

# Transport Layer Security

194.144 Privacy Enhancing Technologies

Dr. Wilfried Mayer

# Outline 1/2

- Overview
- TLS Protocols
- PKI
- Implementations
- Cryptographic primitives

# Outline 2/2

- Application of TLS
- HTTPS
- User Behaviour
- Incidents, Flaws and Attacks
- Improvements
- TLS 1.3

# Overview

# Goals of TLS<sup>1</sup>

- Authentication
- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- TLS is application protocol independent

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<sup>1</sup>RFC8446

# Goals of TLS 1.2<sup>3</sup>

- Cryptographic security
- Interoperability
- Extensibility
- Relative efficiency<sup>2</sup>

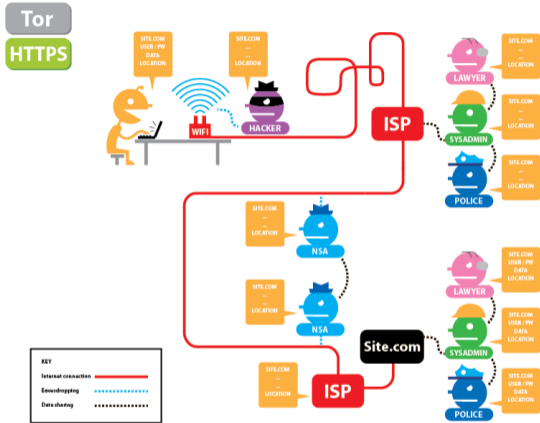
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<sup>2</sup><https://istlsfastyet.com/>

<sup>3</sup>RFC5246

# TLS / PETS

- **Foundation of encrypted internet**
- Improvements / Incidents / Vulnerabilites
- Metadata not private
- No silver bullet for security



## Interactive Overview (EFF)



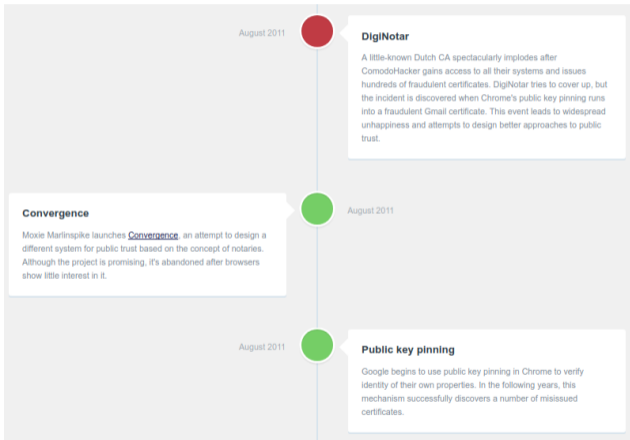
# Timeline

- SSL 2 by Netscape (1994)
- SSL 3 (1995)
- TLS 1.0 (1999, RFC 2246)
- TLS 1.1 (2006, RFC 4346)
- TLS 1.2 (2008, RFC 5246)
- TLS 1.3 (2018, RFC 8446 (after 28 drafts))

# Name

*Secure Sockets Layer* vs. **Transport Layer Security**

# Interactive SSL/TLS History



# TLS Protocols

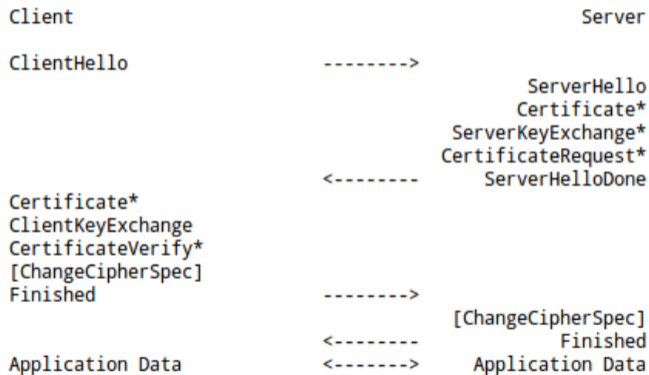
# RFC complexity

RFC5246, RFC2246, RFC4346, RFC6101, RFC2595, RFC2712,  
RFC2817, RFC2818, RFC3207, RFC3268, RFC3546, RFC3749,  
RFC3943, RFC4132, RFC4162, RFC4217, RFC4279, RFC4347,  
RFC4366, RFC4492, RFC4680, RFC4681, RFC4785, RFC5054,  
RFC5077, RFC5081, RFC5288, RFC5289, RFC5746, RFC5878,  
RFC5932, RFC6066, RFC6091, RFC6176, RFC6209, RFC6347,  
RFC6367, RFC6460, RFC6655, RFC7027, RFC7251, RFC7301,  
RFC7366, RFC7465, RFC7507, RFC7568, RFC7627, RFC7685,  
RFC5216, RFC7457, RFC7525, RFC8446, ...

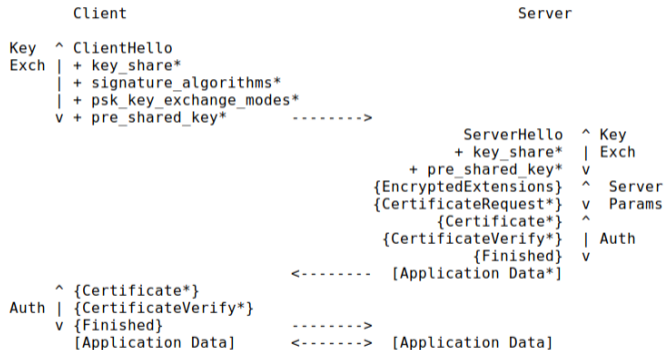
# Two primary concepts

- Handshake protocol
  - authenticates the communicating parties
  - negotiates cryptographic modes
  - establishes shared keying material
- Record protocol
  - protect traffic between the communicating peers

# Full Handshake TLS 1.2



# Full Handshake TLS 1.3





# Handshake Resumption TLS 1.2

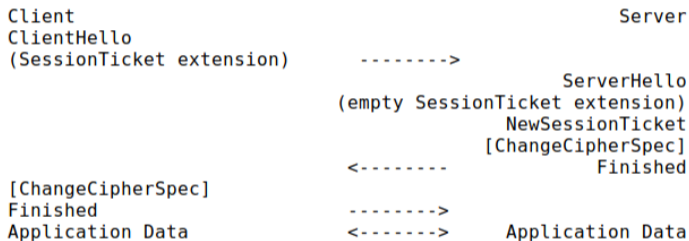
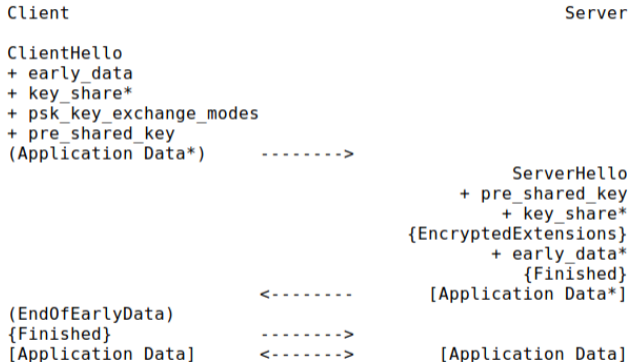


Figure 2: Message Flow for Abbreviated Handshake Using New Session Ticket

# o-RTT Handshake TLS 1.3



Security properties for o-RTT data are weaker!

PKI

# Public Key Infrastructure

- Certificates based on Pubkey encryption
- CA (Certificate Authority) issues certificates
- CA rights can be delegated: Sub-CAs
- Chain of trust (Chain of certificates) to the root CAs
- Root CAs are trusted

# Certificate

This certificate has been verified for the following usages:

SSL Server Certificate

## Issued To

Common Name (CN)	www.tuwien.ac.at
Organization (O)	Technische Universität Wien
Organizational Unit (OU)	ZID

## Issued By

Common Name (CN)	TERENA SSL CA 3
Organization (O)	TERENA
Organizational Unit (OU)	<Not Part Of Certificate>

## Validity Period

Issued On	Friday, October 9, 2015 at 2:00:00 AM
Expires On	Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 2:00:00 PM

# X.509

- Standard for pubkey certificates
- Structured, e.g.:
  - Issuer Name
  - Subject name (inkl. Common Name)
  - Validity period
  - Extensions
  - ...
- .pem / .crt / .cer / .der / not .csr / not .key / ...

# Chain of trust

## End-entity Certificate

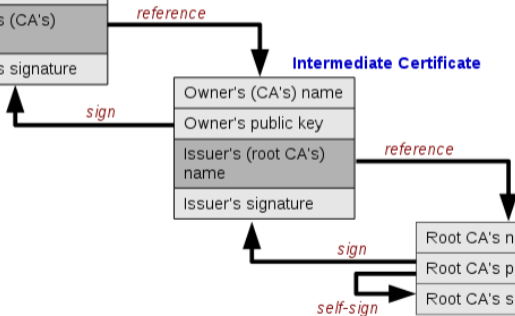
Owner's name
Owner's public key
Issuer's (CA's) name
Issuer's signature

## Intermediate Certificate

Owner's (CA's) name
Owner's public key
Issuer's (root CA's) name
Issuer's signature

Root CA's name
Root CA's public key
Root CA's signature

## Root Certificate



# Root CAs, Trust stores

- Each browser and operating system has its set of trusted CAs
- These CAs could sign everything
- Not all signed HTTPS Certificates
- Controlled by different organizations, nations, ...
- Three organizations controlling 75% of trusted certificates



# Root CAs

Organization Type	Organizations	
Academic Institution	273	(39.79%)
Commercial CA	135	(19.67%)
Government Agency	85	(12.39%)
Corporation	83	(12.09%)
ISP	30	(4.37%)
IT/Security Consultant	29	(4.22%)
Financial Institution	17	(2.47%)
Unknown	<i>unknown</i>	
Hosting Provider	7	(1.02%)
Nonprofit Org	7	(1.02%)
Library	5	(0.72%)
Museum	4	(0.58%)
Healthcare Provider	3	(0.43%)
Religious Institution	1	(0.14%)
Military	1	(0.14%)

# CA/Browser Forum

- Defines Baseline Requirements
- Rules that CAs have to follow
- [https://cabforum.org/  
baseline-requirements-documents/](https://cabforum.org/baseline-requirements-documents/)

# Implementation

# Implementations

- OpenSSL: de-facto standard, swiss army knife
- LibreSSL: fork by the OpenBSD team
- BoringSSL: fork by Google
- GnuTLS: initial GNU implementation
- NSS: by Mozilla
- Microsoft Secure Channel
- s2n: implementation by Amazon
- miTLS: Verified Implementation
- [See full comparison here](#)

# OpenSSL problems

- Had its own memory management which prevented many analysis tools
- Bugs unfixed for a long time
- Code base completely unreadable
- Extensive backward compatibility

# OpenSSL vs. LibreSSL

- BSD team forked OpenBSD 1.0.1g after Heartbleed
- 90.000 LOC deleted within 30 days (initially 388.000)
- Part of OpenBSD now

Google forked towards BoringSSL

# Cryptographic primitives

# Ciphersuites until 1.2

- Remember: Extensibility
- Specifies cryptographic algorithms and modes

Ciphersuites consist of:

- Key exchange
- Authentication
- Symmetric cryptography for transport
- Integrity (Hash)



# Ciphersuites until 1.2

TLS\_**DHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_256\_CBC\_SHA**

- DHE for key exchange
- RSA for authentication
- AES 256bit in CBC mode for encryption
- SHA for hashing

IANA:

- More than 500 defined<sup>4</sup>
- Two bytes define the ciphersuite

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<sup>4</sup>Source: [list by IANA](#)

# Ciphersuites until 1.2

Key exchange (selection):

- RSA for authentication
- Problem with RSA: private key can decrypt previous communication content

Forward secrecy:

- DHE\_RSA: ephemeral Diffie-Hellman
- ECDHE\_RSA: elliptic curve Diffie-Hellman

# Ciphersuites until 1.2

## Encryption:

- Block or stream ciphers
- Block: AES, 3DES, Camellia
- Stream: RC4, ChaCha

# Ciphersuites until 1.2

- Server supports a certain set
- Browser supports a certain set
- Negotiated while Handshake

# Ciphersuites for TLS 1.3

- Highly reduced set (5)!
- Not compatible with TLS 1.2
- All support Forward Secrecy
- Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data (AEAD)

# Which Ciphersuites to use?

- e.g., recommendations by Mozilla
- Recommended configurations
- Mozilla SSL Configuration Generator

# Application of TLS

# HTTPS

- Most widely used application layer protocol for TLS
- HTTP over 443
- You all use it!



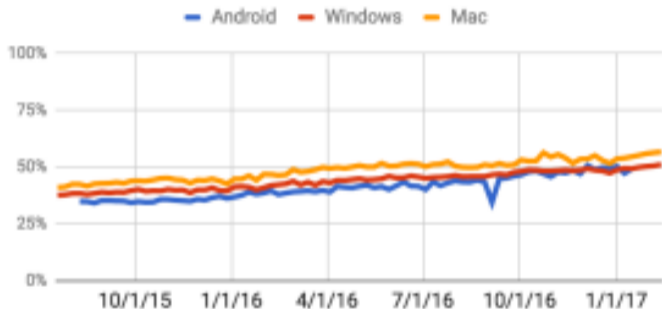
# HTTPS Problems

- HTTPS Adoption
- Secure Deployment
- Usability
- Who leads the way?

# HTTPS Adoption

- HTTPS was not used widely enough
- HTTPS used only for “high important” pages
- Certificates cost money (pre Let’s Encrypt era)
- Self-signed certificates bring problems

# HTTPS Adoption



Felt et al., Measuring HTTPS Adoption on the Web

# HTTPS Adoption 2022

## HTTPS Encryption by Chrome platform

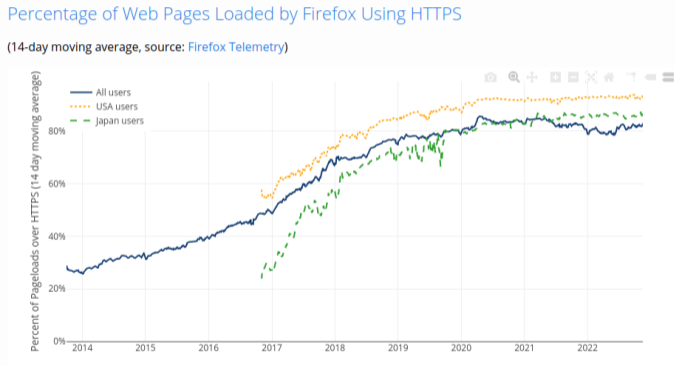
Since early 2015, we have been able to measure the prevalence of HTTPS connections thanks to Chrome users who choose to [share usage statistics](#). The graphs below show the growth in HTTPS usage across platforms and countries/regions. Desktop users load more than half of the pages they view over HTTPS and spend two-thirds of their time on HTTPS pages. HTTPS is less prevalent on sites accessed on mobile devices, but there is still an upward trend in encryption usage there.

### Percentage of pages loaded over HTTPS in Chrome by platform



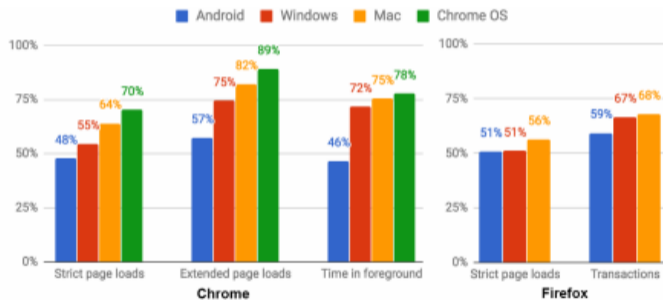
Fragment navigations, history push state navigations, and all schemes besides HTTP/HTTPS (including new tab page navigations) are not included.

# HTTPS Adoption 2022



<https://letsencrypt.org/stats/>

# HTTPS Adoption



Felt et al., Measuring HTTPS Adoption on the Web

# HTTPS Adoption - Browser Warnings

- [2016/10](#) Warning for unencrypted form data
- [2018/07](#) Warning for HTTP
- 2020/10 Chrome 86 forbids mixed content
- 2021/04 Chrome 90 defaults to HTTPS

# Secure Deployment

- Complex task
- How to do correctly?
- What is a “secure” deployment?
- e.g., correct Ciphersuites (see above)
- Grading with SSLTest (see below)



# HTTPS Usability

- Security for people (TUW mission: Technology for people)
- Disruptive Security Concepts (Browser Warnings)
- Connection Security Indicators (Browser Icons)
- Admins should be seen as users too
- *Given a choice between dancing pigs and security, the user will pick dancing pigs every time<sup>5</sup>*

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<sup>5</sup>Felten and McGraw

# Browser Warnings



## This Connection is Untrusted

You have asked Firefox to connect securely to **www.reddit.com**, 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**
- ▶ **I Understand the Risks**

Akhawe, Felt: Alice in Warningland: A Large-Scale Field Study of Browser Security Warning Effectiveness

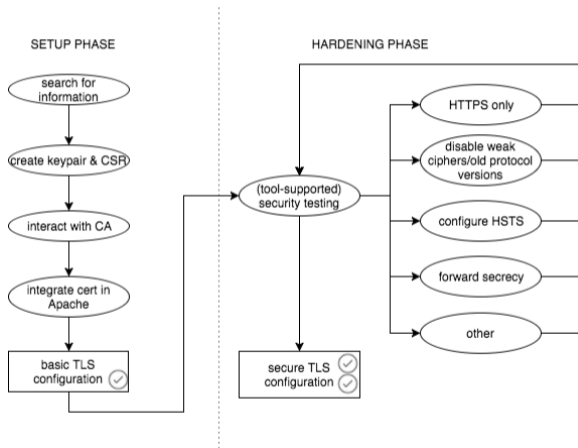
# Connection Security Indicators

Browser	HTTPS	HTTPS minor error	HTTPS major error	HTTP	EV	Malware
Chrome 48 Win	https://www	https://mix	https://wro	www.exam	Symantec Co	https://dow
Edge 20 Win	example.	https://mix	wrong.host.bad:	example.com	Symantec Co	Unsafe website
Firefox 44 Win	https://www.e	https://mixec	https://expire	www.examp	Symantec Corpo	https://spacet
Safari 9 Mac	example.com	mixed.badssl.c	URL hidden	example.com	Symantec Cor	downloadgam
Chrome 48 And	https://v	https://mixe	https://v	www.examp	https://v	https://spac
Opera Mini 14 And	www.exam	mixed.badssl.c	wrong.host.ba	www.example	www.syma	Unavailable
UC Mini 10 And	Example D	mixed.bad:	Blocked	Example D	Endpoint, C	Blocked
UC Browser 2 iOS	Example Do.	mixed.bads..	wrong.host..	Example Do.	Endpoint, C.	Unavailable
Safari 9 iOS	example.c	mixed.badss	wrong.host	example.com	Symantec	Unavailable

Figure 2: Security indicators for major browsers on Windows (Win), Mac, Android (And), and iOS. For categories that trigger warnings (e.g., malware), we include the security indicator state during the warning.

Felt et al., Rethinking Connection Security Indicators

# TLS Deployment process



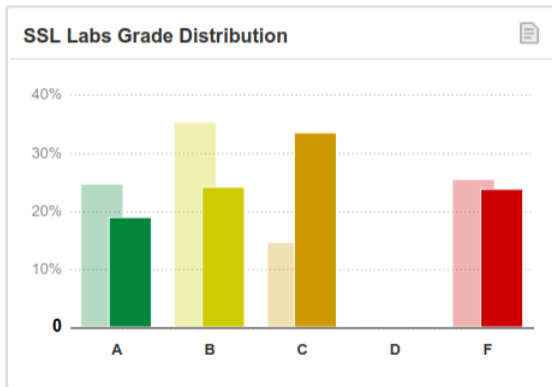
Krombholz, Mayer, Schmiedecker, Weippl: "I Have No Idea What I'm Doing"  
- On the Usability of Deploying HTTPS

# Deployments

- Hard to find a good configuration
- No secure defaults
- Bad documentation
- Lacking tool support
- Situation is constantly improved

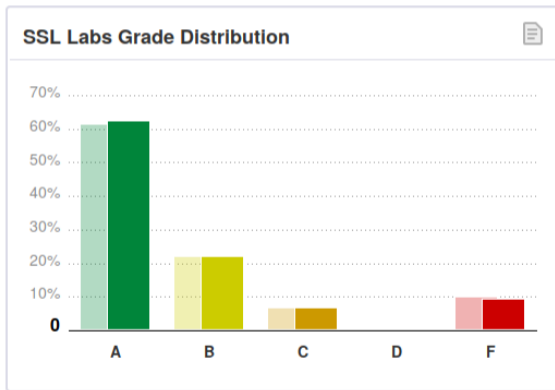
# TLS Deployment

Monthly Scan: **June 11, 2015**

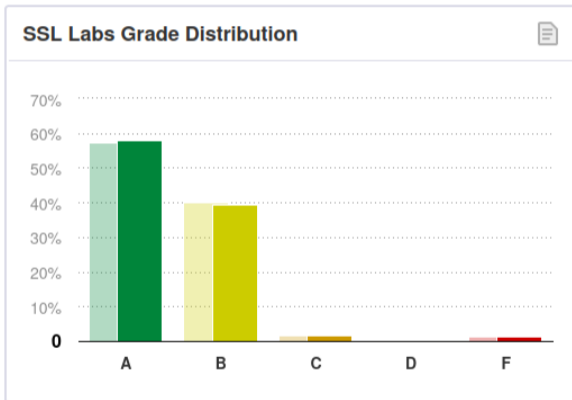


# TLS Deployment

Monthly Scan: **September 03, 2018**



# TLS Deployment





# Who leads the way?

- Browsers, CAs, Service provider
  - Gmail HTTPS by default since January 2010
  - Google Search (if users logged in) since 2011
  - Forward secrecy since November 2011
  - Facebook for all since July 2013
  - Google Search for all since Sept. 2013
  - Let's Encrypt 2015
  - Google+Facebook warning for HTTP passwords 2017
  - Google requires CT in April 2018

# TLS for Email

- Dedicated TLS ports (465, 993, 995)
- STARTTLS to upgrade unencrypted connections
  - Important for all email protocols: POP, IMAP, SMTP (110, 143, 25)
  - “Opportunistic encryption” - if possible
  - Does not defeat active attackers

# TLS for Email

Differences for SMTP vs. POP/IMAP:

- How do two parties verify certificates?
- All extensions from HTTPS not applicable
- No user warnings (lock icon), ...

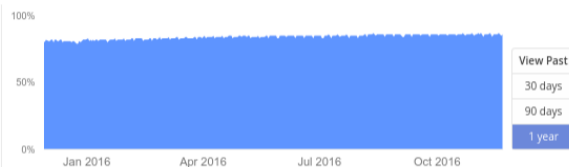
# STARTTLS Transparency

## Outbound

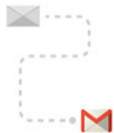


86%

Messages from Gmail to other providers.

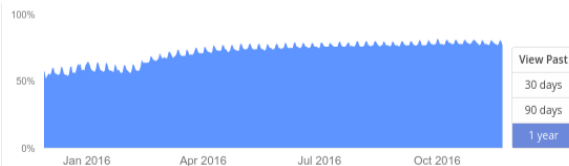


## Inbound



77%

Messages from other providers to Gmail.



# Incidents, Attacks and Flaws

# Incidents, Attacks and Flaws

- Remember:
  - Protocol
  - PKI
  - Implementations
  - Cryptographic primitives
  - Applications (HTTPS, Email)
  - User Behaviour
- add Murphy's law

# Incidents PKI: DigiNotar

- CA from the Netherlands, hacked in July 2011
- Fox-IT investigated the attack
- DigiNotar went bankrupt, was removed from all browsers in August 2011

# Incidents PKI: DigiNotar

## Problems:

- All signing servers were in one AD, weak password
- Reachable over the management LAN
- No antivirus on the servers
- Public webserver was unpatched



# Incidents PKI

*.*.com	*.*.org	*.10million.org (2)
*.android.com	*.aol.com	*.azadegi.com (2)
*.balatarin.com (3)	*.comodo.com (3)	*.digicert.com (2)
*.globalsign.com (7)	*.google.com (26)	*.JanamFadayeRahbar.com
*.logmein.com	*.microsoft.com (3)	*.mossad.gov.il (2)
*.mozilla.org	*.RamzShekaneBozorg.com	*.SahebeDonyayeDigital.com
*.skype.com (22)	*.startssl.com	*.thawte.com (6)
*.torproject.org (14)	*.walla.co.il (2)	*.windowsupdate.com (3)
*.wordpress.com (14)	addons.mozilla.org (17)	azadegi.com (16)
Comodo Root CA (20)	CyberTrust Root CA (20)	DigiCert Root CA (21)
Equifax Root CA (40)	friends.walla.co.il (8)	GlobalSign Root CA (20)
login.live.com (17)	login.yahoo.com (19)	my.screenname.aol.com
secure.logmein.com (17)	Thawte Root CA (45)	twitter.com (18)
VeriSign Root CA (21)	wordpress.com (12)	www.10million.org (8)
www.balatarin.com (16)	www.cia.gov (25)	www.cybertrust.com
www.Equifax.com	www.facebook.com (14)	www.globalsign.com
www.google.com (12)	www.hamdami.com	www.mossad.gov.il (5)
www.sis.gov.uk (10)	www.update.microsoft.com (4)	

# Incidents PKI: DigiNotar

## Operation Black Tulip:

- Detected due to TLS pinning in Chrome
- At least 531 fraudulent certificates were issued
- Visualization using OCSP requests<sup>6</sup>
- Used to attack Gmail users MITM in Iran (95% of all the OCSP requests)

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<sup>6</sup>[Link: Video](#)

# Incidents PKI: TLS Incidents

Sometimes using sub-CA issuer and certificates:

- Turktrust: December 2012
  - Sub-CA certificate which was deployed in firewalls
- ANSSI: December 2013,
  - French sub-CA issuing certificates for Google
- India: July 2014
  - Indian sub-CA got hacked

# Incidents PKI: CAs distrusted

- October 2016: Apple, Chrome, and Mozilla distrust WoSign and StartCom
- ... multiple rule violations ...
- September 2017: Google and Mozilla decide to stop trusting existing Symantec certificates
- [Announcement in March](#)
- ...Despite having knowledge of these issues, Symantec has repeatedly failed to proactively disclose them....

# Incidents PKI

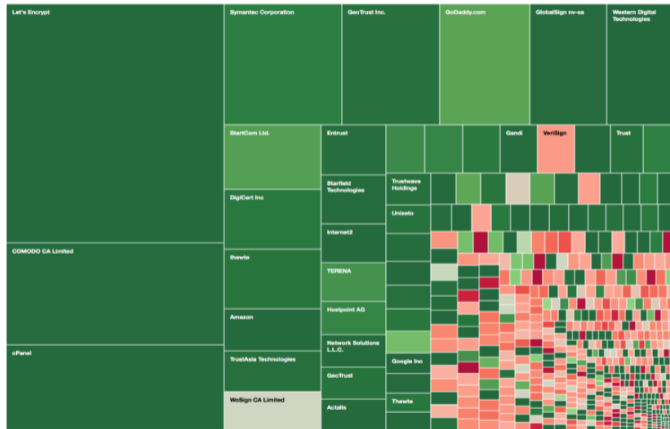
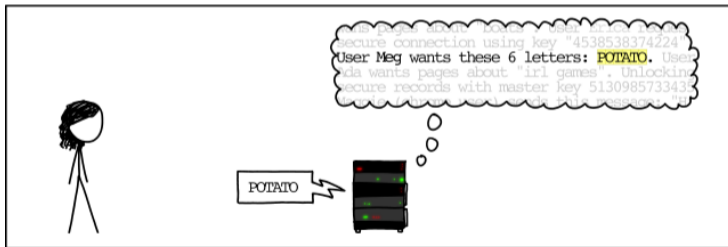
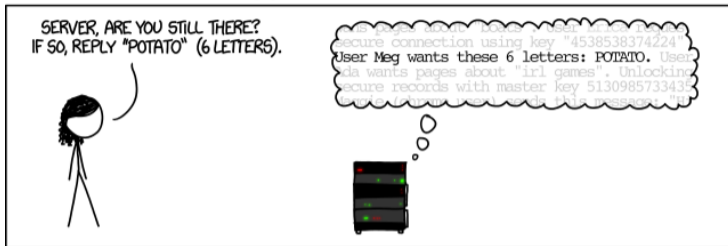


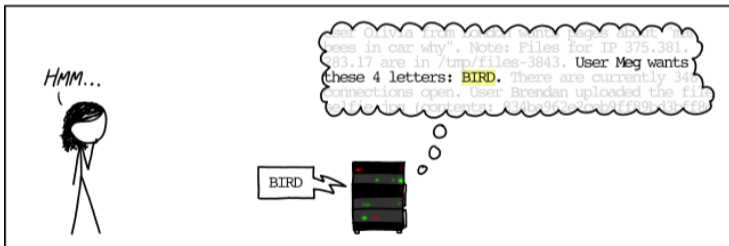
Fig. 5: Percent ZLint Errors by Total Certificates Issued—Large certificate authorities generally issue certificates with fewer ZLint errors than smaller authorities.

# Implementation bug: Heartbleed

- Vulnerability in OpenSSL, April 2014
- In the Heartbeat protocol in TLS, missing bounds check
- Up to 64kb readable from the heap
- Could contain user data, passwords and TLS private key

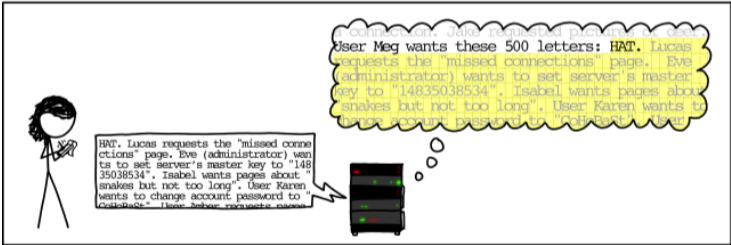
# HOW THE HEARTBLEED BUG WORKS:





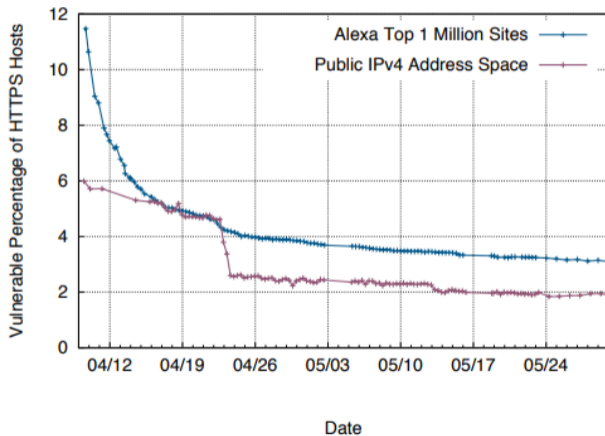
Source: xkcd





Source: xkcd

# Heartbleed worldwide



# Crypto - Ps and Qs

- Problem for creating pubkeys
- RSA chooses parameter at random for pubkey
- For devices with low entropy collision possible
- In particular problematic for embedded devices
- 0.5% of all IPv4 in 2012

Heninger et al., Mining Your Ps and Qs: Detection of Widespread Weak Keys in Network Devices

# Crypto - Other Flaws

- Attacks against RC4
  - Considered a work around after BEAST, 2013
  - Insecure, Break RC4 feasible
  - Forbidden by RFC, Feb. 2015
- Debian Weak Keys
  - Weak Random Number Generator 2005
  - Weak keys

# Protocol Flaws

- DROWN
  - Decrypting RSA with Obsolete and Weakened eNcryptio
  - Exploits support of SSLv2
  - Certificate on other server with SSLv2?
- POODLE
  - Padding Oracle On Downgraded Legacy Encryption
  - Design of SSLv3 - Padding oracle attack against CBC mode
  - Prevent downgrade with TLS\_FALLBACK\_SCSV

# Other TLS Attacks

- SMACK (State Machine AttaCKs)
- Logjam (Downgrade, Weak Diffie-Hellman)
- FREAK (Downgrade, Factoring RSA Export Keys)
- CRIME, BREACH (HTTP compression)
- Lucky 13 (cryptographic timing attack against CBC mode)
- STRIPTLS attack (opportunistic encryption - application)
- ....

Improvements

Why improving TLS?  
You still ask?



# Improvements

- HSTS
- Certificate Pinning
- HPKP (dead)
- Certificate Transparency
- CAA
- Let's Encrypt
- Tool Support

# HSTS

- HTTP Strict Transport Security
- Part of the HTTP Header response from the server
- Stores HTTPS preference
- `Strict-Transport-Security max-age=31536000`
- Error message instead of warning

# HSTS cont.

- Problem: TOFU (Trust On First Use)
- Preload list
- Firefox and Chrome HSTS preload list<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>List of URLs: <https://www.chromium.org/hsts>

# Pinning

- Key Distribution Problem
- "Solved" with PKI, but PKI has it's problems
- Pin the certificate or public key
- e.g., directly in browser or source code
- not scalable

# HPKP

- No Support! Dead idea...
- HTTP Public Key Pinning
- Part of the HTTP Header response from the server
- Stores Pinned Key

- Public-Key-Pins:

```
pin-sha256="cUPcTAZWKaASuYWhhneDttWpY3oBAkE3h2+soZS  
pin-sha256="M8HztCzM3e1UxkcjR2S5P4hhyBNf6lHkmjAHKhp  
max-age=5184000; includeSubDomains;  
report-uri="https://www.example.org/hpkp-report"
```

# HPKP dead?

- Pin: Leaf cert, Intermediate cert or Root cert
- Public-Key-Pins-Report-Only
- Is HTTP Public Key Pinning Dead?<sup>8</sup>
- Fixing HPKP with Pin Revocation<sup>9</sup>
- Dead... Planned removal in Chrome 67, May 2018<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> <https://blog.qualys.com/ssllabs/2016/09/06/is-http-public-key-pinning-dead>

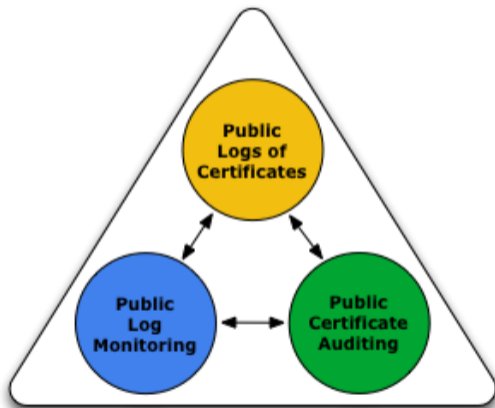
<sup>9</sup> <https://blog.qualys.com/ssllabs/2017/09/05/fixing-hpkp-with-pin-revocation>

<sup>10</sup> <https://groups.google.com/a/chromium.org/forum/#!msg/blink-dev/he9tr7p3rZ8/eNMwKpMUBAAJ?hn>

# CAA

- DNS record: Certification Authority Authorization
- "Which CAs are allowed to issue a certificate for my domain?"
- `example.com. IN CAA 0 issue "letsencrypt.org"`
- Mandatory for CAs from September 2017
- CA check - not client system check

# Certificate Transparency





# Certificate Transparency



# Certificate Transparency

- [RFC6962](#)
- Logs: records of certificates
- Logs: everyone could host, but currently Google and CAs
- Monitor: watch for suspicious certificates
- Auditor: verify that logs are behaving correctly
- Warning for Certificates without CT Log Entry



**Let's  
Encrypt**

# Let's Encrypt

- Free CA!
- Open CA!
- Automated CA (Domain-based validation)!

# Let's Encrypt

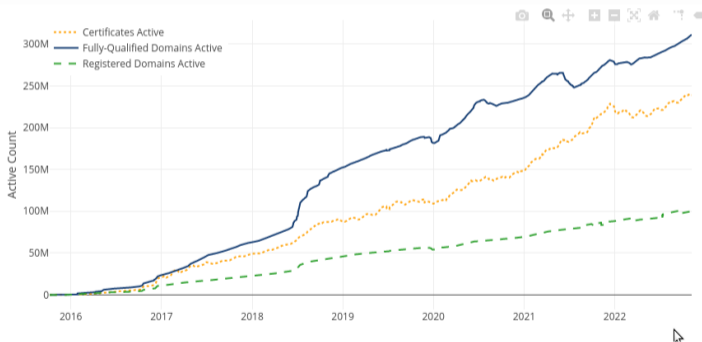
- ACME protocol in background<sup>11</sup>
- Easy TLS setup:
- “sudo apt-get install letsencrypt; letsencrypt run”
- Issued 100 million certs in June 2017

---

<sup>11</sup><https://github.com/letsencrypt/acme-spec>

# Active Let's Encrypt certificates

Let's Encrypt Growth



# Certbot



Automatically enable HTTPS on your website with EFF's Certbot, deploying [Let's Encrypt](#) certificates.

I'm using  on

Certbot EFF

# SSL Test

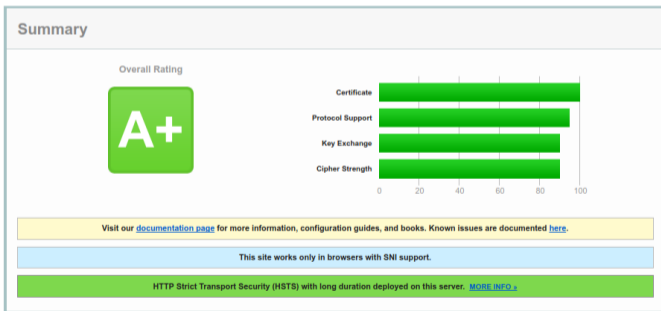


You are here: [Home](#) > [Projects](#) > [SSL Server Test](#) > [tuwien.ac.at](#)

## SSL Report: [tuwien.ac.at](#) (128.130.35.76)

Assessed on: Wed, 22 Nov 2017 21:44:16 UTC | [Hide](#) | [Clear cache](#)

[Scan Another »](#)



ssllabs ssltest



# Qualys Tools

## SSL Pulse:

- Monthly scan for 200k top-websites
- Checks for complete certificate chain, CipherSuites, HSTS, ...
- But also attacks like CRIME, Beast, Heartbleed, ...
- Ranking according to Qualys SSL Labs

# Mozilla SSL Configuration Generator

Mozilla SSL Configuration Generator

Apache     Modern    Server Version   
 Nginx     Intermediate    OpenSSL Version   
 Lighttpd     Old    HSTS Enabled   
 HAProxy  
 AWS ELB

apache 2.2.15 | intermediate profile | OpenSSL 1.0.1e | [link](#)  
Oldest compatible clients: Firefox 1, Chrome 1, IE 7, Opera 5, Safari 1, Windows XP IE8, Android 2.3, Java 7

```
<VirtualHost *:443>
...
SSLEngine on
SSLCertificateFile /path/to/signed_certificate
SSLCertificateChainFile /path/to/intermediate_certificate
SSLCertificateKeyFile /path/to/private/key
```

# HTTPS Everywhere

- Browser extension for Firefox & Chrome, by EFF
- Changes connections from HTTP to HTTPS (where available)
- Rule-based
- Manually maintained list
- [link here](#)

# DANE

- DNS-based Authentication of Named Entities
- Replace PKI and ask DNS
- Needs DNSSEC
- Not really used

# MTA-STS

- SMTP MTA Strict Transport Security
- "HSTS for Email"
- [RFC8461](#) (End of September 2018)

TLS 1.3.

# Major differences

- Static RSA removed
- Forward Secrecy everywhere!
- CBC mode removed (Lucky13, Poodle, ...)
- Only AEAD (Authenticated Encryption with Associated Data) algorithms
- RC4, SHA1, MD5 removed
- Compression removed
- Renegotiation removed

# Major differences

- Cipher suite concept changed
- Zero-RTT (Zero round-trip time (0-RTT) mode)
- Handshake state machine has been significantly restructured
- Fixed DHE groups (simplified)
- Session IDs + Tickets - Tickets + PSK
- Downgrade protection
- Full handshake signature



# Problems introducing TLS 1.3

- Middlebox decryption
- Version intolerance
  - TLS 1.3. (3.4. / 3.3.)
  - Make TLS 1.3. look like TLS 1.2.

# TLS Reference

## BULLETPROOF SSL AND TLS

Understanding and Deploying SSL/TLS and  
PKI to Secure Servers and Web Applications



Ivan Ristić



# Questions?