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# Security and Privacy

## Threats and Tools to Protect Yourself

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Notes for CSC 100 - The Beauty and Joy of Computing  
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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## Reminders

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### Blown to Bits

Oops... some places said Chapter 5, some said Chapter 6...

Either is ok....

Chapter 5 or 6: Contribute to discussion by next Monday

### Project

Get solid, workable code ready by Friday!

Demos and final presentations in lab this Friday

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## Security Basics - What is security?

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Commonly discussed in terms of three goals:

- Confidentiality

*Unauthorized people should not get information*

*Violation example: Thief gets your credit card number*

- Integrity

*Unauthorized people should not modify information*

*Violation example: Thief changes "destination account" on a transfer*

- Availability

*Authorized people should be able to get information/services*

*Violation example: "Hacktivist" knocks out a web server*

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# Example of Security Attacks

## Spamhaus Attack - Part 1

The New York Times Business Day  
**Technology**

WORLD | U.S. | NY / REGION | BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | SCIENCE | HEALTH | SPORTS | OPINION

Published: March 30, 2013

### How the Cyberattack on Spamhaus Unfolded

Spamhaus, a spam-prevention service based in Europe, was the victim of one of the largest known cyberattacks. The attackers tried to overwhelm Spamhaus's servers using what is known as a distributed denial of service attack. This technique harnessed the power of relatively few computers to generate as much as 300 gigabits a second of traffic -- an attack so large it disrupted Internet service for millions of users in Europe. [Related News](#)

Credit: New York Times, March 30, 2013

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# Example of Security Attacks

## Spamhaus Attack - Part 2

**The Initial Attack**

1. The attackers send commands to about 1,000 computers under their control.
2. Each computer, pretending to be Spamhaus, sends requests for information to a type of Internet server called an open resolver. An estimated 100,000 resolvers are involved in the attack.
3. The resolvers respond with a much larger message than the initial request, amplifying the size of the attack.
4. Spamhaus cannot handle the amount of traffic and ceases to respond to legitimate traffic.

**Question:**  
What security goal is violated?

Credit: New York Times, March 30, 2013

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# Example of Security Attacks

## Home Depot Compromise

### Home Depot confirms months-long hack

By Jose Paggiery @Jose\_Paggiery September 9, 2014 7:10 AM ET  
NEW YORK (CNNMoney)

Home Depot on Monday confirmed that hackers indeed broke into its payment systems -- maybe as far back as April.

Home Depot (HD)'s hack might be even bigger than Target (TGT)'s was last year. In Target's case, hackers slipped in for three weeks and grabbed 40 million debit and credit cards. Hackers remained in Home Depot's computers -- unnoticed -- for about five months.

Hackers stole debit and credit card data from shoppers in the United States and Canada. The question now is how many millions of shoppers are affected.

Home Depot said it's still investigating the breach, but said there's still "no evidence" debit card PINs were exposed.

But noted Internet fraud expert Brian Krebs, who first reported the Home Depot breach a week ago, wrote early Tuesday that there's a sharp increase in recent days in fraudulent

**Question:** What security goal is violated?

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# Example of Security Attacks

## WhatsApp Compromise

### WhatsApp Web site hijacked, shows pro-Palestinian message

A group called KDM5 Team claims credit for taking over the Web site of the popular messaging service, which is used to send billions of messages a day.



**Question:**  
What security goal is violated?

Credit: screenshot by Stephen Skerfving (@SKR) on Twitter  
The Web site of WhatsApp, a widely used messaging app, was hijacked Tuesday. The site showed a pro-Palestinian message at 2:40 a.m. PT Tuesday and was given the title "You Got Perked". A group called KDM5 Team claimed credit for the attack.  
"Our Web site was hijacked for a small period of time, during which attackers redirected our Web site to another IP address," the company said in a statement. "We can confirm that no user data was lost or compromised. We are committed to user security and are working with our domain hosting vendor FastNet. Solutions on further investigation of this incident."  
According to the Whois database, which can be used to see what numeric Internet Protocol (IP) address is assigned to a given Internet domain, the whatsapp.com IP address record was changed on Tuesday. Such a change, made through the Internet's Domain Name Service (DNS) system, is one way that users who typed in the whatsapp.com name would be redirected to a different Web site.

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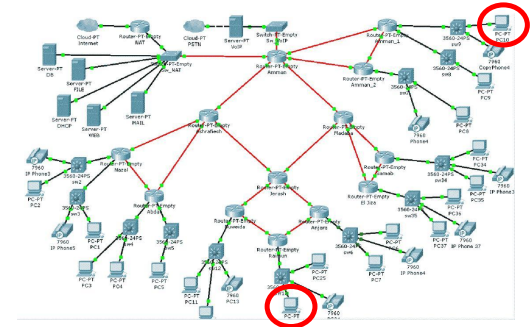
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# Protections

## Eavesdropping problem: Consider Internet Communication



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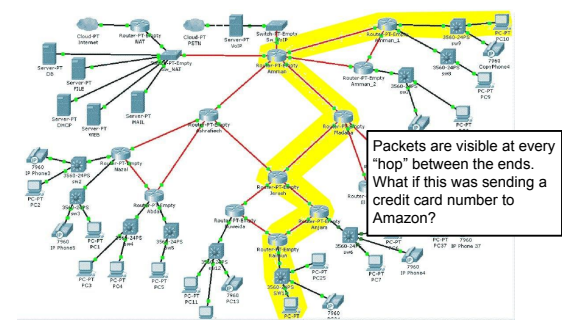
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# Protections

## Eavesdropping problem: Consider Internet Communication



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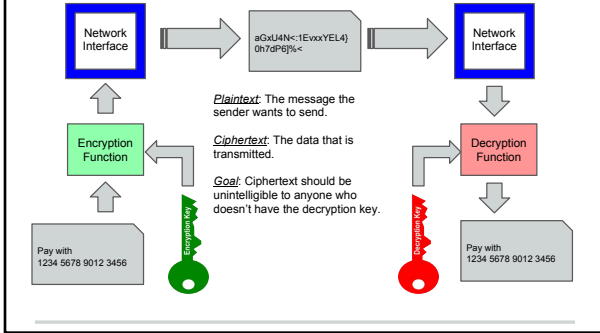
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## Protections

### Cryptography to the Rescue! Encryption for Confidentiality



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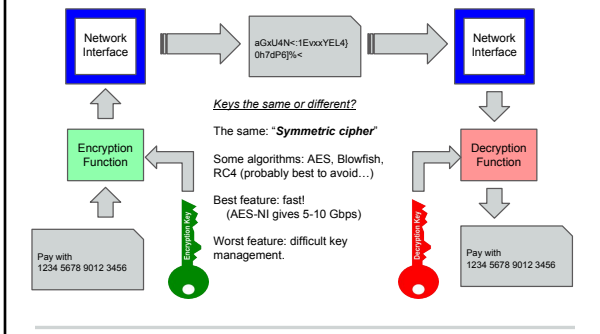
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## Protections

### Cryptography to the Rescue! Encryption for Confidentiality



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## Protections

### How big is a 128-bit (AES) key? To try all keys (brute force)...

2004 Estimate: \$100k machine breaks 56-bit DES key in 6 hours

What about a 128-bit key?

\$100k machine takes  $>10^{18}$  years [the earth is  $<10^{10}$  years old]

What if we spent \$100,000,000,000?

Would take  $>10^{12}$  years

What about Moore's law saying that in 20 years machines will be about 16,000 times faster?

Would take  $>10^8$  years

OK, what about in 40 years (machines 100 million times faster)?

Would still take  $>30,000$  years

Do you really think Moore's law will last this long?

What about improvements in algorithms/cryptanalysis or super-duper quantum computers?

*This could change everything....*

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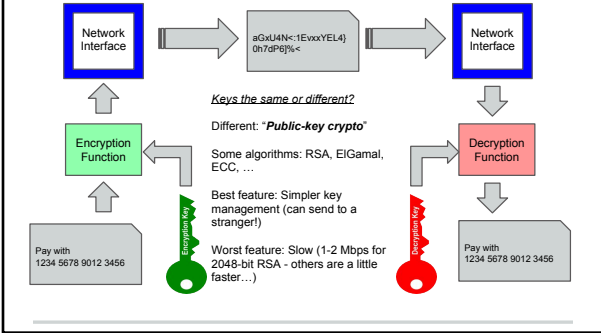
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# Protections

## Cryptography to the Rescue! Encryption for Confidentiality



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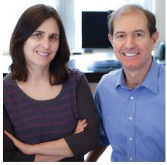
# Protections

## Research in Public Key Crypto Was Revolutionary!

### MIT Team Wins Turing Award

Goldwasser and Micali revolutionized cryptography

By Abby Abbot on April 23, 2013



Shafi Goldwasser and Silvio Micali, along with Ronald Rivest, lead the Information and Computer Security Group at MIT.

On June 15, EECS professor Shafi Goldwasser and engineering professor Silvio Micali will receive the A. M. Turing Award for their pioneering work in cryptography and complexity theory. The two developed new mechanisms for encrypting and securing information, which are widely applicable today in communication protocols, Internet transactions, and cloud computing. They also

*New ways of thinking about security.*

*Important part: Taking a computational view, based on reductions.*

*Example: "If Algorithm A can get any information out of a ciphertext, then we can use that to efficiently solve Problem B (which we believe is computationally difficult)."*

*Logical Contrapositive: "If it is impossible to efficiently solve Problem B then there is no way any algorithm can get any information out of a ciphertext."*

*"Problem B" might be "factoring large integers."*

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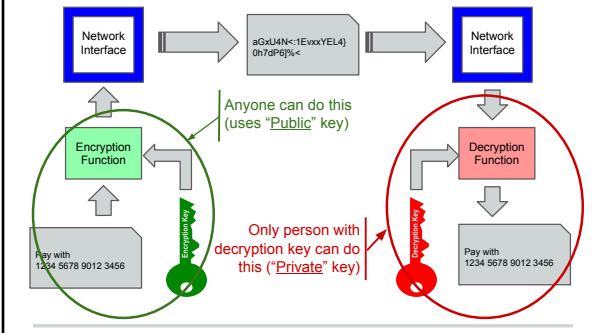
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# Protections

## Cryptography to the Rescue! Signatures for Integrity



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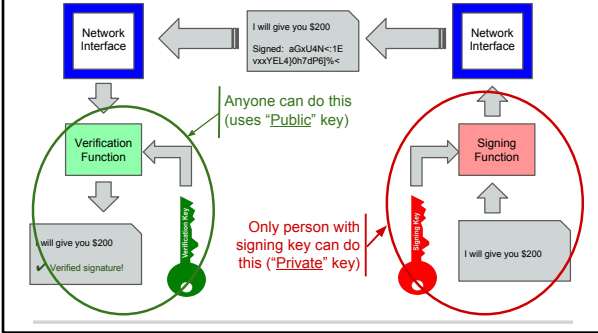
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## Protections

*Cryptography to the Rescue! Signatures for Integrity*



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## Protections

*Verifying the origin of a web site*

Bank of America

Choose the card that works for you

Verify with Bank of America  
verification key

Signed by Bank of America Signing Key

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## Protections

*Verifying the origin of a web site*

Bank of America

Choose the card that works for you

Verify with Bank of America  
verification key

Signed by Bank of America Signing Key

How do you know you have the  
right verification key?

It is signed (called a "certificate")!  
... by a Certification Authority (CA)

A handful of trusted CA's built in to  
browser.

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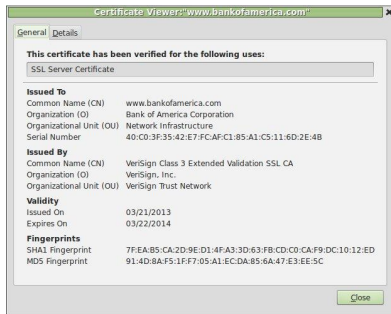
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# Protections

## Viewing certificates



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# Protections - Tools

## Crypto-enabled tools - Tools for e-mail and file protection

### PGP: "Pretty Good Privacy"

- Originally created by Phil Zimmerman in 1991
- Interesting legal (export) and patent (RSA) problems at the time
  - Phil Zimmerman was under criminal investigation (no charges filed)
  - RSA Inc. allowed use of RSAREF library for non-commercial use (still other patent issues though)
- OpenPGP and then GPG (GnuPG) to avoid patent questions

### Functionality:

- Supports encrypting and signing messages and/or files
  - Most direct use is for e-mail
  - People also use for encrypting files or protecting integrity (e.g., Linux software distribution)

Obtaining: GPG available from <http://www.gnupg.org/>

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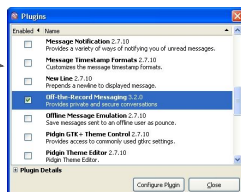
# Protections - Tools

## Crypto-enabled tools - Tools for instant messaging

### OTR (Off The Record)

- Encryption support for instant messaging protocols
- Designed by well-known and trusted people (Goldberg & Borisov)
- One design goal was deniability
- Forward secrecy: Archived communication secure even if long-term keys are later discovered
- Works as a plug-in for common IM software (like Pidgin)

For more information:  
<https://otr.cyberpunks.ca/>



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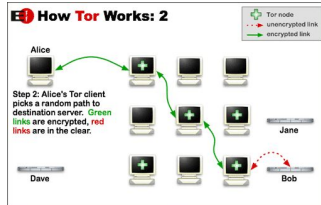
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## Protections - Tools

*Crypto-enabled tools - Tools for anonymous Internet browsing*

Tor: "The Onion Router"

- Traffic endpoints obscured using multiple hops and encryption
- Paths are randomized to obscure patterns
- For more information: <http://www.torproject.org>



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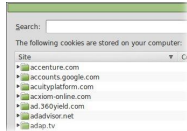
## Privacy

"Privacy" is not the same as "Secrecy"

- Sometimes you willingly give your information
- What happens to your information then?

Cookies

- Information stored in browser
- Associated with specific domains/sites
- Sent along with web page requests
- ... including image/banner ad requests
- Information can include login credentials
- ... such as Facebook login (with your name!)



"Do Not Track" setting

- Recent initiative to indicate privacy prefs



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## Summary

*Important things to know*

Security goals: Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability

Encryption for confidentiality

- Terms: Plaintext, Ciphertext, Keys
- Symmetric cipher vs. Public-key encryption

Signatures for integrity

- Types of keys: Signing key, verification key
- Web site origin verification: Certificates, CAs

Tools

- PGP and GPG for encrypted email
- OTR for private chat
- Tor for anonymous communication

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