

Post-Quantum TLS

Thom Wiggers



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- Cryptography researcher at PQShield
 - Oxford University spin-off
 - We develop and license PQC hardware and software IP
 - Side-channel protected hardware designs
 - FIPS 140-3 validated software
 - We also do fundamental research
- Research interest: applying PQC to real-world systems
 - Post-Quantum TLS
 - Secure messaging
- Ph.D from Radboud University (2024)
 - Dissertation: [Post-Quantum TLS](#)





Outline


1. Transport Layer Security
 - a. Old TLS
 - b. Version 1.3
2. Key Exchange in TLS
 - a. Current design
 - b. draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design
 - c. Fitting KEMs
3. Public Key Infrastructure
 - a. Certificates
 - b. OCSP
 - c. Too many signatures
 - d. Impact of PQC



4. Attempting to fix the WebPKI
 - a. Compressing certificates
 - b. Merkle Tree Certificates
5. Authentication without signatures
 - a. AuthKEM
 - b. AuthKEM-PSK






Transport Layer Security

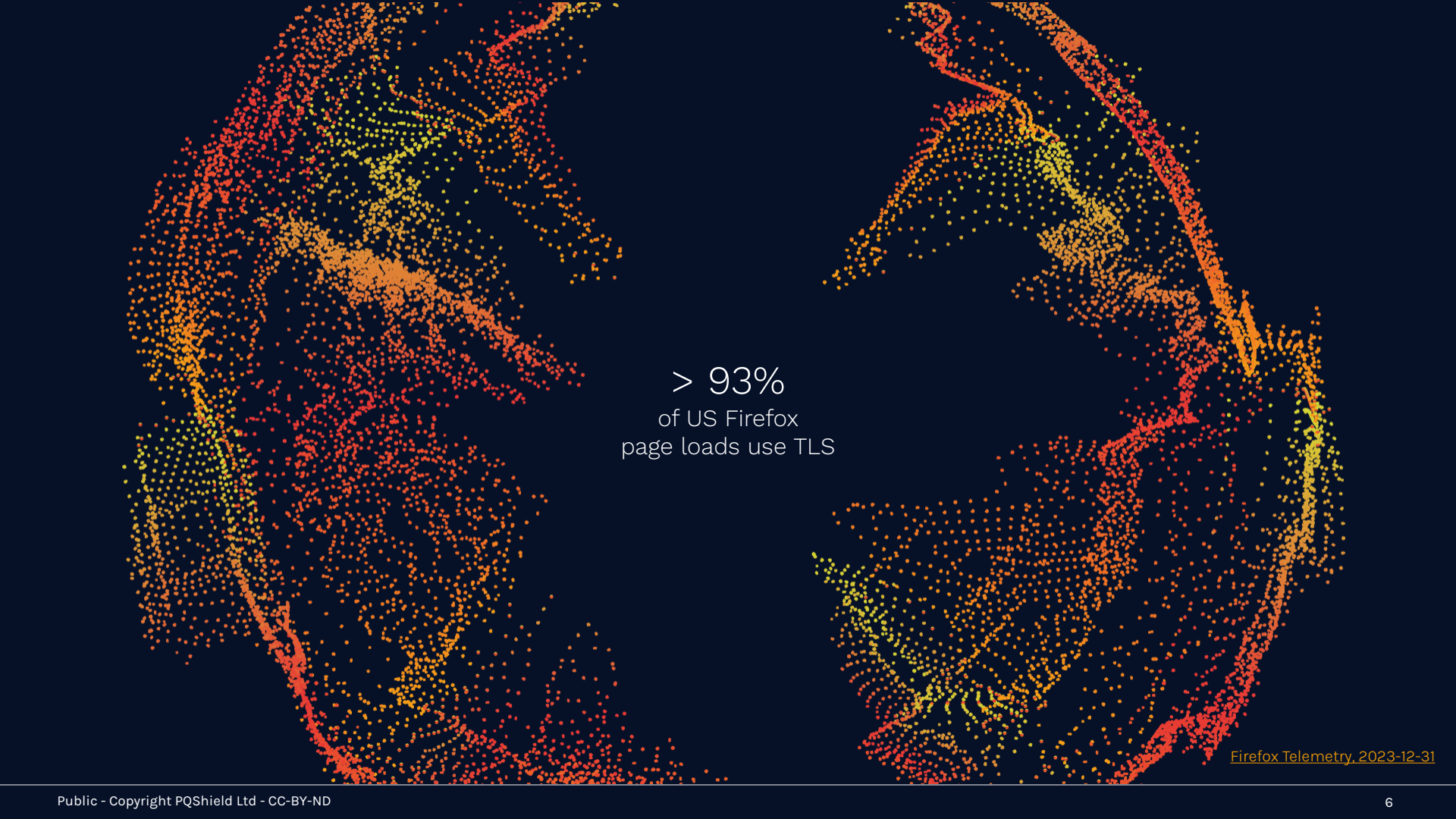


  www.bsi.bund.de/DE/Home/h

  https://www.bsi.bund.de/DE/Home

  bsi.bund.de/DE/Home/home_node.html

bsi.bund.de	×
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> 93%
of US Firefox
page loads use TLS



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- See also: DTLS (Datagram TLS), QUIC ([RFC 9000](#))



Strengths of TLS

- Client-to-Server model
- Client **does not need the server's keys** prior to starting connection
 - Trust is usually from pre-installed PKI plus the server's hostname
- **Optional client authentication** through certificates
 - Extension: raw public keys are also supported ([RFC 7250](#))
- Security well-studied



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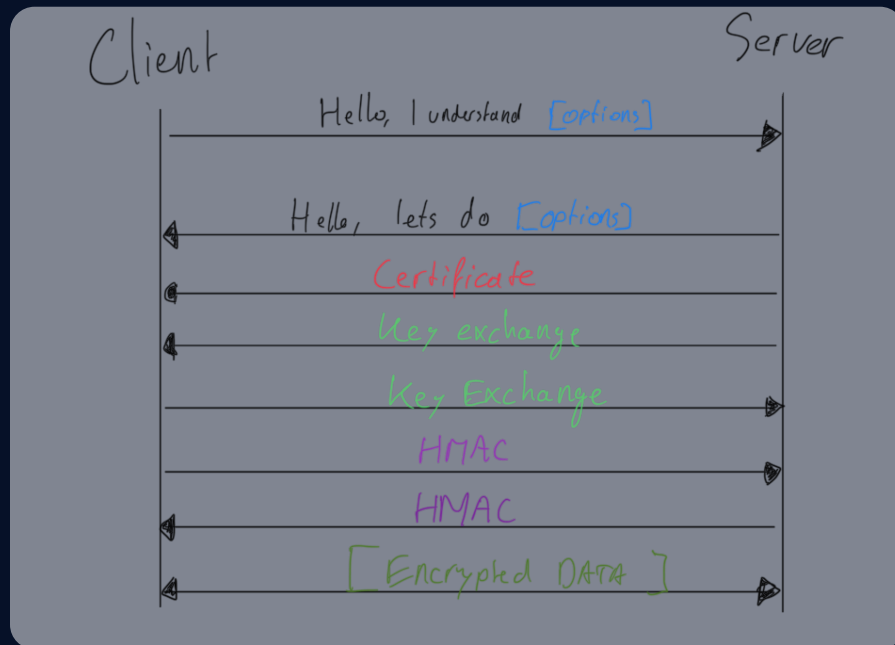
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[MWV23]: [TLS → Post-Quantum TLS: Inspecting the TLS landscape for PQC adoption on Android](#): *E.g. Android apps fail to set this up, and sometimes end up doing hundreds of requests to the same hostnames in five minutes*



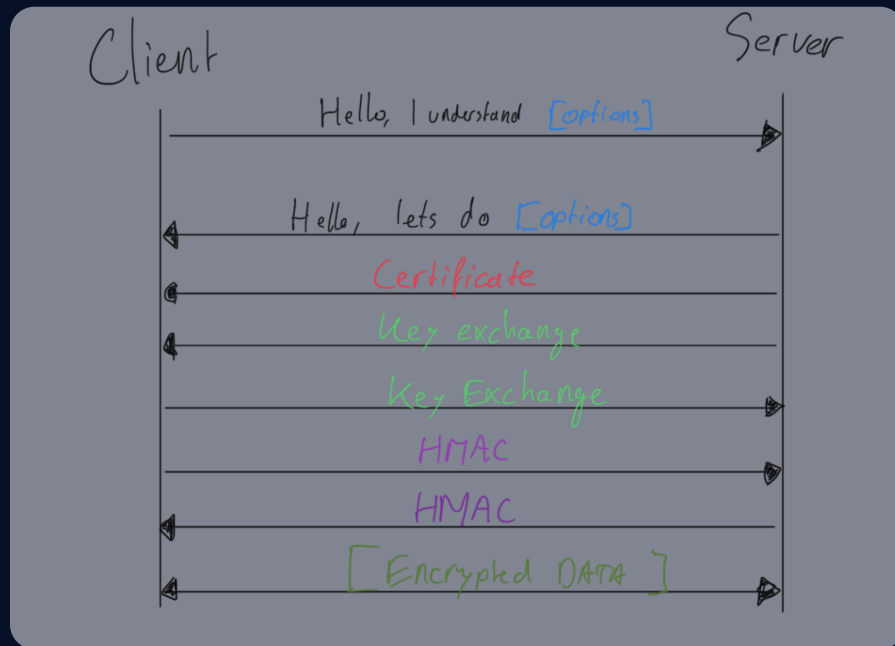
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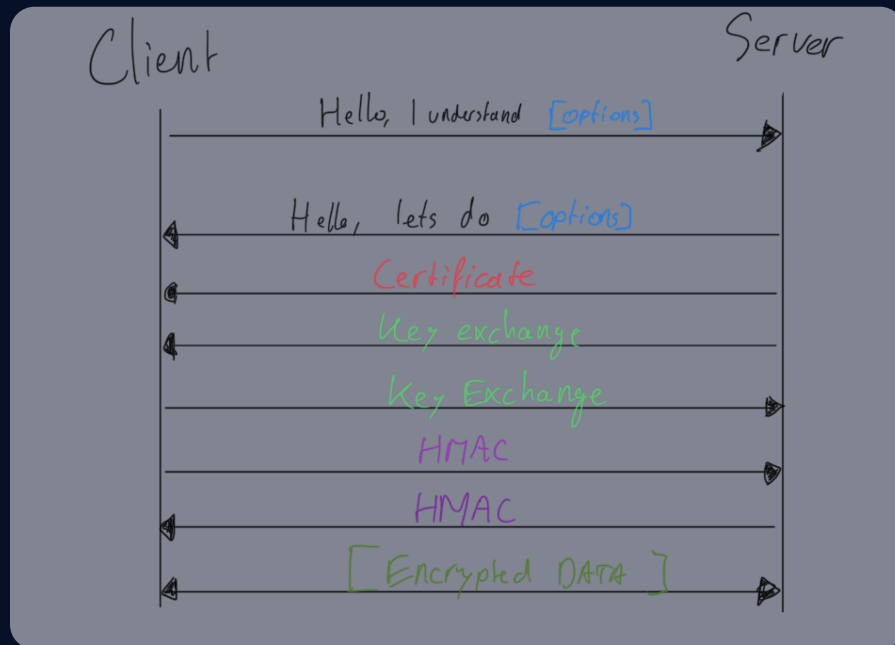
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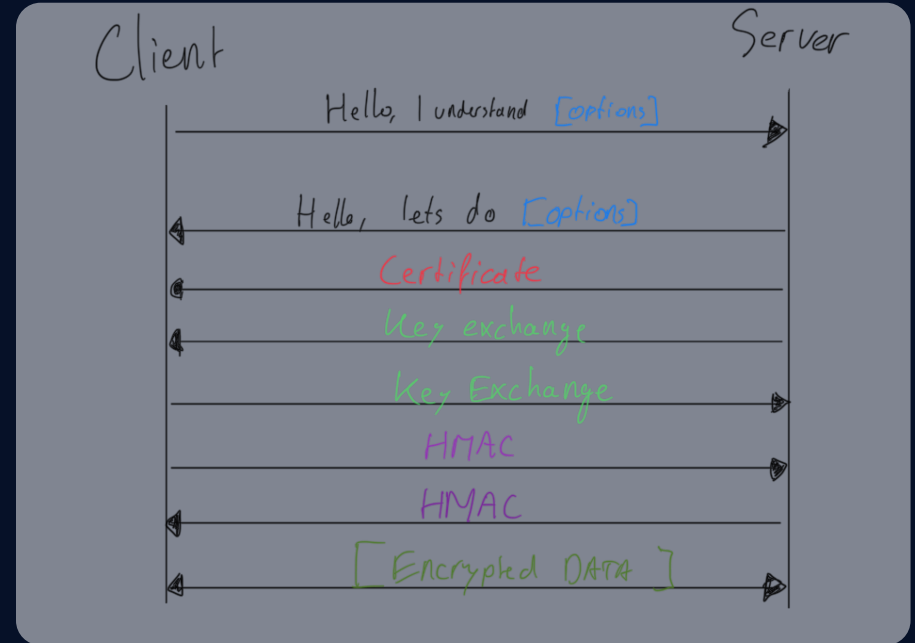
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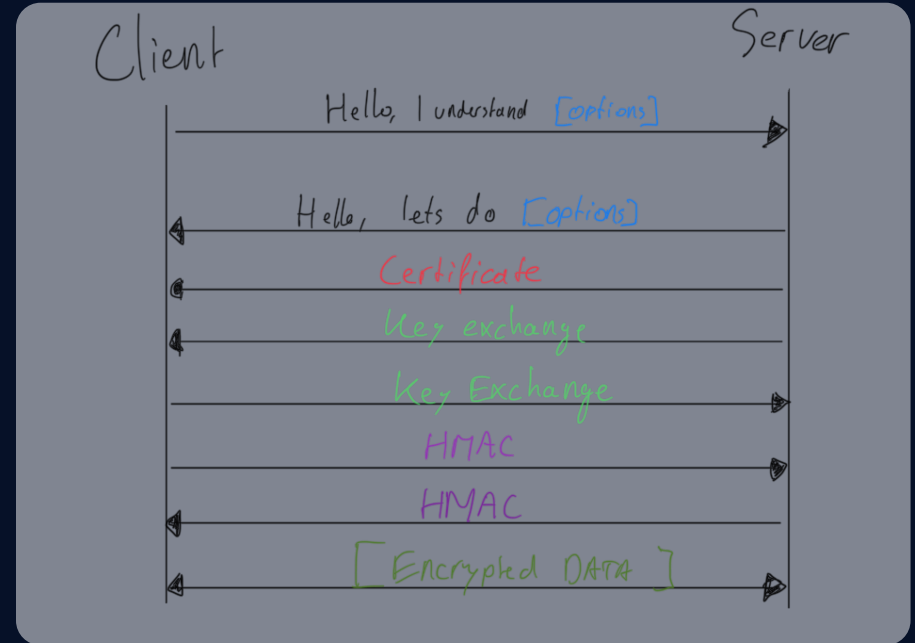
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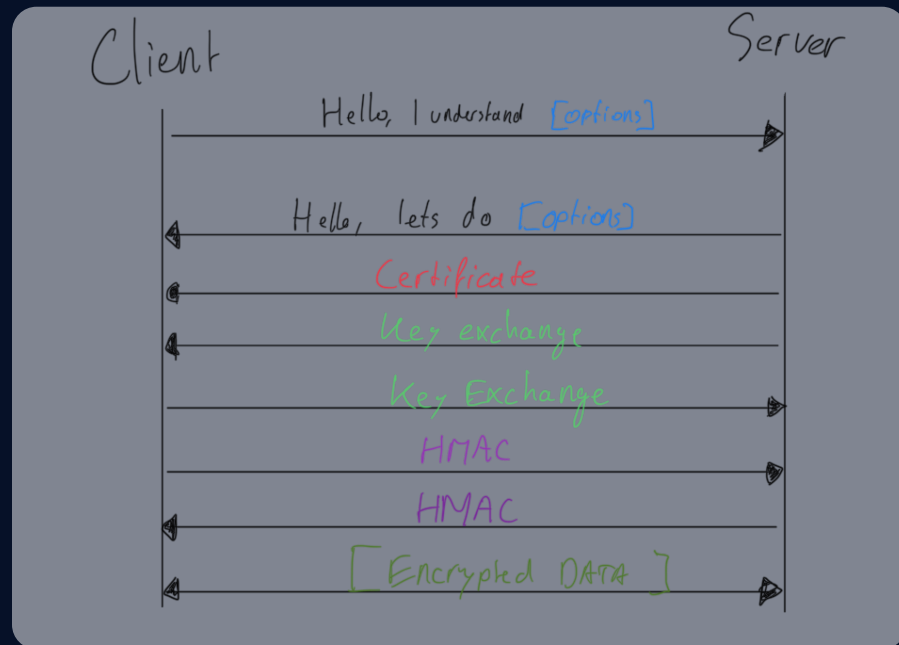
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- Many **round-trips**
- Certificates are sent in the clear
 - Everybody can see you're connecting to bsi.bund.de
 - Especially problematic for client authentication
- A lot of **legacy cryptography** and **patches** against attacks





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- Setting up TLS servers is a massive headache
 - So many ciphersuites, key exchange groups, ...

Description	TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_NULL_WITH_NULL_NULL	TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_MD5	TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_RC4_40_MD5	TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_RC4_128_MD5	TLS_DH_anon_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	TLS_PSK_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_RSA_EXPORT_WITH_RC2_CBC_40_MD5	TLS_PSK_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_IDEA_CBC_SHA	TLS_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_RSA_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384
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Reserved to avoid conflicts with SSLv3	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_KRBS_WITH_DES_CBC_SHA	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_GCM_SHA384
TLS_KRBS_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_SHA	TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_KRBS_WITH_RC4_128_SHA	TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_KRBS_WITH_IDEA_CBC_SHA	TLS_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_KRBS_WITH_DES_CBC_MD5	TLS_PSK_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_KRBS_WITH_3DES_EDE_CBC_MD5	TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
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TLS_KRBS_WITH_IDEA_CBC_MD5	TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_KRBS_EXPORT_WITH_DES_CBC_40_SHA	TLS_RSA_PSK_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_ARIA_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDHE_PSK_WITH_CAMELLIA_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_KRBS_EXPORT_WITH_RC2_CBC_40_SHA	TLS_PSK_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256	TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM
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TLS_KRBS_EXPORT_WITH_DES_CBC_40_MD5	TLS_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA384	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM_8
TLS_KRBS_EXPORT_WITH_RC2_CBC_40_MD5	TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256	TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_ARIA_256_CBC_SHA384	TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CCM_8
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	TLS_DHE_PSK_WITH_NULL_SHA384	TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_ARIA_256_GCM_SHA384	

This isn't even all of them!

Japanese cipher: National mandates have external costs!

Ciphersuites in TLS

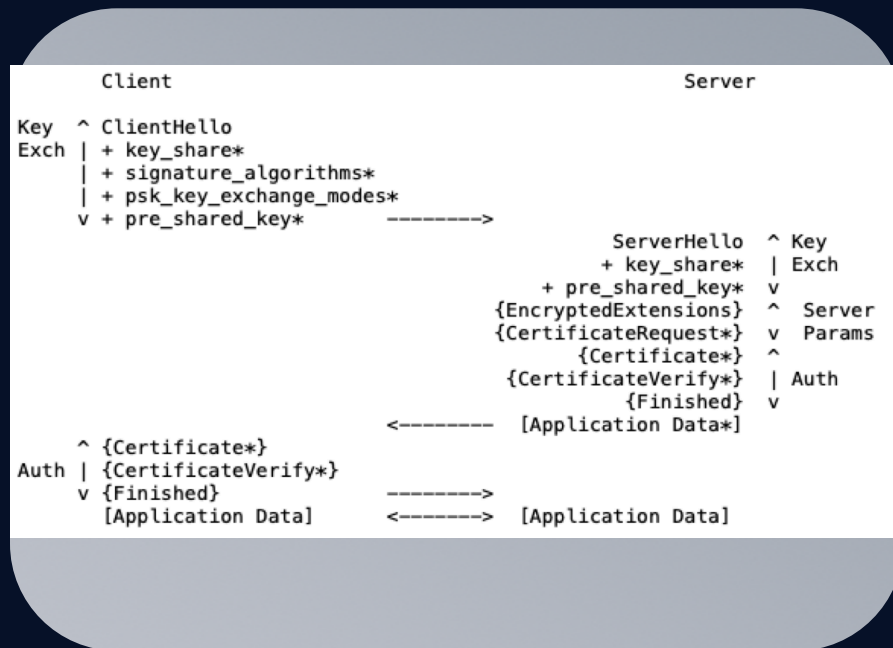


TLS 1.3 wish list

- Secure handshake
 - More privacy
 - Only forward secret key exchanges
 - Get rid of MD5, SHA1, 3DES, CAMELLIA, EXPORT, NULL, ...
- Simplify parameters
- More robust cryptography
- Faster, 1-RTT protocol
- 0-RTT resumption



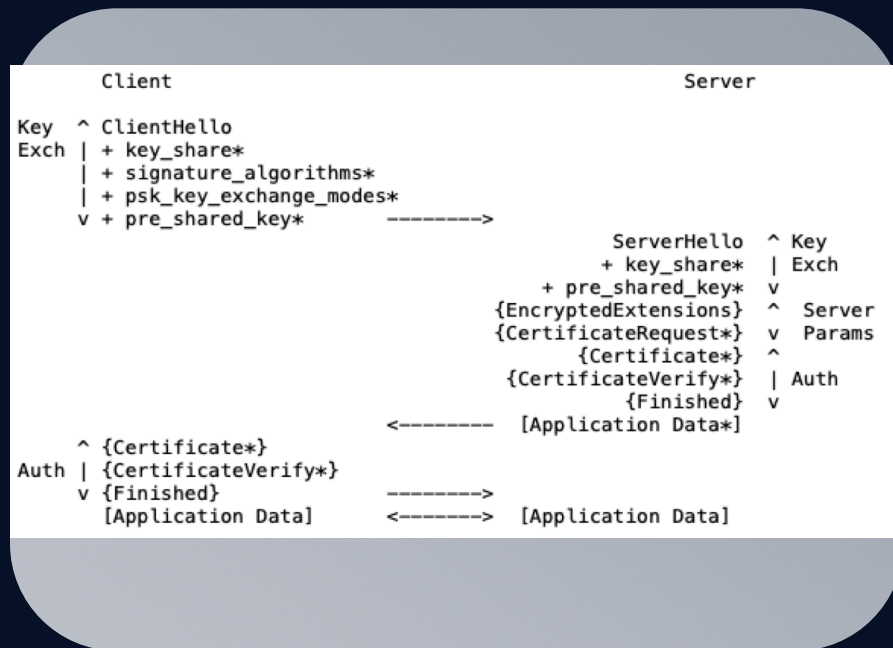
TLS 1.3





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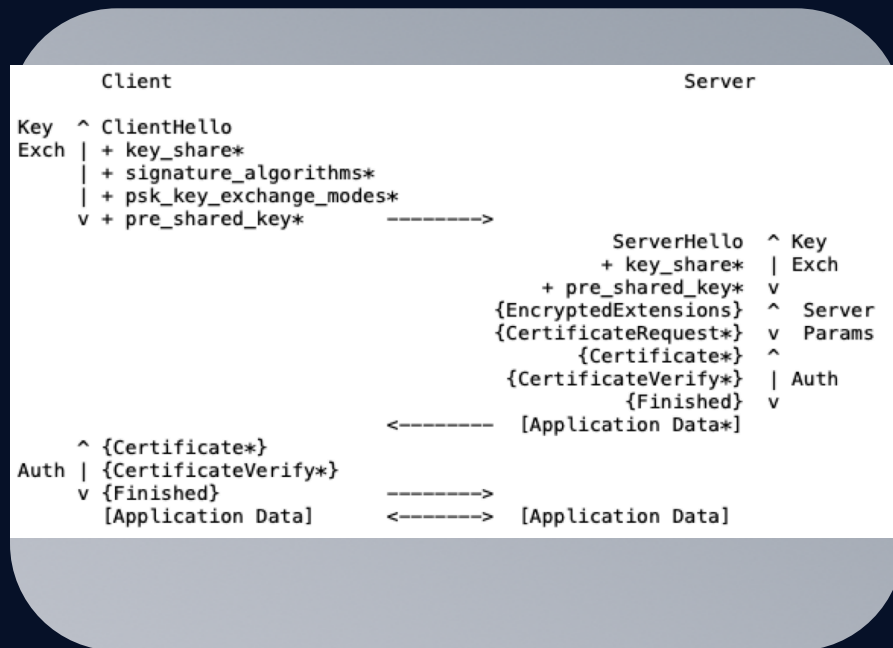
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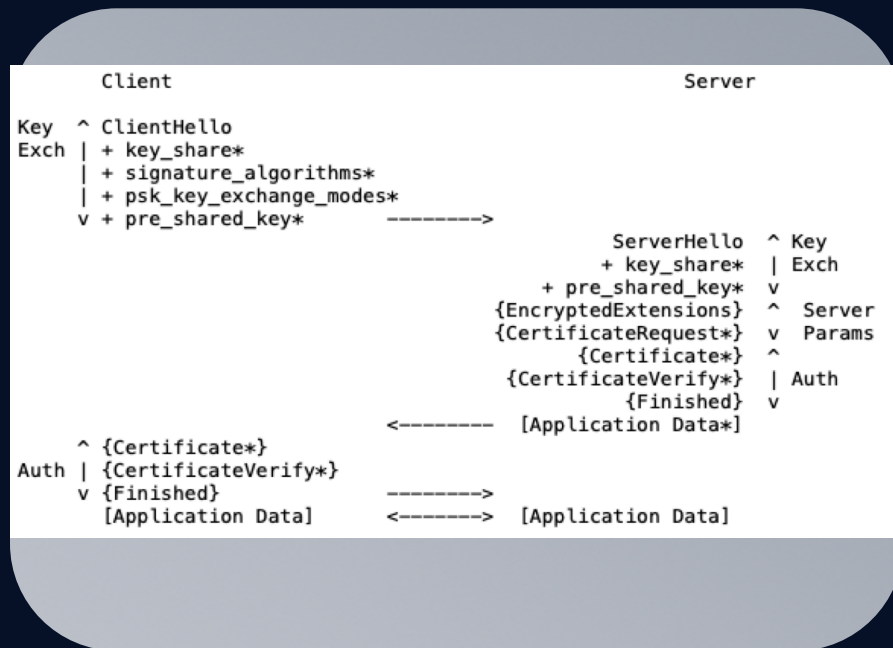
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TLS 1.3

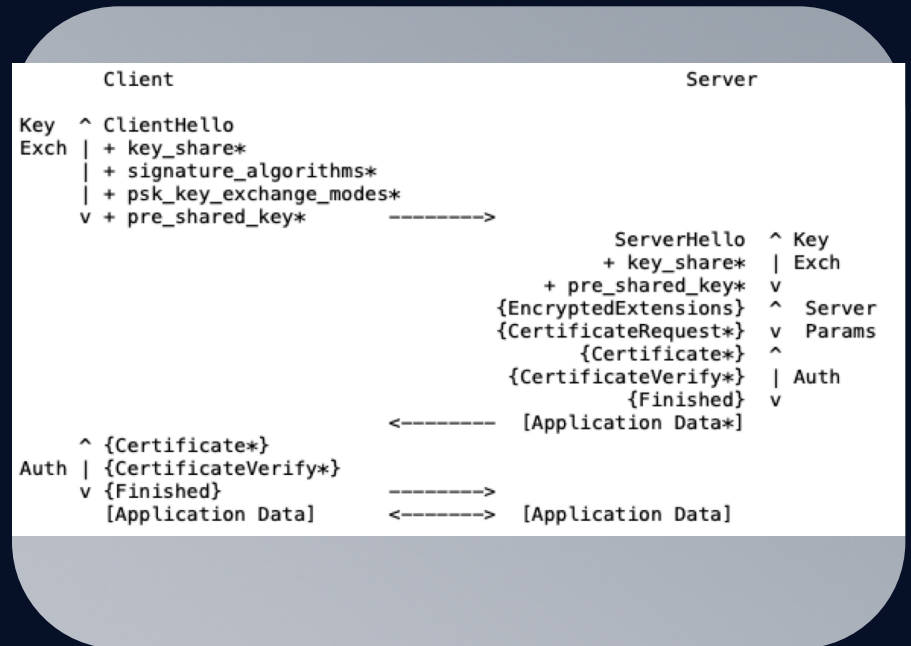
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TLS 1.3

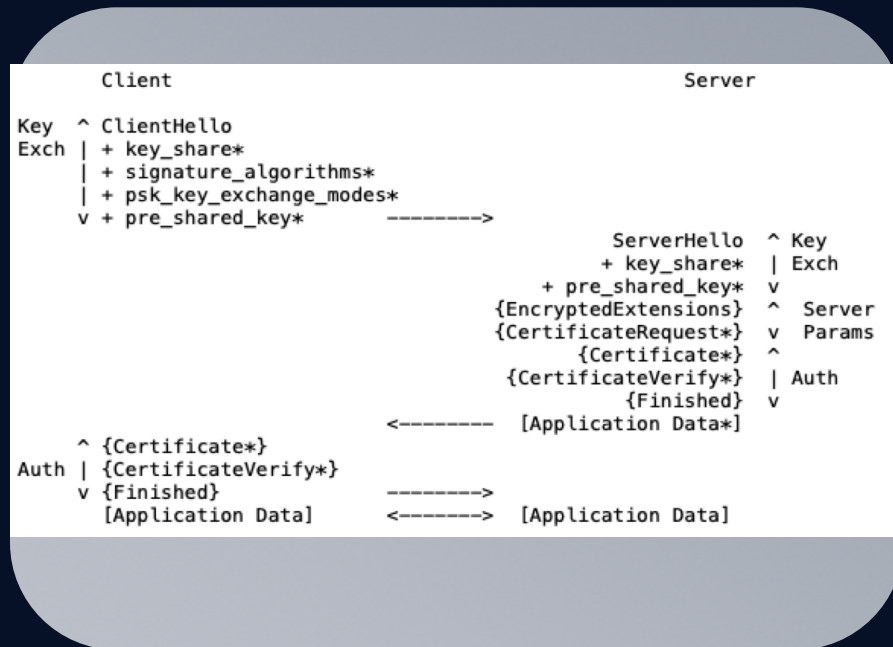
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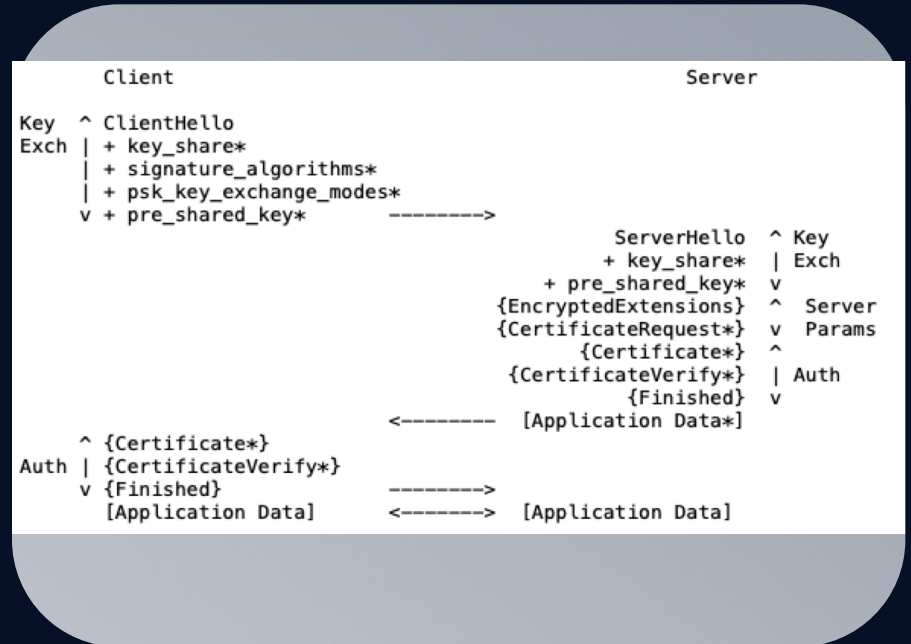
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 - Send certificate, signature and MAC in first response from server





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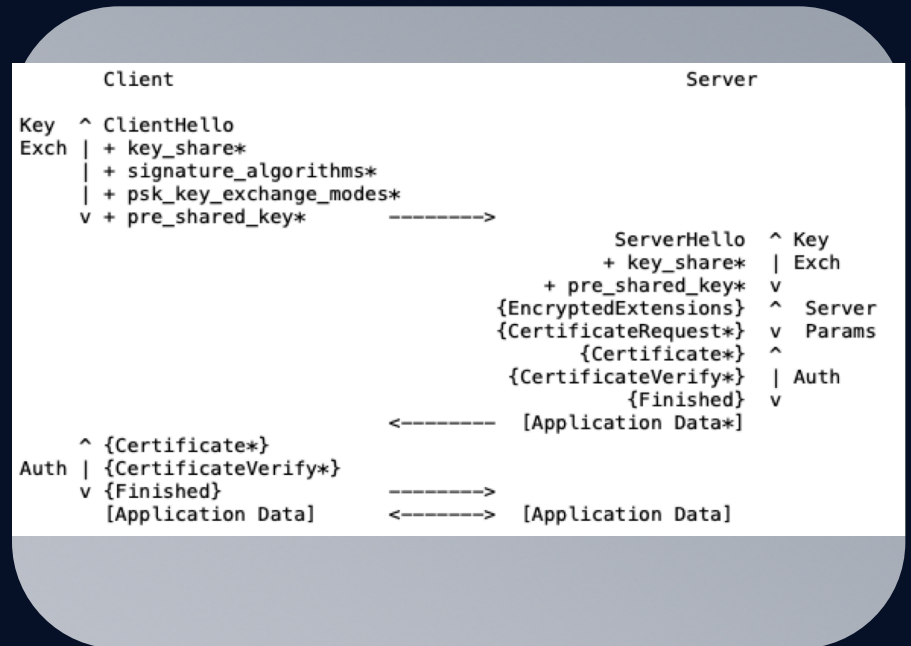
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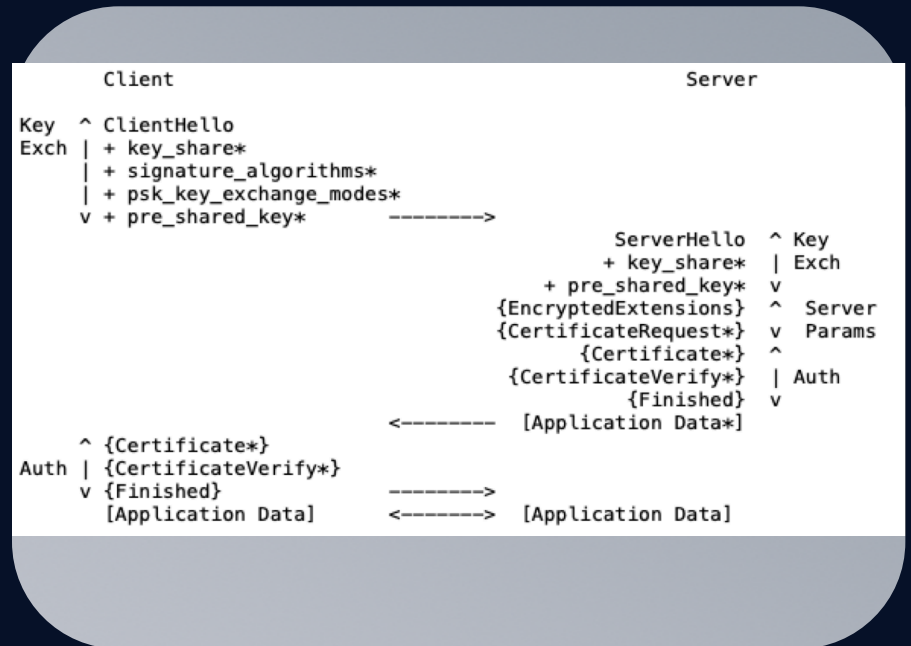
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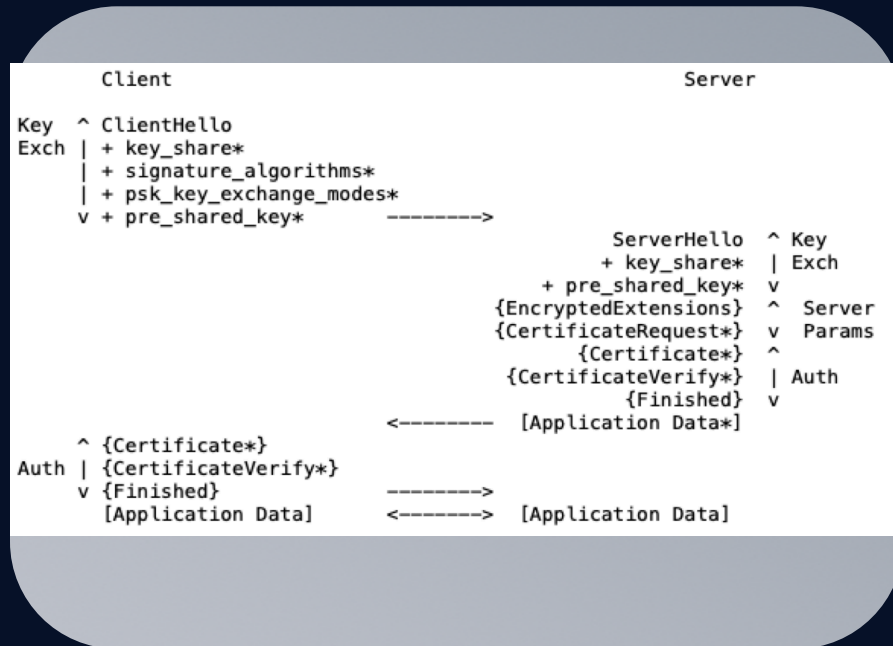
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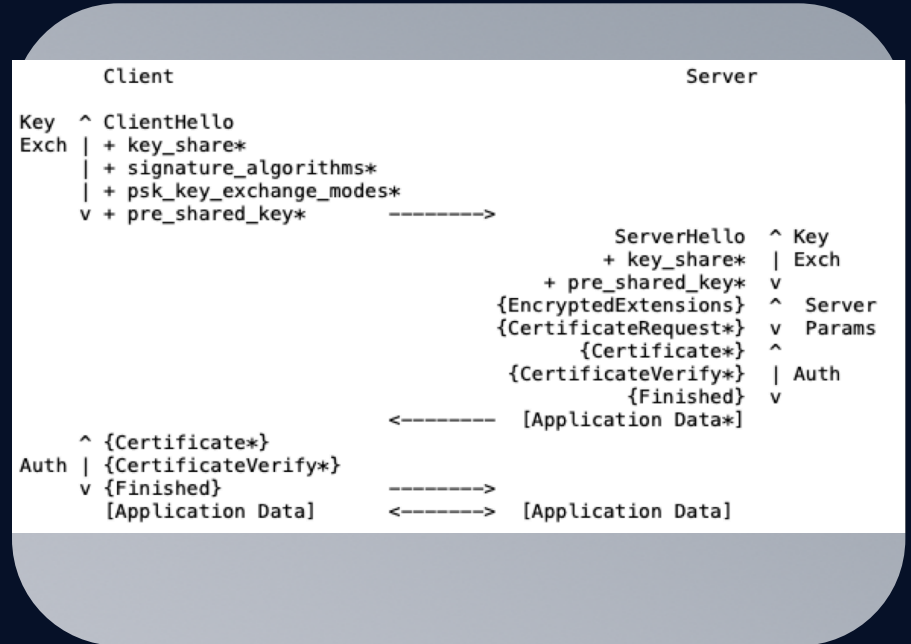
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- Be done as soon as possible
 - Send certificate, signature and MAC in first response from server
- Simplify
 - ECDH: small list of pre-defined groups
 - Almost nobody implements finite-field DH
 - Symmetric: AES-GCM, ChaCha20-Poly1305, and HMAC-SHA2





TLS 1.3 Resumption and 0-RTT

- If you have a pre-shared key, you can do a bunch of stuff faster!
- Use PSK to compute traffic secret
- Ephemeral key exchange *optional*
- Use PSK to encrypt “Early Data”





0-RTT caveat

IMPORTANT NOTE: The security properties for 0-RTT data are weaker than those for other kinds of TLS data. Specifically:

1. This data is **not forward secret**, as it is encrypted solely under keys derived using the offered PSK.
2. There are **no guarantees of non-replay** between connections. Protection against replay for ordinary TLS 1.3 1-RTT data is provided via the server's Random value, but 0-RTT data does not depend on the ServerHello and therefore has weaker guarantees. This is especially relevant if the data is authenticated either with TLS client authentication or inside the application protocol. The same warnings apply to any use of the `early_exporter_master_secret`.

0-RTT data cannot be duplicated within a connection (i.e., the server will not process the same data twice for the same connection), and an attacker will not be able to make 0-RTT data appear to be 1-RTT data (because it is protected with different keys). Appendix E.5 contains a description of potential attacks, and Section 8 describes mechanisms which the server can use to limit the impact of replay.



Why 0-RTT?

- Siri requests
- GET requests on websites*
- Other stateless stuff

But are you sure that your application is completely robust against replays?

```
GET /?query=INSERT into payments (to, amount)  
VALUES ("thom", 1000);
```



Post-Quantum

Server operator



RSA

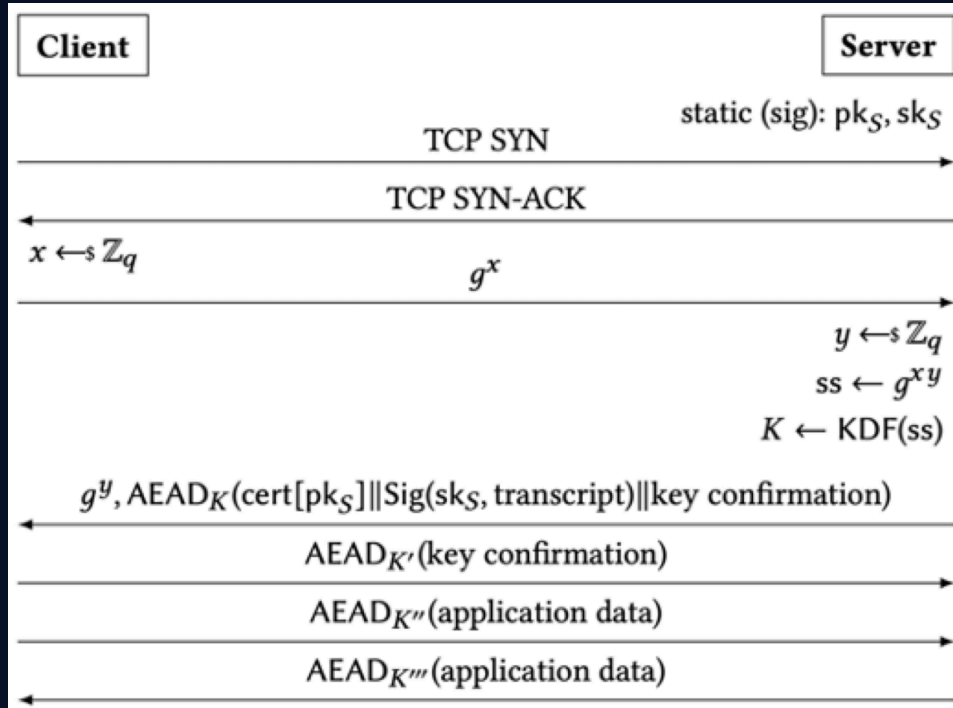
g^x

ECC

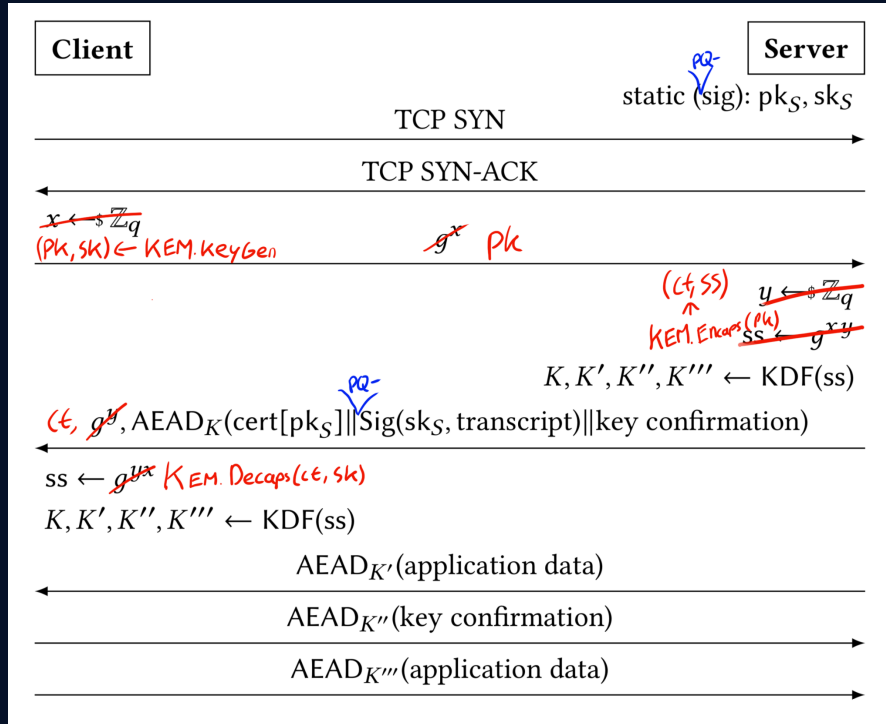




Pre-quantum TLS



Post-quantum TLS





Crossing out g^x

- [draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design](#)
Hybrid: ECDH + KEM key exchange
- [draft-tls-westerbaan-xyber768d00](#)
Instantiates the above with X25519 + Kyber768
- [draft-kwiatkowski-tls-ecdhe-kyber](#)
P256 + Kyber768

Main question not how, but how will clients react?

Cloudflare is reporting on its ongoing experiments

Workgroup: Network Working Group
Internet-Draft:
draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design-09
Published: 7 September 2023
Intended Status: Informational
Expires: 10 March 2024

D. Stebila
University of Waterloo
S. Fluhrer
Cisco Systems
S. Gueron
U. Haifa

Hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3

Abstract

Hybrid key exchange refers to using multiple key exchange algorithms simultaneously and combining the result with the goal of providing security even if all but one of the component algorithms is broken. It is motivated by transition to post-quantum cryptography. This



What about BSI's conservative KEMs?

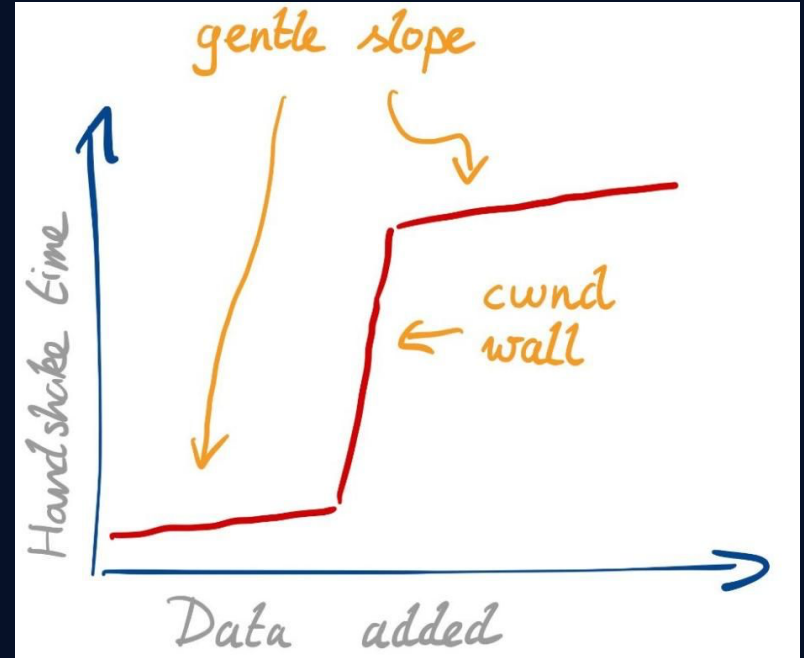
- TLS restricts size of ephemeral `key_share` to 65535 bytes
- McEliece public key: doesn't fit
- FrodoKEM: does fit, but is still quite chunky (~15kb for FrodoKEM-976 pk)

But TLS runs over the internet!



TCP congestion control

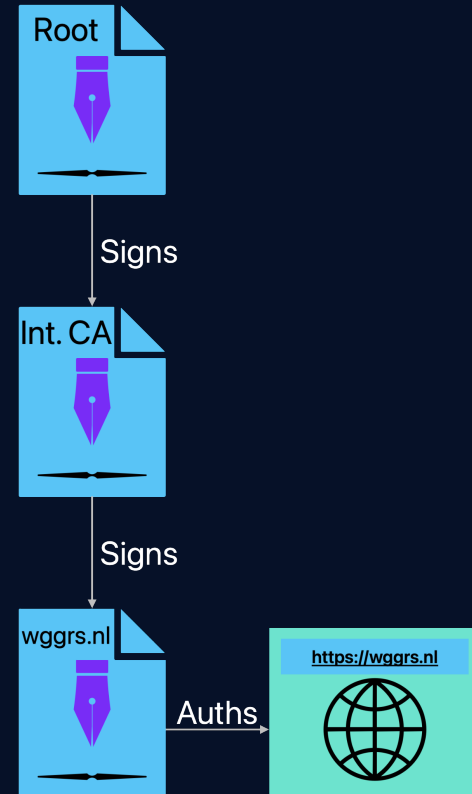
- TCP gives us a reliable transport
- Initial congestion window of 10 MSS \approx 15 KB
- After sending this amount of data, TCP will just wait until it receives confirmation: **additional round-trips**
- FrodoKEM hits this wall



Picture by Bas Westerbaan: [Sizing up post-quantum signatures](#) (Cloudflare blog)



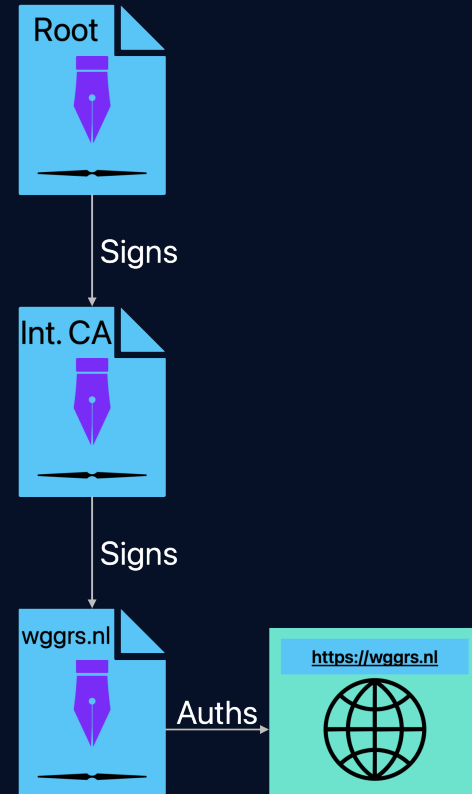
Authentication





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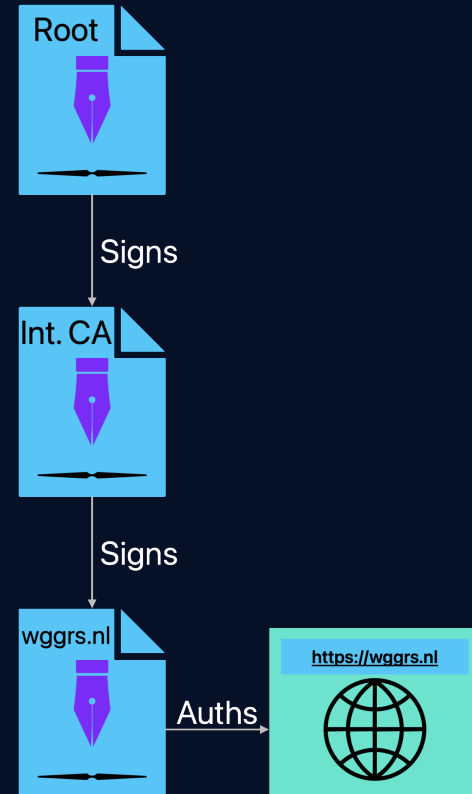
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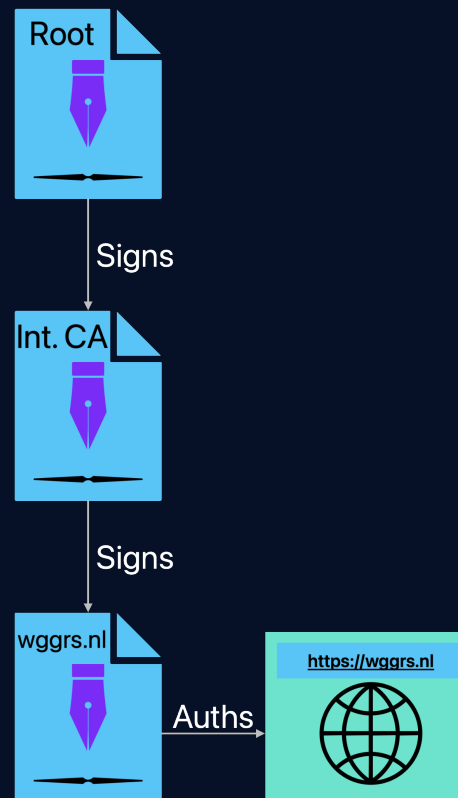
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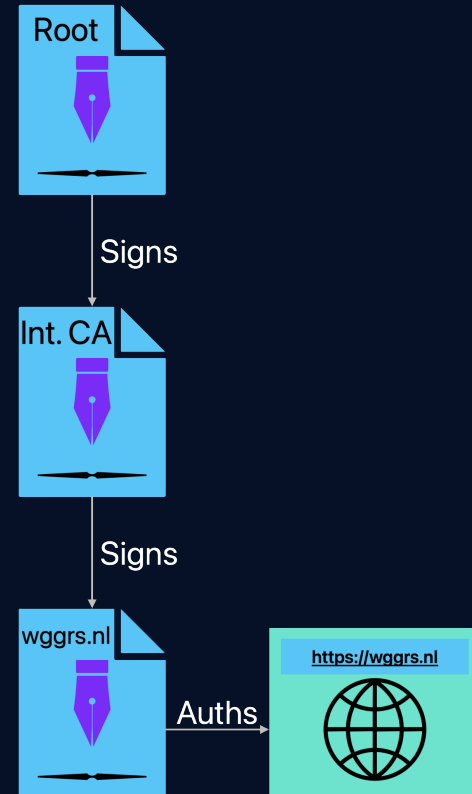
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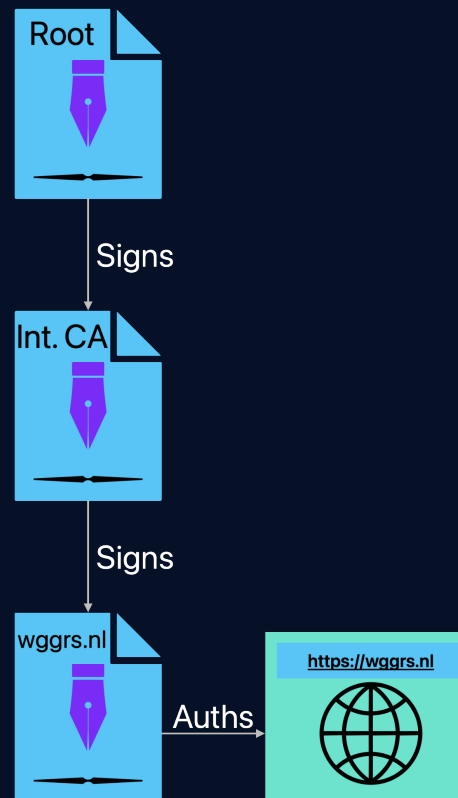
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 - 2 public keys





Authentication

- TLS authenticates servers (and clients) through certificates
- Root public key is preinstalled
- TLS traffic requirement:
 - 2 public keys
 - 3 signatures





Authentication transmission requirements

Signature alg	Public key traffic	Signature traffic	Sum
ML-DSA 44 (Dil2)	2.624	7.260	9.884
ML-DSA 65 (Dil3)	3.904	9.927	13.831
ML-DSA 87 (Dil5)	5.184	13.881	19.065
Falcon-512	1.794	1.998	3.792
Falcon-1024	3.586	3.840	7.426



Evaluating Dilithium and Falcon



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- Even Dilithium2 already pushes us very close to additional round-trips



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- Falcon seems nice, but...
 - Signing uses **floating-point arithmetic**
 - Implementing Falcon without timing side-channels is **extremely difficult**
 - Verification is possible though



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But there are many more signatures in web TLS!



Additional signatures



Additional signatures

- Certificate revocation:
 - Online Certificate Status Protocol
 - Staple OCSP status to certificate: **another signature**



Additional signatures

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 - Staple OCSP status to certificate: **another signature**
- Certificate Transparency
 - Started after Diginotar incident
 - Keeps CAs honest
 - Chrome and Safari require two CT inclusion proofs: **two additional signatures**



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Typical TLS handshake: **2 public keys and 7 signatures!**



Two kinds of signature



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- Only one signature needs to be produced on-the-fly



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- The remainder (certificate chain, SCT, OCSP) are produced out-of-band
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 - Protect against side-channels by hiding the HSM deep in a vault?
 - Complicates PKI management a bit



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 - “Offline”
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 - Protect against side-channels by hiding the HSM deep in a vault?
 - Complicates PKI management a bit
- Hash-based signatures for CAs?
 - Few-times, not-level-5 XMSS?
 - Specially tuned SPHINCS+ with additional compression tricks?



Part 2

- Reducing the impact of authentication
- KEMTLS

Break time...



[Public 4.0 Wikimedia Commons](#)



Dealing with signatures



Signatures in TLS

- OCSP / Certificate revocation
- Certificate signatures
- Certificate transparency
- Handshake signature



Certificate revocation



Certificate revocation

- Certificate Revocation Lists were annoying to download: huge, slow



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- OCSP: make client check if certificate is currently non-revoked
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- OCSP Stapling: have server include a recent proof of non-revocation along certificate
- What do you do if an attacker blocks the OCSP query?



Returning to CRLs



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- Centrally process *all* CRLs, compress them, and push to users daily



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- Since October 2022, Apple and Mozilla require CAs to publish CRLs
- **Only feasible for large browser vendors** and the like



Certificates

- Use Falcon?
- Use MAYO?
- SQL-sign?



Abridged certificate chains



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- Browsers already ship intermediate certificates
 - We've been transmitting them mostly for out-of-date clients
 - ... so leave them out



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 - Collect intermediate certificates and include them in browsers
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- Leaving out intermediate certificates saves us 1 signature and 1 public key



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- ... but only for WebPKI



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 - **Ship the new tree head to browsers every hour**
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Building on Certificate Transparency

- Chrome and Safari require proof of inclusion in certificate transparency logs
- ... thus, the CA certificates can be made pointless
- Certificate transparency: Merkle tree of logged certificates
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 - Authenticates server public key in under 1000 bytes
 - Server still needs to authenticate itself to the client though
- **Probably only suitable for WebPKI**



The matter of the server signature



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- Both Abridged Certs and Merkle Tree Certs still use handshake signatures



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- What is the function of the signature in the TLS handshake?
 - Proves access to the private key that corresponds to the certificate's public key



AuthKEM



Authentication via key exchange

- The signature in TLS proves that the server has access to the private signing key
- If I send you $Enc(k, m)$, and you can show me m , you must know k
 - You have access to the secret key



Authenticated Key Exchange with KEM

Peter

Douglas

$(ss, ct) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encapsulate}(pk_{\text{Douglas}})$

ct

$ss \leftarrow \text{KEM.Decapsulate}(ct, sk_{\text{Douglas}})$

$K \leftarrow \text{KDF}(ss)$

$K \leftarrow \text{KDF}(ss)$

$\text{MAC}_K(\dots)$



TLS authentication via KEM (naively)



<msg>: enc. w/ keys derived from ephemeral KEX (HS)
[msg]: enc. w/ keys derived from HS (MS)



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- KEMs require **interaction**



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This means that the **naive** integration of KEMs in authentication **requires an additional round-trip!**



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Exercise for at home: see how doing this with Diffie-Hellman's non-interactive key exchange property is possible in a single round-trip (see: Krawczyk & Wee's OPTLS)



`<msg>`: enc. w/ keys derived from ephemeral KEX (HS)
`[msg]`: enc. w/ keys derived from HS (MS)



Implicit authentication



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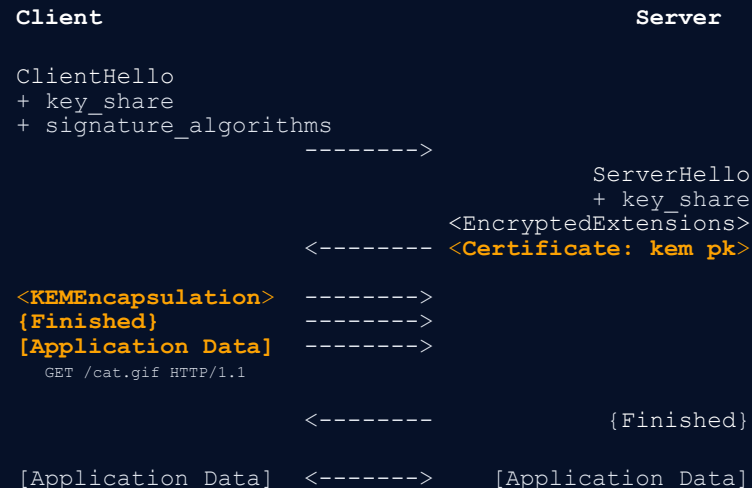
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 - Someone could just have copy/pasted the public key
 - But they **will not** be able to read **message**
- E.g. appears in Signal, Wireguard, Noise Protocols
- If we make the owner of sk use **ss** , we get explicit authentication

AuthKEM

- Use authentication key to send implicitly authenticated request **immediately**
- Avoids additional round-trip
- Does require non-trivial implementation changes

draft-celi-wiggers-tls-authkem:
[KEM-based Authentication for TLS 1.3](#)





Why AuthKEM?

Table 13.5: Comparison of handshake size and time until the client receives a response from the server (30.9 ms, 1000 Mbps), between unilaterally authenticated post-quantum TLS 1.3 and KEMTLS instances at NIST level I.

Experiment		Handshake size (bytes)				Time until response (ms)			
		No int.	$\Delta\%$	With int.	$\Delta\%$	No int.	$\Delta\%$	With int.	$\Delta\%$
TLS	KDDD	7720		11 452		94.8		95.0	
KEMTLS	KKDD	5556	-28.0 %	9288	-18.9 %	94.4	-0.4 %	94.8	-0.3 %
TLS	KFFF	3797		5360		95.8		96.1	
KEMTLS	KKFF	3802	+0.1 %	5365	+0.1 %	94.5	-1.3 %	94.9	-1.2 %
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KEMTLS	KKFF	3802	-36.3 %	5365	-28.7 %	94.5	-0.3 %	94.9	-0.3 %
TLS	KSsSsSs	17 312		25 200		197.7		198.0	
KEMTLS	KKsSsSs	10 992	-36.5 %	18 880	-25.1 %	94.9	-52.0 %	126.4	-36.2 %



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- Save significant amounts of handshake data
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Why AuthKEM?

- Save significant amounts of handshake data
 - e.g. replace Dilithium-2 by Kyber-768: 3732 → 2272 bytes (-39%) for handshake authentication
- Kyber is cheaper to compute
- Combining AuthKEM with Falcon for offline signatures is possible
 - Using AuthKEM can reuse the KEM implementation from key exchange
 - don't need Kyber AND Dilithium AND Falcon implementations → reduces code size/complexity

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Level V

Table 13.25: Comparison of handshake size and time until the client receives a response from the server (30.9 ms, 1000 Mbps), between unilaterally authenticated post-quantum TLS 1.3 and KEMTLS instances at NIST level V.

Experiment		Handshake size (bytes)				Time until response (ms)			
		No int.	$\Delta\%$	With int.	$\Delta\%$	No int.	$\Delta\%$	With int.	$\Delta\%$
TLS	KDDD	14 918	-27.2 %	22 105	-18.3 %	95.6	-0.7 %	127.0	-0.6 %
KEMTLS	KKDD	10 867		18 054		94.9		126.3	
TLS	KFFF	7489	+0.8 %	10 562	+0.6 %	97.5	-2.6 %	98.2	-2.6 %
KEMTLS	KKFF	7552		10 625		95.0		95.7	
TLS	KDFF	11 603	-34.9 %	14 676	-27.6 %	95.7	-0.7 %	96.4	-0.7 %
KEMTLS	KKFF	7552		10 625		95.0		95.7	
TLS	KSfSfSf	102 912	-45.5 %	152 832	-30.6 %	200.9	-20.5 %	229.4	-15.2 %
KEMTLS	KKsSfSf	56 128		106 048		159.8		194.6	
TLS	KSsSsSs	62 784	-42.6 %	92 640	-28.8 %	270.0	-52.8 %	278.1	-42.3 %
KEMTLS	KKsSsSs	36 064		65 920		127.4		160.5	



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- AuthKEM is **fully compatible** with Merkle Tree Certificates or Abridged Certificates



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 - Using AuthKEM **further pushes down** the communication costs
- SCT/OCSP signatures are **very “web”** problems
 - The proposed solutions only work in WebPKI context
- AuthKEM is especially effective in **constrained environments** (i.e. not using phone or laptop CPUs)



Extensions

Client Authentication

Requires additional round-trip: We need to encrypt the certificate and can't do it earlier.

Pre-shared KEM keys

- E.g. cache or pre-install server KEM key
- Send ciphertext in first client message
- Abbreviate handshake further
- Easy fall-back to AuthKEM

=> "AuthKEM-PSK"



Post-Quantum TLS



Post-Quantum TLS

TLS confidentiality



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- Transitioning TLS kex to PQ is in progress



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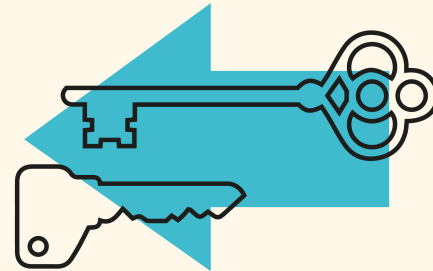
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- Impact of Dilithium is very large
- Several proposals in development for reducing impact of authentication
 - Abridged Certificates uses clever compression
 - Merkle Tree Certificates fundamentally changes the trust model
- AuthKEM swaps signature auth for KEMs



More on Post-Quantum TLS

- Discussion of how to make post-quantum TLS, OPTLS (with CSIDH) and KEMTLS
- Proofs of KEMTLS by pen-and-paper and using Tamarin
- Loads of benchmark measurements for TLS/KEMTLS instances at NIST level I, III, V
- wggrs.nl/p/thesis

POST- QUANTUM TLS



THOM WIGGERS