
Cryptography

Greek: kryptos + graphein → hidden writing

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Cryptography

- Privacy and security needed while communicating over insecure media (internet)
- In the past, cryptography is heavily used for military applications to keep sensitive information secret from enemies (e.g. Caesar cipher)
- Nowadays, with the technologic progress as our dependency on electronic systems has increased we need more sophisticated techniques.
- Cryptography provides most of the methods and techniques for a secure communication

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Terminology

- **Cryptology**
 - All-inclusive term used for the study of secure communication over non-secure channels and related problems.
- **Cryptography**
 - The process of designing systems to realize secure communications over non-secure channels
- **Cryptoanalysis**
 - The discipline of breaking the cryptographic systems
- **Coding Theory**
 - Deals with representing the information using codes. It covers: compression, secrecy, and error-correction. Recently, it is predominantly associated with error-correcting codes which ensures the correct transmissions over noisy-channels.

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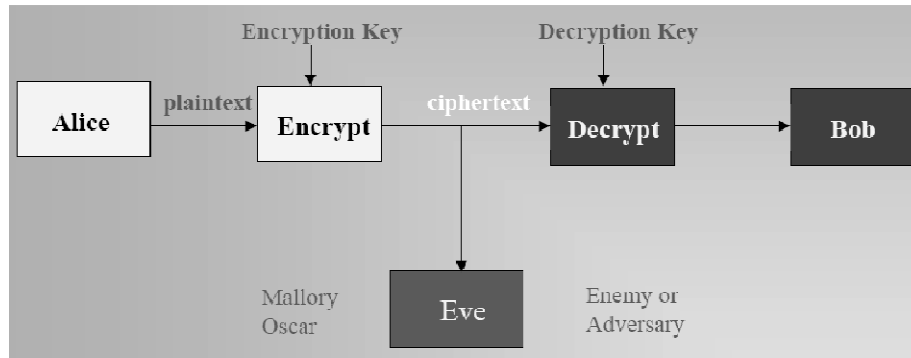
Cryptography

- depends on:
 - mathematics & usage of digital systems
- Inter-disciplinary study of three fields:
 - Mathematics
 - Computer Science
 - Electrical Engineering

} Computer Engineer
- The importance of crypto-analysis
 - Without having a complete understanding of crypto-analysis (or crypto-analytic techniques) it is impossible to design *good* (secure, unbreakable) cryptographic systems
- Other Disciplines
 - It makes use of other disciplines such as error-correcting codes, compression

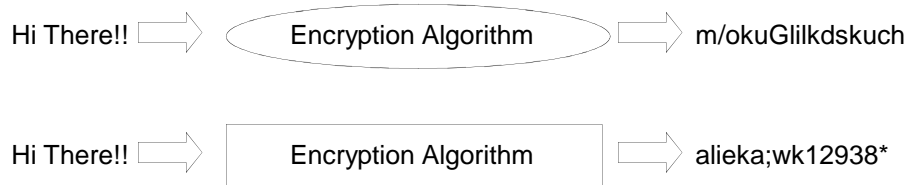
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Secure Communication



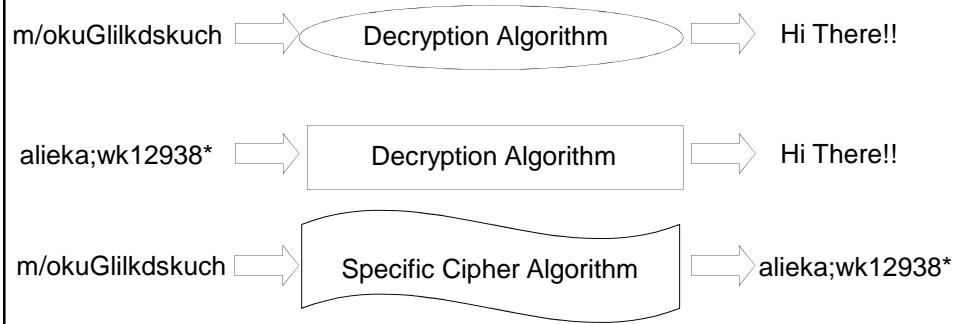
Encryption

- Convert normal, readable data into obscured, unreadable data



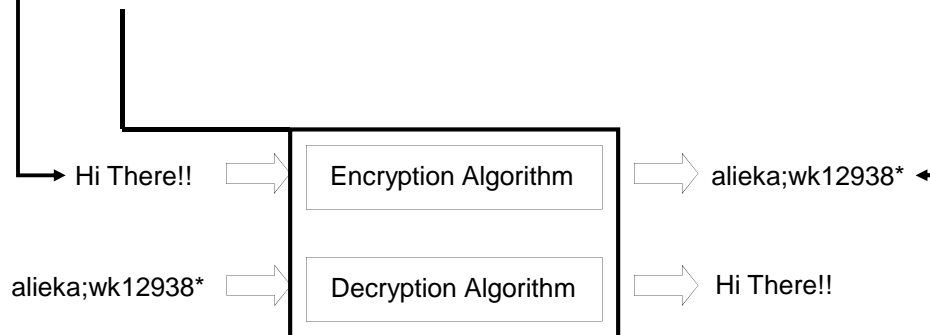
Decryption

- Convert obscured, unreadable data into normal, readable data

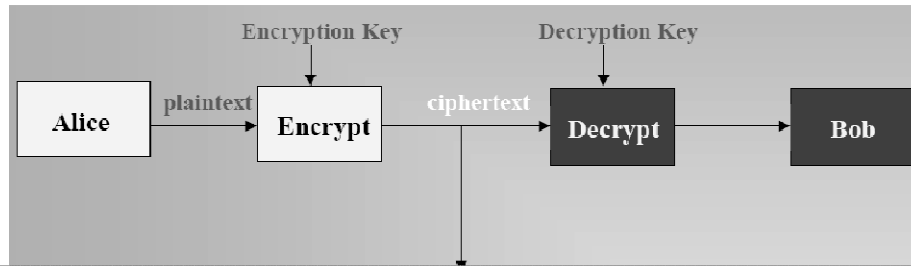


Terminology

- plaintext - clear readable text
- ciphertext - unreadable text
- cipher - algorithm(s) for encryption and decryption



Secure Communication



Mallory

- Read the message
- Modify the contents of the message
 - Bob will think Alice sent the altered message
- Figure out Alice's key
 - Read all messages encrypted with this key
- Impersonate Alice
 - communicate with Bob who thinks he is communicating with Alice

Attack Means

- Ciphertext only
 - Alice has only a copy of ciphertext
- Known Plaintext
 - Eve has a copy of ciphertext and the corresponding plaintext and tries to figure out the key
- Chosen Plaintext
 - Eve can have a ciphertext corresponding to a sample plaintext which she believes is useful to figure the key
- Chosen Ciphertext
 - Eve can have a plaintext corresponding to a sample ciphertext which she believes is useful to figure the key

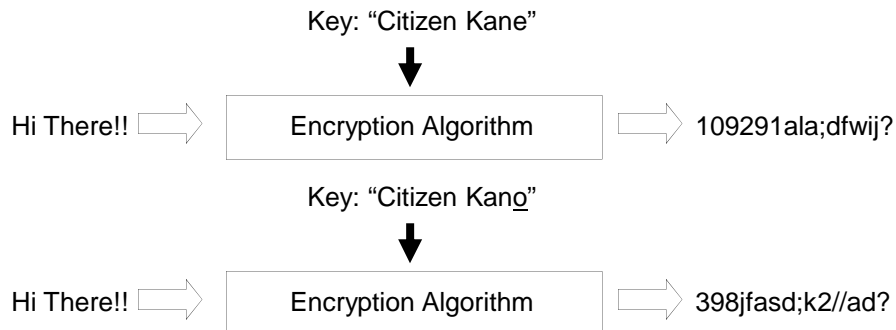
Terminology

- Security through obscurity
 - Don't publish some details of your algorithm... assuming people won't figure it out
 - Like hiding the key under the doormat
- Once your flaw/algorithm is leaked, you're screwed

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Terminology

- Key -- a secret piece of information that controls how the encryption algorithm works
- Different keys produce different encrypted results



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Kerckhoffs Principle

- Complete knowledge of the Algorithm
 - While assessing the strength of a cryptosystem, one should always assume that the enemy knows the cryptographic algorithm used
- The security of the system, therefore, should be based on
 - the quality (strength) of the algorithm but not its obscurity or darkness
 - the key space (or key length)

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Computer Era

- Moore's law and its implications
- Keys breakable by brute force

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Problem

- Monoalphabetic
 - Same letter of plaintext always produces same letter of ciphertext
- Even though there are 26!
 - possible substitutions, monoalphabetic solutions are easy to break!

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Modern Ciphers

- Bigger and bigger keys
- More and more complicated algorithms
- Based on hardcore applied mathematics... and the difficulty of factoring large numbers

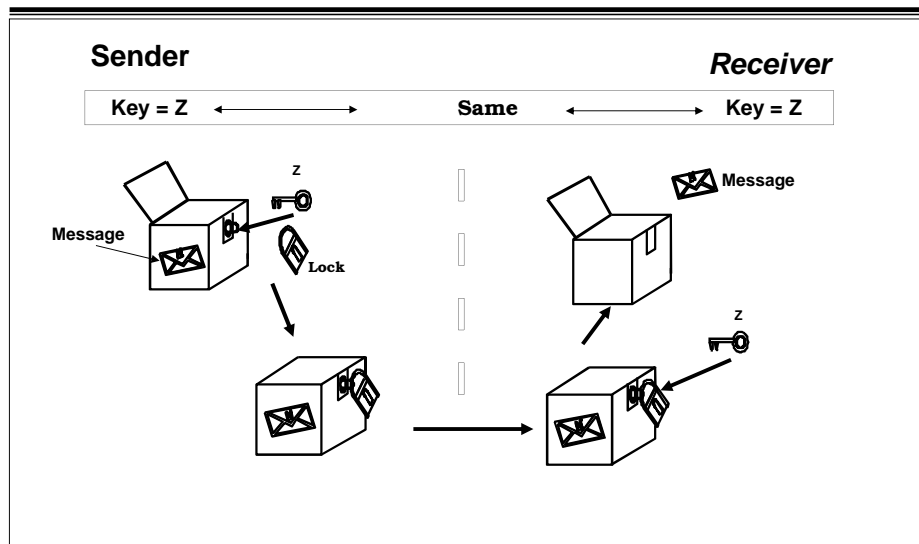
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Terminology

- Symmetric key cryptography
 - Caesar shift, ..., DES, AES
- Asymmetric key cryptography
 - Public/Private key schemes

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Symmetric key algorithms



Symmetric Key Technology

- p = plaintext
- $\text{crypt}()$ = encryption/decryption function
- c = cipher text (unreadable)
- k = key (secret; password)

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Symmetric Key Technology

- Alice wants to send a private/confidential message to Bob
- Alice computes $c = \text{crypt}(p, k)$
- Sends c to Bob over unsecured wire
- Bob computes $p = \text{crypt}(c, k)$

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Symmetric Key Application

- Password login
- Alice sends password to computer to prove identity (authenticity)

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Shared Secret Key

- Shared secret is great... but how do we distribute it?

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Public Key (Assymmetric) Cryptosystems (PKC)

- **Why public key cryptography ?**
- Key Distribution and Management is difficult in symmetric cryptosystems: DES, AES (Rijndael) over large networks.
- Electronic Signatures
- Other cryptographic functions such:
 - Key Exchange
 - Secret Key Derivation
 - Secret Sharing functions

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Asymmetric Key Cryptography

- Instead of one key, have two
 - public key
 - private key
- Use one key to encode/encrypt
- Use other key to decode/decrypt

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Fundamentals of PKC

- Each user has a pair of keys which are generated together under a scheme
 - Private Key - known only to the owner
 - Public Key - known to anyone in the systems with assurance
- Encryption
 - Sender encrypts the message by the *Public Key* of the receiver
- Decryption
 - Only the receiver can decrypt the message by his *Private Key*

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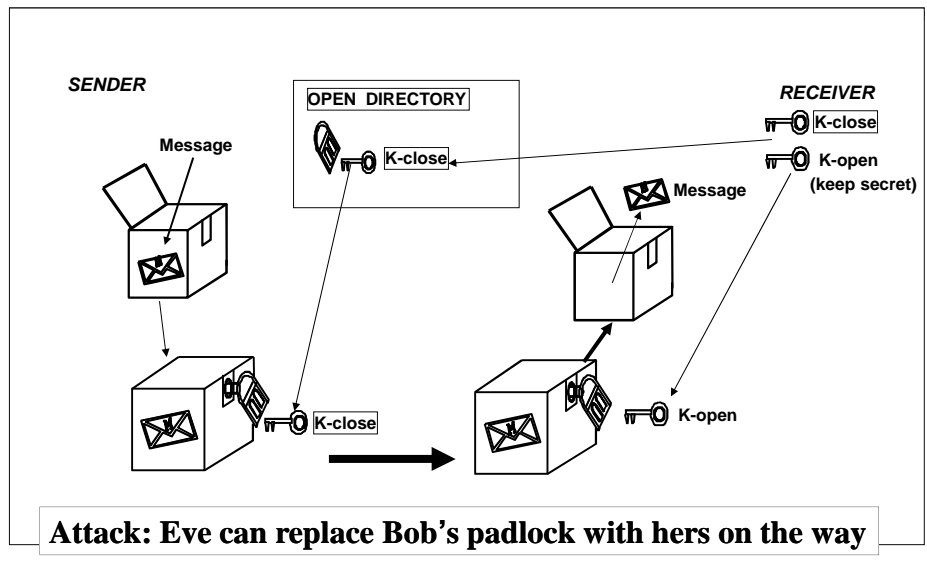
Asymmetric Key Technology

- Someone can know public key
- Computing private key from public key is very, very difficult (factoring huge number)

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Simple Example of PKC

Non-mathematical



Application: Secrecy

- Bob has Bob.pub, Bob.priv
- Alice has Alice.pub, Alice.priv
- Alice wants to send Bob a secret "Hello" note

Application: Secrecy

- Alice finds Bob.pub from his website
- Alice computes $c = \text{crypt}(p, \text{Bob.pub})$
- Sends c to Bob over unsecured wire
- Bob computes $p = \text{crypt}(c, \text{Bob.priv})$

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Advantages

- Key distribution not a problem!
- Anyone can send a message to Bob
- Only Bob can decrypt!

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Attack: Spoofer

- One person (hacker) successfully pretends to be as another (normal user)

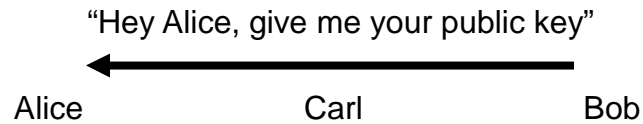
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Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)

Alice ↔ Carl ↔ Bob

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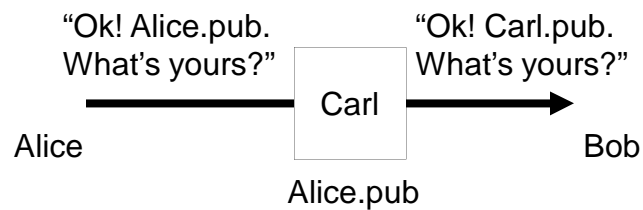
Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)



SSL-Like Example

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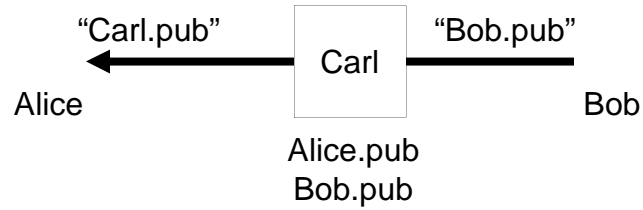
Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)



Carl takes Alice.pub and replaces it by Carl.pub
Bob receives Carl.pub as if it is Alice.pub

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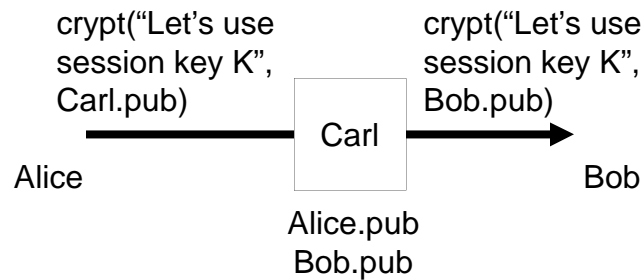
Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)



**Carl then, sends to Alice Carl.pub
Alice receives Carl.pub as if it is Bob.pub**

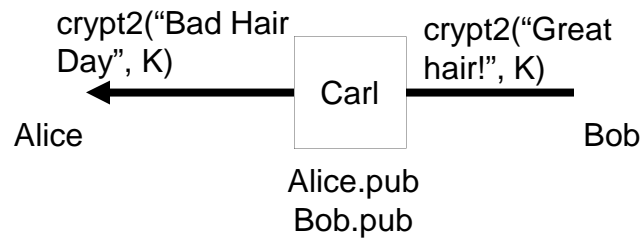
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Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)



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Man In the Middle Attack (Spoofing)



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Verify Authenticity

- Through digital signatures
- And Certificate Authorities

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Certificates

- Certificate Authority (CA): publishes that a particular identity goes with a particular public key
- Alice gets certificate (identity \leftrightarrow public key), signed by CA
- So if you trust CA, then you can trust the public key

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Application: Authenticity

- Alice wants to tell Bob the message is really from her!
- Digital signature
- Alice computes $c = \text{crypt}(p, \text{Alice.priv})$
- Alice sends c over unsecured wire
- Anyone can check that Alice is the sender... by computing $p = \text{crypt}(c, \text{Alice.pub})$

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Authenticity + Secrecy

Alice
A.priv

A.pub, B.pub, ...

Bob
B.priv

"Hello"

Carl & Eve
Bad People!

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Authenticity + Secrecy

Alice
A.priv

A.pub, B.pub, ...

Bob
B.priv

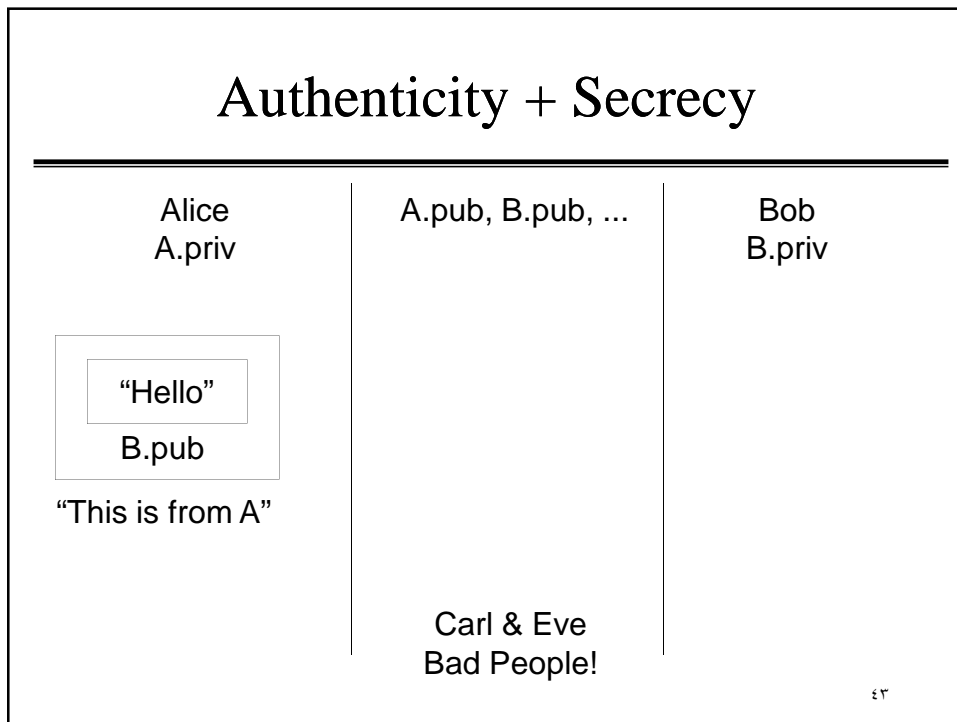
"Hello"

B.pub

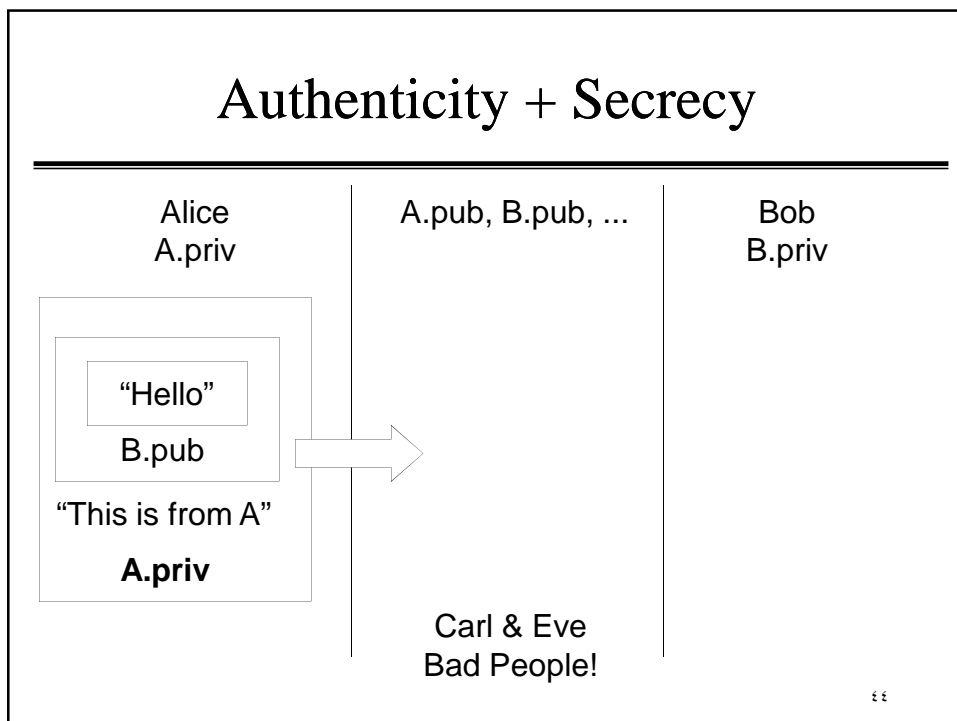
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Authenticity + Secrecy



Authenticity + Secrecy



Authenticity + Secrecy

Alice
A.priv

A.pub, B.pub, ...

Bob
B.priv

"Hello"

B.pub

"This is from A"

A.priv

Carl & Eve
Bad People!

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Authenticity + Secrecy

Alice
A.priv

A.pub, B.pub, ...

Bob
B.priv

"Hello"

B.pub

"This is from A"

A.priv

Carl & Eve
Bad People!

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Aspects of PKC

- Powerful tools with their own built-in problems
- Computationally demanding operations are needed
- Resource
- Implementation is always a challenge
- Much slower than the symmetric key algorithms.
- PKC should not be used for encrypting large amounts of data
- Example PKCs
 - RSA, Elliptic curve cryptosystems....

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Key length

- Kerckhoffs's Principle:
 - the strength (security) of cryptosystems based on two important properties:
 - the quality of the algorithm
 - the key length
- The quality of cryptosystems are hard to measure
- Key length must be sufficiently large
 - to prevent adversary to determine the key by trying all possible keys in the key space, brute-force or exhaustive-search attacks
- DES key space utilizes 56-bit keys
 - key space is $2^{56} = 72,057,594,037,927,936 \approx 7.2 \times 10^{16}$

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Key Length & Brute Force

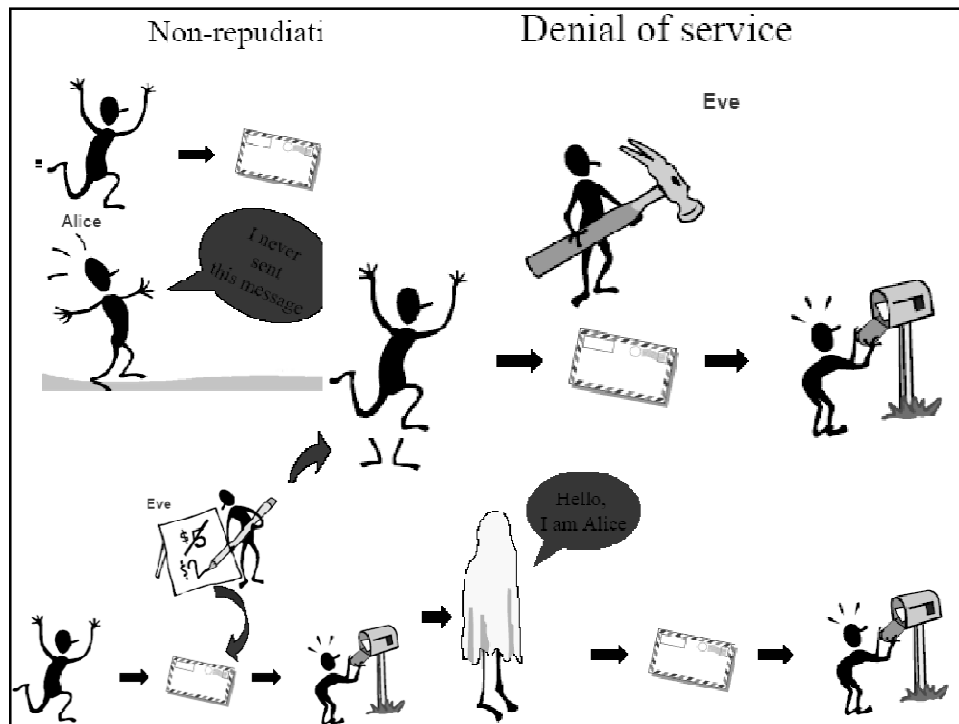
- Assume that there are 10^{30} possible key in key space
- And you can only try 10^9 key in a second.
- There are around 3×10^7 seconds in year, brute force attack would take more than 3×10^{13} years to try out the keys. This time period is longer than the predicted life of the universe.
- Brute force should be the last resort.
- In order to reduce the possible keys to try out one needs to take advantage
 - Weakness in cryptographic algorithm
 - Weakness in implementation of cryptographic algorithm.
- Longer keys do not necessarily improve the security

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Unbreakable Cryptosystems ??

- Practical Security
 - Almost all of the practical cryptosystems are theoretically breakable given the time and computational resources
- Theoretically unbreakable system : **One-time-pad**
- One-time pad requires exchanging key that is as long as the plaintext.
- However impractical, it is still being used in certain applications which necessitate very high-level security.
- Security of one-time pad systems relies on the condition that keys are generated using truly random sources

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Other Cryptographic Applications

- **Digital Signatures**
 - allows electronically sign (personalize) the electronic documents, messages and transactions
- **Identification**
 - is capable of replacing password-based identification methods with more powerful (secure) techniques
- **Key Establishment**
 - To communicate a key to your correspondent (or perhaps actually mutually generate it with him) whom you have never physically met before
- **Secret Sharing**
 - Distribute the parts of a secret to a group of people who can never exploit it individually

Other Cryptographic Applications

- **E-commerce**
 - carry out the secure transaction over an insecure channel like Internet
- **E-cash**
 - The cash can be sent securely through computer networks
 - The cash cannot be copied and reused
 - The spender of the cash can remain anonymous
 - The transaction can be done *offline*
 - The cash transferred to others
 - A piece of cash can be divided into smaller amounts
- **Games**
 - Flipping coins over the phone
- **Electronic Voting**

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Hash Functions

- $h = \text{hash}(\text{input})$
- Almost Every bit in input affects output
- Hash function not invertible

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Error Checking

- Alice wants to send a LONG message to Bob
- Alice computes $h = \text{hash}(\$LONG_MSG)$;
- Sends data to Bob, includes relatively short h at the end of message
- Bob recomputes hash.
- If match, great! Data's correct!
- If not match, either hash or data was corrupted. Resend.

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Digital Signatures

- Bob wants to send $\$data$ to Alice, with assurances of his identity (authenticity)
 - $h = \text{hash}(\$data)$
 - $\text{Signature} = \text{crypt}(h, \text{Bob.priv})$
- Sends these to Alice
- Alice confirms Bob's identity by
 - $h = \text{crypt}(\text{signature}, \text{Bob.pub})$
 - $h = \text{hash}(\$data)$
 - Compares!

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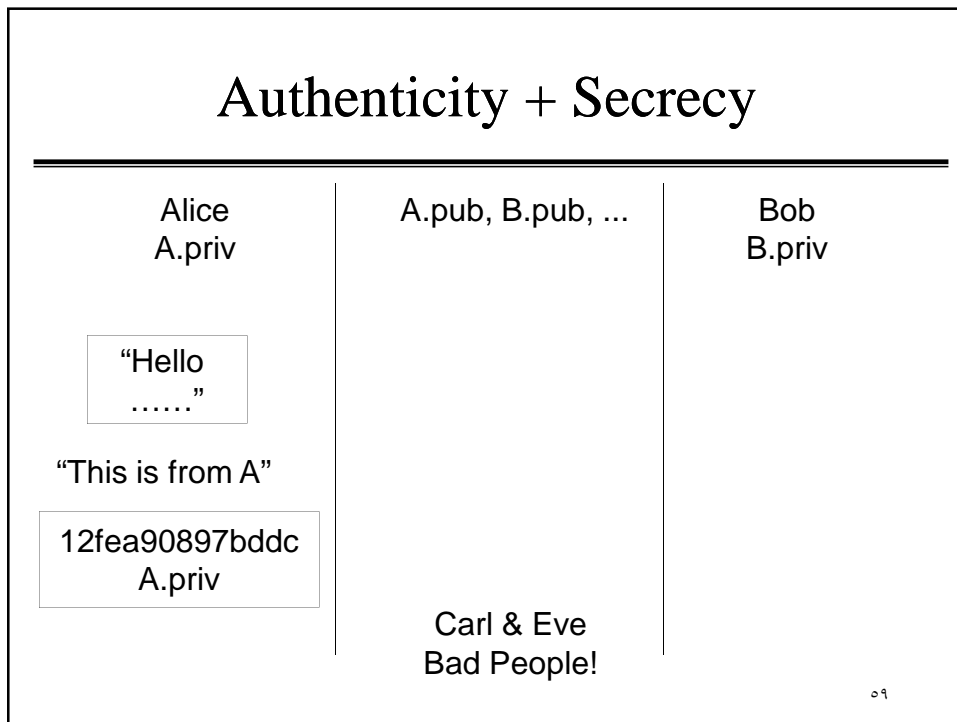
"Hello
....."

hash(" Hello...") →
12fea90897bddc

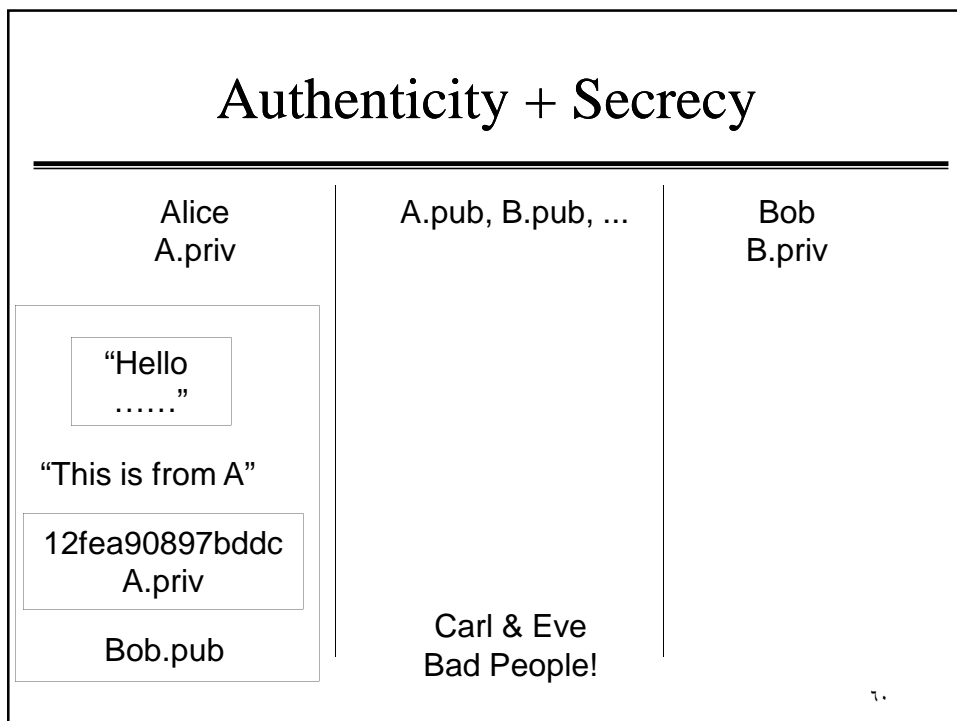
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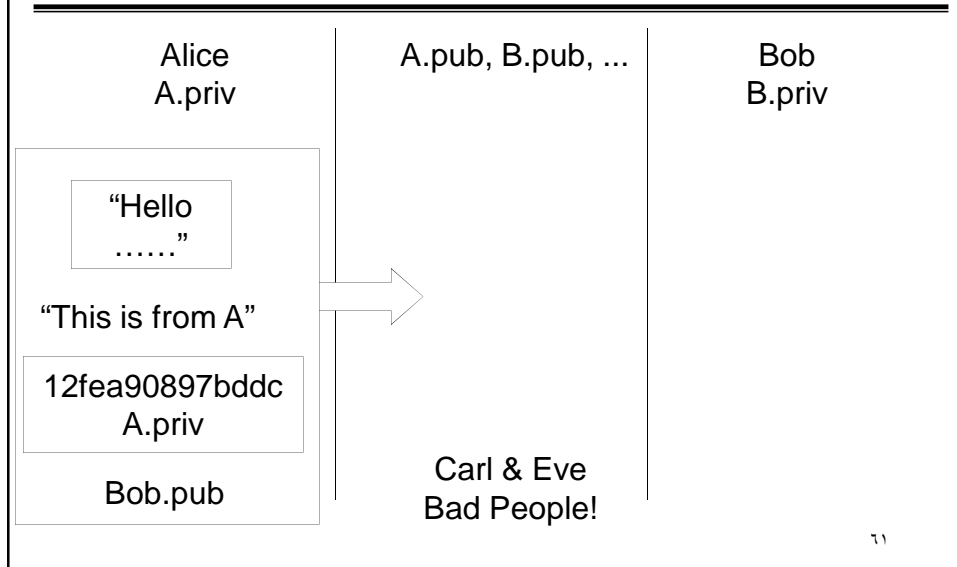
Authenticity + Secrecy



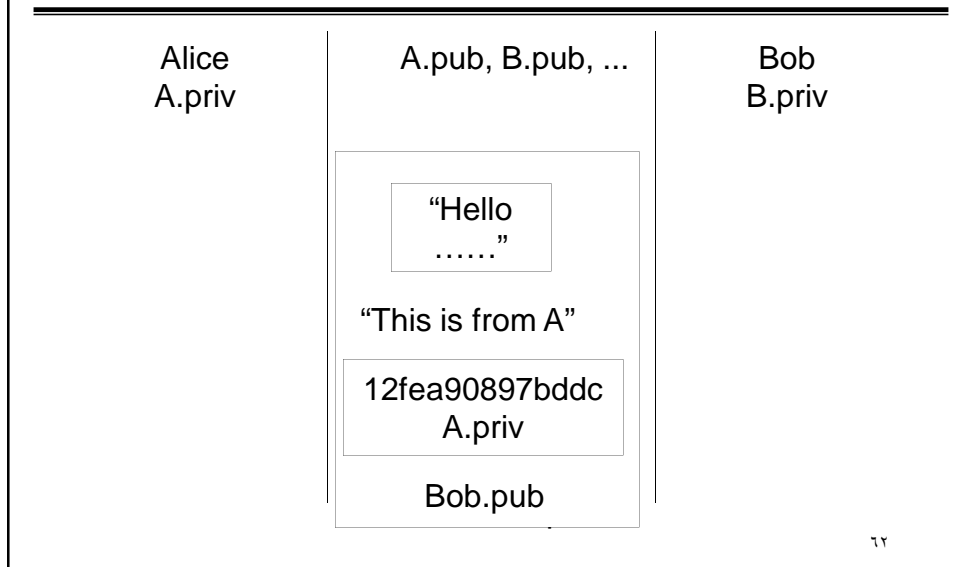
Authenticity + Secrecy



Authenticity + Secrecy



Authenticity + Secrecy



Authenticity + Secrecy

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A.pub, B.pub, ...

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“Hello
.....”

“This is from A”

12fea90897bddc
A.priv

Bob.pub

Carl & Eve
Bad People!

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==

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Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)

- Developed by Netscape
- Uses Asymmetric cryptographic system
- Many Web sites support the protocol to obtain confidential user information, such as credit card numbers.
- SSL - URLs start with https: instead of http:.
- S-HTTP : Another protocol for transmitting data securely over the World Wide Web.
- Whereas SSL creates a secure connection between a client and a server, over which any amount of data can be sent securely,
- S-HTTP is designed to transmit individual messages securely.
- SSL and S-HTTP can be seen as complementary rather than competing technologies.
- Both protocols have been approved by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a standard.

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Symmetric vs. Asymmetric

- Symmetric faster but relies on shared secret
- Asymmetric slower but “solves” distribution-of-keys problem

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Security Risk

- If you write it, they will come... to attack it. :o)
- Be aware of most common attacks...
- Learn the basic tricks to writing safer code.

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Terminology

- Vulnerability -- some buggy code that can allow bad guys to compromise your machine, or do other bad guy things
- Exploit -- some code or method to take advantage of the vulnerability

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Attack: Social Engineering

- Tricking a naïve person into revealing sensitive data (i.e. his password)
 - Hi this is your bank. We need your PIN to fix your account ASAP!
 - Hi this is Amazon. Your order #2333 didn't go through because your credit card was rejected. Tell us another credit card's info, and your order will be good.

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Bottom Line

- People are the weakest link
- Educate people about computer/Internet Security

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Attack: Traffic Sniffing

- Looking at packets on the wire, reading off passwords, etc...
- Problem for authentication mechanisms with cleartext passwords

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Traffic Sniffing

- (Somehow) compromise a machine. This is the hard part.
- Set ethernet "promiscuous" mode
- Install a root kit
 - hides hacker activity
 - key logger
 - packet sniffer
 - recompiled versions of programs (passwd)

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Password Guessing

- one of the most common attacks
- attacker knows a login (from email/web page etc)
- then attempts to guess password for it
 - try default passwords shipped with systems
 - try all short passwords
 - then try by searching dictionaries of common words
 - intelligent searches try passwords associated with the user (variations on names, birthday, phone, common words/interests)
 - before exhaustively searching all possible passwords
- check by login attempt or against stolen password file
- success depends on password chosen by user
- surveys show many users choose poorly

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Password Guessing

- How long is YOUR password?
- Ways to break
 - Dictionary attack (words, names, dates)
 - Brute force
- Solutions
 - Freeze/Turn off account if too many incorrect logins?
 - Wait 2 seconds before logging in/displaying error.

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Password Capture

- another attack involves **password capture**
 - watching over shoulder as password is entered
 - using a trojan horse program to collect
 - monitoring an insecure network login (eg. telnet, FTP, web, email)
 - extracting recorded info after successful login (web history/cache, last number dialled etc)
- using valid login/password can impersonate user
- users need to be educated to use suitable precautions/countermeasures

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Passwords

- What if your website froze accounts if too many incorrect logins?
- Hacker can still attack your sites users!
- By purposefully guessing login/passwords incorrectly, so that your system locks all accounts!
- Denial of Service

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Solutions

- Longer passwords
- Other forms of authentication
 - Biometric
 - Physical key/card based

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External Executables

- Don't trust other people's code
- If Carl can run code on Alice's computer... then Carl can take it over

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Attack: Buffer Overflow

- Bad guy sends a huge, over-sized request to a naïvely implemented program, overflowing the input buffer
- May overwrite data in memory (and/or) program code
- May overwrite the return address on the stack of a program in C, so that the procedure call returns somewhere else

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How To Avoid Buffer Overflow

- Write code carefully
- Limit input size; read in small chunks as opposed to reading in whole input
- Use better languages (read: Java)

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Attack: Computer Virus

- Attaches itself to a host, another computer program
- Tries to infect other executable files it finds
- When run, it damages resources, files, etc...

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Viruses

- A virus is a small program that inserts itself into other executable software.
- Every time that software is opened and used, the virus program will run, making copies of itself to insert into every document and executable file opened.
- This can cause damage to your computer software, including your operating system, by corrupting existing data on all your storage media and overwriting your files.
- As long as a virus program is present in any software you open, it can spread to other computers when you share files and programs with others — over the Internet using e-mail or P2P (peer-to-peer) file-sharing networks, or via infected CDs, DVDs, or floppy disks.
- Viruses persist primarily in stored memory on physical media such as your hard drive.
- New viruses are not as common a threat now as in the past.

Worms

- Self replicating/Spreading computer program.
- Worms are programs that can copy themselves; they exist in RAM (random- access memory).
- They spread by sending themselves via e-mail, instant- message programs, and peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing networks to other computers in a network.
- Unlike viruses, worms do not insert themselves into other programs — and they rarely affect the files on your hard drive.
- Worms cripple computers by congesting the flow of information, slowing down the system by using up its resources, or crashing the system altogether — all by making multiple copies of themselves.
- Unpatched computers, — those with- out the software fixes that plug security holes, — are a bonanza for them.
- Worms have shut down large portions of the Internet, causing millions of dollars in damages before they were stopped.
- They can also be carriers of root-kits, backdoors, and trojans (which we describe next).

Example

- Morris Worm -- buffer overflow attack on UNIX finger and other programs...
- Robert Tappan Morris, Jr. (CMU student) launched it on Nov 2, 1988 from an MIT computer
- Intended to just spread, but a `_bug_` in his code infected computers multiple times, so that computers FROZE after a while
- Infected 6000 UNIX workstations
- CERT created in response to Morris
- Morris now a MIT faculty member

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Worms and their Payloads

- Infect computer; send emails to other people... to spread the worm
- Infect computer; install a backdoor program to let bad guy log in... to send mass spam, send more worms, etc

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Blaster Worm

- Exploited a buffer overflow in Windows's RPC service
- Programmed to SYN flood windowsupdate.com on August 15 to prevent patches

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Attack: Trojan Horse

- Greek allusion
- Innocent looking program, does something malicious

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Trojans

- Trojan Horse programs (now mostly referred to as just trojans) are malicious applications masquerading as something helpful or innocuous.
- Veritable “wolves in sheep’s clothing,” they can disguise a destructive program as something more benign, such as an image file.
- A harmless-looking .gif extension, for example, may hide the .exe extension of an executable file.

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Dialers

- Two kinds of dialers exist — one good, one bad.
- The good one is installed as part of your operating system; it helps you connect to the Internet via an analog dialup connection.
- The other is malware, used to set up a fraudulent connection (usually to an expensive, long-distance telephone number) or to force downloads — all of which gets charged to your telephone bill — through particular Web sites.
- Malware dialers can be installed by trojans, ActiveX and JavaScript scripts, and from opening attachments in spam e-mails.
- (Users of DSL or Broadband connections are usually not affected by dialers.)

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Backdoors

- Backdoors are programs (or modifications to existing programs) that give outside users remote access to your computer without requiring user identification.
- Backdoors attempt to remain hidden or to “hide in plain sight” by appearing to be innocent.
- They can also be special passwords set up on a login system to the same effect.
- Backdoors can be installed through weaknesses in an unpatched or unprotected Windows computer, either directly by blackhat hackers or with a trojan, virus, or worm.

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Spyware

- is software that tracks user behavior and reports it to a company.
- Currently considered to be one of the greatest threats to Internet and computer security today
- includes a wide range of applications that use stealth and trickery to fool users into installing them.
- Broadly speaking, spyware takes full or partial control of computer operations while denying your rights to privacy and to choose for yourself what runs on your computer — all for the benefit of strangers.

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Adware

- is software that displays advertisements.
- is often free.
- shows advertisements of various products.
- Adware programs are often associated with spyware
 - because many adware programs monitor your browsing habits to target you with specific advertisements.

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Rootkits

- A rootkit is a program designed to hide not only itself, but another program and all its associated resources (processes, files, folders, Registry keys, ports, and drivers).
- Rootkits can be whitehat (well-intentioned in purpose but still a potential security risk) or blackhat (malicious in nature).
- Malicious rootkits are often used to compromise and maintain remote control over a computer or network for illegitimate, — often criminal — purposes.
- Malicious rootkits do their work by hiding malware that installs a backdoor to allow an attacker to have unlimited and prolonged access to the infected computer.
- There also other types of malware such as exploits, macros, botnets, hijackers and keyloggers.

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