

Securing Internet Communication: TLS

CS 161: Computer Security

Prof. David Wagner

March 11, 2016

Today's Lecture

- Applying crypto technology in practice
- Two simple abstractions cover 80% of the use cases for crypto:
 - “Sealed blob”: Data that is encrypted and authenticated under a particular key
 - Secure channel: Communication channel that can't be eavesdropped on or tampered with
- Today: SSL – a secure channel

Today's Lecture

- Goal #1: overview of SSL/TLS, the most prominent Internet security protocol
 - Secures the web via HTTPS
- Goal #2: cement understanding of crypto building blocks & how they're used together

Building Secure End-to-End Channels

- *End-to-end* = communication protections achieved all the way from originating client to *intended* server
 - With no need to trust intermediaries
- Dealing with threats:
 - Eavesdropping?
 - *Encryption* (including session keys)
 - Manipulation (injection, MITM)?
 - *Integrity* (use of a MAC); *replay protection*
 - Impersonation?
 - *Signatures*

(What's missing?
Availability ...)

Building A Secure End-to-End Channel: SSL/TLS

- SSL = *Secure Sockets Layer* (predecessor)
- TLS = *Transport Layer Security* (standard)
 - Both terms used interchangeably
- Security for *any* application that uses TCP
 - Secure = encryption/confidentiality + integrity + authentication (of server, but *not* of client)
 - E.g., puts the ‘s’ in “https”

Regular web surfing - http: URL

The image shows a screenshot of the Amazon.com website in a browser window. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.amazon.com/>, which is circled in orange. An orange arrow points from the text 'Regular web surfing - http: URL' to this address bar. The website header includes the Amazon logo, navigation links like 'Hello. Sign in to get personalized recommendations. New customer? Start here.', and promotional text 'FREE 2-Day Shipping, No Minimum Purchase: See details'. Below the header is a search bar and navigation links for 'Your Account' and 'Help', both circled in orange. An orange arrow points from the text 'But if we click here ...' to the 'Your Account' link. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with categories like 'Books', 'Movies, Music & Games', 'Digital Downloads', 'Kindle', 'Computers & Office', 'Electronics', 'Home & Garden', 'Grocery, Health & Beauty', 'Toys, Kids & Baby', 'Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry', 'Sports & Outdoors', and 'Tools, Auto & Industrial'. The main content area features a large advertisement for the Kindle e-reader, with the text 'Kindle You'll Do a Double Take. Reads Like Real Paper, Even in Bright Sunlight.' and a 'Learn more' button. To the right of the Kindle ad is an image of a wooden lounge chair. Below the lounge chair are two smaller promotional boxes: one for 'Strategic Insight' and another for 'Warm Your Feet in UGG'.

amazon.com

Hello. [Sign in](#) to get personalized recommendations. New customer? [Start here](#).

FREE 2-Day Shipping, No Minimum Purchase: [See details](#)

Your Amazon.com | [Today's Deals](#) | [Gifts & Wish Lists](#) | [Gift Cards](#)

Shop All Departments

Search All Departments

GO Cart Wish List

Your Account Help

Books >

Movies, Music & Games >

Digital Downloads >

Kindle >

Computers & Office >

Electronics >

Home & Garden >

Grocery, Health & Beauty >

Toys, Kids & Baby >

Clothing, Shoes & Jewelry >

Sports & Outdoors >

Tools, Auto & Industrial >

Kindle

You'll Do a Double Take.
Reads Like Real Paper,
Even in Bright Sunlight.

Learn more

Shop now

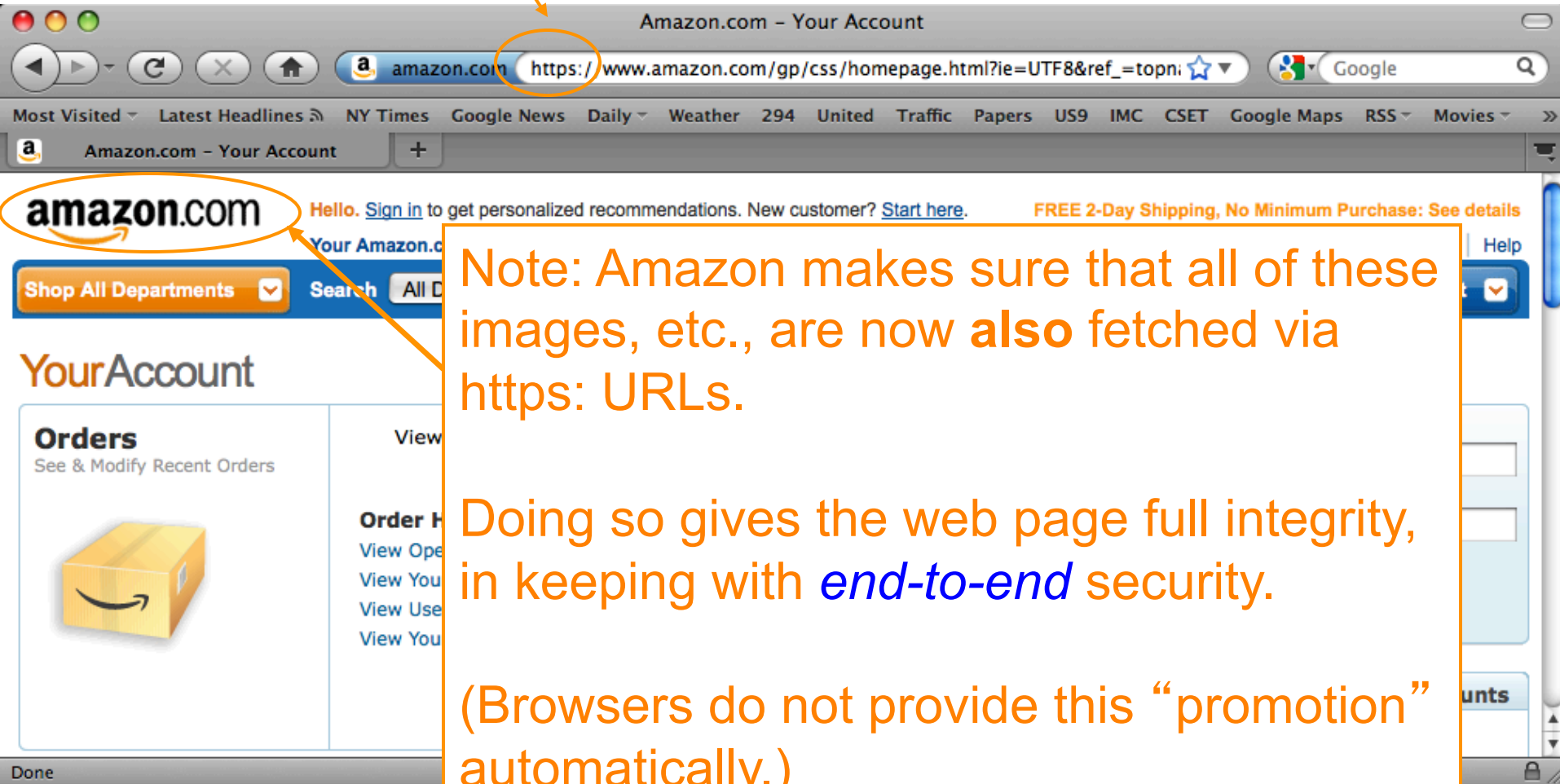
What's your Pay Phrase? "Strategic Insight" is still available! [Claim yours](#)

Warm Your Feet in UGG

These twin-faced, breathable sheepskin UGG boots keep your feet warm and cozy at any time of year. Multiple styles and

But if we click here ...

Web surfing with TLS/SSL - https: URL



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the Amazon.com website. The browser's address bar shows the URL https://www.amazon.com/gp/css/homepage.html?ie=UTF8&ref_=topn, with the **https://** portion circled in orange. An arrow points from the text box above to this circled portion. The browser's title bar reads "Amazon.com - Your Account". The page content includes the Amazon logo (circled in orange), a search bar, and a "Your Account" section with an "Orders" subsection. A yellow box with an Amazon logo is visible in the "Orders" section. The browser's status bar at the bottom shows "Done".

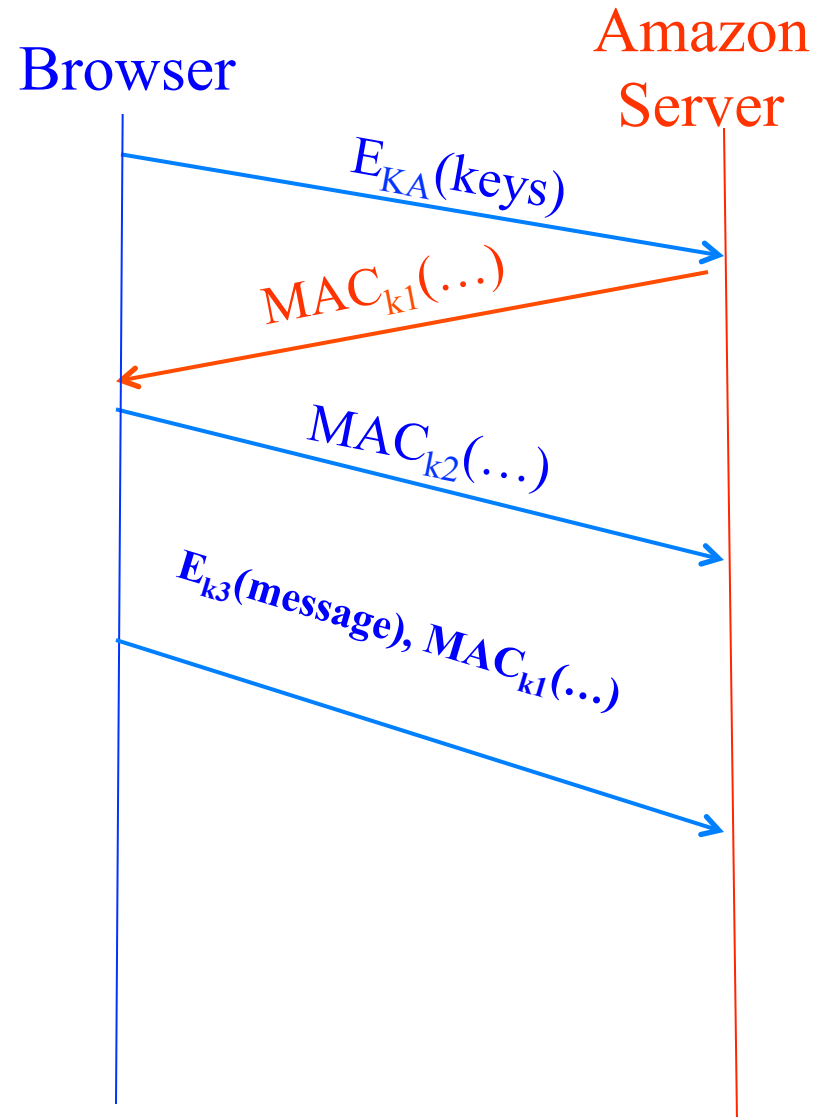
Note: Amazon makes sure that all of these images, etc., are now **also** fetched via https: URLs.

Doing so gives the web page full integrity, in keeping with *end-to-end* security.

(Browsers do not provide this “promotion” automatically.)

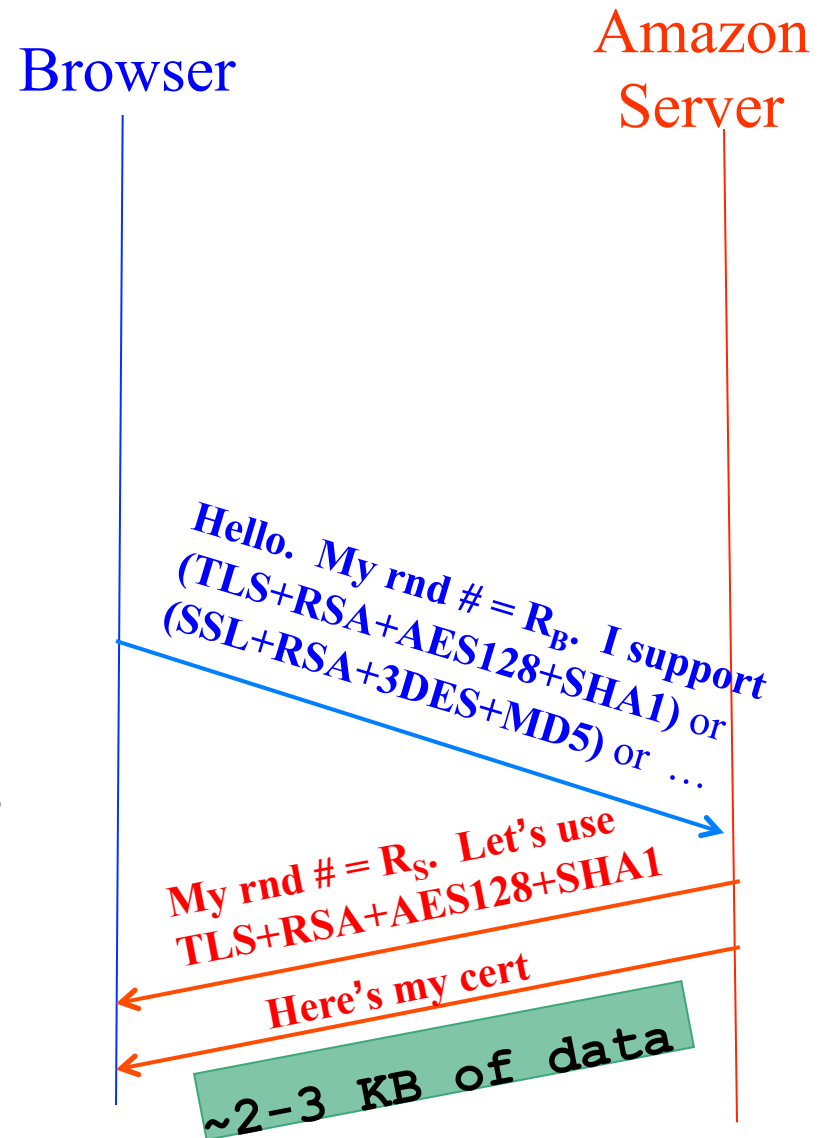
Basic idea

- Browser (client) picks some symmetric keys for encryption + authentication
- Client sends them to server, encrypted using RSA public-key encryption
- Both sides send MACs
- Now they use these keys to encrypt and authenticate all subsequent messages, using symmetric-key crypto



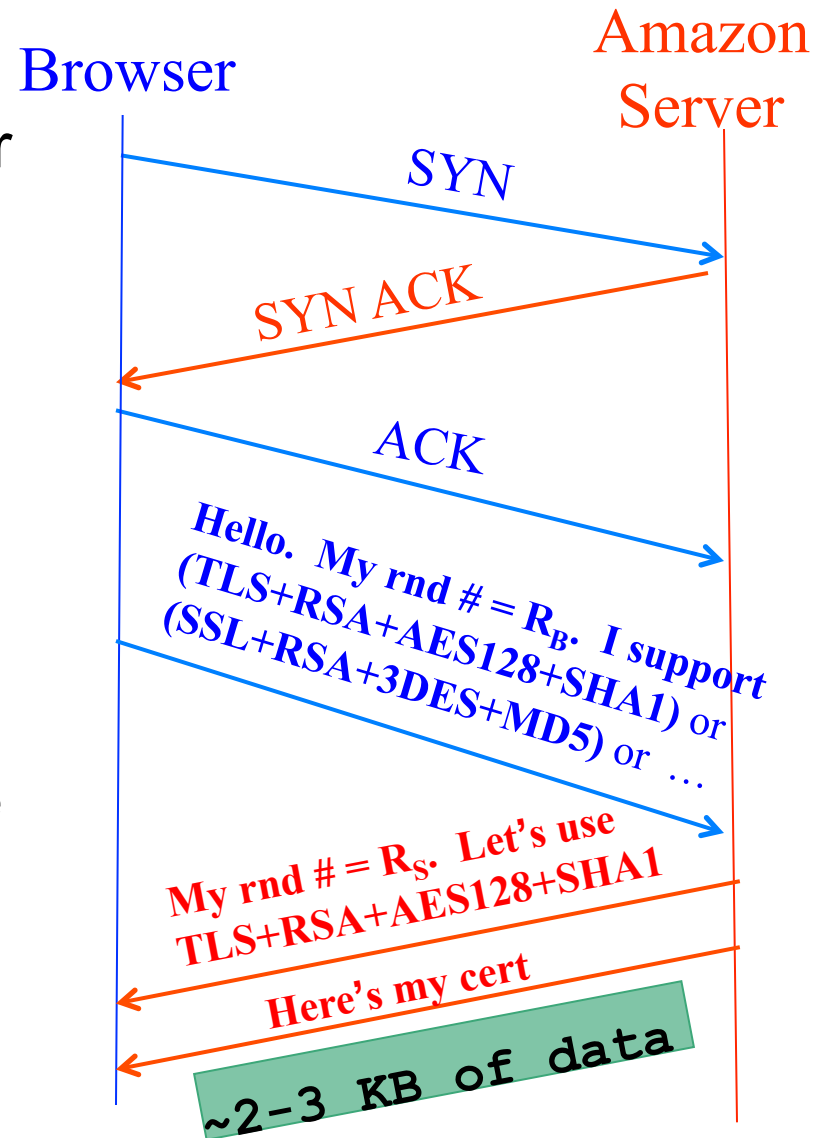
HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS)

- Browser (client) connects to Amazon's **HTTPS** server
- Client picks 256-bit random number R_B , sends over list of crypto algorithms it supports
- Server picks 256-bit random number R_S , selects algorithms to use for this session
- Server sends over its certificate
- (all of this is in the clear)
- **Client now validates cert**



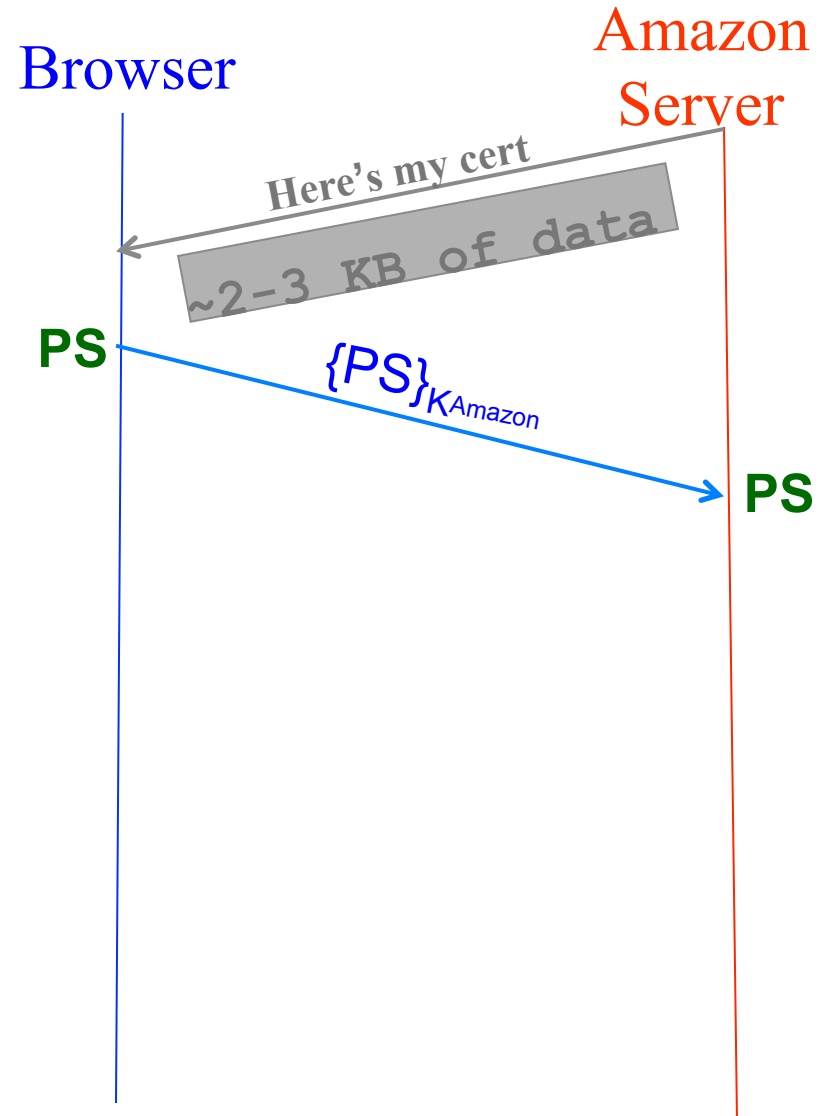
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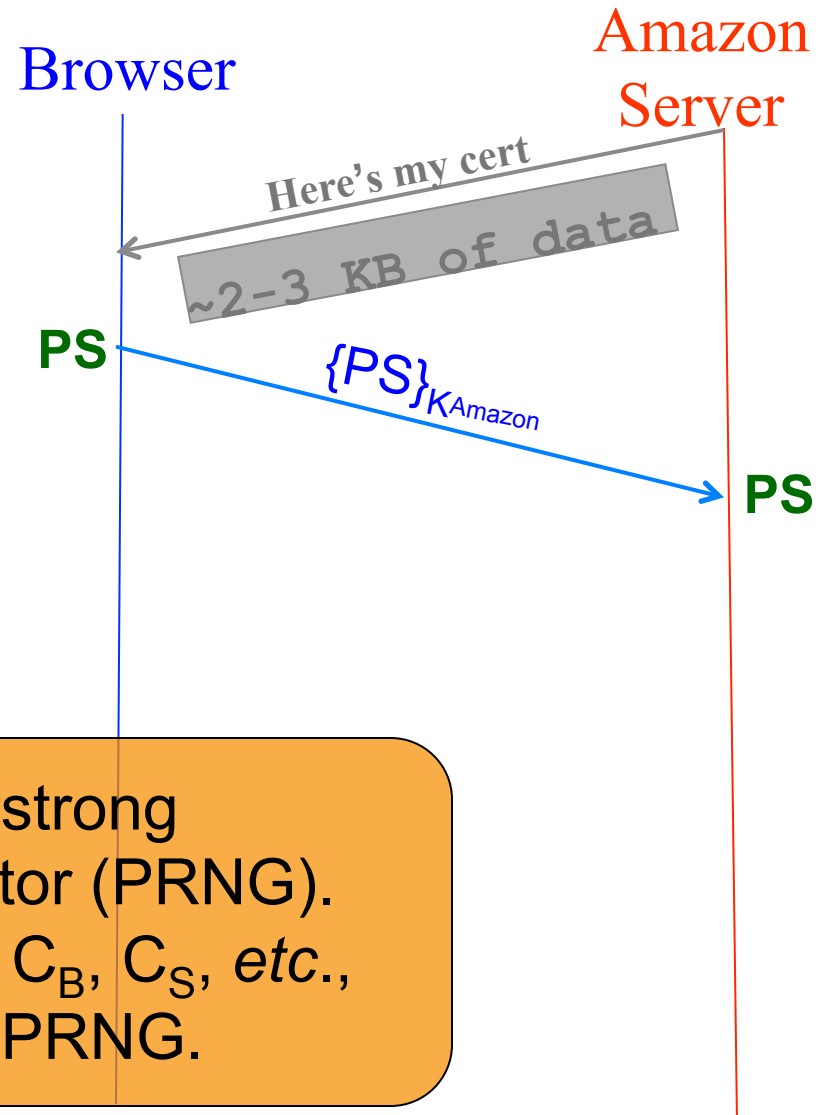
HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS), cont.

- For RSA, browser constructs “Premaster Secret” **PS**
- Browser sends **PS** encrypted using Amazon’s public RSA key K_{Amazon}
- Using **PS**, R_B , and R_S , browser & server derive *symm. cipher keys* (C_B , C_S) & *MAC integrity keys* (I_B , I_S)
 - One pair to use in each direction




HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS), cont.

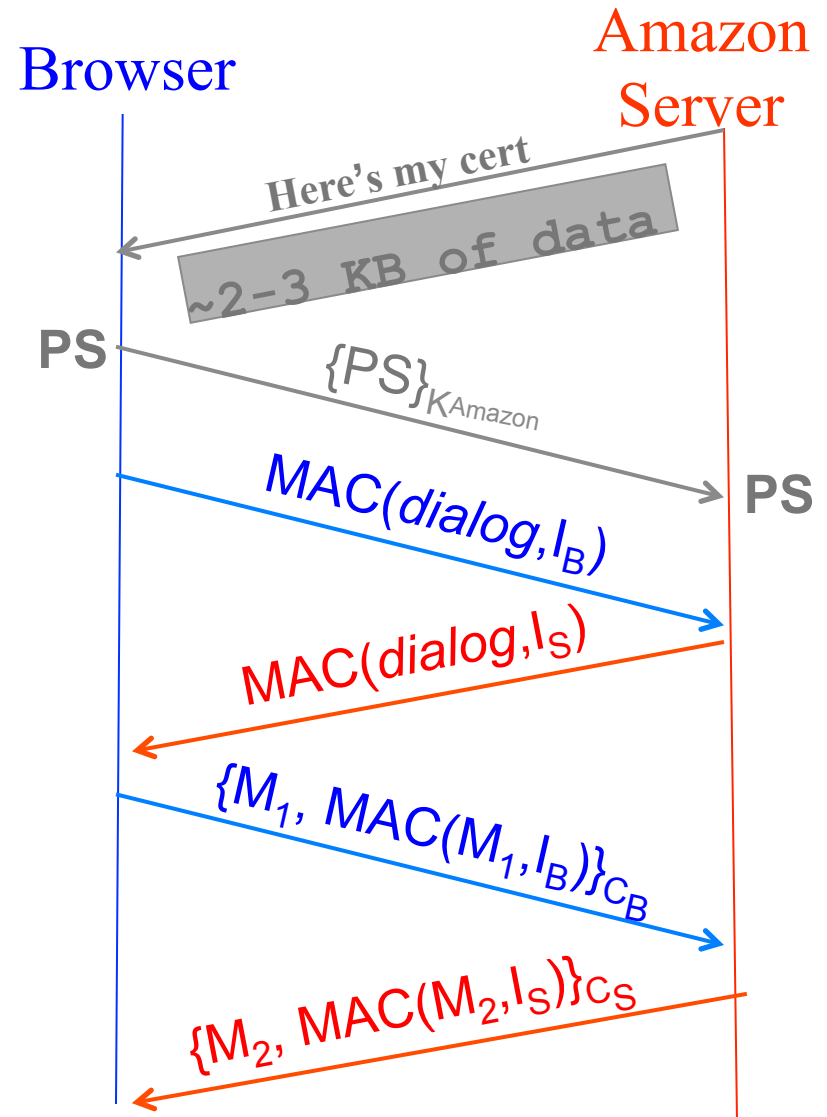
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These seed a cryptographically strong pseudo-random number generator (PRNG). Then browser & server produce C_B , C_S , etc., by making repeated calls to the PRNG.

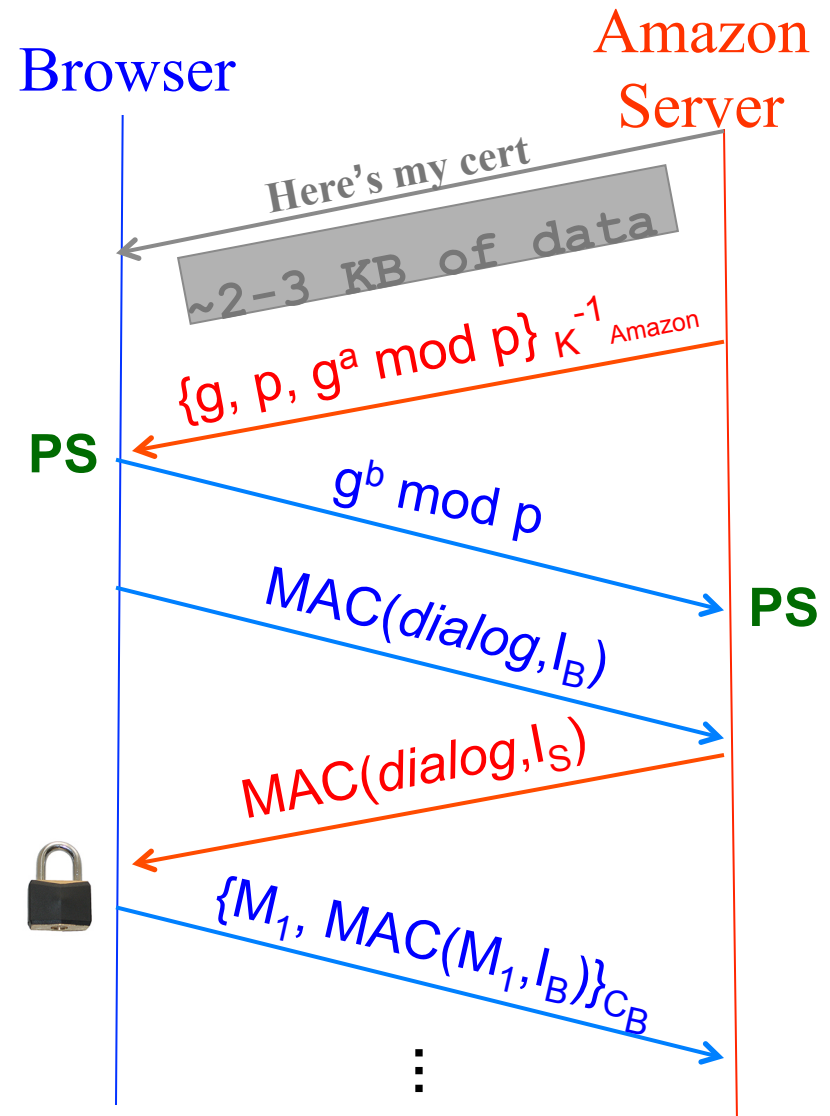
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- For RSA, browser constructs “Premaster Secret” PS
- Browser sends PS encrypted using Amazon’s public RSA key K_{Amazon}
- Using PS, R_B , and R_S , browser & server derive *symm. cipher keys* (C_B, C_S) & *MAC integrity keys* (I_B, I_S)
 - One pair to use in each direction
- Browser & server exchange MACs computed over entire dialog so far
- If good MAC, Browser displays 
- All subsequent communication encrypted w/ symmetric cipher (e.g., **AES128**) cipher keys, MACs
 - Sequence #'s thwart **replay attacks**



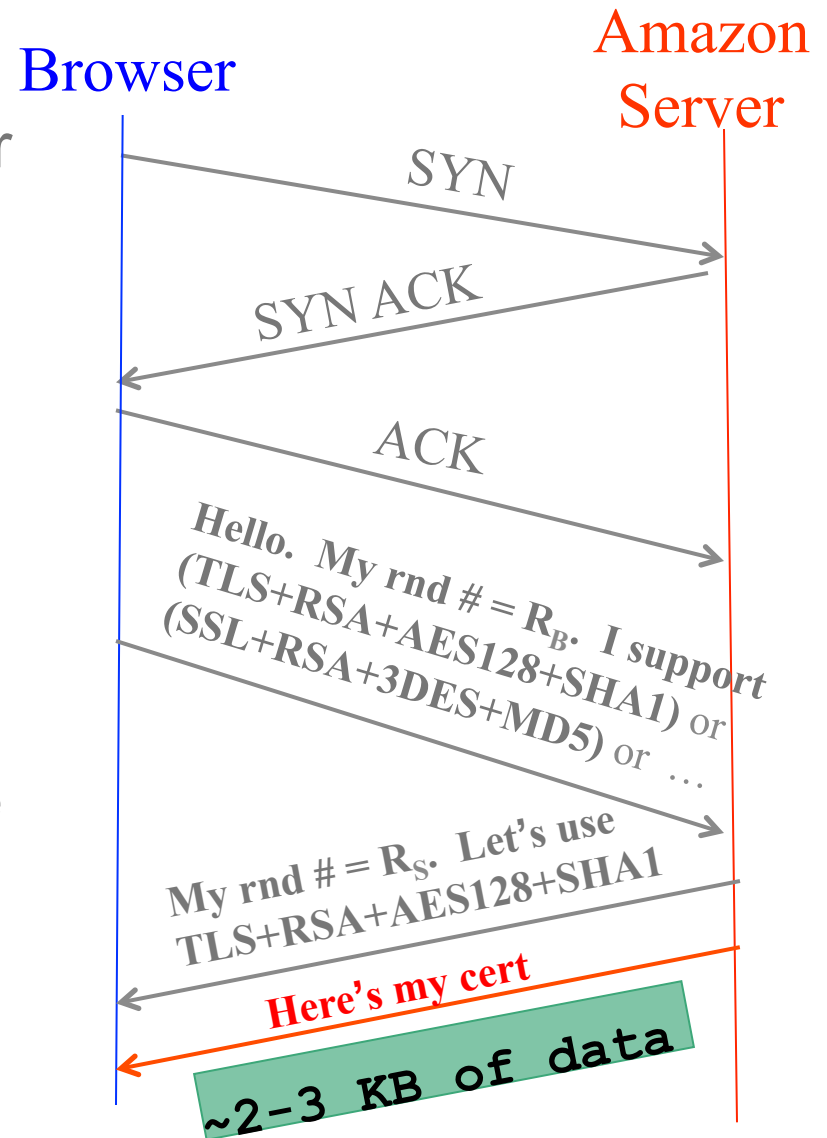
Alternative: Key Exchange via Diffie-Hellman

- For Diffie-Hellman, server generates random a , sends public params and $g^a \bmod p$
 - Signed with server's private key
- Browser verifies signature
- Browser generates random b , computes $PS = g^{ab} \bmod p$, sends to server
- Server also computes $PS = g^{ab} \bmod p$
- Remainder is as before: from PS , R_B , and R_S , browser & server derive symm. cipher keys (C_B , C_S) and MAC integrity keys (I_B , I_S), etc...



HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS)

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Certificates

- Cert = signed statement about someone's public key
 - Note that a cert **does not say anything about the identity** of who **gives** you the cert
 - It simply states a given public key K_{Bob} belongs to Bob ...
 - ... and **backs up** this statement with a digital signature made using a **different** public/private key pair, say from Verisign
- Bob then can prove his identity to you by *you sending him* something encrypted with K_{Bob} ...
 - ... which he then demonstrates he can read
- ... or by *signing* something he demonstrably uses
- Works provided you **trust** that you have a valid copy of Verisign's public key ...
 - ... and you **trust** Verisign to use **prudence** when she signs other people's keys

Validating Amazon's Identity

- Browser compares domain *name* in cert w/ URL
 - Note: this provides an **end-to-end property** (as opposed to say a cert associated with an IP address)
- Browser accesses separate cert belonging to **issuer**
 - These are **hardwired into the browser** – and **trusted!**
 - There could be a **chain** of these ...
- Browser applies issuer's public key to verify signature **S**, obtaining hash of what issuer signed
 - Compares with its own **SHA-1** hash of Amazon's cert
- Assuming hashes match, now have high confidence it's indeed Amazon ...
 - ***assuming signatory is trustworthy***

= assuming didn't lose private key; assuming didn't sign thoughtlessly

End-to-End \Rightarrow Powerful Protections

- Attacker runs a sniffer to capture our WiFi session?
 - (maybe by breaking crummy WEP security)
 - **But:** encrypted communication is unreadable
 - No problem!
- DNS cache poisoning?
 - Client goes to wrong server
 - **But:** detects impersonation
 - No problem!
- Attacker hijacks our connection, injects new traffic
 - **But:** data receiver rejects it due to failed integrity check
 - No problem!

Powerful Protections, cont.

- DHCP spoofing?
 - Client goes to wrong server
 - **But:** detects impersonation
 - No problem!
- Attacker manipulates routing to run us by an eavesdropper or take us to the wrong server?
 - **But:** they can't read; we detect impersonation
 - No problem!
- Attacker slips in as a Man In The Middle?
 - **But:** they can't read, they can't inject
 - They can't even replay previous encrypted traffic
 - **No problem!**

Validating Amazon's Identity, cont.

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer**
 - These are hardwired into the browser – and **trusted!**
- What if browser can't find a cert for the issuer?



This Connection is Untrusted

You have asked Firefox to connect securely to **www.mikestoolbox.org**, but we can't confirm that your connection is secure.

Normally, when you try to connect securely, sites will present trusted identification to prove that you are going to the right place. However, this site's identity can't be verified.

What Should I Do?

If you usually connect to this site without problems, this error could mean that someone is trying to impersonate the site, and you shouldn't continue.

Get me out of here!

▼ Technical Details

www.mikestoolbox.org uses an invalid security certificate.

The certificate is not trusted because the issuer certificate is not trusted.

(Error code: sec_error_untrusted_issuer)

► I Understand the Risks



Validating Amazon's Identity, cont.

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer**
 - These are hardwired into the browser – and **trusted!**
- What if browser can't find a cert for the issuer?
- If it can't find the cert, then warns the user that site has not been verified
 - Can still proceed, just **without authentication**
- Q: Which end-to-end security properties do we lose if we incorrectly trust that the site is whom we think?
- A: **All of them!**
 - Goodbye confidentiality, integrity, authentication
 - Active attacker can read everything, modify, impersonate

SSL / TLS Limitations

- Properly used, SSL / TLS provides powerful end-to-end protections
- So why not use it for *everything*??
- Issues:
 - Cost of public-key crypto (fairly minor)
 - o Takes non-trivial CPU processing (but today a minor issue)
 - o Note: *symmetric* key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
 - Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)

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 - o Note: *symmetric* key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
 - Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)
 - Integrating with other sites that don't use HTTPS
 - **Latency**: extra round trips \Rightarrow 1st page slower to load

SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

- Problems that SSL / TLS does **not** take care of ?
- TCP-level **denial of service**
 - SYN flooding
 - RST injection
 - o (but does protect against data injection!)
- SQL injection / XSS / server-side coding/logic flaws
- Vulnerabilities introduced by server inconsistencies

SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

- Problems that SSL / TLS does **not** take care of ?
- SQL injection / XSS / server-side coding/logic flaws
- Vulnerabilities introduced by server inconsistencies

Regular web surfing: http: URL

So no *integrity* - a MITM attacker can alter pages returned by server ...

And when we click here ...

... attacker has changed the corresponding link so that it's ordinary http rather than https!

We never get a chance to use TLS's protections! :-)

“sslstrip” attack

SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

- Problems that SSL / TLS does **not** take care of ?
- SQL injection / XSS / server-side coding/logic flaws
- Vulnerabilities introduced by server inconsistencies
- Browser coding/logic flaws
- User flaws
 - Weak passwords
 - Phishing
- Issues of trust ...

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

- User has to make correct trust decisions ...

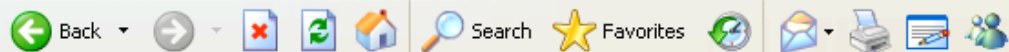


Recycle Bin

Welcome to eBay - Microsoft Internet Explorer



File Edit View Favorites Tools Help



Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?SignInruhttpAFFwww.ebay.com2F/



Links >>

 eBay Buyer Protection [Learn more](#) **NEW**

Welcome to eBay

Ready to bid and buy? Register here

Join the millions of people who are already a part of the eBay family. Don't worry, we have room for one more.

Register as an eBay Member and enjoy privileges including:

- Bid, buy and find bargains from all over the world
- Shop with confidence with PayPal Buyer Protection
- Connect with the eBay community and more!

[Register](#)

Sign in to your account

Back for more fun? Sign in now to buy, bid and sell, or to manage your account.

User ID [I forgot my user ID](#)Password [I forgot my password](#)

Keep me signed in for today. Don't check this box if you're at a public or shared computer.

[Sign in](#)

Having problems with signing in? [Get help.](#)

Protect your account: Create a unique password by using a combination of letters and numbers that are not



Recycle Bin

Welcome to eBay - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Print Mail

Address <http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?SignInruhttpAFFwww.ebay.com2F/> Go Links

ebay eBay Buyer Protection [Learn more](#) **NEW**

Welcome to eBay

Ready to bid and buy? Register here

Join the millions of people who are already a part of the eBay community for one more.

Register as an eBay Member and enjoy privileges including:

- Bid, buy and find bargains from all over the world
- Shop with confidence with PayPal Buyer Protection
- Connect with the eBay community and more!

[Register](#)

Sign in to your account

It's so much fun! Sign in now to buy, bid and sell, or to manage your account.

[I forgot my user ID](#)

Password [I forgot my password](#)

Keep me signed in for today. Don't check this box if you're at a public or shared computer.

[Sign in](#)

Having problems with signing in? [Get help.](#)

Protect your account: Create a unique password by using a combination of letters and numbers that are not

Internet

Internet Explorer

Internet Explorer



When you send information to the Internet, it might be possible for others to see that information. Do you want to continue?

In the future, do not show this message.

[Yes](#)[No](#)



Recycle Bin

Identity Confirmation - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Mail Print Messages People

Address <http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?SignInruhttpAFFwww.ebay.com2F/sQuestion.php> Go Links

ebay

Please confirm your identity

Please answer security question

Select your secret question...

Answer the secret question you provided.

What is your other eBay user ID or another's?

What email used to be associated with this account?

Have you ever sold something on eBay?

Done Internet

Security Alert

Information you exchange with this site cannot be viewed or changed by others. However, there is a problem with the site's security certificate.



The security certificate was issued by a company you have not chosen to trust. View the certificate to determine whether you want to trust the certifying authority.



The security certificate date is valid.



The security certificate has a valid name matching the name of the page you are trying to view.

Do you want to proceed?

Identity Confirmation - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/.../SignIn.../http://www.ebay.com/35/question... eBay

Please confirm your identity

Please answer security question

Select your secret question...

Answer the secret question you provided.

What is your other eBay user ID or another

What email used to be associated with this account


Have you ever sold something on eBay?

No Yes

Internet

Certificate

General Details Certification Path

 **Certificate Information**

This certificate is intended for the following purpose(s):

- Ensures the identity of a remote computer

* Refer to the certification authority's statement for details.

Issued to: rover.ebay.com

Issued by: VeriSign Class 3 Secure Server CA - G3

Valid from: 10/22/2010 **to:** 12/1/2012

Install Certificate... Issuer Statement

OK



Please confirm your identity

Please answer security question

Select your secret question...

Answer the secret question you provided.

What is your other eBay user ID or another

What email used to be associated with this account

Have you ever sold something on eBay?

- No
 Yes

Certificate

General Details Certification Path

Show: <All>

Field	Value
Version	V3
Serial number	4d ab c9 a6 0a 30 20 57 f9 23 ...
Signature algorithm	sha1RSA
Issuer	VeriSign Class 3 Secure Server...
Valid from	Friday, October 22, 2010 4:00...
Valid to	Saturday, December 01, 2012...
Subject	rover.ebay.com, Site Operatio...
Public key	RSA (1024 Bits)

Edit Properties... Copy to File...

OK



Please confirm your identity

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- No
 Yes

Certificate [?] [X]

General Details Certification Path

Show: <All>

Field	Value
Subject Alternative Name	DNS Name=rover.ebay.com, ...
Basic Constraints	Subject Type=End Entity, Pat...
Key Usage	Digital Signature, Key Encipher...
CRL Distribution Points	[1]CRL Distribution Point: Distr...
Certificate Policies	[1]Certificate Policy:Policy Ide...
Enhanced Key Usage	Server Authentication (1.3.6....
Authority Key Identifier	KeyID=0d 44 5c 16 53 44 c1 8...
Authority Information Access	[1]Authority Info Access: Acc...

Edit Properties... Copy to File...

OK



Please confirm your identity

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Select your secret question...

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Have you ever sold something on eBay?

- No
 Yes

Certificate [?] [X]

General Details Certification Path

Certification path

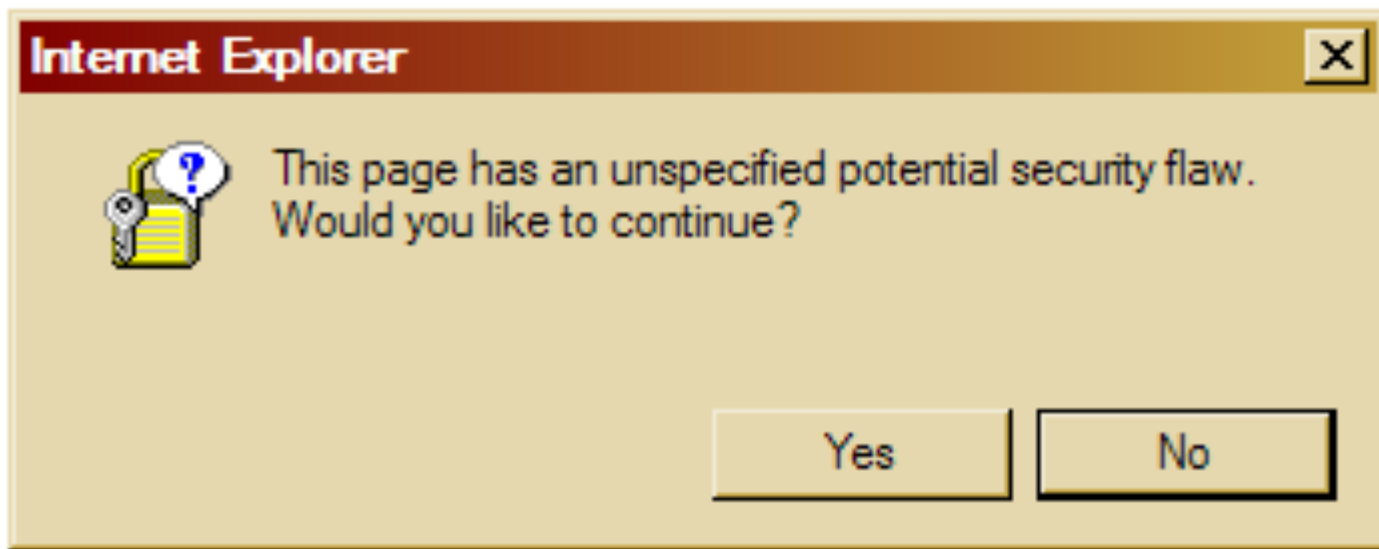
- VeriSign
 - VeriSign Class 3 Secure Server CA - G3
 - rover.ebay.com

[View Certificate](#)

Certificate status:
This certificate is OK.

OK

The equivalent as seen by most Internet users:



(note: an actual Windows error message!)

TLS/SSL Trust Issues, cont.

- “*Commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money.*”
 - Matt Blaze, circa 2001
- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?



Click to lock the System Roots keychain.



Keychains

- login
- Micr...ertificates
- System
- System Roots

**A-Trust-Qual-02**

Root certificate authority

Expires: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 3:00:00 PM PT

This certificate is valid

Name	Kind	Expires	Keychain
A-CERT ADVANCED	certificate	Oct 23, 2011 7:14:14 AM	System Roots
A-Trust-nQual-01	certificate	Nov 30, 2014 3:00:00 PM	System Roots
A-Trust-nQual-03	certificate	Aug 17, 2015 3:00:00 PM	System Roots
A-Trust-Qual-01	certificate	Nov 30, 2014 3:00:00 PM	System Roots
A-Trust-Qual-02	certificate	Dec 2, 2014 3:00:00 PM	System Roots
AAA Certificate Services	certificate	Dec 31, 2028 3:59:59 PM	System Roots
AC Raíz Certicámara S.A.	certificate	Apr 2, 2030 2:42:02 PM	System Roots
AddTrust Class 1 CA Root	certificate	May 30, 2020 3:38:31 AM	System Roots
AddTrust External CA Root	certificate	May 30, 2020 3:48:38 AM	System Roots
AddTrust Public CA Root	certificate	May 30, 2020 3:41:50 AM	System Roots
AddTrust Qualified CA Root	certificate	May 30, 2020 3:44:50 AM	System Roots
Admin-Root-CA	certificate	Nov 9, 2021 11:51:07 PM	System Roots
AdminCA-CD-T01	certificate	Jan 25, 2016 4:36:19 AM	System Roots
AffirmTrust Commercial	certificate	Dec 31, 2030 6:06:06 AM	System Roots
AffirmTrust Networking	certificate	Dec 31, 2030 6:08:24 AM	System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium	certificate	Dec 31, 2040 6:10:36 AM	System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium ECC	certificate	Dec 31, 2040 6:20:24 AM	System Roots
America Onli...ation Authority 1	certificate	Nov 19, 2037 12:43:00 PM	System Roots
America Onli...ation Authority 2	certificate	Sep 29, 2037 7:08:00 AM	System Roots
AOL Time W...cation Authority 1	certificate	Nov 20, 2037 7:03:00 AM	System Roots
AOL Time W...cation Authority 2	certificate	Sep 28, 2037 4:43:00 PM	System Roots
Apple Root CA	certificate	Feb 9, 2035 1:40:36 PM	System Roots
Apple Root Certificate Authority	certificate	Feb 9, 2025 4:18:14 PM	System Roots
Application CA G2	certificate	Mar 31, 2016 7:59:59 AM	System Roots
ApplicationCA	certificate	Dec 12, 2017 7:00:00 AM	System Roots



Copy

167 items

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

- “*Commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money.*”
 - Matt Blaze, circa 2001
- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?
- Of course, it's not just their greed that matters ...

Solo Iranian hacker takes credit for Comodo certificate attack

Security researchers split on whether 'ComodoHacker' is the real deal

By Gregg Keizer

March 27, 2011 08:39 PM ET



Comments (5)



Recommended (37)



Like

84

Computerworld - A solo Iranian hacker on Saturday claimed responsibility for stealing multiple SSL certificates belonging to some of the Web's biggest sites, including Google, Microsoft, Skype and Yahoo.

Early reaction from security experts was mixed, with some believing the hacker's claim, while others were dubious.

Last week, conjecture had focused on a state-sponsored attack, perhaps funded or conducted by the Iranian government, that hacked a certificate reseller affiliated with U.S.-based Comodo.

On March 23, Comodo acknowledged the attack, saying that eight days earlier, hackers had obtained nine bogus certificates for the log-on sites of Microsoft's Hotmail, Google's Gmail, the Internet phone and chat service Skype and Yahoo Mail. A certificate for Mozilla's Firefox add-on site was also acquired.

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Where did you learn about cryptography and hacking. Are there books in Persian? English books? Or are you self-taught, learning from the Internet?

d) I'm self taught, books in Persian and English, but mostly papers in internet, short papers from experts like Bruce Schneier, RSA people (Ron, Adi and Leonard) and specially David Wagner. I learned programming in Qbasic when I was 9, I started learning cryptography when I was 13

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Fraudulent Google certificate points to Internet attack

Is Iran behind a fraudulent Google.com digital certificate? The situation is similar to one that happened in March in which spoofed certificates were traced back to Iran.

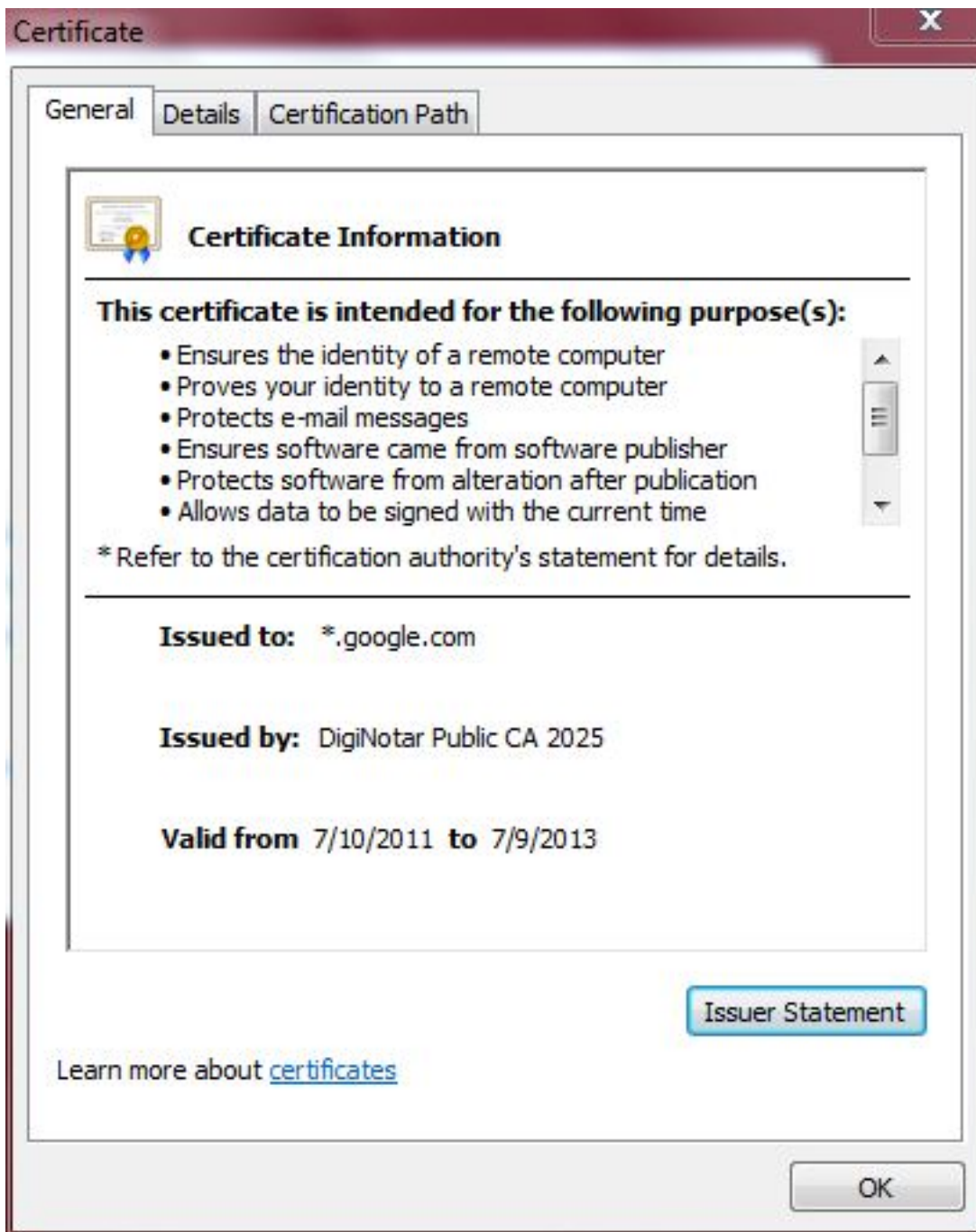


by [Elinor Mills](#) | August 29, 2011 1:22 PM PDT



A Dutch company appears to have issued a digital certificate for Google.com to someone other than Google, who may be using it to try to re-direct traffic of users based in Iran.

Yesterday, someone reported on a Google support site that when attempting to log in to Gmail the browser issued a warning for the digital certificate used as proof that the site is legitimate, according to [this thread](#) on a Google support forum site.



This appears to be a **fully valid** cert using normal browser validation rules.

Only detected by Chrome due to its recent introduction of cert “**pinning**” – requiring that certs for certain domains **must** be signed by specific CAs rather than any generally trusted CA

October 31, 2012, 10:49AM

Final Report on DigiNotar Hack Shows Total Compromise of CA Servers

The attacker who penetrated the Dutch CA DigiNotar last year had complete control of all eight of the company's certificate-issuing servers during the operation and he may also have issued some rogue certificates that have not yet been identified. The final report from a

Evidence Suggests DigiNotar, Who Issued Fraudulent Google Certificate, Was Hacked *Years Ago*

from the *diginot* dept

The big news in the security world, obviously, is the fact that a **fraudulent Google certificate made its way out into the wild**, apparently targeting internet users in Iran. The Dutch company DigiNotar has put out a statement saying that **it discovered a breach** back on July 19th during a security audit, and that fraudulent certificates were generated for "several dozen" websites. The only one known to have gotten out into the wild is the Google one.

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

- “*Commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money.*”
– Matt Blaze, circa 2001
- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?
- Of course, it’s not just their greed that matters ...
- ... and it’s not just their diligence & security that matters ...
 - “*A decade ago, I observed that commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money. That turns out to be wrong; they don't even do that much.*” - Matt Blaze, circa 2010

BONUS SLIDES

Law Enforcement Appliance Subverts SSL

By [Ryan Singel](#)  March 24, 2010 | 1:55 pm | Categories: [Surveillance](#), [Threats](#)



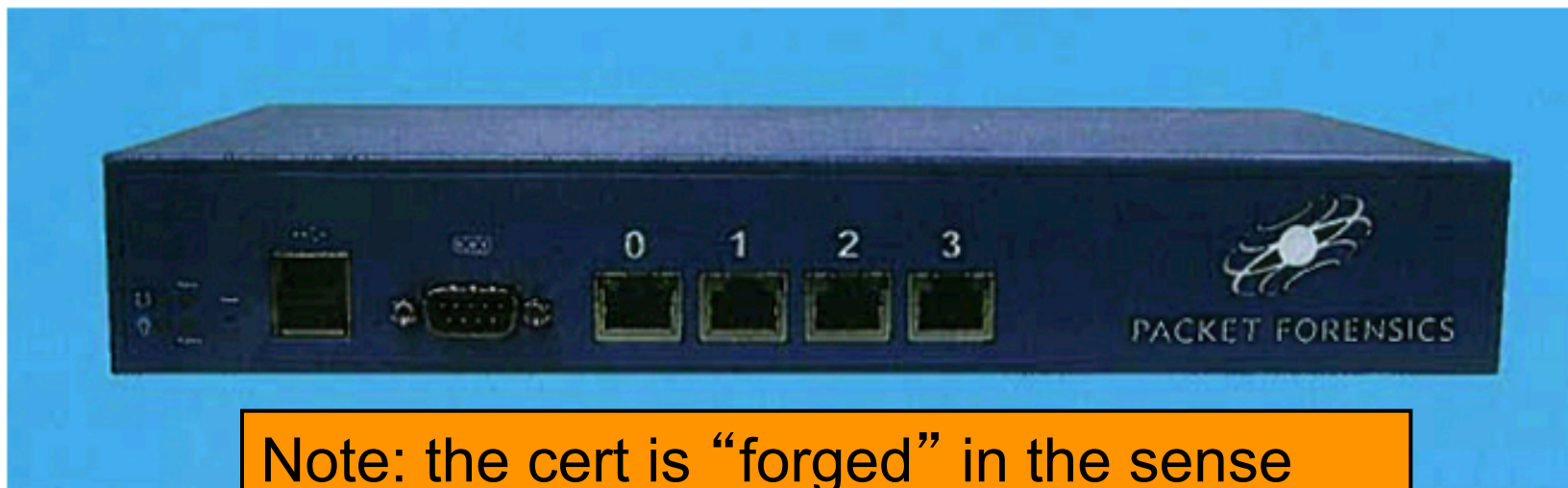
That little lock on your browser window indicating you are communicating securely with your bank or e-mail account may not always mean what you think it means.

Normally when a user visits a secure website, such as Bank of America, Gmail, PayPal or eBay, the browser examines the website's certificate to verify its authenticity.

At a recent wiretapping convention, however, security researcher Chris Soghoian discovered that a small company was marketing internet spying boxes to the feds. The boxes were designed to intercept those communications — without breaking the encryption — by using forged security certificates, instead of the real ones that websites use to verify secure connections. To use the appliance, the government would need to acquire a forged certificate from any one of more than 100 trusted Certificate Authorities.

Law Enforcement Appliance Subverts SSL

By Ryan Singel  March 24, 2010 | 1:55 pm | Categories: [Surveillance](#), [Threats](#)



Note: the cert is “forged” in the sense that it doesn’t really belong to Gmail, PayPal, or whomever. But it does not *appear* forged because it includes a legitimate signature from a trusted CA.

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Security Warning: Do you trust the Russian government?

Firefox has detected that your connection to this website is probably not secure. If you are attempting to access or transmit sensitive data, you should **stop** this task, and try again using a **different Internet connection**.

Firefox has detected a potential security problem while trying to access www.bankofamerica.com, a website visited at least 131 times in the past by persons using this computer.

In these previous browsing sessions, www.bankofamerica.com provided a security certificate verified by a company in the **United States**.

However, this website is now presenting a different security certificate verified by a company based in **Russia**.

If you do not trust the government of Russia with your private data, or think it unlikely that Bank of America would obtain a security certificate from a company based there, this could be a sign that someone is attempting to intercept your secure communications.

[Click here](#) to learn more about security certificates and this potentially risky situation.

If you trust the government of Russia and companies located there to protect your privacy and security, [click here](#) to accept this new certificate and continue with your visit to the site.

Get me out of here!

Keychain Access



Click to lock the System Roots keychain.

Keychains

- login
- Micr...ertificates
- System
- System Roots



CNNIC ROOT

Root certificate authority

Expires: Friday, April 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM PT

✓ This certificate is valid

Name	Kind	Expires	Keychain
Class 1 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 1 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 2, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 1 Publi...on Authority - G2	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 2 Primary CA	certificate	Jul 6, 2019 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 2 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 2 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 2, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 2 Publi...on Authority - G2	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 3 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 3 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 2, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 3 Publi...on Authority - G2	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
Class 4 Publi...on Authority - G2	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
CNNIC ROOT	certificate	Apr 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM	System Roots
Common Policy	certificate	Oct 15, 2027 9:08:00 AM	System Roots
COMODO Certification Authority	certificate	Dec 31, 2029 3:59:59 PM	System Roots
Deutsche Telekom Root CA 2	certificate	Jul 9, 2019 4:59:00 PM	System Roots
DigiCert Assured ID Root CA	certificate	Nov 9, 2031 4:00:00 PM	System Roots
DigiCert Global Root CA	certificate	Nov 9, 2031 4:00:00 PM	System Roots
DigiCert Hig...rance EV Root CA	certificate	Nov 9, 2031 4:00:00 PM	System Roots
DigiNotar Root CA	certificate	Mar 31, 2025 11:19:21 AM	System Roots
DoD CLASS 3 Root CA	certificate	May 14, 2020 6:13:00 AM	System Roots

- ## Category
- All Items
 - Passwords
 - Secure Notes
 - My Certificates
 - Keys
 - Certificates

+ ⓘ Copy

167 items

Window Title: CNNIC ROOT

CNNIC ROOT

Root certificate authority
Expires: Friday, April 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM PT
✔ This certificate is valid

▶ **Trust**
▼ **Details**

Subject Name	_____
Country	CN
Organization	CNNIC
Common Name	CNNIC ROOT
Issuer Name	_____
Country	CN
Organization	CNNIC
Common Name	CNNIC ROOT
Serial Number	1228079105
Version	3
Signature Algorithm	SHA-1 with RSA Encryption (1 2 840 113549 1 1 5)
Parameters	none
Not Valid Before	Monday, April 16, 2007 12:09:14 AM PT

Window title: CNNIC ROOT

CNNIC ROOT

Root certificate authority

Expires: Friday, April 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM PT

This certificate is valid

▼ Trust

When using this certificate:	Use System Defaults	?
Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)	no value specified	
Secure Mail (S/MIME)	no value specified	
Extensible Authentication (EAP)	no value specified	
IP Security (IPsec)	no value specified	
iChat Security	no value specified	
Kerberos Client	no value specified	
Kerberos Server	no value specified	
Code Signing	no value specified	
(1 2 840 113635 100 1 19)	no value specified	

Window title: CNNIC ROOT

CNNIC ROOT

Root certificate authority

Expires: Friday, April 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM PT

✔ This certificate is valid

▼ Trust

When using this certificate:	Never Trust	?
Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)	Never Trust	
Secure Mail (S/MIME)	Never Trust	
Extensible Authentication (EAP)	Never Trust	
IP Security (IPsec)	Never Trust	
iChat Security	Never Trust	
Kerberos Client	Never Trust	
Kerberos Server	Never Trust	
Code Signing	Never Trust	
(1 2 840 113635 100 1 19)	Never Trust	

Keychain Access



Click to lock the System Roots keychain.

Keychains

- login
- Micr...ertificates
- System
- System Roots



CNNIC ROOT

Root certificate authority

Expires: Friday, April 16, 2027 12:09:14 AM PT

✘ This certificate is marked as not trusted for all users

Name	Kind	Expires	Keychain
Class 1 Publi...fication Authority	certificate	Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots
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Copy

167 items

Securing DNS Lookups

- Topic for next time:
How can we ensure that when clients look up names with DNS, they can **trust** the answers they receive?

Think about these before Friday

- **Problem 1.** We have a database $D = \{d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n\}$ of strings. A client anywhere in the world wants to be able to query it with a string s and determine whether $s \in D$; if the answer is “yes”, client should get a proof of this fact. We want to store copies of D on untrusted mirror servers. How do we do it securely?
- **Problem 2.** Same as Problem 1, but now if the answer is “no”, we also want a proof of that fact. How do we do it securely?