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Cyber-Security: Current Practice and Future Trends

Overview of presentation

- Introduction
- Basic concepts
- Tools and practices
- Outlook

Introduction

- me: researcher & teacher
 - object orientation
 - software architecture
 - computer and information security
- you?

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Basic concepts: Overview

- the security problem today
- security incidents
- types of security threats
- avenues of attack

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Is Security necessary?

- Comparisons indicate that:
 - Average bank robbery amounts to \$2,500
 - Average bank fraud amounts to \$25,000
 - Average computer crime amounts to \$500,000

Annual computer crime loss: \$5 - \$10 billion

- but:**
- large aspects of business life are conducted online
 - significant aspects of personal life involve online activities

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Incident categories

- Crimes in which the computer is the target of the attack
- Incidents in which the computer is a means of perpetrating a criminal act
- combination of both:
 - attack one computer to gain access to it
 - use this computer to launch DOS attack against other

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Attack consequences

- A loss of confidentiality where information is disclosed to unauthorized individuals
- A loss of integrity where information is modified by unauthorized individuals
- A loss of availability where information or the systems processing it are not available for authorized users

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Types of attacks

- viruses, worms and phishing
- intruders
 - hacker: script kiddy vs. elite hacker
- insider
 - most harmful
- criminal organization
 - structured attack
- terrorist and information warfare
 - targets critical infrastructure

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History of security incidents

- Morris Worm
- Melissa
- ILOVEYOU
- Code Red
- Slammer

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Morris Worm (November 1988)

- released by graduate student Robert Morris
 - exploited sendmail, finger, rsh
 - accident: excessive replication
- purpose: gauge size of Internet
 - infected 10 percent of machines (approximately 6,000) connected to the Internet at that time
- caused an estimated \$100 million in damage
 - loss of computing resources

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Melissa (March 1999)

- spread via email
- has MS Word attachment (.doc)
 - macro examines user's address book
 - sends email via MS Outlook to first 50
- no harm intended (originally)
- clogged email services

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ILOVEYOU (May 2000)

- spread via email
- has VisualBasic attachment (.vbs)
 - examines MS Outlook email
 - sends email to contacts
- clogged email services
- overwrote files

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Code Red (July 2001)

- buffer overflow attack on MS IIS web servers
- defaced website as:
HELLO! Welcome to <http://www.worm.com>! Hacked By Chinese!
- replicated itself to other IIS servers
- waited 20-27 days for DoS attack on fixed set of IP addresses

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Slammer (January 2003)

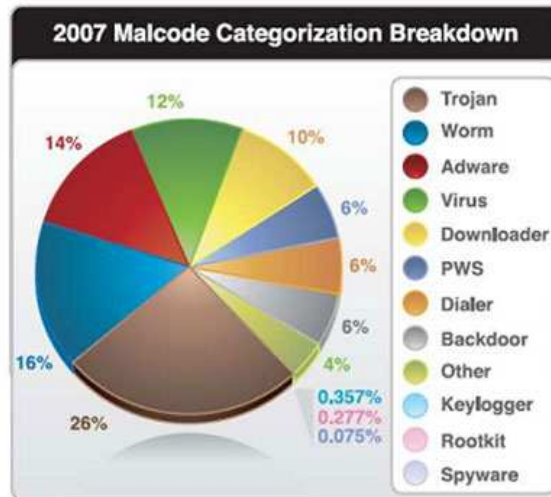
- buffer overflow attack on MS SQL Server
- sent itself out to random IP addresses
- caused Internet traffic congestion

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... more attacks



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Lessons from history

- as Internet became more prevalent, it became vehicle for malicious exploits
- recent threats:
 - email → spam
 - websites

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Email attachments: file formats

- executables
 - .exe .cmd .bat .com .dll .pif .vbs ...
- hidden extensions
- hidden double extensions
 - .gif.exe ...

- moreover:
 - file type associations

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Email attachments: file formats

- even seemingly innocent file types:
 - .gif
 - .pdf
 - .wmf
 - .zip

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Threat: SPAM

- 120 billion spam emails per day world-wide
- 77% of emails are spam on average
- modern delivery vehicle for
 - email attachments

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Example: storm worm

- discovered January 2007
- backdoor Trojan horse
 - email that reports on storm in Europe
 - has executable attachment
 - opens infected host to remote control
- world's most powerful supercomputer
 - peer-to-peer botnet

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Storm email subjects: "230 dead as storm batters Europe"

- A killer at 11, he's free at 21 and kill again!
- U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has kicked German Chancellor Angela Merkel
- British Muslims Genocide
- Naked teens attack home director
- Radical Muslim drinking enemies's blood
- Chinese/Russian missile shot down Russian/Chinese satellite/aircraft
- Saddam Hussein safe and sound!
- Venezuelan leader: "Let's the War beginning"
- Fidel Castro dead
- FBI vs. Facebook

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Storm email attachments

ATTACHMENT TYPES:

.EXE .PDF .ZIP ...

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Postcard | ■ FlashPostcard |
| ■ ecard | ■ GreetingCard |
| ■ FullVideo | ■ ClickHere |
| ■ Full Story | ■ ReadMore |
| ■ Video | ■ FlashPostcard |
| ■ Read More | ■ FullNews |
| ■ FullClip | ■ NflStatTracker |
| ■ GreetingPostcard | ■ ArcadeWorld |
| ■ MoreHere | ■ ArcadeWorldGame |

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Storm worm behavior

- patience: has active and inactive periods
- separation of duties:
 - small number of hosts spread worm further
 - smaller number of hosts serve as control
 - large number of hosts wait for tasks
- no damage, little impact on host
- constant change
 - delivery mechanism, payload
 - DNS manipulations: "fast flux"

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Storm worm summary

- scale: 1 to 10 million infected hosts
 - billions of spam per day
 - estimate: running at only 10-20% of capacity
- commercial purpose
 - reports of partitioning
 - reports of stock manipulation
- rumors of being leased to criminal groups
- who controls storm ?

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Perspectives on protection

- provide user education
 - as simple as strong password
- provide physical protection
 - don't loose your laptop
- provide host protection
 - patch, patch and patch
- provide network protection
 - watch and examine traffic

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Poor Security Practices

- Password selection
 - harder passwords are harder to remember
- e-mail and web-surfing practices
- Installing unauthorized hardware and software

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Human Attacks

- Piggybacking and shoulder surfing
- Dumpster diving
- Social engineering
 - gain trust of insider
 - people generally want to help somebody who is requesting help
 - people generally want to avoid confrontation
- Reverse social engineering

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Access control

- Protect infrastructure
 - access to building
 - access to computer
 - access to network equipment
- Authentication
 - Discretionary vs. mandatory access control
 - Role-based access control

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Perspectives on protection

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Security Principles

- Least privilege
- Layered security
- Diversity of Defense
- Security through obscurity
- Keep it simple

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Security Operations

- Policies
 - Management statements of what the organization wants to accomplish
- Procedures
 - Step-by-step instructions on how employees are expected to act in a given situation or to accomplish a specific task
- Standards
 - Mandatory elements regarding the implementation of a policy
- Guidelines
 - Recommendations relating to a policy

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Operational Model of Computer Security

Protection = Prevention + (Detection + Response)

Access controls
Firewalls
Encryption

Audit logs
Intrusion detection systems
Honey pots

Backups
Incident response teams
Computer forensics

Every security technique and technology
falls into at least one of the three elements of the equation

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Summary of concepts

- cybersecurity is a real concern
- human element is large

- protection is possible
 - education
 - tools and practices

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Part II: overview of presentation

- Introduction
- Basic concepts
- Tools and practices
- Outlook

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Tools and Practices

- Encryption
 - types
 - algorithms
- Public Key Cryptography
- PKI
- PGP

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Encryption concepts

- plain-text vs. cypher-text
- encryption algorithm: public
convert plain-text into cypher-text
- encryption key: secret
additional input to encryption algorithm

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Encryption history



- Spartans used a ribbon wrapped around a specific gauge cylinder and then wrote on the ribbon
 - when unwrapped, the ribbon appeared to hold a strange string of letters
 - message could be read only when someone wrapped the ribbon back around the same gauge cylinder
- Romans used shift cipher
 - One letter of the alphabet is shifted a set number of places in the alphabet for another letter

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Encryption Modes

- Computers enable more complex encryption algorithms
 - Modes of encryption include:
 - Symmetric
 - Asymmetric
 - Hash functions
- } use a key

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Key Complexity

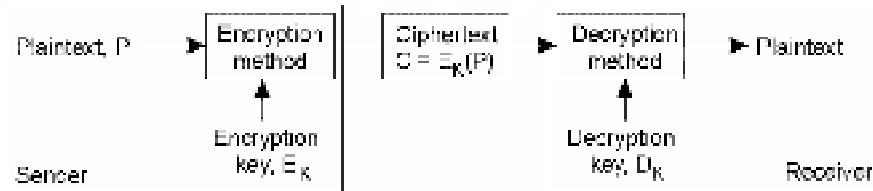
- Key complexity = degree of security of the system
 - Key complexity = number of possible key values
 - Keyspace depends on size of key value
 - 48bit vs. 64bit vs. 128bit vs. 192bit vs. 256bit
- Brute-force attack: attempting every possible key

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Symmetric Encryption



- Sender and the receiver use same key
 - requires key management
 - key must be exchanged by other means

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Symmetric Encryption Algorithms

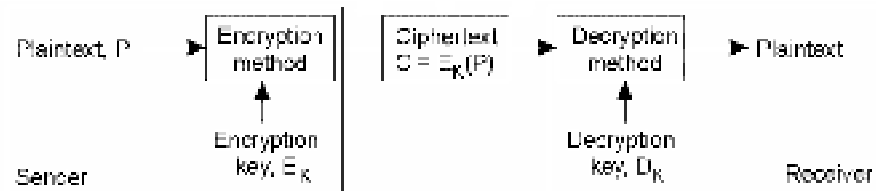
- DES: Data Encryption Standard
 - 56bit shared key, judged as weak
- 3DES (Triple DES)
 - uses three keys instead of the single key
 - spins through the DES algorithm three times
- AES (Advanced Encryption Standard)
 - key sizes: 128, 192, 256 bits
 - no known successful attacks
- others:
 - CAST, Rivest Cipher (RC)
 - Blowfish, IDEA (International Data Encryption Algorithm)

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Asymmetric Encryption



- Sender and receiver use different keys
 - algorithm involves difficult math problems
 - also known as public key cryptography

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Asymmetric Encryption

- RSA
 - uses product of two large prime numbers (100 to 200 digits) to generate one key for decryption and another for encryption
 - used for 20 years, but much slower than DES
- Diffie-Hellman
 - also uses large prime numbers
 - used in SSL, SSH and IPsec protocols to establish session key
- others:
 - ElGamal: used by US government
 - ECC: uses elliptic curve function

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Encryption Mode: Hashing

- Apply hash function to plain-text
 - is a special mathematical function that performs one-way encryption to produce cipher-text
- Common uses of hashing:
 - storing computer passwords
 - ensuring message integrity

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Example: Message Digest (MD)

- Message Digest (MD) is the generic version of one of the three algorithms
 - MD2
 - digest length: 128 bits, optimized for 8-bit machines
 - successful attacks are known
 - MD4
 - 128 bits digest, optimized for 32-bit computers
 - collision attack successful in under 1 minute on PC
 - MD5
 - 128 bits digest, slower but improved algorithm
 - no known successful attacks

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Public Key Cryptography

- Goal: ensure secure communication
- Each party has public/private key pair
- Encryption used to ensure
 - confidentiality of communication
 - identity of parties

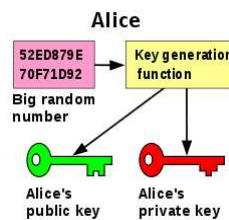
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Example scenario

- Alice and Bob want to exchange email
- Step 1: Alice and Bob each create key pair
- Step 2: Alice and Bob publish their public keys (and keep their private keys private)



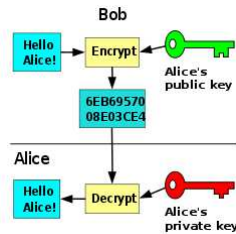
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Example scenario: Bob sends email to Alice

- Bob encrypts email with Alice's public key



Observations:

- email is confidential
 - only Alice can read email
- but:
- Alice is not assured that Bob sent email

- Alice decrypts email with her private key

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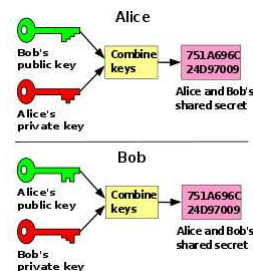
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Example scenario: secure emails between Alice & Bob

- Bob encrypts email with Alice's public key
- Bob signs email with his private key

- Alice authenticates email with Bob's public key
- Alice decrypts email with her private key



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Facit: can we trust a public key?

- need public key repository
- protocols to ensure integrity of keys
- approaches:
 - PGP
 - PKI

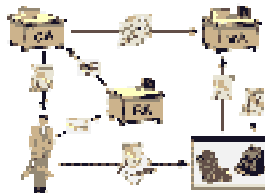
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Public Key Infrastructure

- framework to enable secure communication



- via
 - key management for encryption
 - certification of identities

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PKI elements

- Keys: public and private
- Certificates, to hold keys
- Authorities, to register & verify

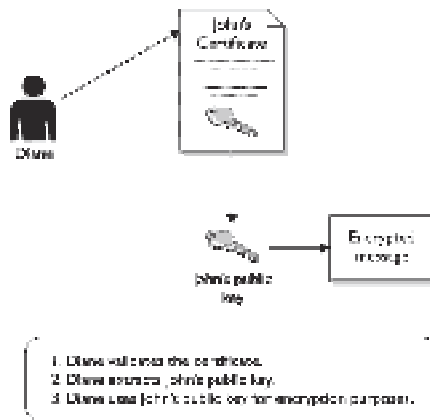
- For:
 - E-mail clients
 - Virtual private network products
 - Web server components
 - Domain controllers

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Example: email from Diane to John



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Basics of Public Key Infrastructures

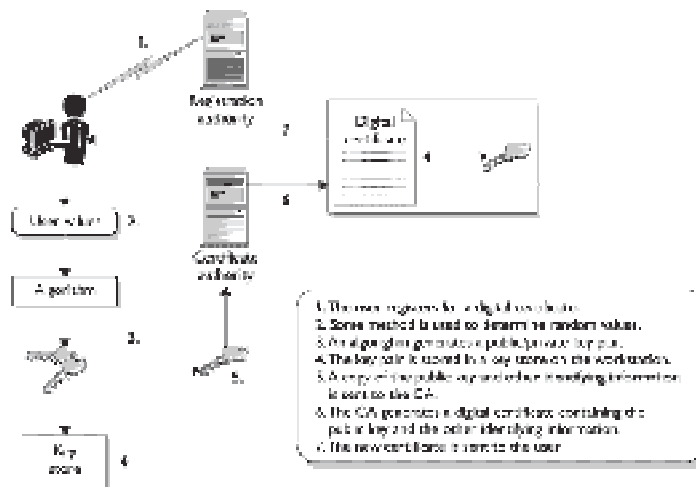
- PKI involves registration & certificate authorities
 - individual requests registration
 - requires proof of identity
 - identity information is validated
 - registration authority (RA) tells certificate authority (CA) to generate a certificate
 - certificate authority signs certificate with its private key

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Obtaining a Digital Certificate



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Registration Authority

- RA accepts a request for digital certificate
- RA perform the necessary steps of registering and authenticating the person requesting a certificate
- Certificate classes:
 - I: encrypt and sign email
 - II: sign software
 - III: become CA
- classes require different authentication levels

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Certificate Authority

- CA is trusted authority for certifying an individual's identity
- CA issues digital certificate
 - certifies association between subject's identity and a public key
 - private key that is paired with the public key in the certificate is stored separately
 - certificate is signed with CA's private key

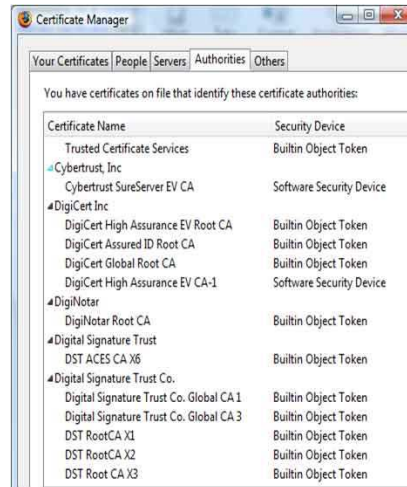
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Trust and Certificate Verification

- Browsers have a long list of CAs configured to be trusted by default



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Revocation

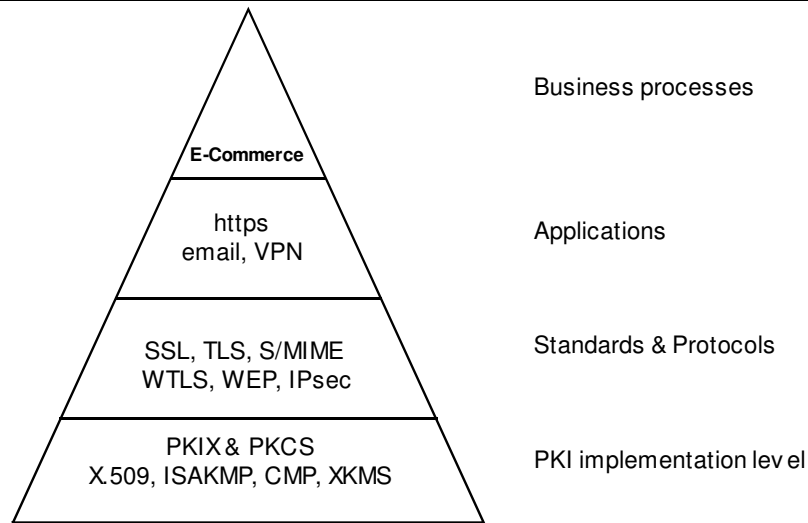
- Certificates are revoked when the certificate's validity needs to be ended before its actual expiration date:
 - private key has been exposed
 - ex.: social engineering attack, laptop lost, ...
 - data in certificate no longer applies to subject
 - ex.: employee left a company
- CA maintains certificate revocation list (CRL)
 - CRL must be secured:
 - signed with CA's private key
 - CRL should be distributed

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PKI Standards and Protocols



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Example: SSL/TLS

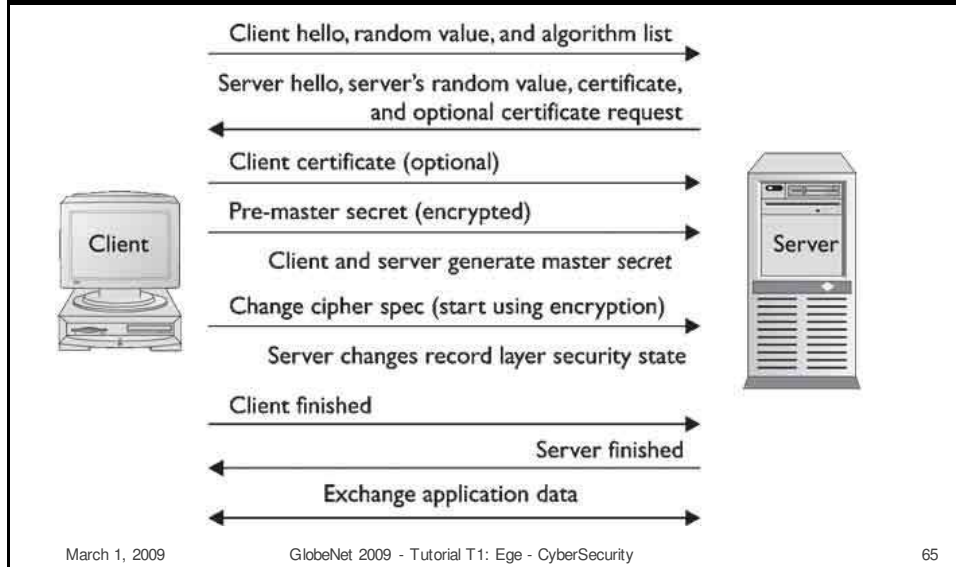
- Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- Transport Layer Security (TLS)
 - most common means of interacting with a PKI and certificates
- ensures privacy between communicating applications and their users on the Internet

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Illustration: TLS handshake



PGP: Pretty Good Privacy

- alternative to PKI
 - based on: Web of trust
 - decentralized grass-roots model
- created by Philip Zimmermann in 1991
- implemented by
 - PGP
 - OpenPGP
 - GnuPG

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PGP setup

- PGP program is installed locally
- PGP program creates public/private key pair for user
- public key is deposited in public key server
- keys of other parties can be retrieved from public key server(s)

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Sending email with PGP

- message is encrypted using symmetric encryption and chosen session key
- session key is encrypted with user's private key
- session key is encrypted with recipient's public key

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Receiving email with PGP

- session key is decrypted with user's private key
- session key is decrypted with sender's public key
- message is decrypted using session key

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PGP uses RSA or Diffie-Hellman

- RSA version
 - IDEA algorithm to encrypt with short symmetric key
 - RSA to encrypt IDEA key
- Diffie-Hellman version
 - CAST algorithm to encrypt the message
 - Diffie-Hellman algorithm to encrypt the CAST key

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PGP Digital Signature

- digital signature created by hash function on user's name and other signature information
 - hash value is encrypted with the sender's private key
 - receiver uses the sender's public key to decrypt the hash value
 - decrypted hash value must match hash value sent as the digital signature for the message

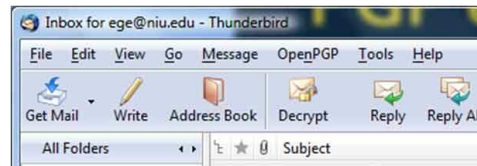
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PGP example: GnuPG

- Open source software
- Gnu Privacy Guard
 - gnupg.org
- Thunderbird email client plugin
 - EnigMail
 - enigmail.mozdev.org

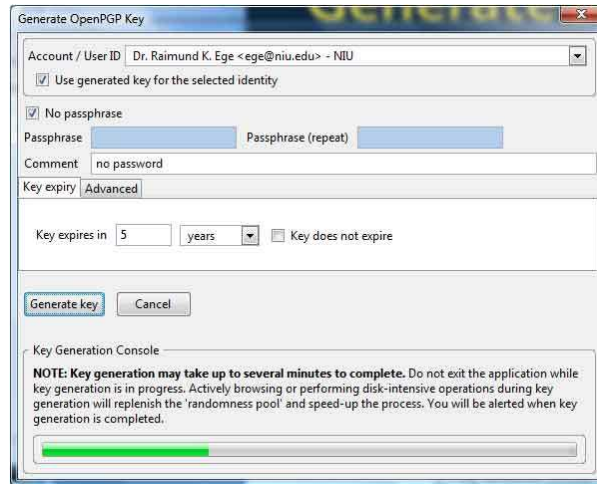


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Generate Key pair

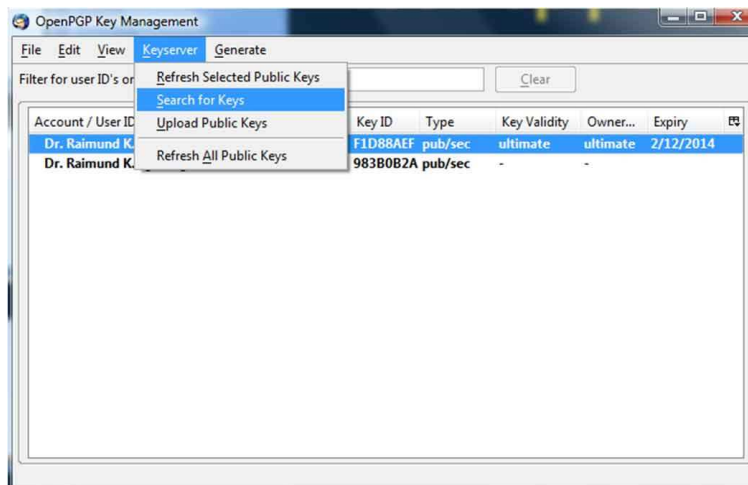


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Look up public key

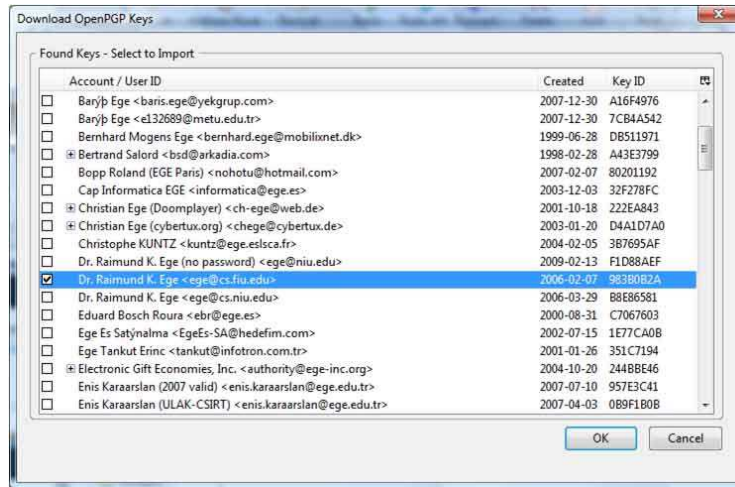


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Look up public key

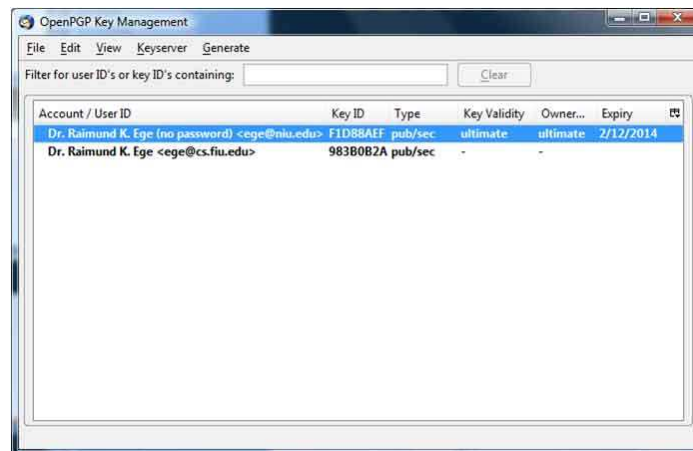


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Key Management

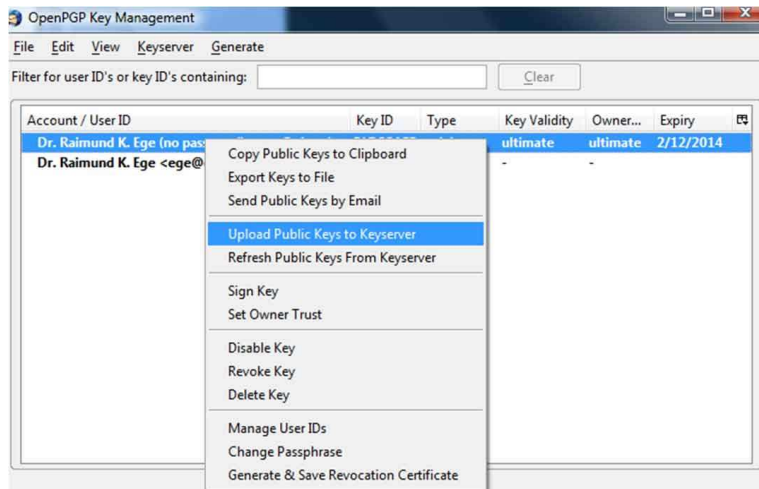


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Upload public key

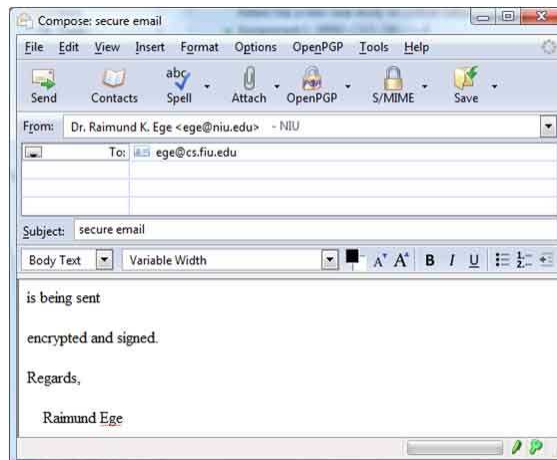


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Compose email

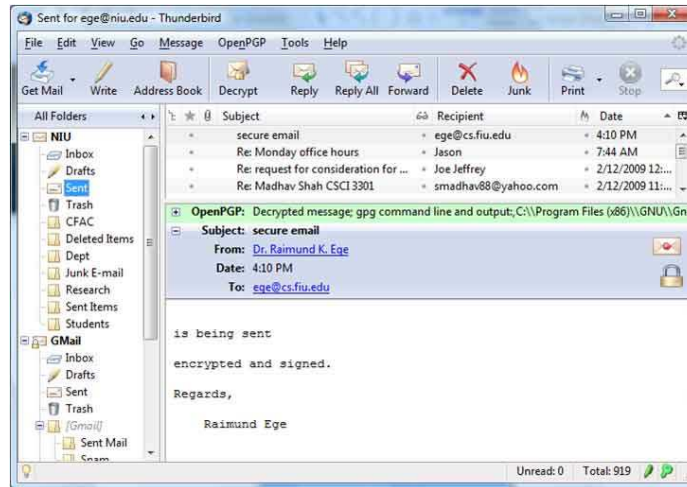


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Send email

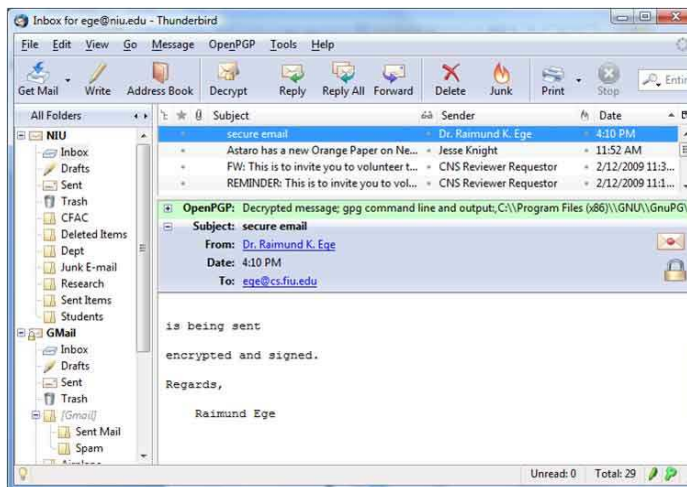


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Receive email



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Summary

- Encryption
- Public Key Cryptography
- PKI
- PGP

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Part III: overview

- Introduction
- Basic concepts
- Tools and practices
- Outlook

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Security landscape

- Current attacks and their effectiveness
- Best practices to mitigate
 - threat level
 - attack impact
- to keep Internet usage useful !

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Modern attacks

- Email
 - attachments
 - phishing
 - html
- Browser
 - security holes
 - spoofing
 - malicious code
- OS

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Protection plan

- Establish secure baseline
- Increase security

- Hardening operating systems
- Hardening network
- Hardening applications

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Secure baseline

- be wary of default configurations
 - installation's goal is to ensure positive user experience
 - huge variety in installation environment
- security is becoming more prevalent
- need secure baseline
 - ease of administration
 - speed of recovery

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Guidelines for OS Baseline

- apply all service packs and patches
 - install anti-virus software
 - install anti-spyware software
 - install spam filter
 - configure automatic notification and update
- create and enforce password policy
 - password aging
 - password audits
 - no password recycling

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Guidelines for OS Baseline

- restrict permissions on files and directories
 - remove all unnecessary file shares
 - possible remove File And Printer Sharing protocol
 - set appropriate ACLs on all necessary file shares
- disable unnecessary services
- remove unnecessary users
- disable or remove unnecessary programs
- enable security event auditing

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Network Hardening

- routers, switches, and access points
 - remove defaults: ID/user/password
 - control network access
 - apply updates and patches
- traffic filtering: firewall
 - elements: rules that accept vs. deny traffic
 - bandwidth/throughput sensitive
 - advanced rules to control traffic:
 - port/service specific
 - stateful traffic analysis
 - intelligent decisions

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Application Hardening

- Secure applications against local and Internet-based attacks
 - Remove unneeded functions or components
 - Restrict access where you can
 - Make sure application is kept up-to-date with patches

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Web Servers

- most common targets for attack
 - IIS vs. Apache
- web server hardening
 - apply all updates and patches
 - remove all unnecessary files: sample files
 - set permissions for all files and directories
 - only enable required components

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Mail Servers

- mail server is also common target
 - reconnaissance: VRFY, EXPN
 - relaying
 - buffer overflows
- apply all updates and patches
 - MS Exchange, sendmail
 - others: postfix, qmail, Exim
- system-wide virus, malware & spam scan

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FTP Servers

- enables remote access to files
- hardening
 - apply updates patches
 - control permissions
 - files/directories
 - users
 - hosts

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DNS Servers

- translation between FQDN and IP address
- hierarchical lookup model
- common implementation: Berkeley BIND
- common attacks
 - reconnaissance, zone transfer
 - spoofing
- hardening
 - apply updates and patches
 - zone keys

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File and Print Services

- restricted to authorized, authenticated users
 - users may stop, pause, or delete their own print jobs
- spool queue access only for administrators

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Directory Services

- Enable single login
 - multiple applications, data sources, and systems
 - certificate and encryption capabilities
- Domain-based hierarchy
 - schemas for multiple purposes
- Common systems
 - MS Active Directory
 - OpenLDAP
 - Novel eDirectory

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User level precautions: email

- attachments, phishing, html
- protection:
 - use latest version of email client
 - hide embedded images
 - alert to phishing attack
(displayed URL differs from actual URL in html tag)
 - educate users
 - execute attachment in secure sandbox

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User level precautions: browser

- Symptoms of a browser hijacking:
 - different homepage, search page or favorites
 - options in Internet settings have been changed
 - access is blocked to certain functions
 - redirection of incorrectly typed URLs
- protection:
 - use latest version of browser
 - disable scripting: ActiveX, JavaScript
 - don't trust any browser pop-up
 - run browser in sandbox

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Browser trends

- control web navigation
 - via search engine, e.g. Google SafeSearch
 - via URL parsing tools:
 - Web of Trust
 - OpenDNS

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Google SafeSearch

- Blocks web pages containing explicit sexual content from appearing in search results:
 - Use strict filtering (Filter both explicit text and explicit images)
 - Use moderate filtering (Filter explicit images only - default behavior)
 - Do not filter my search results
- Labels "harmful sites" in search results

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Harmful sites?

Safe Browsing

Diagnostic page for www.cuil.com

Advisory provided by 

What is the current listing status for www.cuil.com?

This site is not currently listed as suspicious.

What happened when Google visited this site?

Of the 4 pages we tested on the site over the past 90 days, 0 page(s) resulted in malicious software being downloaded and installed without user consent. The last time Google visited this site was on 2009-02-15, and suspicious content was never found on this site within the past 90 days.

This site was hosted on 2 network(s) including [AS8121 \(TCH\)](#), [AS40475 \(APPLIEDOPS\)](#).

Has this site acted as an intermediary resulting in further distribution of malware?

Over the past 90 days, www.cuil.com did not appear to function as an intermediary for the infection of any sites.

Has this site hosted malware?

No, this site has not hosted malicious software over the past 90 days.

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Harmful sites?

Safe Browsing

Diagnostic page for blog.jimmyr.com

Advisory provided by 

What is the current listing status for blog.jimmyr.com?

This site is not currently listed as suspicious.

Part of this site was listed for suspicious activity 1 time(s) over the past 90 days.

What happened when Google visited this site?

Of the 98 pages we tested on the site over the past 90 days, 1 page(s) resulted in malicious software being downloaded and installed without user consent. The last time Google visited this site was on 2009-02-22, and the last time suspicious content was found on this site was on 2009-01-27.

Malicious software includes 1 scripting exploit(s). Successful infection resulted in an average of 1 new processes on the target machine.

Malicious software is hosted on 1 domain(s), including [83.133.126.0/](#).

This site was hosted on 1 network(s) including [AS13768 \(PEER1\)](#).

Has this site acted as an intermediary resulting in further distribution of malware?

Over the past 90 days, blog.jimmyr.com did not appear to function as an intermediary for the infection of any sites.

Has this site hosted malware?

No, this site has not hosted malicious software over the past 90 days.

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Harmful sites?

["This site may harm your computer" on every search result!?!](#)

1/31/2009 09:02:00 AM

If you did a Google search between 6:30 a.m. PST and 7:25 a.m. PST this morning, you likely saw that the message "This site may harm your computer" accompanied each and every search result. This was clearly an error, and we are very sorry for the inconvenience caused to our users.

What happened? Very simply, human error. Google flags search results with the message "This site may harm your computer" if the site is known to install malicious software in the background or otherwise surreptitiously. We do this to protect our users against visiting sites that could harm their computers. We maintain a list of such sites through both manual and automated methods. We work with a non-profit called [StopBadware.org](#) to come up with criteria for maintaining this list, and to provide simple processes for webmasters to remove their site from the list.

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www.OpenDNS.com

OpenDNS

- customized DNS lookup
 - modify name server setting
- filters FQDN translation to IP address

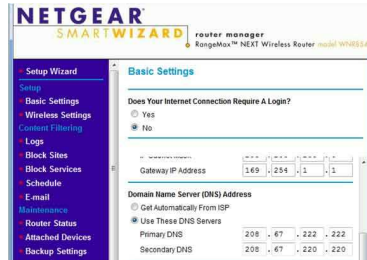
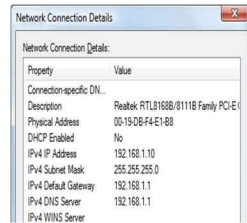
- provides:
 - anti phishing
 - parental controls
 - useful shortcuts
 - type correction

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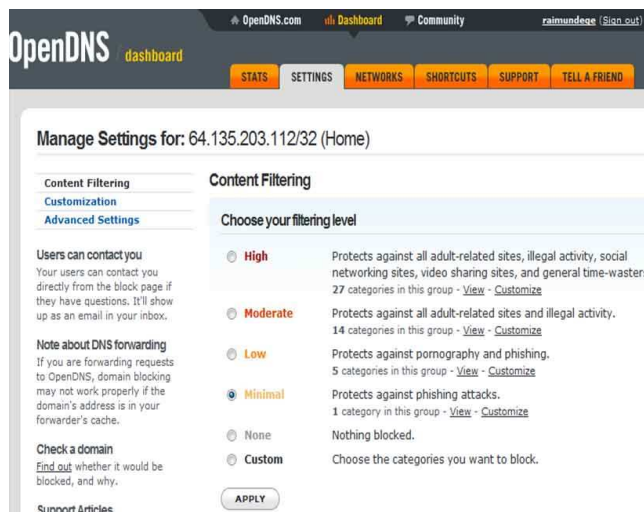
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- setup via DNS server setting at:
 - individual workstation IP connection settings
 - router for whole network



- control via account at www.opendns.com



Web of Trust



- www.mywot.com
- community rating of websites
- implemented as browser add-on
 - Firefox or Internet Explorer
- as of February 2009:
 - Number of rated sites: 21,625,169
 - New this month: 275,365
 - Number of dangerous sites: 1,534,704

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www.mywot.com



- annotates search results
 - rates website
- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| | Excellent reputation |
| | Good reputation |
| | Unsatisfactory reputation |
| | Poor reputation |
| | Very poor reputation |
- controls hyperlinks on page
 - demo at www.mywot.com/demo

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Summary

- Threats are ever present
 - increasing sophistication
- Tools and practices
 - education of users is key
 - safety via encryption
 - peace of mind via modern tools
- Internet is here to stay !