other's public keys?
Alice has key pair \((pk_A, pr_A)\)
- \(pk_A\) is the public key
- \(pr_A\) is the private key

Encryption/Decryption
- \(C = E_A(Msg) = E(pk_A, Msg)\) – anyone can do
- \(D_A(C) = D(pr_A, C)\) – only Alice can do this
Merkle proposed this very simple scheme:

1. Hi, A, pk_A
2. E(pk_A, K_{AB})
3. E_{AB}(M)
Man-in-the-Middle Attack

1. Hi, A, pkₐ

2. Intercept/Block

3. “Hi”, A, pkₘ

4. E(pkₘ, K₉M)

5. E(pkₐ, K₉M)

6. E₉M(Msg)

From then on Bob talks to Malory thinking it is Alice!
Key Distribution with Public Key and KDC

1. "Hi", A, B

2. B, pk_B

3. Generate session key K_AB

4. E(pk_B, K_AB)

5. D(pr_B, E(pk_B, K_AB)) = K_AB

6. E_AB(M)

A: pk_A
B: pk_B

Do you see the problem?
What Do We Cover

- Session key distribution with symmetric crypto
- Session key distribution with public key crypto
- Distribution of public keys
- X.509 certificates
Distribution of Public Keys!

- How are they distributed in the first place?
  - Remember Merkle’s solution
  - ... and the Man-in-the-Middle Attack

- Need an authentic way to distribute keys!

- Alternatives
  - Public announcement
  - Publicly available directory
  - Public-key authority
  - Public-key certificates
Public Announcement

- Similar to Merkle’s first step ...
- Users distribute public keys to recipients or broadcast to community at large
  - Append keys to email messages
  - Post to news groups or email list
- **Major weakness is man-in-the-middle**
  - Anyone can create a key claiming to be someone else and broadcast it
  - Until forgery is discovered can masquerade as claimed user
Publicly Available Directory

- Register keys with a public directory
- Directory contains \{name, public-key\} entries
- Participants register securely with directory
  - In person or using secure authentication
- Participants can replace key at any time
- Directory can be accessed electronically
  - Needs secure, authentic communication to directory
  - *Vulnerable to tampering or forgery*
Public Key Authority

- Has properties of directory *plus*
- Requires users to know public key of authority
- Users interact with directory to obtain any desired public key securely
  - Requires real-time access to directory when keys are needed
- May be vulnerable to tampering
Public Key Crypto Notations

- Alice has key pair \((pk_A, pr_A)\)
  - \(pk_A\) is the public key
  - \(pr_A\) is the private key

- Encryption/Decryption
  - \(E_A(M) = E(pk_A, M)\) – anyone can do this
  - \(D_A(M) = D(pr_A, M)\) – only Alice can do this

- Signature/Verification
  - \(S_A(M)\) : sign message \(M\) with private key of \(A\)
  - \(V_A(M, S)\) : verify that \(S\) is a signature for \(M\)
    - Uses \(A\)’s public key
Public Key Authority (Needham-Schroeder with Public Keys)

$T_1$ is timestamp prevents replay attacks!

1. Req, B, $T_1$
2. $S_{T}(B, pk_B, T_1)$
3. $E_B(A, N_1)$
4. Req, A, $T_2$
5. $S_T(A, pk_A, T_2)$
6. $E_A(N_1, N_2)$
7. $E_B(N_2)$

A: $pk_A$
B: $pk_B$
Public Key Authority Use (cont’d)

- Why do we need T’s signature?
  - A and B can be sure of the other’s public key

- Why do we need steps 6 and 7?
  - A makes sure B knows its private key
  - Makes sure Mallory cannot impersonate B
  - ... and vice-versa
What Do We Cover

- Session key distribution with symmetric crypto
- Session key distribution with public key crypto
- Distribution of public keys
- X.509 certificates
Public Key Certificates

- Allow key exchange without real-time access to public-key authority
- **Bind identity to public key**
  - Plus other info: period of validity, rights of use etc
- All contents **signed** by a trusted Public-Key or Certificate Authority (CA)
  - Can be verified by anyone who knows the public-key authority’s public-key
Certificate Requirements

- Anyone can read the name and public key from a certificate
- Only the CA can create and update certificates
- Anyone can verify the validity of the certificate
How are Certificates Used?

Using authenticated channel!

1. Alice A requests her certificate from Trent T (CA) with her public key $pk_A$.

2. Trent T generates a certificate $C(A) = S_T(A, pk_A, T_1)$.

3. Trent T sends the certificate $C(A)$ to Alice A.

4. Alice A verifies the certificate $C(A)$.

1'. Bob B requests his certificate from Trent T (CA) with his public key $pk_B$.

2'. Trent T generates a certificate $C(B) = S_T(B, pk_B, T_2)$.

2'. Trent T sends the certificate $C(B)$ to Bob B.

3'. Bob B receives the certificate $C(B)$.

4'. Bob B verifies the certificate $C(B)$. 
How are Certificates Used? (cont’d)

- Certificates *issued*
  - Over authenticated channels
  - In person
- Certificates are re-issued infrequently
  - Steps 1 and 2 are done once
- Certificates contain timestamp and validity period
  - User can verify certificate validity
- Example CAs: Symantec (VeriSign), Comodo, GoDaddy
Symantec (former VeriSign)

- For websites
- Examines
  - Traditional documents like articles of incorporation and business licenses
  - Digital verification of each site operated by the organization
WebTrust https://cert.webtrust.org

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The Trust Services Principles and Criteria is an international set of principles and criteria for systems and electronic commerce developed and managed jointly by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. By demonstrating compliance with Trust Services criteria through an examination by an independent practitioner, entities earn the right to display the seal of assurance.

The Seal of assurance combines high standards for identified activities with the requirement for an independent verification/audit. Together they build trust and confidence among consumers and businesses conducting business over the Internet.

The entity has earned the right to display the Seal of assurance with respect to the Trust Service Principle(s) of:

Certification Authorities
X.509 Certificates

- Part of CCITT X.500 directory service standards
  - Distributed servers maintaining user info database
- Defines framework for authentication services
  - Directory may store public-key certificates
  - Public key of user signed by certification authority
- Defines authentication protocols
- Uses public-key crypto & digital signatures
  - Algorithms not standardised, but RSA recommended
- X.509 certificates are widely used
  - have 3 versions
X.509 Certificate Generation

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alice ID</th>
<th>Public Key</th>
<th>CA info</th>
</tr>
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</table>
```

- **Alice ID**
- **Public Key**
- **CA info**

**CA Priv. Key**

- **Hash H**
- **Signature Algorithm**

= Alice’s certificate

+ **Alice ID**
+ **Public Key**
+ **CA info**
X.509 Certificate Verification

Alice ID
Public Key
CA info

Alice’s certificate

CA Pub. Key

Hash H
Hash value $h_1$

Verification Algorithm

Valid?
X.509 Certificate Format

- Issued by a Certification Authority (CA), containing:
  - version (1, 2, or 3)
  - serial number (unique within CA) identifying certificate
  - signature algorithm identifier
  - issuer X.500 name
  - **period of validity (from - to dates)**
  - subject X.500 name (name of owner)
  - subject public-key info (algorithm, parameters, key)
  - issuer unique identifier (v2+)
  - subject unique identifier (v2+)
  - extension fields (v3)
  - signature (of hash of all fields in certificate)

- **Notation:** $C_{CA}(A)$ is certificate for A signed by CA
X.509 Certificate Format (cont’d)

From Stallings book
Certificate Revocation

- Certificates have a period of validity
  - May need to be revoked before expiry:
    1. User's private key is compromised
    2. User is no longer certified by this CA
    3. CA's certificate is compromised
    4. User behaves badly
- CA maintains list of revoked certificates
  - Certificate Revocation List (CRL)
- Users should check certificates with CA’s CRL
Certificate Revocation (cont’d)

- When Alice obtains Bob’s certificate
  - Contact CA
  - Check that certificate is not revoked (in CRL)!

- CA needs to maintain a certificate in CRL until certificate expires

From Stallings book
Certificate Revocation Problem

- Alice does something bad at time $T_1$
- CA finds out and revokes A’s certificate at $T_2$
- Place A certificate into CRL
- Alice can continue to misbehave and be authenticated between $T_1$ and $T_2$!
Obtaining a Certificate

- Any user with access to CA can get any certificate from it
- Only the CA can modify a certificate
- Certificates can be placed in a public directory
- *Certificates cannot be forged*
CA Hierarchy

- What if A and B do not share a CA?
- Solution: CA's must form a hierarchy
- Use certificates linking members of hierarchy to validate other CA's
  - Each CA has certificates for itself (from parent CA) and for parent (backward)
- Each client trusts parents certificates
CA Hierarchy Example

- A obtains B’s certificate
  - \( C_U(V) \)
  - \( C_V(W) \)
  - \( C_W(B) \)

Own: \( C_V(U) \)
Parent: \( C_U(V) \)

Own: \( C_U(A) \)

Bob B

Own: \( C_W(B) \)
Certificate Types

- Root certificate (Trust anchor)
  - Self-signed certificate used to sign other certificates
  - E.g., Google Trust Services (https://pki.goog/)
- Intermediate certificate
  - Used to sign other certificates
  - Must be signed by intermediate or root certificate
- End-entity or leaf certificate
  - Cannot be used to sign other certificates
  - TLS/SSL server and client certificates
  - Email certificates
X.509 Version 3

- Additional information may be needed in a certificate
  - E-mail/URL, policy details, usage constraints
- Hard to explicitly name new fields
  - Backward compatibility issues
- *Define a general extension method*
  - Extension identifier
  - Criticality indicator
  - Extension value