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PKI and related challenges

Hannes Salin, IT Senior Developer and Scrum Master

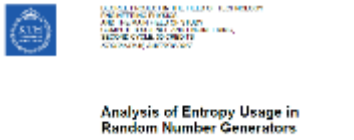
8.1.2019

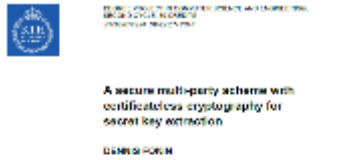
Agenda

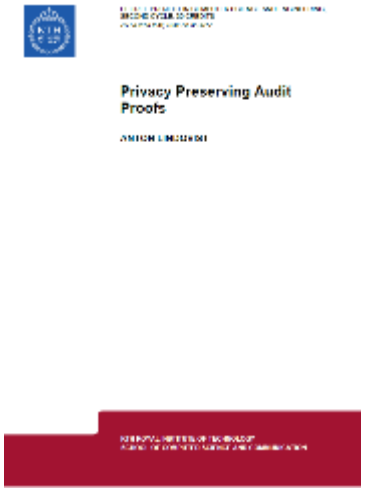
- My work and challenges with PKI
- PKI for developers
- Microservices and PKI
- Alternatives to PKI

Hannes Salin

- Scrum master and developer at Nordea
- Authentication and signing applications
- Master thesis supervisor and project manager
- DFS Dalarna network leader IT-security
- Researching
- Writing whitepapers
- Lecturing on cryptography and related fields







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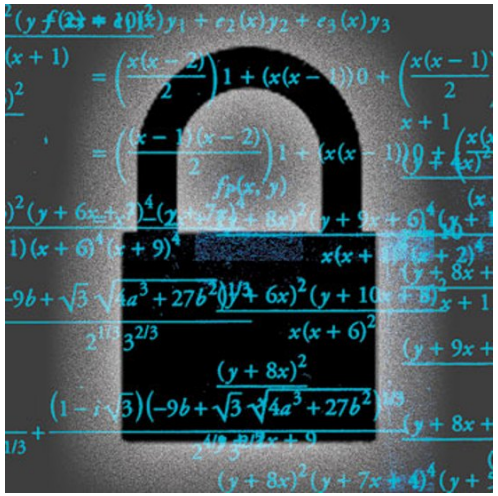
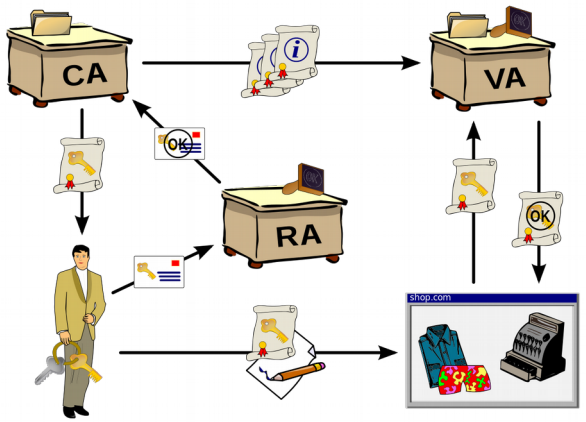
My work (and challenges) with PKI

- Relationship between Public Key Cryptography (PKC) and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)
- PKC is collection of asymmetric crypto schemes (e.g. RSA, DH) with two main operations:
  - encrypt – decrypt (key exchange / encryption)
  - sign – verify (digital signature)
- PKI provide to users some verifiable guarantee as to the ownership of public keys
- PKC need PKI to solve key distribution issue
- PKI uses PKC to execute operations needed, e.g. digital signatures





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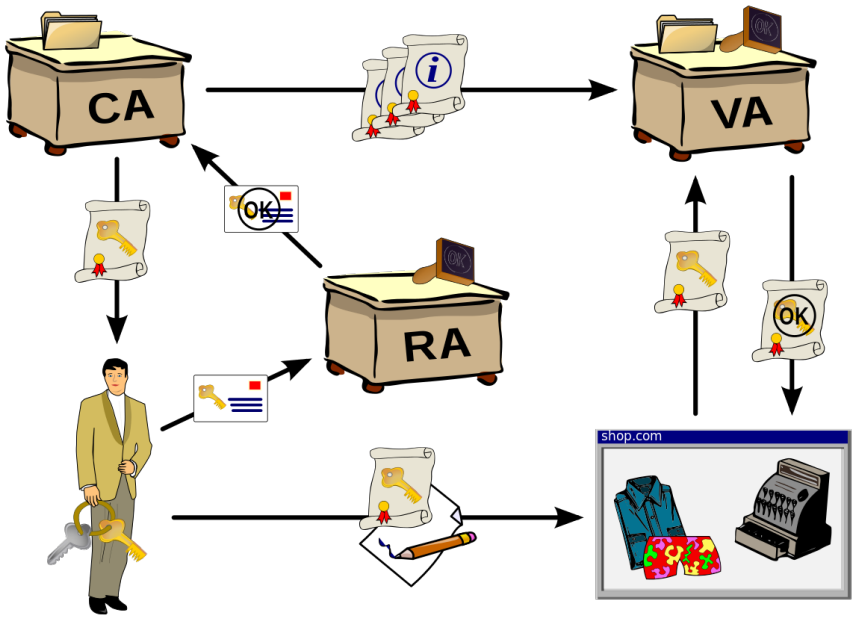
My work (and challenges) with PKI

- First challenge: understanding PKI and all components



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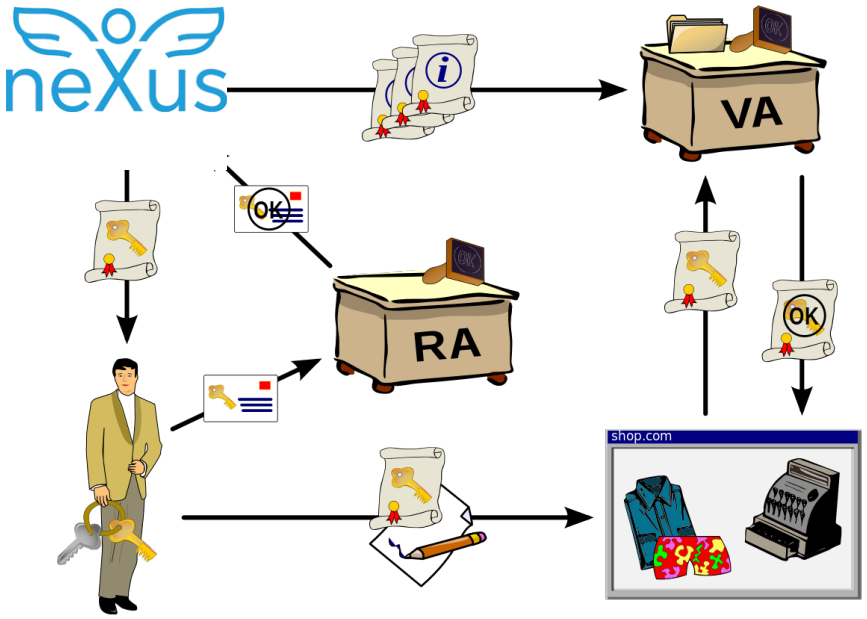
My work (and challenges) with PKI

- First challenge: understanding PKI and all components
- Second challenge: securing the life-cycle of certificates – worked on Nexus Certificate Manager (also PRIME and Hybrid Access Gateway)



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My work (and challenges) with PKI

- First challenge: understanding PKI and all components
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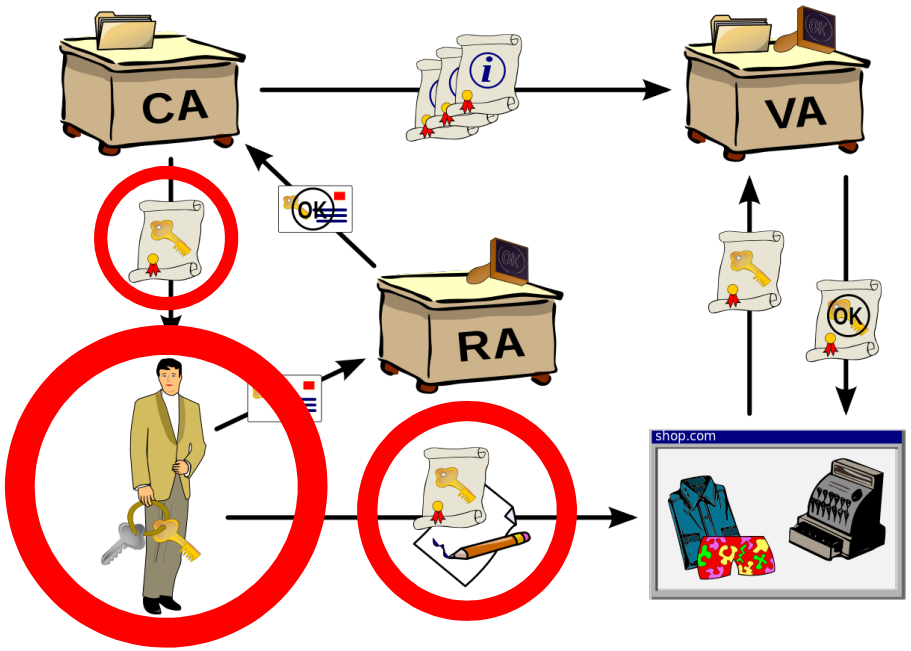
- Third challenge: setup proper PKI in secure financial systems



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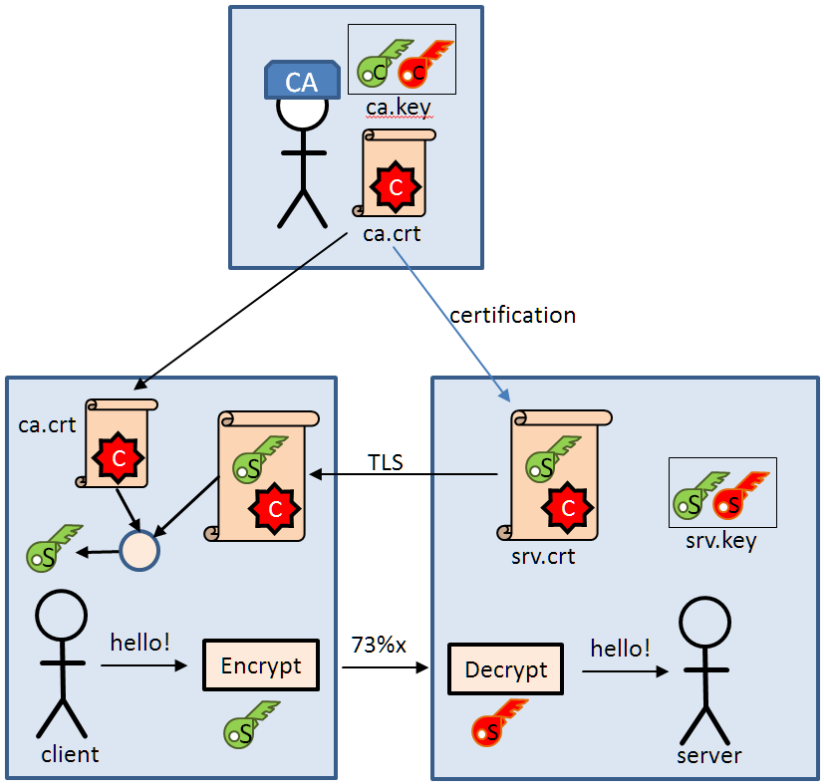
- Fourth challenge: the world of TLS



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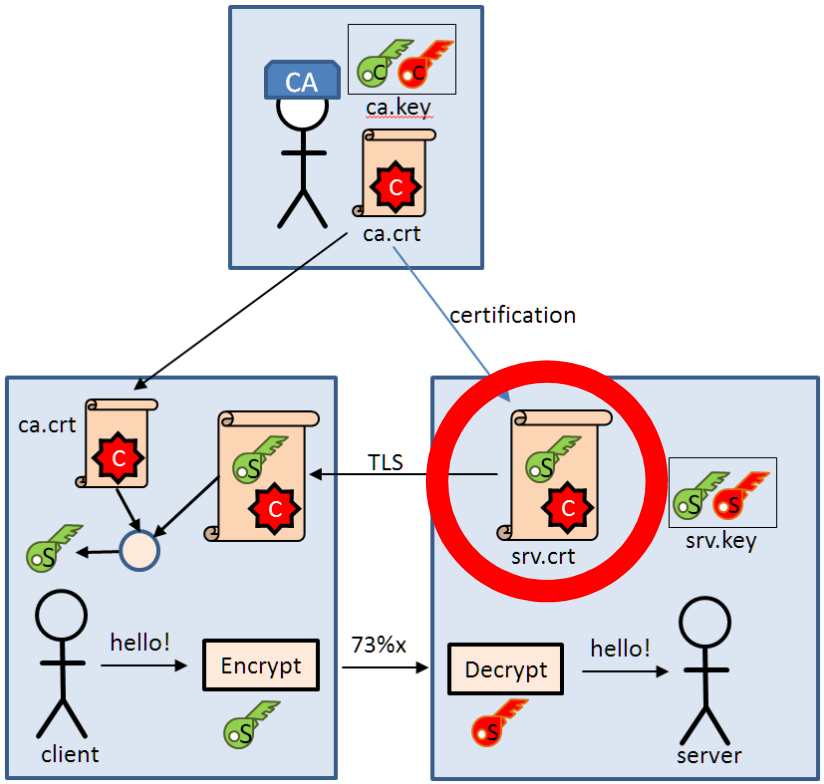
  - Expired certificates



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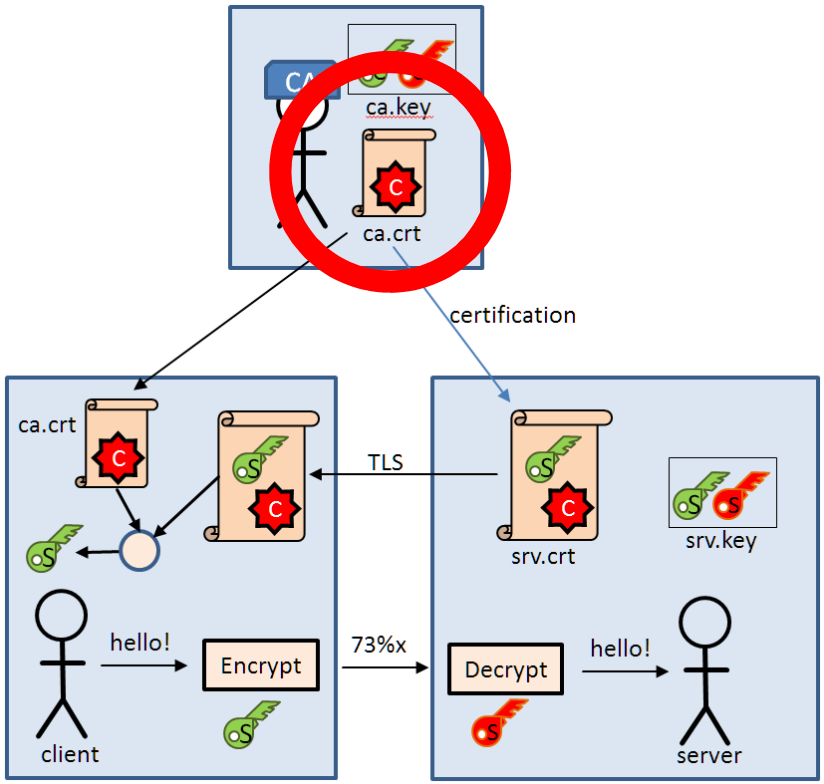

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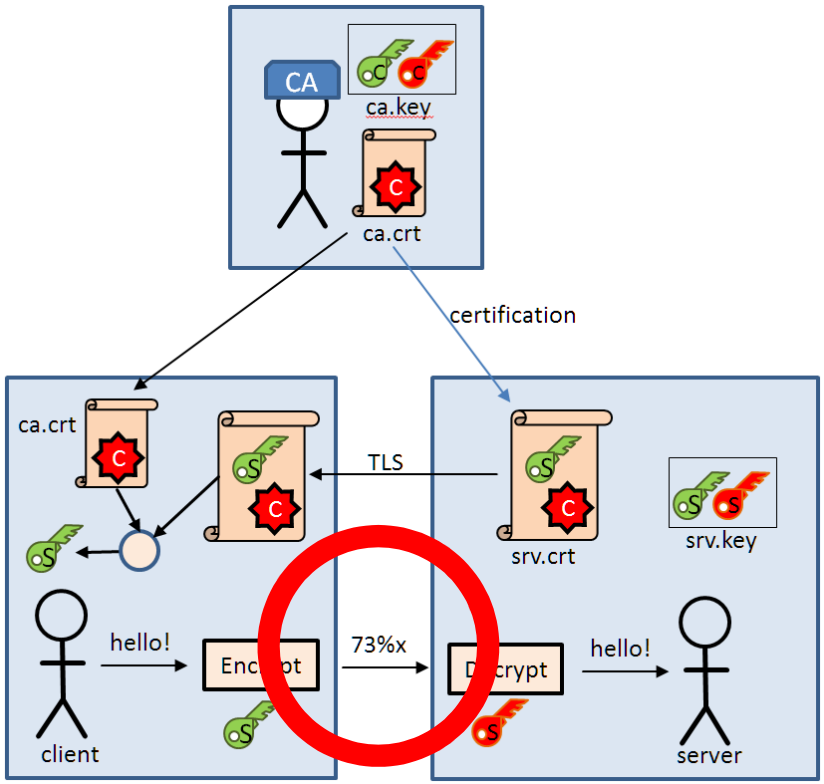
  - Faulty TLS configurations



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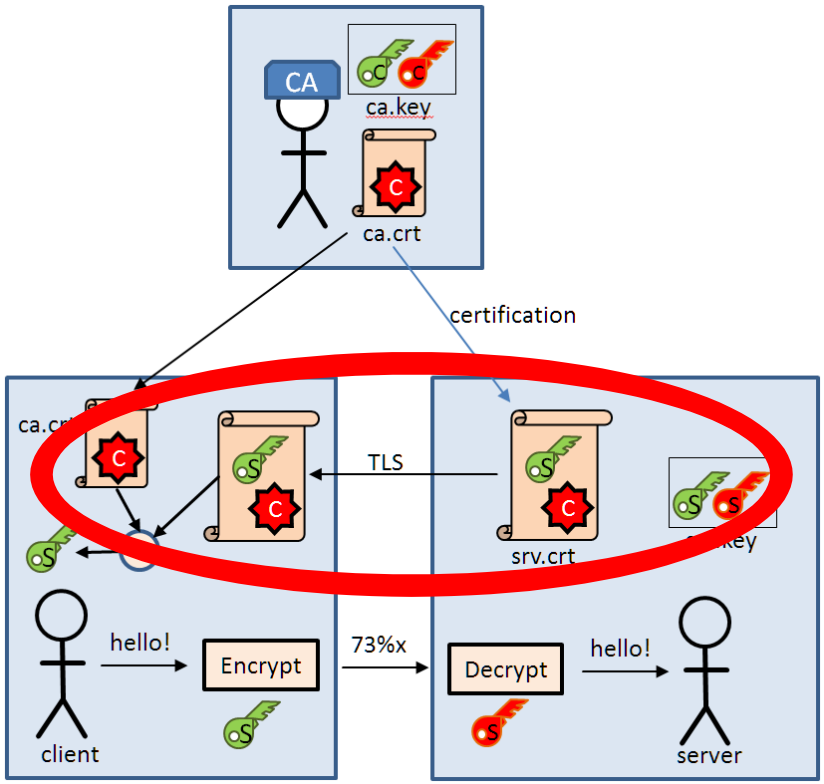
- Fifth challenge: Segregation of Duties



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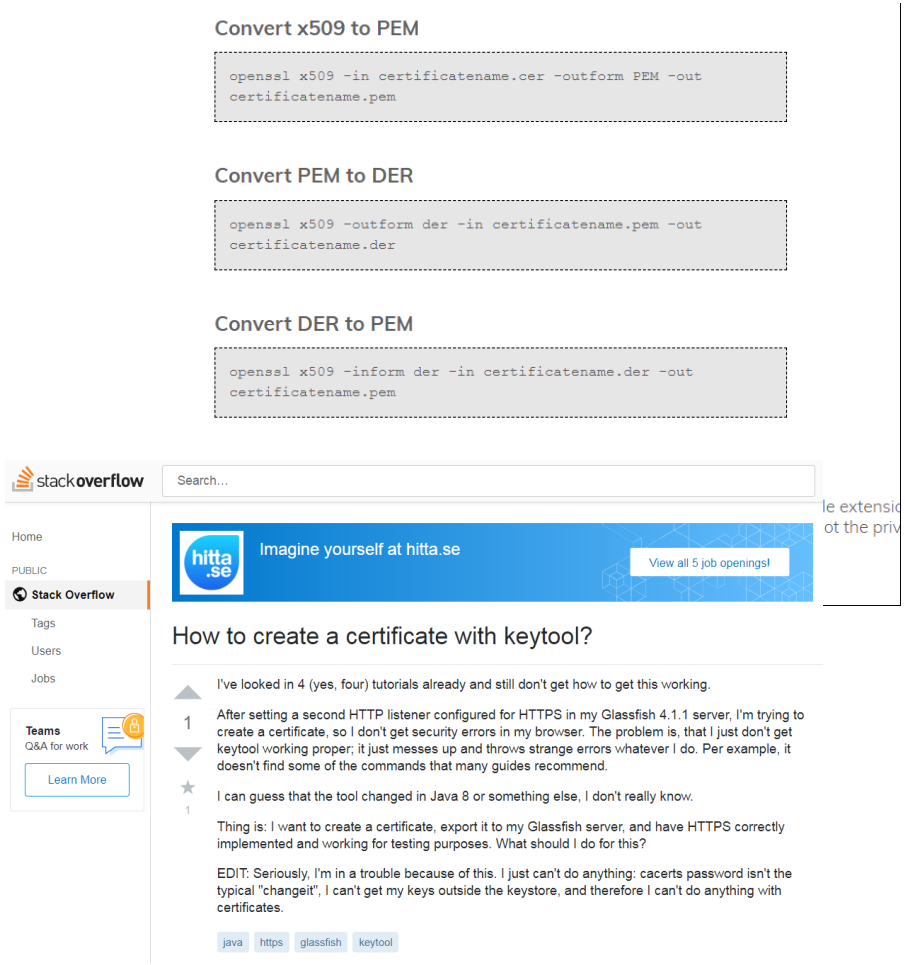
PKI for developers

- Needed level of knowledge?
- Certificates and TLS is the practical part of PKI a developer get contact with
  - Truststore / Keystore
  - Key- and certificate formats (and conversion between them)
  - Cipher suites
  - Certificate pinning
  - **Java's keytool and OpenSSL are good tools to know**
- Revocations and certificate signing requests is more on operational side



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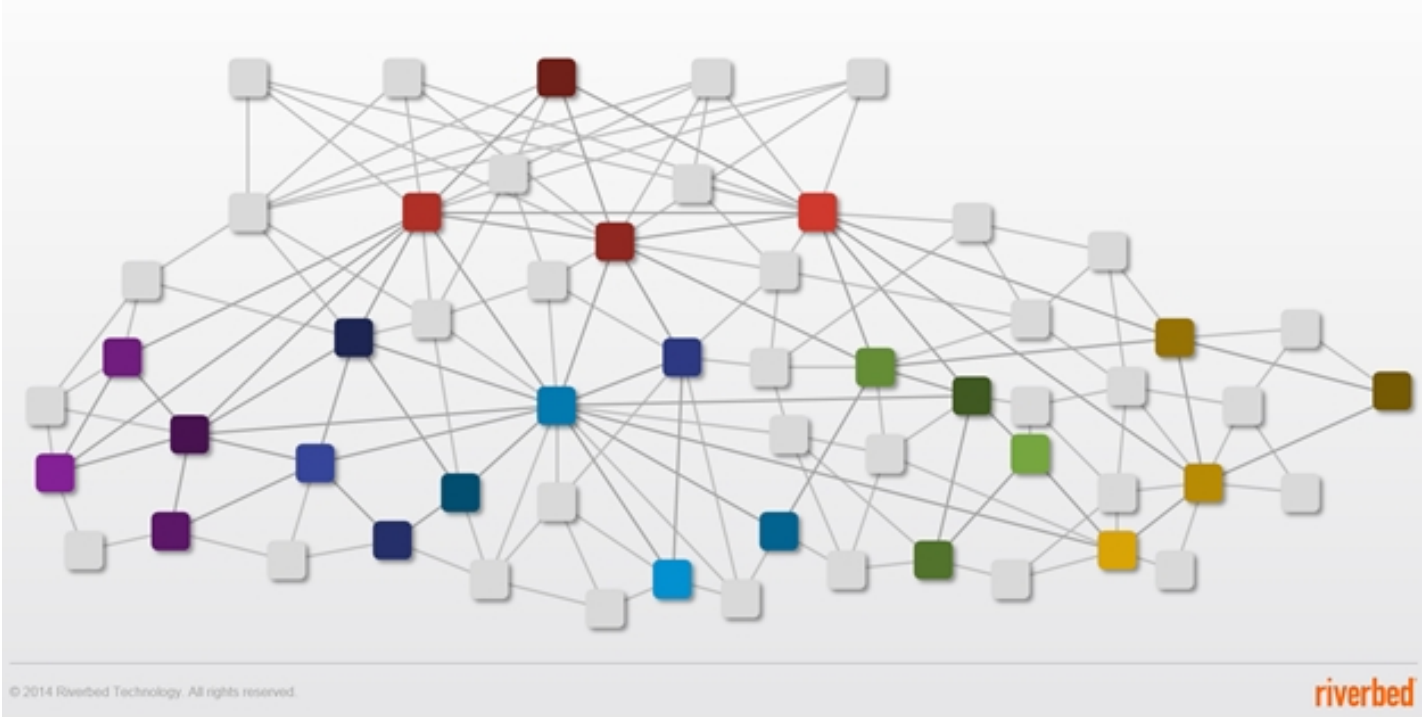
Microservices and PKI

- Assume an eco-system with 30-40 microservices and a policy saying all nodes need TLS – is it manageable?
- Is it necessary with PKI within a “secure zone” or internal network?



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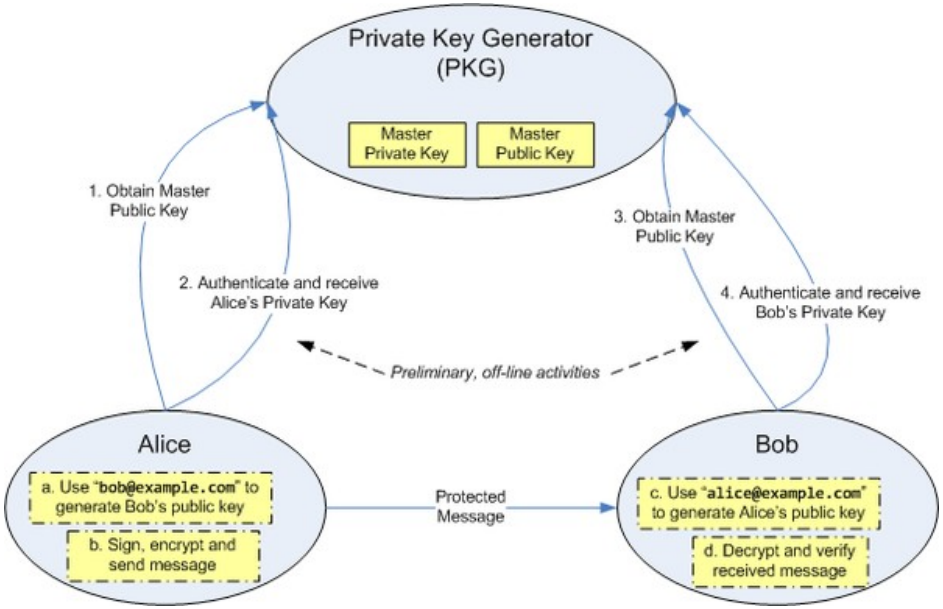
Alternatives to traditional PKI

- "…significant overhead is associated with managing digital certificates" ☐ yepp!

  "…the new notion called "identity-based public key cryptography" (ID-PKC) in which bitstring of user identity (could be name, email addresses, etc) is directly being the public key" [1]

- Private Key Generator (PKG) is the weak point
- The most efficient identity-based encryption schemes are currently based on bilinear pairings on elliptic curves, such as the Weil or Tate pairings.



[1] Survey on certificateless public key cryptography, 2011, Al Housani et al.

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Thank you!

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