# Securing Internet Communication

CS 161: Computer Security Prof. Vern Paxson

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http://inst.eecs.berkeley.edu/~cs161/

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# **Today's Lecture**

- Applying crypto technology in practice
- Goal #1: overview of the most prominent Internet security protocols
  - SSL/TLS: transport-level (process-to-process) on top of TCP
  - (DNSSEC: securing domain name lookups)
  - Issues that arise in securing these
- 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?)

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

- SSL = Secure Sockets Layer (predecessor)
- TLS = *Transport Layer Security* (standard)
  - Both terms used interchangeably
- Notion: provide means to secure any application that uses TCP

# **SSL/TLS In Network Layering**



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

- SSL = Secure Sockets Layer (predecessor)
- TLS = Transport Layer Security (standard)
   Both terms used interchangeably
- Notion: provide means to secure 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

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#### Web surfing with TLS/SSL - https: URL



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

- SSL = Secure Sockets Layer (predecessor)
- TLS = Transport Layer Security (standard)
   Both terms used interchangeably
- Notion: provide means to secure any application that uses TCP
  - Secure = encryption/confidentiality + integrity + authentication (of server, but not of client)

- E.g., puts the 's' in "https"

- API similar to "socket" interface used for regular network programming
  - Fairly easy to convert an app to be secured

### **HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS)**

- Browser (client) connects via TCP to Amazon's
   HTTPS server
- Client sends over list of crypto protocols it supports
- Server picks protocols to use for this session
- Server sends over its certificate
- (all of this is in the clear)
- Client now validates cert



### HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS), con't

- For RSA, browser constructs a long Browser (2048 bits) random string R
- Browser sends R encrypted using Amazon's public RSA key K<sub>A</sub>
- From R browser & server derive pairs of symm. *cipher keys* (C<sub>B</sub>, C<sub>S</sub>) and MAC *integrity keys* (I<sub>B</sub>, I<sub>S</sub>)
   – 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
  - Messages also numbered to thwart replay attacks



Amazon

### **Inside the Server's Certificate**

- **Domain name** associated w/ cert –e.g., www.amazon.com
- Amazon's **public key** (e.g., 2048 bits for **RSA**)
- A bunch of auxiliary info (physical address, type of cert, expiration time)
- Name of certificate's **issuer** (e.g., Verisign)
- Optional URL to revocation center to check for revoked certs
- A public-key signature of a hash (SHA-1) of all this – Constructed using the issuer's private RSA key – Call this signature S

### 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 <u>separate</u> cert belonging to the issuer

- These are hardwired into the browser - trusted!

- Browser applies issuer's public key to invert 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 didn't lose private key; assuming didn't sign thoughtlessly

### End-to-End ⇒ Powerful Protections

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

## **Powerful Protections, con't**

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

### Validating Amazon's Identity, con't

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer** - These are hardwired into the browser - **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



Verify Certificate



#### Safari can't verify the identity of the website "www.mikestoolbox.org".

The certificate for this website was signed by an unknown certifying authority. You might be connecting to a website that is pretending to be "www.mikestoolbox.org", which could put your confidential information at risk. Would you like to connect to the website anyway?



Show Certificate



### Validating Amazon's Identity, con't

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer** - These are hardwired into the browser - **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

   Note, 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
Attacker can read everything, modify, impersonate

## **SSL / TLS Limitations**

- Properly used, SSL / TLS provides powerful endto-end protections
- So why not use it for everything??
- Issues:
  - Cost of public-key crypto
    - o Can buy hardware to accelerate, but \$\$
    - o Note: symmetric key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
  - -Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)

Vendor	Market Share	2-year Cost
VeriSign/Thawte/ GeoTrust	59.6%	\$695/\$249/\$399
Comodo	8.3%	\$178
<u>GoDaddy</u>	5.3%	\$54
DigiCert	2.1%	\$256
Entrust	1.3%	\$299
Network Solutions	1.1%	\$229

(Circa April 2008)

# **SSL / TLS Limitations**

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    - o Note: symmetric key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
  - -Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)
  - DoS amplification
    - o Client can force server to undertake public key operations
    - o But: requires established TCP connection, and given that, there are other juicy targets like back-end databases
  - Integrating with other sites that don't use HTTPS
  - -Latency: extra round trips  $\Rightarrow$  pages take longer to load

## SSL / TLS Limitations, con't

- 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
- Browser coding/logic flaws
- User flaws
  - -Weak passwords
  - -Phishing
- Issues of trust ...

#### **TLS/SSL Trust Issues**

• User has to make correct trust decisions ...

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#### 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.



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#### The equivalent as seen by most Internet users:

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(note: an actual Windows error message!)

## **Certificate Errors**

What should you do if you see a SSL certificate error?

- Continue on to the site and ignore the error?
- Forget about visiting the site?

What if you learned that 62% of SSL-enabled websites have invalid certs?

## **TLS/SSL Trust Issues, con't**

- "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?

#### Keychain Access



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Click to lock the System Roots keychain.

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A-Trust-Qual-02

Root certificate authority Expires: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 3:00:00 PM PT

This certificate is valid

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America Onliation Authority 1 certificate Nov 19, 2037 12:43:00 PM System Roots	
America Onliation Authority 2 certificate Sep 29, 2037 7:08:00 AM System Roots	
AOL Time Wcation Authority 1 certificate Nov 20, 2037 7:03:00 AM System Roots	
AOL Time Wcation 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	4
ApplicationCA certificate Dec 12, 2017 7:00:00 AM System Roots	•
+ i Copy 167 items	11

## **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 ...

News

# 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)

f Like

484

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. News

# Solo Iranian hacker takes credit for Comodo certificate attack

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

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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

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.

## **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

#### 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 email account may not always mean what you think its 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.



#### 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 certificiate 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 certificiates and this potentially risky situation.

If you trust the government of Russia and companies located there to protect your privacy and security, <u>click here</u> to accept this new certificate and continue with your visit to the site.

Get me out of here!

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Click to lock the S	ystem Roots keychain.			٩		
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	📴 Deutsche Telekom Root CA 2	certificate	Jul 9, 2019 4:59:00 PM	System Roots		
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Subject Name Country	CN					
Common Name	CNNIC ROOT					
Issuer Name		- 11				
Country	CN					
Organization	CNNIC					
Common Name	CNNIC ROOT					
Serial Number	1228079105					
Version	3					
Signature Algorithm Parameters	SHA–1 with RSA Encryption (12 840 113549 115) none	4				
Not Valid Before	Monday, April 16, 2007 12:09:14 AM PT	1				

00		CNNIC ROOT
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	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
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	iChat Security	Never Trust	
	Kerberos Client	Never Trust	
	Kerberos Server	Never Trust	
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		Name			Kind		Expires	Keychain	
			Class 1	Publi firstion Authorit	y certificate		Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots	
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			Class 1	Publion Authority – G	2 certificate		Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots	
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1	Passwords		Class 2	Public on Authority C	y certificate		Aug 1, 2026 4:59:59 PM	System Roots	
2	Secure Notes		Class 2	Publi fication Authorit	v certificate		Aug 1, 2028 4:59:59 PM	System Roots	
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			сомор	O Certification Authorit	v certificate		Dec 31, 2029 3:59:59 PM	System Roots	
			Deutsch	e Telekom Root CA 2	certificate		lul 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	
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## **Securing DNS Lookups**

- How can we ensure that when clients look up names with DNS, they can trust the answers they receive?
- Idea #1: do DNS lookups over TLS
  - (assuming either we run DNS over TCP, or we use "Datagram TLS")

### Securing DNS using SSL / TLS



# **Securing DNS Lookups**

- How can we ensure that when clients look up names with DNS, they can trust the answers they receive?
- Idea #1: do DNS lookups over TLS
  - (assuming either we run DNS over TCP, or we use "Datagram TLS")
  - Issues?
    - Performance: DNS is very lightweight. TLS is not.
    - Caching: crucial for DNS scaling. But then how do we keep authentication assurances?