

CSE508

Network Security



2021-03-23

TLS

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TLS (Transport Layer Security)

Predecessor: **SSL** (Secure Socket Layer)

Most widely used protocol for encrypted data transmission

Same basic design, different crypto algorithms

Designed to provide secure communication over the insecure Internet

Authentication, confidentiality, and integrity

Used in many services and secure versions of protocols

HTTP, POP, IMAP, SMTP, OpenVPN, CalDAV, CardDAV, LDAP, NNTP, FTP, IRC, SIP, ...

Separate port number: HTTPS: 443, FTPS: 990, IMAPS: 993, DoT: 853, ...

History

SSL developed at Netscape

- v1: never released
- v2 (1994): serious weaknesses
- v3 (1995): re-design, basis of what we use today



NETSCAPE®

TLS working group was formed to migrate SSL to IETF

- TLS 1.0 (1999): minor differences but incompatible with SSL 3 (different crypto algorithms)
- TLS 1.1 (2006): mostly security fixes, TLS extensions
- TLS 1.2 (2008): authenticated encryption, more flexible
- TLS 1.3 (2018): removal of legacy/weak algorithms, lower latency, perfect forward secrecy, ...

Endless cycle of vulnerabilities and improvements

Insecure renegotiation, RC4 weaknesses, compression side channels, padding oracle attacks, buggy implementations, PKI attacks, ...

BEAST, CRIME, TIME, Lucky 13, BREACH, POODLE, FREAK, Heartbleed, DROWN, ...

Handshake protocol

Negotiate public key crypto algorithms and establish shared secret keys

Authentication (server and optionally client)

Up to TLS 1.2, took 6–10 messages, depending on features used

Record Protocol

Uses the established secret keys to protect the transmitted data

Message transport: [header | data] records (16K)

Encryption and integrity: after handshake completion

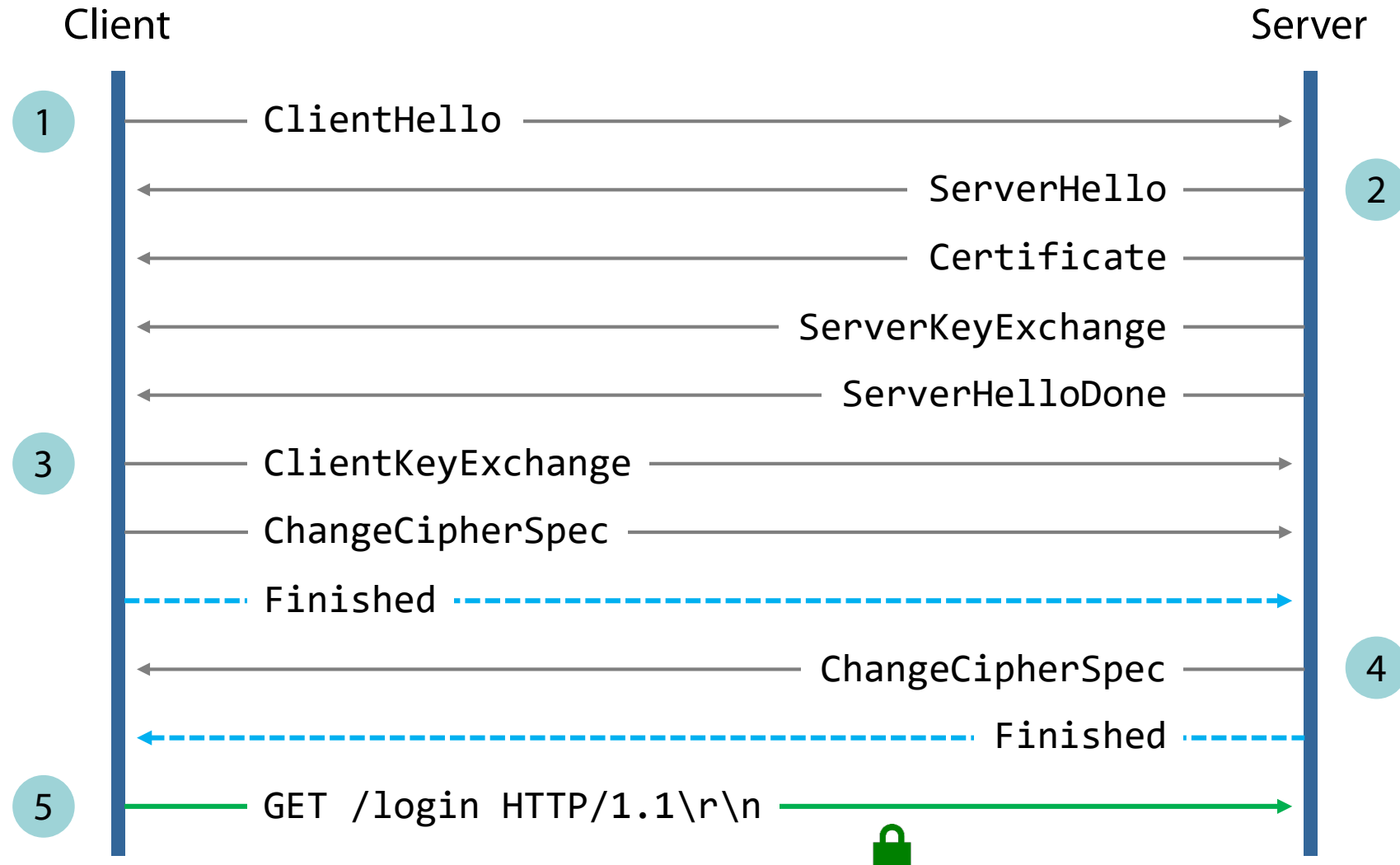
Compression: before encryption... not a good idea

Side-channel attacks (e.g., CRIME)

Subprotocols: allow for extensibility

TLS defines four core subprotocols: *handshake, change cipher spec, application data, alert*

TLS 1.2 Handshake (Ephemeral DH)



Cipher Suite Negotiation

ClientHello: *here are the cipher suites I support*

```
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256  
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256  
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256  
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA  
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA  
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA  
...
```

ServerHello: *let's use this one*

```
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
```

The server might not support the best of the client's suites

Offers some other version hoping that the client will accept it

Downgrade Attacks

Force a weaker cipher suite selection through MitM

SSL 2: no handshake integrity

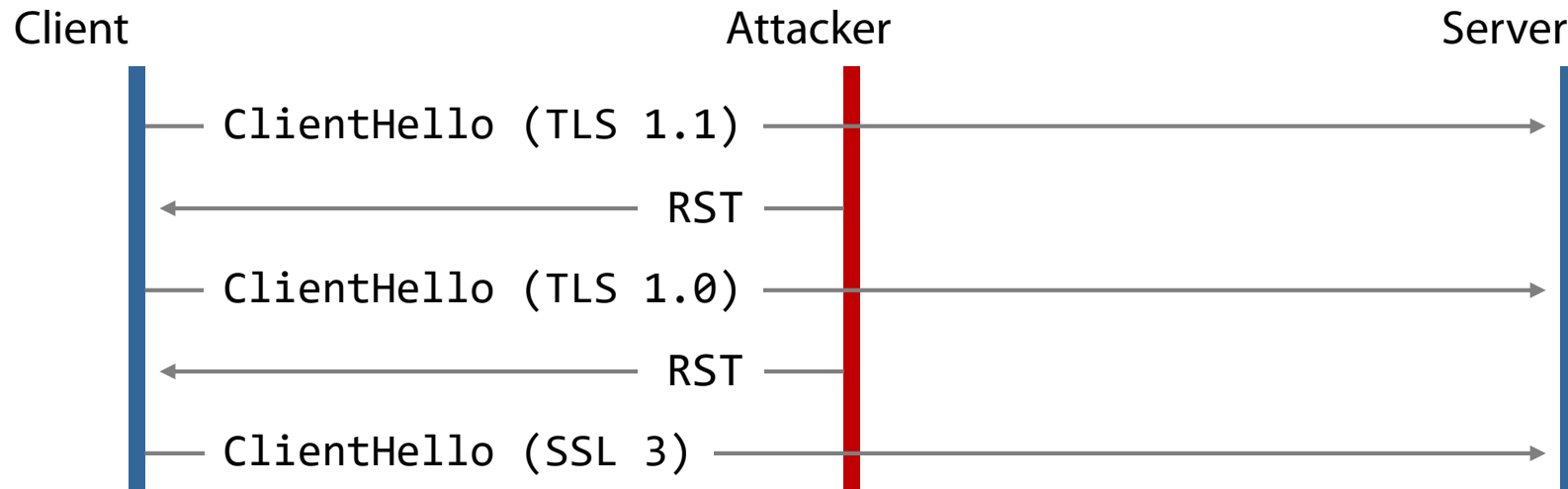
SSL 3: protocol rollback protection (still breakable)

TLS 1.0 and on: additional protections

Due to server bugs and interoperability issues, browsers responded by voluntarily downgrading the protocol upon handshake failure

Retrying connection with lower SSL/TLS version

Attackers can exploit this by blocking the initial handshake attempts, or alter the client's list of supported suites



TLS/SSL support history of web browsers

Browser	Version	Platforms	SSL protocols		TLS protocols				Certificate support			Vulnerabilities fixed ^[n 1]					Protocol selection by	
			SSL 2.0 (insecure)	SSL 3.0 (insecure)	TLS 1.0 (deprecated)	TLS 1.1 (deprecated)	TLS 1.2	TLS 1.3	EV [n 3][70]	SHA-2 [71]	ECDSA [72]	BEAST ^[n 4]	CRIME ^[n 5]	POODLE (SSLv3) ^[n 6]	RC4 ^[n 7]	FREAK ^{[73][74]}	Logjam	user [n 2]
Google Chrome (Chrome for Android) [n 8] [n 9]	1–9	Windows (7+) macOS (10.11+) Linux Android (5.0+) iOS (12.2+) Chrome OS	Disabled by default	Enabled by default	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected ^[79]	Vulnerable (HTTPS)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 10]	
	10–20		No ^[80]	Enabled by default	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Vulnerable (HTTPS/SPDY)	Vulnerable	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 10]	
	21		No	Enabled by default	Yes	No	No	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated ^[81]	Vulnerable	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 10]	
	22–29		No	Enabled by default	Yes	Yes ^[82]	No ^{[82][83][84][85]}	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Vulnerable	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Temporary [n 11]	
	30–32		No	Enabled by default	Yes	Yes	Yes ^{[83][84][85]}	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Vulnerable	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Temporary [n 11]	
	33–37		No	Enabled by default	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	needs SHA-2 compatible OS ^[71]	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Partly mitigated [n 12]	Lowest priority [88][89][90]	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Temporary [n 11]
	38, 39		No	Enabled by default	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Partly mitigated	Lowest priority	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Temporary [n 11]
	40		No	Disabled by default ^{[87][91]}	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated ^[n 13]	Lowest priority	Vulnerable (except Windows)	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 14]	
	41, 42		No	Disabled by default	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Mitigated	Lowest priority	Mitigated	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 14]
	43		No	Disabled by default	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Mitigated	Only as fallback [n 15][92]	Mitigated	Vulnerable	Yes ^[n 14]
	44–47		No	No ^[93]	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Only as fallback [n 15]	Mitigated	Mitigated ^[94]	Temporary [n 11]
	48, 49		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	needs ECC compatible OS ^[72]	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]
	50–53		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]
	54–66		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Disabled by default (draft version)	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]
	67–69		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (draft version)	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]
	70–83		No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]
	84–88		89	No	No	Warn by default	Warn by default	Yes	Yes	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated
91 ^[97]	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes (only desktop)	Yes	Yes	Not affected	Mitigated	Not affected	Disabled by default ^{[n 16][95][96]}	Mitigated	Mitigated	Temporary [n 11]		

SSL 3.0, TLS 1.0, and TLS 1.1 are now completely removed by most browsers

TLS 1.2 Session Resumption

Full handshake: 6-10 messages and two network round-trips

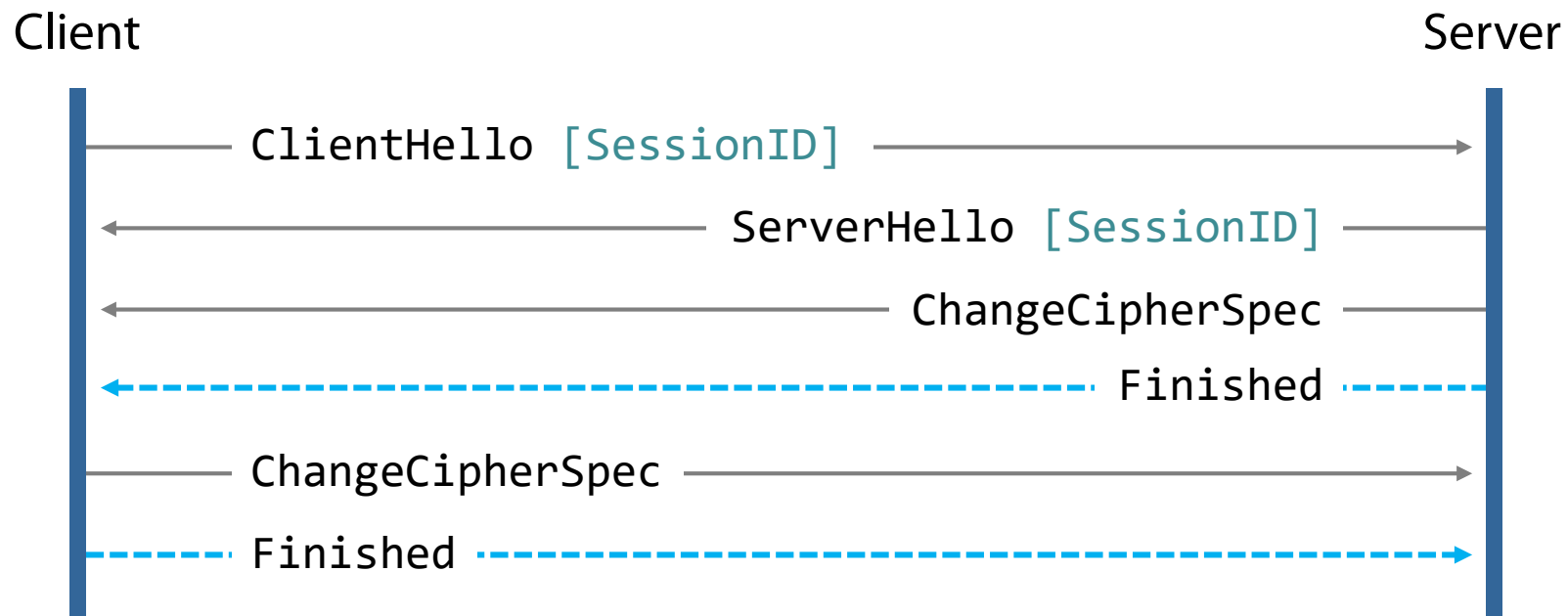
Along with CPU-intensive crypto operations, cert validation, ...

Avoid re-negotiation by remembering security parameters

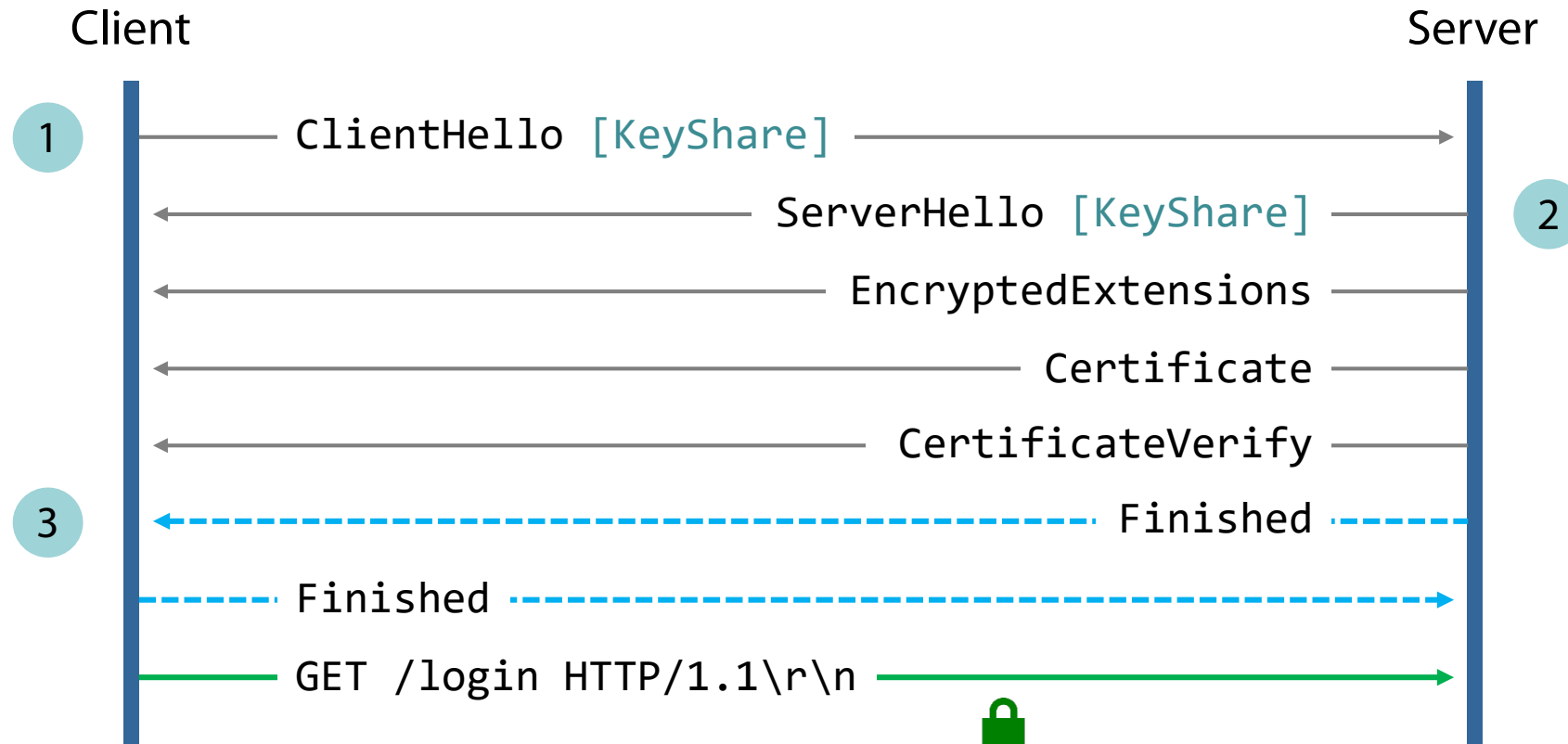
Server assigns and sends a unique *Session ID* as part of ServerHello

In future connections, the client sends the Session ID to resume the session

Alternative: *session tickets* (all state is kept at client)



TLS 1.3 Handshake (Ephemeral DH)



Latest draft supports even zero-RTT handshakes

Clients include encrypted data in the initial messages based on config. ID previously sent by server

Server (and Client) Authentication

After handshake completion, the client knows it can “trust” the information in the server’s certificate

Assuming it trusts the issuing certificate authority

SSL/TLS certs are based on the X.509 PKI standard

How is the certificate associated with the server?

Common Name (CN): server’s hostname

The same process is supported for authenticating clients

Highly-secure web services, some VPN services, cloud applications, ...

Rarely used in practice for user authentication

Common alternative: username + password over TLS connection

Certificate Fields

Version: v1 (basic), v2 (additional fields), v3 (extensions)

Serial Number: high-entropy integer

Signature Algorithm: encryption and hash algorithm used to sign the cert

Issuer: contains the *distinguished name (DN)* of the certificate issuer

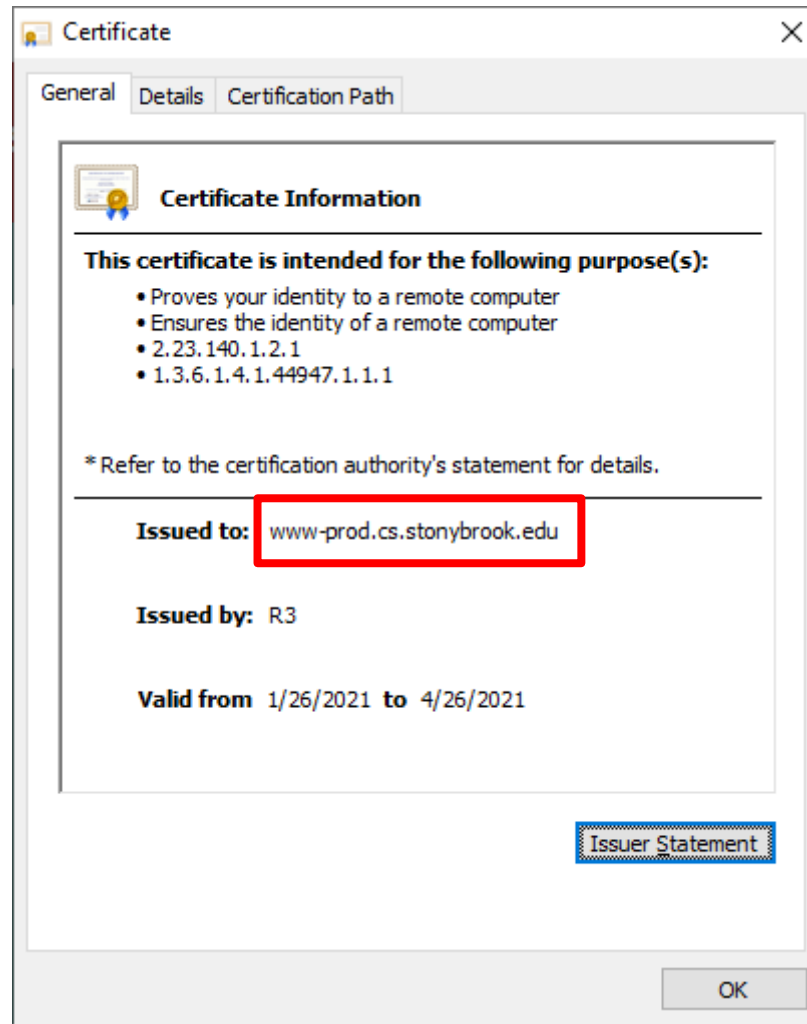
Validity: starting and ending date of validity period

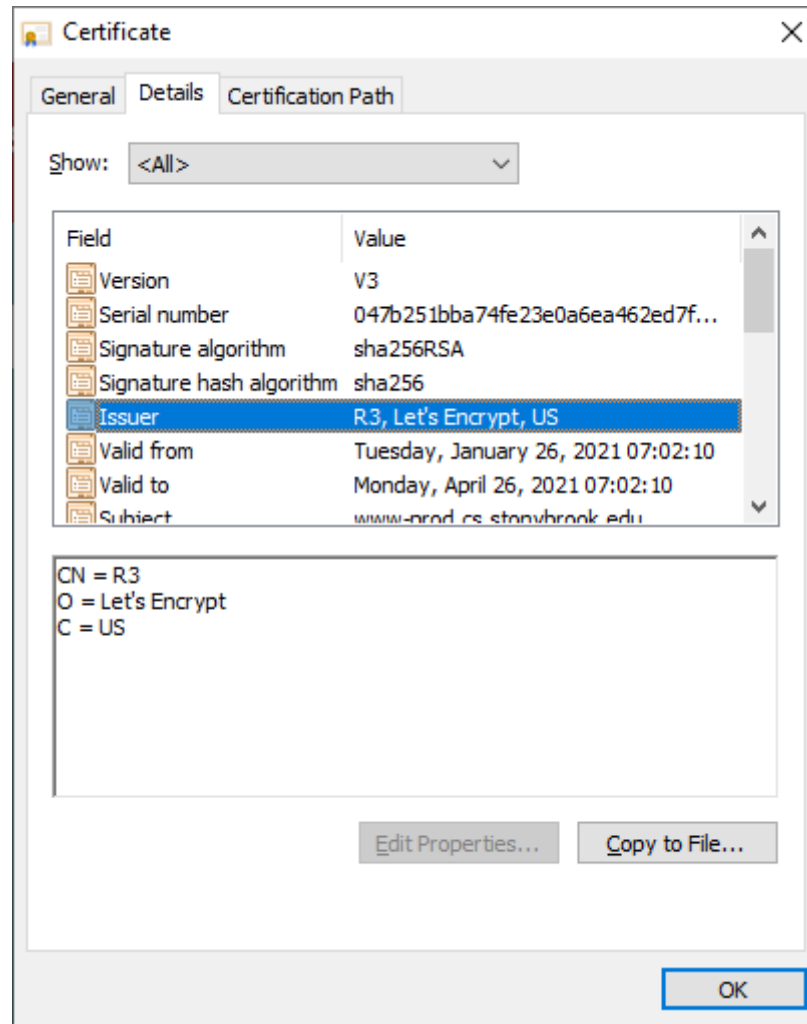
Subject: DN of the entity associated with the certificate's public key

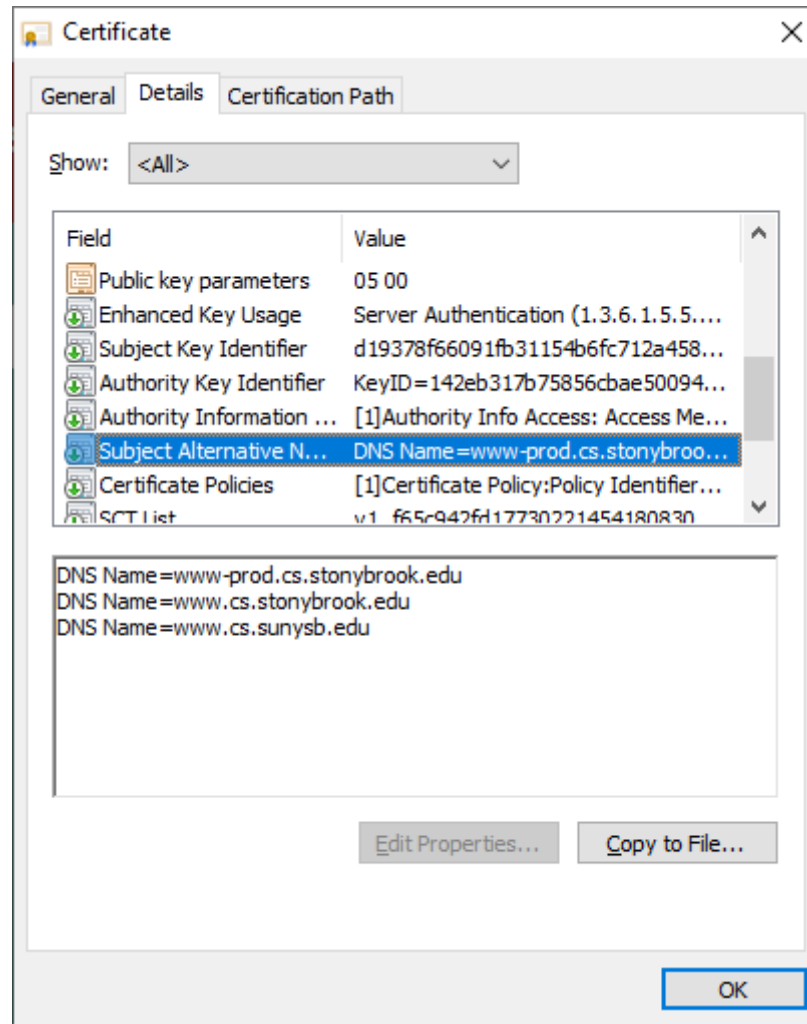
Deprecated in favor of the Subject Alternative Name (SAN) extension: DNS name, IP address, or URI (also supports binding to multiple identities)

Public Key: The subject's public key

Signature







Certificate Chains

Trust anchors: systems are pre-configured with ~200 trusted root certificates

System/public store: used by OS, browsers, ...

More can be added in the local/private cert store: vendor-specific certs, MitM certs for content inspection filters/AVs, ...

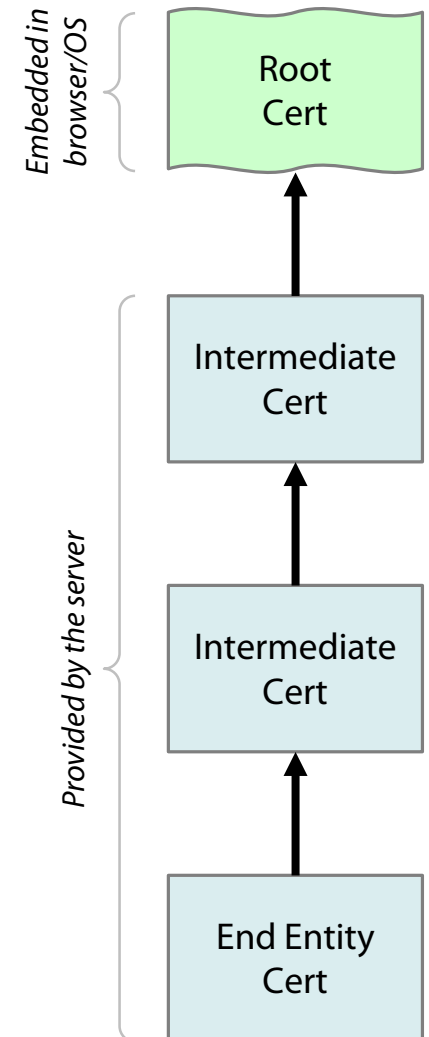
Server provides a *chain* of certificates

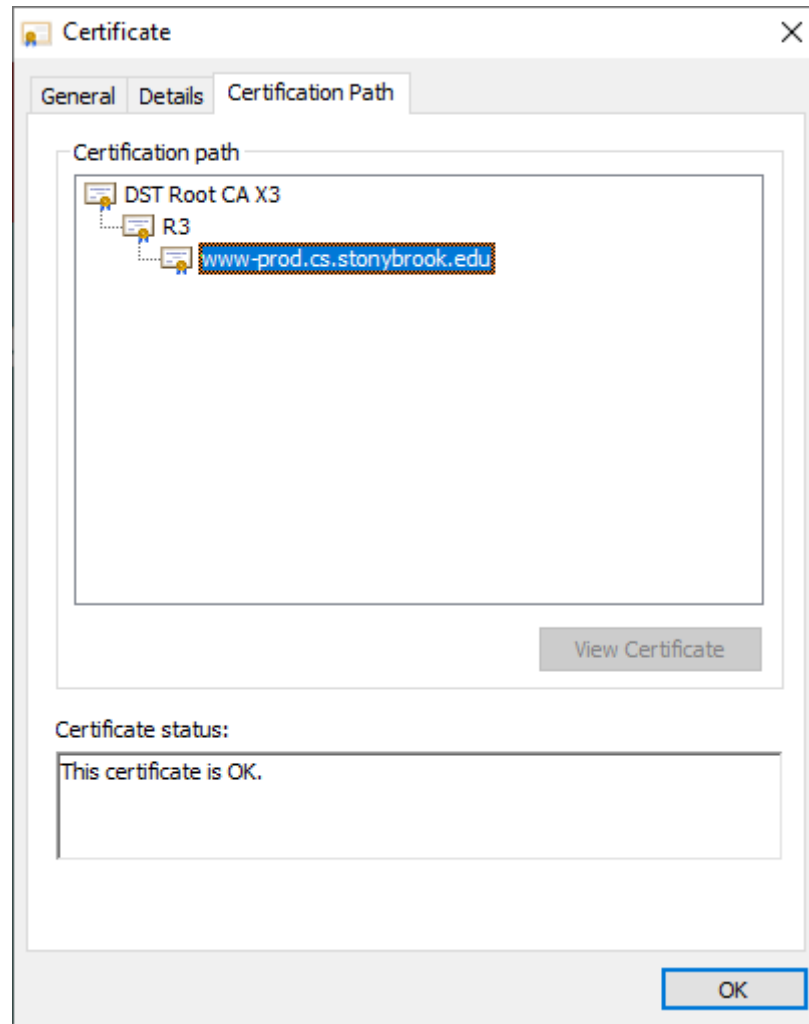
A certificate from an intermediate CA is trusted if there is a valid chain of trust all the way back to a trusted root CA

Any CA can issue and sign certificates for any subject

The system is only as secure as the weakest certificate authority...

Certificate Authority Authorization (CAA): can be used to restrict which CAs can issue certificates for a particular domain





Certificate Revocation

Allow revocation of compromised or no longer needed certificates

Certificate revocation list (CRL)

Signed list of all revoked certificates that have not yet expired

Main problem: lists tend to be large, making real-time lookups slow

Can the attacker block connectivity to the CA's server?

CRLSets (Chrome): revocation list pushed to the browser as a *software update*

Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)

Obtain the revocation status of a *single* certificate → faster

But the latency, security, and privacy issues still remain

OCSP stapling (Firefox): server embeds OCSP response directly into the TLS handshake (soft-fail issue remains: an adversary can suppress the OCSP response)

HTTPS

Most common use of TLS: *most web traffic is now encrypted*

Crypto is expensive, needs more CPU cycles

Not a big deal these days (native hardware support)

Mixed content: Ad networks, mashups, ...

Stop using them! (easier said than done: lost revenue, increased development time)

Incentives: Google rewards HTTPS sites with higher ranking

Virtual Hosting: initially incompatible

Not anymore: solved as of TLS 1.1 through the *Server Name Indication (SNI)* extension

Needs expertise and certs cost \$\$\$\$

Not anymore: letsencrypt.org



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Firesheep In Wolves' Clothing: Extension Lets You Hack Into Twitter, Facebook Accounts Easily

Contributor 11:24 PM EST • October 24, 2010

Comment

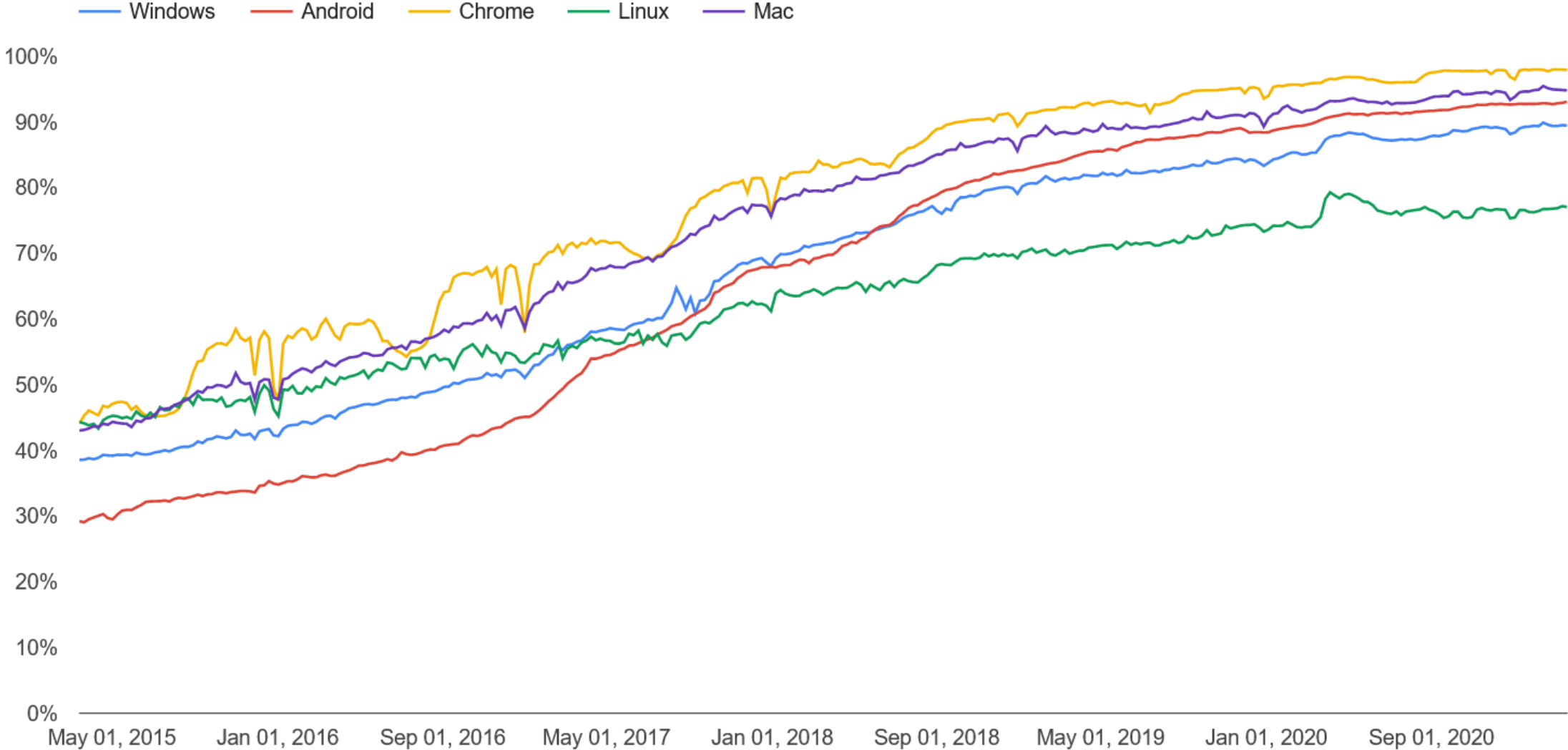
It seems like every time [Facebook](#) amends its privacy policy, the web is up in arms. The truth is, Facebook's well publicized privacy fight is nothing compared to the vulnerability of all unsecured HTTP sites — that includes Facebook, [Twitter](#) and many of the web's most popular destinations.

Developer Eric Butler has exposed the soft underbelly of the web with his new Firefox extension, [Firesheep](#), which will let you essentially eavesdrop on any open Wi-Fi network and capture users' cookies.

As Butler explains in his post, "As soon as anyone on the network visits an insecure website known to Firesheep, their name and photo will be displayed" in the window. All you have to do is double click on



Percentage of pages loaded over HTTPS in Chrome by platform



Browser Security Indicators

Convey information about the security of a page

Locks, shields, keys, green bars...

"This page was fetched using SSL"

 Secure | <https://>

Page content was not viewed or altered by a network adversary

Certificate is valid (e.g. not expired), issued by a CA trusted by the browser, and the subject name matches the URL's domain

"This page uses an invalid certificate"

 Not secure | <https://>

"Parts of the page are not encrypted"

 <https://>

"The legal entity operating this web site is known"

Extended Validation (EV) certificates

 Square, Inc. [US] | <https://sql>

Browser Security Indicators

Convey information about the security of the page

Locks, shields, keys, shield bars...

"This page was fetched over a SSL"

 Secure | <https://>

Page content was not viewed or altered by a network adversary

Certificate is valid (e.g. not expired, issued by a CA trusted by the browser, and the subject name matches the URL)

"This page uses an invalid certificate"

 Not secure | <https://>

"Parts of the page content are encrypted"









 <https://>

"The legal entity operating this web site is not verified"

Extended Validation (EV) certificates

 Square, Inc. [US] | <https://square.com>

Mixed Content Warning is Unnecessary

	Chrome 45	Chrome 46
Secure HTTPS	 https://www.google.com	 https://www.google.com
HTTP	 www.example.com	 www.example.com
HTTPS with minor errors	 https://mixed.badssl.com	 https://mixed.badssl.com
Broken HTTPS	 https://expired.badssl.com	 https://expired.badssl.com

Basically the same in terms of security

Fewer security states for users to remember

Reflects better the security state of the page

Non-HTTPS traffic is a vulnerability! MitM/MotS attacks on the HTTP part are trivial



Marking HTTP as Not Secure

Phase 1: page is marked “Not secure” when

- The page contains a password field

- The user interacts with a credit card field

Treatment of HTTP pages with password or credit card form fields:

Current (Chrome 53)	 login.example.com
Jan. 2017 (Chrome 56)	 Not secure login.example.com







Marking HTTP as Not Secure

Phase 2: page is marked “Not secure” when

The page contains a password field

The user interacts with *any* input field


The user is browsing in *incognito mode*

	Treatment of HTTP pages outside Incognito mode:	Treatment of HTTP pages in Chrome Incognito mode:
Current (Chrome 58)	 example.com	 example.com
Oct. 2017 (Chrome 62) at page load	 example.com	 Not secure example.com
Oct. 2017 (Chrome 62) when entering data	 Not secure example.com	 Not secure example.com

Marking HTTP as Not Secure

Phase 3: all plain HTTP pages are marked “Not secure”



Treatment of all HTTP pages:

Current (Chrome 64)	 example.com
July 2018 (Chrome 68)	 Not secure example.com


Marking HTTP as Not Secure

Current state: HTTPS pages are marked in a more neutral way, while HTTP pages are affirmatively marked “Not secure”

HTTPS

Current (Chrome 67)	 Secure example.com
Sep. 2018 (Chrome 69)	 example.com
Eventually	example.com

HTTP

 Not secure example.com

The image shows a Chrome browser window with three tabs. The top tab is 'HOME | Department of Computer Sc' with address 'cs.stonybrook.edu'. The middle tab is 'TCPDUMP/LIBPCAP public repositon' with address 'tcpdump.org' and a 'Not secure' warning. The bottom tab is 'Form is not secure' with address 'http.badssl.com/resources/form-submitted.html'. A purple box highlights the text 'Current indicators in Chrome 89'. The main content area shows a security warning with an information icon, the text 'The information you're about to submit is not secure', and a subtext: 'Because this form is being submitted using a connection that's not secure, your information will be visible to others.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Send anyway' and 'Go back'.

HOME | Department of Computer Sc x +

cs.stonybrook.edu

TCPDUMP/LIBPCAP public repositon x +

Not secure | tcpdump.org

Form is not secure x +

http.badssl.com/resources/form-submitted.html

i

The information you're about to submit is not secure

Because this form is being submitted using a connection that's not secure, your information will be visible to others.

Send anyway

Go back

Current indicators in Chrome 89

SSL stripping

Browsing sessions often start with a plain HTTP request

Web sites used to switch to HTTPS only for login or checkout

Example: Facebook in 2010 (optional full HTTPS in 2011, HTTPS by default in 2013)

Users type addresses without specifying `https://`

Browser connects over HTTP *by default* → site may redirect to HTTPS

SSLstrip [Moxie Marlinspike, [Black Hat DC 2009](#)]

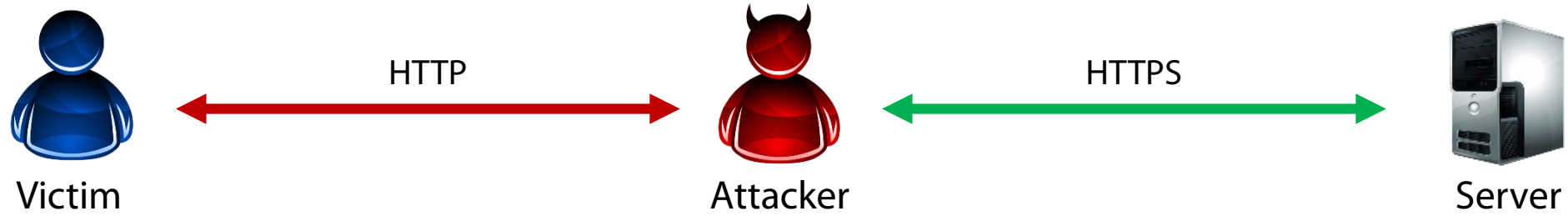
MitM attack to prevent redirection to HTTPS

Watch for **HTTPS** redirects and links, and map them to **HTTP** links

...or homoglyph-similar *valid* HTTPS links:

<https://www.bank.com.attacker.com>

SSL stripping



Location: **http://...**

``

`<form action="http://...">`

Location: **https://...**

``

`<form action="https://...">`

Missing lock icon or different domain, but who is going to notice?

HSTS (HTTP Strict Transport Security)

Defense against SSL stripping and other similar issues

Force the use of **HTTPS** instead of **HTTP** *before* accessing a resource

Treat all errors (e.g., invalid certificate, mixed content, plain HTTP) as fatal: do not allow users to access the web page

Servers implement HSTS policies by supplying an extra HTTP header

Strict-Transport-Security: max-age=31536000

“Use only HTTPS for future requests to this domain for the next year”

An instance of trust on first use (TOFU)

Problem: the initial request *remains unprotected* because it is sent over HTTP

HSTS preloading: browsers come preloaded with a list of known HSTS sites

- http
- transport_security_state_source.h
- transport_security_state_static.json**
- transport_security_state_static.pins
- transport_security_state_static.templa
- transport_security_state_static_fuzzer
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_static_unitte
- transport_security_state_test_util.cc
- transport_security_state_test_util.h
- transport_security_state_unittest.cc
- url_security_manager.cc
- url_security_manager.h
- url_security_manager_posix.cc
- url_security_manager_unittest.cc
- url_security_manager_win.cc
- webfonts_histogram.cc
- webfonts_histogram.h
- webfonts_histogram_unittest.cc

```
780
781 // START OF LEGACY MANUAL CUSTOM ENTRIES
782 { "name": "www.paypal.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
783 { "name": "paypal.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
784 { "name": "www.elanex.biz", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
785 { "name": "www.noisebridge.net", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
786 { "name": "neg9.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
787 { "name": "factor.cc", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
788 { "name": "aladdinschools.appspot.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
789 { "name": "www.paycheckrecords.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
790 { "name": "lastpass.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
791 { "name": "www.lastpass.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
792 { "name": "entropia.de", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
793 { "name": "www.entropia.de", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
794 { "name": "logentries.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
795 { "name": "www.logentries.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
796 { "name": "dropcam.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
797 { "name": "www.dropcam.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
798 { "name": "epoxate.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
799 { "name": "torproject.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https", "pins": "tor" },
800 { "name": "blog.torproject.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https", "include_subdomains": true, "pins": "tor" },
801 { "name": "check.torproject.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https", "include_subdomains": true, "pins": "tor" },
802 { "name": "www.torproject.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https", "include_subdomains": true, "pins": "tor" },
803 { "name": "dist.torproject.org", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https", "include_subdomains": true, "pins": "tor" },
804 { "name": "ledgerscope.net", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
805 { "name": "www.ledgerscope.net", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
806 { "name": "greplin.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
807 { "name": "www.greplin.com", "policy": "custom", "mode": "force-https" },
```

Firefox 83 introduces HTTPS-Only Mode

Christoph Kerschbaumer, Julian Gaibler, Arthur Edelstein and Thyla van der Merwe | November 17, 2020

Security on the web matters. Whenever you connect to a web page and enter a password, a credit card number, or other sensitive information, you want to be sure that this information is kept secure. Whether you are writing a personal email or reading a page on a medical condition, you don't want that information leaked to eavesdroppers on the network who have no business prying into your personal communications.

That's why Mozilla is pleased to introduce HTTPS-Only Mode, a brand-new security feature available in Firefox 83. When you enable HTTPS-Only Mode:

- Firefox attempts to establish fully secure connections to every website, and
- Firefox asks for your permission before connecting to a website that doesn't support secure connections.

How HTTPS-Only Mode works

The Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) is a fundamental protocol through which web browsers and websites communicate. However, data transferred by the regular HTTP protocol is unprotected and transferred in cleartext, such that attackers are able to view, steal, or even tamper with the transmitted data. [HTTP over TLS \(HTTPS\)](#) fixes this security shortcoming by creating a secure and encrypted

example.com

https://example.com

HTTPS-Only Mode Alert

Secure Connection Not Available

You've enabled HTTPS-Only Mode for enhanced security, and a HTTPS version of **example.com** is not available.
[Learn More...](#)

What could be causing this?

- Most likely, the website simply does not support HTTPS.
- It's also possible that an attacker is involved. If you decide to visit the website, you should not enter any sensitive information like passwords, emails, or credit card details.

If you continue, HTTPS-Only Mode will be turned off temporarily for this site.

[Continue to HTTP Site](#) [Go Back](#)

Reset all

Chrome 89

Omnibox - Use HTTPS as the default protocol for navigations

Use HTTPS as the default protocol when the user types a URL without a protocol in the omnibox such as 'example.com'. Presently, such an entry navigates to http://example.com. When this feature is enabled, it will navigate to https://example.com if the HTTPS URL is available. If Chrome can't determine the availability of the HTTPS URL within the timeout, it will fall back to the HTTP URL. – Mac, Windows, Linux, Chrome OS, Android

[#omnibox-default-typed-navigations-to-https](#)

Default



Omnibox UI Sometimes Hide Steady-State URL Subdomains Beyond Registrable Domain

In the omnibox, occasionally hide subdomains as well as path, query and ref from steady state displayed URLs, depending on heuristics. Has no effect unless at least one of [#omnibox-ui-reveal-steady-state-url-path-query-and-ref-on-hover](#) or [#omnibox-ui-hide-steady-state-url-path-query-and-ref-on-interaction](#) is enabled. – Mac, Windows, Linux, Chrome OS

[#omnibox-ui-sometimes-elide-to-registrable-domain](#)

Default



Omnibox UI Reveal Steady-State URL Path, Query, and Ref On Hover



News and developments from the open source browser project

Upcoming Chrome 90

A safer default for navigation: HTTPS

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Starting in version 90, Chrome's address bar will use *https://* by default, improving privacy and even loading speed for users visiting websites that support HTTPS. Chrome users who navigate to websites by manually typing a URL often don't include "http://" or "https://". For example, users often type "example.com" instead of "https://example.com" in the address bar. In this case, if it was a user's first visit to a website, Chrome would previously choose *http://* as the default protocol¹. This was a practical default in the past, when much of the web did not support HTTPS.

Chrome will now default to HTTPS for most typed navigations that don't specify a protocol². HTTPS is the more secure and most widely used scheme in Chrome on all major platforms. In addition to being a clear security and privacy improvement, this

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MitM is Still Possible...

Rogue certificates

Most governments have a trusted root CA planted in our systems
Attackers may break into CAs and forge certificates

Pre-planted/generated certificates

Default static keys: Lenovo, Dell, anti-malware software, ...
Low entropy during key generation: repeated or factorable keys

Self-signed certificates

If desperate... will trigger scary browser warning

Exploitation of certificate validation flaws

Programming errors while checking date, hostname, ...



StartSSL suspends services after security breach

StartSSL has suspended issuance of digital certificates and related services following a security breach on 15 June. A trademark of Eddy Nigg's StartCom, the StartSSL certificate authority is well known for offering free domain validated SSL certificates, but also sells organisation and extended validation certificates.



More than 25 thousand websites in Netcraft's SSL survey use certificates issued by StartSSL. These are recognised by Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome and other mainstream browsers.

StartSSL is not alone in offering free certificates. AffirmTrust recently trumped StartSSL's one-year

certificates with its own offer of free three-year domain validated SSL certificates. Coincidentally, AffirmTrust announced its launch [on the same day](#) as the StartSSL security breach.

StartSSL is also not the only certificate authority to come under attack this year. In March, Comodo came [under attack](#) through three of its resellers. By compromising a [GlobalTrust](#) website, the so-called *ComodoHacker* managed to fraudulently issue several valid certificates, including ones for the login pages of Yahoo and Skype. These certificates were subsequently revoked and browser software was updated to explicitly

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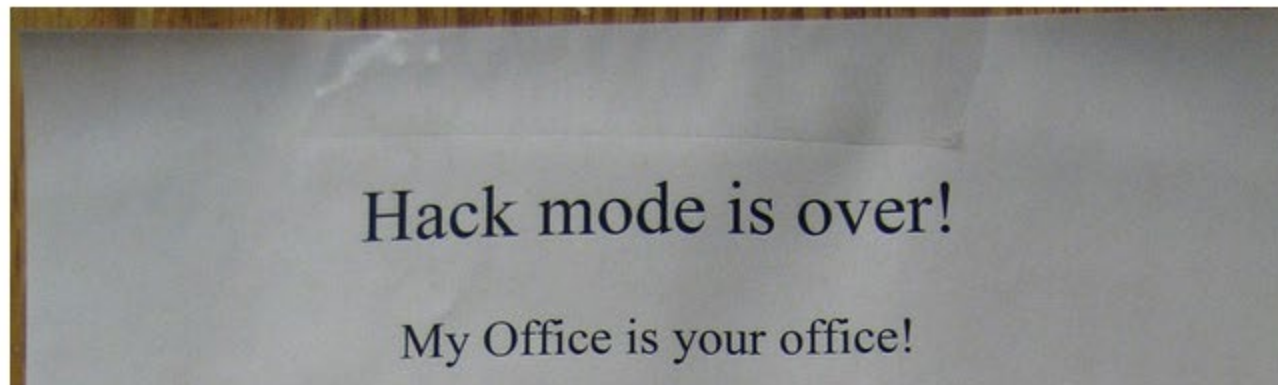
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by Peter Bright - Sep 6, 2011 5:36pm EDT

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Photograph by Augie Schwer

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Security

Trustwave to escape 'death penalty' for SSL skeleton key

Moz likely to spare certificate-confession biz same fate as DigiNotar

14 Feb 2012 at 09:28, John Leyden



12



10

Analysis Trustwave's admission that it issued a digital "skeleton key" that allowed an unnamed private biz to spy on SSL-encrypted connections within its corporate network has sparked a fiery debate about trust on the internet.

Trustwave, an SSL certificate authority, confessed to supplying a subordinate root certificate as part of an information security product that allowed a customer to monitor employees' web communications - even if the staffers relied on HTTPS. Trustwave said the man-in-the-middle (MitM) gear was designed both to be tamper-proof and to work only within its unnamed client's compound. Despite these precautions, Trustwave now admits that the whole approach was misconceived and would not be repeated. In addition, it revoked the offending certificate.

Trustwave came clean without the need for pressure beforehand. Even so its action have split security experts and prompted calls on Mozilla's Bugzilla security list to remove the Trustwave root certificate

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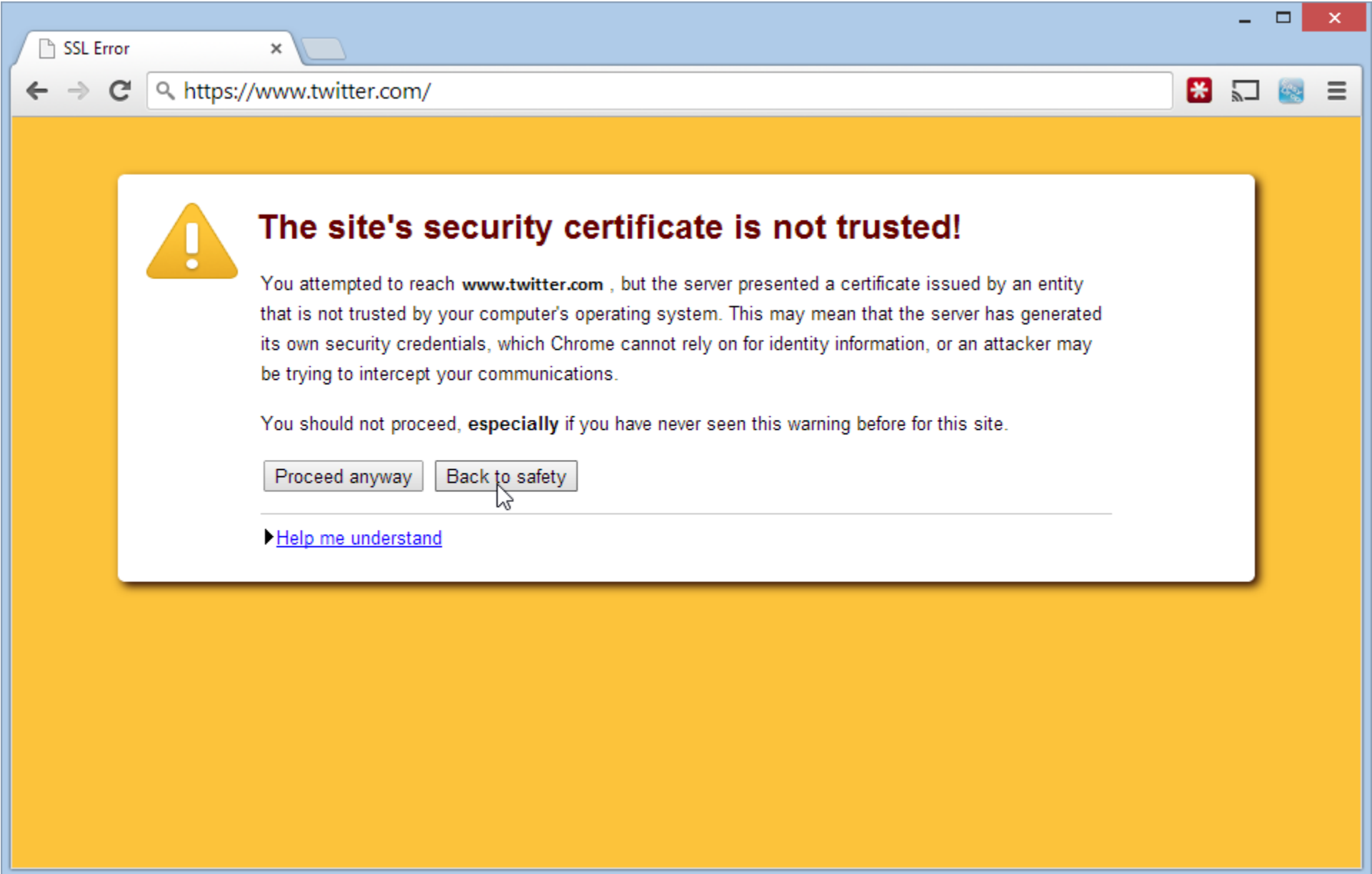


MAME goes fully F

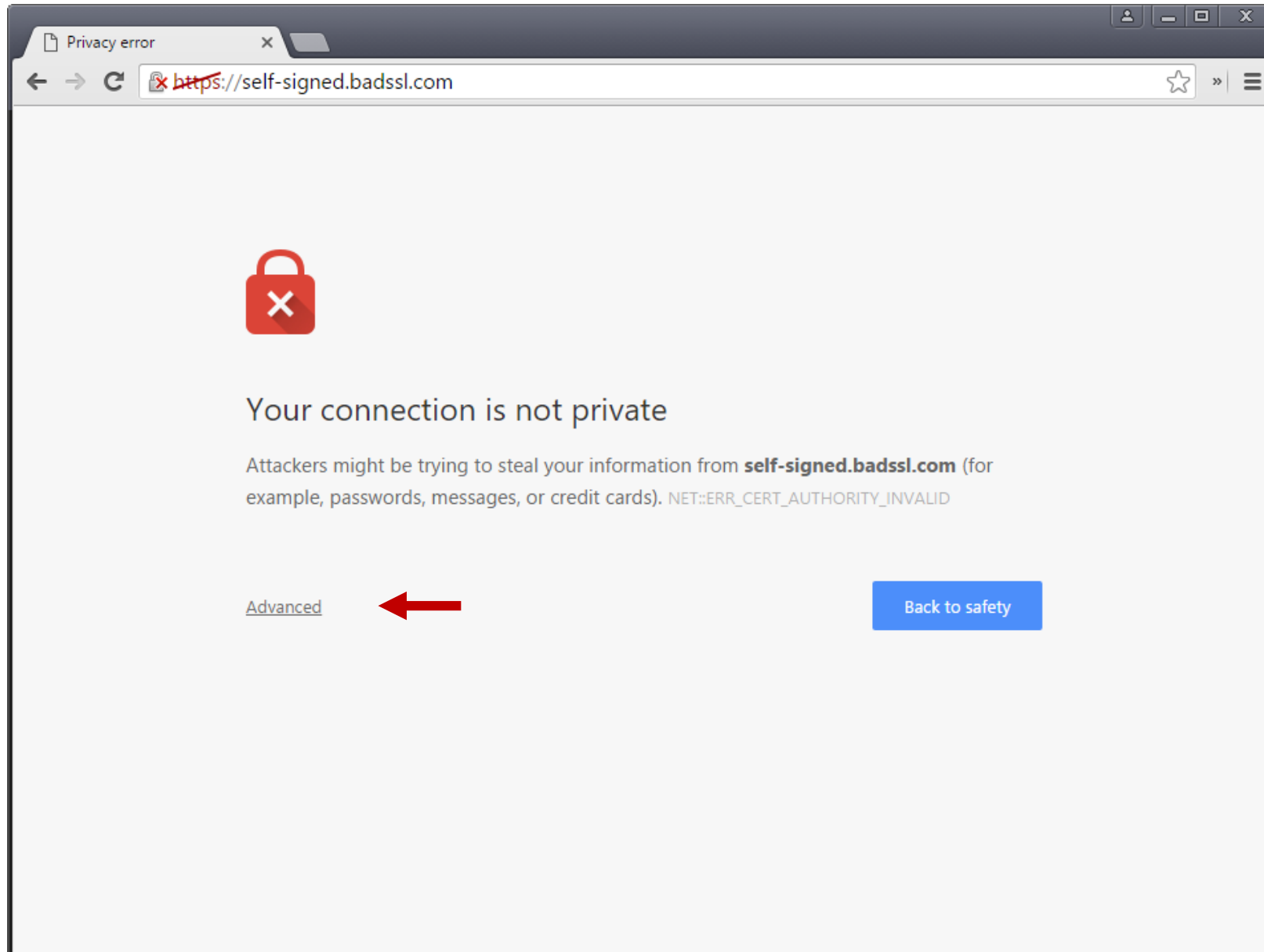


McAfee gaffe a quick kill for enterprising

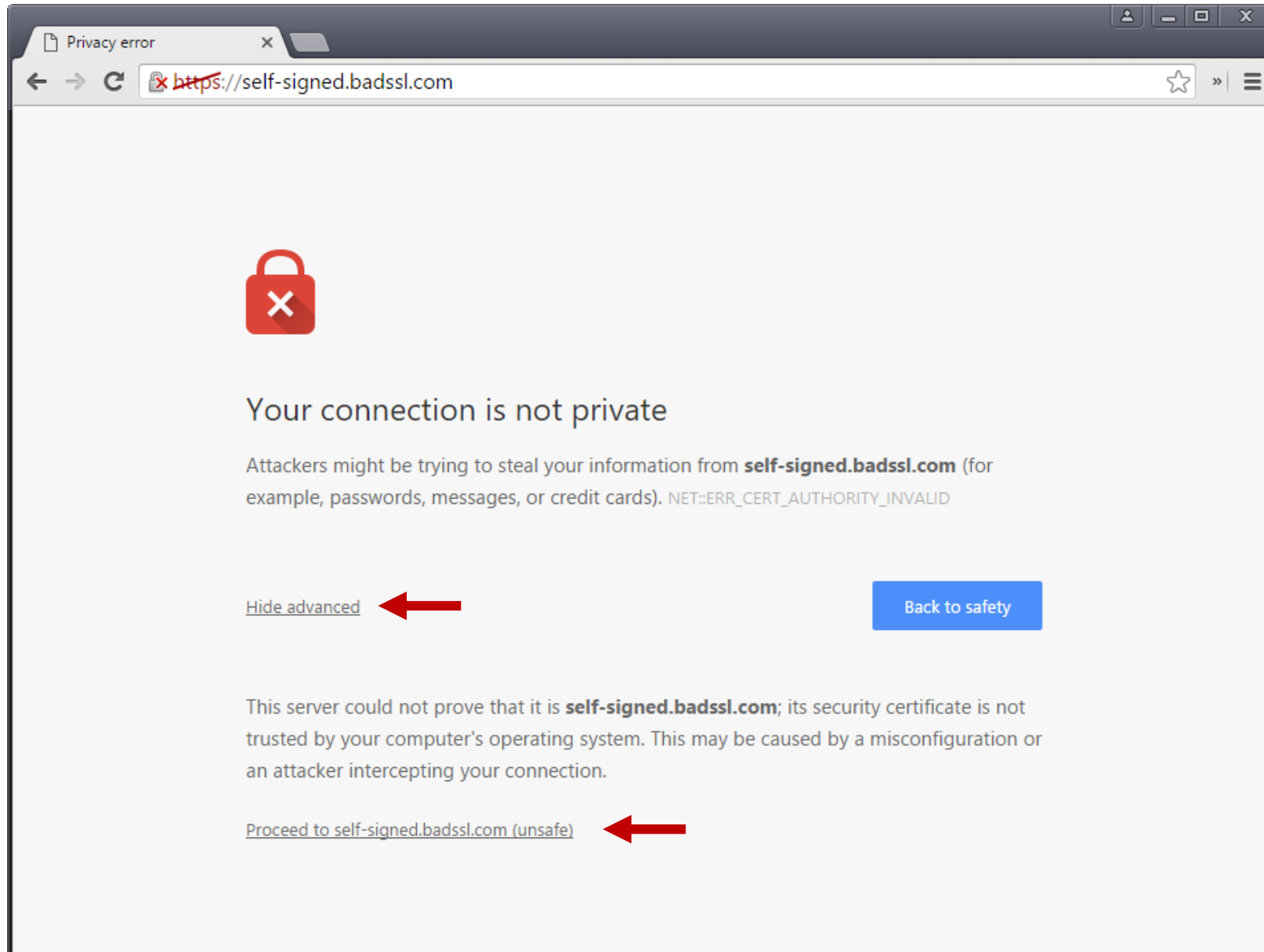
Self-signed Certificate Warning: One click away...



Self-signed Certificate Warning: Two clicks away...



Self-signed Certificate Warning: Two clicks away...



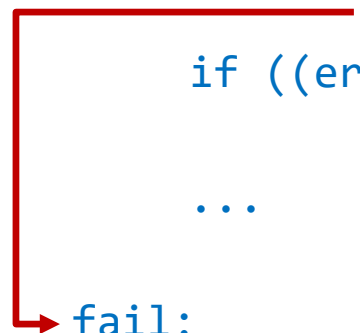
The screenshot shows a browser window with a tab titled "Privacy error". The address bar displays a red warning icon and the URL <https://self-signed.badssl.com>. The main content area features a red padlock icon with a white "X" inside. Below the icon, the text reads "Your connection is not private". A sub-message states: "Attackers might be trying to steal your information from **self-signed.badssl.com** (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards). NET::ERR_CERT_AUTHORITY_INVALID". At the bottom of the warning, there are two links: "[Hide advanced](#)" and a blue button labeled "Back to safety". A red arrow points to the "Hide advanced" link. Below this, a paragraph explains: "This server could not prove that it is **self-signed.badssl.com**; its security certificate is not trusted by your computer's operating system. This may be caused by a misconfiguration or an attacker intercepting your connection." At the bottom of the page, there is a link "[Proceed to self-signed.badssl.com \(unsafe\)](#)" with a red arrow pointing to it.

GOTO FAIL

iOS 7.0.6 signature verification error

Legitimate-looking TLS certificates with a mismatched private keys were unconditionally accepted...

```
    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; ← Check never executed
    ...
fail:
    SSLFreeBuffer(&signedHashes);
    SSLFreeBuffer(&hashCtx);
    return err;
```

A red arrow originates from the 'goto fail;' line that is annotated with '?!?!?!?' and points to the 'fail:' label at the bottom of the code block. Another red arrow points from the 'Check never executed' text to the 'goto fail;' line that follows the 'SSLHashSHA1.final' call.

HPKP (HTTP Public Key Pinning)

Prevent *certificate forgery*: strong form of web site authentication

Browser knows the *valid* public keys of a particular website

If a seemingly valid chain does not include at least one known pinned key, the cert is rejected

Doesn't apply for *private* root certificates (would break preconfigured proxies, anti-malware, content filters, ...)

Many incidents involving rogue certificates were discovered after browsers started rolling out pinning

Similar deployment as HSTS

TOFU: HTTP response header

Built-in pins in browsers

Must be used very carefully – things can go wrong

HPKP suicide: site can be bricked if keys are lost/stolen

RansomPKP: compromise the server and push a malicious HPKP key

HPKP (HTTP Public Key Pinning)

Prevent *certificate forgery*: strong form of website authentication

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*Deprecated in favor of
Certificate Transparency
and the **Expect-CT** header*

Google Security Blog

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

Enhancing digital certificate security

January 3, 2013

Posted by Adam Langley, Software Engineer

Late on December 24, **Chrome detected and blocked an unauthorized digital certificate for the "*.google.com" domain.** We investigated immediately and found the certificate was issued by an **intermediate certificate authority (CA)** linking back to TURKTRUST, a Turkish certificate authority. Intermediate CA certificates carry the full authority of the CA, so anyone who has one can use it to create a certificate for any website they wish to impersonate.

In response, we updated Chrome's certificate revocation metadata on

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Certificate Transparency

Public monitoring and auditing of certificates

Identify mistakenly or maliciously issued certificates and rogue CAs

Certificate logs

Network services maintaining cryptographically assured, publicly auditable, append-only records of certificates

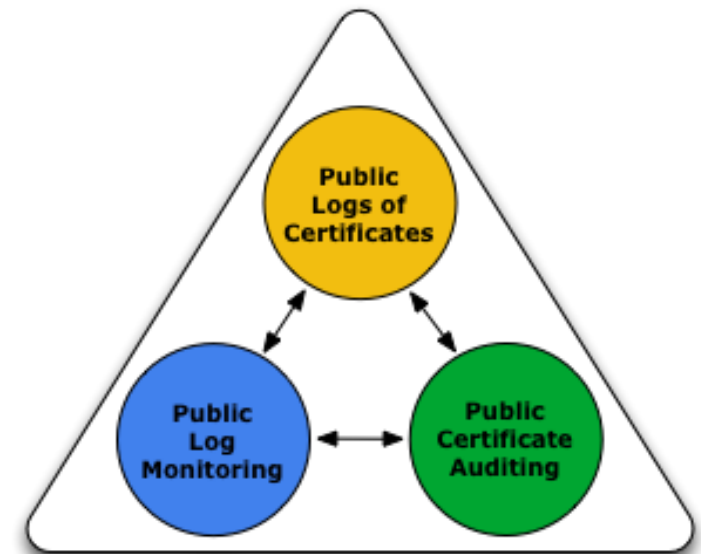
Monitors

Periodically contact all log servers and watch for suspicious certificates

Auditors

Verify that logs are behaving correctly and are cryptographically consistent

Check that a particular certificate appears in a log



Events
Proxy
DNS
Sockets
Domain Security Policy

HSTS/PKP

HSTS is HTTP Strict Transport Security: a way for sites to elect to always use HTTPS. See <https://www.chromium.org/hsts>. PKP is Public Key Pinning: Chrome "pins" certain public keys for certain sites in official builds.

Add HSTS domain

Input a domain name to add it to the HSTS set:

Domain:

Include subdomains for STS:

Add

Query HSTS/PKP domain

Input a domain name to query the current HSTS/PKP set:

Domain: Query

Not found

Expect-CT

Expect-CT allows sites to elect to always require valid Certificate Transparency information. See <https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-httpbis-expect-ct>.

To protect against cross-site tracking, Expect-CT data will soon be keyed on the site of the main frame and innermost frame when an Expect-CT header is encountered. When that behavior is enabled, both adding and querying an Expect-CT domain use the eTLD+1 of the provided domain as the site for both frames. Deleting policies affects information stored for that domain in the context of all sites, however.

Add Expect-CT domain

Input a domain name to add it to the Expect-CT set. Leave Enforce unchecked to configure Expect-CT in report-only mode.

Domain:

Report URI (optional):

Enforce:

Add

Events
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Domain Security Policy

HSTS/PKP

HSTS is HTTP Strict Transport Security: a way for sites to elect to always use HTTPS. See <https://www.chromium.org/hsts>. PKP is Public Key Pinning: Chrome "pins" certain public keys for certain sites in official builds.

Add HSTS domain

Input a domain name to add it to the HSTS set:

Domain:

Include subdomains for STS:

Add

Query HSTS/PKP domain

Input a domain name to query the current HSTS/PKP set:

Domain: Query

Found:

static_sts_domain:

static_upgrade_mode: DEFAULT

static_sts_include_subdomains: false

static_sts_observed: 0

static_pkp_domain: google.com

static_pkp_include_subdomains: true

static_pkp_observed: 1615499290

static_spki_hashes:

sha256/IPMbDAjLVSGntGO3WP53X/zi1CVndez5YJ2+vJvhJsa=, sha256/YZPgTZ+woNCCCiW3LH2CxQeLzB/1m42QcCTBSdgayjs=, sha256/hxqR1PTu1bMS/0DITB1SSu0vd4u/818TjPgFaAp63Gc=, sha256/Vfd95BwDeSQo+NUYxVEE11vkO1WY2Sa1KK11Phz0x78=, sha256/QXnt2YHvdHR3tJYmQIe0Paosp6t/nggsEGD4QJZ3Q0g=, sha256/mEf1ZT5enoR1FuXLgYYGqnVEoZvmf9c2bVBpi0jYQ0c=, sha256/iie1VXtL7HzAMF+/PVPR9xzT80kQxdZeJ+zduCB3uj0=

dynamic_sts_domain:

dynamic_upgrade_mode: UNKNOWN

dynamic_sts_include_subdomains:

dynamic_sts_observed:

dynamic_sts_expiry:

Expect-CT