CSCI-1680
More on TLS
How to (try) to be anonymous

Nick DeMarinis

Based partly on lecture notes by Rodrigo Fonseca, Scott Shenker and John Jannotti

Administrivia

- Final project: now available
  - Team form: due TODAY (12/2) by 5pm EST
  - Brief proposal: due Friday 12/6 (no late days!)

- Final homework (short): out now, due Mon, 12/9
- Short SRC component: due 12/16 (same as final project)

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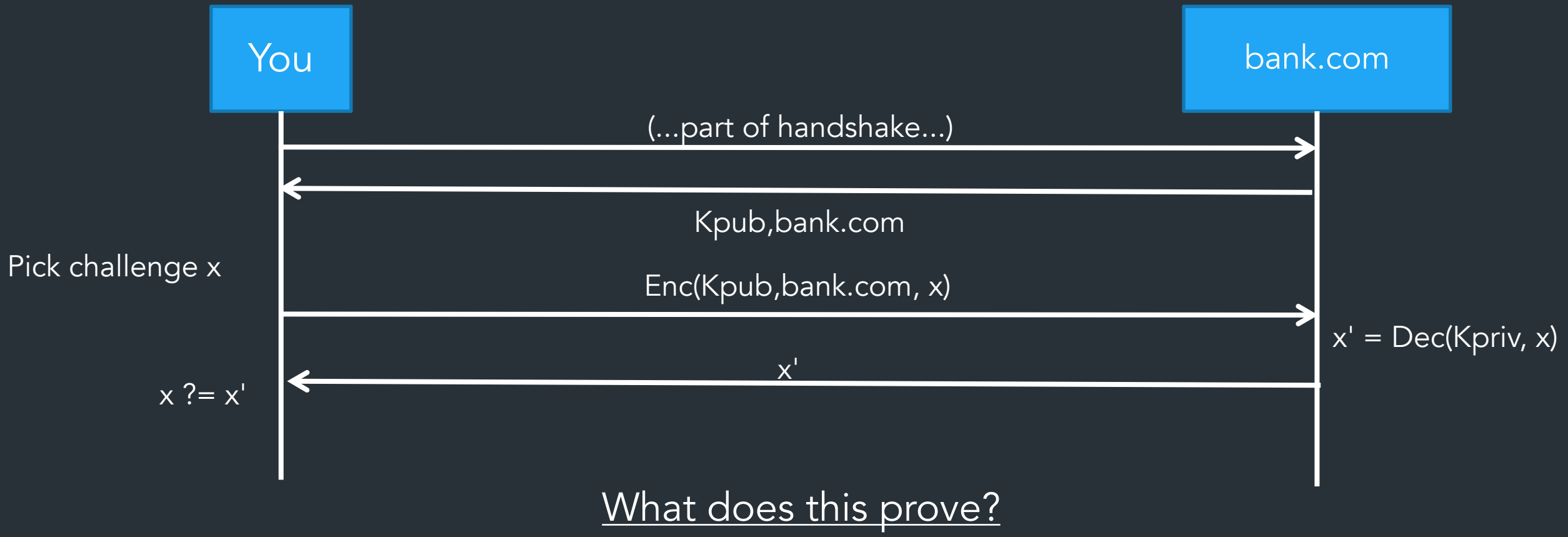
- Most office hours end Friday, some updates this week
  - After 12/6: I will still have hours, but schedule will differ => see calendar

Warmup: the TLS challenge



What does this prove?

Warmup

TLS: Establish a secure, bidirectional channel between two parties

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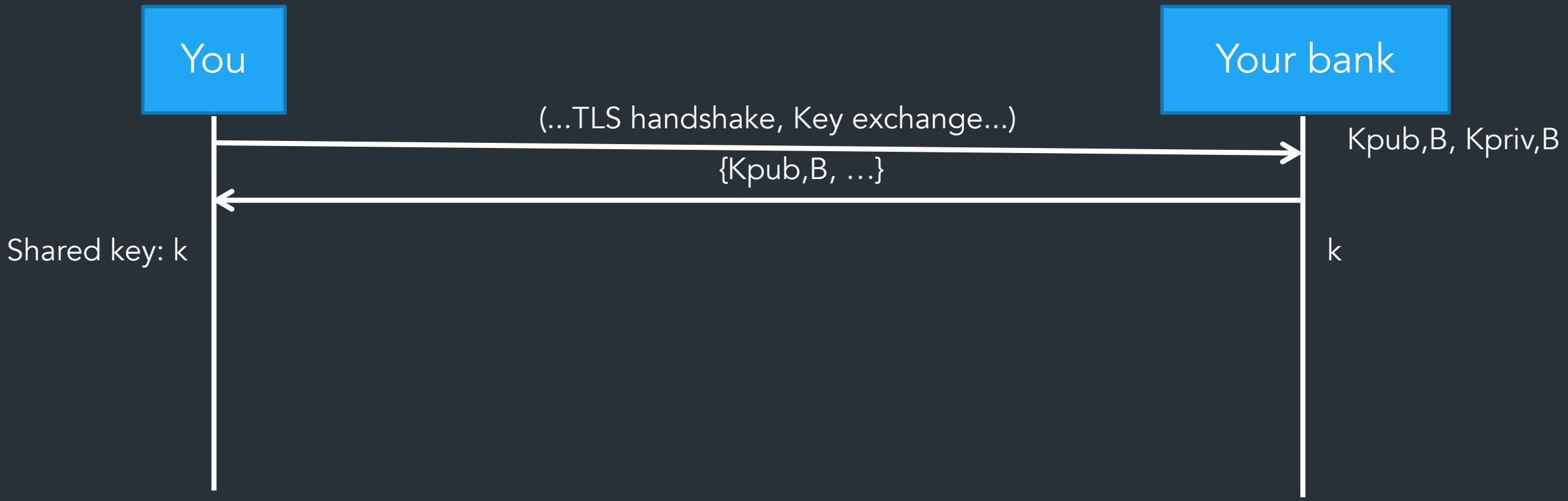
When establishing a TLS connection, can (easily) set up a shared key for both parties to communicate confidentially.



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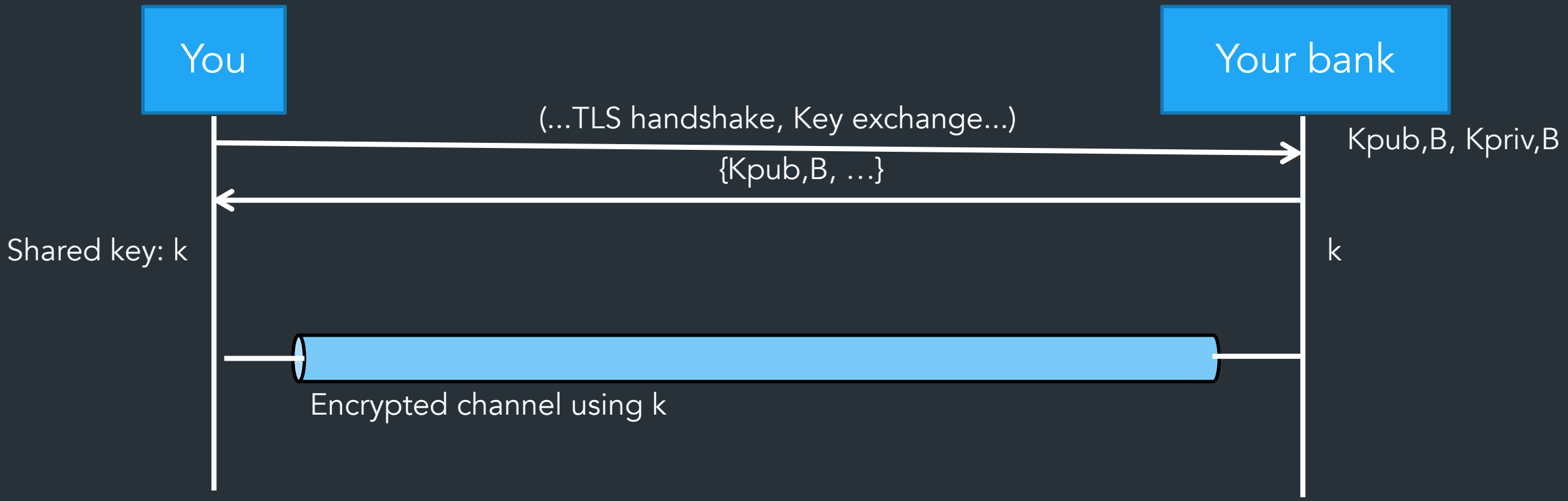

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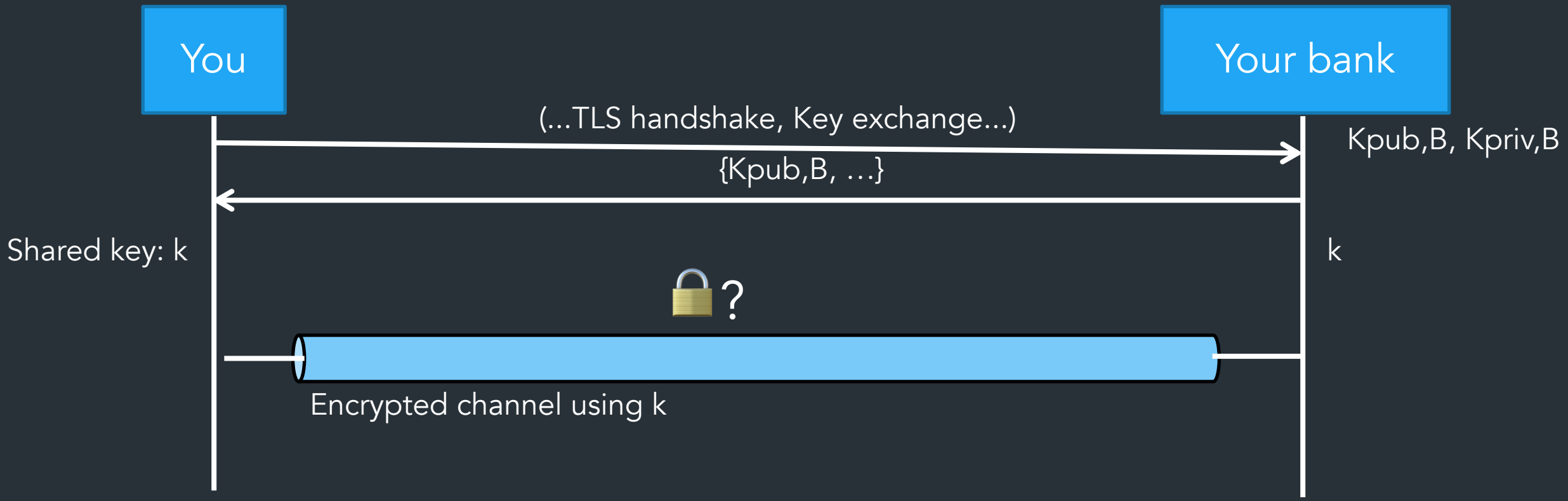
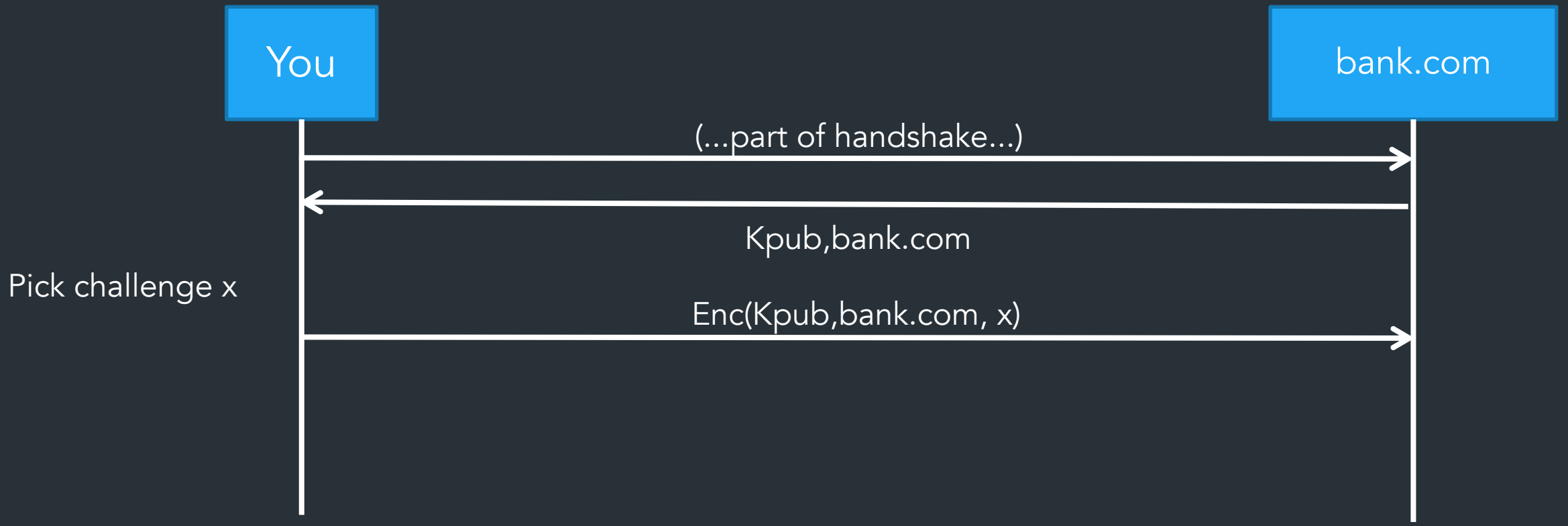


But if you want to connect to a site like your bank securely, what else is missing?
What do we need besides confidentiality?

The Challenge



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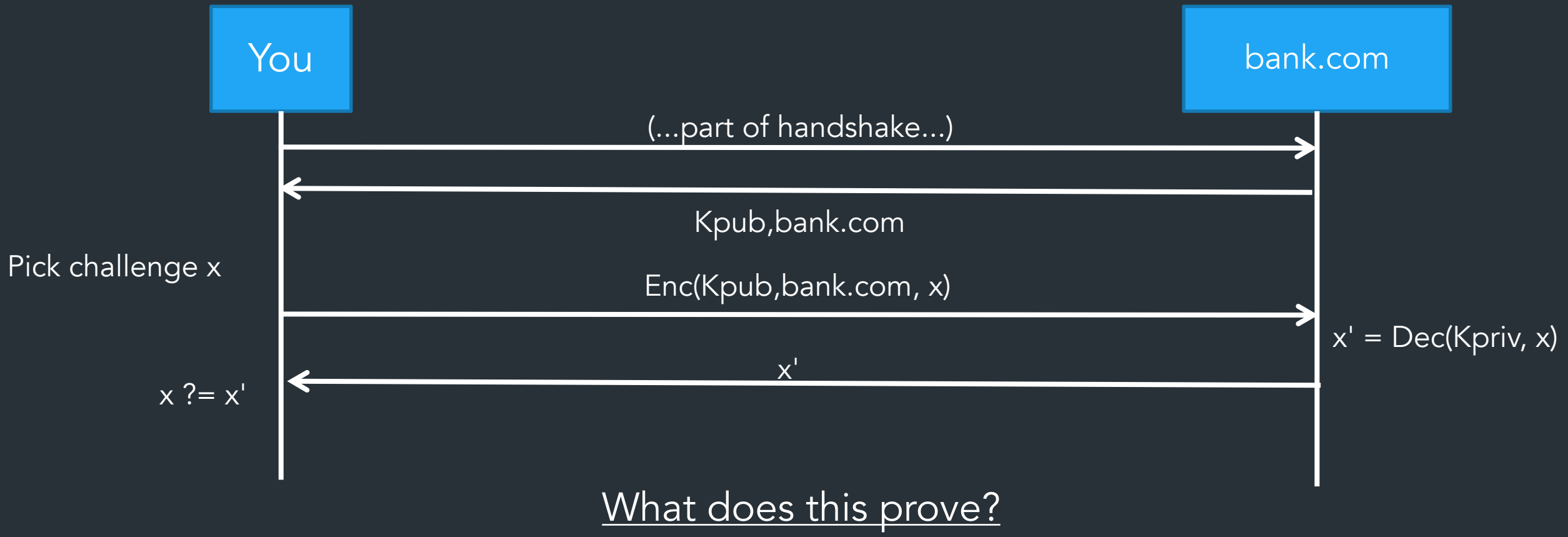

What does this prove?

Authentication challenges

- Challenge proves that the server at bank.com holds K_priv
- Does NOT prove belong to the server belongs to your bank, the real-life bank with your money

Authentication challenges

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- Does NOT prove the server belongs to YourBank, the real-life bank that holds your money

"But I'm visiting yourbank.com!"

- DNS can be spoofed
- Possible active network attacker (redirecting your IP traffic to malicious server)
- Domain names can expire and be re-registered...

Problem: How can we trust K_pub is Your Bank's public key?

Problem: distributing trust

How can we trust Kpub is Your Bank's public key?

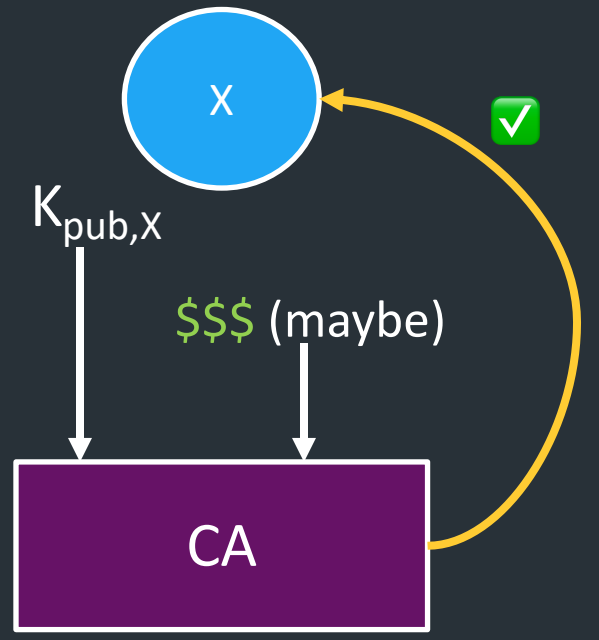
Problem: Trust distribution

- Hard to verify real-world identities
- Hard to scale to the whole Internet

Different protocols have different mechanisms

=> TLS (and others): Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) with certificates

PKI: The main idea



Public keys managed by Certificate Authorities (CAs)

- Everyone knows public key for some root CAs
  - Pre-installed into browser/OS
- If X wants a public key, request from CA
  - CA supposed to validate X's identity…

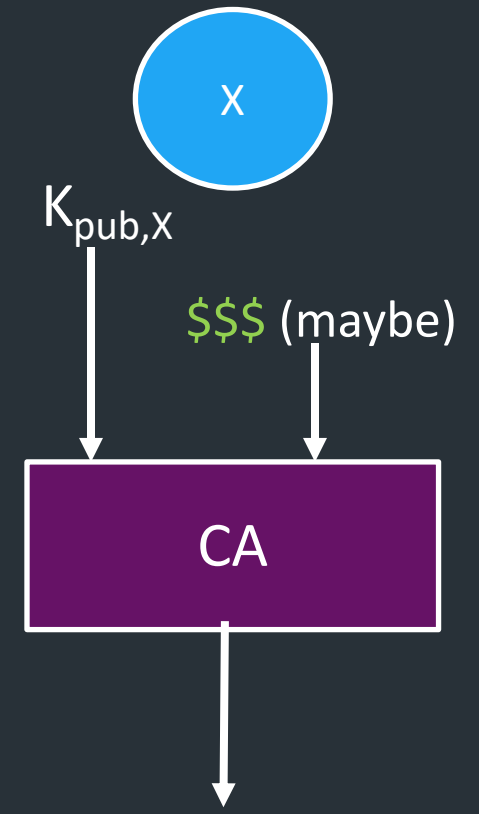
PKI: The main idea

Public keys managed by Certificate Authorities (CAs)

- Everyone knows public key for some root CAs
  - Pre-installed into browser/OS

- If X wants a public key, request from CA
  - CA validates X's identity => if OK signs X's public key
  - Generates certificate
- Client can verify $K_{pub,X}$ from CA's signature:

  Verify($K_{pub,CA}$ Cert) => True/False



=> Delegates trust for individual entity to a more trusted authority

What's in a certificate?

- Public key of entity (eg. yourbank.com)
- Common name: DNS name of server (yourbank.com)
- Contact info for organization

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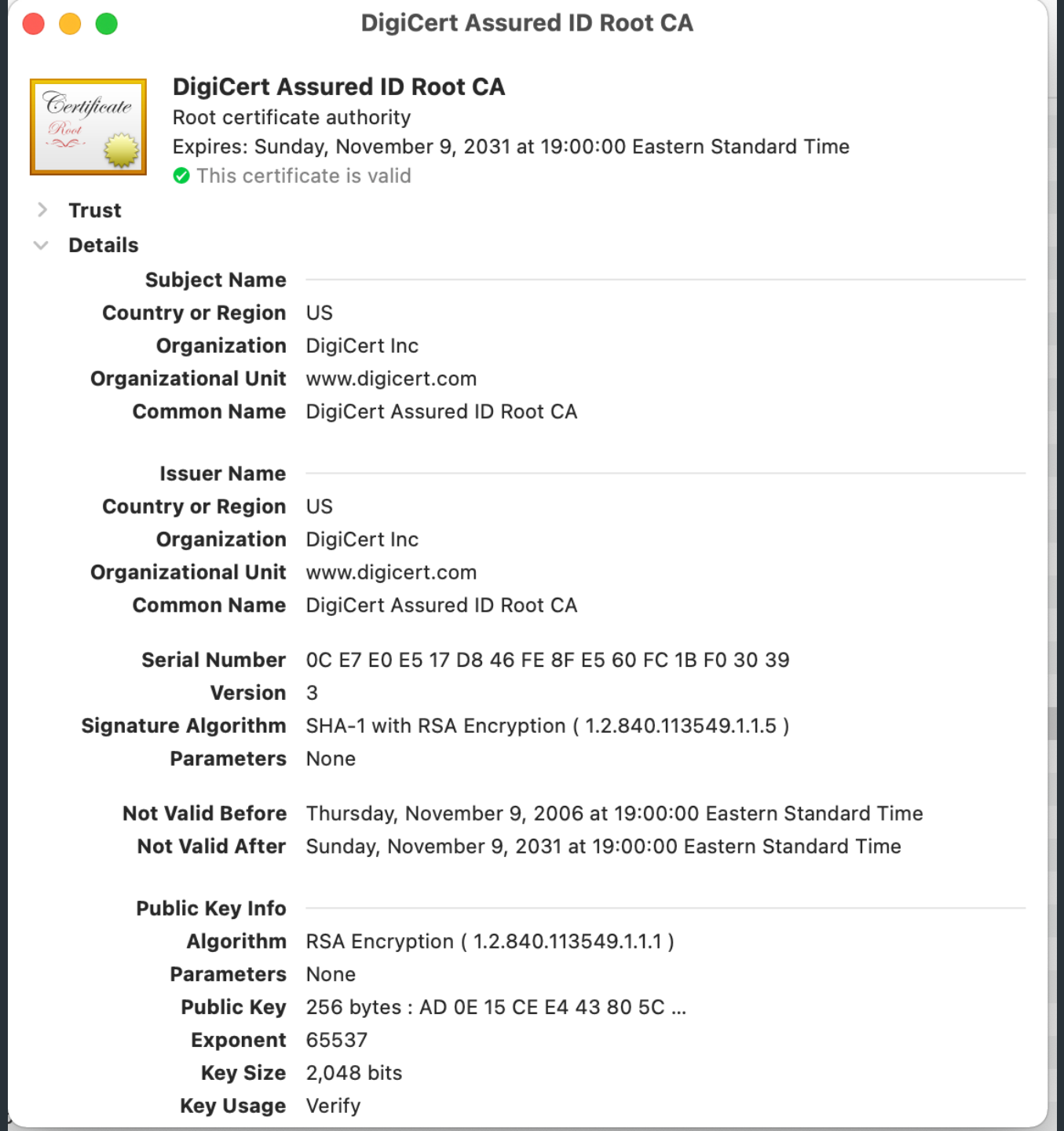
- Validity dates (start date, expire date)
- URL of *revocation center* to check if key has been revoked

All of this is part of the data signed by the CA
=> Critical to check all parts during TLS startup!


DigiCert Assured ID Root CA
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Root certificate authority
Expires: Sunday, November 9, 2031 at 19:00:00 Eastern Standard Time
This certificate is valid
Trust
Details
Subject Name
Country or Region US
Organization DigiCert Inc
Organizational Unit www.digicert.com
Common Name DigiCert Assured ID Root CA
Issuer Name
Country or Region US
Organization DigiCert Inc
Organizational Unit www.digicert.com
Common Name DigiCert Assured ID Root CA
Serial Number 0C E7 E0 E5 17 D8 46 FE 8F E5 60 FC 1B F0 30 39
Version 3
Signature Algorithm SHA-1 with RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.5)
Parameters None
Not Valid Before Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 19:00:00 Eastern Standard Time
Not Valid After Sunday, November 9, 2031 at 19:00:00 Eastern Standard Time
Public Key Info
Algorithm RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)
Parameters None
Public Key 256 bytes : AD 0E 15 CE E4 43 80 5C ...
Exponent 65537
Key Size 2,048 bits
Key Usage Verify

Keychain Access

Search

All Items | Passwords | Secure Notes | My Certificates | Keys | Certificates

Amazon Root CA 1
Root certificate authority
Expires: Saturday, January 16, 2038 at 19:00:00 Eastern Standard Time
This certificate is valid

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AAA Certificate Services	certificate	--	Dec 31, 2028 at 18:59:59	System Roots
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Apple Root CA - G2	certificate	--	Apr 30, 2039 at 14:10:09	System Roots
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CA Disig Root R1	certificate	--	Jul 19, 2042 at 05:06:56	System Roots
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Certigna	certificate	--	Jun 29, 2027 at 11:13:05	System Roots
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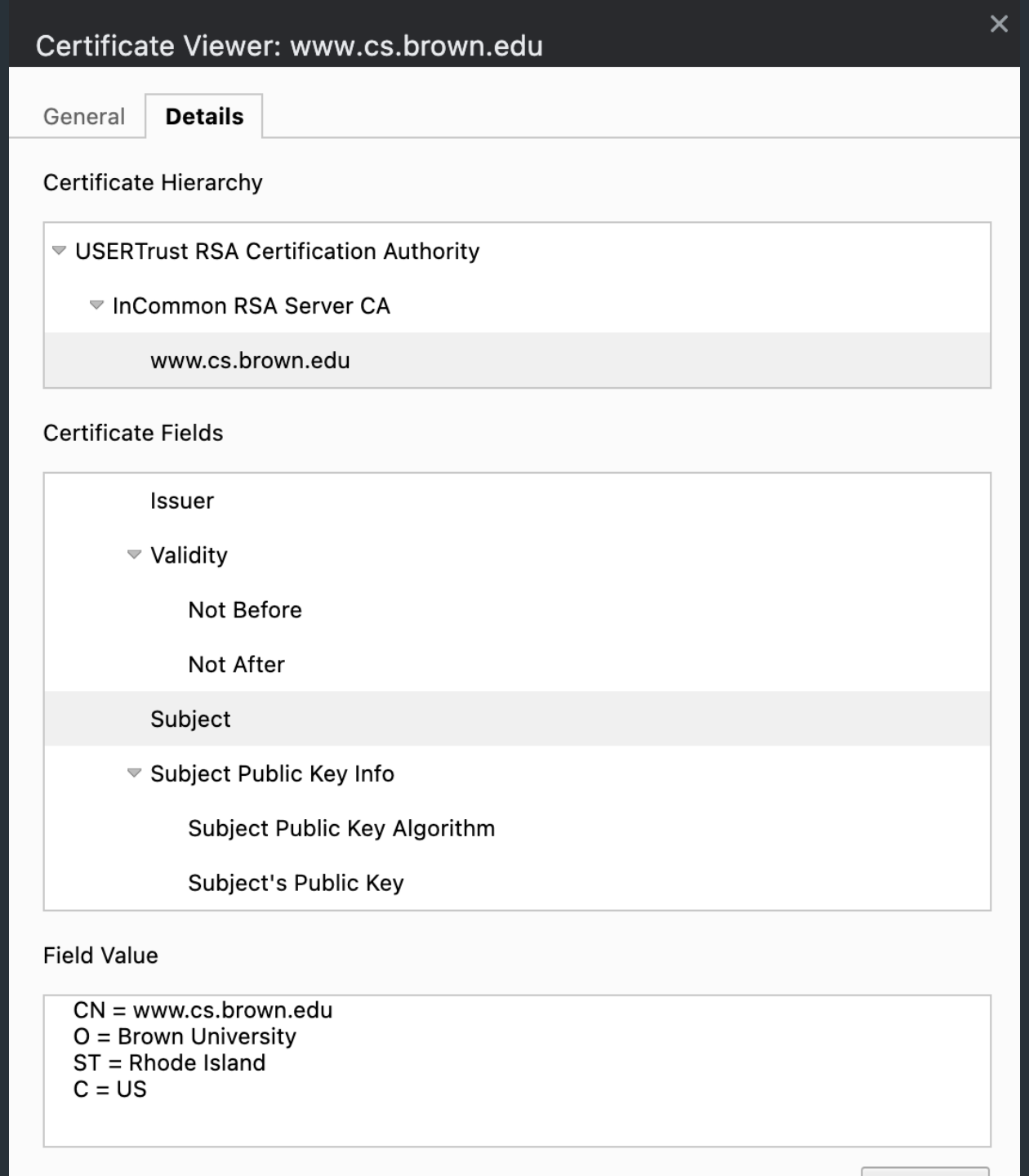
Certificate Viewer: www.cs.brown.edu
General
Details
Certificate Hierarchy
USERTrust RSA Certification Authority
InCommon RSA Server CA
www.cs.brown.edu
Certificate Fields
Issuer
Validity
Not Before
Not After
Subject
Subject Public Key Info
Subject Public Key Algorithm
Subject's Public Key
Field Value
CN = www.cs.brown.edu
O = Brown University
ST = Rhode Island
C = US

PKI hierarchy

In reality, PKI creates a hierarchy of trust:

- Root CAs: k_{pub} stored in virtually every browser, OS
  - Private keys protected by most stringent security measures (software, hardware, physical)

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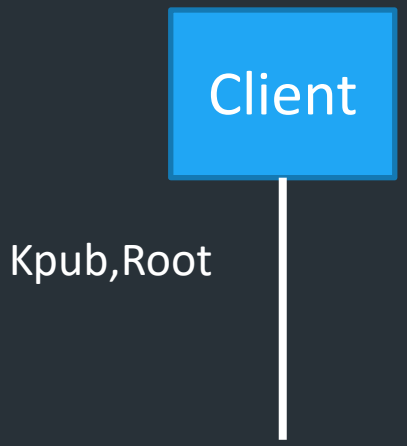
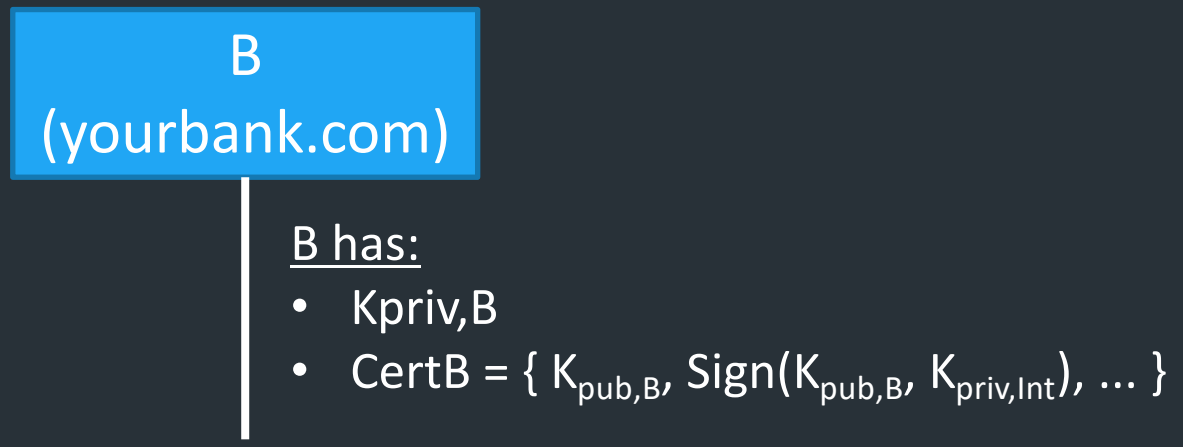
What happens if a root is compromised?

How the hierarchy works

Ex. Server has certificate from Intermediate CA_{Int}





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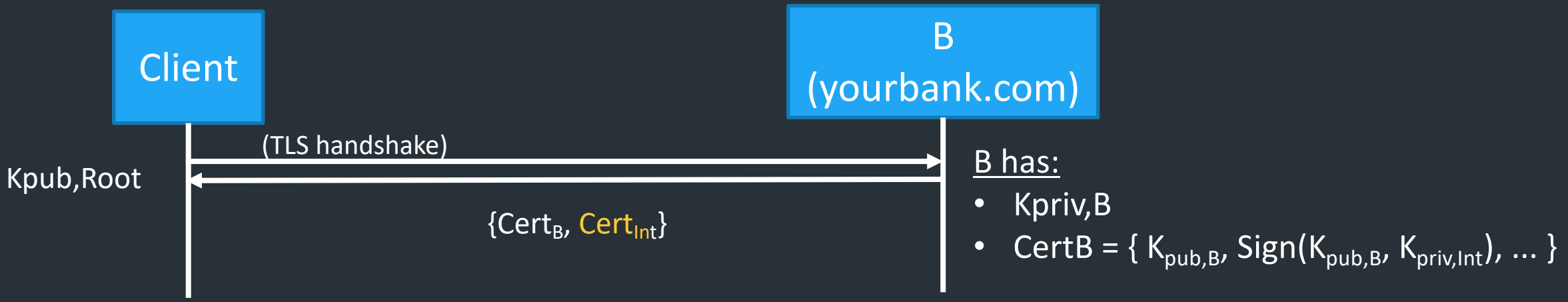

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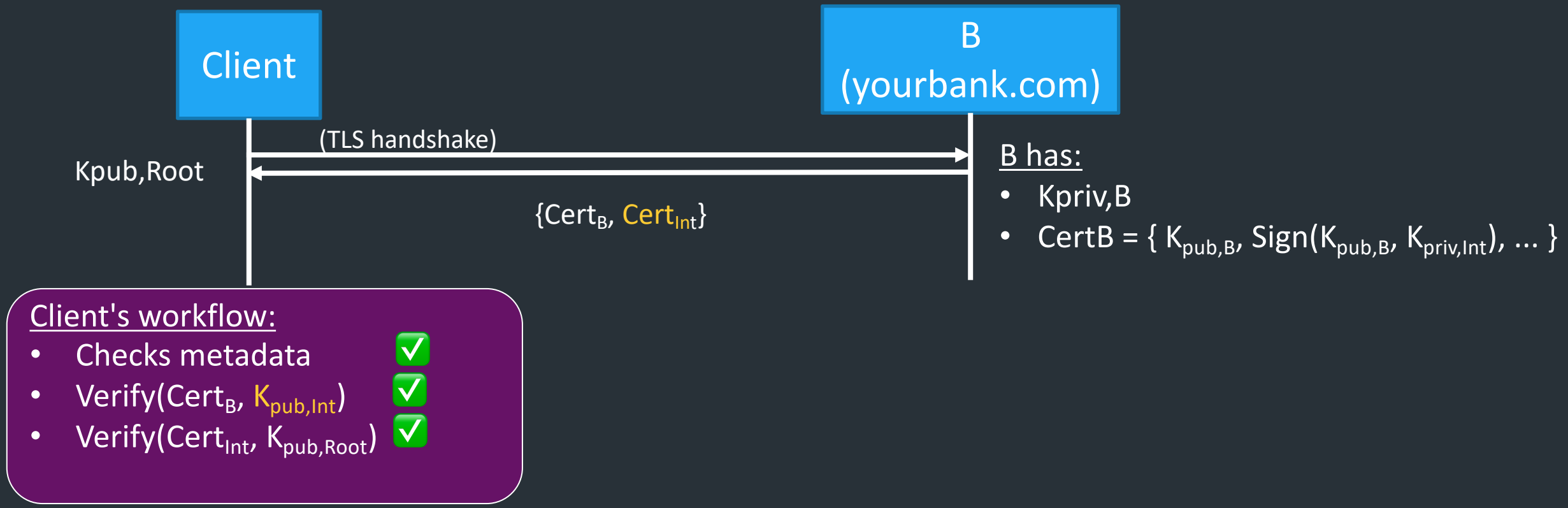

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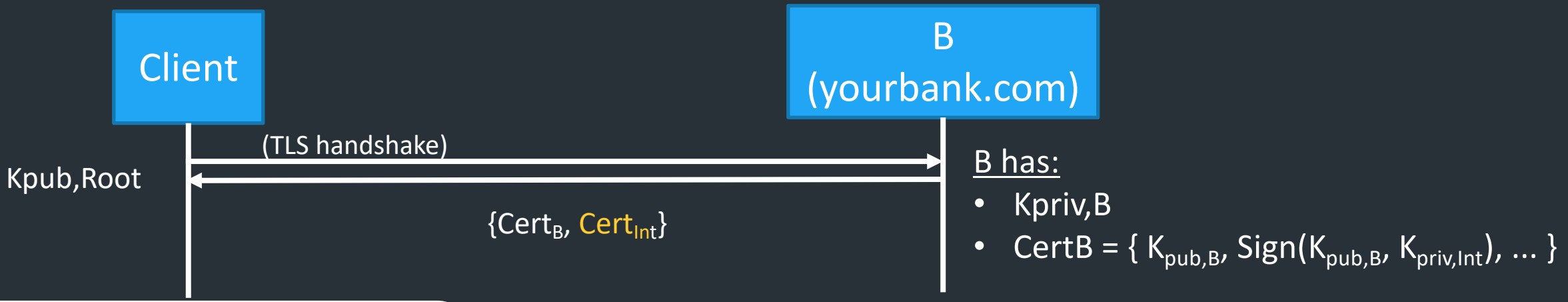
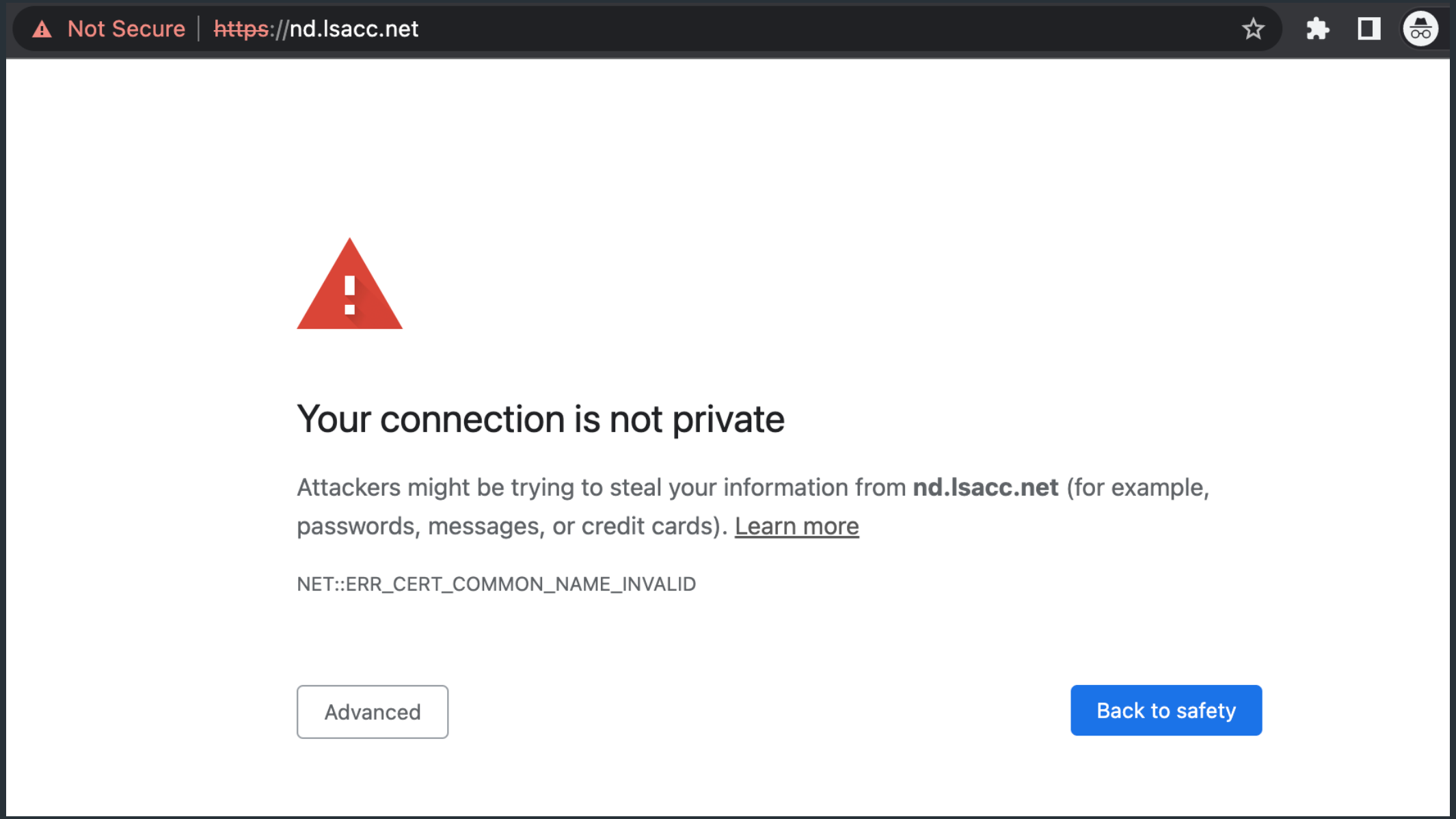


Client's workflow:

- Checks metadata ✅
- Verify($Cert_B$, $K_{pub,Int}$) ✅
- Verify($Cert_{Int}$, $K_{pub,Root}$) ✅

=> To verify integrity, need to verify certificates back to (trusted) root certificate

=> OK if verification passes and metadata correct: 🔒


Not Secure | https://nd.lsacc.net
Your connection is not private
Attackers might be trying to steal your information from nd.lsacc.net (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards). Learn more
NET::ERR_CERT_COMMON_NAME_INVALID
Advanced
Back to safety

Most common TLS errors you might see

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- Certificate expired
- Bad chain of trust (can’t verify back to trusted root)

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=> Usually a sign of something sketchy, or something wrong with the webserver

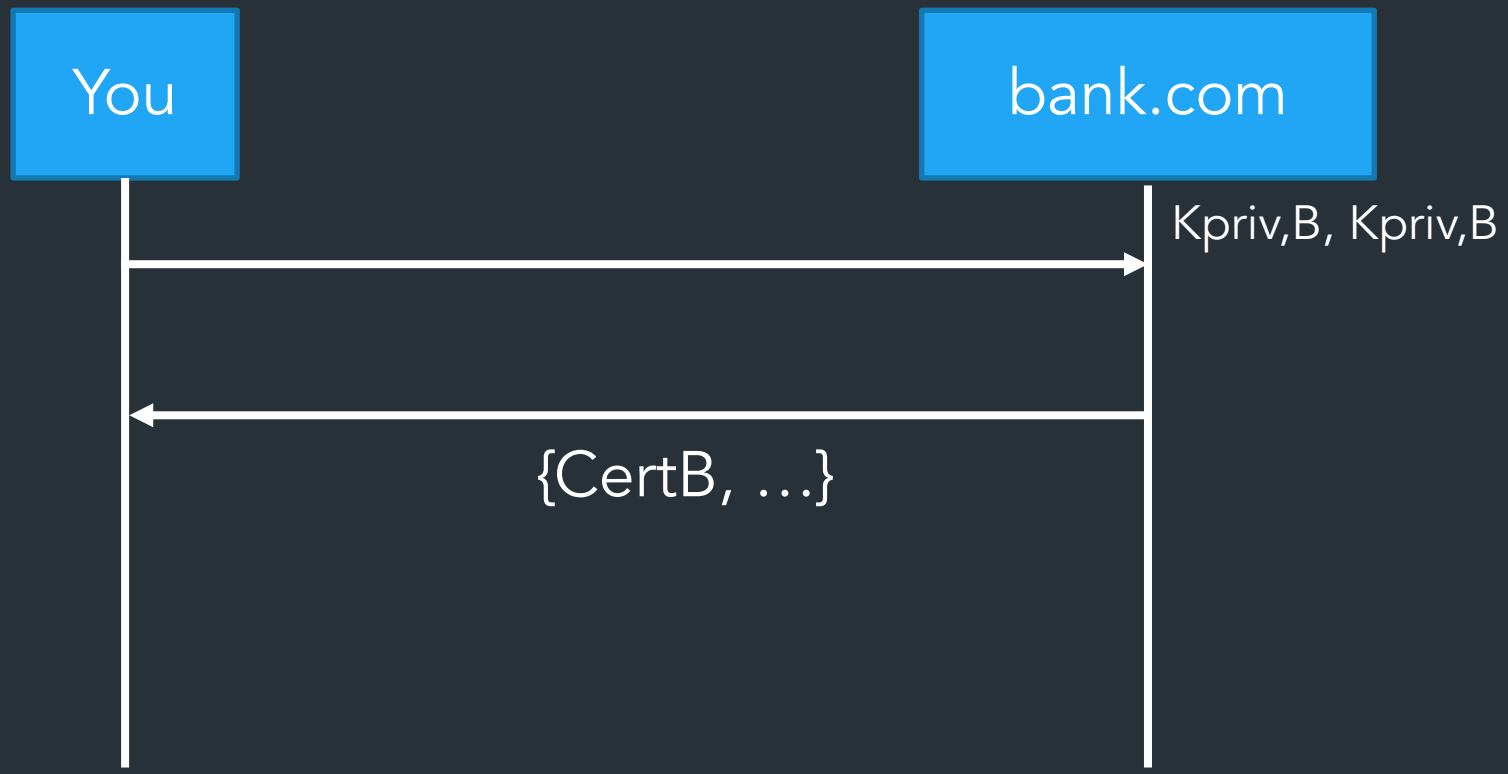
When is it okay to click "proceed"? What happens if you do?

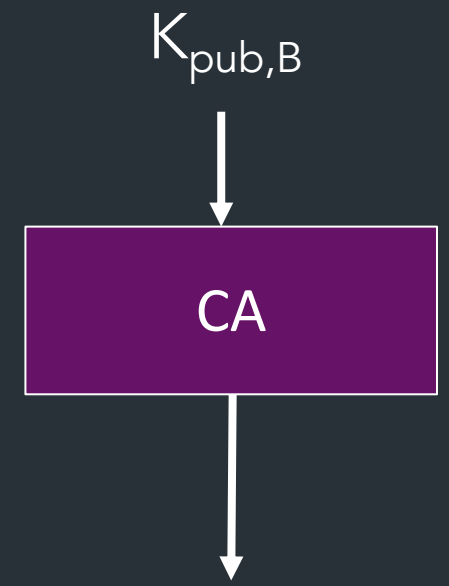
Most common TLS errors you might see

- Common name (eg. yourbank.com) invalid
- Certificate expired
- Bad chain of trust (can't verify to trusted root cert)
- "Certificate is self-signed"???

Warmup

What happens if attacker obtains Kpriv,B?
What about Kpriv,CA?





$s = Sign(K_{priv,CA}, \{K_{pub,B}, \ldots\})$

$Cert_B = \{K_{pub,B}, metadata, s\}$

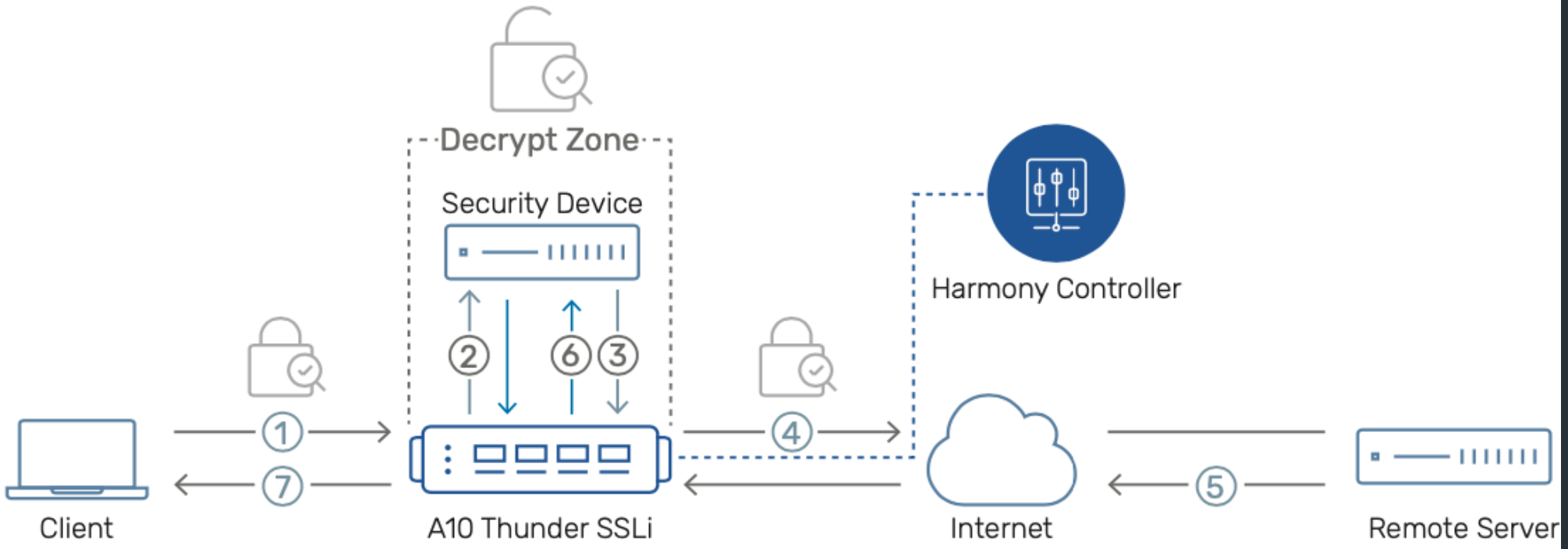
Rogue Certificates?

- In 2011, DigiNotar, a Dutch root certificate authority, was compromised
- The attacker created rogue certificates for popular domains like google.com and yahoo.com
- DigiNotar was distrusted by browsers and filed for bankruptcy
- See the incident investigation report by Fox-IT

- In 2017, Google questioned the certificate issuance policies and practices of Symantec
- Google's Chrome would start distrusting Symantec's certificates unless certain remediation steps were taken
- See back and forth between Ryan Sleevi (Chromium team) and Symantec
- The matter was settled with DigiCert acquiring Symantec's certificate business

TLS “decryption”

What happens when an organization wants to view TLS traffic on its network?



1. Encrypted traffic from the client is intercepted by Thunder SSLi and decrypted.
2. Thunder SSLi sends the decrypted traffic to a security device, which inspects it in clear-text.
3. The security device, after inspection, sends the traffic back to Thunder SSLi, which intercepts and re-encrypts it.
4. Thunder SSLi sends the re-encrypted traffic to the server.
5. The server processes the request and sends an encrypted response to Thunder SSLi.
6. Thunder SSLi decrypts the response traffic and forwards it to the same security device for inspection.
7. Thunder SSLi receives the traffic from the security device, re-encrypts it and sends it to the client.

Keychain Access

Search

All Items | Passwords | Secure Notes | My Certificates | Keys | Certificates

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⇒ Cannot recover session key if server private key leaked

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Website protocol support (Sept 2023)

Protocol version	Website support[87]	Security[87][88]
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TLS 1.1	32.5%	Deprecated[20][21][22]
TLS 1.2	99.9%	Depends on cipher[n 1] and client mitigations[n 2]
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Remember how we said don't propagate buggy behavior in TCP?

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=> TLS libraries are very critical and need lots of oversight/auditing

=> Servers (and clients) need to be updated with latest standards/fixes

As of July 2021, the Trustworthy Internet Movement estimated the ratio of websites that are vulnerable to TLS attacks.[71]

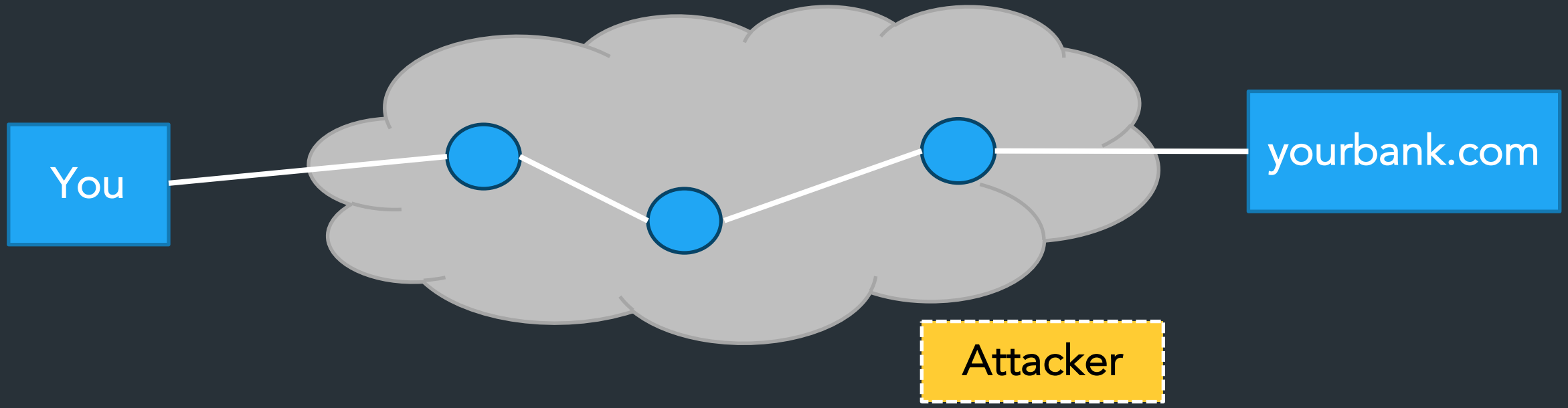
Survey of the TLS vulnerabilities of the most popular websites

Attacks	Security			
	Insecure	Depends	Secure	Other
Renegotiation attack	0.1% support insecure renegotiation	<0.1% support both	99.2% support secure renegotiation	0.7% no support
RC4 attacks	0.4% support RC4 suites used with modern browsers	6.5% support some RC4 suites	93.1% no support	N/A
TLS Compression (CRIME attack)	>0.0% vulnerable	N/A	N/A	N/A
Heartbleed	>0.0% vulnerable	N/A	N/A	N/A
ChangeCipherSpec injection attack	0.1% vulnerable and exploitable	0.2% vulnerable, not exploitable	98.5% not vulnerable	1.2% unknown
POODLE attack against TLS (Original POODLE against SSL 3.0 is not included)	0.1% vulnerable and exploitable	0.1% vulnerable, not exploitable	99.8% not vulnerable	0.2% unknown
Protocol downgrade	6.6% Downgrade defence not supported	N/A	72.3% Downgrade defence supported	21.0% unknown

Wikipedia table, source: https://www.ssllabs.com/ssl-pulse/

So, are we good?

If we use TLS, is it enough?


You
yourbank.com
Attacker

Overall, depends on your threat model…

- Server still knows who you are, even if connection is encrypted

- Even encrypted traffic leaks information!

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- Server still knows who you are, even if connection is encrypted

=> IPs can be traced to location (to varying levels of precision)

=> Your browser may leak info (cookies, mouse usage, etc.)

- Even encrypted traffic leaks information!

=> Name of server: DNS, Server Name Indicator (SNI)

=> Traffic patterns (timing of packets, protocols, …)

Securing the transport layer not enough => info leaks based on other layers

Why?

- Avoiding censorship
- Avoiding surveillance (by person, or an organization)
- Anonymous reporting (journalists, whistleblowers)

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Room 641A: wiretapping room in a datacenter for an Internet backbone…
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Room_641A

How can we deal with this?

Mechanisms to provide more security at the network layer

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Mechanisms to provide more security at the network layer

⇒ Security for all your network traffic => not just one 5-tuple

⇒ Can (try to) provide more anonymity

VPN: secure tunnel for network traffic

=> Connect a host to a private network

Virtual Private Network (VPN)

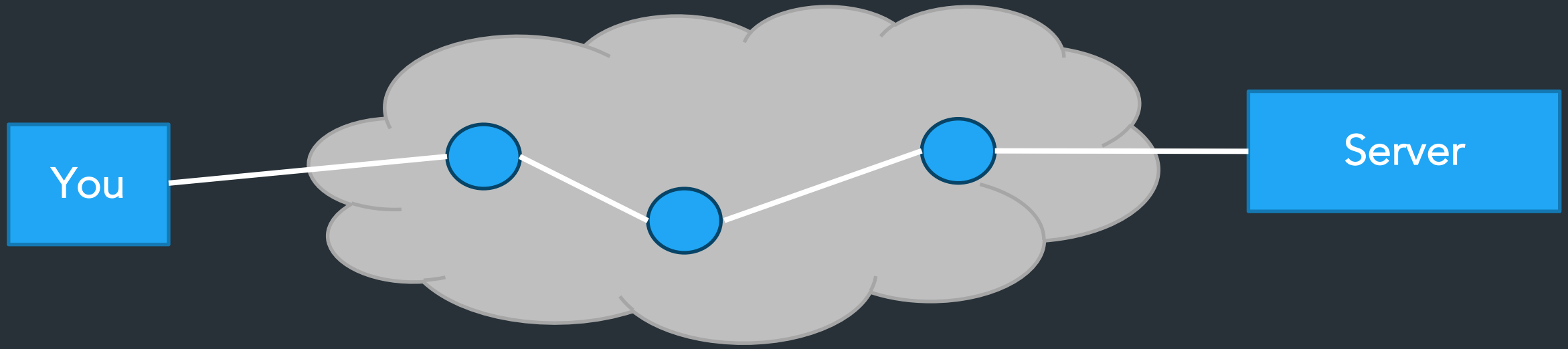
Secure tunnel for arbitrary network traffic (any IP packets)

Use for

=> Accessing a private network (remote access internal network)

=> Secure proxy for your traffic: traffic appears to originate from VPN server

Problems?



VPN: secure tunnel for network traffic

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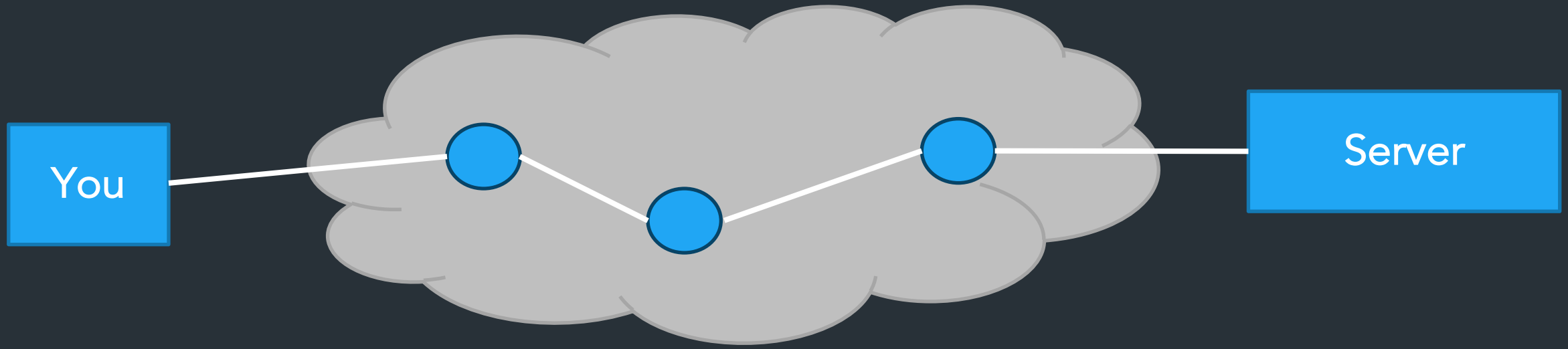
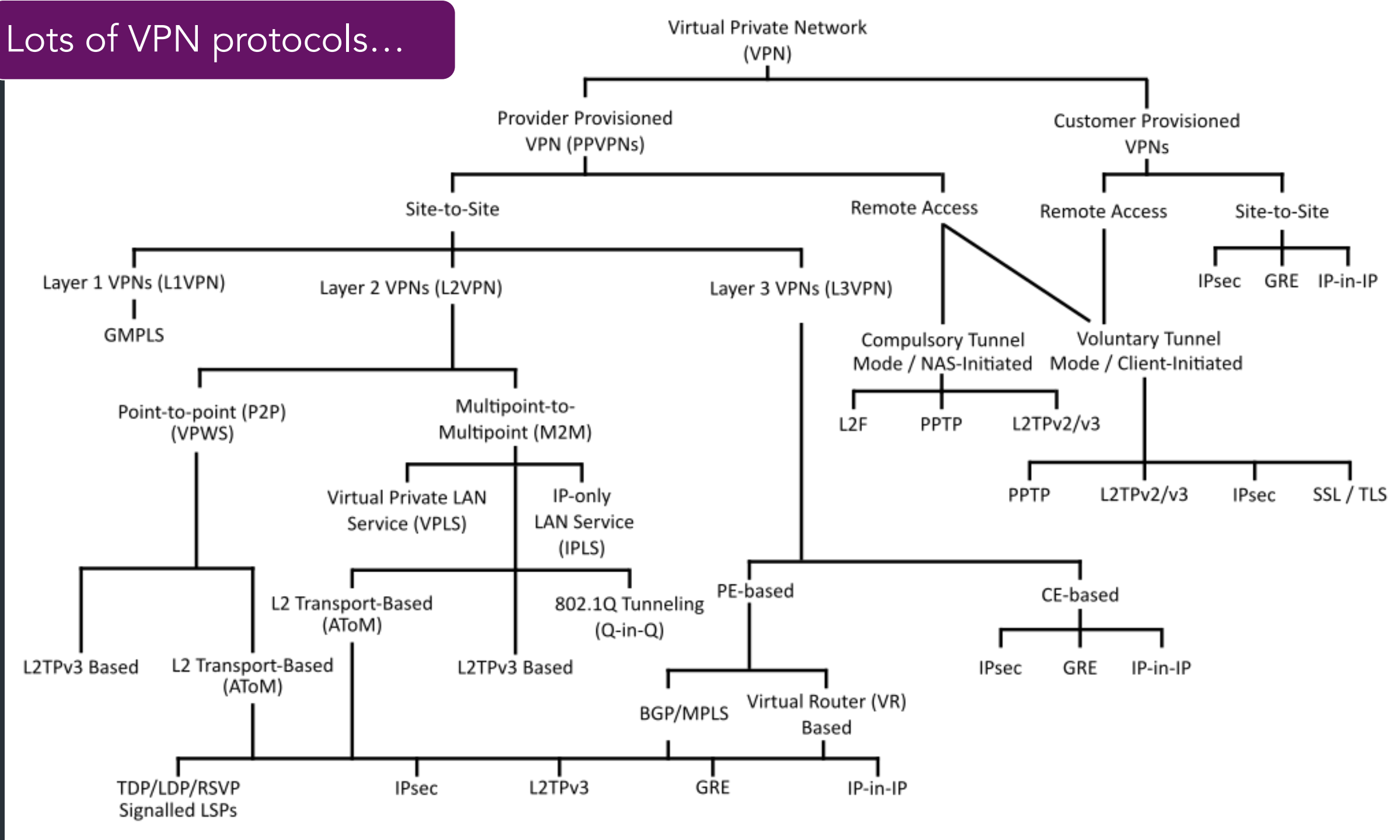
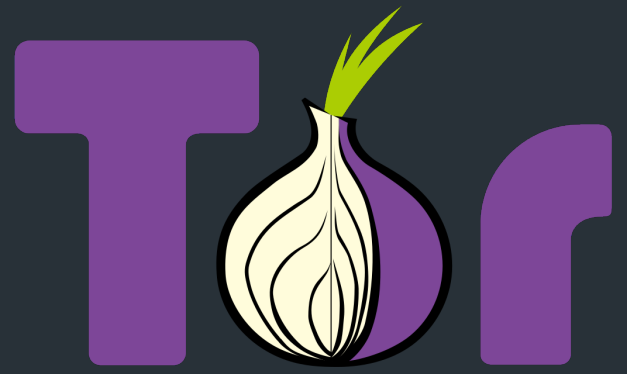


Lots of VPN protocols…



Can we do better?

Tor



- Onion routing service: build encrypted circuit on tor relay network
- Network of relays, mainly operated by volunteers
- Started in 1990s from Naval Research Lab, now maintained by The Tor Project (a non-profit)

Onion Routing

- Layered encryption
  - Build onion inside out
- Routing
  - Peel onion outside in
- Each router knows only previous and next