CSE 3400 - Introduction to Computer & Network Security (aka: Introduction to Cybersecurity)

Lecture 12
Public Key Infrastructure – Part I

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From Textbook Slides by Prof. Amir Herzberg
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Outline

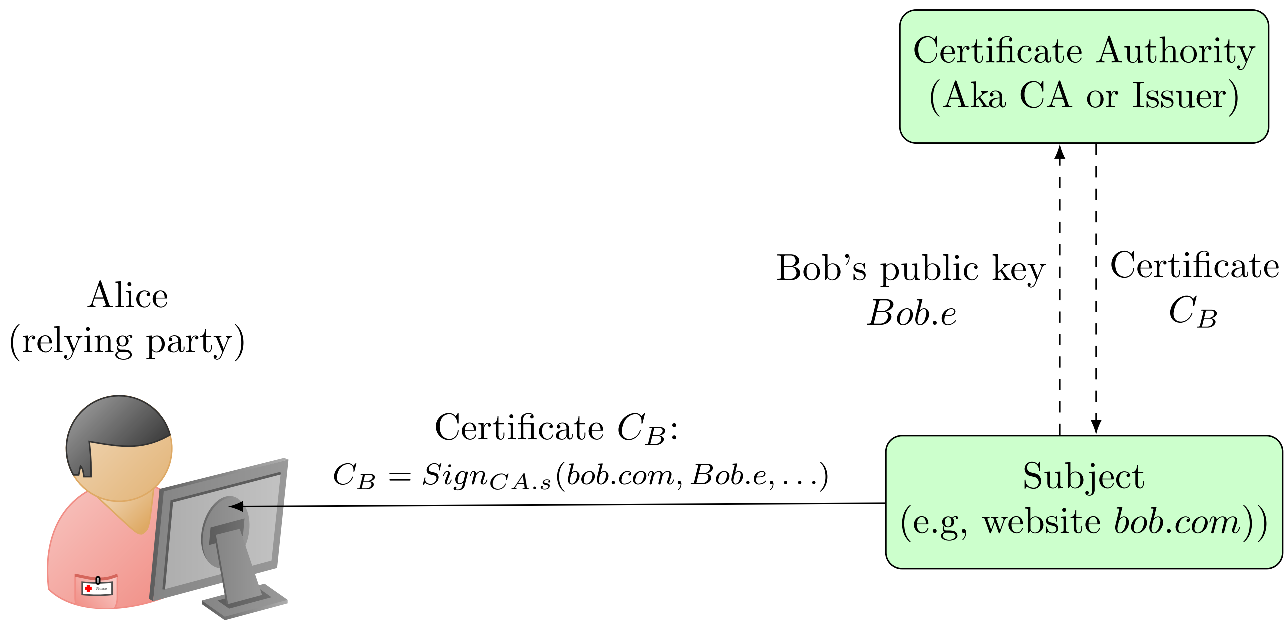
- Public key infrastructure (PKI) components.
- PKI goals.
- X.509 PKI concepts.
- Intermediate CAs and trust path verification.
- Certificate revocation

Public keys are very useful…

- Secure web connections
- Software signing (against malware)
- Secure messaging, email
- Cryptocurrency and blockchains.
- But …
  - How do we know the PK of an entity?
    - Mainly: signed by a **trusted** **Certificate Authority**
    - E.g., in TLS, browsers maintain list of 'root CAs'

Public Key Certificates & Authorities

- *Certificate:* signature by Issuer / Certificate Authority (CA) over subject's public key and attributes
- Attributes: identity (ID) and others…
  - Validated by CA (liability?)
  - Used by **relying party** for decisions (e.g., use this website?)



Certificates are all about **Trust**

- Certificate: $C_{Bob} = Sign_{CA.s}(Bob.com, Bob.e, \ldots)$
  - CA attests that Bob's public key is $Bob.e$
- Do we **trust** this attestation to be true?
- Special case of **trust management**
  - Important problem far beyond PKI… still not resolved !

Rogue Certificates

- Rogue cert: equivocating or misleading (domain) name
- Attacker goals:
  - Impersonate: web-site, phishing email, signed malware..
  - Equivocating (same name): circumvent name-based security mechanisms, such as *Same-Origin-Policy (SOP), blacklists, whitelists*, *access-control* …
  - Name may be misleading even if not equivocating
- Types of misleading names ('cybersquatting'):
  - Combo names: bank.com vs. accts-bank.com, bank.accts.com, …
  - Domain-name hacking: accts.bank.com vs. accts-bank.com, … or accts-bank.co
  - Homographic: paypal.com [l is L] vs. paypaI.com [i is I]
  - Typo-squatting: bank.com vs. banc.com, baank.com, banl.com,…

PKI Failures

- Although the signature over the certificate verifies correctly, there is still a failure and the certificate must be revoked.
  - This is called a PKI failure.
- PKI failures include:
  - Subject key exposure.
  - CA failure.
  - Cryptanalysis certificate forgery.
    - Find collisions in the hash function used in the HtS paradigm,
    - or exploit some vulnerability in the digital signature scheme used for signing.

Some Infamous PKI Failures

2001	VeriSign: attacker gets code-signing certs
2008	Thawte: email-validation (attackers' mailbox)
2008,11	Comodo not performing domain validation
2011	DigiNotar compromised, 531 rogue certs (discovered); a rogue cert for **.google.com* used for MitM against 300,000 Iranian users.
2011	TurkTrust issued intermediate-CA certs to users
2012	Trustwave issued intermediate-CA certificate for eavesdropping
2013	ANSSI, the French Network and Information Security Agency, issued intermediate-CA certificate to MitM traffic management device
2014	India CCA / NIC compromised (and issued rogue certs)
2015	CNNIC (China) issued CA-cert to MCS (Egypt), who issued rogue certs. Google and Mozilla removed CNNIC from their root programs.
2013-17	Audio driver of Savitech install root CA in Windows
2015,17	Symantec issued unauthorized certs for over 176 domains, causing removal from all root programs.
2019	Mozilla, Google *browsers* block *customer-installed* Kazakhstan root CA (Qaznet)
2019	Mozilla, Google revoke intermediate-CA of DarkMatter, and refuse to add them to root program

PKI Goals/Requirements

- **Trustworthy issuers:** Trust anchor/root CAs and Intermediary CAs; Limitations on Intermediary CAs (e.g., restricted domain names)
- **Accountability:** identify issuer of given certificate
- **Timeliness:** limited validity period, timely **revocation**
- **Transparency:** public log of all certificate; no ‘hidden’ certs!
- **Non-Equivocation:** one entity – one certificate
- **Privacy:** why should CA know which site I use?

X.509 Certificates

Part of the X.500 Global Directory Standard

The X.500 Global Directory Standard

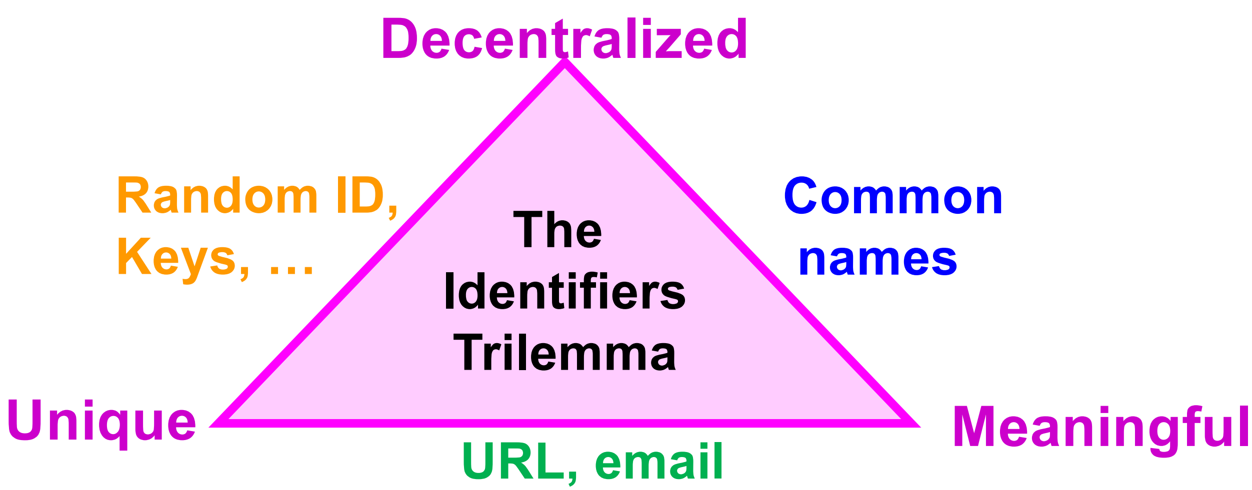
- X.500: an ITU standard, first issued 1988
  - ITU: International Telecommunication Union
- Idea: trusted global directory
  - Operated by hierarchy of trustworthy telcos companies and providers.
  - Never happened
    - Too complex, too revealing, too trusting of telcos
- Directory binds identifiers to attributes
  - Standard attributes (including public key)
  - Standard identifiers: Distinguished Names

Distinguished Names or Identifiers in Certificates

- Most certificates contain identifiers
  - Aka identity-certificates
- Basic goals of identifiers:
- Meaningful (to humans)
  - Memorable, reputation, off-net, legal
- Unique identification of entity (owner)
- Decentralized - with Accountability: assigned by trusted (certificate) authorities
  - Accountability: identification of the signing authority

The Identifiers Trilemma

- Achieving the three goals: Meaningful, Unique, Decentralized, seems very challenging!
- Examples of achieving any <u>two</u> of the goals:
  - Unique + Meaningful: URL, email
  - Meaningful + Decentralized: common name
  - Unique + Decentralized: hash of key

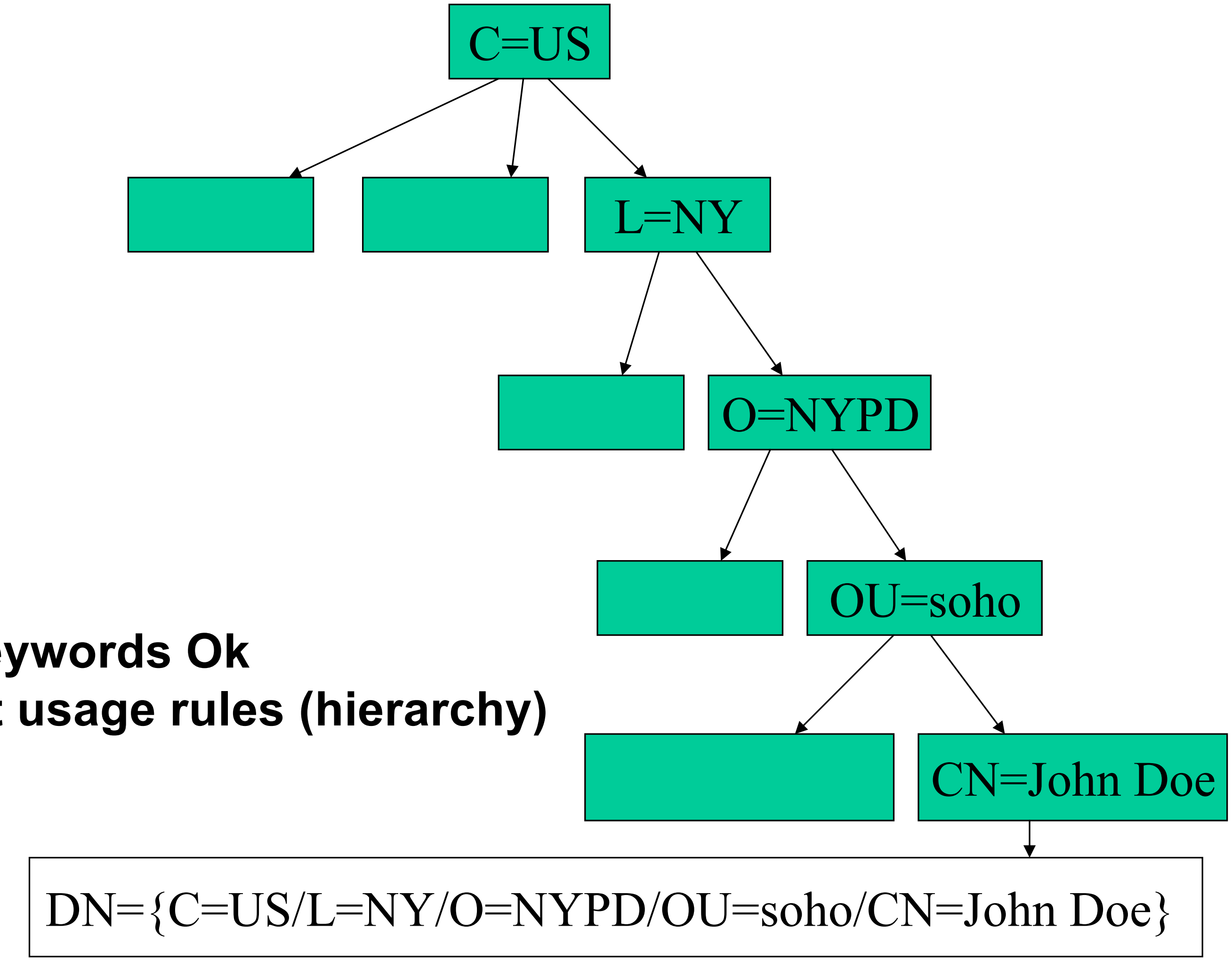


X.500 Distinguished Names (DN)

- Sequence of keywords, a string value for each of them
- Distributed directory, responsibility → *hierarchical DN*

Keyword	Meaning
C	Country
L	Locality name
O	Organization name
OU	Organization Unit name
CN	Common Name

Distinguished Name (DN) Hierarchy



Comments:

1. **Other keywords Ok**
2. **No strict usage rules (hierarchy)**

X.509 public key certificates

- X.509: authentication mechanisms of X.500
- Initially: Authenticate to Directory (Password-based authentication)
  - To maintain entity's record
- Later (and now): **X.509 public key certificate**
  - Signature binds **public key** to distinguished name (DN) and to other attributes
    - Some defined in X.509 standard, others in `extensions`
- Used widely in spite of complaints about its complexity.
  - SSL / TLS, code-signing, PGP, S/MIME, IP-Sec, …

Original (V1) X.509 Certs Format

Signed fields			
	Version		
	Certificate serial number		
	Signature Algorithm Object Identifier (OID)		
	Issuer Distinguished Name (DN)		
	Validity period		
	Subject (user) Distinguished Name (DN)		
	Subject public key information	Public key Value	Algorithm Obj. ID (OID)
	Signature on the above fields		

Object Identifiers (OID):
- Global, unique identifiers
- Sequence of numbers, e.g.: 1.16.840.1.45.33
  - Hierarchical

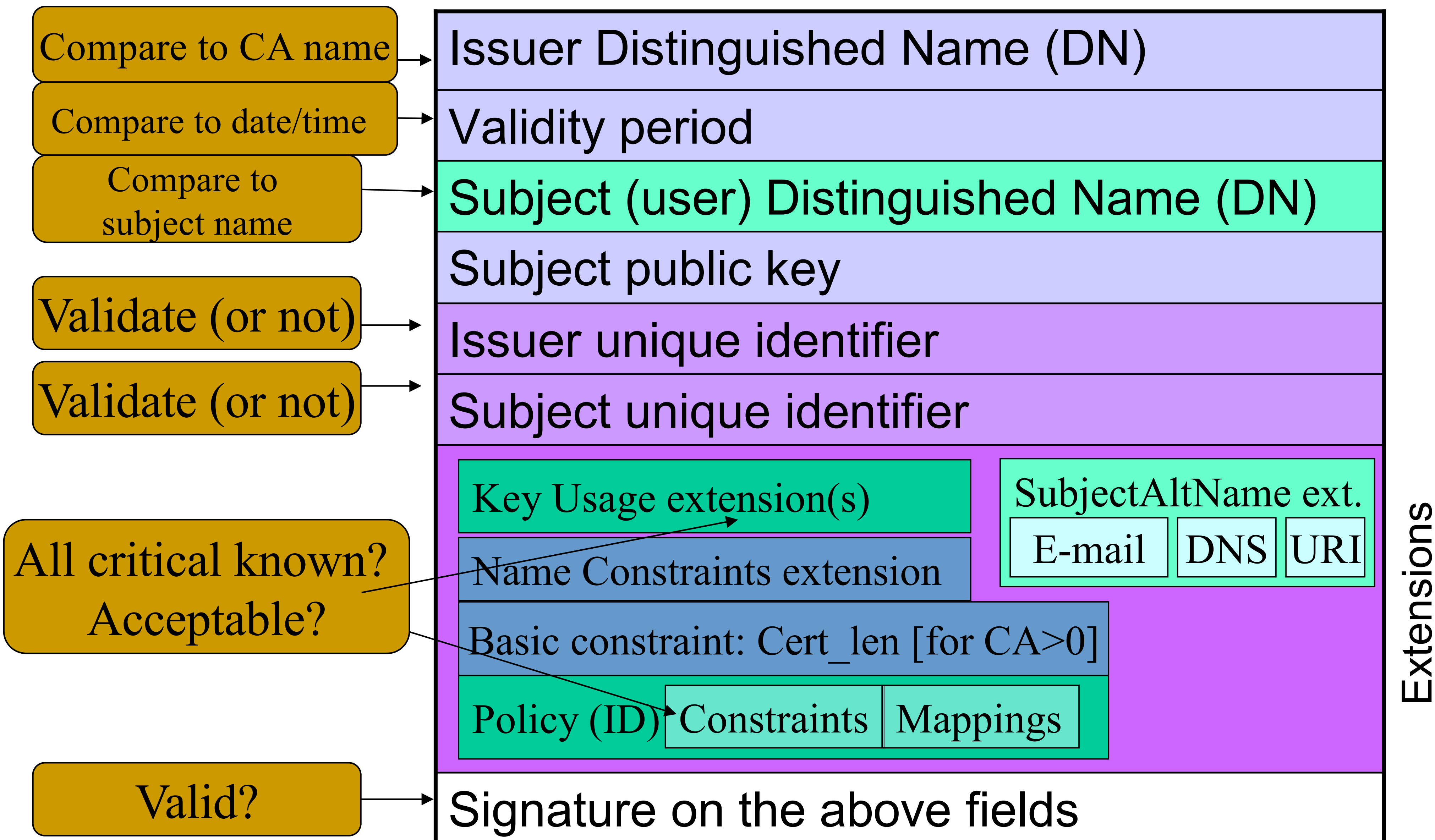
X.509 Certs & Subject Identifiers

- V1: Distinguished Name (for subject & issuer)
- V2: unique identifiers (for subject & issuer)
- V3: extensions (used in practice)
  - Some defined in X.509, others elsewhere
  - PKIX: IETF standard extensions profile
    - Widely adopted, including in SSL/TLS (& https)
  - Example: SubjectAltName extension
    - Including DNSname: identify website by domain name
- [V4: not covered, not widely deployed]

X.509 Public Key Certificates

Signed fields			
Signed fields	Version		
	Certificate serial number		
	Signature Algorithm Object Identifier (OID)		
	Issuer Distinguished Name (DN)		
	Validity period		
	Subject (user) Distinguished Name (DN)		
	Subject public key information	Public key Value	Algorithm Obj. ID (OID)
	Issuer unique identifier (from version 2)		
	Subject unique identifier (from version 2)		
	Extensions (from version 3)		
	Signature on the above fields		

X.509 Certificate Validation (simplified)



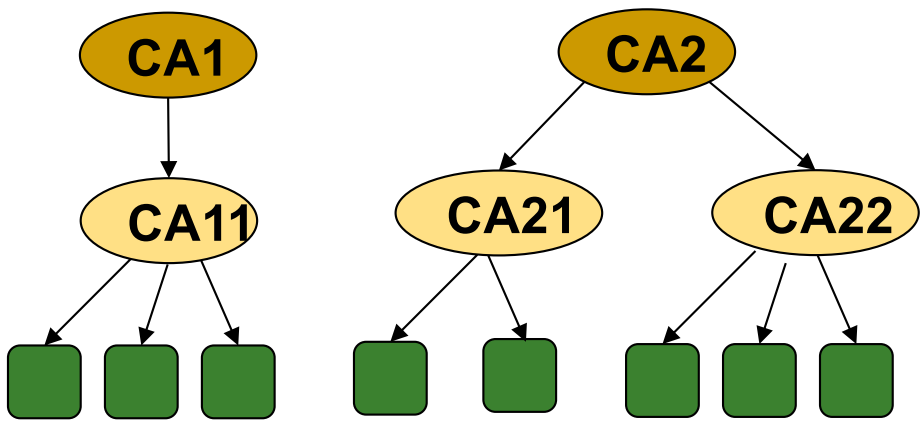
Intermediate CAs and Path Verification

Why Intermediate CAs?

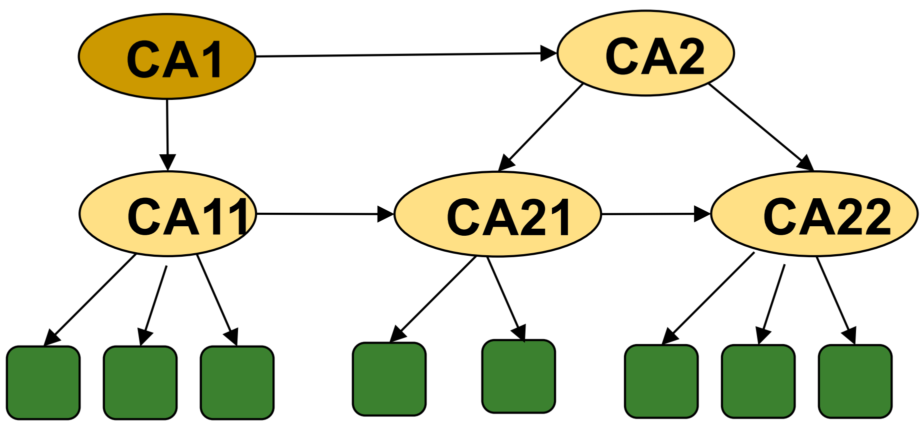
- Relying parties rely on trust anchor CA(s) to establish trust in a certificate.
- Large number of subjects to certify.
  - One (or a few) trust anchor CAs cannot handle all the load.
- An anchor or root CA certifies other CAs to become intermediate CAs.
  - So the root A certifies intermediate B, then B will sign certificates for subjects (B is an issuer).
- Certificate path validation allows validating such certificates that are issued by intermediate CAs.
  - Like tracing them back to a trust anchor.

Certificate paths in different PKIs

- **Web/TLS PKI:** 'root CAs'+'intermediate CAs':
  - Root CA issues cert for intermediate CAs

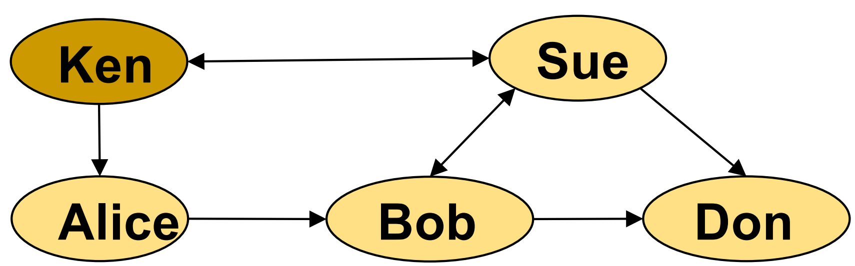


- **Web-of-Trust PKIs:**
  - Directed graph, not tree
  - Different variants/policies



Web of Trust PKI

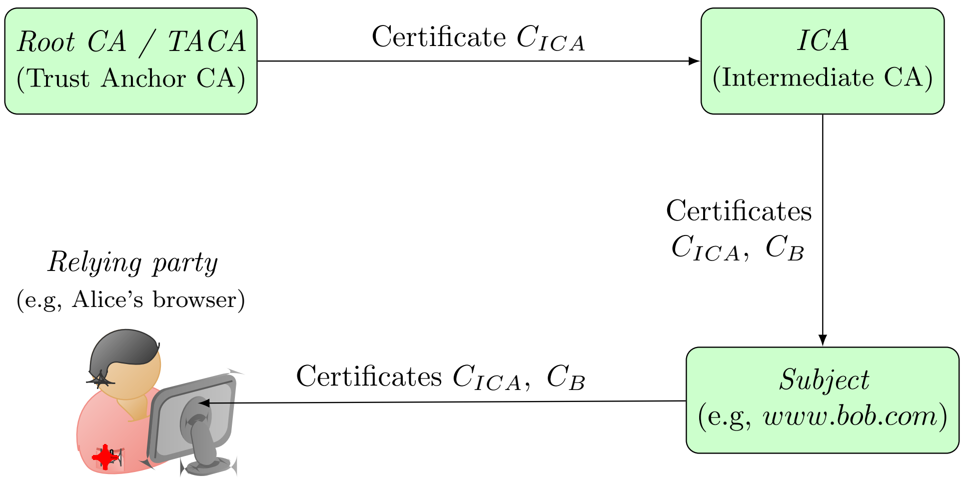
- PGP's friends-based Web-of-Trust:
  - Everyone is subject, CA and relying party
  - As a CA, certify (pk, name) for `friends'
  - As a subject, ask friends to sign for you
  - As a relying party, trust certificates from friends
    - Or also from friends-of-friends? Your policy….
    - Should you trust all your friends (equally)?



Certificate-Path Constraints Extensions

- Basic constraints:
  - Is the subject a CA? (default: FALSE)
  - Maximal length of additional CAs in path
    - pathLengthConstraint
- Policy constraints:
  - Require certificate-policies along path
  - Allow/forbid `policy mappings’
  - Details in textbook (or RFC)
- Name constraints
  - Constraints on DN and SubjectAltName - in certs issued by subject
    - Only relevant when subject is a CA !
  - ‘Permit’ and ‘Exclude’

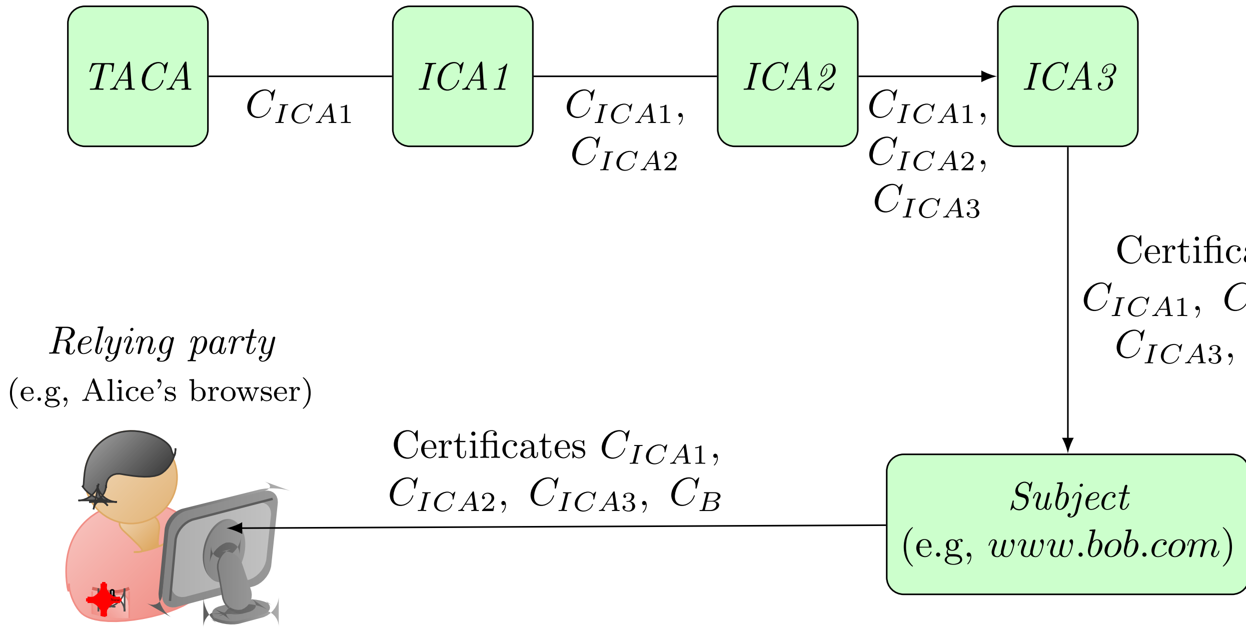
Certificate-Path Constraints - Example



	C_{ICA} constraints extensions					C_B valid?
	Basic		Name		Policy	
	cA	pathLen	Permit	Exclude	Req. Policy	
1	No	(any)	(any)	(any)	(any)	No
2	Yes	(any)	*bob.com*	none or *x.bob.com*	none or > 1	Yes
3	Yes	(any)	*cat.com*	(any)	(any)	No
4	Yes	(any)	*bob.com*	*www.bob.com*	(any)	No
5	Yes	(any)	(any)	(any)	0	No
6	Yes	(any)	(none)	*bob.com*	(any)	No

Here the certificate has
no policy extensions.

Certificate-Path Constraints - Example



Here the certificate has no policy extensions. And all ICAs have CA flag true.

	C_{ICA1} constraints extensions					C_B valid?
	Basic		Name		Policy	
	cA	pathLen	Permit	Exclude	Req. Policy	
1	Yes	< 2	(any)	(any)	(any)	No
2	Yes	none or ≥ 2	*bob.com*	none or *x.bob.com*	none or > 3	Yes
3	Yes	(any)	(any)	(any)	≤ 3	No
4	Yes	(any)	*cat.com*	(any)	(any)	No
5	Yes	(any)	(none)	*bob.com*	(any)	No

Certificate Revocation

Certificate Revocation

- Reasons for revoking certificates
  - Security issues:
    - Key compromise, CA compromise
  - Administrative issues:
    - Affiliation changed (changing DN or other attribute), public key has been replaced, subject has ceased operation (company dissolving).
- How to inform relying parties? Few options usually under three categories:
  - Prefetch: have revocation info in advance.
  - As-needed: ask for this info when a receiving a certificate and want to validate.
  - Neither: does not fall under any of the above, usually called network-assisted techniques.

Certificate Revocation Techniques

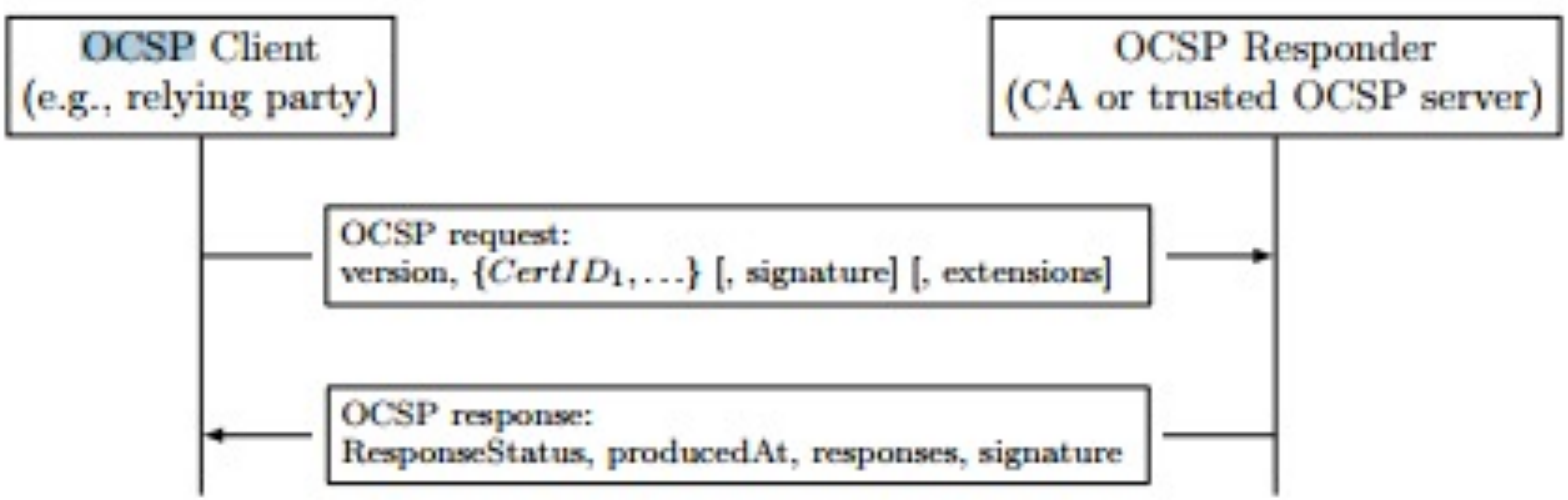
- Prefetch:
  - Cons: higher storage and communication overhead,
  - Pros: lower response delay
- As needed:
  - Cons: higher response delays, reliability issues, privacy concerns.
  - Pros: lower storage and communication overhead
- We will start with studying two techniques:
  - Distribute ***Certificate Revocation List (CRL) --*** *Prefetch*
    - This is part of the X.509 standard.
  - Ask - ***Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP) –*** *As needed*

CRLs

- A certificate revocation list (CRL) is simply a list of revoked certificates.
- Distributed periodically by CAs.
  - See next slide for its format.
- If CRLs contain all revoked certificates (which did not expire)… it may be huge!
  - Yes, large storage and communication overhead.
- CRLs are not immediate
  - Who is responsible until CRL is distributed?
  - Frequent CRLs ➔ even more overhead!

Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)

- Improve efficiency and freshness compared to CRLs
- Client asks CA about cert during handshake
- CA signs response (real-time)



Covered Material From the Textbook

- Chapter 8:
  - Sections 8.1, 8.2 (only 8.2.1 – 8.2.3), and 8.3 (only the topics we covered), 8.4 (the introduction part of it only)

Thank You!