# Introduction to Cryptography Lecture 10

Digital signatures, Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

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#### Handwritten signatures

- Associate a document with an signer (individual)
- Signature can be verified against a different signature of the individual
- It is hard to forge the signature...
- It is hard to change the document after it was signed...
- Signatures are legally binding

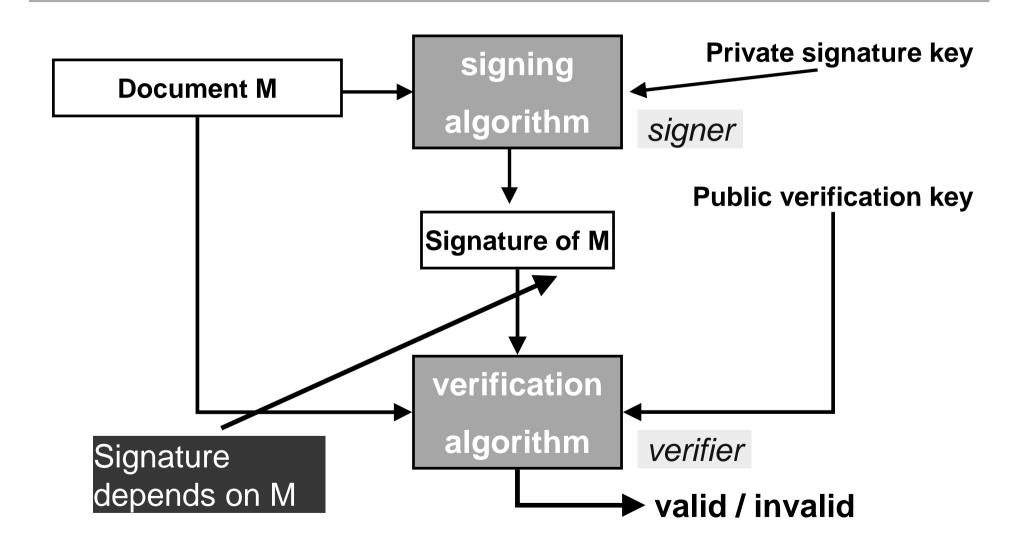
#### Desiderata for digital signatures

- Associate a document to an signer
- A digital signature is attached to a document (rather then be part of it)
- The signature is easy to verify but hard to forge
  - Signing is done using knowledge of a private key
  - Verification is done using a public key associated with the signer (rather than comparing to an original signature)
  - It is impossible to change even one bit in the signed document
- A copy of a digitally signed document is as good as the original signed document.
- Digital signatures could be legally binding...

#### Non Repudiation

- Prevent signer from denying that it signed the message
- I.e., the receiver can prove to third parties that the message was signed by the signer
- This is different than message authentication (MACs)
  - There the receiver is assured that the message was sent by the receiver and was not changed in transit
  - But the receiver cannot prove this to other parties
    - MACs: sender and receiver share a secret key K
    - If R sees a message MACed with K, it knows that it could have only been generated by S
    - But if R shows the MAC to a third party, it cannot prove that the MAC was generated by S and not by R

#### Signing/verification process



# Diffie-Hellman "New directions in cryptography" (1976)

- In public key encryption
  - The encryption function is a trapdoor permutation f
    - Everyone can encrypt = compute f(). (using the public key)
    - Only Alice can decrypt = compute  $f^{-1}()$ . (using her private key)
- Alice can use f for signing
  - Alice signs m by computing  $s=f^{-1}(m)$ .
  - Verification is done by computing m=f(s).
- Intuition: since only Alice can compute  $f^{-1}()$ , forgery is infeasible.
- Caveat: none of the established practical signature schemes following this paradigm is provably secure

#### Example: simple RSA based signatures

- Key generation: (as in RSA)
  - Alice picks random p,q. Finds  $e \cdot d=1 \mod (p-1)(q-1)$ .
  - Public verification key: (N,e)
  - Private signature key: d
- Signing: Given m, Alice computes  $s=m^d \mod N$ .
- Verification: given m,s and public key (N,e).
  - Compute  $m' = s^e \mod N$ .
  - Output "valid" iff m'=m.

### Message lengths

- A technical problem:
  - |m| might be longer than |N|
  - m might not be in the domain of  $f^{-1}()$

#### Solution "hash-and-sign" paradigm:

- Signing: First compute H(m), then compute the signature  $f^{-1}(H(M))$ . Where,
  - The range of H() must be contained in the domain of  $f^{-1}()$ .
  - H() must be collision intractable. I.e. it is hard to find (in polynomial time) messages m, m's.t. H(m)=H(m').
- Verification:
  - Compute f(s). Compare to H(m).
- Using H() is also good for security reasons. See below.

### Security of using a hash function

- Intuitively
  - Adversary can compute H(), f(), but not  $H^{-1}()$ ,  $f^{-1}()$ .
  - Can only compute (m,H(m)) by choosing m and computing H().
  - Adversary wants to compute  $(m, f^{-1}(H(m)))$ .
  - To break signature needs to show s s.t. f(s)=H(m). (E.g.  $s^e=H(m)$ .)
  - Failed attack strategy 1:
    - Pick s, compute f(s), and look for m s.t. H(m)=f(s).
  - Failed attack strategy 2:
    - Pick m,m's.t. H(m)=H(m'). Ask for a signature s of m' (which is also a signature of m).
    - (If H() is not collision resistant, adversary could find m,m'
       s.t. H(m) = H(m').)
  - This does not mean that the scheme is secure, only that these attacks fail.

#### Security definitions for digital signatures

- Attacks against digital signatures
  - Key only attack: the adversary knows only the verification key
  - Known signature attack: in addition, the adversary has some message/signature pairs.
  - Chosen message attack: the adversary can ask for signatures of messages of its choice (e.g. attacking a notary system).
    - (Seems even more reasonable than chosen message attacks against encryption.)

#### Security definitions for digital signatures

- Several levels of success for the adversary
  - Existential forgery: the adversary succeeds in forging the signature of one message.
  - Selective forgery: the adversary succeeds in forging the signature of one message of its choice.
  - Universal forgery: the adversary can forge the signature of any message.
  - Total break: the adversary finds the private signature key.
- Different levels of security, against different attacks, are required for different scenarios.

#### Example: simple RSA based signatures

- Key generation: (as in RSA)
  - Alice picks random p,q. Defines N=pq and finds e⋅d=1 mod (p-1)(q-1).
  - Public verification key: (N,e)
  - Private signature key: d
- Signing: Given m, Alice computes  $s=m^d \mod N$ .
- (suppose that there is no hash function H())
- Verification: given m,s and public key (N,e).
  - Compute  $m' = s^e \mod N$ .
  - Output "valid" iff m'=m.

#### Attacks against plain RSA signatures

- Signature of m is  $s=m^d \mod N$ .
- Universally forgeable under a chosen message attack:
  - Universal forgery: the adversary can forge the signature of any message of its choice.
  - Chosen message attack: the adversary can ask for signatures of messages of its choice.
- Existentially forgeable under key only attack.
  - Existential forgery: succeeds in forging the signature of at least one message.
  - Key only attack: the adversary knows the public verification key but does not ask any queries.

#### RSA with a full domain hash function

- Signature is  $sig(m) = f^{-1}(H(m)) = (H(m))^d \mod N$ .
  - H() is such that its range is [1,N]
- The system is no longer homomorphic
  - $sig(m) \cdot sig(m') ≠ sig(m \cdot m')$
- Seems hard to generate a random signature
  - Computing  $s^e$  is insufficient, since it is also required to show m s.t.  $H(m) = s^e$ .
- Proof of security in the random oracle model where H() is modeled as a random function

#### The random oracle model

- In the real world, an attacker has access to the actual code that implements a hash function H.
- In our analysis attacker has only "oracle access" to H.
  - Attacker sends input x.
  - If this is the first query with this value, receives random H(x).
  - Otherwise, receives the value previously given for H(x).

#### Proof strategy:

- If there exists an attacker A that breaks a cryptosystem with random oracle access, then there exists an attacker B that contradicts the RSA assumption.
- Namely, if we believe in the RSA assumption, then if we use a random oracle like hash function then the system is secure.

#### RSA with full domain hash -proof of security

 Claim: Assume that H() is a random function, then if there is a polynomial-time A() which performs existential forgery with non-negligible probability, then it is possible to invert the RSA function, on a random input, with non-negligible probability.

#### Proof:

- Our input: y. Our challenge is to compute y<sup>d</sup> mod N.
- A() queries H() and a signature oracle sig(), and generates a signature s of a message for which it did not query sig().
- Suppose A() made at most t queries to H(), asking for  $H(m_1), ..., H(m_t)$ . Suppose also that it always queries H(m) before querying sig(m).
- We will show how to use A() to compute  $y^d \mod N$ .

#### RSA with full domain hash -proof of security

- Proof (contd.)
- Let us first assume that A always forges the signature of  $m_t$  (the last query it sends to H()),
  - We can decide how to answer A's queries to H(), sig().
  - Answer queries to H() as follows:
    - The answer to the t<sup>th</sup> query (m<sub>t</sub>) is y.
    - The answer to the  $f^{th}$  query (j < t) is  $(r_i)^e$ , where  $r_i$  is random.
  - Answer to sig(m) queries:
    - These are only asked for  $m_j$  where j < t. Answer with  $r_j$ . (Indeed  $sig(m_j) = (H(m_j))^d = r_j$ )
  - A's output is  $(m_t,s)$ .
    - If s is the correct signature, then we found  $y^d$ .
    - Otherwise we failed.
  - Success probability the same as the success probability of A().

#### RSA with full domain hash -proof of security

- Proof (without assuming which m<sub>i</sub> A will try to sign)
  - We can decide how to answer A's queries to H(), sig().
  - Choose a random i in [1,t], answer queries to H() as follows:
    - The answer to the ith query (m<sub>i</sub>) is y.
    - The answer to the jth query  $(j\neq i)$  is  $(r_i)^e$ , where  $r_i$  is random.
  - Answer to sig(m) queries:
    - If  $m=m_j$ ,  $j\neq i$ , then answer with  $r_j$ . (Indeed  $sig(m_j)=(H(m_j))^d=r_j$ )
    - If m=m<sub>i</sub> then stop. (we failed)
  - A's output is (m,s).
    - If  $m=m_i$  and s is the correct signature, then we found  $y^d$ .
    - Otherwise we failed.
  - Success probability is 1/t times success probability of A().

#### El Gamal signature scheme

- Invented by same person but different than the encryption scheme. (think why)
- A randomized signature: same message can have different signatures.
- Based on the hardness of extracting discrete logs
- The DSA (Digital Signature Algorithm/Standard) that was adopted by NIST in 1994 is a variation of El-Gamal signatures.

#### El Gamal signatures

- Key generation:
  - Work in a group  $Z_p^*$  where discrete log is hard.
  - Let g be a generator of  $Z_p^*$ .
  - Private key 1 < a < p-1.
  - Public key p, g, y=g<sup>a</sup>.
- Signature: (of M)
  - Pick random 1 < k < p-1, s.t. gcd(k,p-1)=1.
  - Compute m=H(M).
    - $r = g^k \mod p$ .
    - $s = (m r \cdot a) \cdot k^{-1} \mod (p-1)$
  - Signature is r, s.

### El Gamal signatures

- Signature:
  - Pick random 1 < k < p-1, s.t. gcd(k,p-1)=1.
  - Compute
    - $r = g^k \mod p$ .
    - $s = (m r \cdot a) \cdot k^{-1} \mod (p-1)$
- Verification:
  - Accept if
    - $\bullet 0 < r < p$
    - $y^r \cdot r^s = g^m \mod p$
- It works since  $y^r \cdot r^s = (g^a)^r \cdot (g^k)^s = g^{ar} \cdot g^{m-ra} = g^m$
- Overhead:
  - Signature: one (offline) exp. Verification: three exps.

same r in

both places!

#### El Gamal signature: comments

- Can work in any finite Abelian group
  - The discrete log problem appears to be harder in elliptic curves over finite fields than in  $Z_p^*$  of the same size.
  - Therefore can use smaller groups ⇒ shorter signatures.
- Forging: find  $y^r \cdot r^s = g^m \mod p$ 
  - E.g., choose random  $r = g^k$  and either solve dlog of  $g^m/y^r$  to the base r, or find  $s=k^{-1}(m \log_a y \cdot r)$  (????)
- Notes:
  - A different k must be used for every signature
  - If no hash function is used (i.e. sign M rather than m=H(M)), existential forgery is possible
  - If receiver doesn't check that 0<r<p, adversary can sign messages of his choice.

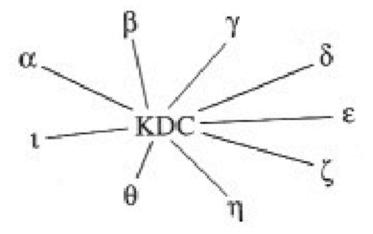
#### Key Infrastructure for symmetric key encryption

- Each user has a shared key with each other user
  - A total of n(n-1)/2 keys
  - Each user stores n-1 keys



# Key Distribution Center (KDC)

- The KDC shares a symmetric key K<sub>u</sub> with every user u
- Using this key they can establish a trusted channel
- When u wants to communicate with v
  - u sends a request to the KDC
  - The KDC
    - authenticates u
    - generates a key K<sub>uv</sub> to be used by u and v
    - sends  $Enc(K_u, K_{uv})$  to u, and  $Enc(K_v, K_{uv})$  to v



# **Key Distribution Center (KDC)**

- Advantages:
  - A total of n keys, one key per user.
  - easier management of joining and leaving users.
- Disadvantages:
  - The KDC can impersonate anyone
  - The KDC is a single point of failure, for both
    - security
    - quality of service
- Multiple copies of the KDC
  - More security risks
  - But better availability

#### Trusting public keys

- Public key technology requires every user to remember its private key, and to have access to other users' public keys
- How can the user verify that a public key PK<sub>v</sub> corresponds to user v?
  - What can go wrong otherwise?
- A simple solution:
  - A trusted public repository of public keys and corresponding identities
    - Doesn't scale up
    - Requires online access per usage of a new public key

- A method to bootstrap trust
  - Start by trusting a single party and knowing its public key
  - Use this to establish trust with other parties (and associate them with public keys)
- The Certificate Authority (CA) is trusted party.
  - All users have a copy of the public key of the CA
  - The CA signs Alice's digital certificate. A simplified certificate is of the form (Alice, Alice's public key).

- When we get Alice's certificate, we
  - Examine the identity in the certificate
  - Verify the signature
  - Use the public key given in the certificate to
    - Encrypt messages to Alice
    - Or, verify signatures of Alice
- The certificate can be sent by Alice without any online interaction with the CA.

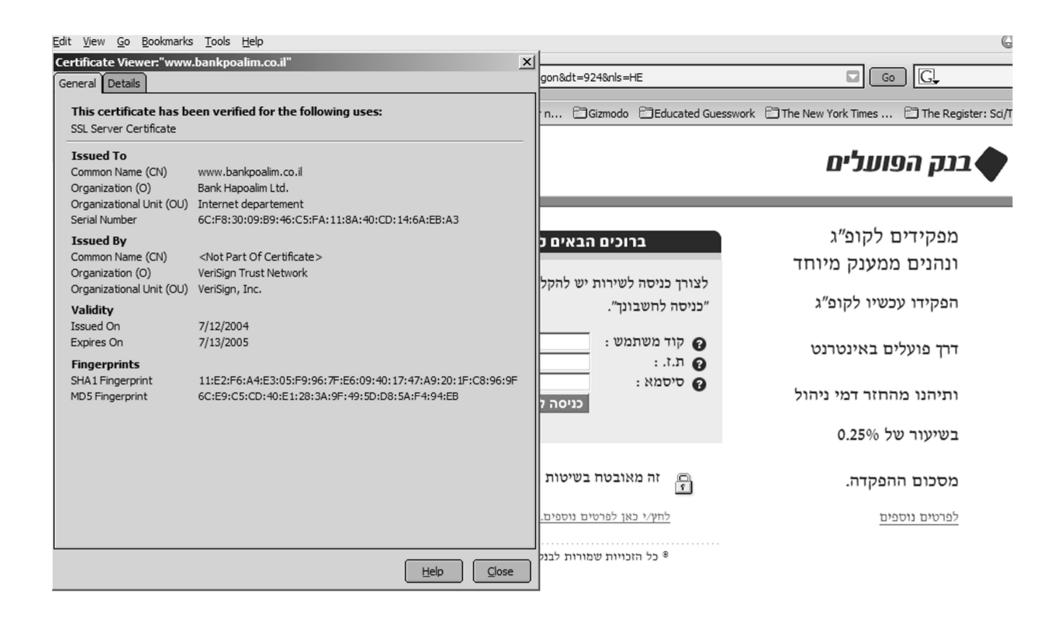
- Unlike KDCs, the CA does not have to be online to provide keys to users
  - It can therefore be better secured than a KDC
  - The CA does not have to be available all the time
- Users only keep a single public key of the CA
- The certificates are not secret. They can be stored in a public place.
- When a user wants to communicate with Alice, it can get her certificate from either her, the CA, or a public repository.
- A compromised CA
  - can mount active attacks (certifying keys as being Alice's)
  - but it cannot decrypt conversations.

- An example.
  - To connect to a secure web site using SSL or TLS, we send an https:// command
  - The web site sends back a public key<sup>(1)</sup>, and a certificate.
  - Our browser
    - Checks that the certificate belongs to the url we're visiting
    - Checks the expiration date
    - Checks that the certificate is signed by a CA whose public key is known to the browser
    - Checks the signature
    - If everything is fine, it chooses a session key and sends it to the server encrypted with RSA using the server's public key

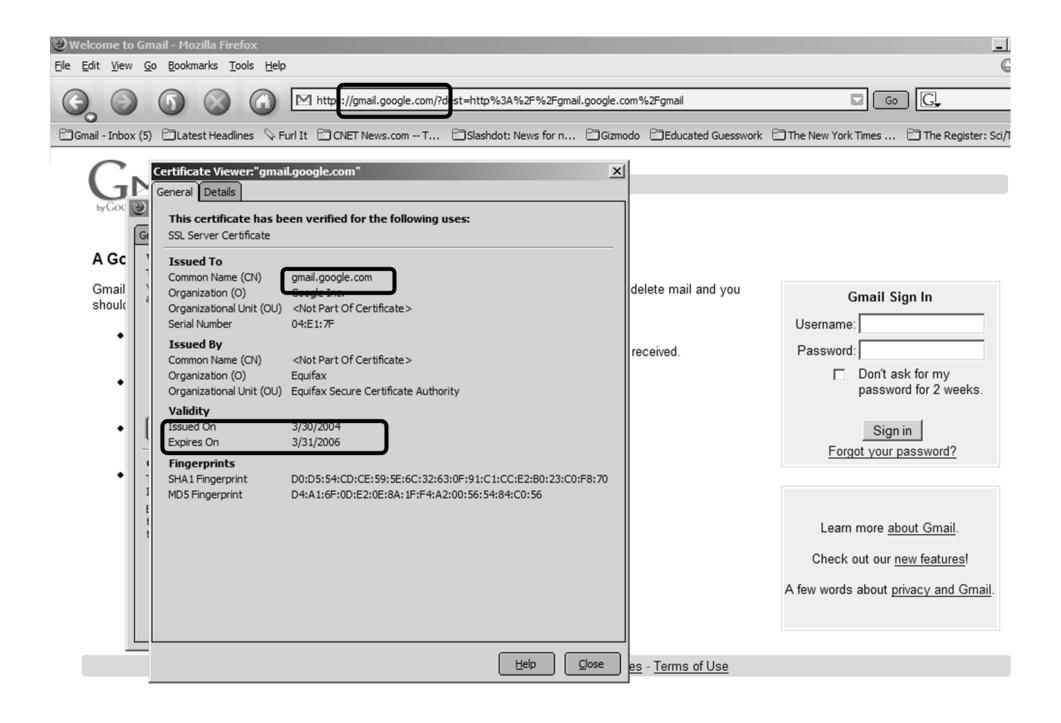
<sup>(1)</sup> This is a very simplified version of the actual protocol.

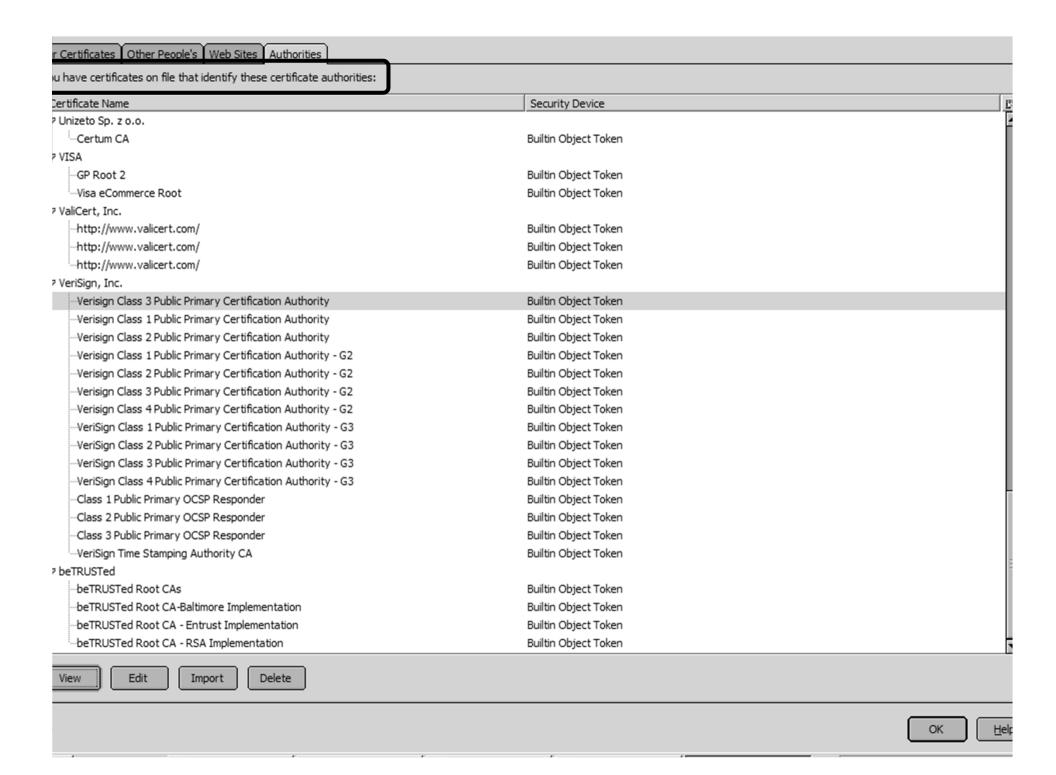
#### An example of an X.509 certificate

```
Certificate:
Data:
  Version: 1 (0x0)
  Serial Number: 7829 (0x1e95)
  Signature Algorithm: md5WithRSAEncryption
  Issuer: C=ZA, ST=Western Cape, L=Cape Town, O=Thawte Consulting cc,
    OU=Certification Services Division, CN=Thawte Server
    CA/emailAddress=server-certs@thawte.com
  Validity
       Not Before: Jul 9 16:04:02 1998 GMT
       Not After: Jul 9 16:04:02 1999 GMT
  Subject: C=US, ST=Maryland, L=Pasadena, O=Brent Baccala, OU=FreeSoft,
     CN=www.freesoft.org/emailAddress=baccala@freesoft.org
  Subject Public Key Info:
        Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption
       RSA Public Key: (1024 bit)
       Modulus (1024 bit): 00:b4:31:98:0a:c4:bc:62:c1:88:aa:dc:b0:c8:bb:
         33:35:19:d5:0c:64:b9:3d:41:b2:96:fc:f3:31:e1:
         66:36:d0:8e:56:12:44:ba:75:eb:e8:1c:9c:5b:66:
         70:33:52:14:c9:ec:4f:91:51:70:39:de:53:85:17:
         16:94:6e:ee:f4:d5:6f:d5:ca:b3:47:5e:1b:0c:7b:
         c5:cc:2b:6b:c1:90:c3:16:31:0d:bf:7a:c7:47:77:
         8f:a0:21:c7:4c:d0:16:65:00:c1:0f:d7:b8:80:e3:
         d2:75:6b:c1:ea:9e:5c:5c:ea:7d:c1:a1:10:bc:b8: e8:35:1c:9e:27:52:7e:41:8f
        Exponent: 65537 (0x10001)
Signature Algorithm: md5WithRSAEncryption
  93:5f:8f:5f:c5:af:bf:0a:ab:a5:6d:fb:24:5f:b6:59:5d:9d:
     92:2e:4a:1b:8b:ac:7d:99:17:5d:cd:19:f6:ad:ef:63:2f:92:...
```









#### Certificates

- A certificate usually contains the following information
  - Owner's name
  - Owner's public key
  - Encryption/signature algorithm
  - Name of the CA
  - Serial number of the certificate
  - Expiry date of the certificate
  - **–** ...
- Your web browser contains the public keys of some CAs
- A web site identifies itself by presenting a certificate which is signed by a chain starting at one of these CAs

#### An example of an X.509 certificate

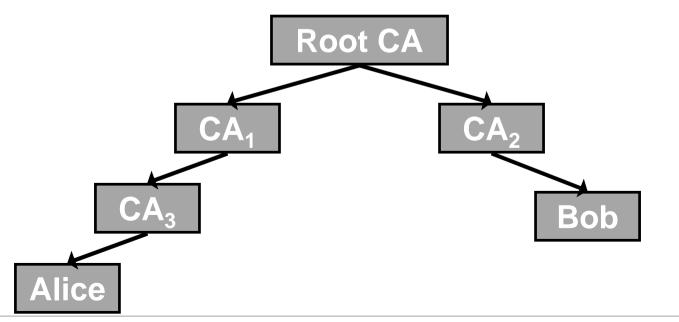
```
Certificate:
Data:
  Version: 1 (0x0)
  Serial Number: 7829 (0x1e95)
  Signature Algorithm: md5WithRSAEncryption
  Issuer: C=ZA, ST=Western Cape, L=Cape Town, O=Thawte Consulting cc,
    OU=Certification Services Division, CN=Thawte Server
    CA/emailAddress=server-certs@thawte.com
  Validity
       Not Before: Jul 9 16:04:02 1998 GMT
       Not After: Jul 9 16:04:02 1999 GMT
  Subject: C=US, ST=Maryland, L=Pasadena, O=Brent Baccala, OU=FreeSoft,
     CN=www.freesoft.org/emailAddress=baccala@freesoft.org
  Subject Public Key Info:
        Public Key Algorithm: rsaEncryption
       RSA Public Key: (1024 bit)
       Modulus (1024 bit): 00:b4:31:98:0a:c4:bc:62:c1:88:aa:dc:b0:c8:bb:
         33:35:19:d5:0c:64:b9:3d:41:b2:96:fc:f3:31:e1:
         66:36:d0:8e:56:12:44:ba:75:eb:e8:1c:9c:5b:66:
         70:33:52:14:c9:ec:4f:91:51:70:39:de:53:85:17:
         16:94:6e:ee:f4:d5:6f:d5:ca:b3:47:5e:1b:0c:7b:
         c5:cc:2b:6b:c1:90:c3:16:31:0d:bf:7a:c7:47:77:
         8f:a0:21:c7:4c:d0:16:65:00:c1:0f:d7:b8:80:e3:
         d2:75:6b:c1:ea:9e:5c:5c:ea:7d:c1:a1:10:bc:b8: e8:35:1c:9e:27:52:7e:41:8f
        Exponent: 65537 (0x10001)
Signature Algorithm: md5WithRSAEncryption
  93:5f:8f:5f:c5:af:bf:0a:ab:a5:6d:fb:24:5f:b6:59:5d:9d:
     92:2e:4a:1b:8b:ac:7d:99:17:5d:cd:19:f6:ad:ef:63:2f:92:...
```

#### Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

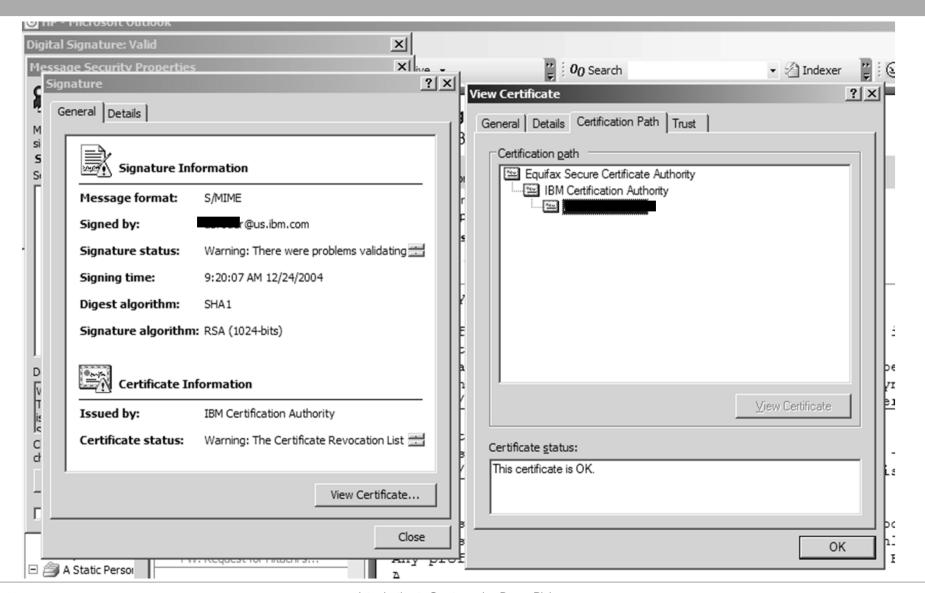
- The goal: build trust on a global level
- Running a CA:
  - If people trust you to vouch for other parties, everyone needs you.
  - A license to print money
  - But,
    - The CA should limit its responsibilities, buy insurance...
    - It should maintain a high level of security
    - Bootstrapping: how would everyone get the CA's public key?

#### Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

- Monopoly: a single CA vouches for all public keys
  - Mostly suitable for enterprises.
- Monopoly + delegated CAs:
  - top level CA can issue special certificates for other CAs
  - Certificates of the form
    - [ (Alice, PK<sub>A</sub>)<sub>CA3</sub>, (CA3, PK<sub>CA3</sub>)<sub>CA1</sub>, (CA1, PK<sub>CA1</sub>)<sub>ROOT-CA</sub>]



#### Certificate chain



#### Revocation

- Revocation is a key component of PKI
  - Each certificate has an expiry date
  - But certificates might get stolen, employees might leave companies, etc.
  - Certificates might therefore need to be revoked before their expiry date
  - New problem: before using a certificate we must verify that it has not been revoked
    - Often the most costly aspect of running a large scale public key infrastructure (PKI)
    - How can this be done efficiently?
    - (we won't discuss this issue this year)