Technology Transfer from Security Research Projects

A Personal Perspective

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https://asokan.org/asokan/research

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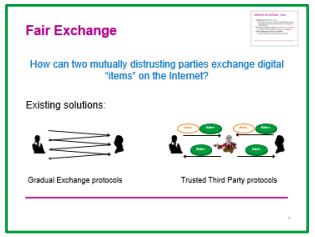
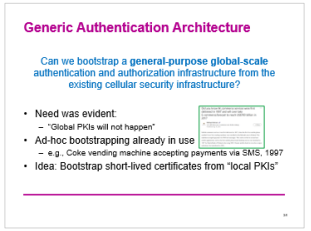
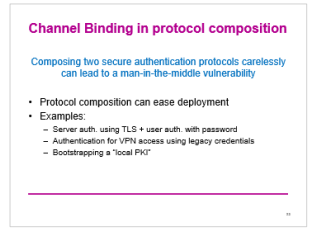
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

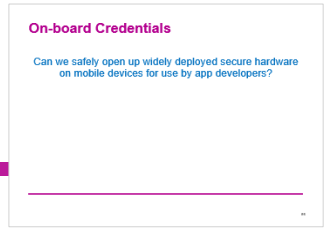
Five examples

- Optimistic Fair Exchange
- Generic Authentication Architecture
- Channel Binding in Protocol Composition
- Secure Device Pairing
- On-board Credentials









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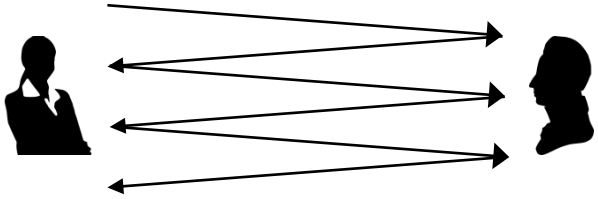
Fair Exchange

Optimistic fair exchange - recap

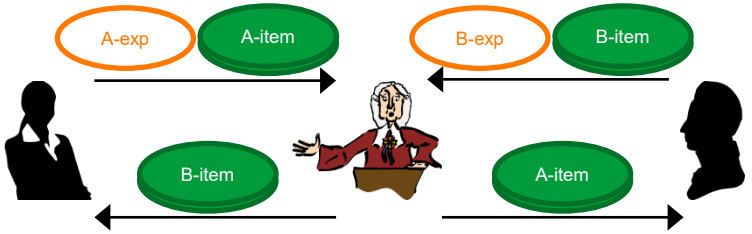
- Optimize for the common case
  - Exchange "permits" (e.g., in the form of verifiable escrows) first
  - If the actual exchange fails, take the permits to a third party to recover fairness
- But service providers want to monetize every exchange
  - An off-line/on-line computation variant (also more efficient)
- Still no deployment, but lots of citations
  - Renewed interest in the blockchain payment setting

How can two mutually distrusting parties exchange digital "items" on the Internet?

Existing solutions:



Gradual Exchange protocols



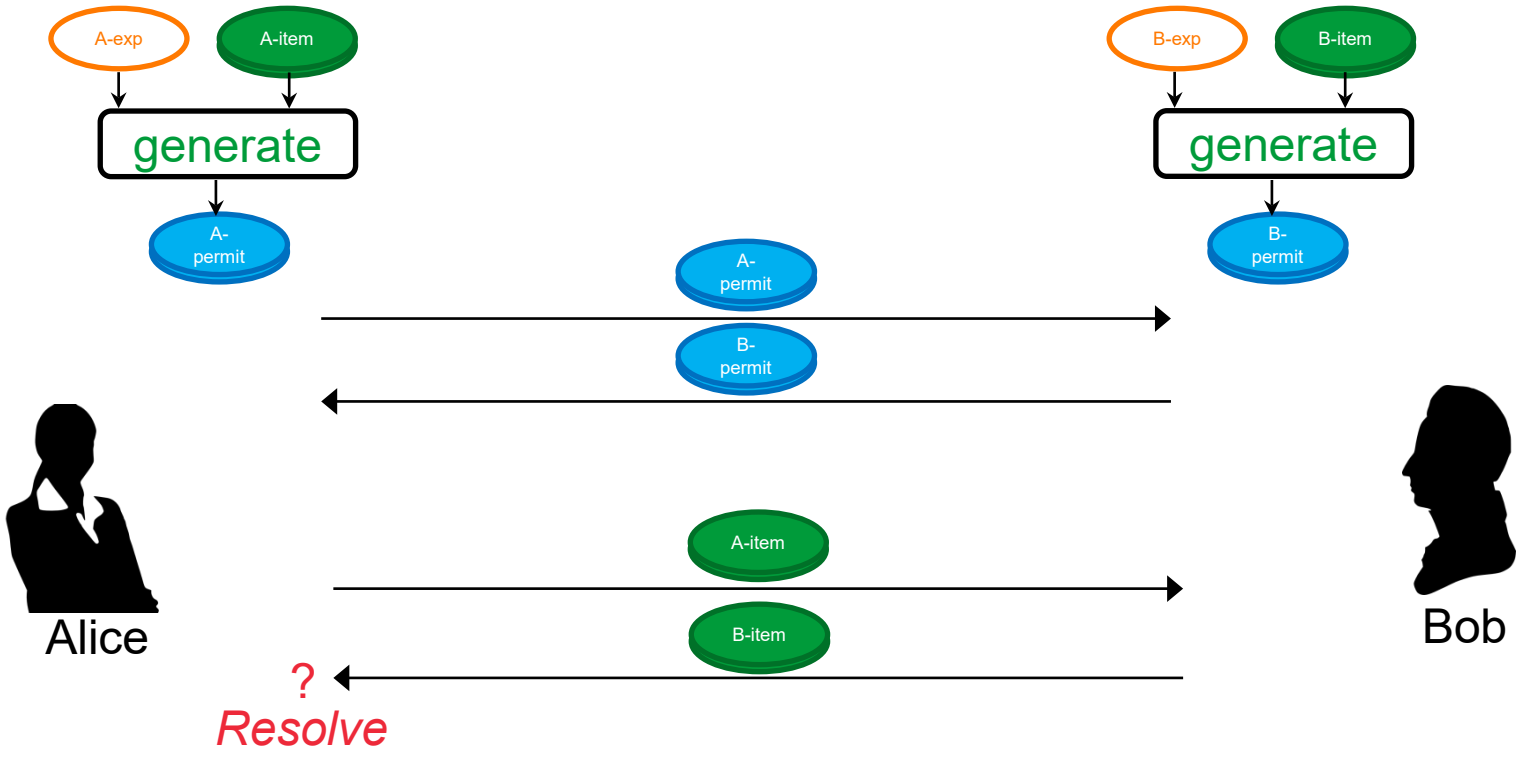
Trusted Third Party protocols

Fair Exchange: design choices

- Common case: both *want to* complete the exchange
  - design protocol that is efficient for the common case
  - but allows recovery in case of exceptions

- Requirements
  - Effectiveness
  - Fairness
  - Timeliness
  - (Non-invasive)

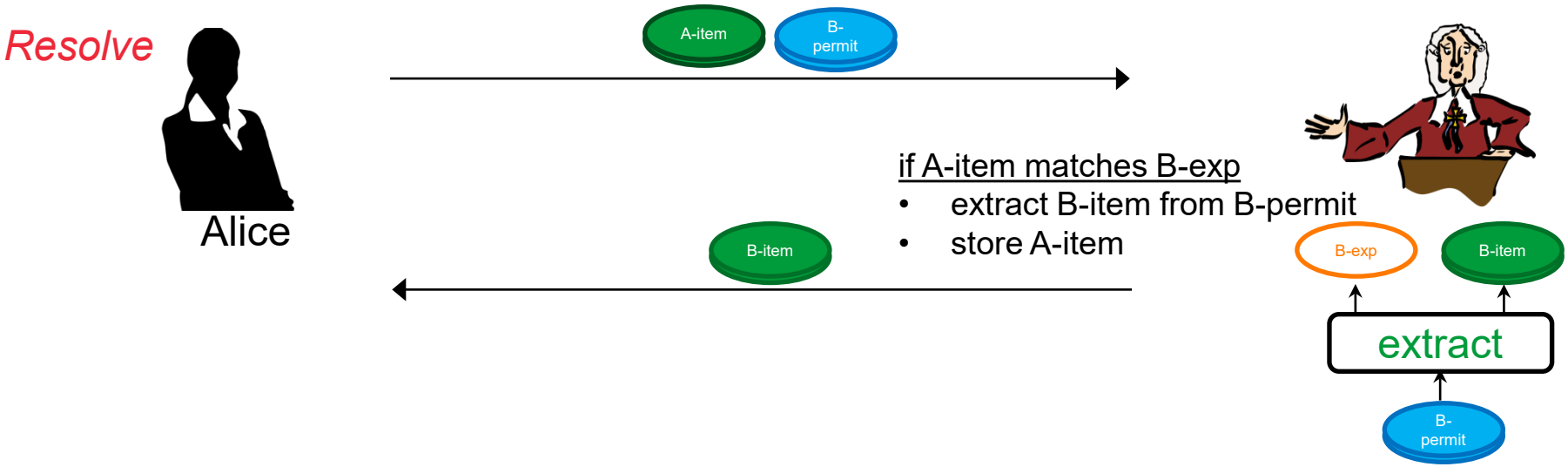
Optimistic Fair Exchange



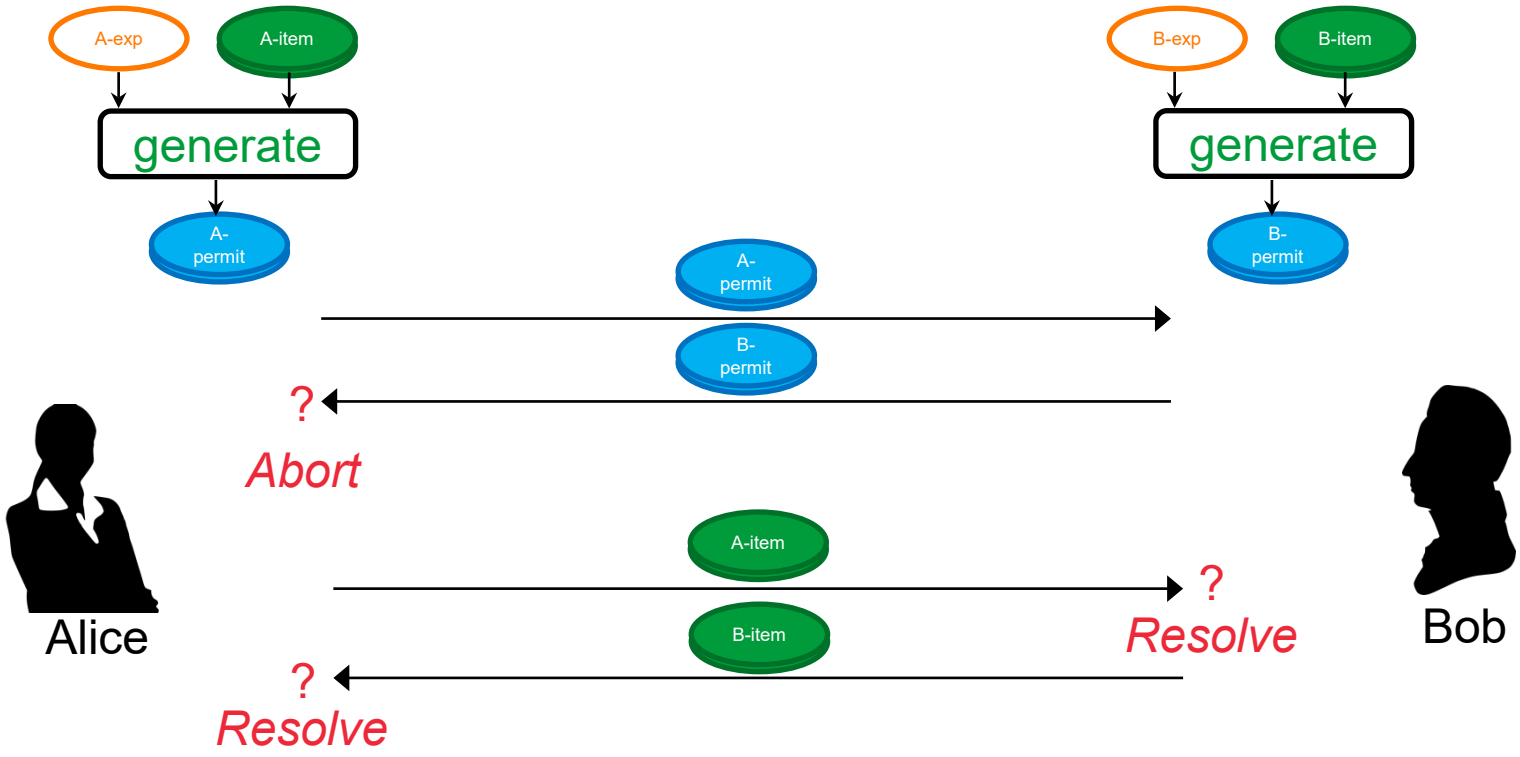
SEMPER

http://www.semper.org/
https://web.archive.org/web/20200627000350/http://www.semper.org/
https://semper.schunter.org/

Optimistic Fair Exchange: Recovery



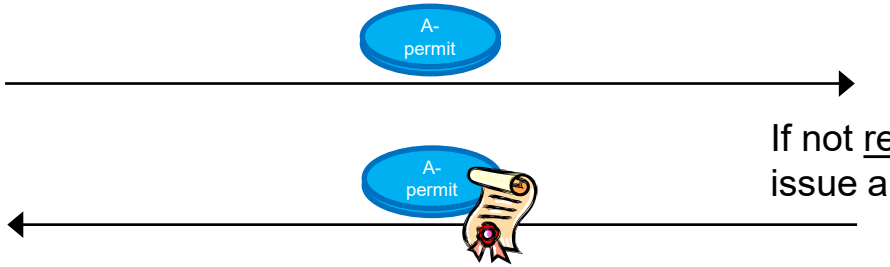
Optimistic Fair Exchange



Optimistic Fair Exchange: Recovery

Abort

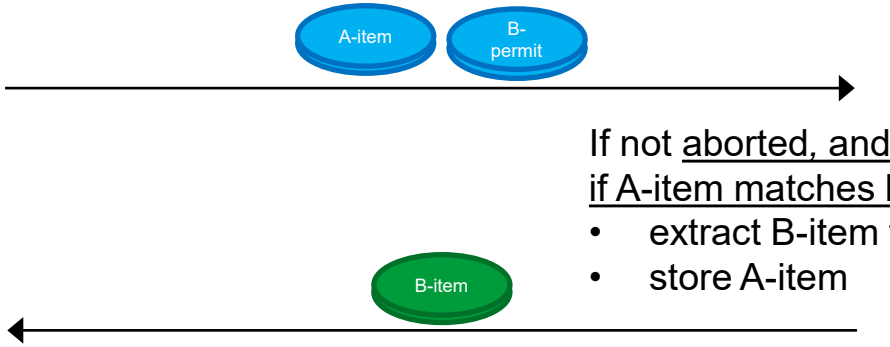
Alice



If not resolved,
issue abort token

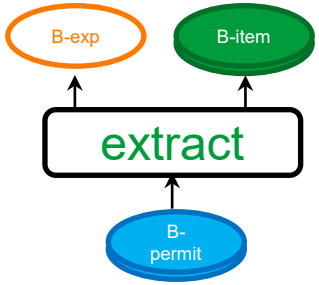
Resolve

Alice



If not aborted, and
if A-item matches B-exp

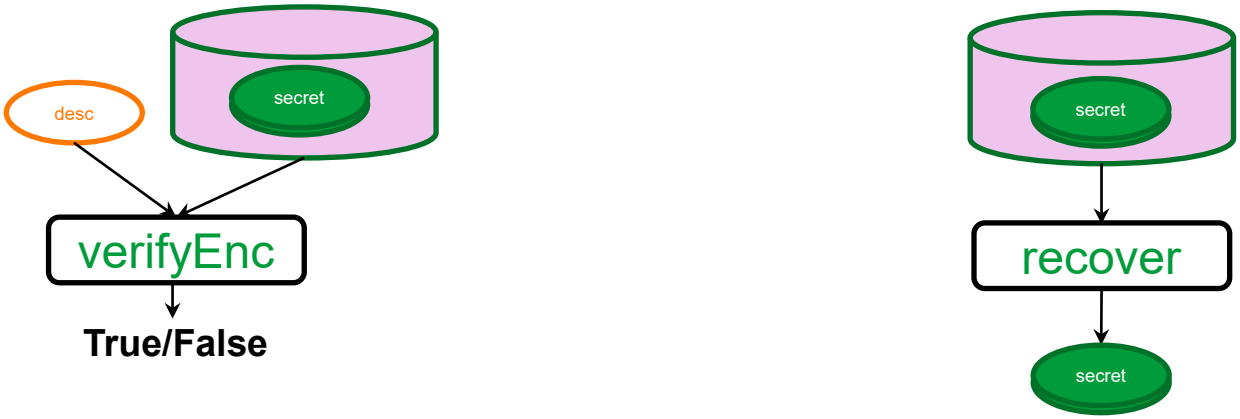
- extract B-item from B-permit
- store A-item



Resolve for Bob is similar

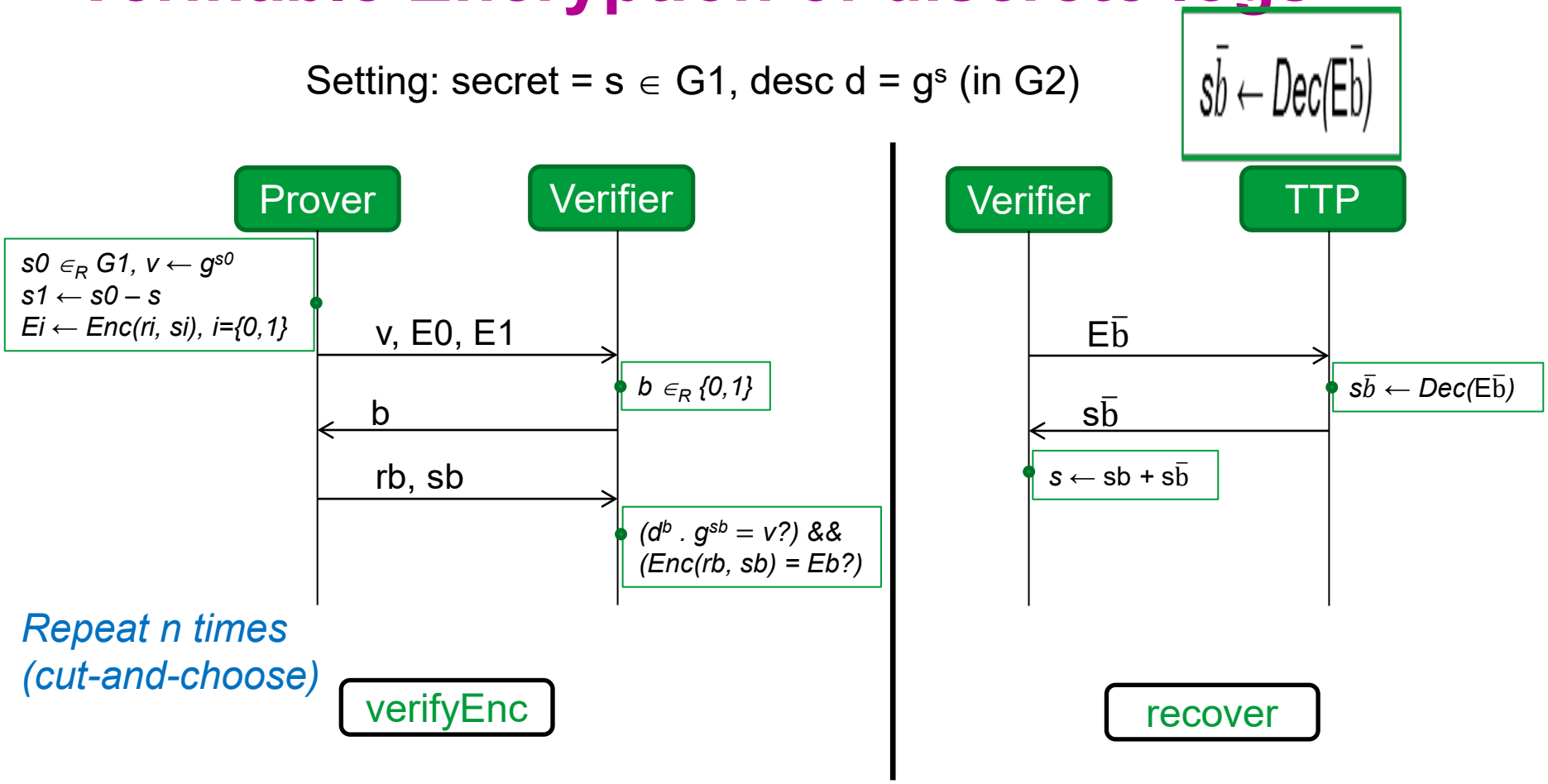
Verifiable Encryption

Analogy - jewelry in a glass box: can see but can't touch



Verifiable Encryption of discrete logs

Setting: secret = s $\in$ G1, desc d = g^s (in G2)



From Verifiable Encryptions to Permits

[ASW97] "Optimistic Protocols for Fair Exchange", ACM CCS '97
[ASW98] "Asynchronous Protocols for Optimistic Fair Exchange", IEEE S&P '98
[ASW00] "Optimistic Fair Exchange of Digital Signatures", JSAC 18(4): 593-610 (2000)

Optimistic Fair Exchange: the aftermath

- Someone has to run the Third Party
  - Wants to monetize *every* transaction!

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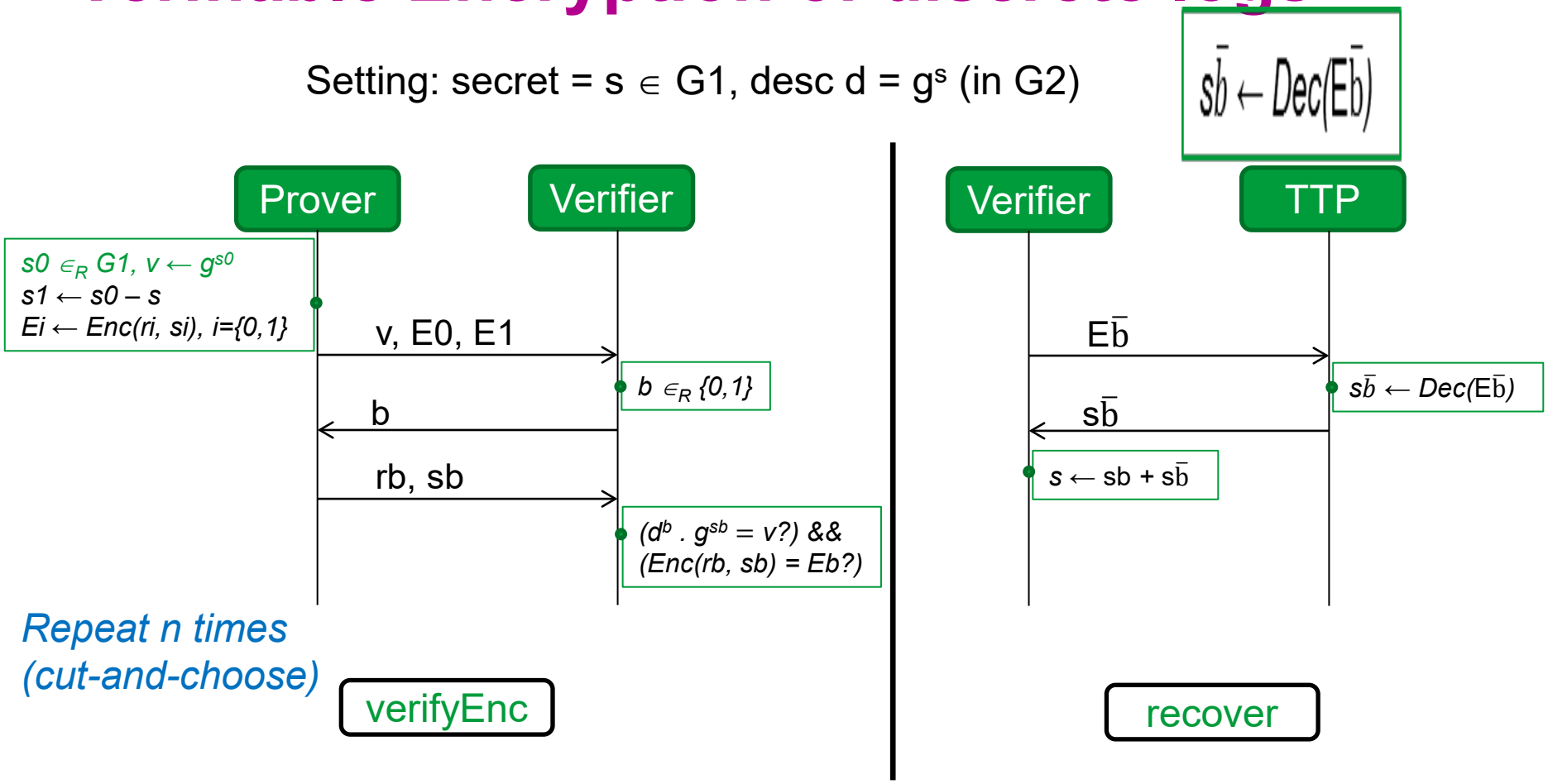
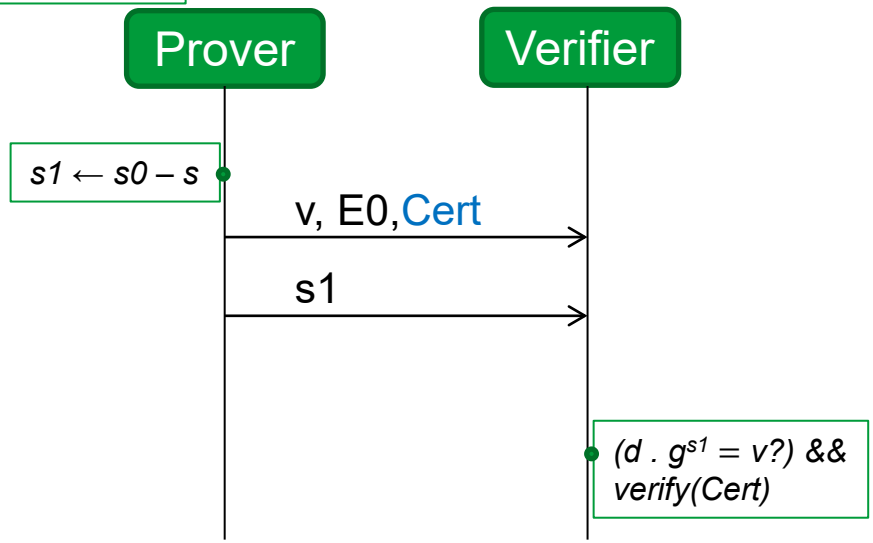


Verifiable Encryption of discrete logs

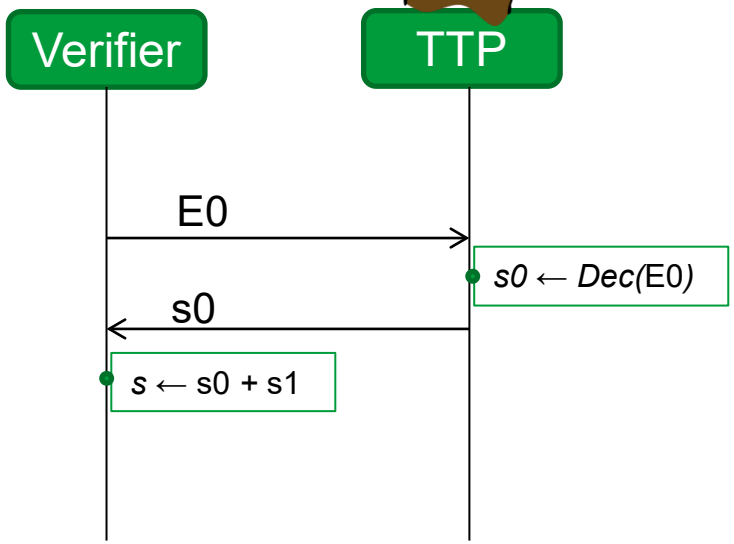
$s0 \in_R G1$, $v \leftarrow g^{s0}$
$E0 \leftarrow Enc(r0, s0)$
$Cert \leftarrow Sig_{TTP}(v, E0)$

Setting: secret = $s \in G1$, desc $d = g^s$ (in G2)



~~Repeat n times~~
~~(cut-and-choose)~~

verifyEnc



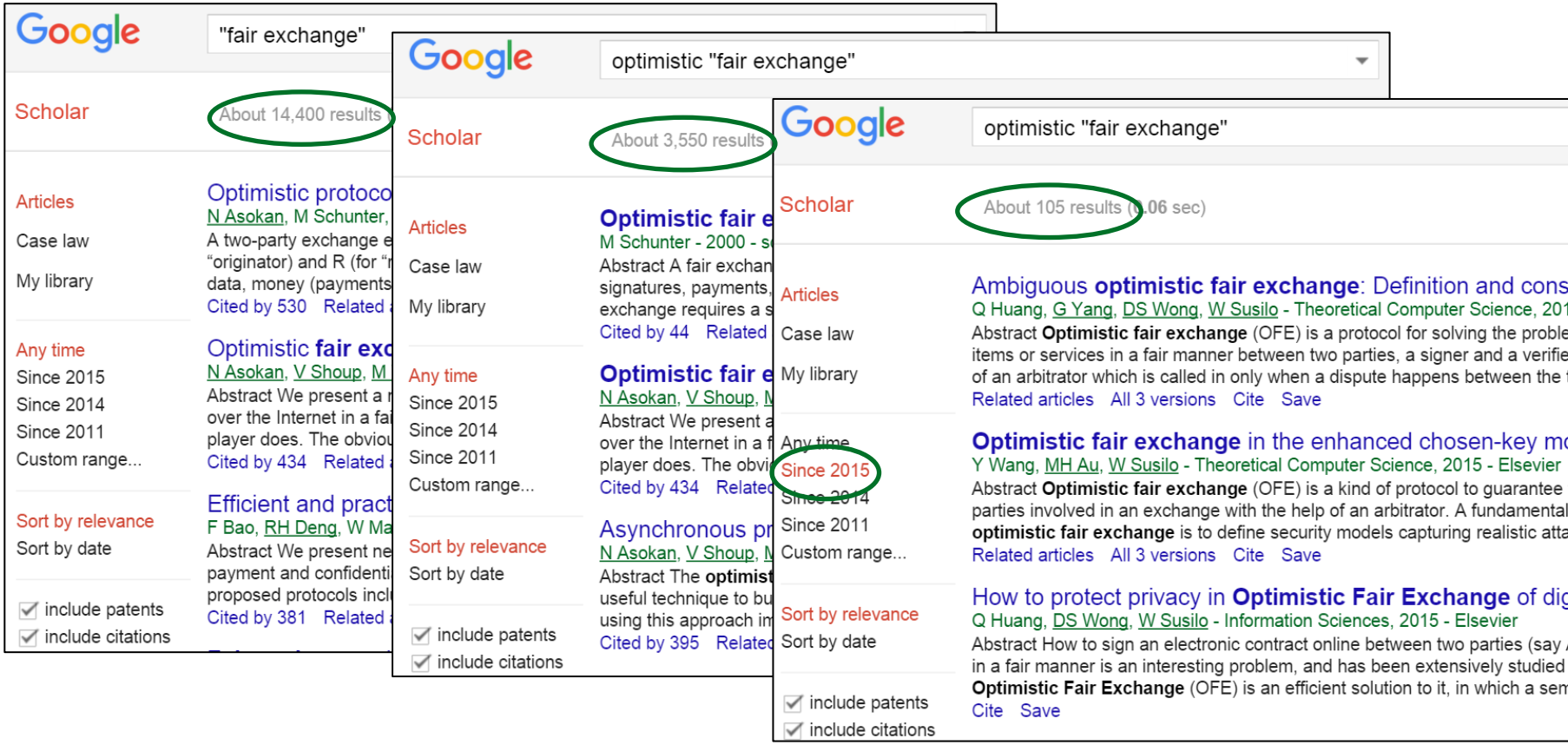
recover

Pre-paid coupons bought from the TTP to be used for every optimistic transaction!

Optimistic Fair Exchange: the aftermath

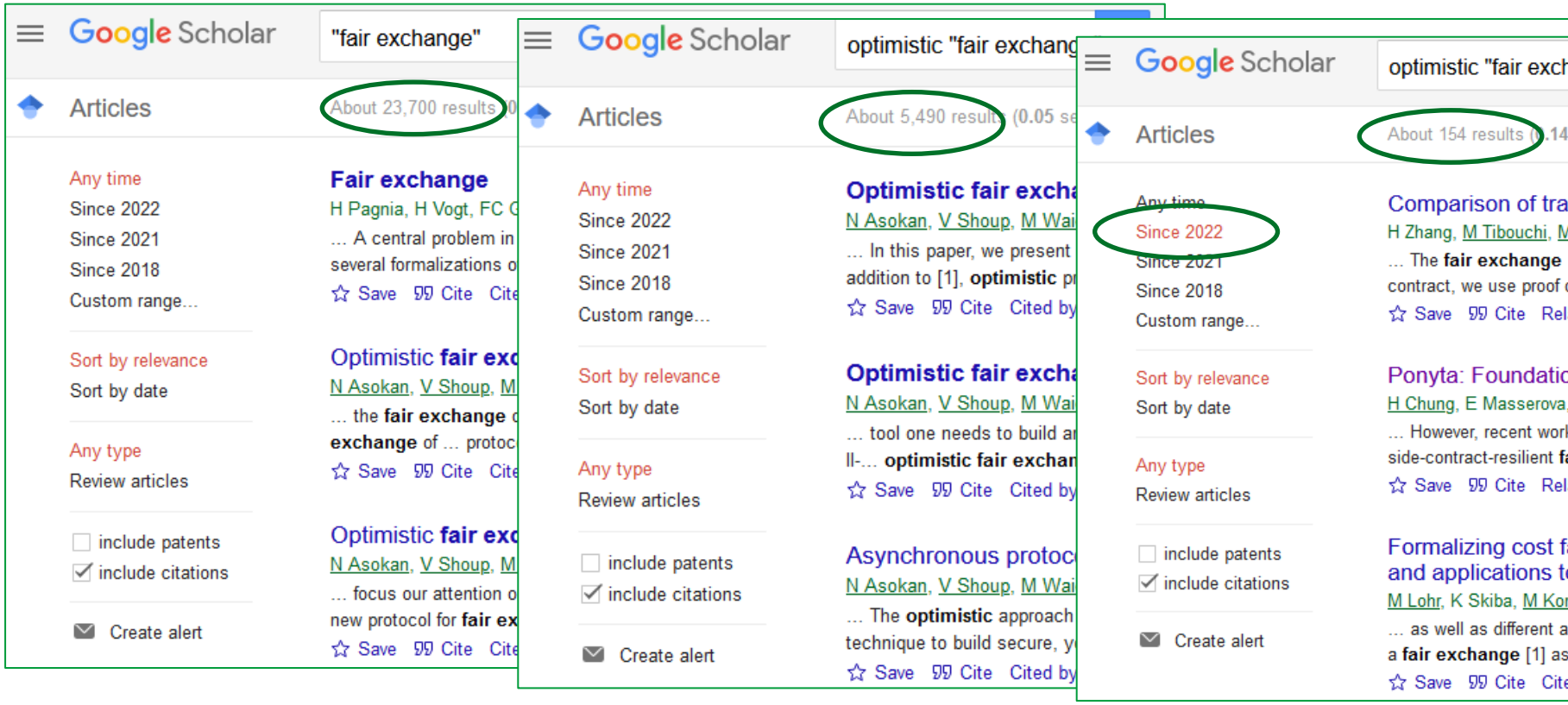
- Someone has to run the Third Party
  - Wants to monetize *every* transaction!
- Two decades on, current status:
  - Reputation systems
  - In-line TTP (e.g., E-bay escrow service)

Continuing “impact” in research circles!



Autumn 2015

Continuing “impact” in research circles!



Nov 2022

Optimistic Fair Exchange: the aftermath

- Someone has to run the Third Party
  - Wants to monetize *every* transaction!
- Two decades on, current status:
  - Reputation systems
  - In-line TTP (e.g., E-bay escrow service)
- Impact in academia vs. real world impact
- Biggest impact of SEMPER?

http://logging.apache.org/log4j/2.x/

Optimistic fair exchange - recap

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  - Exchange “permits” (e.g., in the form of verifiable escrows) first
  - If the actual exchange fails, take the permits to a third party to recover fairness
- But service providers want to monetize every exchange
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- Still no deployment, but lots of citations
  - Renewed interest in the blockchain payment setting

Optimistic Fair Exchange: lessons learned

- Don’t just guess security requirements; Ask stakeholders
- Desiderata for deployment and research can be different
  - “the more (independent) parties you require for your scheme, the less likely it will be deployed”
- Capturing researcher interest $\not\rightarrow$ (Tech transfer) Impact
- “90-10 rule” applies to deploying security
  - “Good enough beats perfect”

Five examples

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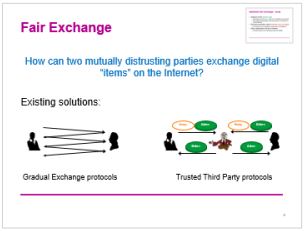
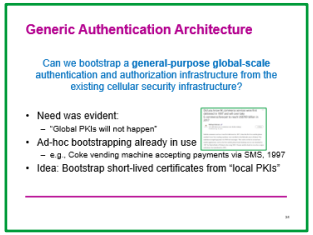
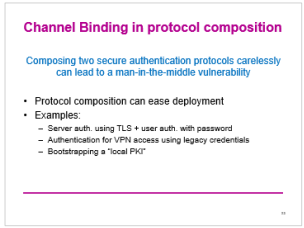
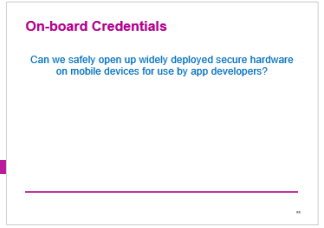
- Channel Binding in Protocol Composition
- Secure Device Pairing
- On-board Credentials







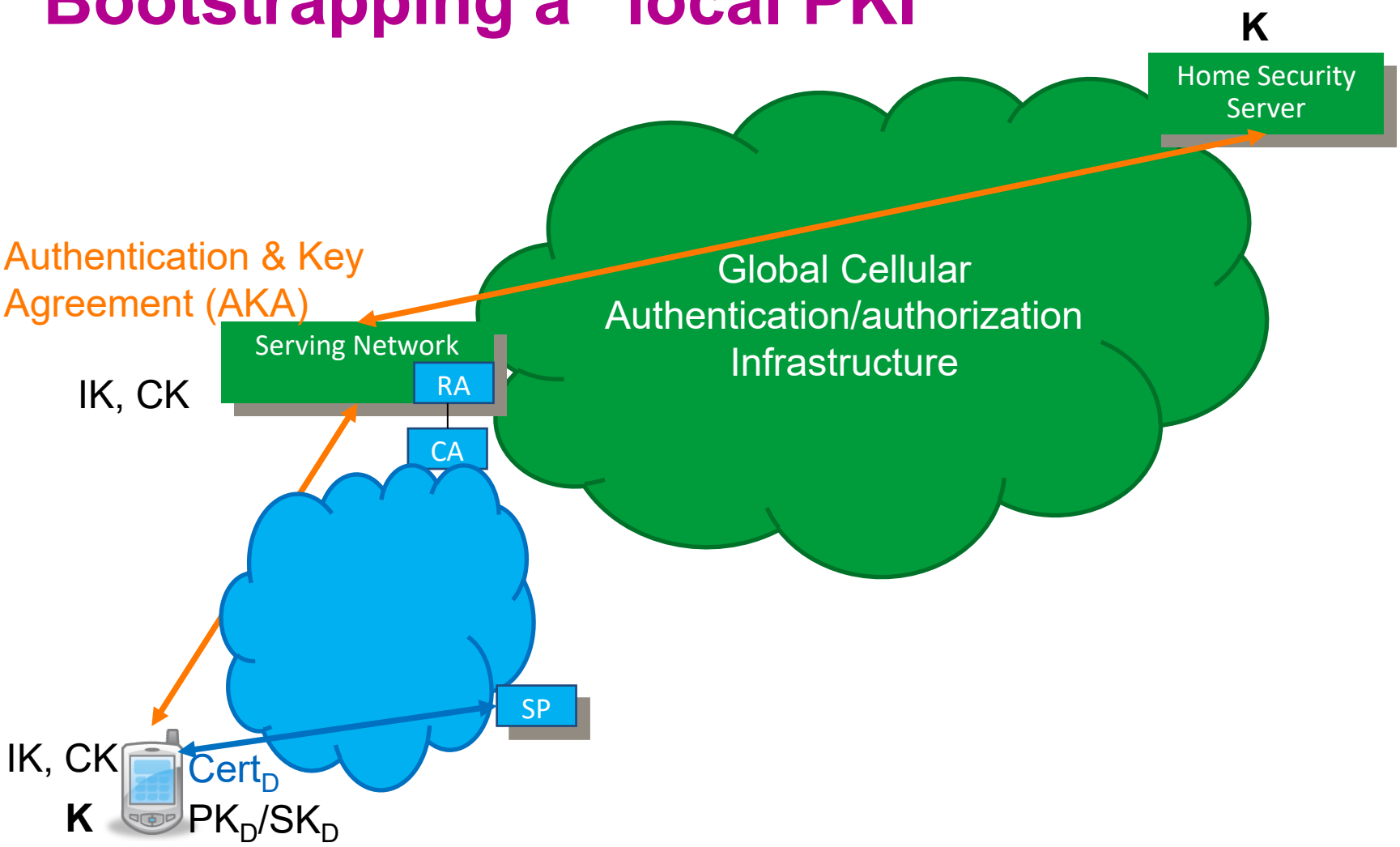


Generic Authentication Architecture

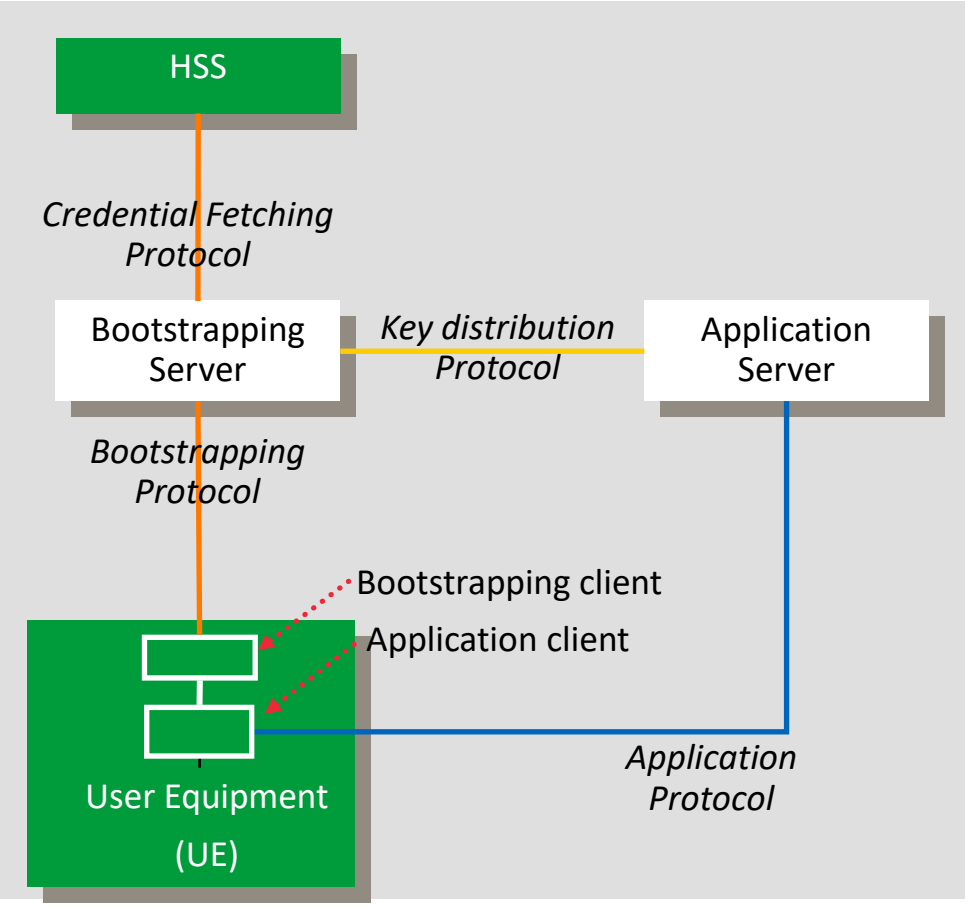
Can we bootstrap a **general-purpose global-scale** authentication and authorization infrastructure from the existing cellular security infrastructure?

- Need was evident:
  - "Global PKIs will not happen"
- Ad-hoc bootstrapping already in use
  - e.g., Coke vending machine accepting payments via SMS, 1997
- Idea: Bootstrap short-lived certificates from "local PKIs"

Bootstrapping a “local PKI”



3GPP "Generic Authentication Architecture"



Two-layer architecture

- Generic Bootstrapping Architecture (GBA)
- Specialized Application Servers
  - E.g., for "subscriber certificates"

[HLGNA08] "Cellular Authentication for Mobile and Internet Services", Wiley, 2008
Relevant 3GPP documents: E.g., [33.919], [33.220]

GAA: the aftermath

- Standardized in 3GPP
  - Variants: GBA and GBA_U (implemented in the smartcard, UICC)
  - GBA productized for some services
    - none of which has taken off (e.g., Mobile TV), at least not yet!
  - Revived in 5G "Authentication and key management for applications" (AKMA)
- Today's solutions:
  - Bootstrapping: Facebook, Google, …
    - Some mobile carriers even deployed PKI-enabled SIM cards
  - Roaming: iPass, Shibboleth, …
- Variants of the idea had more success
  - E.g., EAP SIM

GAA: lessons learned

- (Standardization) Politics can suffocate a good idea
- (Tech transfer) Impact $\not\rightarrow$ Capturing researcher interest
- “90-10 rule” applies to deploying security

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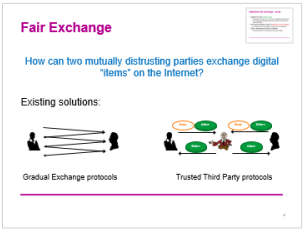
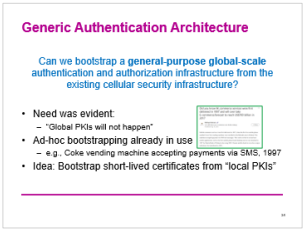
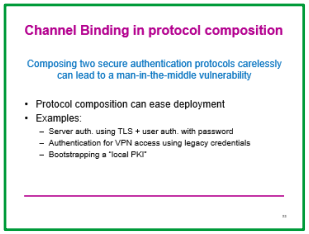
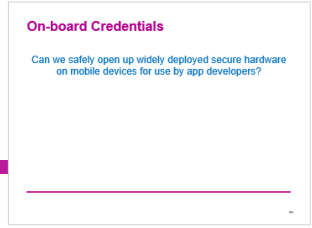






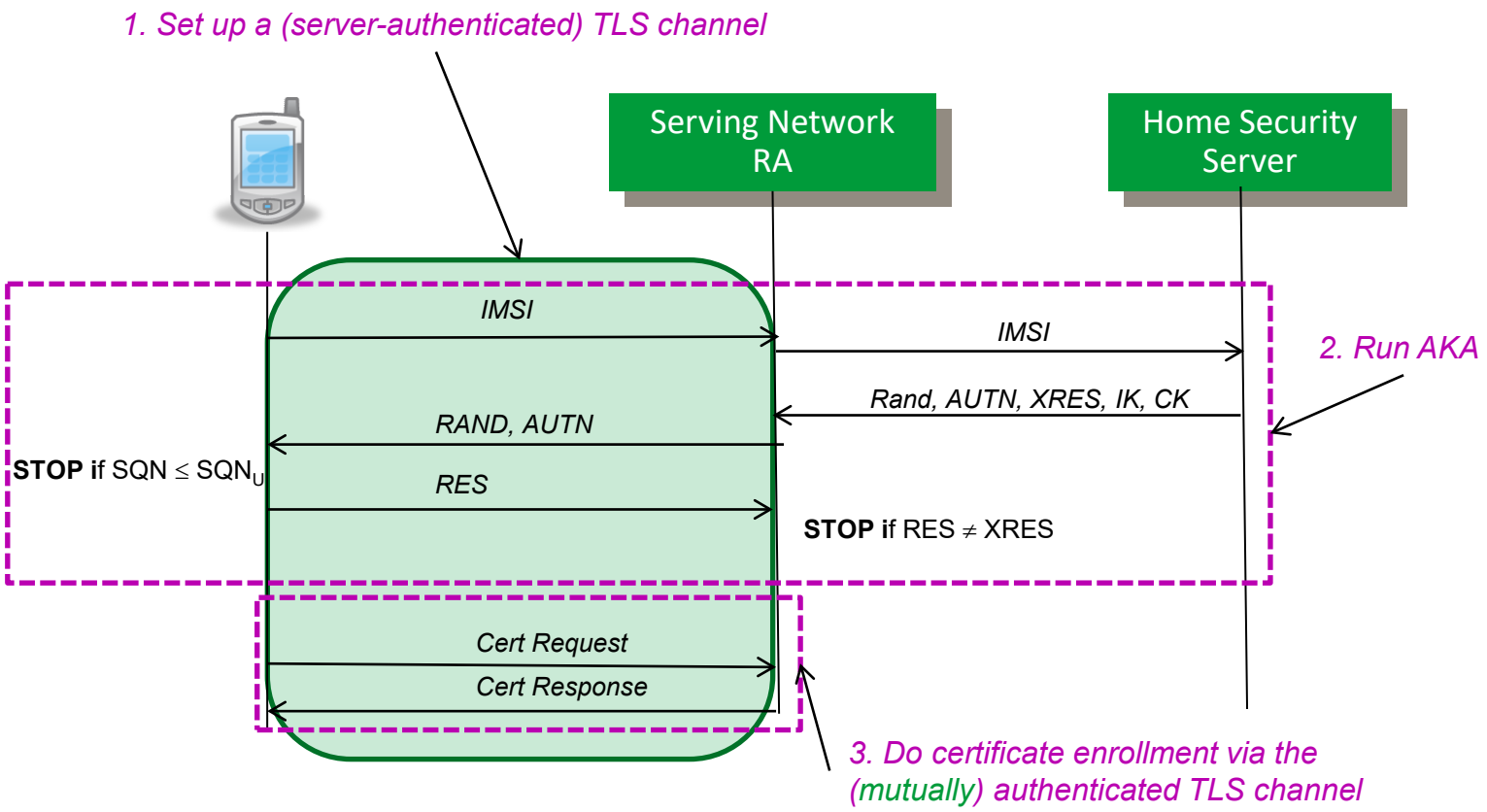


Channel Binding in protocol composition

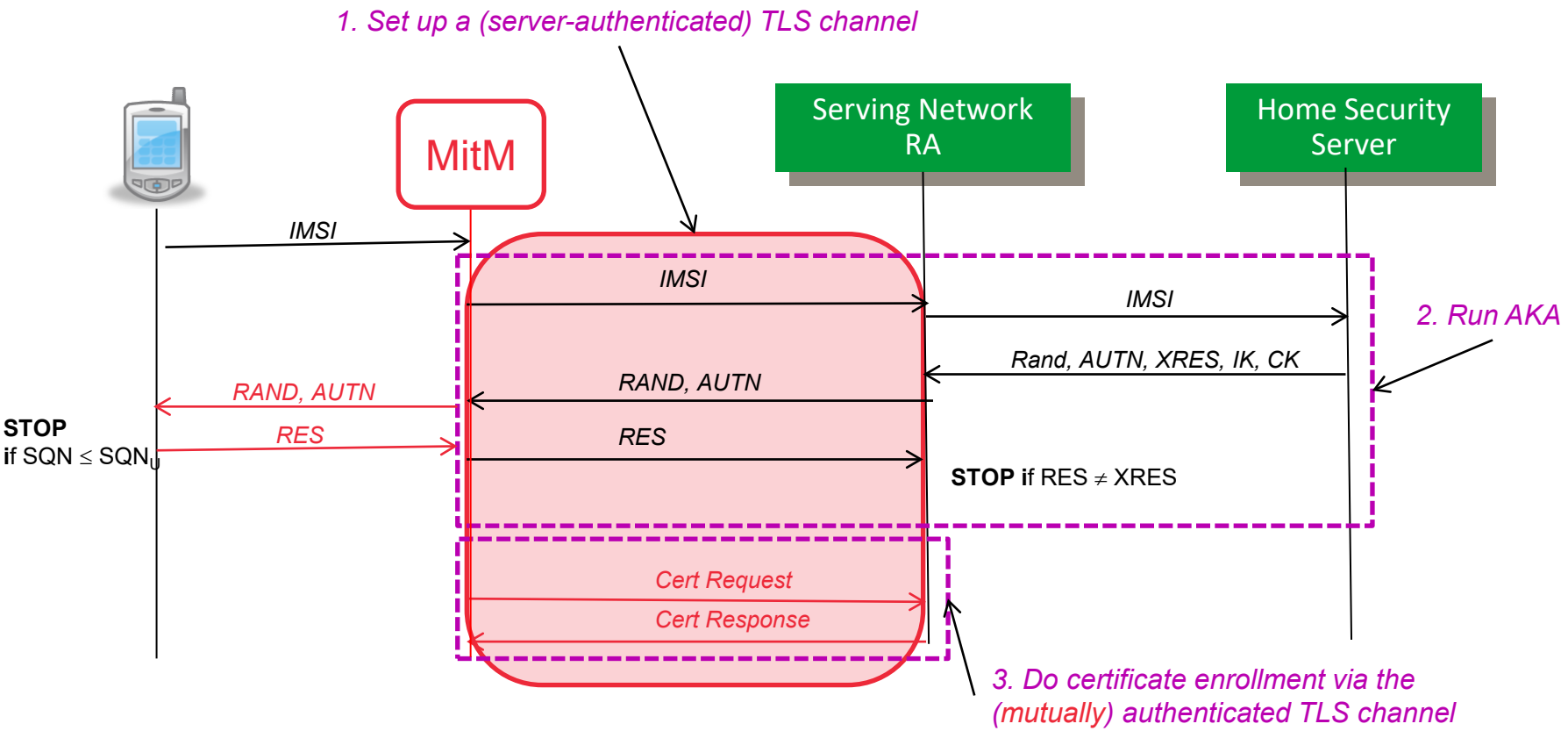
Composing two secure authentication protocols carelessly can lead to a man-in-the-middle vulnerability

- Protocol composition can ease deployment
- Examples:
  - Server auth. using TLS + user auth. with password
  - Authentication for VPN access using legacy credentials
  - Bootstrapping a “local PKI”

Bootstrapping certificate enrollment



Bootstrapping certificate enrollment



Channel binding: Use of **cryptographic binding** to compose two authenticated channels

[ANN03] "Man-in-the-middle in Tunnelled Authentication Protocols", Security Protocols, 2003

Channel binding: the aftermath

- Fiery reception at Security Protocols workshop!
  - "But you are using the worst rackets in industry as a justification for what you're doing. There are all sorts of people just generating garbage protocols, a couple of which you have already mentioned here. We're trying to reverse their work, whereas you're trying to advocate we use all these garbage protocols."
  - For an entertaining read, see transcript of discussion during my talk at SPW '03!
- Impact in IETF
  - Closing down of *ipsra* working group; channel binding in IKEv2
  - Continued attention: e.g., RFC 6813

☐ Man-in-the-middle in tunnelled authentication protocols — 345 — 2003
N Asokan, V Niemi, K Nyberg
International Workshop on Security Protocols, 28-41

Channel Binding: lessons learned

- Negative results are useful for security practitioners
- Standardization can make a good idea see light of day
- (Tech transfer) Impact $\not\rightarrow$ Capturing researcher interest

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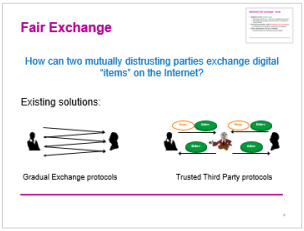
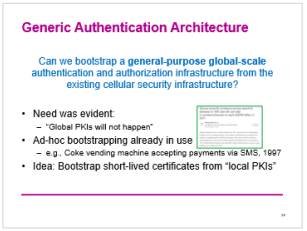
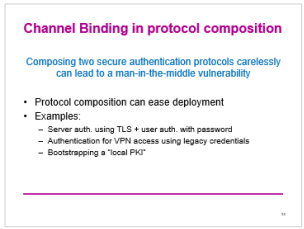
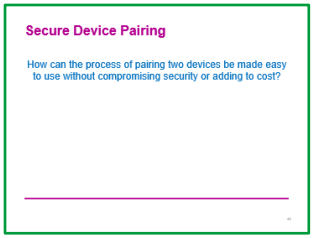
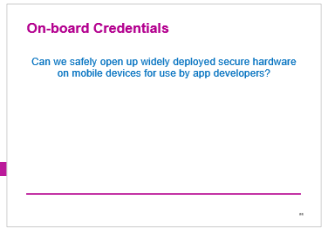






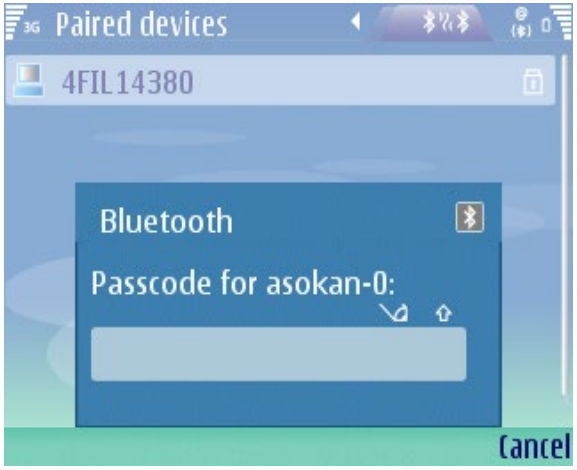


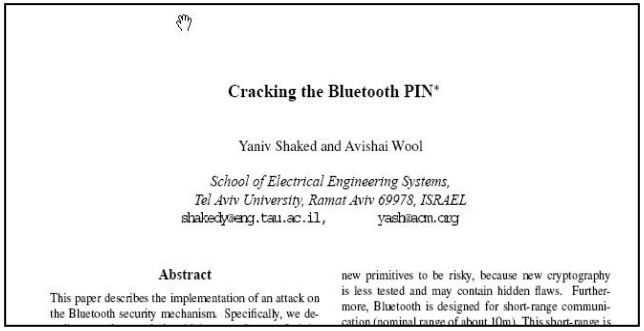


Secure Device Pairing

How can the process of pairing two devices be made easy to use without compromising security or adding to cost?

Secure Device Pairing: ca. 2005





Cracking the Bluetooth PIN*

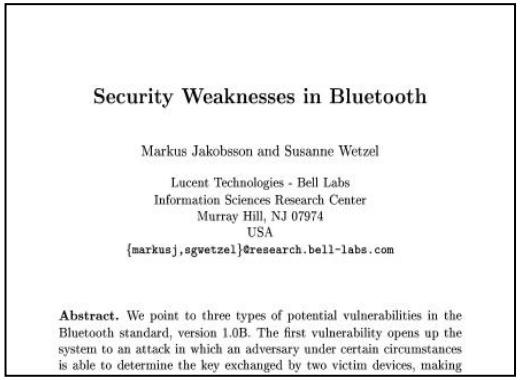
Yaniv Shaked and Avishai Wool

School of Electrical Engineering Systems,
Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv 69978, ISRAEL
shakedy@eng.tau.ac.il, yash@acm.org

Abstract

This paper describes the implementation of an attack on the Bluetooth security mechanism. Specifically, we de-

new primitives to be risky, because new cryptography is less tested and may contain hidden flaws. Furthermore, Bluetooth is designed for short-range communi-



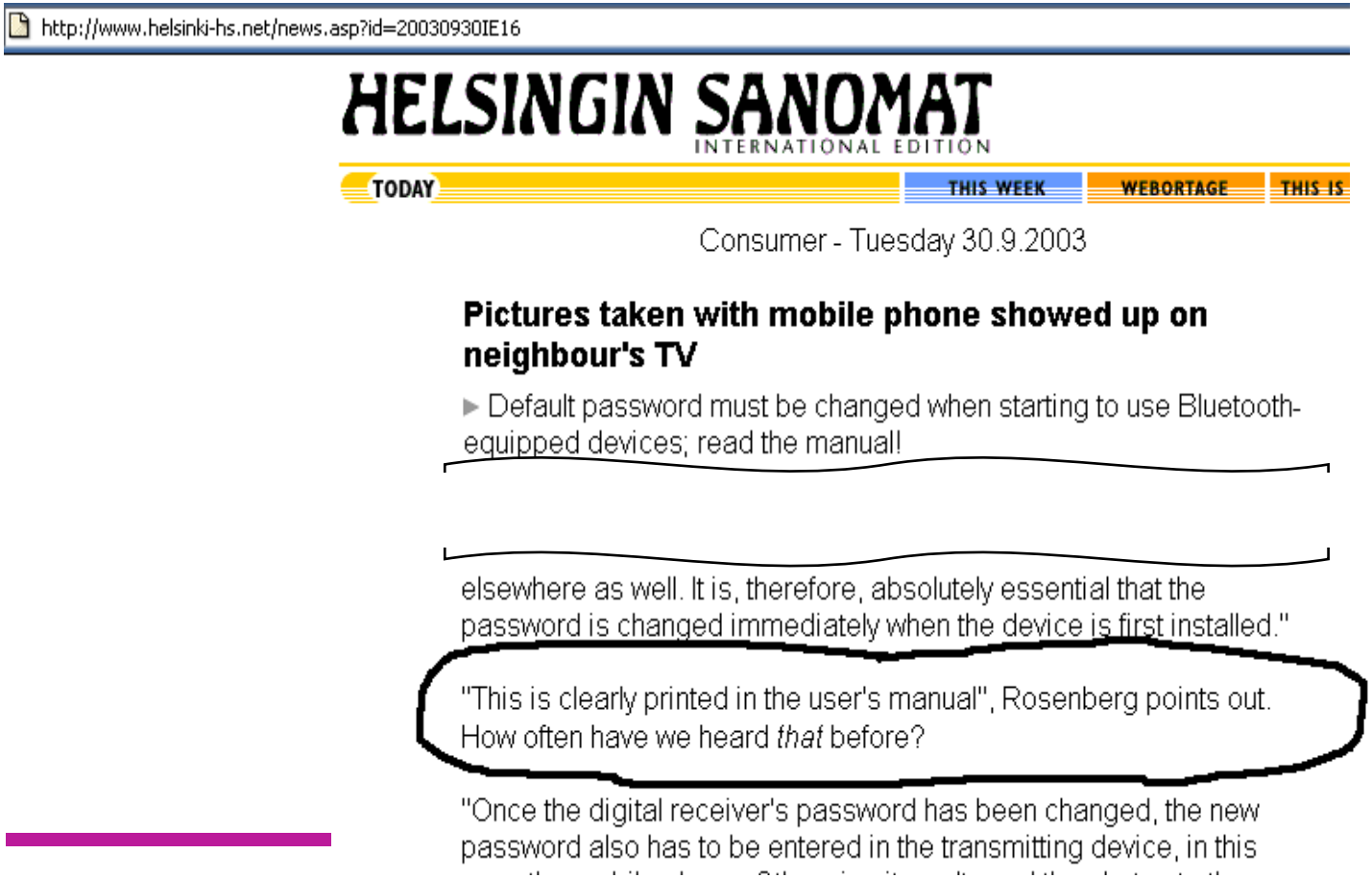
Security Weaknesses in Bluetooth

Markus Jakobsson and Susanne Wetzel

Lucent Technologies - Bell Labs
Information Sciences Research Center
Murray Hill, NJ 07974
USA
{markusj,sgwetzel}@research.bell-labs.com

Abstract. We point to three types of potential vulnerabilities in the Bluetooth standard, version 1.0B. The first vulnerability opens up the system to an attack in which an adversary under certain circumstances is able to determine the key exchanged by two victim devices, making

Naïve usability measures damage security



http://www.helsinki-hs.net/news.asp?id=20030930IE16

HELSINGIN SANOMAT
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

TODAY | THIS WEEK | WEBORTAGE | THIS IS

Consumer - Tuesday 30.9.2003

Pictures taken with mobile phone showed up on neighbour's TV

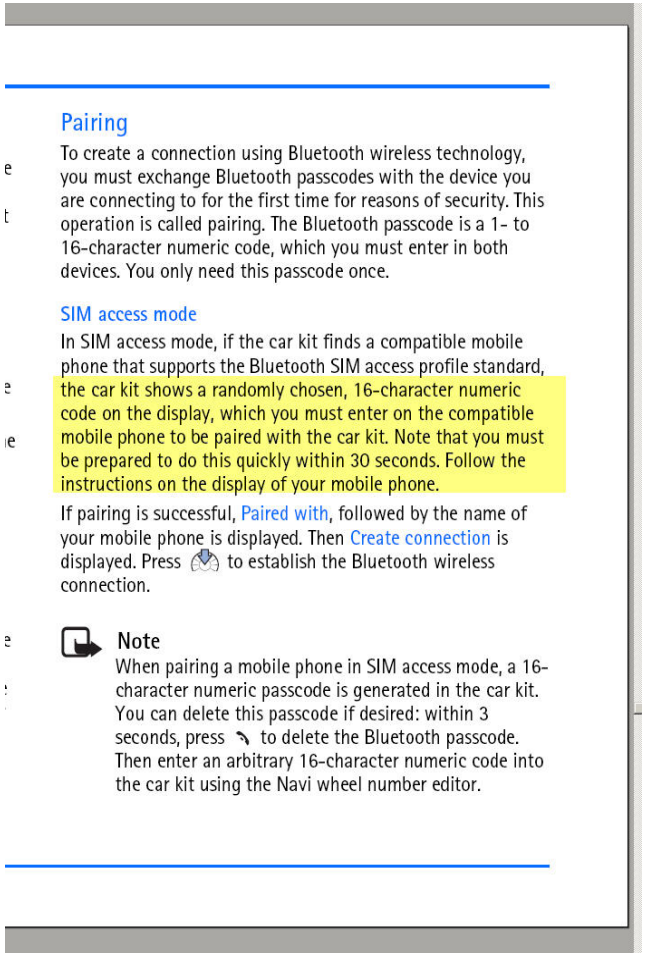
▶ Default password must be changed when starting to use Bluetooth-equipped devices; read the manual!

elsewhere as well. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that the password is changed immediately when the device is first installed."

"This is clearly printed in the user's manual", Rosenberg points out. How often have we heard *that* before?

"Once the digital receiver's password has been changed, the new password also has to be entered in the transmitting device, in this

Naïve security erodes usability



Pairing

To create a connection using Bluetooth wireless technology, you must exchange Bluetooth passcodes with the device you are connecting to for the first time for reasons of security. This operation is called pairing. The Bluetooth passcode is a 1- to 16-character numeric code, which you must enter in both devices. You only need this passcode once.

SIM access mode

In SIM access mode, if the car kit finds a compatible mobile phone that supports the Bluetooth SIM access profile standard, the car kit shows a randomly chosen, 16-character numeric code on the display, which you must enter on the compatible mobile phone to be paired with the car kit. Note that you must be prepared to do this quickly within 30 seconds. Follow the instructions on the display of your mobile phone.

If pairing is successful, Paired with, followed by the name of your mobile phone is displayed. Then Create connection is displayed. Press to establish the Bluetooth wireless connection.

Note

When pairing a mobile phone in SIM access mode, a 16-character numeric passcode is generated in the car kit. You can delete this passcode if desired: within 3 seconds, press to delete the Bluetooth passcode. Then enter an arbitrary 16-character numeric code into the car kit using the Navi wheel number editor.

Car kits

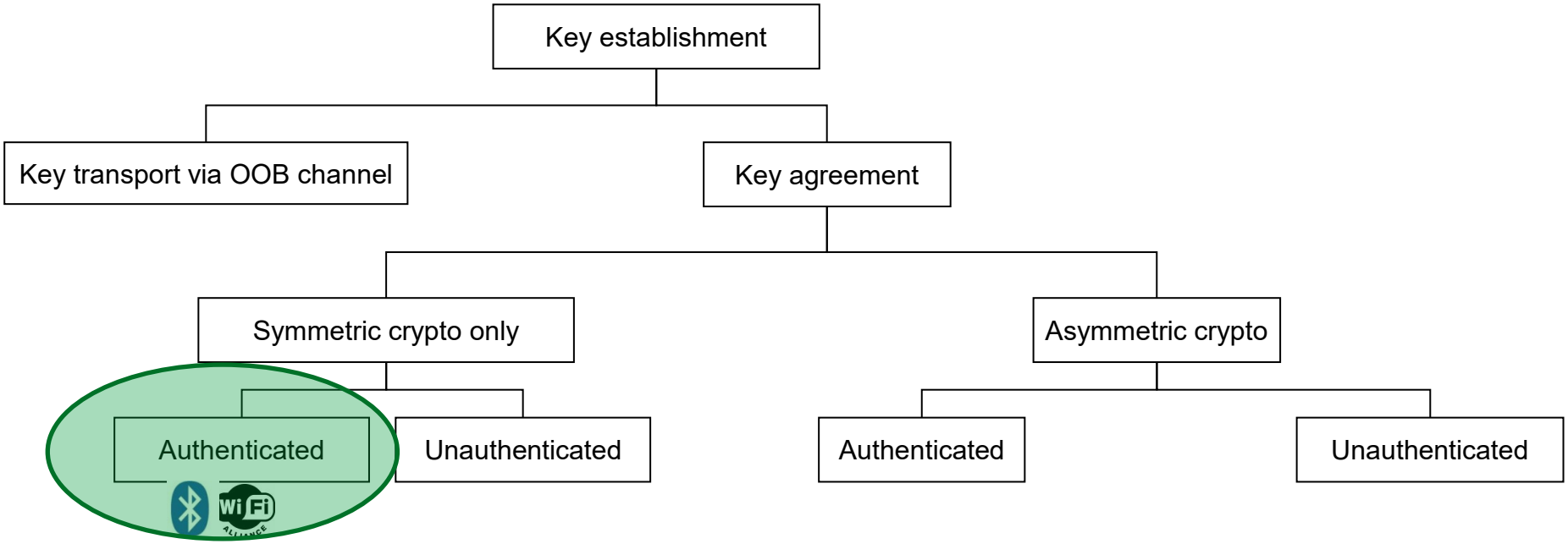
- Allow hands-free phone usage in cars
- Retrieve/use session keys from phone SIM
- require higher level of security

➢ users must enter 16-character passcodes

More secure = Harder to use?

Cost:
Calls to Customer

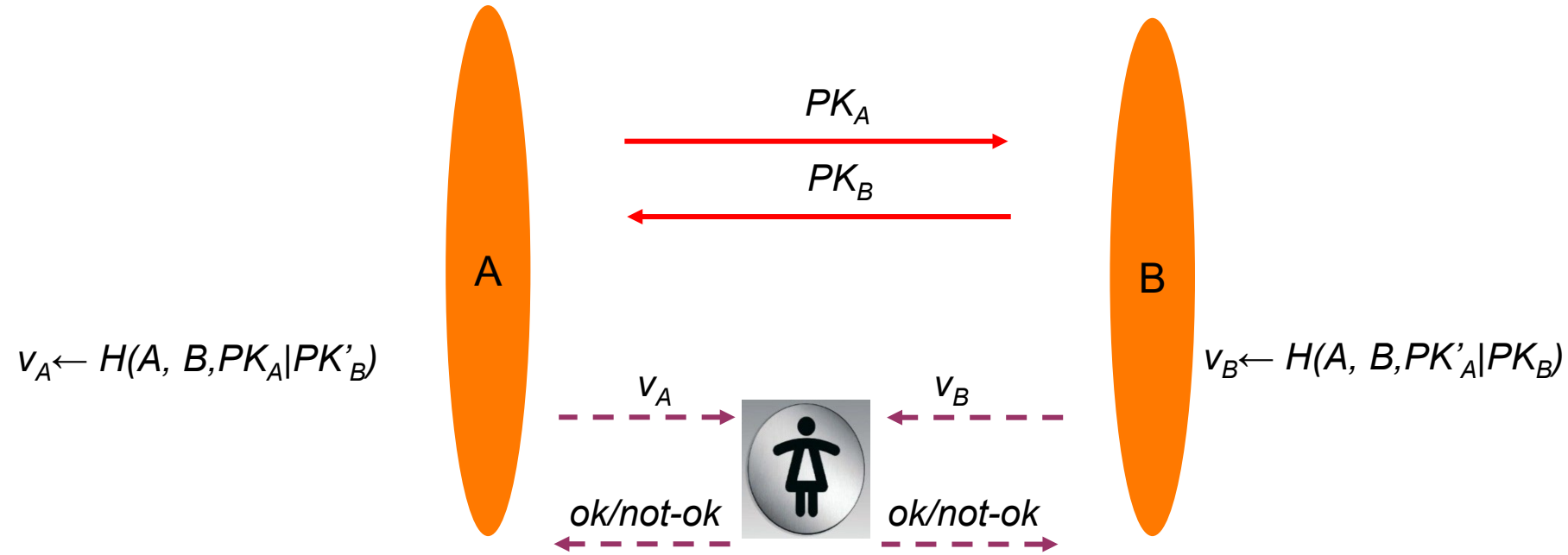
Key establishment for secure pairing ~2005



Short keys vulnerable to passive attackers

Secure against passive attackers

Authentication by comparing short strings

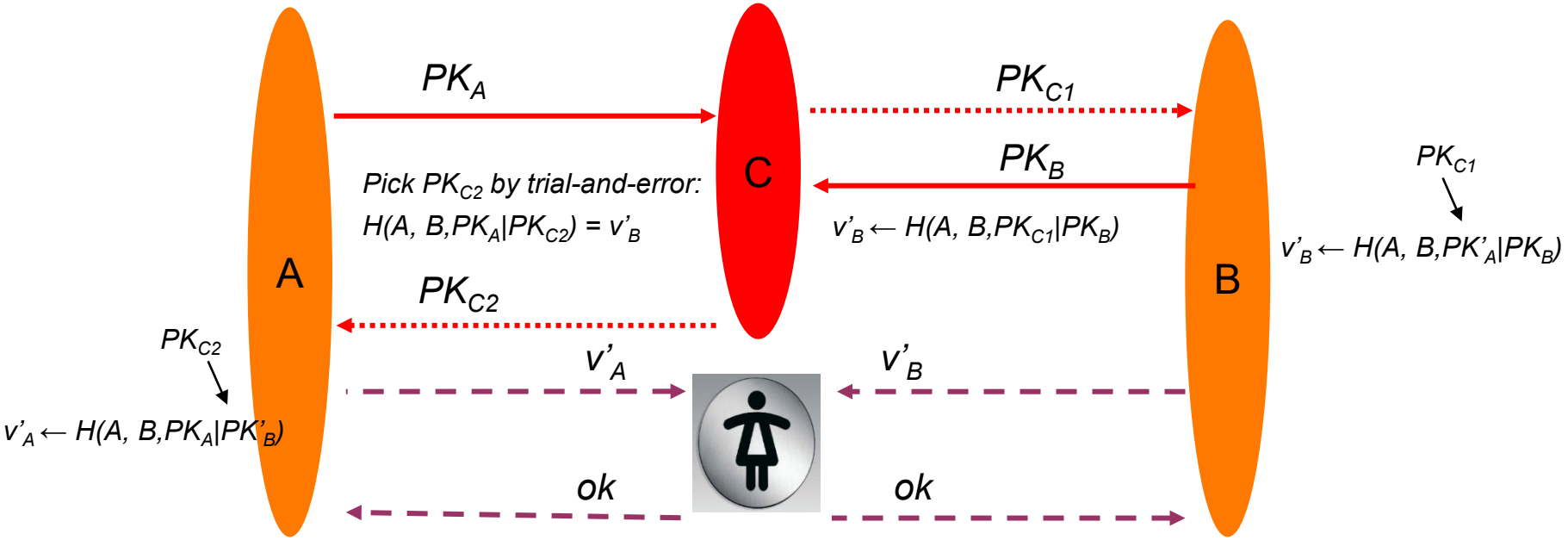


v_A and v_B are short strings (e.g., 4 digits),

User approves acceptance if v_A and v_B match

A man-in-the-middle can easily defeat this protocol

MitM in comparing short strings

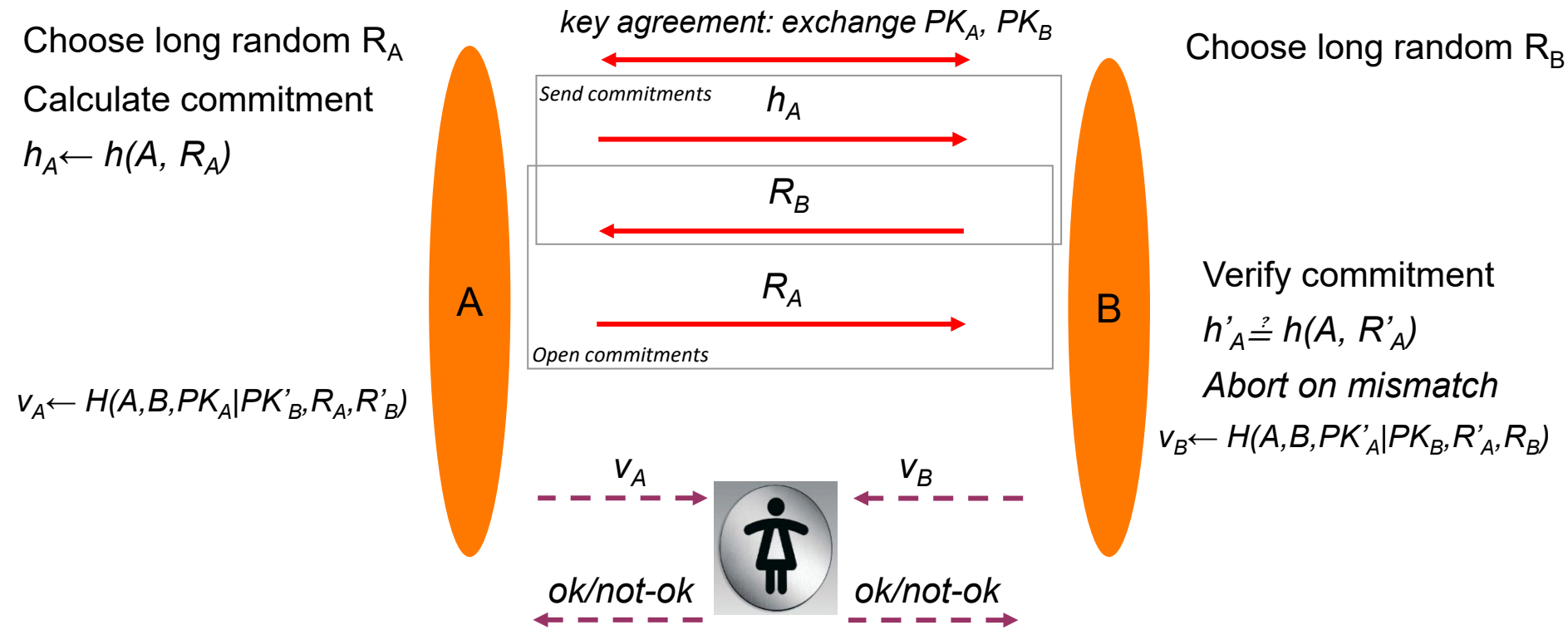


Guess a value SK_{C2}/PK_{C2} until $H(A, B, PK_A|PK_{C2}) = v'_B$

If v'_B is n digits, attacker needs at most 10^n guesses; Each guess costs one hash calculation

A typical modern PC can calculate 100000 MACs in 1 second

Authentication by comparing short strings



User approves acceptance if v_A and v_B match

2^{-l} ("unconditional") security against man-in-the-middle (l is the length of v_A and v_B)

h() is a hiding commitment; in practice SHA-256

[LAN05] MANA IV, IACR report; [LN06] CANS '06

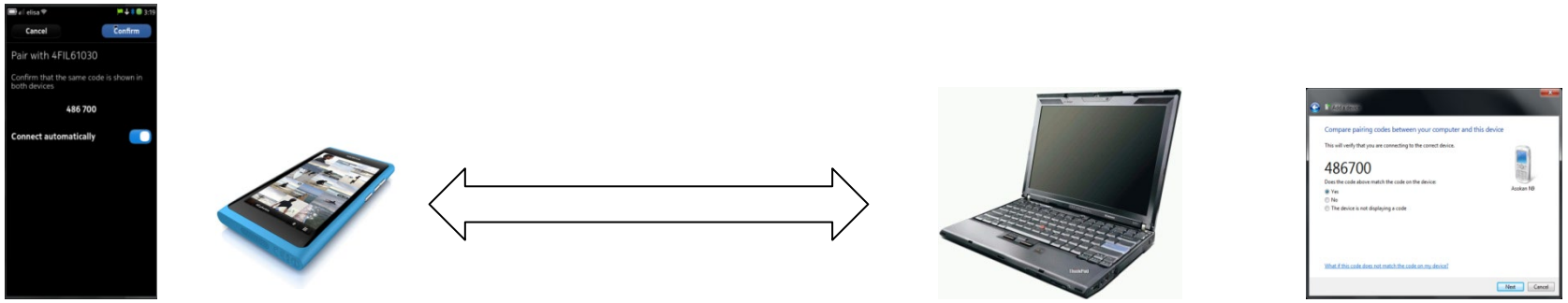
Key establishment for secure pairing ~2008

	Unauthenticated Diffie-Hellman	Authenticated Diffie-Hellman		
		short-string comparison	short PIN	Out-of-band channel
WiFi Protected Setup	"Push-button"		√	NFC
Bluetooth 2.1	"Just-works"	√	√	NFC
Wireless USB		√		USB Cable

[AN10] "Security associations for wireless devices" (Overview, book chapter)
[SVA09] "Standards for security associations in personal networks: a comparative analysis" IJSN 4(1/2):87-100 (survey of standards)

Secure Pairing: the aftermath

- Widely deployed (Bluetooth SSP, WiFi Protected Setup)
- **Improving usability/security → fundamental protocol changes**



[UKA07] "Usability Analysis of Secure Pairing Methods", USEC '07
[SEKA06] "Secure device pairing based on a visual channel", IEEE S&P '06

Secure Device Pairing: lessons learned

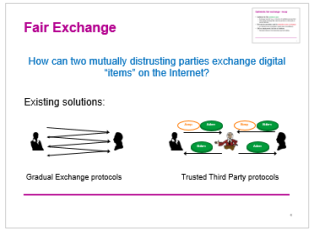
- Address pain points - builds credibility with stakeholders
- Don’t just guess security requirements; Ask stakeholders
- Desiderata for deployment and research can be different
- Standardization can make a good idea see light of day

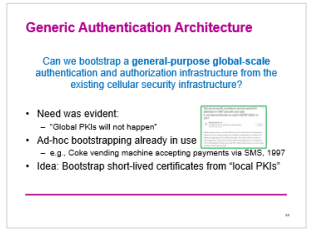
The remaining examples

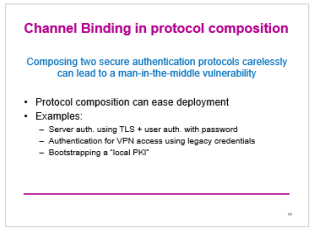
- On-board Credentials
  - How to make hardware TEEs safely accessible to developers? (Deployments in Nokia devices, but quietly!)

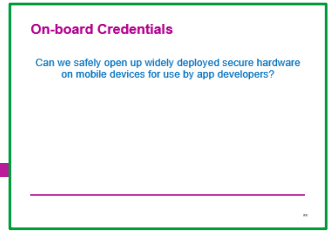
Five examples

- Optimistic Fair Exchange
- Generic Authentication Architecture
- Channel Binding in Protocol Composition
- Secure Device Pairing
- On-board Credentials









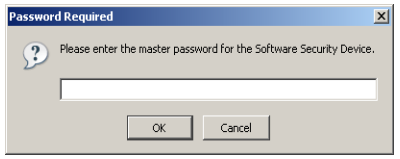
On-board Credentials

Can we safely open up widely deployed secure hardware on mobile devices for use by app developers?

Authentication on the Internet

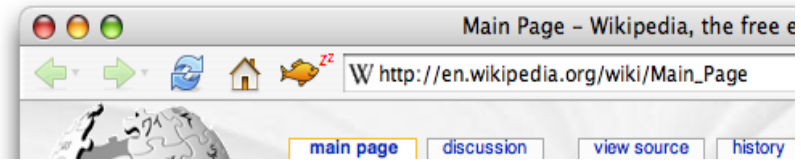
Username/password rules the Internet

- Cheap, easy-to-deploy, portable
- Annoying, vulnerable (phishing, dictionary attacks, password-stealing trojans…)



Attempts to improve usability and security

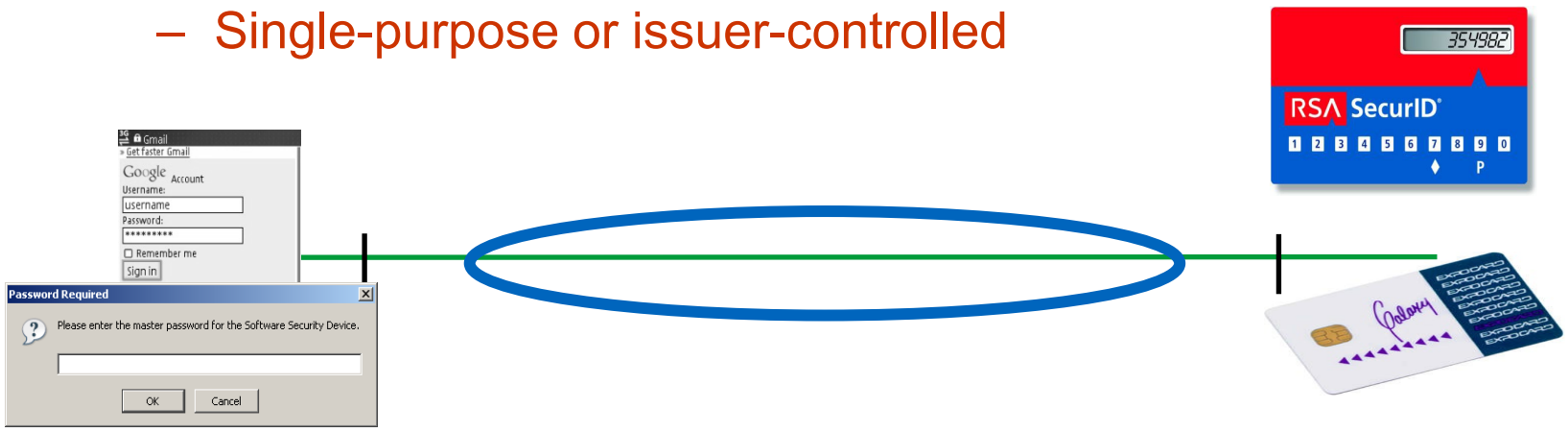
- Password-managers
- Single Sign-On
- Better protocols



Hardware tokens

Deployed for specific-services

- More secure, sometimes more intuitive
- More expensive, usually no trusted path to user,
- Single-purpose or issuer-controlled



SW-only credentials

HW credentials

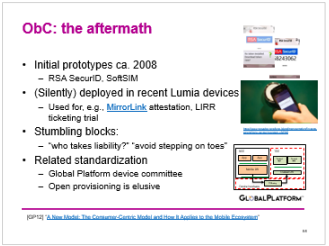
Trusted hardware is widely deployed

- Trusted Execution Environments on smartphones have been available for years
  - Introduced for manufacturer and operator needs
  - Not accessible for app developers

TrustZone®
Security Foundation by ARM®

[EKA14] "The Untapped Potential of Trusted Execution Environments on Mobile Devices", IEEE S&P Magazine, Jul-Aug 2014

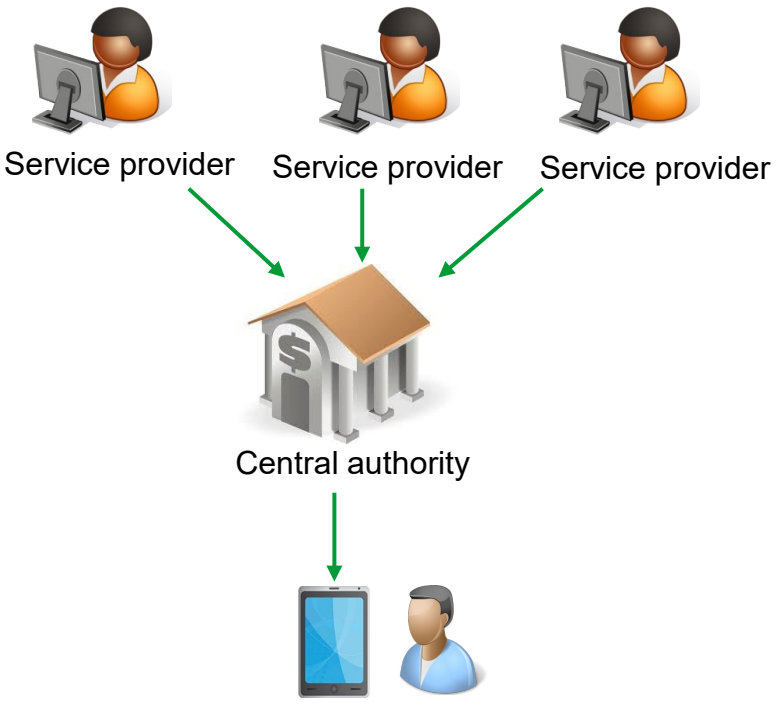
On-board Credentials



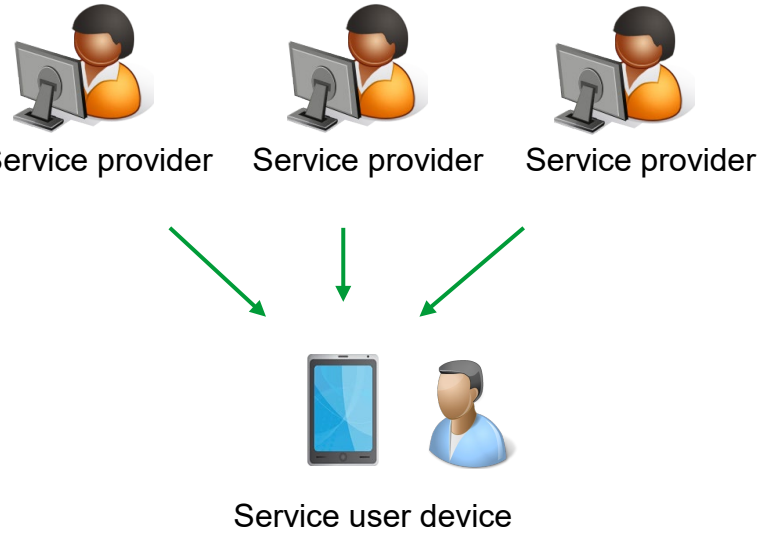
An **open** credential platform that leverages existing mobile TEEs

Secure yet inexpensive

Centralized vs. open provisioning

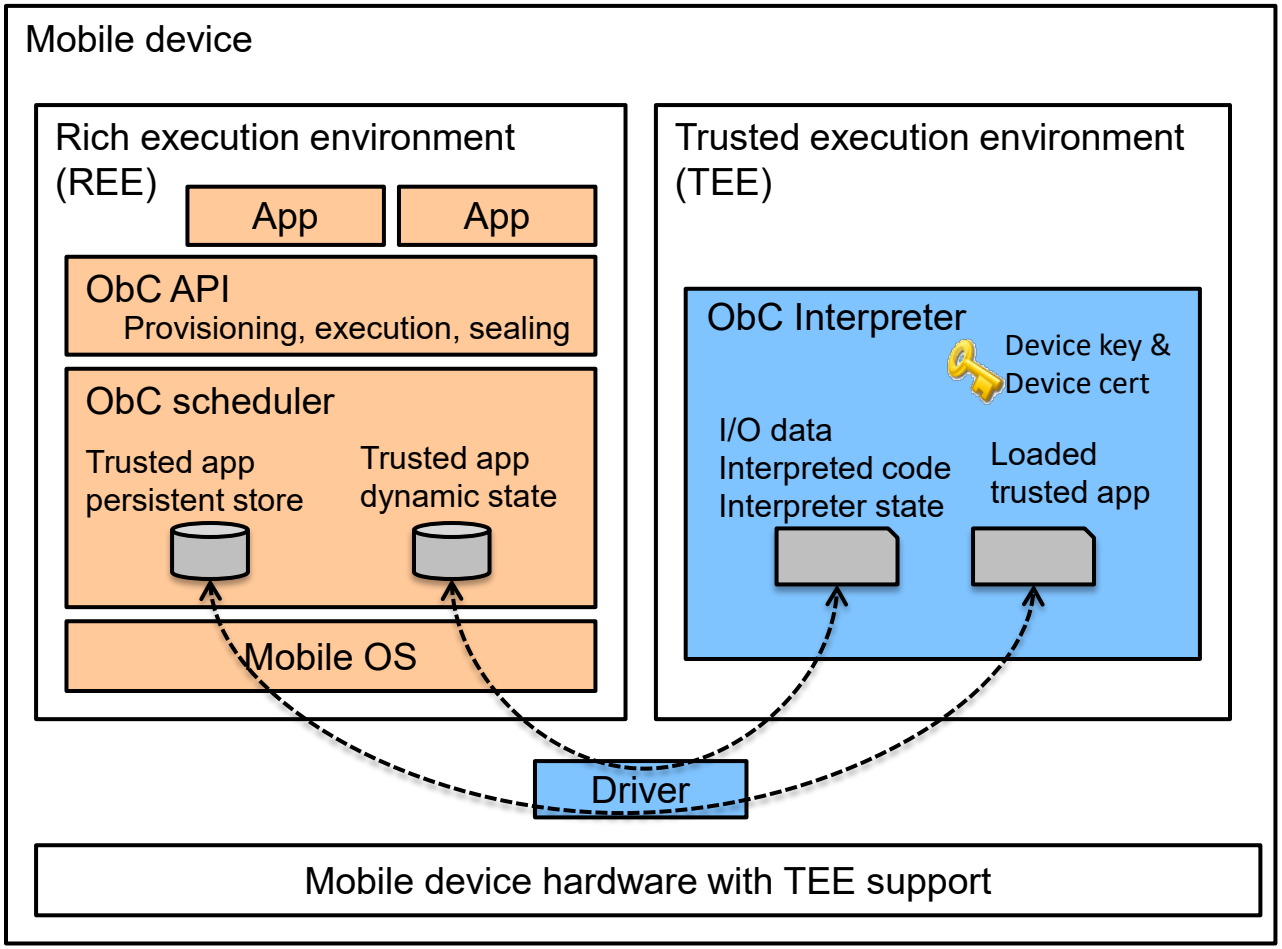


Centralized provisioning
(smart cards)



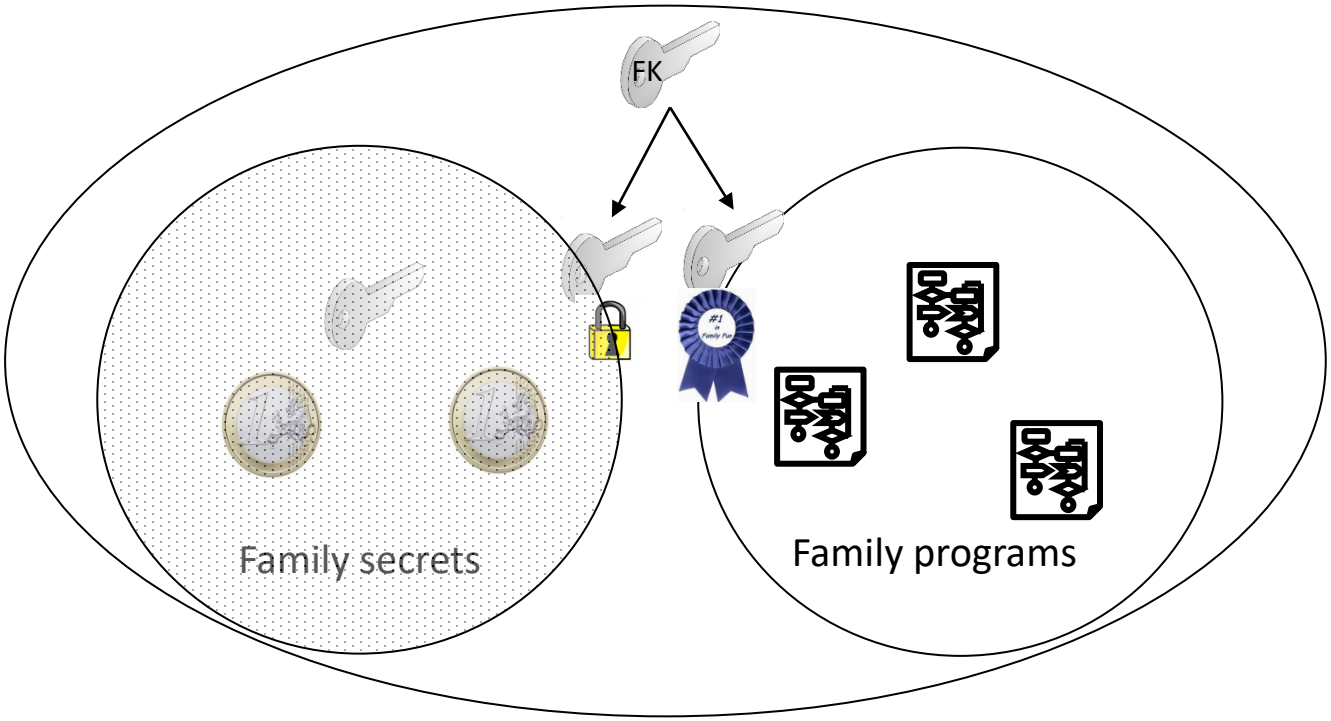
Open provisioning
(On-board Credentials)

On-board Credentials (ObC) architecture



ObC Provisioning (1/2)

Basic Idea: the notion of a **family** of credential secrets and credential programs endorsed to use them



Principle of same-origin policy

Open provisioning model

Service provider

User device

Certified device key
PK

1. Certified device key + user authentication
PK

Pick new 'family key'
FK
Encrypt family key
Enc(PK, FK)

2. Provision new family
Enc(PK, FK)

establish new security domain (family)

Encrypt and authenticate secrets
AuthEnc(FK, secret)

3. Provision new secrets
AuthEnc(FK, secret)

install secrets, associate them to family

Authorize trusted applications
AuthEnc(FK, hash(app))

4. Provision trusted applications
AuthEnc(FK, hash(app)) + app

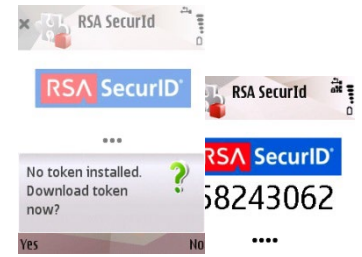
install trusted apps, grant access to secrets

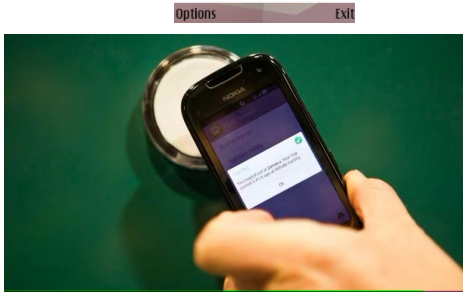
[KEAR09] "On-board Credentials with Open Provisioning". ASIACCS 2009.

Ekberg. Securing Software Architectures for Trusted Processor Environments. Dissertation, Aalto University 2013.
Kostiainen. On-board Credentials: An Open Credential Platform for Mobile Devices. Dissertation, Aalto University 2012.

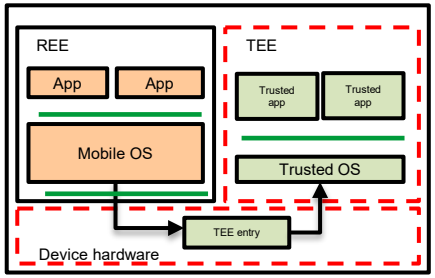
ObC: the aftermath

- Initial prototypes ca. 2008
  - RSA SecurID, SoftSIM
- (Silently) deployed in recent Lumia devices
  - Used for, e.g., MirrorLink attestation, LIRR ticketing trial
- Stumbling blocks:
  - “who takes liability?” “avoid stepping on toes”
- Related standardization
  - Global Platform device committee
  - Open provisioning is elusive





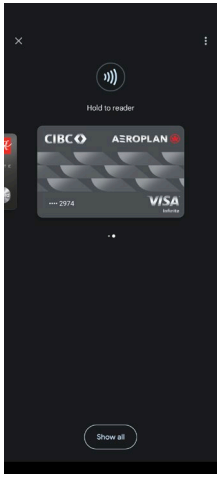
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/transportation/lirr-tests-smartphone-payment-system-u04362

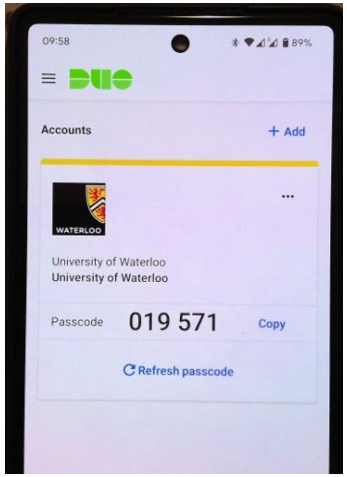


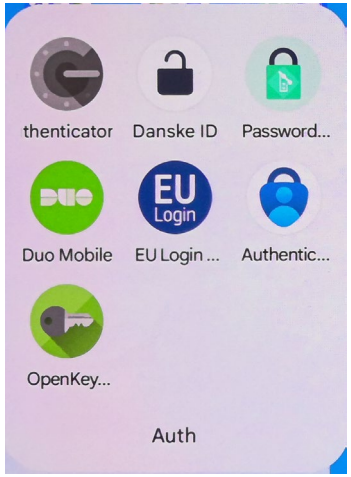
GLOBALPLATFORM™

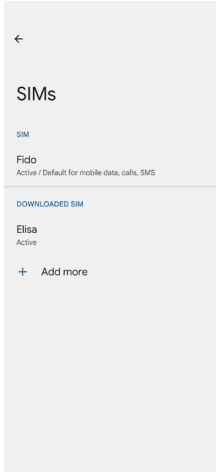
[GP12] “A New Model: The Consumer-Centric Model and How It Applies to the Mobile Ecosystem”

“On-board Credentials” on my phone









ObC: Lessons Learned

- Address pain points - builds credibility with stakeholders
- Politics can suffocate a good idea
- Standardization can make a good idea see light of day
- (Tech transfer) Impact ↛ Capturing researcher interest

Lessons Learned

https://asokan.org/asokan/research

- How to choose the “right” problems?
  - Don’t just guess security requirements; Ask stakeholders
  - Desiderata for deployment and research can be different
  - “90-10 rule” applies to deploying security
- How to identify “good” results?
  - Negative results are useful for security practitioners
  - Capturing researcher interest $\not\rightarrow$ (Tech transfer) Impact
  - (Tech transfer) Impact $\not\rightarrow$ Capturing researcher interest
- How to find paths to deployment?
  - Address pain points - builds credibility with stakeholders
  - (Standardization) Politics can suffocate a good idea
  - Standardization can make a good idea see light of day