Computer Security and Privacy: A Taste of Attacks and Defenses

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SECURITY & PRIVACY

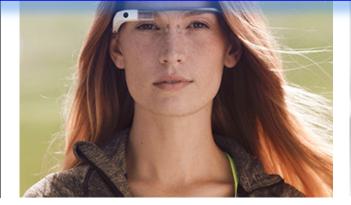
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

New technologies bring new benefits...



... but also new risks.







Security & Privacy (Research)

Goal: Improve security & privacy of technologies.

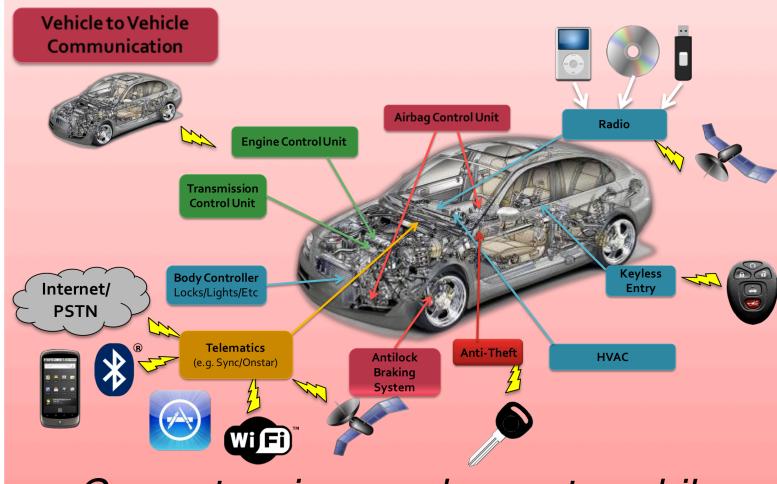
Security mindset: Challenge assumptions, think like an attacker.



Study existing technologies: attack and measure.

Design and build defenses and new technologies.

Example: Modern Automobiles



Computers in a modern automobile

Exercise: Security Mindset

Assets

(what should be protected)

Adversaries

(possible attackers)

Threats and Vulnerabilities

(how an adversary might try to attack the system)

Risk

(how important are assets, how likely are exploits)

We experimented with a real car!

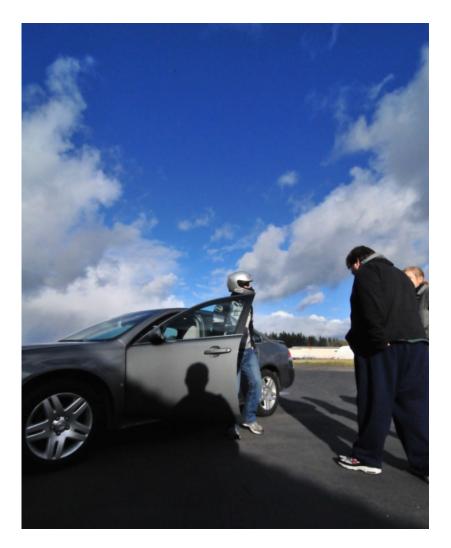


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We experimented with a real car!







Example: Force Brakes On



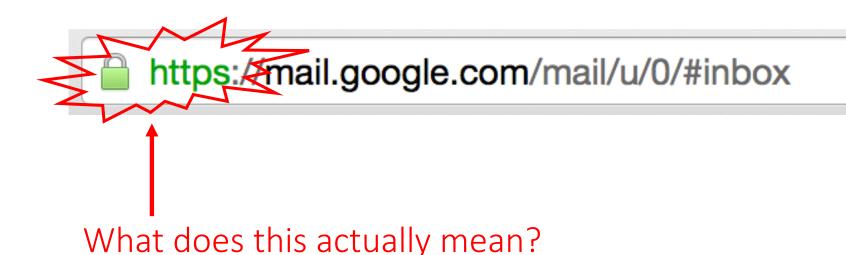
Example: Force Brakes Off



Example: Keyless Theft

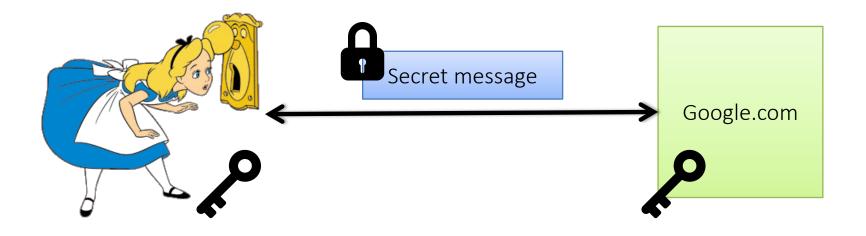


Now for something completely different...



- 1. Your communication with Google is encrypted.
- 2. You know you're actually talking to Google (probably).

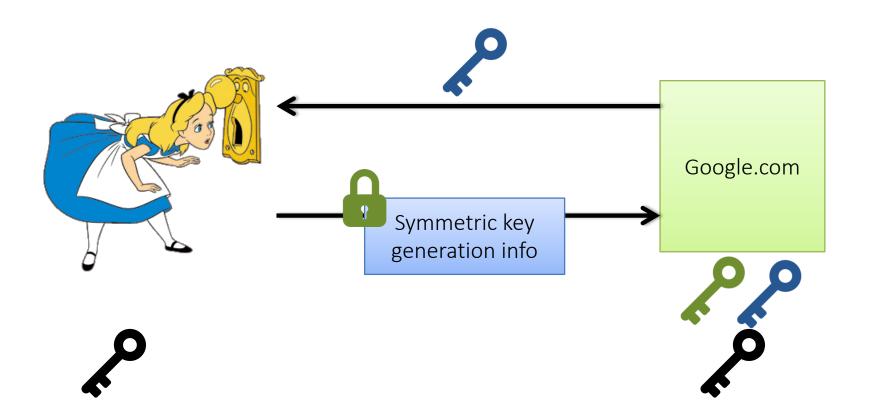
Encryption



How to exchange keys?

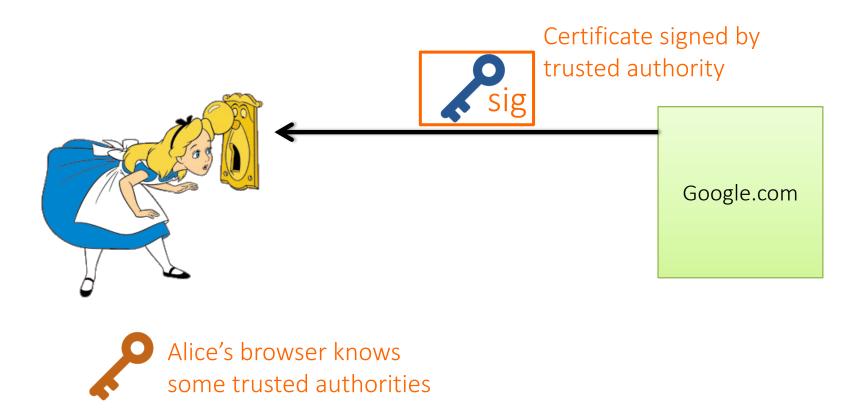
Encryption

Asymmetric (public key) crypto to bootstrap symmetric key



Authentication

How does Alice know this is actually Google?



Trusted(?) Certificate Authorities

			Keychain Acc	ess			
	Click to unlock the	e System Root	s keychain.	(Q Search		
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		Name	,	Kind	Expires		
		📷 Admir	nCA-CD-T01	certificate	Jan 25, 2016, 4:36:19 AM		
	Category	📷 Affirm	Trust Commercial	certificate	Dec 31, 2030, 6:06:06 AM		
R	All Items	🛅 Affirm	Trust Networking	certificate	Dec 31, 2030, 6:08:24 AM		
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		+ i (Сору	213 items			

Challenge: Usability

- People don't notice the absence of a lock icon (when connection is not encrypted)
- 2. People **ignore browser warnings** (shown when certificate is untrusted)

[Felt et al.]

Opinionated Design Helps!

The site's security certificate is not trusted!

You attempted to reach **192.168.17.129**, but the server presented a certificate issued by an entity that is not trusted by your computer's operating system. This may mean that the server has generated its own security credentials, which Chrome cannot rely on for identity information, or an attacker may be trying to intercept your communications.

You should not proceed, especially if you have never seen this warning before for this site.

Proceed anyway Back to safety

Help me understand

Adherence	Ν
30.9%	4,551

[Felt et al.]

Opinionated Design Helps!

The site's security certificate is not tru				
 You attempted to reach 192.168.17.129 , but the server presented a certi- trusted by your computer's operating system. This may mean that the se- credentials, which Chrome cannot rely on for identity information, or an a your communications. You should not proceed, especially if you have never seen this warning Proceed anyway Back to safety		Your connection is not private Attackers might be trying to steal your information from reddit.co messages, or credit cards). Proceed to the site (unsafe) Back to safety Advanced	om (for example, passwords,	
► <u>Help me understand</u>				
		Adherence	N	

Your connection is not private

Attackers might be trying to steal your information from **www.example.com** (for example, passwords, messages, or credit cards).

Advanced

Back to safety

Adherence	Ν
30.9%	4,551
32.1%	4,075
58.3%	4,644

Conclusion

- Security mindset: different way of looking at the world; applies not just to technology
- Many aspects of computer security
 - Attacks, Defenses
 - System Design
 - Cryptography
 - Human Factors