Securing Internet Communication: TLS

Network Security

Prof. Haojin

Materials adopted from Prof. David Wagner

2019

Today's Lecture

- Applying crypto technology in practice
- Two simple abstractions cover 80% of the use cases for crypto:
  - "Sealed blob": Data that is encrypted and authenticated under a particular key
  - Secure channel: Communication channel that can't be eavesdropped on or tampered with
- Today: SSL – a secure channel

Today's Lecture

- Goal #1: overview of SSL/TLS, the most prominent Internet security protocol
  - Secures the web via HTTPS
- Goal #2: cement understanding of crypto building blocks & how they're used together

Building Secure End-to-End Channels

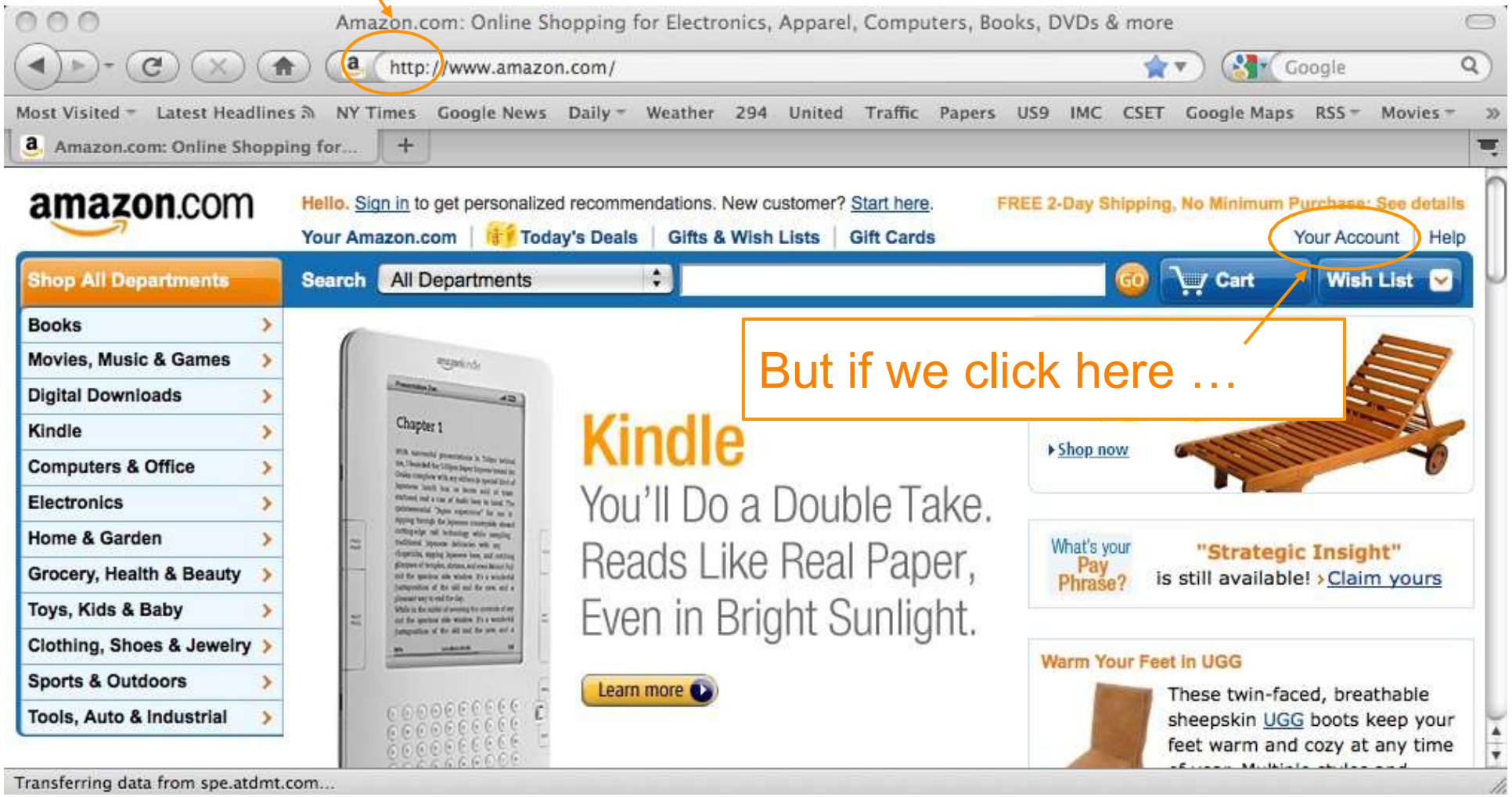
- *End-to-end* = communication protections achieved all the way from originating client to intended server
  - With no need to trust intermediaries
- Dealing with threats:
  - Eavesdropping?
    - Encryption (including session keys)
  - Manipulation (injection, MITM)?
    - Integrity (use of a MAC); *replay protection*
  - Impersonation?
    - Signatures

(What's missing? *Availability …*)

Building A Secure End-to-End Channel: SSL/TLS

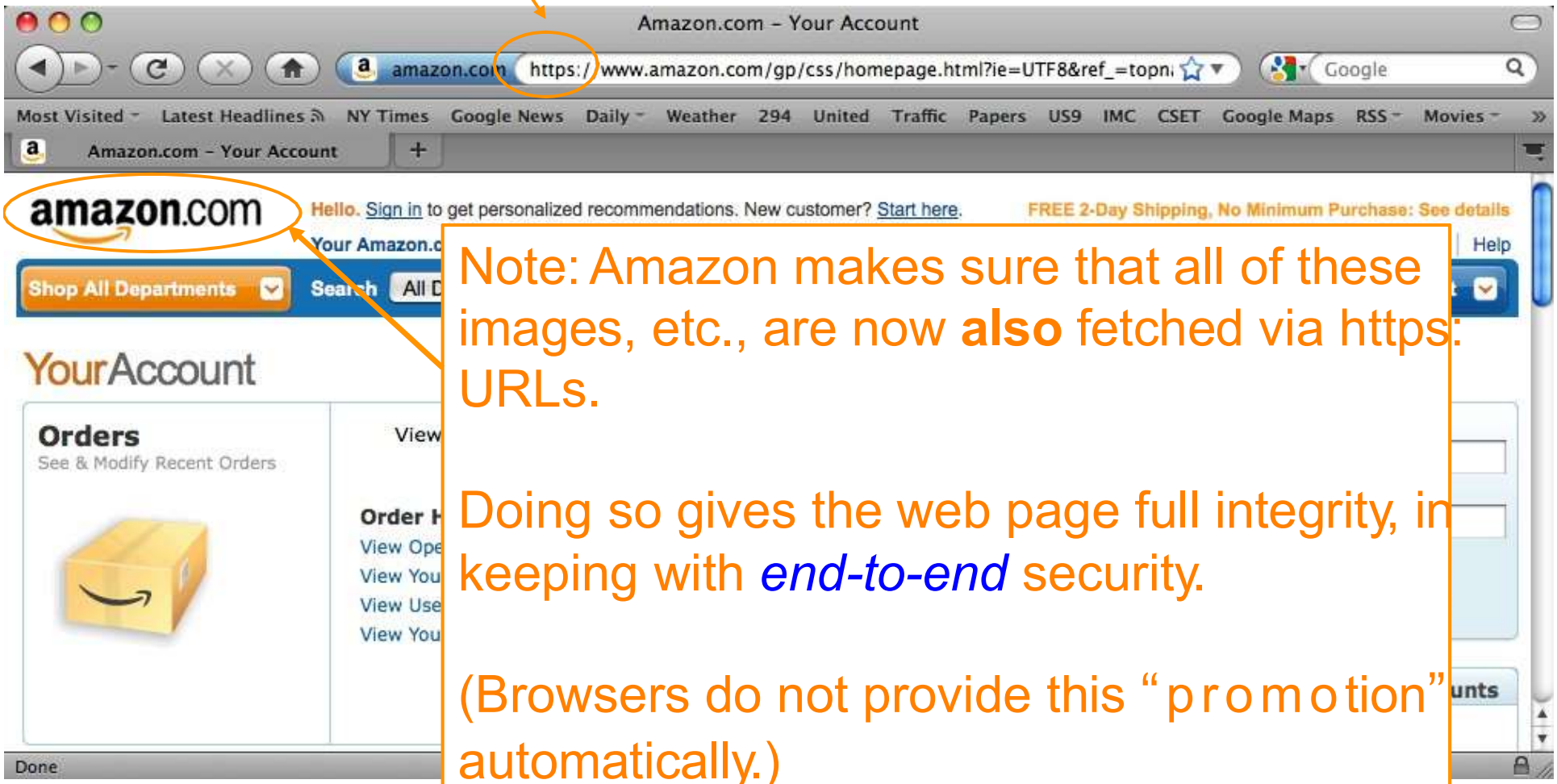
- SSL = *Secure Sockets Layer* (predecessor)
- TLS = *Transport Layer Security* (standard)
  - Both terms used interchangeably
- Security for *any* application that uses TCP
  - Secure = encryption/confidentiality + integrity + authentication (of server, but *not* of client)
  - E.g., puts the ‘s’ in “https”

Regular web surfing - http: URL



But if we click here …

Web surfing with TLS/SSL - https: URL



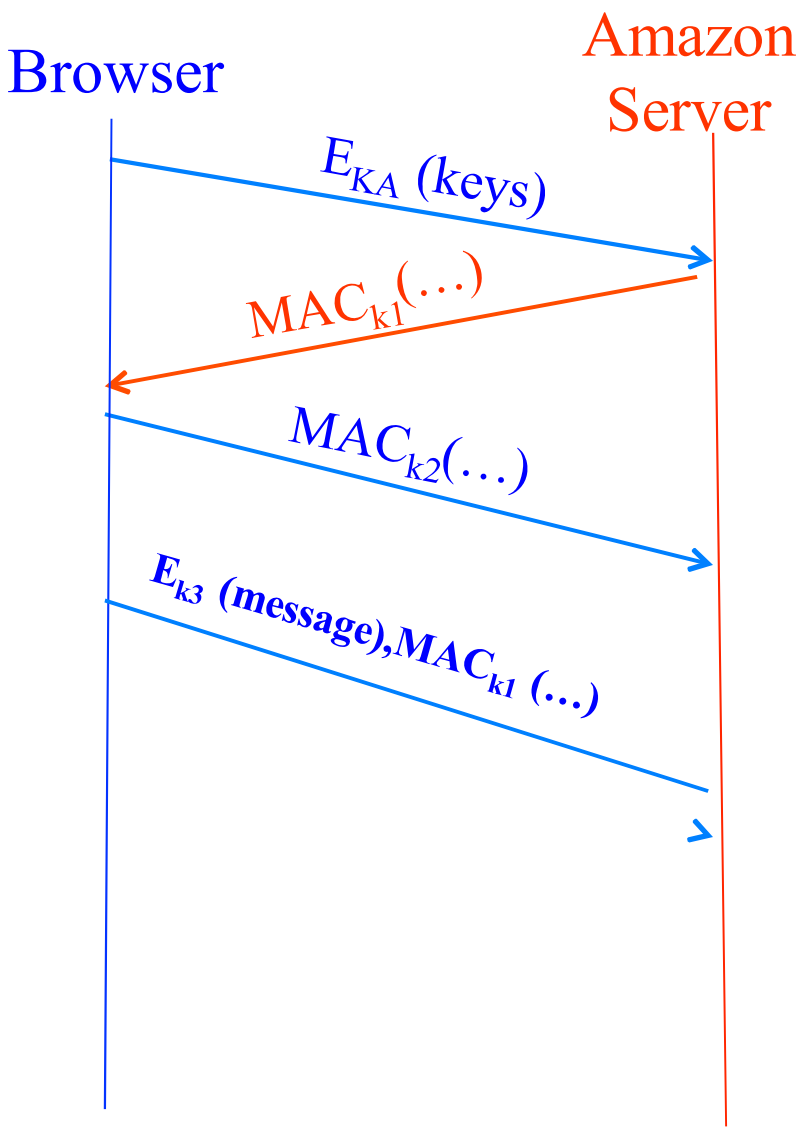
Note: Amazon makes sure that all of these images, etc., are now **also** fetched via https: URLs.

Doing so gives the web page full integrity, in keeping with *end-to-end* security.

(Browsers do not provide this "promotion" automatically.)

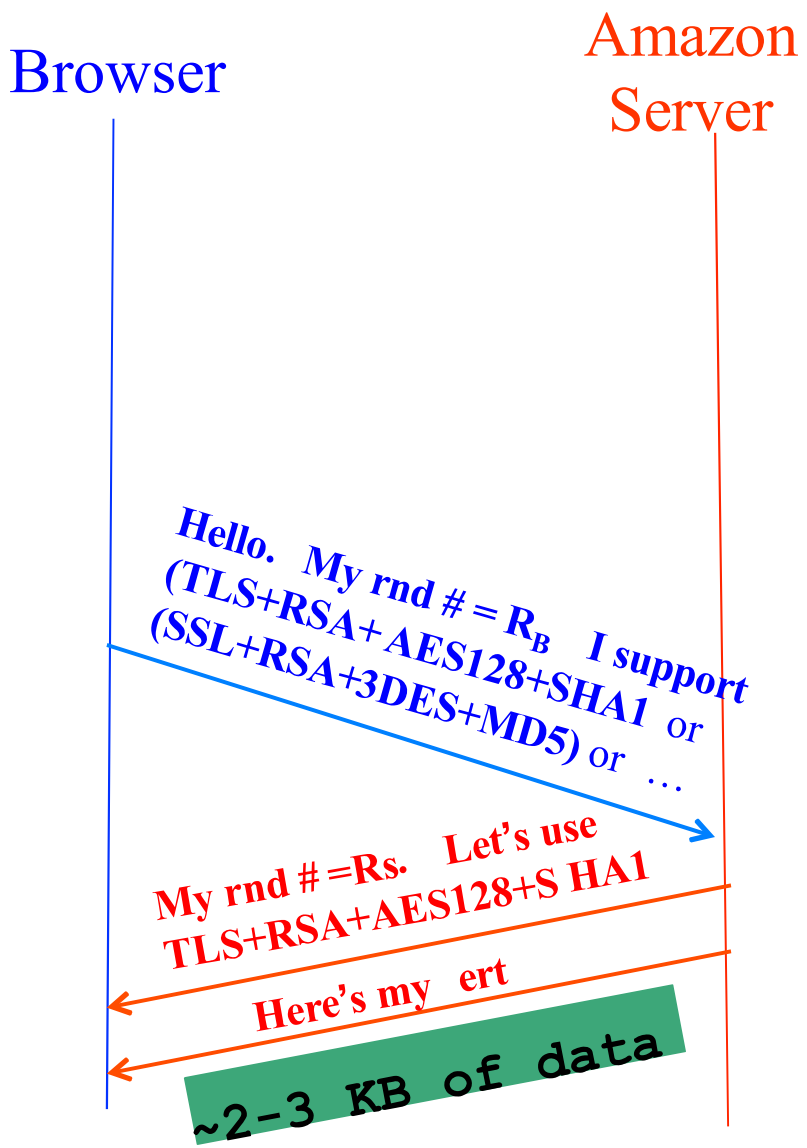
Basic idea

- Browser (client) picks some symmetric keys for encryption + authentication
- Client sends them to server, encrypted using RSA public-key encryption
- Both sides send MACs
- Now they use these keys to encrypt and authenticate all subsequent messages, using symmetric-key crypto



HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS)

- Browser (client) connects to Amazon's **HTTPS** server
- Client picks 256-bit random number R_B, sends over list of crypto algorithms it supports
- Server picks 256-bit random number R_S, selects algorithms to use for this session
- Server sends over its certificate
- (all of this is in the clear)
- ***Client now validates cert***



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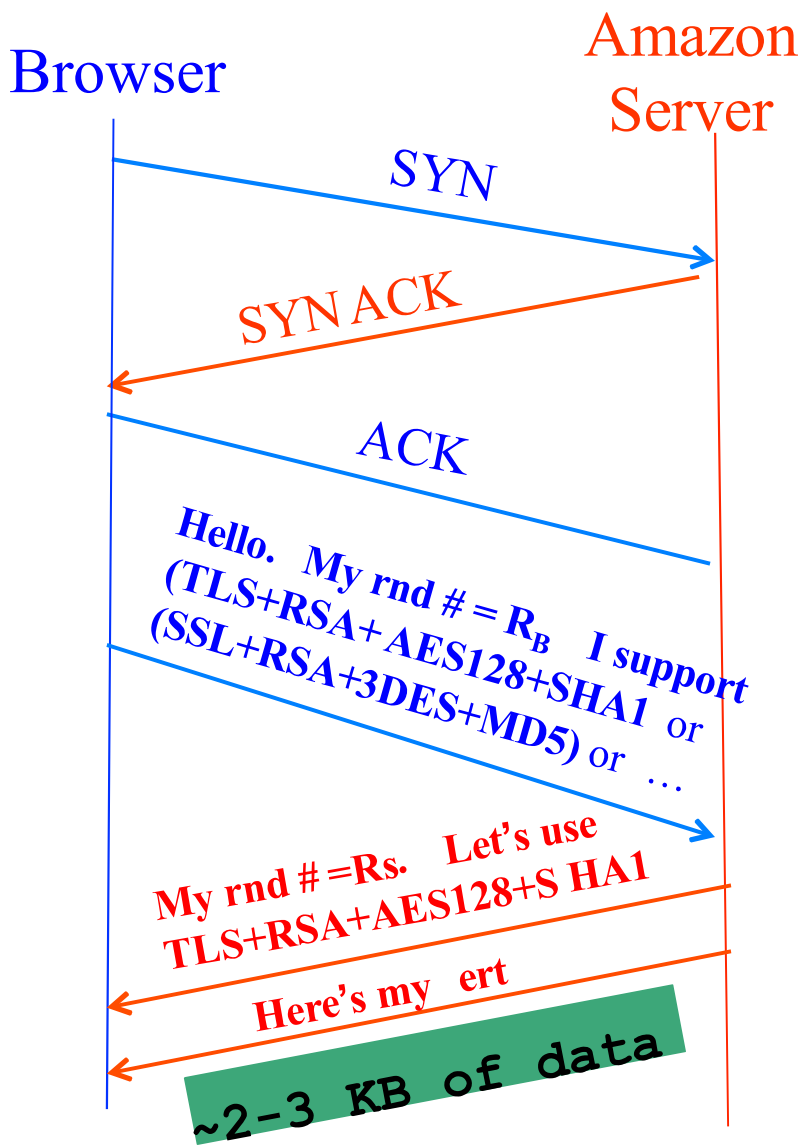
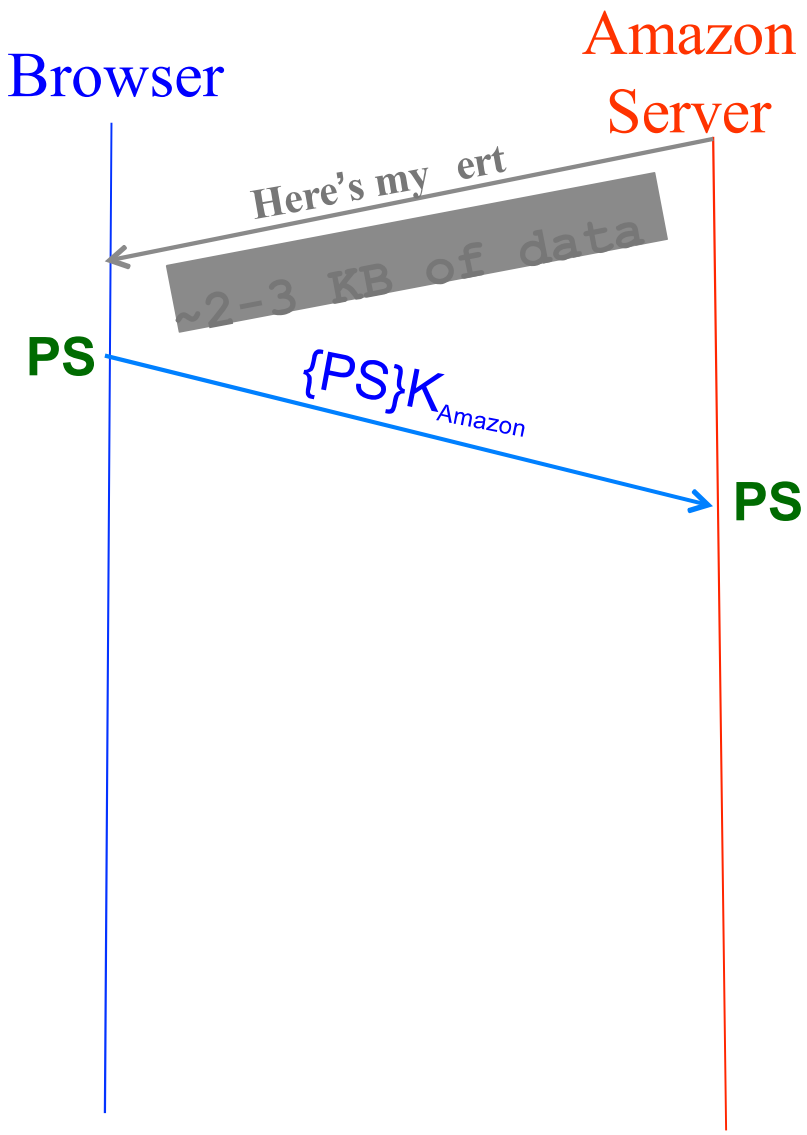


HTTPS Connection (SSL / TLS), cont.

- For RSA, browser constructs "Premaster Secret" **PS**
- Browser sends PS encrypted using Amazon's public RSA key K_{Amazon}
- Using PS, R_B, and R_S, browser & server derive symm. *cipher keys* (C_B, C_S) & MAC *integrity keys* (I_B, I_S)
  - One pair to use in each direction



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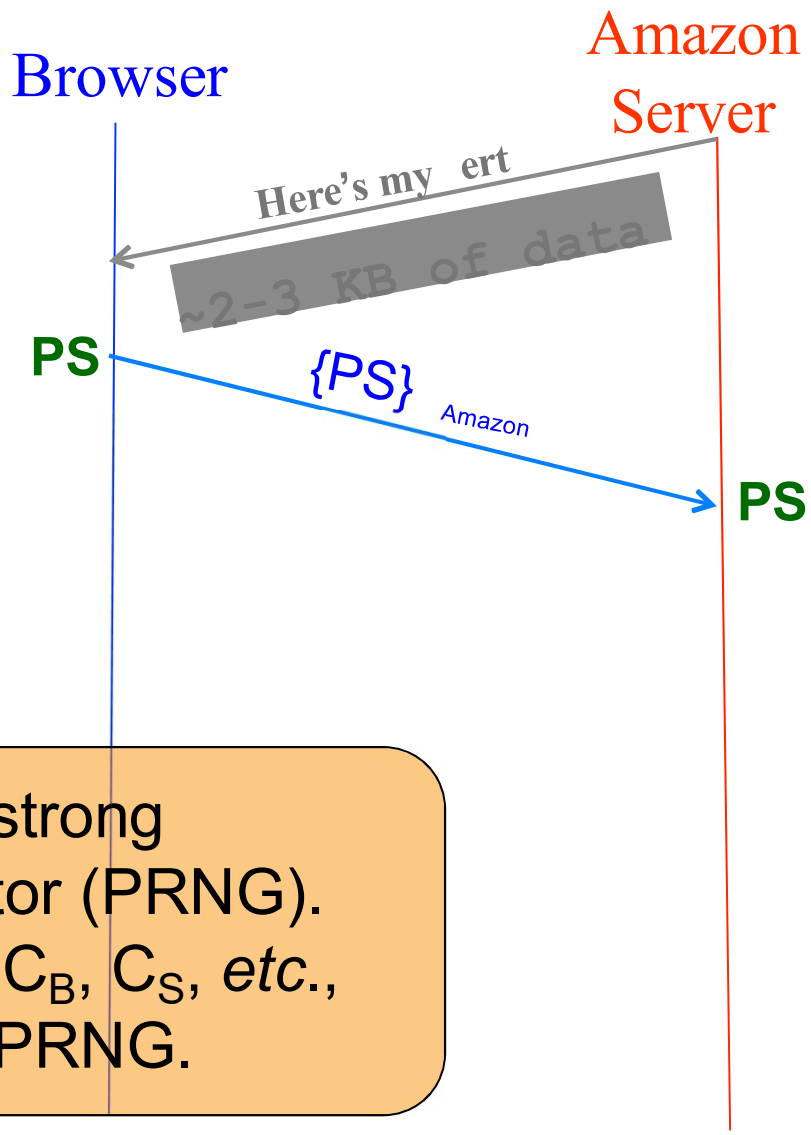

These <u>seed</u> a cryptographically strong pseudo-random number generator (PRNG). Then browser & server produce C_B, C_S, *etc.*, by making repeated calls to the PRNG.

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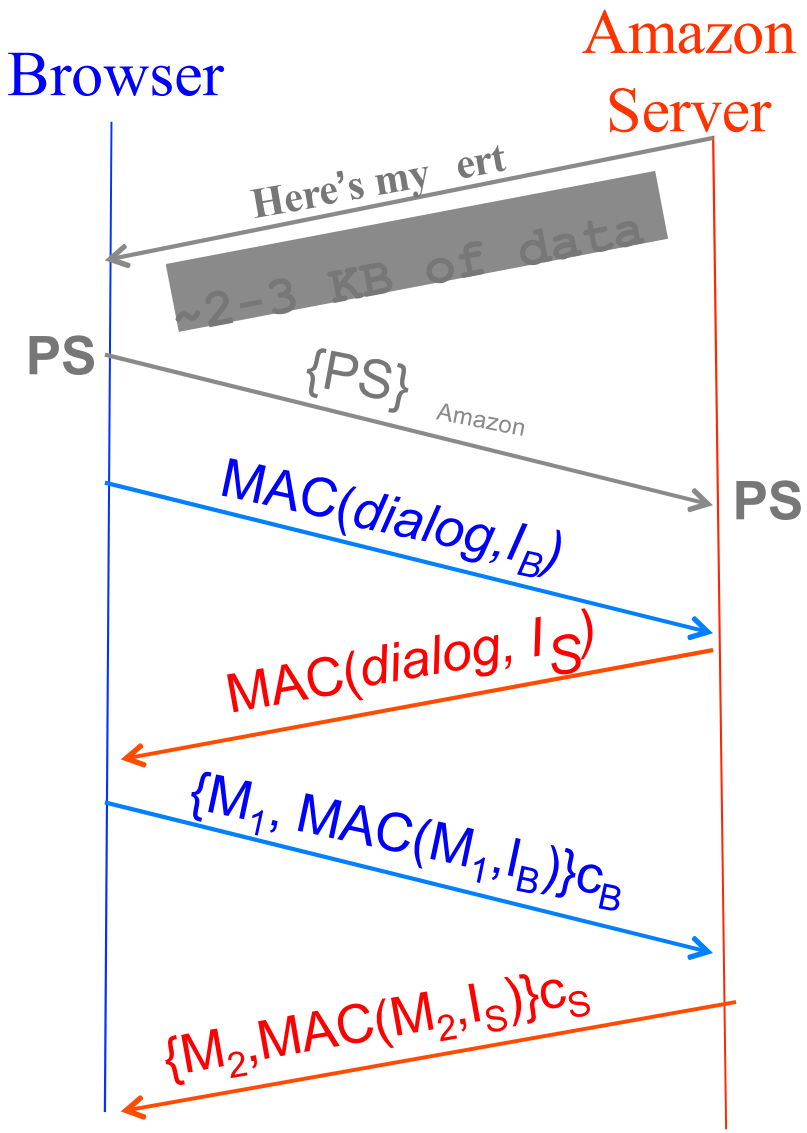
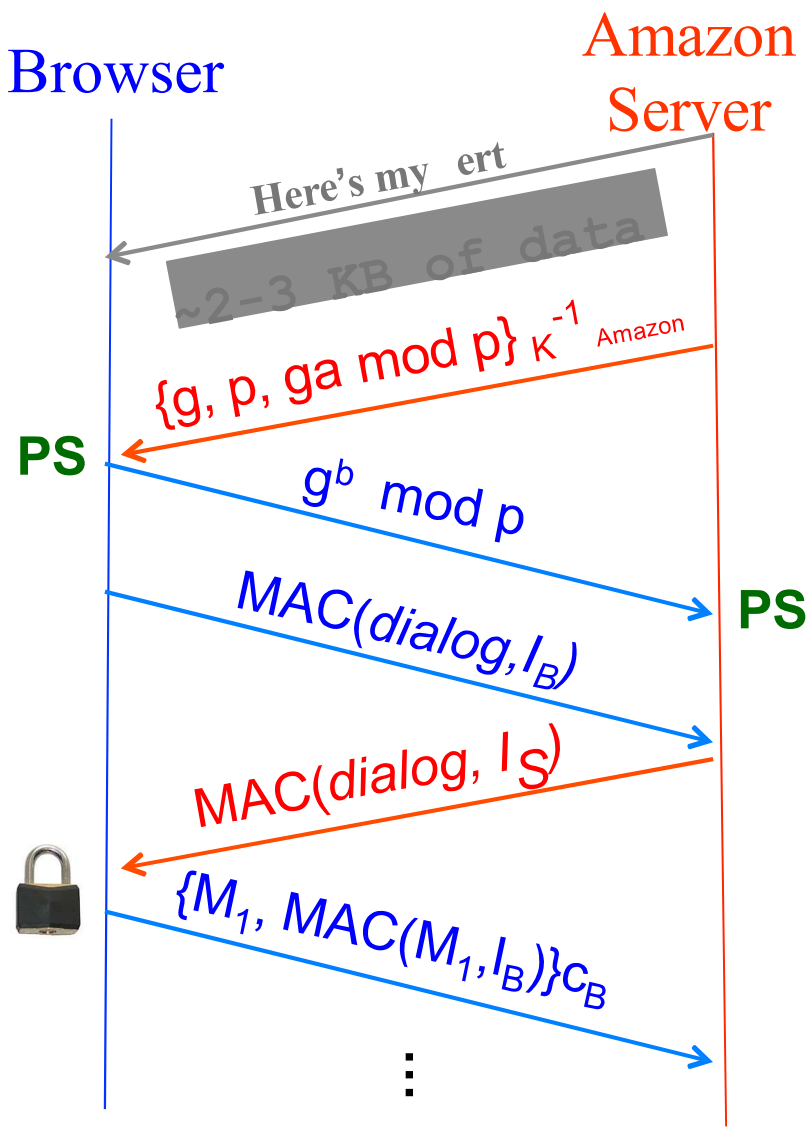
- Browser & server exchange MACs computed over entire dialog so far
- If good MAC, Browser displays 
- All subsequent communication encrypted w/ symmetric cipher (e.g., AES128) cipher keys, MACs
  - Sequence #'s thwart replay attacks



Alternative: Key Exchange via Diffie-Hellman

- For Diffie-Hellman, server generates random a, sends public params and g^a mod p
  - – Signed with server's private key
- Browser verifies signature
- Browser generates random b, computes **PS** = g^{ab} mod p, sends to server
- Server also computes
- **PS** = g^{ab} mod p
- Remainder is as before: from PS, R_B, and R_S, browser & server derive symm. *cipher keys* (C_B, C_S) and MAC *integrity keys* (I_B, I_S), etc.



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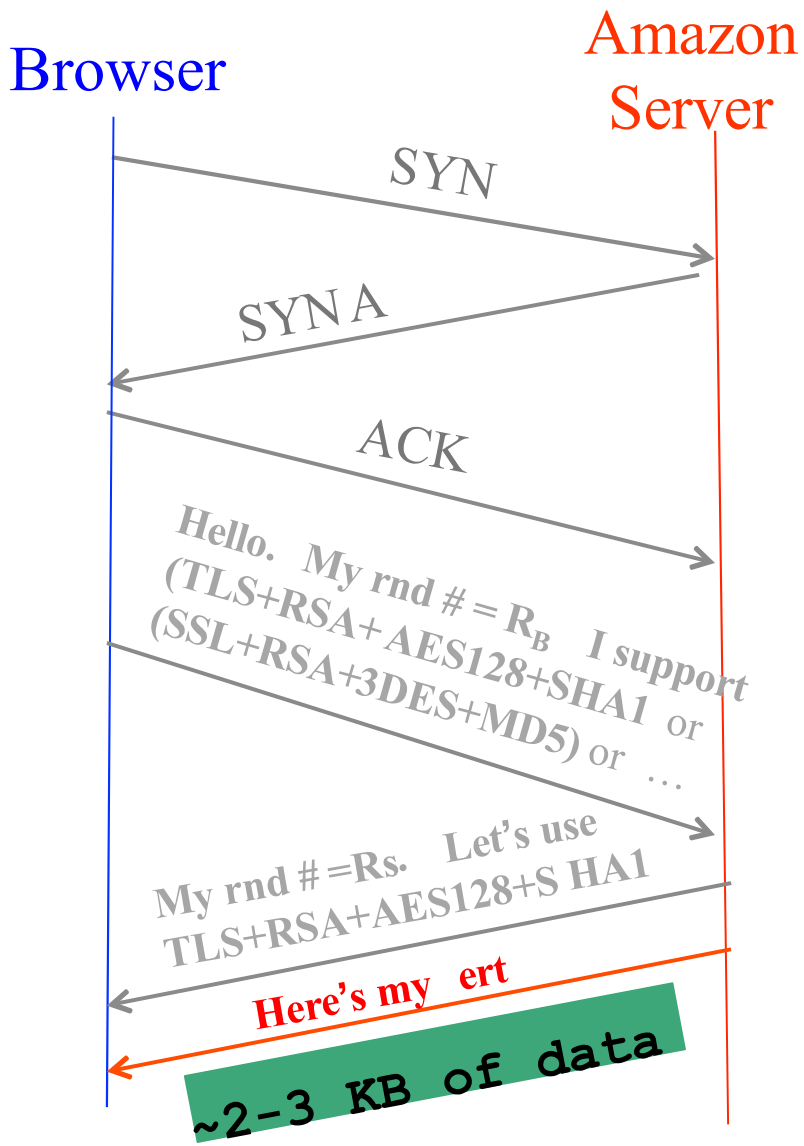


Certificates

- Cert = signed statement about someone's public key
  - Note that a cert does not say anything about the identity of who **gives** you the cert
  - It simply states a given public key K_{Bob} belongs to Bob …
    - … and backs up this statement with a digital signature made using a different public/private key pair, say from Verisign
- Bob then can prove his identity to you by *you sending him* something encrypted with K_{Bob} …
  - … which he then demonstrates he can read
- … or by *signing* something he demonstrably uses
- Works provided you trust that you have a valid copy of Verisign's public key …
  - … and you trust Verisign to use prudence when she signs other people's keys

Validating Amazon's Identity

- Browser compares domain *name* in cert w/ URL
  - Note: this provides an end-to-end property (as opposed to say a cert associated with an IP address)
- Browser accesses *separate* cert belonging to **issuer**
  - These are hardwired into the browser – and **trusted!**
  - There could be a *chain* of these …
- Browser applies issuer's public key to verify signature **S**, obtaining hash of what issuer signed
  - Compares with its own SHA-1 hash of Amazon's cert
- Assuming hashes match, now have high confidence it's indeed Amazon …
  - ***assuming signatory is trustworthy***

= assuming didn't lose private key; assuming didn't sign thoughtlessly

End-to-End ⇒ Powerful Protections

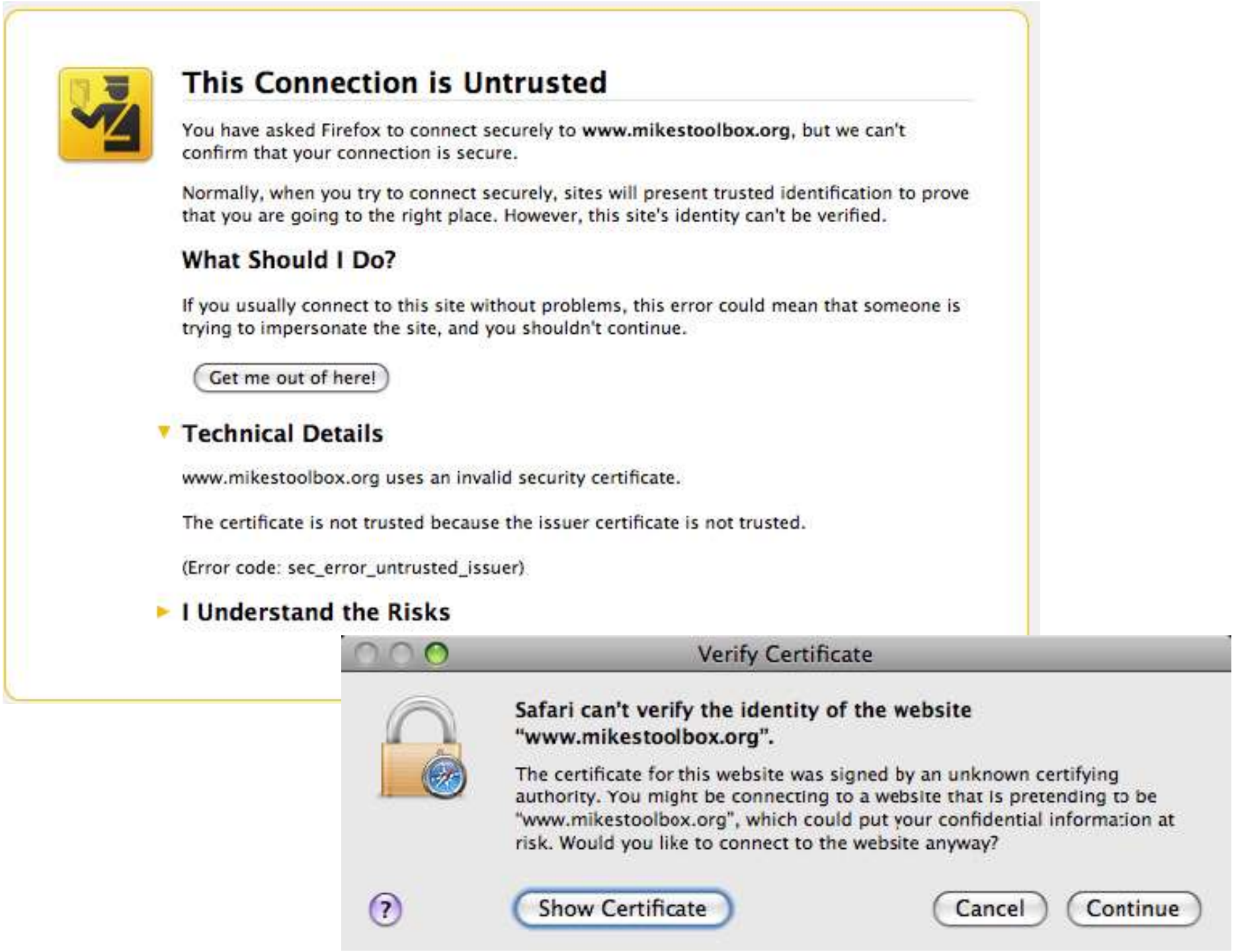
- Attacker runs a sniffer to capture our WiFi session?
  - (maybe by breaking crummy WEP security)
  - But: encrypted communication is unreadable
    - No problem!
- DNS cache poisoning?
  - Client goes to wrong server
  - But: detects impersonation
    - No problem!
- Attacker hijacks our connection, injects new traffic
  - But: data receiver rejects it due to failed integrity check
    - No problem!

Powerful Protections, cont.

- DHCP spoofing?
  - Client goes to wrong server
  - But: detects impersonation
    - No problem!
- Attacker manipulates routing to run us by an eavesdropper or take us to the wrong server?
  - But: they can't read; we detect impersonation
    - No problem!
- Attacker slips in as a Man In The Middle?
  - But: they can't read, they can't inject
  - They can't even replay previous encrypted traffic
  - **No problem!**

Validating Amazon's Identity, cont.

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer**
  - These are hardwired into the browser – and **trusted!**
- What if browser can't find a cert for the issuer?


This Connection is Untrusted
You have asked Firefox to connect securely to www.mikestoolbox.org, but we can't confirm that your connection is secure.
Normally, when you try to connect securely, sites will present trusted identification to prove that you are going to the right place. However, this site's identity can't be verified.
What Should I Do?
If you usually connect to this site without problems, this error could mean that someone is trying to impersonate the site, and you shouldn't continue.
Get me out of here!
Technical Details
www.mikestoolbox.org uses an invalid security certificate.
The certificate is not trusted because the issuer certificate is not trusted.
(Error code: sec_error_untrusted_issuer)
I Understand the Risks
Verify Certificate
Safari can't verify the identity of the website "www.mikestoolbox.org".
The certificate for this website was signed by an unknown certifying authority. You might be connecting to a website that is pretending to be "www.mikestoolbox.org", which could put your confidential information at risk. Would you like to connect to the website anyway?
Show Certificate
Cancel
Continue

Validating Amazon's Identity, cont.

- Browser retrieves cert belonging to the **issuer**
  - These are hardwired into the browser – and **trusted!**
- What if browser can't find a cert for the issuer?
- If it can't find the cert, then warns the user that site has not been verified
  - Can still proceed, just without authentication
- Q: Which end-to-end security properties do we lose if we incorrectly trust that the site is whom we think?
- A: **All of them!**
  - Goodbye confidentiality, integrity, authentication
  - Active attacker can read everything, modify, impersonate

SSL / TLS Limitations

- Properly used, SSL / TLS provides powerful end-to-end protections
- So why not use it for *everything*??
- Issues:
  - Cost of public-key crypto (fairly minor)
    - Takes non-trivial CPU processing (but today a minor issue)
    - Note: *symmetric* key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
  - Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)

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    - Note: *symmetric* key crypto on modern hardware is non-issue
  - Hassle of buying/maintaining certs (fairly minor)
  - Integrating with other sites that don't use HTTPS
  - **Latency**: extra round trips ⇒ 1st page slower to load

Group Discussions

- Can SSL/TLS perfectly address all of the security issues?

SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

- Problems that SSL / TLS does **not** take care of ?
- TCP-level denial of service
  - SYN flooding
  - RST injection
    - (but does protect against data injection!)
- SQL injection / XSS / server-side coding/logic flaws
- Vulnerabilities introduced by server inconsistencies

SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

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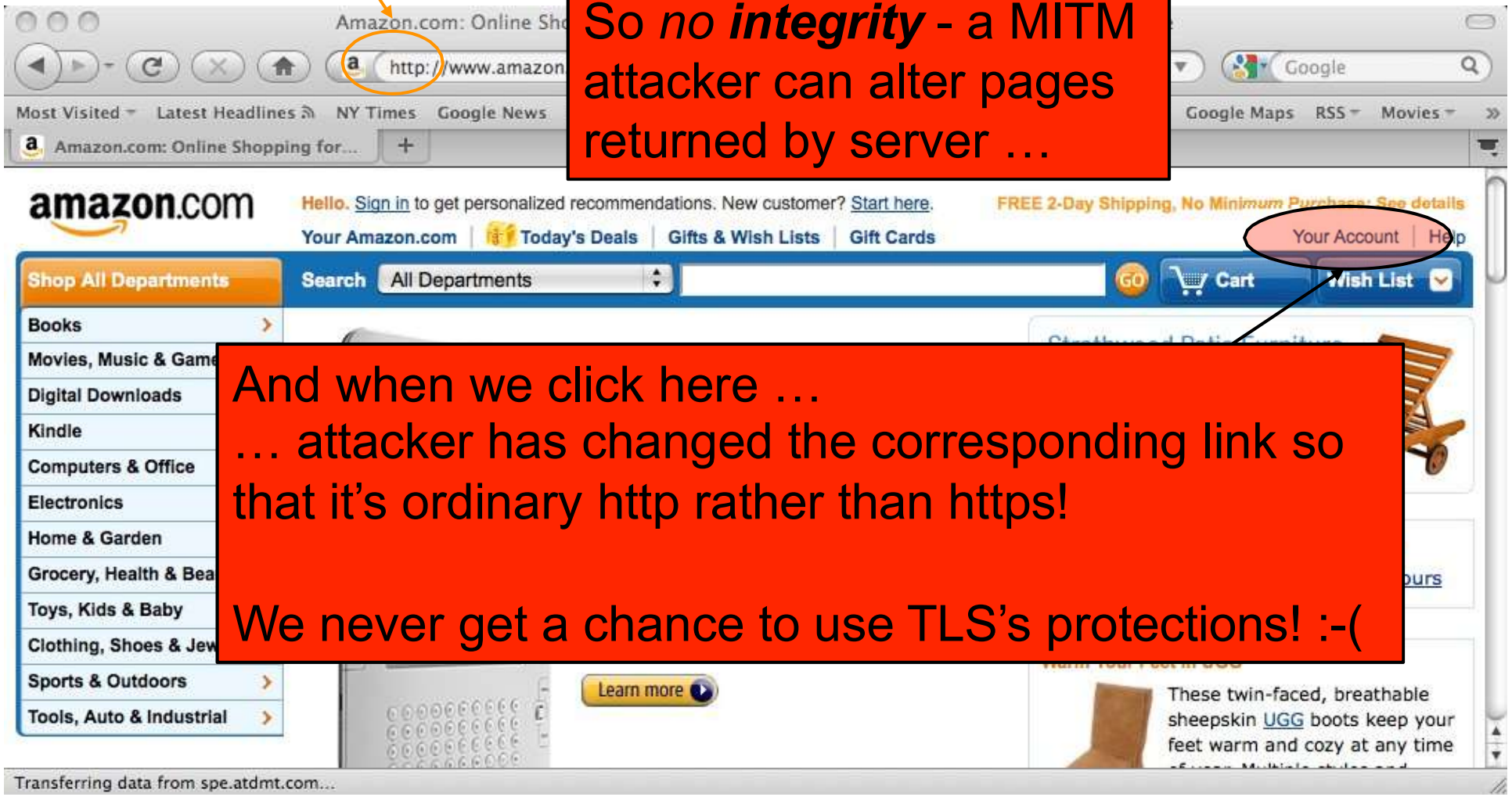


"sslstrip" attack

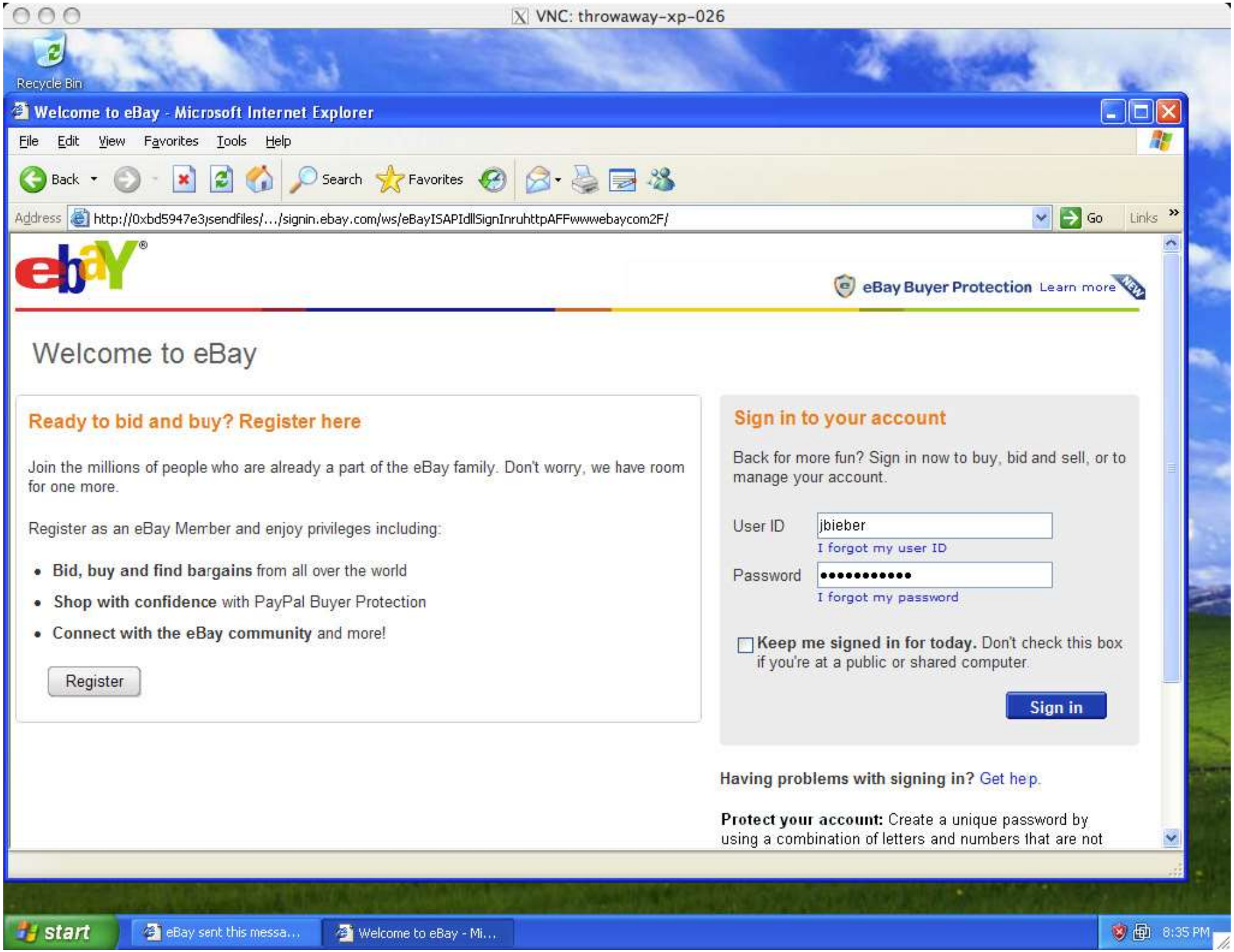
SSL / TLS Limitations, cont.

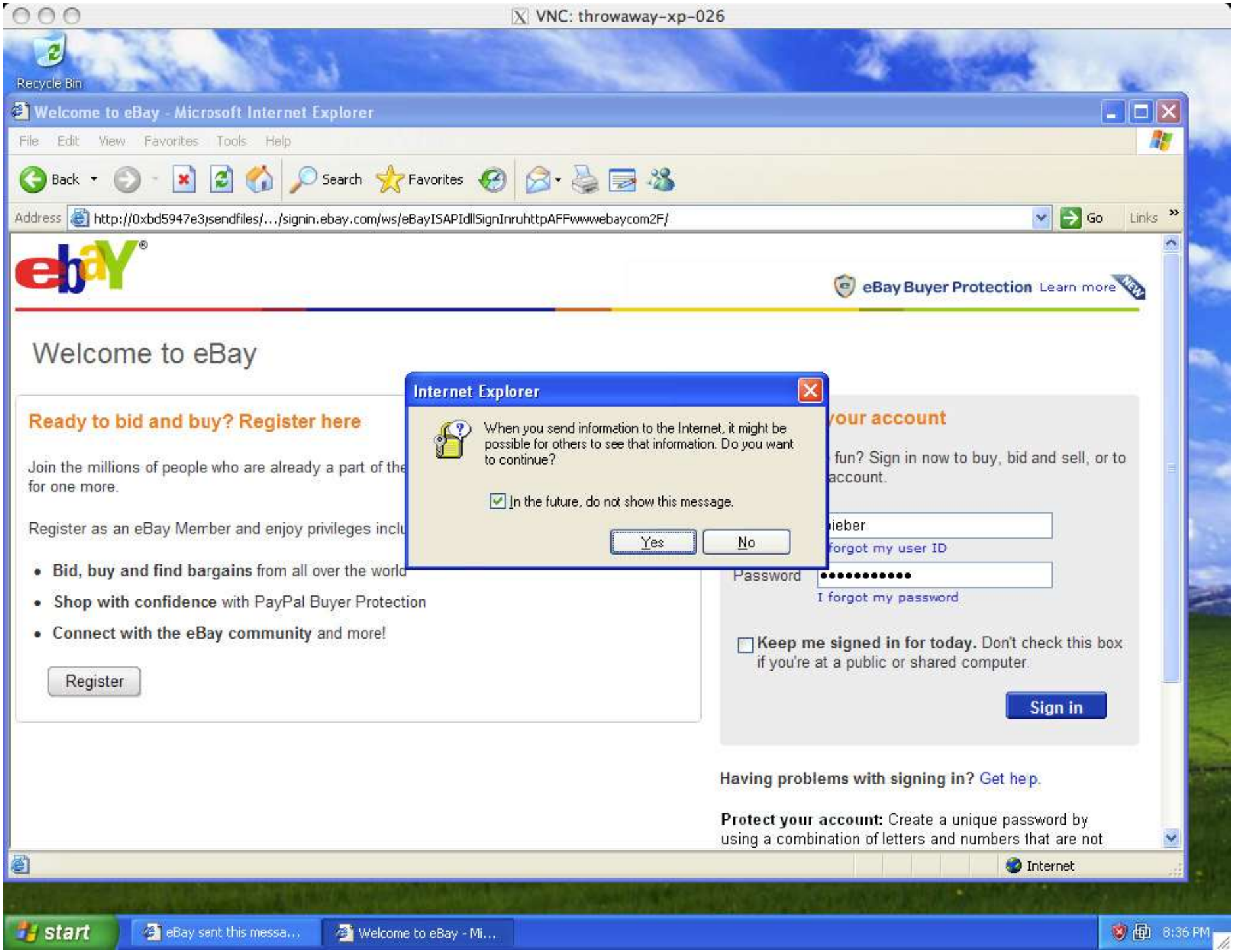
- Problems that SSL / TLS does **not** take care of ?

- SQL injection / XSS / server-side coding/logic flaws
- Vulnerabilities introduced by server inconsistencies
- Browser coding/logic flaws
- User flaws
  - Weak passwords
  - Phishing
- Issues of trust …

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

- User has to make correct trust decisions …


VNC: throwaway-xp-026
Recycle Bin
Welcome to eBay - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPIdllSignInruhttpAFFwwwebaycom2F/
Go Links
eBay Buyer Protection Learn more
Welcome to eBay
Ready to bid and buy? Register here
Join the millions of people who are already a part of the eBay family. Don't worry, we have room for one more.
Register as an eBay Member and enjoy privileges including:
Bid, buy and find bargains from all over the world
Shop with confidence with PayPal Buyer Protection
Connect with the eBay community and more!
Register
Sign in to your account
Back for more fun? Sign in now to buy, bid and sell, or to manage your account.
User ID jbieber
I forgot my user ID
Password
I forgot my password
Keep me signed in for today. Don't check this box if you're at a public or shared computer.
Sign in
Having problems with signing in? Get help.
Protect your account: Create a unique password by using a combination of letters and numbers that are not
start
eBay sent this messa...
Welcome to eBay - Mi...
8:35 PM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Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPIdllSignInruhttpAFFwwwebaycom2F/
Go Links
eBay Buyer Protection Learn more
Welcome to eBay
Ready to bid and buy? Register here
Join the millions of people who are already a part of the
for one more.
Register as an eBay Member and enjoy privileges inclu
Bid, buy and find bargains from all over the world
Shop with confidence with PayPal Buyer Protection
Connect with the eBay community and more!
Register
Internet Explorer
When you send information to the Internet, it might be possible for others to see that information. Do you want to continue?
In the future, do not show this message.
Yes
No
your account
fun? Sign in now to buy, bid and sell, or to
account.
ieber
forgot my user ID
Password
I forgot my password
Keep me signed in for today. Don't check this box if you're at a public or shared computer.
Sign in
Having problems with signing in? Get help.
Protect your account: Create a unique password by using a combination of letters and numbers that are not
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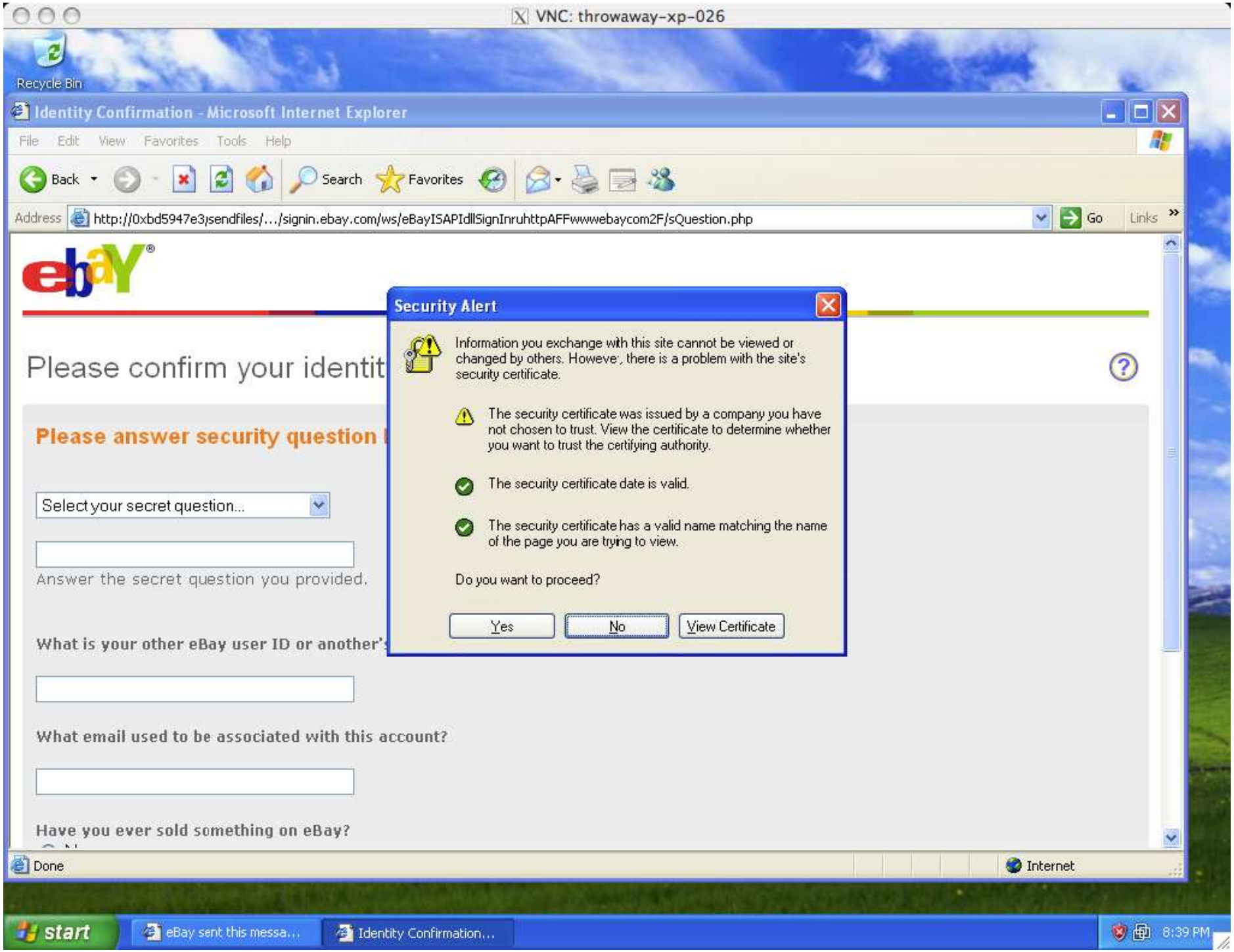
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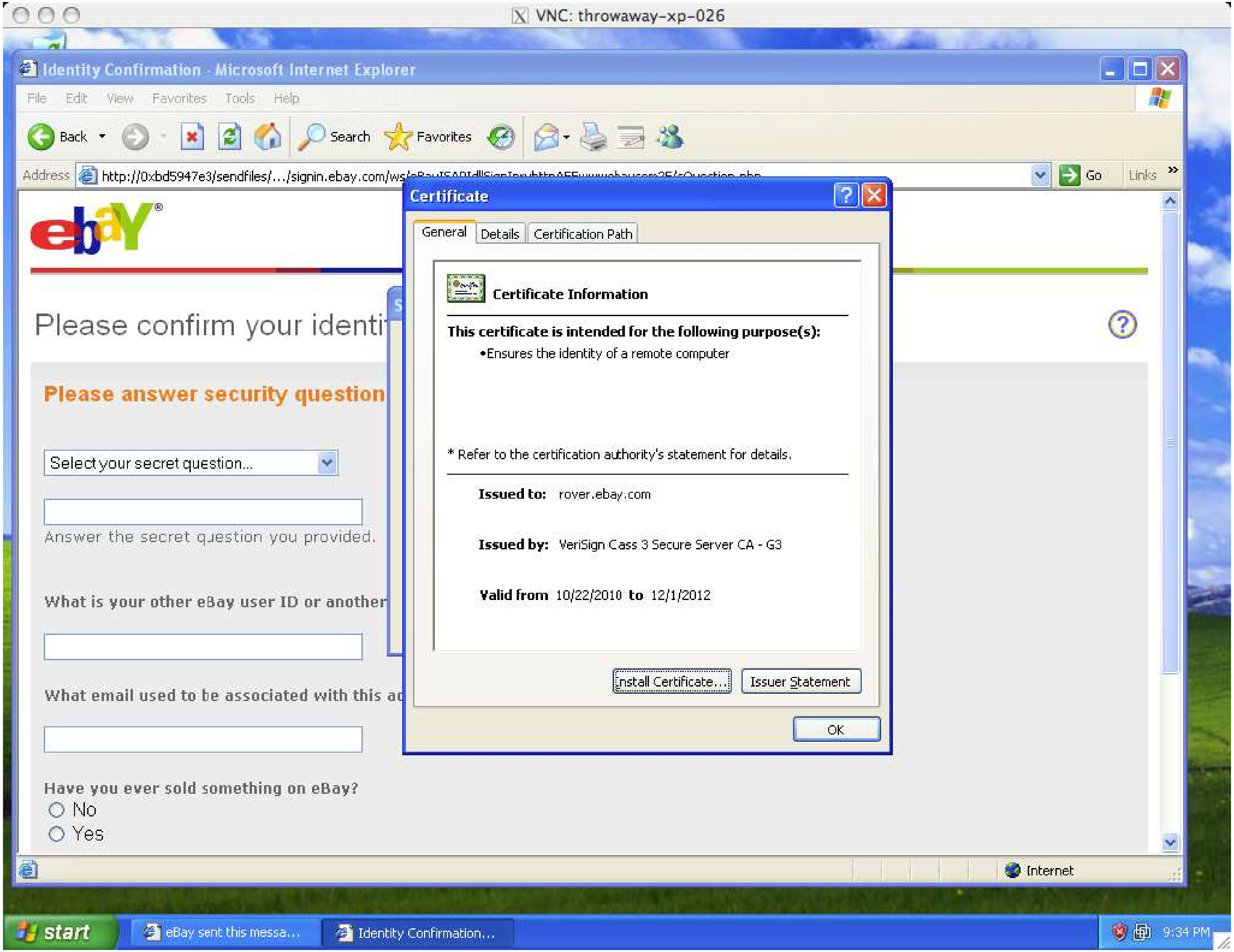
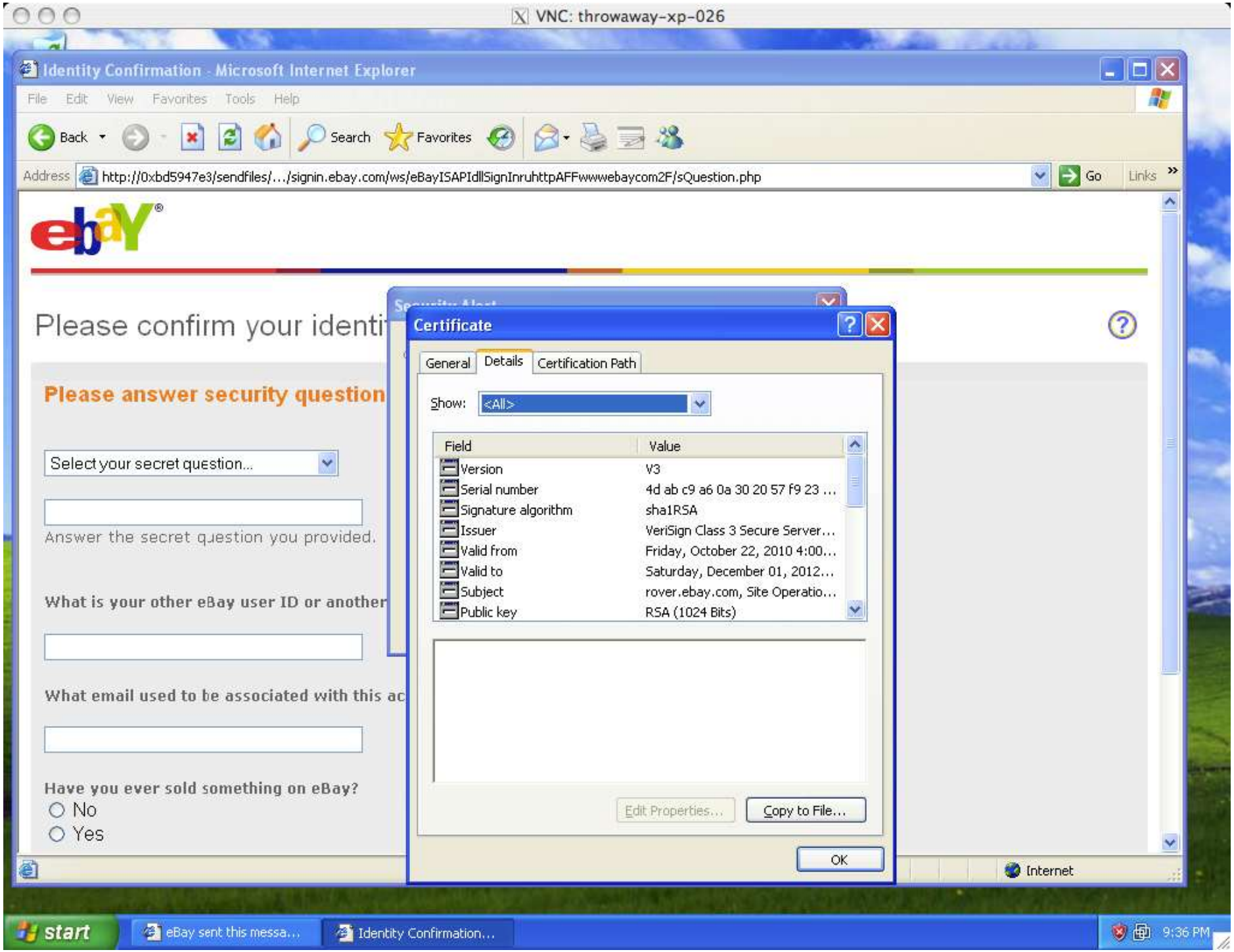
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPIdllSignInruhttpAFFwwwebaycom2F/sQuestion.php
Go Links
Please confirm your identit
Please answer security question
Select your secret question...
Answer the secret question you provided.
What is your other eBay user ID or another's
What email used to be associated with this account?
Have you ever sold something on eBay?
Security Alert
Information you exchange with this site cannot be viewed or changed by others. Howeve', there is a problem with the site's security certificate.
The security certificate was issued by a company you have not chosen to trust. View the certificate to determine whether you want to trust the certifying authority.
The security certificate date is valid.
The security certificate has a valid name matching the name of the page you are trying to view.
Do you want to proceed?
Yes
No
View Certificate
Done
Internet
start
eBay sent this messa...
Identity Confirmation...
8:39 PM



VNC: throwaway-xp-026
Identity Confirmation - Microsoft Internet Explorer
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help
Back Search Favorites
Address http://0xbd5947e3/sendfiles/.../signin.ebay.com/ws
Go Links
ebY
Please confirm your identi
Please answer security question
Select your secret question...
Answer the secret question you provided.
What is your other eBay user ID or another
What email used to be associated with this ac
Have you ever sold something on eBay?
No
Yes
Certificate
General Details Certification Path
Certificate Information
This certificate is intended for the following purpose(s):
•Ensures the identity of a remote computer
* Refer to the certification authority's statement for details.
Issued to: rover.ebay.com
Issued by: VeriSign Cass 3 Secure Server CA - G3
Valid from 10/22/2010 to 12/1/2012
Install Certificate...
Issuer Statement
OK
Internet
start
eBay sent this messa...
Identity Confirmation...
9:34 PM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Have you ever sold something on eBay?
No
Yes
Certificate
General Details Certification Path
Show: <All>
Field Value
Version V3
Serial number 4d ab c9 a6 0a 30 20 57 f9 23 ...
Signature algorithm sha1RSA
Issuer VeriSign Class 3 Secure Server...
Valid from Friday, October 22, 2010 4:00...
Valid to Saturday, December 01, 2012...
Subject rover.ebay.com, Site Operatio...
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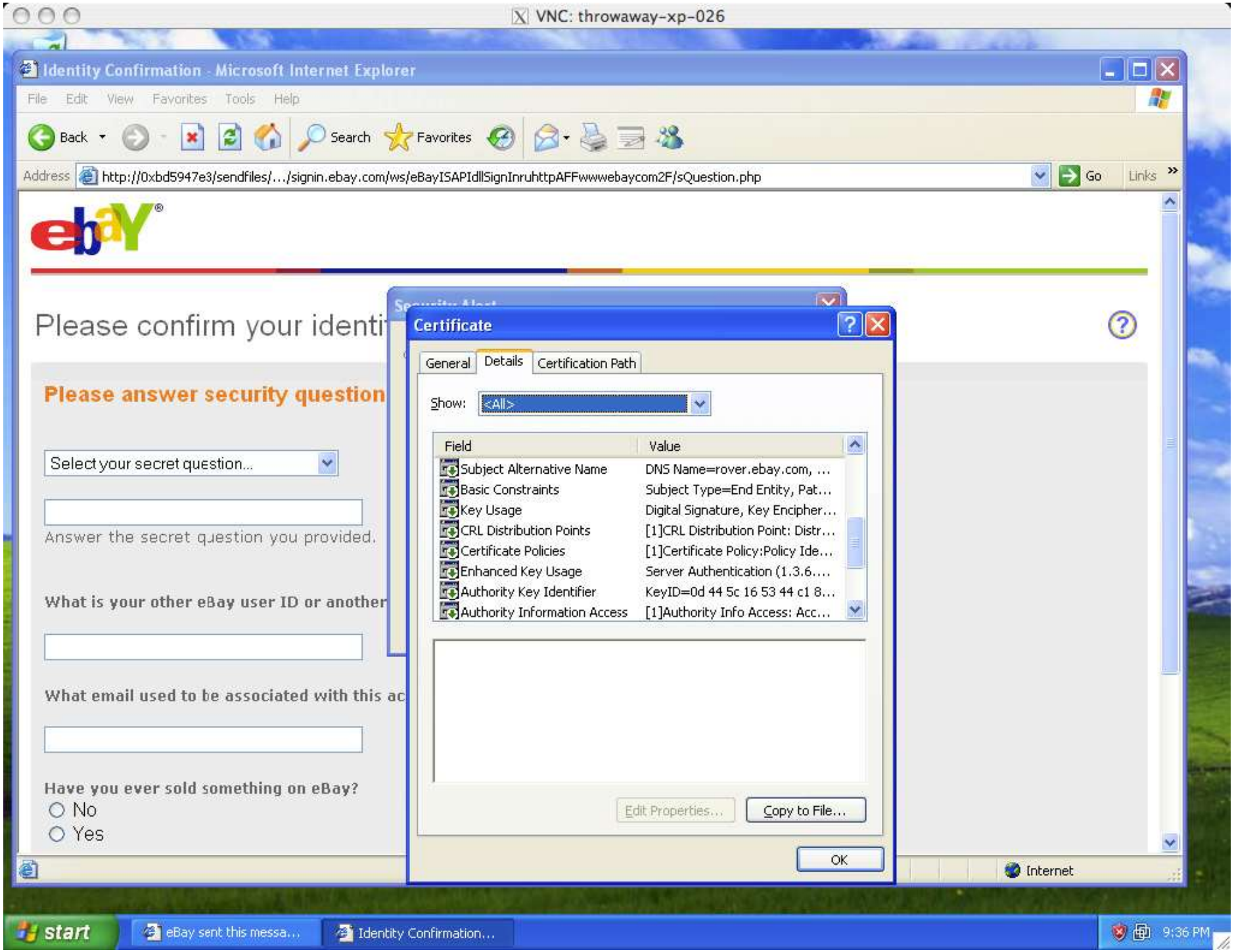
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Certificate
General Details Certification Path
Show: <All>
Field Value
Subject Alternative Name DNS Name=rover.ebay.com, ...
Basic Constraints Subject Type=End Entity, Pat...
Key Usage Digital Signature, Key Encipher...
CRL Distribution Points [1]CRL Distribution Point: Distr...
Certificate Policies [1]Certificate Policy:Policy Ide...
Enhanced Key Usage Server Authentication (1.3.6....
Authority Key Identifier KeyID=0d 44 5c 16 53 44 c1 8...
Authority Information Access [1]Authority Info Access: Acc...
Edit Properties... Copy to File...
OK
Internet
start
eBay sent this messa...
Identity Confirmation...
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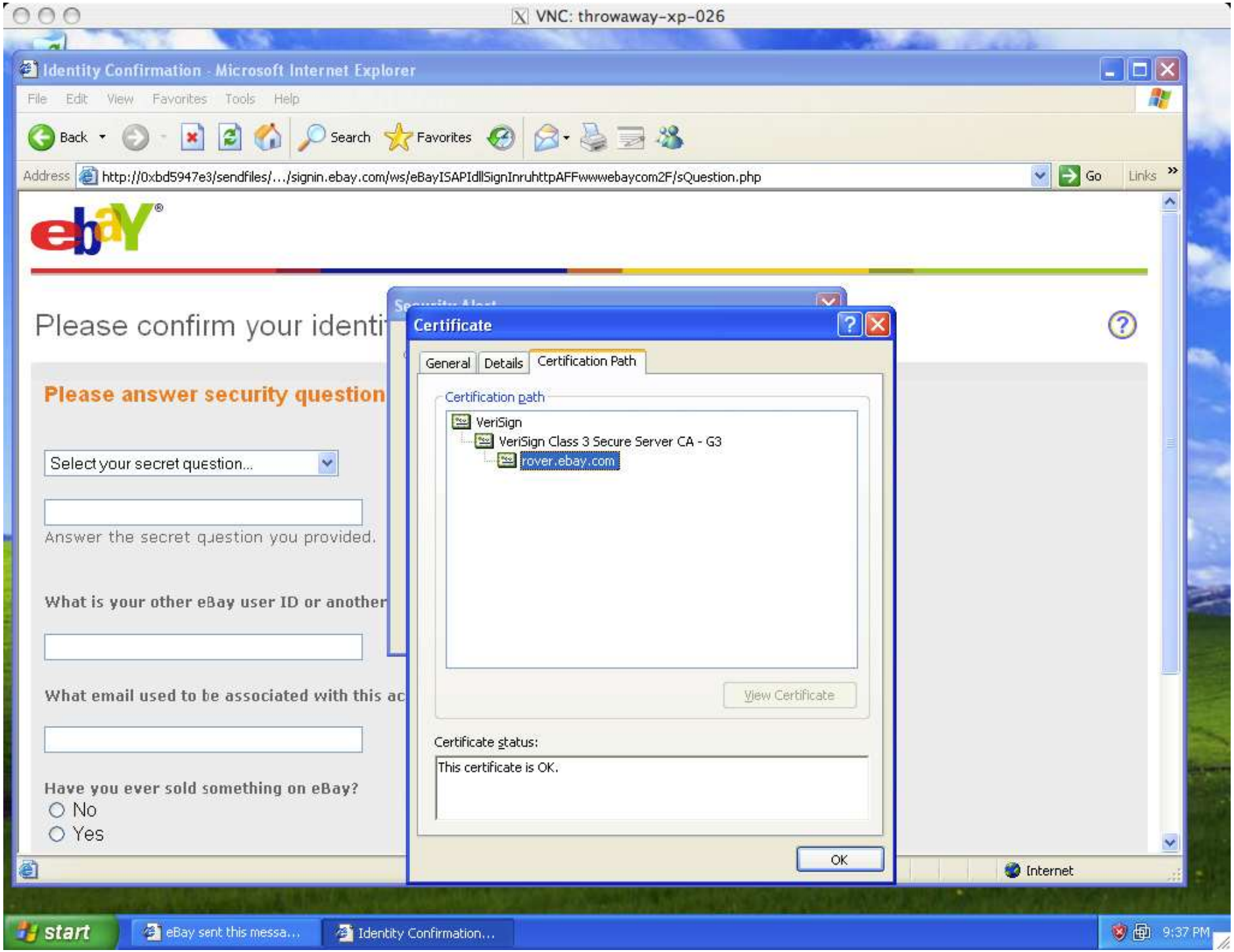
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Certificate
General Details Certification Path
Certification path
VeriSign
VeriSign Class 3 Secure Server CA - G3
rover.ebay.com
View Certificate
Certificate status:
This certificate is OK.
OK
Internet
start
eBay sent this messa...
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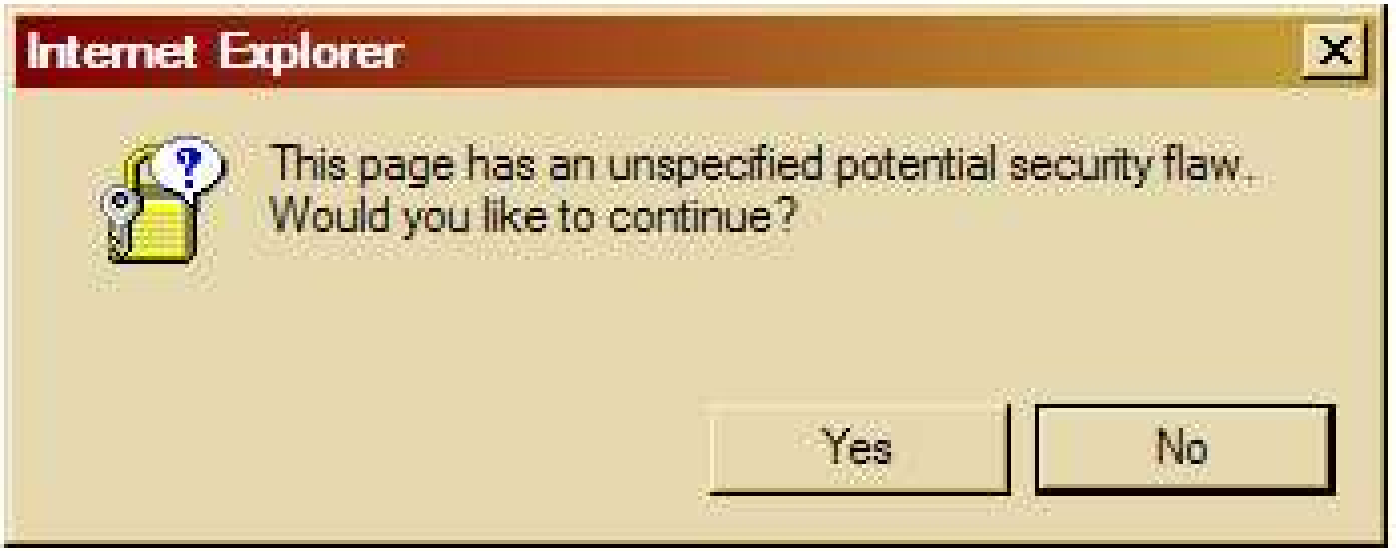
9:37 PM

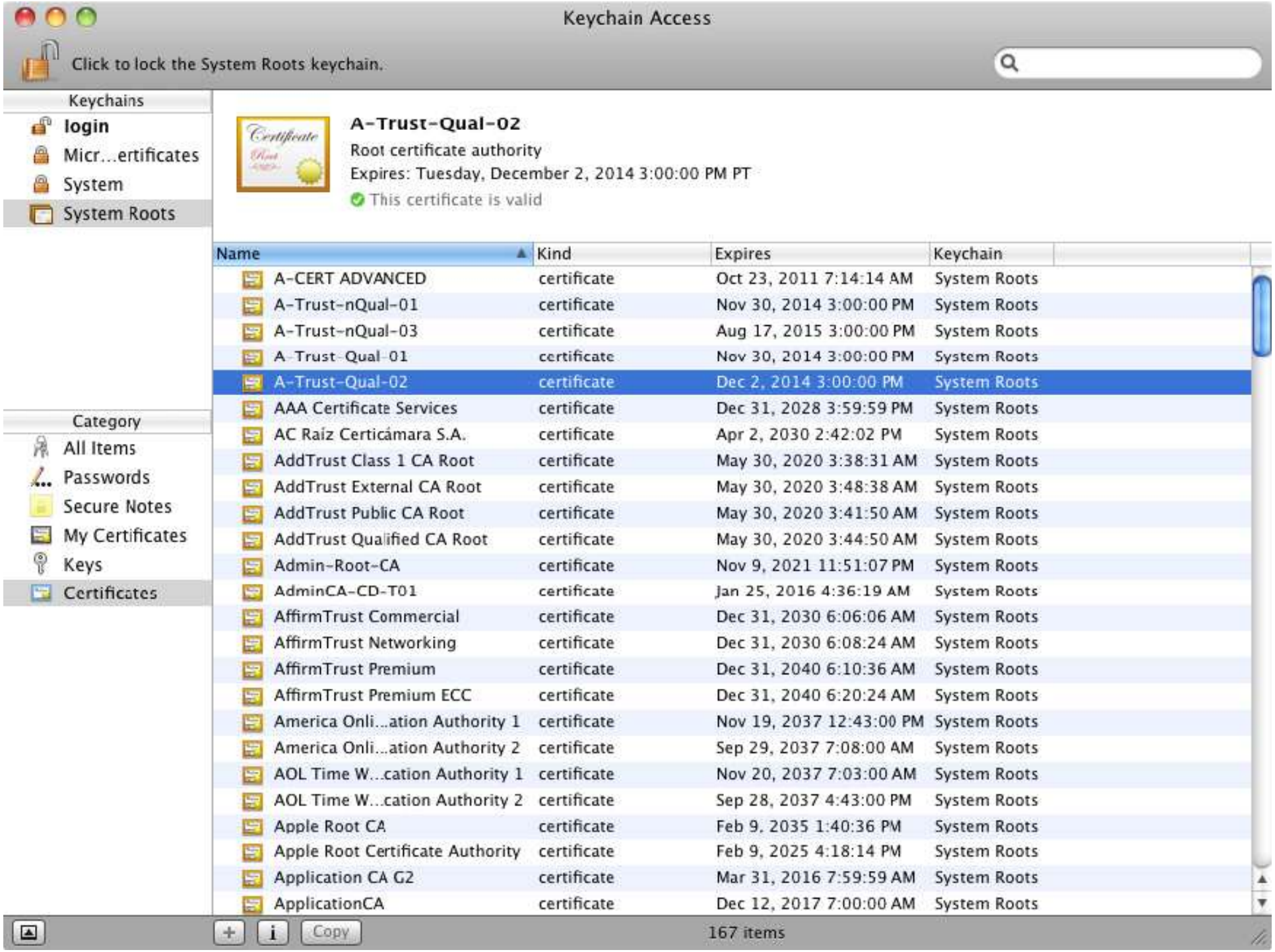
The equivalent as seen by most Internet users:



(note: an actual Windows error message!)

TLS/SSL Trust Issues, cont.

- "*Commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money.*"
  - Matt Blaze, circa 2001
- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?


Keychain Access
Click to lock the System Roots keychain.
Keychains
login
Micr...ertificates
System
System Roots
Category
All Items
Passwords
Secure Notes
My Certificates
Keys
Certificates
A-Trust-Qual-02
Root certificate authority
Expires: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 3:00:00 PM PT
This certificate is valid
Name
Kind
Expires
Keychain
A-CERT ADVANCED certificate Oct 23, 2011 7:14:14 AM System Roots
A-Trust-nQual-01 certificate Nov 30, 2014 3:00:00 PM System Roots
A-Trust-nQual-03 certificate Aug 17, 2015 3:00:00 PM System Roots
A-Trust-Qual-01 certificate Nov 30, 2014 3:00:00 PM System Roots
A-Trust-Qual-02 certificate Dec 2, 2014 3:00:00 PM System Roots
AAA Certificate Services certificate Dec 31, 2028 3:59:59 PM System Roots
AC Raíz Certicámara S.A. certificate Apr 2, 2030 2:42:02 PM System Roots
AddTrust Class 1 CA Root certificate May 30, 2020 3:38:31 AM System Roots
AddTrust External CA Root certificate May 30, 2020 3:48:38 AM System Roots
AddTrust Public CA Root certificate May 30, 2020 3:41:50 AM System Roots
AddTrust Qualified CA Root certificate May 30, 2020 3:44:50 AM System Roots
Admin-Root-CA certificate Nov 9, 2021 11:51:07 PM System Roots
AdminCA-CD-T01 certificate Jan 25, 2016 4:36:19 AM System Roots
AffirmTrust Commercial certificate Dec 31, 2030 6:06:06 AM System Roots
AffirmTrust Networking certificate Dec 31, 2030 6:08:24 AM System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium certificate Dec 31, 2040 6:10:36 AM System Roots
AffirmTrust Premium ECC certificate Dec 31, 2040 6:20:24 AM System Roots
America Onli...ation Authority 1 certificate Nov 19, 2037 12:43:00 PM System Roots
America Onli...ation Authority 2 certificate Sep 29, 2037 7:08:00 AM System Roots
AOL Time W...cation Authority 1 certificate Nov 20, 2037 7:03:00 AM System Roots
AOL Time W...cation Authority 2 certificate Sep 28, 2037 4:43:00 PM System Roots
Apple Root CA certificate Feb 9, 2035 1:40:36 PM System Roots
Apple Root Certificate Authority certificate Feb 9, 2025 4:18:14 PM System Roots
Application CA G2 certificate Mar 31, 2016 7:59:59 AM System Roots
ApplicationCA certificate Dec 12, 2017 7:00:00 AM System Roots
Copy
167 items

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

- "*Commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money.*"
  - Matt Blaze, circa 2001
- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?
- Of course, it's not just their greed that matters …

News

Solo Iranian hacker takes credit for Comodo certificate attack

Security researchers split on whether 'ComodoHacker' is the real deal

By Gregg Keizer

March 27, 2011 08:39 PM ET

Computerworld - A solo Iranian hacker on Saturday claimed responsibility for stealing multiple SSL certificates belonging to some of the Web's biggest sites, including Google, Microsoft, Skype and Yahoo.

Early reaction from security experts was mixed, with some believing the hacker's claim, while others were dubious.

Last week, conjecture had focused on a state-sponsored attack, perhaps funded or conducted by the Iranian government, that hacked a certificate reseller affiliated with U.S.-based Comodo.

On March 23, Comodo acknowledged the attack, saying that eight days earlier, hackers had obtained nine bogus certificates for the log-on sites of Microsoft's Hotmail, Google's Gmail, the Internet phone and chat service Skype and Yahoo Mail. A certificate for Mozilla's Firefox add-on site was also acquired.

News

Solo Iranian hacker takes credit for Comodo certificate attack

Security researchers split on whether 'ComodoHacker' is the real deal

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March 27, 2011 08:39 PM ET

Where did you learn about cryptography and hacking. Are there books in Persian? English books? Or are you self-taught, learning from the Internet?

d) I'm self taught, books in Persian and English, but mostly papers in internet, short papers from experts like Bruce Schneier, RSA people (Ron, Adi and Leonard) and specially David Wagner. I learned programming in Qbasic when I was 9, I started learning cryptography when I was 13

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Fraudulent Google certificate points to Internet attack

Is Iran behind a fraudulent Google.com digital certificate? The situation is similar to one that happened in March in which spoofed certificates were traced back to Iran.

by Elinor Mills | August 29, 2011 1:22 PM PDT

A Dutch company appears to have issued a digital certificate for Google.com to someone other than Google, who may be using it to try to re-direct traffic of users based in Iran.

Yesterday, someone reported on a Google support site that when attempting to log in to Gmail the browser issued a warning for the digital certificate used as proof that the site is legitimate, according to this thread on a Google support forum site.

This appears to be a fully valid cert using normal browser validation rules.

Only detected by Chrome due to its recent introduction of cert "pinning" – requiring that certs for certain domains **must** be signed by specific CAs rather than any generally trusted CA

October 31, 2012, 10:49AM

Final Report on DigiNotar Hack Shows Total Compromise of CA Servers

The attacker who penetrated the Dutch CA DigiNotar last year had complete control of all eight of the company's certificate-issuing servers during the operation and he may also have issued some rogue certificates that have not yet been identified. The final report from a

Evidence Suggests DigiNotar, Who Issued Fraudulent Google Certificate, Was Hacked *Years* Ago

from the *diginot* dept

The big news in the security world, obviously, is the fact that a **fraudulent Google certificate made its way out into the wild**, apparently targeting internet users in Iran. The Dutch company DigiNotar has put out a statement saying that **it discovered a breach** back on July 19th during a security audit, and that fraudulent certificates were generated for "several dozen" websites. The only one known to have gotten out into the wild is the Google one.

TLS/SSL Trust Issues

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- So how many CAs do we have to worry about, anyway?
- Of course, it's not just their greed that matters …
- … and it's not just their diligence & security that matters …
  - "*A decade ago, I observed that commercial certificate authorities protect you from anyone from whom they are unwilling to take money. That turns out to be wrong; they don't even do that much.*" - Matt Blaze, circa 2010

BONUS SLIDES

Law Enforcement Appliance Subverts SSL

By Ryan Singel ✉ March 24, 2010 | 1:55 pm | Categories: Surveillance, Threats

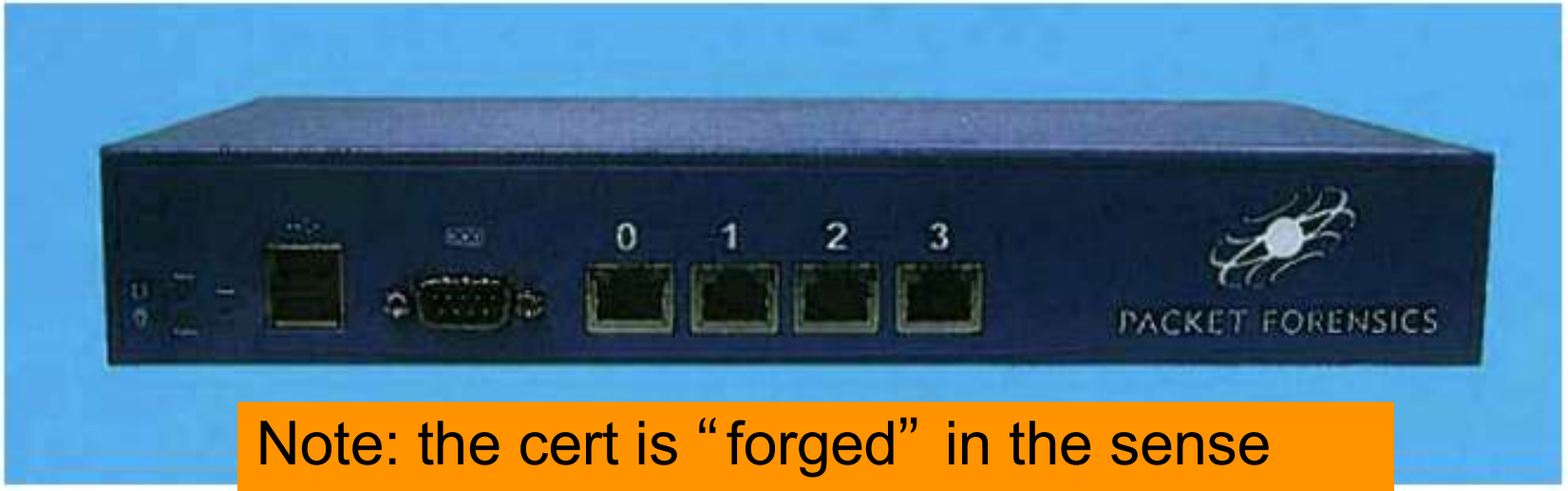
That little lock on your browser window indicating you are communicating securely with your bank or e-mail account may not always mean what you think its means.

Normally when a user visits a secure website, such as Bank of America, Gmail, PayPal or eBay, the browser examines the website's certificate to verify its authenticity.

At a recent wiretapping convention, however, security researcher Chris Soghoian discovered that a small company was marketing internet spying boxes to the feds. The boxes were designed to intercept those communications — without breaking the encryption — by using forged security certificates, instead of the real ones that websites use to verify secure connections. To use the appliance, the government would need to acquire a forged certificate from any one of more than 100 trusted Certificate Authorities.

Law Enforcement Appliance Subverts SSL

By Ryan Singel ✉ March 24, 2010 | 1:55 pm | Categories: Surveillance, Threats



Note: the cert is "forged" in the sense that it doesn't really belong to Gmail, PayPal, or whomever. But it does not *appear* forged because it includes a legitimate signature from a trusted CA.

That little lock o ank or e-mail account ma

Normally when y, the browser examin

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