

# SSL and HTTPS: Revisiting Past Challenges and Evaluating Certificate Trust Model Enhancements

Jeremy Clark & Paul C. van Oorschot

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**Carleton University**

SSL and HTTPS: Revisiting Past Challenges and Evaluating Certificate Trust Model Enhancements. *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*

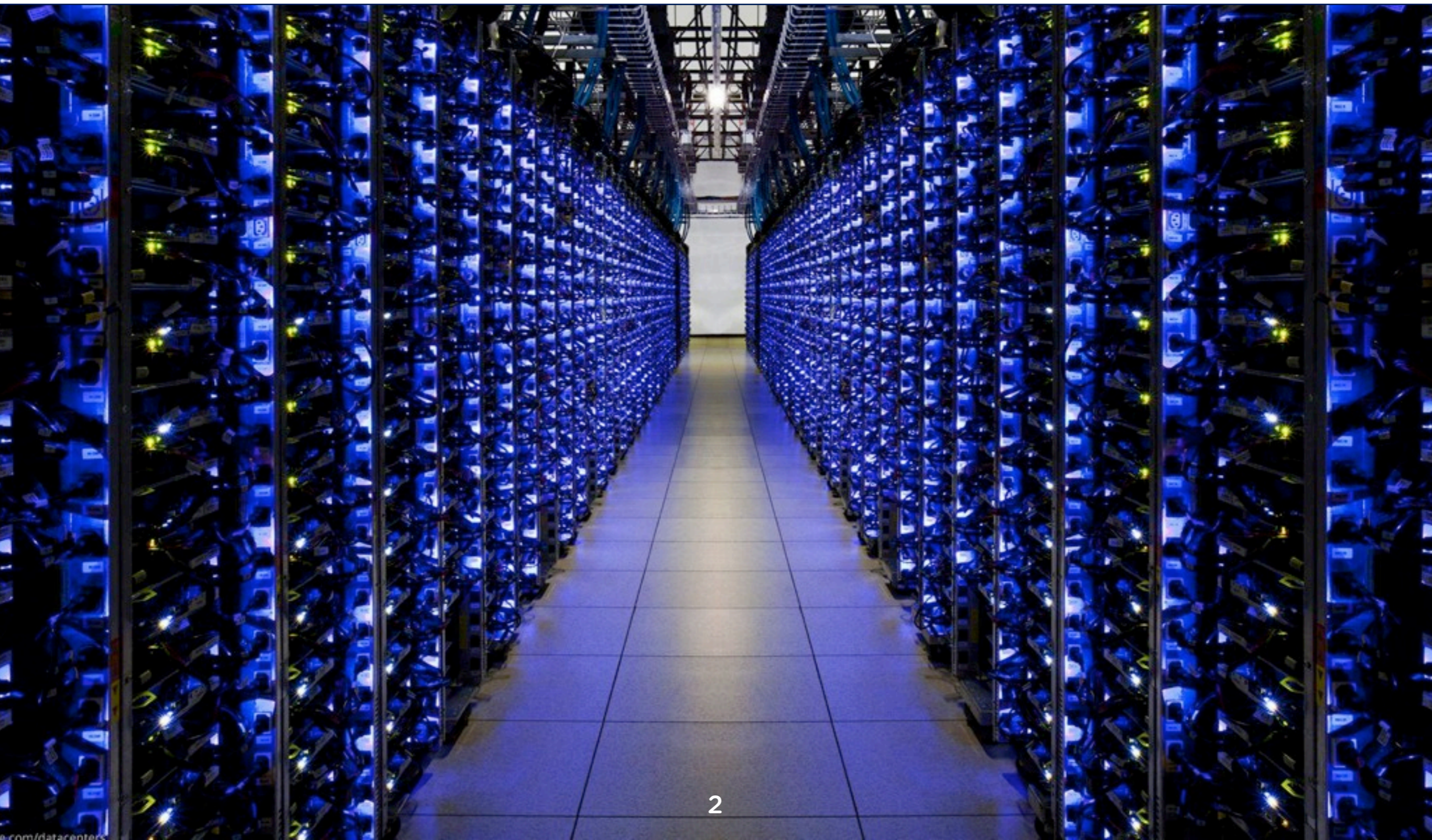
2013



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# HTTPS: HTTP over SSL/TLS





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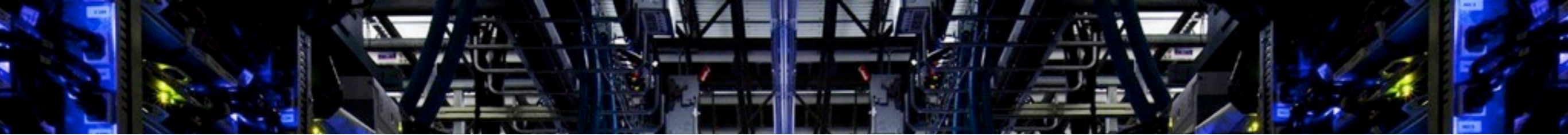
Secure web browsing:  
traffic flows are unmodified and confidential to everyone except the domain owner



# HTTPS: HTTP over SSL/TLS

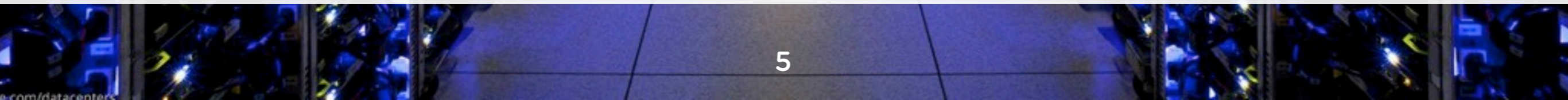
Scope of our work:

- 1) Cryptographic security of the protocol
- 2) The CA & browser trust model built around TLS
- 3) Enhancements to the model:
  - a) Detect fake (browser accepted) certificates
  - b) Prevent active downgrade to HTTP attacks
  - c) Increase the reliability of revocation



Detects MITM  
 Detects Local MITM  
 Protects Client Credential  
 Updatable Pins  
 Detects TLS Stripping  
 Affirms POST-to-HTTPS  
 Responsive Revocation  
 Intermediate CAs Visible  
 No New Trusted Entity  
 No New Traceability  
 Reduces Traceability  
 No New Auth'n Tokens  
 No Server-Side Changes  
 Deployable without DNSSEC  
 No Extra Communications  
 Internet Scalable  
 No False-Rejects  
 Status Signalled Completely  
 No New User Decisions

Primitive	Security Properties Offered			Evaluation of Impact on HTTPS								
	A	B	C	Security & Privacy			Deployability			Usability		
Key Pinning (Client History)	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Server)	○	○	○	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Preloaded)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○
Key Pinning (DNS)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○
Multipath Probing	●		●			●		●	●	●		●
Channel-bound Credentials			○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Credential-bound Channels			○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Key Agility/Manifest			●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Server)				○	○			●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Preloaded)				●	●	●		○	●	●	●	○
HTTPS-only Pinning (DNS)				●	●	●		○	●	●	●	○
Visual Cues for Secure POST					●			●	●	●		●
Browser-stored CRL					●			○	●	●	●	●
Certificate Status Stapling					●	●	●		●	●	●	○
Short-lived Certificates					●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
List of Active Certificates				●	●			●	●	●	●	●



# November



THREAT LEVEL

cybersecurity

# Google Discovers Fraudulent Digital Certificate Issued for Its Domain

BY KIM ZETTER 01.03.13 4:50 PM

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Twitter Tweet 191  
Google +1 113  
LinkedIn Share 30



to: [Alain Bachellier / Flickr](#)

updated 1.4.12; see below]

wasn't the only one sneaking around on G...  
ght trying to use a...

# Google Discovers Foreign Certificate Issued for

BY KIM ZETTER 01.03.13 4:50 PM

Follow @KimZetter



to: Alain Bachellier / Flickr

updated 1.4.12; see below

wasn't the only one sneaking around on...  
might trying to use...

# FREEDOM TO TINKER

research and expert commentary on digital technologies in public life



## Turktrust Certificate Authority Errors Demonstrate The Risk of "Subordinate" Certificates

JANUARY 3, 2013 BY STEVE SCHULTZE

Update: More details have continued to come out, and I think that they generally support the less-paranoid version of events. There continues to be discussion on the [mozilla.dev.security.policy](http://mozilla.dev.security.policy) list, Turktrust has **given more details**, and Mozilla has just opened up for public viewing their own **detailed internal response documentation** (including copies of all of the certs in question). None of this changes the fundamental riskiness of subordinate certificates, or the improvements that should be made to the CA system. It just means that in this case, the failure didn't progress to a full-blown meltdown.

Today, the public learned of another failure by a Certificate Authority—one of of companies that certifies SSL-encryption for our internet communications. (See the end of this post for a catalogue of our past writing on problems with this "CA" system.) This time, the company **Turktrust** was revealed to have **issued two subordinate certificates** (also known as "intermediate" certificates) to entities that should not have had them. Subordinate certificates are very powerful. They give the holder the ability to issue SSL certificates for any domain name as though they have control of the parent CA's "root" certificate. In this case, **Google discovered** that one of Turktrust's previously undisclosed subordinate certificates had issued SSL certificates for the domain **gmail.com**, and that these certificates had been used to intercept Gmail users' traffic... somewhere. This is where the details get foggy, but **Turktrust has begun to describe their version of events**.

There is a less paranoid and a more paranoid way of interpreting what happened. According to Turktrust, they made some configuration errors in late 2011 that caused them to inadvertently hand out subordinate certificates to two entities—the Turkish government and a Turkish bank. They claimed that these users expected to receive ordinary SSL certificates that could be used to secure their own web sites, not what amounts to a master **"skeleton key" to the internet**. This assertion is somewhat supported by the fact that one of these certificates appears to have been used for precisely that until recently, at [www.ego.gov.tr](http://www.ego.gov.tr) (which seems to be the web site for the Ankara or one of its offices, but I'm sure that Zeynep will clear this up in the comments). Turktrust says that it intended to provide SSL-encrypted webmail—presumably for government employees (as in the comments). In any case, Turktrust says that a subordinate certificates as though they are ordinary SSL certificates. In any case, Turktrust says that a man-in-the



Google Discovers Fake Certificate Issued for

BY KIM ZETTER 01.03.13 4:50 PM  
Follow @KimZetter

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# TURKTRUST



updated 1.4.12; see below]

wasn't the only one sneaking around on...  
might trying to use...

# Nokia's Xpress Browser Decrypts Your HTTPS Data



It's come to light that Nokia's Xpress Browser—used on its Asha and Lumia handsets—routes your secure and encrypted HTTPS data through its servers and temporarily decrypts it.

Security research which reveals that Nokia's browser passes data to its servers—something odd there, it's a proxy browser designed to speed things up—but that, at stages, HTTPS data is decrypted. Nokia has gone as far as admitting that it's the case, but reassures consumers that it doesn't look at the data:

"Importantly, the proxy servers do not store the content of web pages visited by users or any information they enter into the browser. In any case, HTTPS connections are encrypted end-to-end. In any case, Turktrust says that a man-in-the-middle attack is not possible on the Xpress Browser."

## TINKER

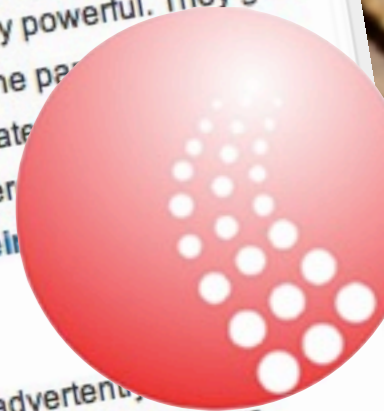
Technologies in public life

### Errors Demonstrate The

...that they generally support the less-paranoid Mozilla.dev.security.policy list, Turktrust has publicly viewing their own detailed internal response (if you're interested). None of this changes the fundamental principle that should be made to the CA system. It just means a meltdown.

Authority—one of of companies that certifies SSL-encryption for a catalogue of our past writing on problems with this "CA" system to have issued two subordinate certificates (also known as sub-certificates) had them. Subordinate certificates are very powerful. They give the main name as though they have control of the parent certificate. Turktrust's previously undisclosed subordinate certificates had been used to intercept traffic. They give the appearance of being issued by the parent certificate but describe their own domain.

# IST



Nokia's Xpress Browser  
Data

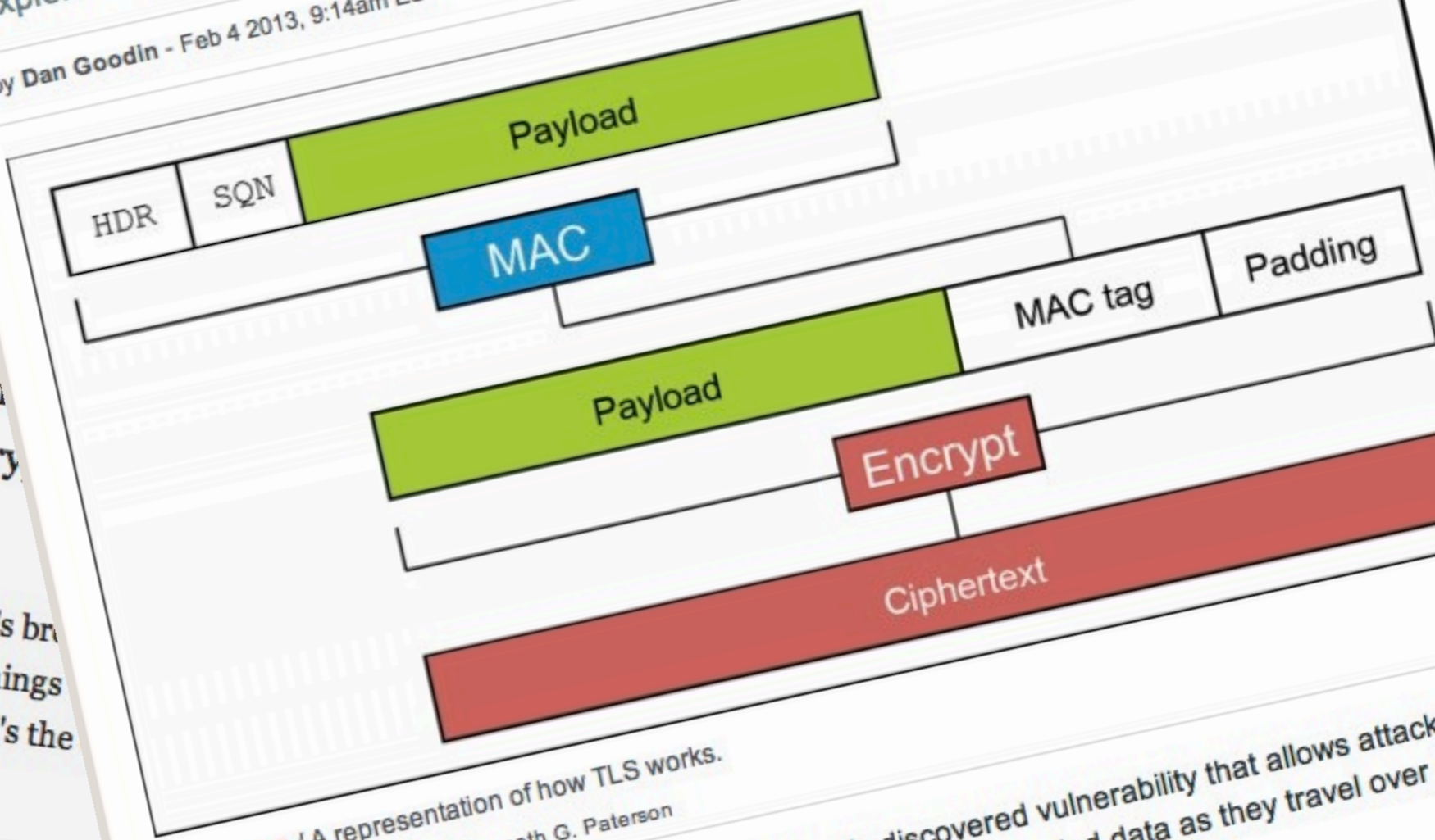
# RISK ASSESSMENT / SECURITY & HACKTIVISM

## “Lucky Thirteen” attack snarfs cookies protected by SSL encryption

Exploit is the latest to subvert crypto used to secure Web transactions.

by Dan Goodin - Feb 4 2013, 9:14am EST

HACKING PRIVACY 18



Enlarge / A representation of how TLS works.  
Nadhem J. AlFardan and Kenneth G. Paterson

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Nokia handsets—routes your secure and encry  
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HTTPS connecti  
attackers to co

are racing to patch a recently discovered vulnerability that allows attack  
tion cookies and other encrypted data as they travel over

# ImperialViolet

## Lucky Thirteen attack on TLS CBC (04 Feb 2013)

In an [upcoming paper](#) (made public this morning), Nadhem AlFardan and Kenny Paterson describe another method of performing [Vaudenay's attack](#) on CBC as used in TLS. Firstly I'd like to thank the researchers for notifying the various vendors ahead of time so that patches could be prepared: the disclosure process has gone very smoothly in this case. I couldn't have asked for anything more - they did everything right.

Vaudenay's attack requires an attacker to be able to detect when a CBC padding check has succeeded, even if the authentication check then fails. Authentication should always be applied after encryption to avoid this, but TLS famously did it the wrong way round with CBC mode.

Knowing whether a padding check succeeded reveals information about the decrypted plaintext. By tweaking the ciphertext over many trials, it's possible to progressively decrypt an unknown ciphertext. For details, see [their paper](#), which does a better job of explaining it than I would.

Vaudenay first used the fact that these two situations (padding check failure and authenticator failure) resulted in different TLS alert values, although that didn't result in a practical attack because TLS errors are encrypted. Once that was corrected (by specifying that the same alert value should be sent in each case) [the next year's paper](#) used a timing-side channel: if the authentication check wasn't performed when the padding check failed then, by timing the server's response, an attacker could tell whether the server aborted processing early.

To try and remove that side-channel, TLS stacks perform the authentication check whether or not the padding check succeeds. However, here's what I commented in the Go TLS code:

"Note that we still have a timing side-channel in the MAC check, below. An attacker can align the record so that a correct padding will cause one less hash block to be calculated. Then they can iteratively decrypt a record by breaking each byte. However, our behavior matches OpenSSL, so we leak only as much as they do."

That pretty much sums up the new attack: the side-channel defenses that were hoped to be sufficient were found not to be (again). So the answer, this time I believe, is to make the processing rigorously constant-time. (Details below.)

As a practical matter, since a padding or authenticator check failure is fatal to a TLS connection, performing this attack requires a client to send the same plaintext secret on thousands of different connections to the same server. This isn't a trivial obstacle but it's possible to meet this requirement for cookies with a browser and bit of Javascript injected into any origin in the same session.

For DTLS the attack is much easier because a rejected record doesn't cause the connection to be destroyed and the same authors developed a method for amplifying timing attacks against DTLS in a [previous paper](#)



## Lucky Thirteen attack on TLS

In an [upcoming paper](#) (made public by performing [Vaudenay's attack](#) on vendors ahead of time so that papers couldn't have asked for anything more).

Vaudenay's attack requires an authentication check then fails. An attack that goes the wrong way round with CBC mode.

Knowing whether a padding check fails over many trials, it's possible to do a better job of explaining it than I would.

Vaudenay first used the fact that TLS alert values, although that didn't work (by specifying that the same alert value for authentication check wasn't perfect). It could tell whether the server aborts.

To try and remove that side-channel, the attack succeeds. However, here's what I learned.

"Note that we still have a timing side-channel: padding will cause one less hash computation. However, our behavior matches CTR mode."

That pretty much sums up the new result (again). So the answer, this time I think, is no.

As a practical matter, since a padding oracle attack requires a client to send the same data over and over, it's possible to meet the challenge in the same session.

For DTLS the attack is much easier. The authors developed a method for a

Monday, February 4, 2013

## Attack of the week: TLS timing oracles

Ever since I started writing this blog (and specifically, the posts on SSL/TLS) I've had a new experience: people come up to me and share clever attacks that they haven't made public yet.

This is pretty neat – like being invited to join an exclusive club. Unfortunately, being in this club mostly sucks. That's because the first rule of 'TLS vulnerability club' is: *You don't talk about TLS vulnerability club*. Which takes all the fun out of it.

(Note that this is all for boring reasons – stuff like responsible disclosure, publication and fact checking. Nobody is planning a revolution.)

Anyway, it's a huge relief that I'm finally free to tell you about a neat new TLS attack I learned about recently. The new result comes from [Nadhem AlFardan](#) and [Kenny Paterson](#) of [Royal Holloway](#). Dubbed 'Lucky 13', it takes advantage of a very subtle bug in the way records are encrypted in the TLS protocol.

If you aren't into long crypto posts, here's the TL;DR:

There is a subtle timing bug in the way that TLS data decryption works when using the (standard) CBC mode ciphersuite. Given the right set of circumstances, an attacker can use this to completely decrypt sensitive information, such as passwords and cookies.

The attack is borderline practical if you're using the Datagram version of TLS (DTLS). It's more on the theoretical side if you're using standard TLS. However, with some clever engineering, that could change in the future. You should probably patch!



# March



[← Previous](#) [Next →](#)



Posted by [ivanr](#) on Mar 19, 2013 5:32:41 AM

## RC4 in TLS is Broken: Now What?

RC4 has long been considered problematic, but until very recently there was no known way to exploit the weaknesses. After the BEAST attack was disclosed in 2011, we—grudgingly—started using RC4 in order to avoid the vulnerable CBC suites in TLS 1.0 and earlier. This caused the usage of RC4 to increase, and some say that it now accounts for about 50% of all TLS traffic.

Last week, a group of researchers (Nadhem AlFardan, Dan Bernstein, Kenny Paterson, Bertram Poettering and Jacob Schuld) [announced significant advancements in the attacks against RC4](#), unveiling new weaknesses as well as new methods to exploit them. Matthew Green has a [great overview](#) on his blog, and here are the [slides](#) from the talk where the new issues were announced.

At the moment, the attack is not yet practical because it requires access to millions and possibly billions of copies of the same data encrypted using different keys. A browser would have to make that many connections to a server to give the attacker enough data. A possible exploitation path is to somehow instrument the browser to make a large number of connections, while a man in the middle is observing and recording the traffic.

We are still safe at the moment, but there is a tremendous incentive for researchers to improve the attacks on RC4, which means that we need to act swiftly.



## Attack of the week: RC4 is kind of broken in TLS

*Update: I've added a link to a [page at Royal Holloway](#) describing the new attack.*

Listen, if you're using RC4 as your primary ciphersuite in [SSL/TLS](#), now would be a great time to stop. Ok, thanks, are we all on the same page?

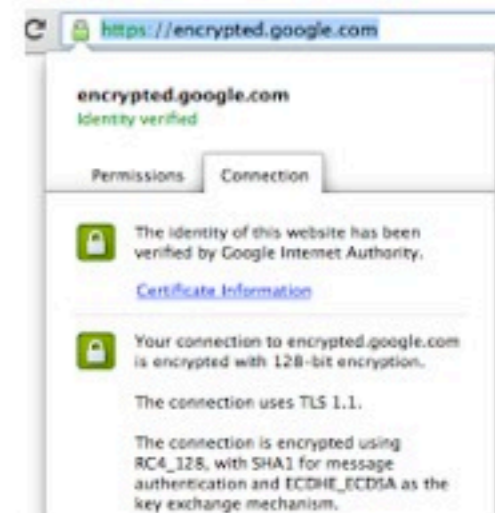
No?

I guess we need to talk about this a bit more. You see, [these slides](#) have been making the rounds since this morning. Unfortunately, they contain a long presentation aimed at cryptographers, and nobody much seems to understand the *real* result that's buried around slide 306 (!). I'd like to help.

Here's the short summary:

According to [AlFardan](#), [Bernstein](#), [Paterson](#), [Poettering](#) and [Schuldt](#) (a team from Royal Holloway, Eindhoven and UIC) the RC4 ciphersuite used in SSL/TLS is broken. If you choose to use it – as do a ridiculous number of major sites, including Google – then it may be possible for a dedicated attacker to recover your authentication cookies. The current attack is just on the edge of feasibility, and could probably be improved for specific applications.

This is bad and needs to change soon.



Posted by [ivanr](#) on Mar 19, 2013 5:32:41 AM

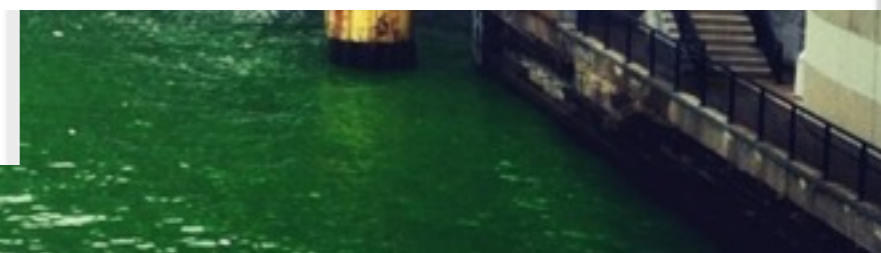
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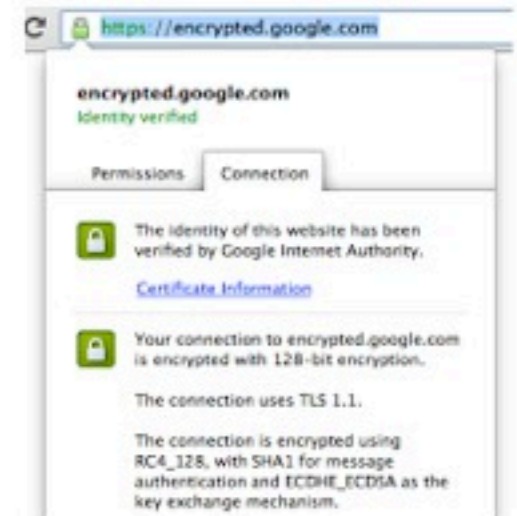
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## RC4 in TLS is Broken: Now



Print Like 493 Tweet 455 Alert

### Firefox 'death sentence' threat to TeliaSonera over gov spy claims

#### Mozilla may snub telecom giant's new SSL certs

By [Gavin Clarke](#) • [Get more from this author](#)

Posted in [Security](#), 16th April 2013 10:19 GMT

Firefox-maker Mozilla could issue a "death sentence" to TeliaSonera's SSL business over allegations the telecoms giant sold Orwellian surveillance tech to dictators.

The punishment would be an embarrassing blow to the company: it would effectively cut off HTTPS-encrypted websites verified by TeliaSonera from Firefox users, who make up [one-fifth](#) of the planet's web surfers.

Crucially, it will be seen as a tough stance against corporations that trade with authoritarian states.

TeliaSonera, which has globe-spanning operations and sells SSL certificates to Nordic websites, [asked Mozilla](#) to include its new root certificate in Firefox's list of trusted Certificate Authorities (CAs).

[Poettering and Schuld](#) (a team from Royal Holloway, and in SSL/TLS is broken. If you choose to use it – as do Google – then it may be possible for a dedicated spies. The current attack is just on the edge of feasibility, applications.



## Attack of the week: RC4 is kind of broken in TLS

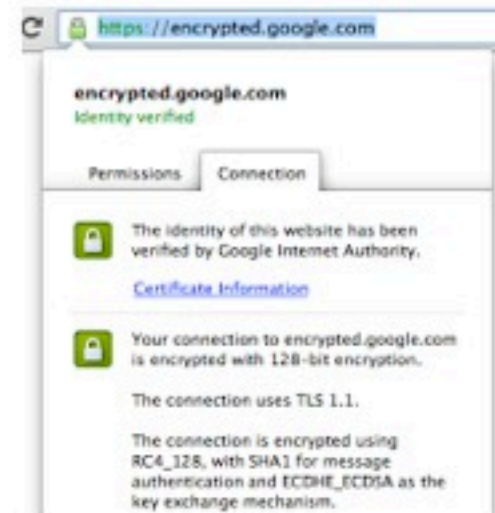
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The punishment would be an embarrassing blow to the encrypted websites verified by TeliaSonera from Firefox web surfers.

Crucially, it will be seen as a tough stance against corporate TeliaSonera, which has globe-spanning operations and [Mozilla](#) to include its new root certificate in Firefox's list

### Mozilla Is Considering Revoking TeliaSonera Trust For Sales To Dictators

Posted by [Soulskill](#) on Tuesday April 16, 2013 @05:59PM from the trust-must-be-deserved dept.



ndogg writes

"Mozilla is considering [pulling TeliaSonera from its list of root certificate SSL providers](#). They have asked for comments on this on [their mailing list](#). They're concerned about the use of the certificates by those governments for spying on its citizens, particularly in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan — where TeliaSonera operates subsidiaries or is heavily invested. Mozilla's concern is that TeliaSonera has possibly issued certificates that allow hardline government servers to masquerade as legitimate websites — so-called man-in-the-middle attacks — and decrypt web traffic. This alleged activity would contradict Mozilla's policy against 'knowingly issuing certificates without the knowledge of the entities whose information is referenced in the certificates.'"

# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues



# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues

## See Paper:

Aging Primitives: MD2, MD5, RC4, weak keys

Bad randomness: Netscape, Debian, embedded devs

Timing Attacks: RSA, ECDSA

Encryption Oracles: Predictable IVs, Compression

Decryption Oracles: RSA encoding, CBC padding

Protocol Flaws: Renegotiation

Downgrade Attacks: version & ciphersuite

# Server Authentication



Client

CA

Domain.ca



I'm  
domain.ca



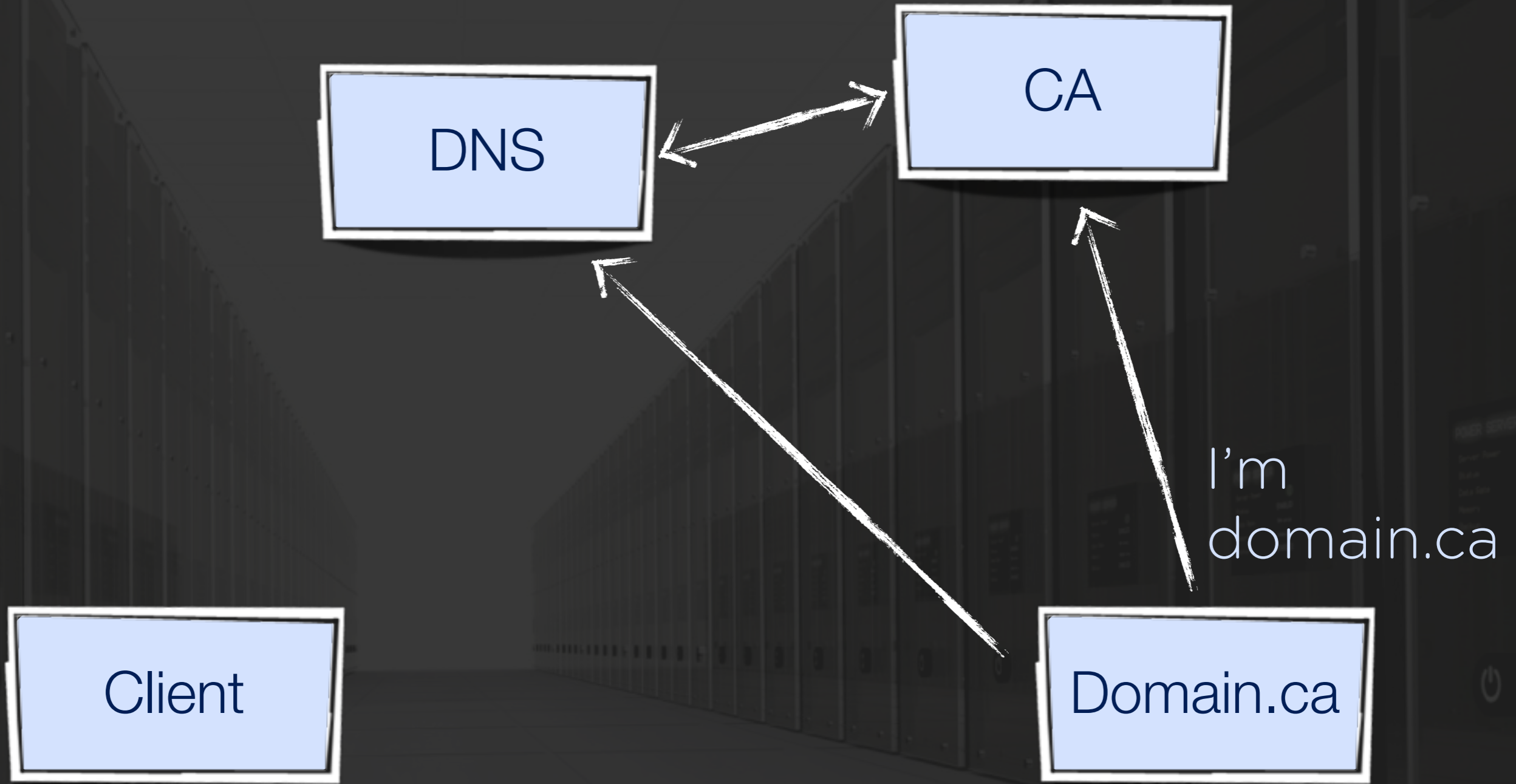
CA



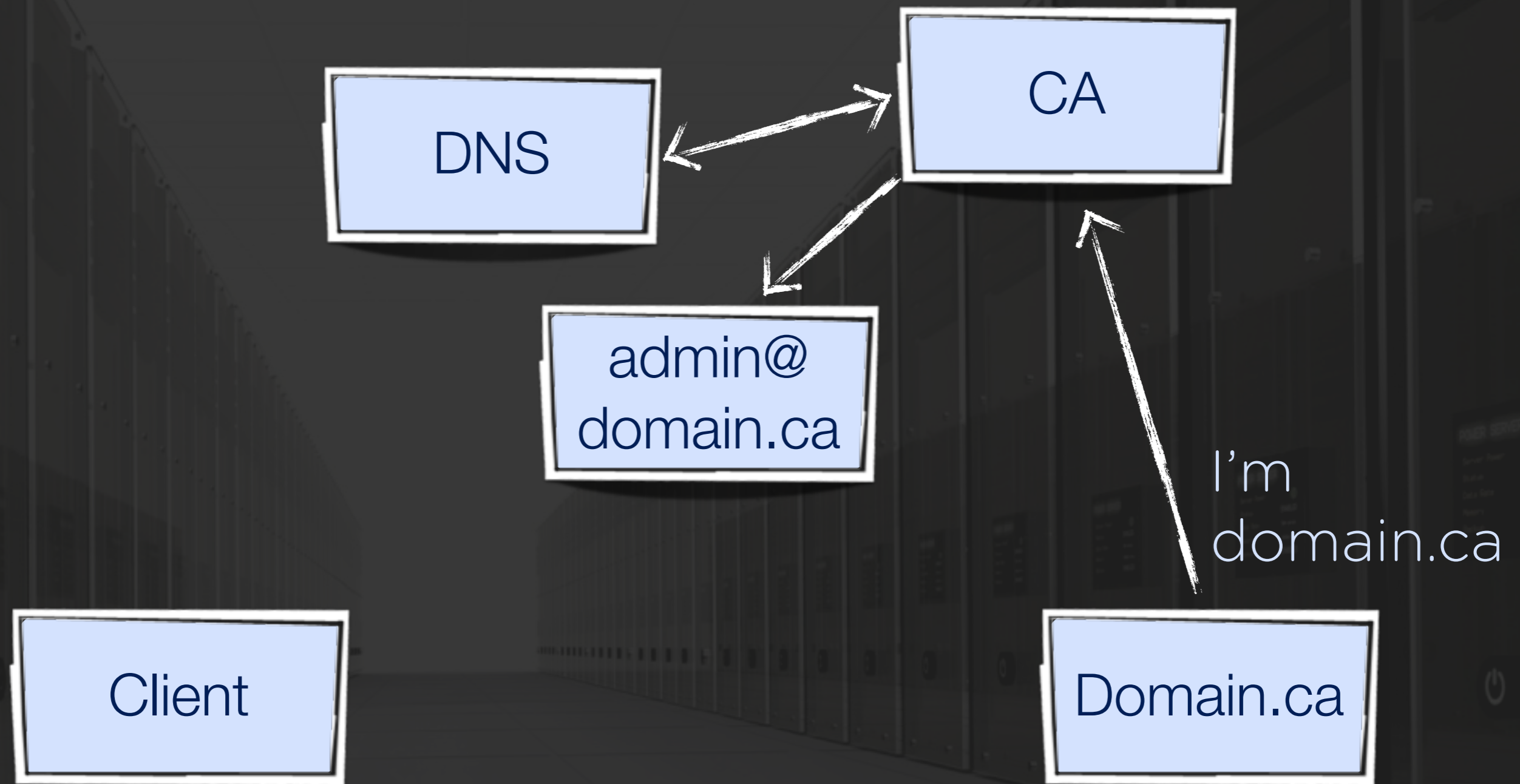
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domain.ca

Client

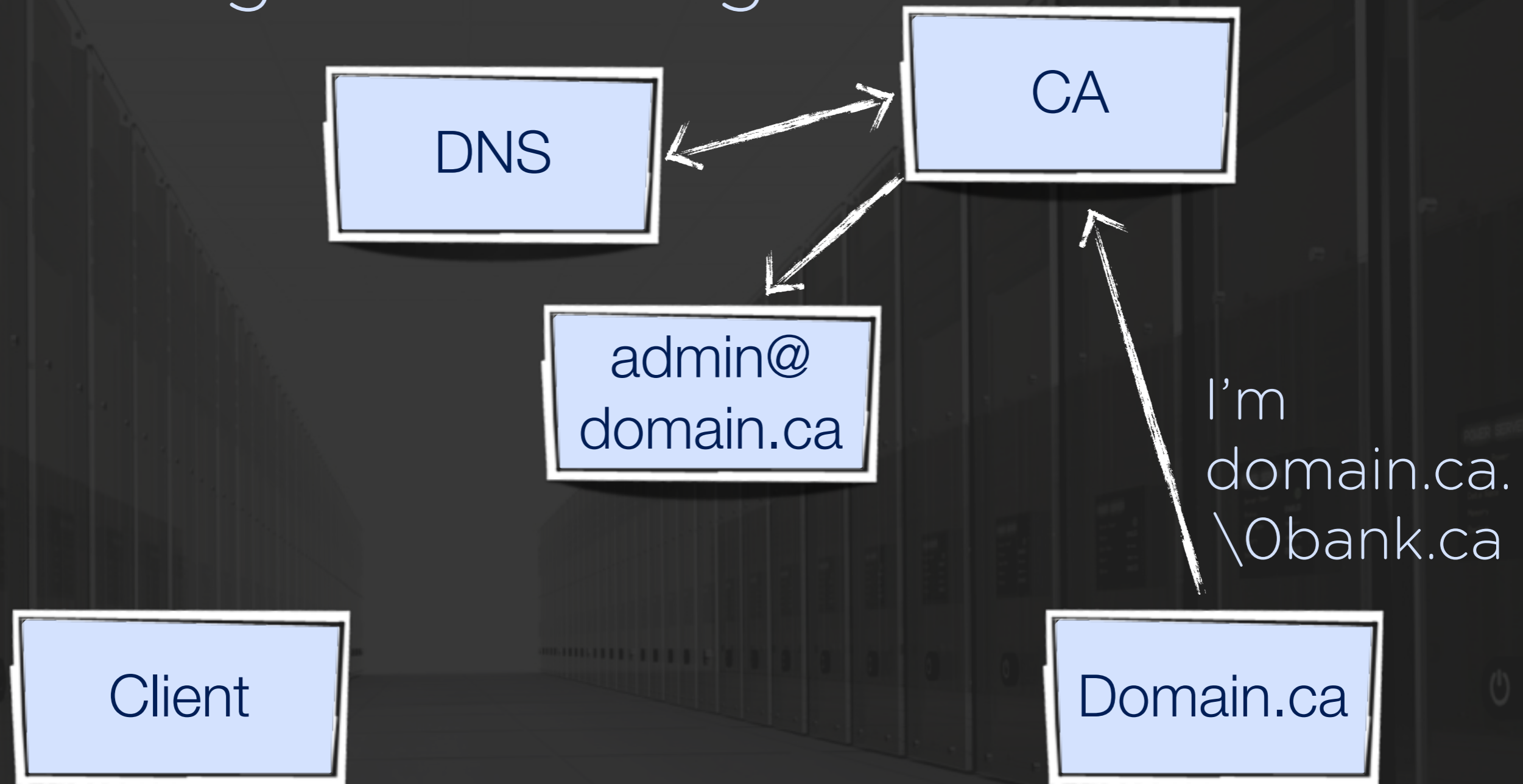
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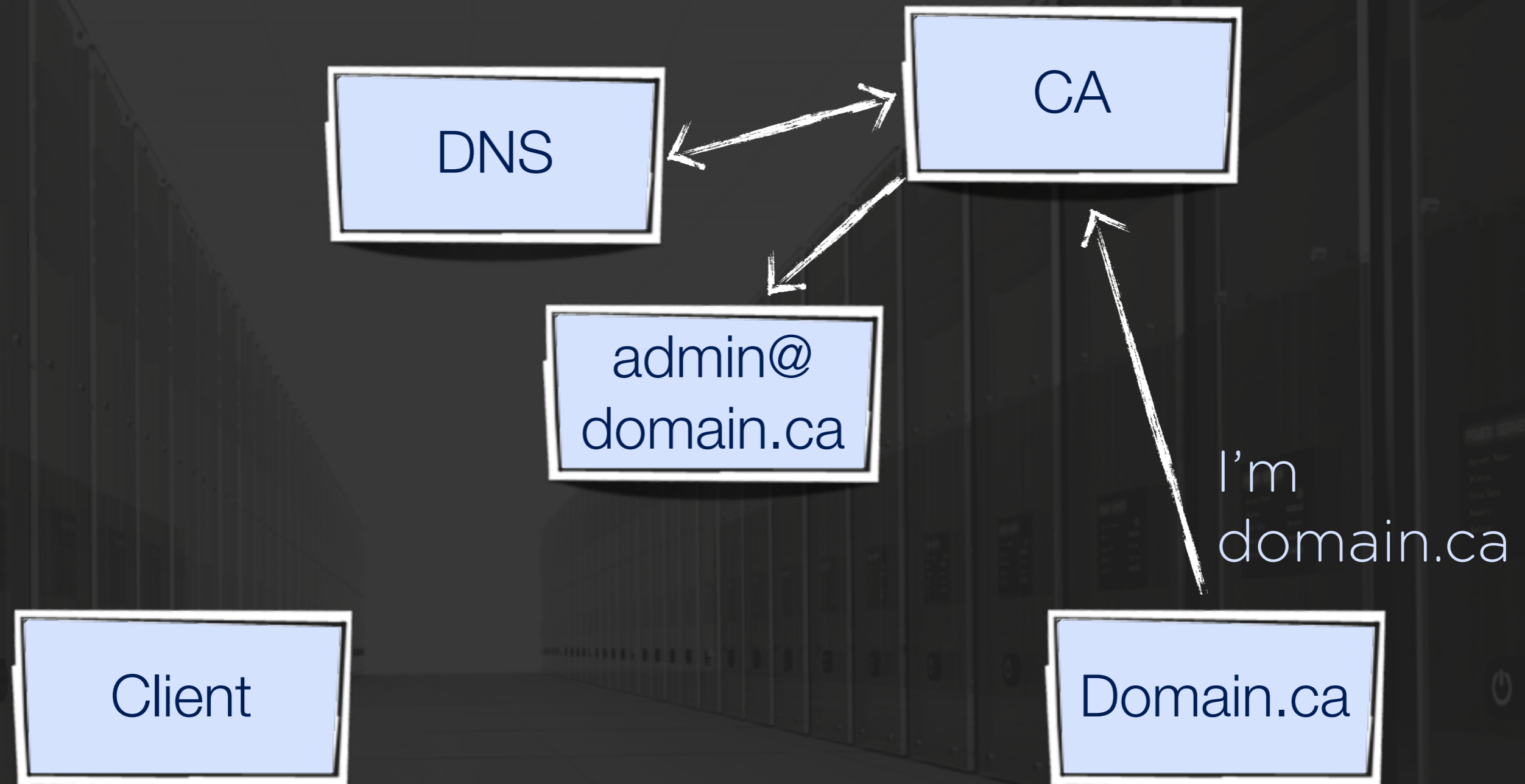




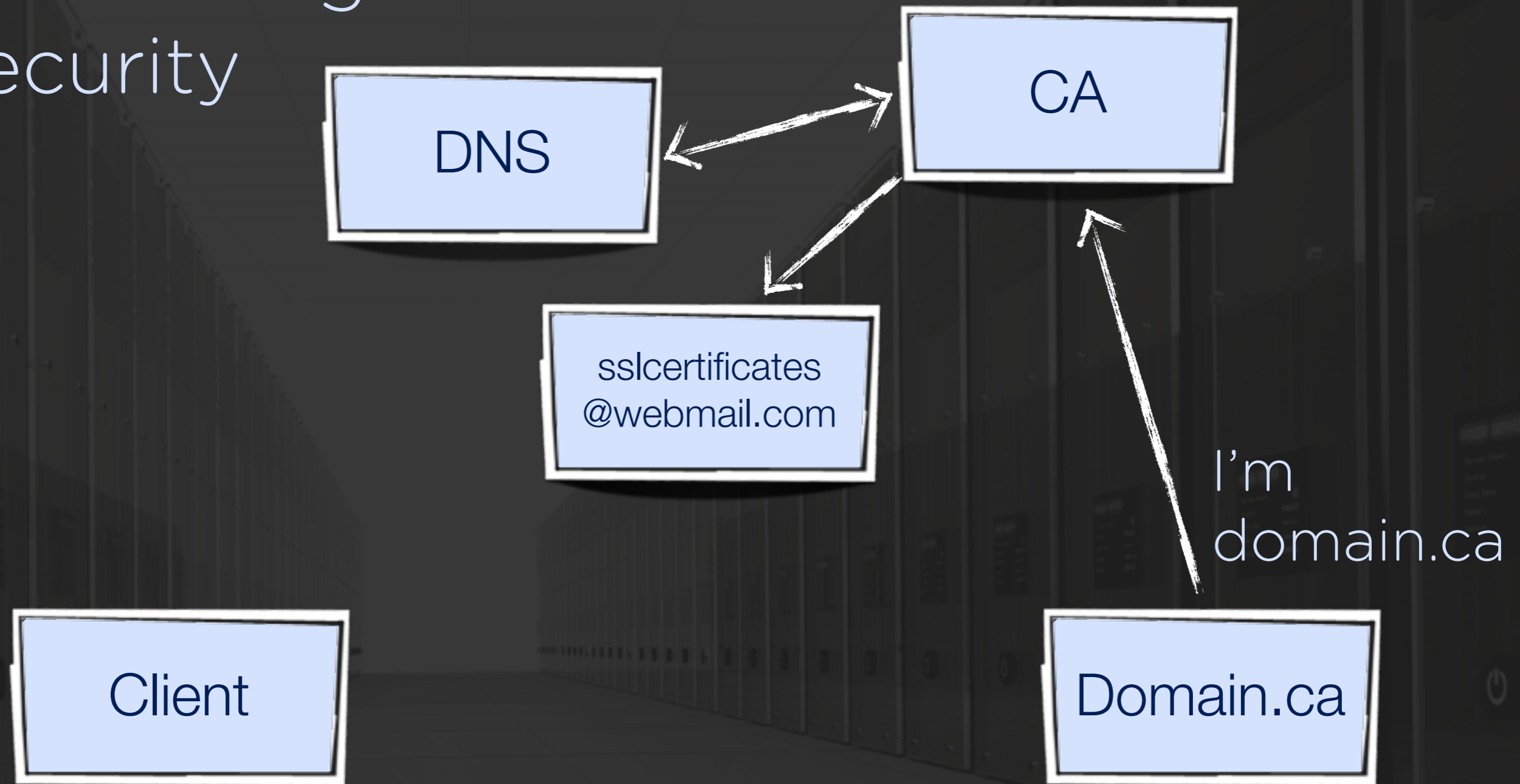
# Unambiguous Parsing



# CA's View of DNS



# Email Assignment & Security



CA

$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

Client

Domain.ca

Certificate is a site cert  
(TURKTRUST)

CA

$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

Client

Domain.ca

Certificate is a site cert  
(TURKTRUST)  
& Browser checks this  
(IE and iOS)

CA

$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

Domain.ca

Client

CA process is not  
circumvented  
(DigiNotar & Comodo)

CA

$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

Domain.ca

Client



CA process is not  
circumvented  
(Verisign)



$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

A white arrow pointing downwards from the 'CA' box to the 'Domain.ca' box.

Domain.ca

Client

CA process is not  
circumvented  
(Compelled)



$\text{Sig}_{\text{CA}}(\text{Domain.ca}||\text{Key})$

A white arrow pointing downwards from the 'CA' box to the 'Domain.ca' box.

Domain.ca

Client

# Certificate Authorities

Pre-loaded into browser and/or OS

~150 root certificates from ~50 organizations

Roots certificates can authorize intermediate CAs

Hundreds of organizations have a CA cert

# Certificate Authorities

Any CA can issue an acceptable certificate for any site

# You Find a Bad Site Cert, Now What?

CA revokes the certificate

Revocation checking happens when receiving a certificate

Revocation checking is unreliable and fails open

# Who Needs a Cert Anyways?

SSL Stripping: active adversary can strip out references to HTTPS sites and replace them with HTTP (POST-to-HTTPS)

Concede a Warning: Syria Telecom MITM on Facebook

Users tend to ignore security indicators, not understand warnings, and click through warnings they do understand

# What to Do?

Detect or Prevent Fake Sites Certificate Attacks  
(This Talk)

Detect or Prevent SSL Stripping (See Paper)

Improve Revocation (See Paper)



Detects MITM  
 Detects Local MITM  
 Protects Client Credential  
 Updatable Pins  
 Detects TLS Stripping  
 Affirms POST-to-HTTPS  
 Responsive Revocation  
 Intermediate CAs Visible  
 No New Trusted Entity  
 No New Traceability  
 Reduces Traceability  
 No New Auth'n Tokens  
 No Server-Side Changes  
 Deployable without DNSSEC  
 No Extra Communications  
 Internet Scalable  
 No False-Rejects  
 Status Signalled Completely  
 No New User Decisions

Primitive	Security Properties Offered			Evaluation of Impact on HTTPS									
	A	B	C	Security & Privacy			Deployability			Usability			
Key Pinning (Client History)	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Server)	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Preloaded)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●
Key Pinning (DNS)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●
Multipath Probing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Channel-bound Credentials	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
Credential-bound Channels	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
Key Agility/Manifest	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Server)	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Preloaded)	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (DNS)	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●
Visual Cues for Secure POST	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Browser-stored CRL	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Certificate Status Stapling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●
Short-lived Certificates	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
List of Active Certificates	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●



# Security

No New Trusted Entity  
No New Auth'n Tokens

# Deployability

No Server-Side Changes  
Deployable without  
DNSSEC  
No Extra Communications  
Internet Scalable

# Privacy

No New Traceability  
Reduces Traceability

# Usability

No False-Rejects  
Status Signalled Completely  
No New User Decisions



Detects MITM  
 Detects Local MITM  
 Protects Client Credential  
 Updatable Pins  
 Detects TLS Stripping  
 Affirms POST-to-HTTPS  
 Responsive Revocation  
 Intermediate CAs Visible  
 No New Trusted Entity  
 No New Traceability  
 Reduces Traceability  
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Primitive	Security Properties Offered				Evaluation of Impact on HTTPS							
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Key Pinning (Client History)	○	○	○		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Server)	○	○	○		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Key Pinning (Preloaded)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○
Key Pinning (DNS)	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○
Multipath Probing		●	●			●		●	●	●		●
Channel-bound Credentials		○			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Credential-bound Channels		○			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Key Agility/Manifest			●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Server)				○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
HTTPS-only Pinning (Preloaded)			●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○
HTTPS-only Pinning (DNS)			●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	○
Visual Cues for Secure POST				●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Browser-stored CRL				●		○	●	●	●	●	●	●
Certificate Status Stapling				●		●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Short-lived Certificates				●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●
List of Active Certificates				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

# Pinning — Server Initiated

Send (via HTTP header or TLS handshake) the attributes about your certificate chain you want pinned.

Trust-on-first-use  
Server-side changes  
Self denial-of-service  
No new authority



C. Evans, C. Palmer, & R. Sleevi  
**HPKP**  
Public key pinning extension for HTTP. *Web Security Working Group*.  
Internet-Draft. Intended Status: Standards Track. December 7, 2012  
2012 Google 

M. Marlinspike & T. Perrin  
**TACK**  
Trust assertions for certificate keys (TACK). *TLS Working Group*. Internet  
Draft. Intended status: Standards Track. January 7, 2013  
2013 

# Pinning — Browser Preloads

Certificate attributes are pinned in a preloaded list, maintained by the browser vendor.

Resolves trust-on-first-use

Minimal server participation

Not scalable to millions of servers

Increases trust in your browser

# Pinning — DNS

Certificate attributes are pinned in a DNS record for your domain and distributed with DNSSEC

Setting record scales to the internet

Distributing records: DNSSEC scalability debatable

Records could be stapled into TLS connection

Increased trust in DNS system

Could be used with self-issued certificates



P. Hoffman & J. Schlyter

**DANE — TLSA**

The DNS-based authentication of named entities (DANE) transport layer security (TLS) protocol: TLSA. *Standards Track*. 2012.

RFC 6698



# Notary — Multipath Probing



Third party notaries relay information about the certificate they see for a domain.

No server-side changes

Performance penalty and needs high reliability

A domain may have multiple certs (load-balancing)

Privacy issues

Trust agility: a pro or a con?

D. Wendlandt, D. G. Andersen, and A. Perrig

## Perspectives

Perspectives: Improving SSH-style host authentication with multi-path probing. *USENIX Annual Tech*

2008



Moxy Marlinspike

## Convergence

Convergence, Beta. SSL And The Future Of Authenticity. *BlackHat USA 2011*. [convergence.io](http://convergence.io)

2011



# Notary — Log



Certificate authorities publish server certificates in an append-only log. Sites monitor the log for fraudulent certificates and report them for revocation

Detection instead of prevention

Increases visibility

Notary similarities: performance, tracing, etc.

Differences: one authority, sites can staple logs

Full CA opt-in

Relies on revocation

# Conclusions

The breadth of past and on-going issues with TLS is noteworthy

Sophistication of attacking the TLS protocol seems to have shifted interest to its trust infrastructure, which has on-going issues

No clear winner among enhancements: trade-offs



# Questions?

[clark@scs.carleton.ca](mailto:clark@scs.carleton.ca)

[paulv@scs.carleton.ca](mailto:paulv@scs.carleton.ca)

[@PulpSpy](#)



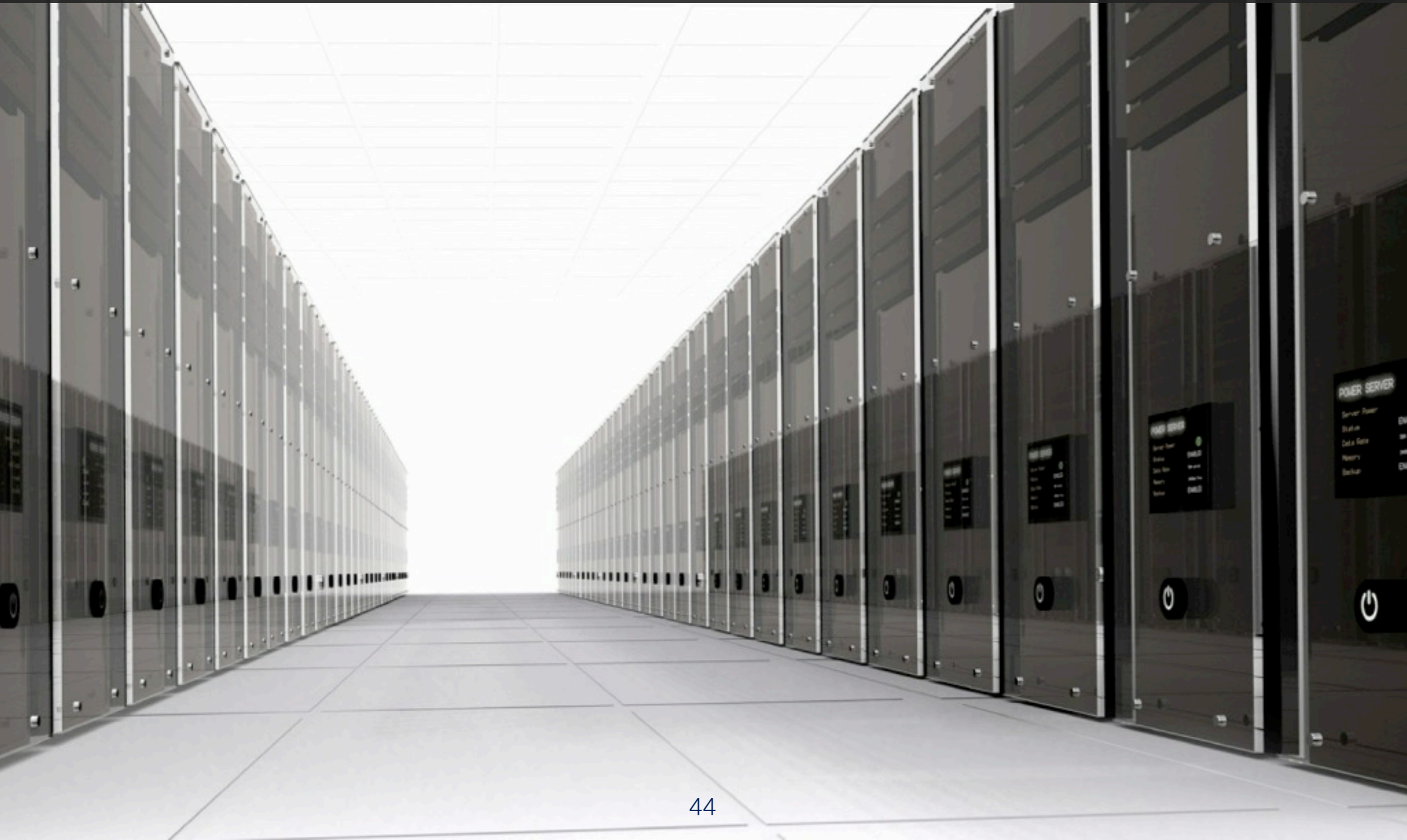
Extra Slides

# Will Your Anchor Hold?

Pre-loading the browser with pins (and HTTPS-only status and revocation information) will work in the short-term

In the long-term, DNS-pinning (e.g., DANE) is promising if DNSSEC is plausible, and Certificate Transparency is complimentary offering increased visibility

# Protocol Sketch





Client

Domain.ca

Client

Domain.ca's  
Public Key

Domain.ca

Domain.ca's  
Public Key



- 1) Client lists supported versions & ciphersuites
- 2) Server selects
- 3) Server sends public key

Domain.ca's  
Public Key

Client

Key Agreement

Domain.ca

- 4a) Client chooses secret value and sends to server, encrypted with server's public key
- 4b) Client and server use Diffie-Hellman to derive secret, and server signs values with its public key



Domain.ca's  
Public Key



5) Shared secret is extracted/expanded into encryption and MAC keys

6) Client MACs previous messages



7) Data is put into records, MACed, padded (if apl), and encrypted

# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues



# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues

## Aging Primitives:

MD2, MD5, RC4, weak keys (<112 bits equiv. sec.)

## Implementation Flaws:

Bad randomness: Netscape, Debian, embedded

Timing Attacks: RSA encryption, ECDSA

## Protocol Flaws:

Renegotiation, version & ciphersuite downgrades

# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues

An active adversary can use the server as a decryption oracle (adaptive CCA attacks):

- 1) RSA PKCS#1 v1.5 key transport:  
distinguish bad encoding from failed decryption
- 2) CBC mode data transport:  
distinguish bad padding from MAC failure  
MAC -> Pad -> Encrypt

# Cryptographic & Protocol Issues

Malicious client-side code can use the client as an encryption oracle (adaptive CPA attacks):

- 1) CBC mode data transport:  
Initialization vectors are predictable
- 2) Block or stream cipher data transport:  
Compression is applied prior to encryption  
Length leaks semantic information