The growth of cryptography

Ronald L. Rivest

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James R. Killian Jr. Faculty Achievement Award Lecture
February 8, 2011

Outline

Some pre-1976 context

Invention of Public-Key Crypto and RSA

Early steps

The cryptography business

Crypto policy

Attacks

More New Directions

What Next?

Conclusion and Acknowledgments

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Euclid – 300 B.C.

There are infinitely many primes:
2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, . . .

Euclid – 300 B.C.

There are infinitely many primes:
2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, . . .

The greatest common divisor of two numbers is easily computed (using "Euclid's Algorithm"):
$\gcd(12, 30) = 6$

Greek Cryptography – The Scytale

An unknown *period* (the circumference of the scytale) is the secret key, shared by sender and receiver.

Pierre de Fermat (1601-1665)
Leonhard Euler (1707–1783)

 

Fermat's Little Theorem (1640):

For any prime p and any a, $1 \leq a < p$:

$$a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod p$$

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$$a^{p-1} = 1 \pmod{p}$$

Euler's Theorem (1736):
If $\gcd(a, n) = 1$, then

$$a^{\phi(n)} = 1 \pmod{n},$$

where $\phi(n) = \#$ of $x < n$ such that $\gcd(x, n) = 1$.

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Published *Disquisitiones Aritmeticae* at age 21

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“The problem of *distinguishing prime numbers from composite numbers and of resolving the latter into their prime factors* is known to be one of the most important and useful in arithmetic. . . . the dignity of the science itself seems to require solution of a problem so elegant and so celebrated.”

William Stanley Jevons (1835–1882)

Published *The Principles of Science* (1874)

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> *"What two numbers multiplied together will produce 8616460799 ? I think it unlikely that anyone but myself will ever know."*

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Factored by Derrick Lehmer in 1903. $(89681 * 96079)$

World War I – Radio

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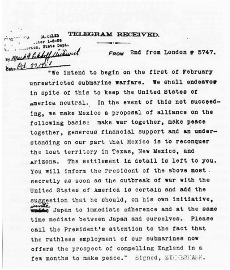

TELEGRAM RECEIVED.

FROM 2nd from London # 5747.

"We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavor in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understanding on our part that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative, invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and ourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed, ZIMMERMANN.

Decipherment of *Zimmermann Telegram* by British made American involvement in World War I inevitable.

Alan Turing (1912–1954)

Developed foundations of theory of computability (1936).

World War II – Enigma, Purple, JN25, Naval Enigma

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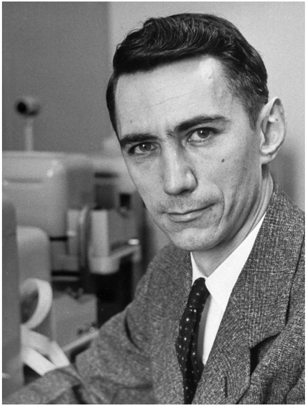
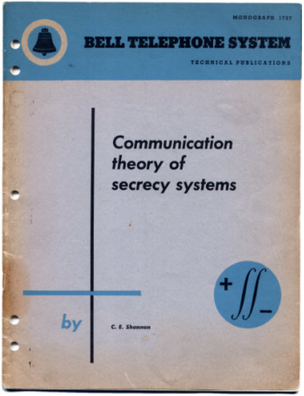
- Cryptography performed by (typically, rotor) *machines*.
- Work of Alan Turing and others at Bletchley Park, and William Friedman and others in the USA, on breaking of Axis ciphers had great success and immense impact.
- Cryptanalytic effort involved development and use of early computers (Colossus).

Claude Shannon (1916–2001)





- “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems” Sept 1945 (Bell Labs memo, classified).

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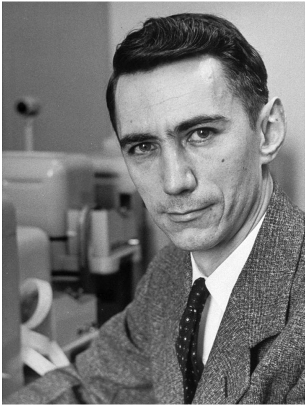
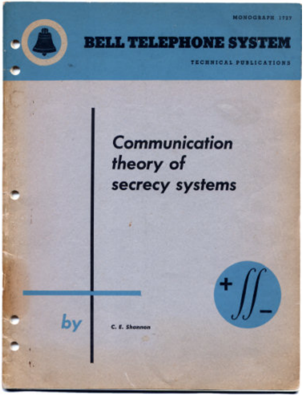
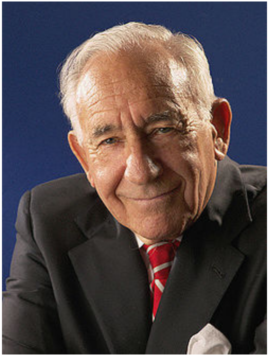
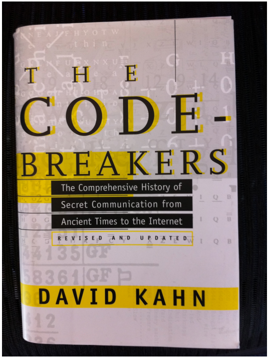




- “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems” Sept 1945 (Bell Labs memo, classified).
- Information-theoretic in character—proves unbreakability of one-time pad. (Published 1949).

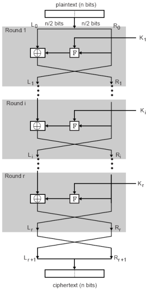
Kahn – The Codebreakers





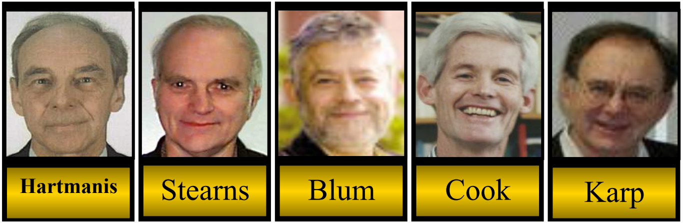
In 1967 David Kahn published
The Codebreakers—The Story of Secret Writing.
A monumental history of cryptography.
NSA attempted to suppress its publication.

DES – U.S. Data Encryption Standard (1976)



DES Designed at IBM; Horst Feistel supplied key elements of design, such as ladder structure. NSA helped, in return for keeping key size at 56 bits.(?)

Computational Complexity



- Theory of Computational Complexity started in 1965 by Hartmanis and Stearns; expanded on by Blum, Cook, and Karp.
- Key notions: polynomial-time reductions; NP-completeness.

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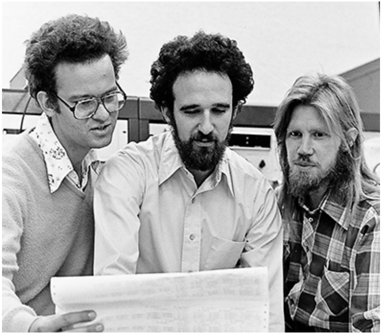

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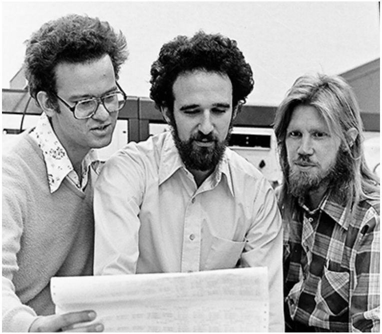

- Ralph Merkle, and independently Marty Hellman and Whit Diffie, invented the notion of *public-key cryptography*.
- In November 1976, Diffie and Hellman published *New Directions in Cryptography*, proclaiming

  > *"We are at the brink of a revolution in cryptography."*

Public-key encryption (as proposed by Diffie/Hellman)

- Each party A has a *public key* PK_A others can use to encrypt messages to A:

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- It is easy to compute matching public/secret key pairs.
- Publishing PK_A does not compromise SK_A! It is *computationally infeasible* to obtain SK_A from PK_A. Each public key can thus be safely listed in a public directory with the owner's name.

Digital Signatures (as proposed by Diffie/Hellman)

- Idea: sign with SK_A; verify signature with PK_A.

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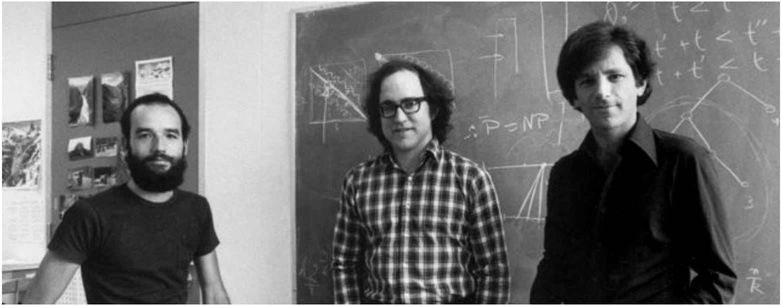
- Amazing ideas!
- But they couldn't see how to implement them...

RSA (Ron Rivest, Adi Shamir, Len Adleman, 1977)



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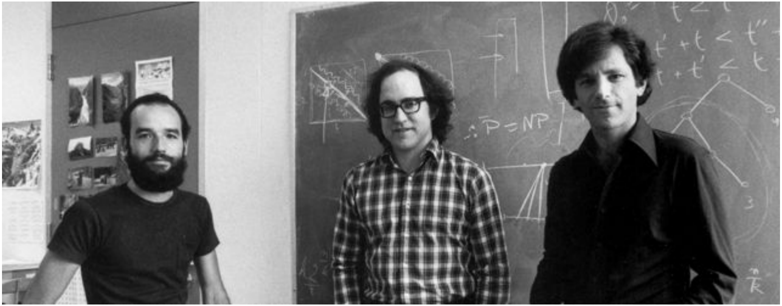

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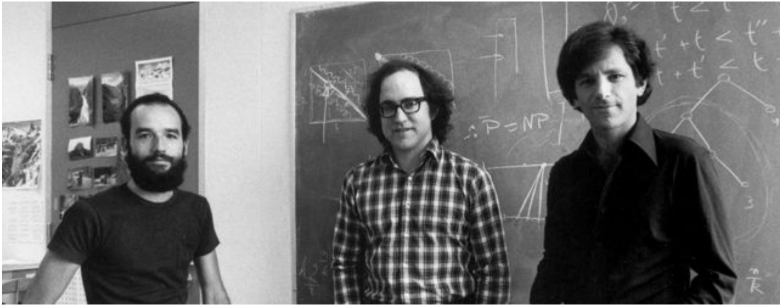

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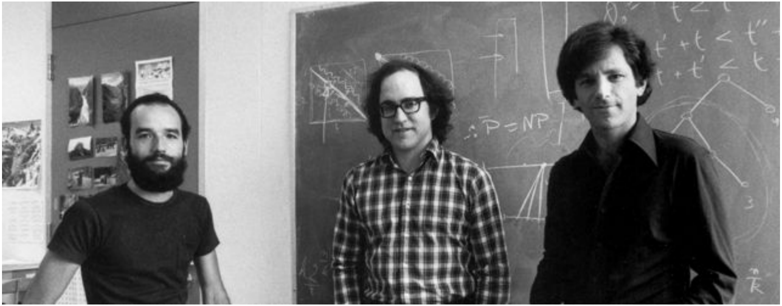

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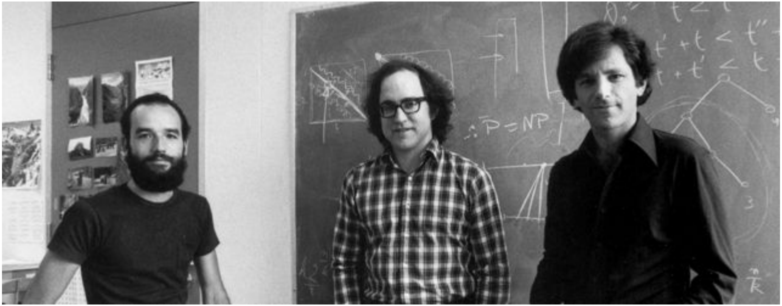

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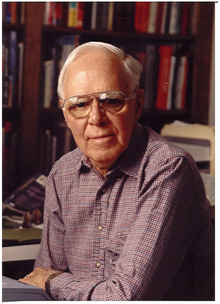
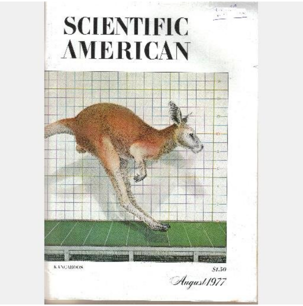
- $PK = (n, e)$ where $n = pq$ and $\gcd(e, \phi(n)) = 1$
- $SK = d$ where $de = 1 \mod \phi(n)$
- Encryption/decryption (or signing/verify) are simple:

$$
\begin{aligned}
C &= PK(M) = M^e \mod n \\
M &= SK(C) = C^d \mod n
\end{aligned}
$$

Martin Gardner column and RSA-129 challenge





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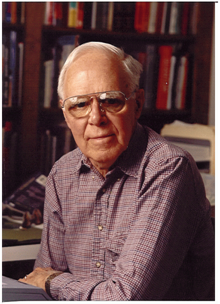

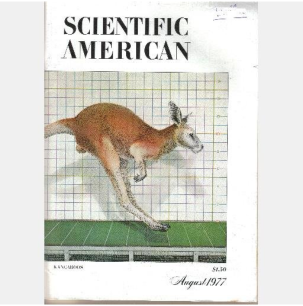

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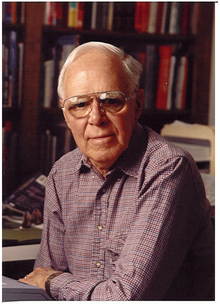

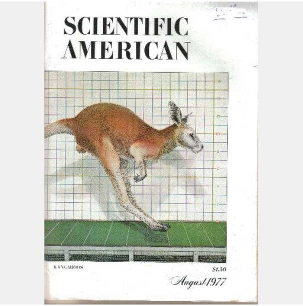

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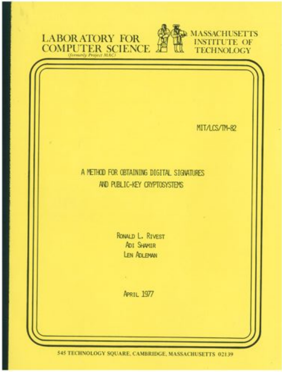
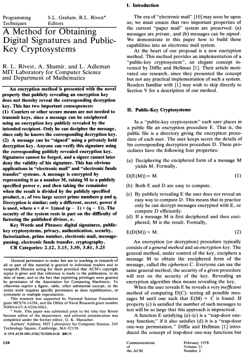
- Offered copy of RSA technical memo.
- Offered \$100 to first person to break challenge ciphertext based on 129-digit product of primes. (Our) estimated time to solution: 40 quadrillion years

Publication of RSA memo and paper





Programming Techniques — S.L. Graham, R.L. Rivest* Editors

A Method for Obtaining Digital Signatures and Public-Key Cryptosystems

R. L. Rivest, A. Shamir, and L. Adleman
MIT Laboratory for Computer Science
and Department of Mathematics

An encryption method is presented with the novel property that publicly revealing an encryption key does not thereby reveal the corresponding decryption key. This has two important consequences: (1) Couriers or other secure means are not needed to transmit keys, since a message can be enciphered using an encryption key publicly revealed by the intended recipient. Only he can decipher the message, since only he knows the corresponding decryption key. (2) A message can be "signed" using a privately held decryption key. Anyone can verify this signature using the corresponding publicly revealed encryption key. Signatures cannot be forged, and a signer cannot later deny the validity of his signature. This has obvious applications in "electronic mail" and "electronic funds transfer" systems. A message is encrypted by representing it as a number M, raising M to a publicly specified power e, and then taking the remainder when the result is divided by the publicly specified product, *n*, of two large secret prime numbers p and q. Decryption is similar; only a different, secret, power d is used, where e * d ≡ 1(mod (p − 1) * (q − 1)). The security of the system rests in part on the difficulty of factoring the published divisor, *n*.

Key Words and Phrases: digital signatures, public-key cryptosystems, privacy, authentication, security, factorization, prime number, electronic mail, message-passing, electronic funds transfer, cryptography.

CR Categories: 2.12, 3.15, 3.50, 3.81, 5.25

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This research was supported by National Science Foundation grant MCS76-14294, and the Office of Naval Research grant number N00014-67-A-0204-0063.

* Note. This paper was submitted prior to the time that Rivest became editor of the department, and editorial consideration was completed under the former editor, G. K. Manacher.

Authors' Address: MIT Laboratory for Computer Science, 545 Technology Square, Cambridge, MA 02139.

© 1978 ACM 0001-0782/78/0200-0120 $00.75

I. Introduction

The era of "electronic mail" [10] may soon be upon us; we must ensure that two important properties of the current "paper mail" system are preserved: (a) messages are *private*, and (b) messages can be *signed*. We demonstrate in this paper how to build these capabilities into an electronic mail system.

At the heart of our proposal is a new encryption method. This method provides an implementation of a "public-key cryptosystem", an elegant concept invented by Diffie and Hellman [1]. Their article motivated our research, since they presented the concept but not any practical implementation of such a system. Readers familiar with [1] may wish to skip directly to Section V for a description of our method.

II. Public-Key Cryptosystems

In a "public-key cryptosystem" each user places in a public file an encryption procedure E. That is, the public file is a directory giving the encryption procedure of each user. The user keeps secret the details of his corresponding decryption procedure D. These procedures have the following four properties:

(a) Deciphering the enciphered form of a message M yields M. Formally,

$$D(E(M)) = M. \quad (1)$$

(b) Both E and D are easy to compute.

(c) By publicly revealing E the user does not reveal an easy way to compute D. This means that in practice only he can decrypt messages encrypted with E, or compute D efficiently.

(d) If a message M is first deciphered and then enciphered, M is the result. Formally,

$$E(D(M)) = M. \quad (2)$$

An encryption (or decryption) procedure typically consists of a *general method* and an *encryption key*. The general method, under control of the key, enciphers a message M to obtain the enciphered form of the message, called the *ciphertext* C. Everyone can use the same general method; the security of a given procedure will rest on the security of the key. Revealing an encryption algorithm then means revealing the key.

When the user reveals E he reveals a very *inefficient* method of computing D(C): testing all possible messages M until one such that E(M) = C is found. If property (c) is satisfied the number of such messages to test will be so large that this approach is impractical.

A function E satisfying (a)–(c) is a "trap-door one-way function;" if it also satisfies (d) it is a "trap-door one-way permutation." Diffie and Hellman [1] introduced the concept of trap-door one-way functions but

120

Communications of the ACM — February 1978 Volume 21 Number 2

LCS-82 Technical Memo (April 1977)
CACM article (Feb 1978)

Alice and Bob (1977, in RSA paper)

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$$\xrightarrow{PK_A}$$

$$\xleftarrow{PK_A(M)}$$

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Alice and Bob now have a life of their own—they appear in hundreds of crypto papers, in `xkcd`, and even have their own Wikipedia page:

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia

Article Discussion

Alice and Bob

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The names **Alice and Bob** are commonly used placeho
names are used for convenience; for example, "Alice se
sends a message to Party B encrypted by Party B's publ
within these fields—helping technical topics to be explai

In cryptography and computer security, there are a numb
various protocols. The names are conventional, somewh

Independent Invention of Public-Key Revealed



In 1999 GCHQ announced that James Ellis, Clifford Cocks, and Malcolm Williamson had invented public-key cryptography, the “RSA” algorithm, and “Diffie-Hellman key exchange” in the 1970’s, before their invention outside.

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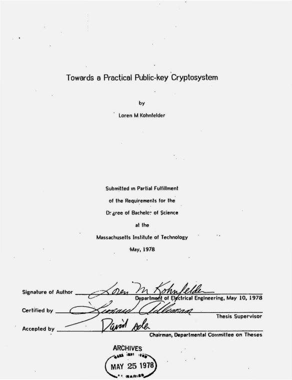
Loren Kohnfelder – Invention of Digital Certificates



Towards a Practical Public-key Cryptosystem

by

Loren M Kohnfelder

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the
Degree of Bachelor of Science
at the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
May, 1978

Signature of Author Loren M Kohnfelder
Department of Electrical Engineering, May 10, 1978

Certified by
Thesis Supervisor

Accepted by
Chairman, Departmental Committee on Theses

ARCHIVES
MAY 25 1978

- Loren Kohnfelder's B.S. thesis (MIT 1978, supervised by Len Adleman), proposed notion of *digital certificate*—a digitally signed message attesting to another party's public key.

IACR—International Assn. for Cryptologic Research

- Established 1982 by David Chaum, myself, and others, to promote academic research in cryptology.
- Sponsors three major conferences/year (Crypto, Eurocrypt, Asiacrypt) and four workshops; about 200 papers/year, plus another 600/year posted on web. Publishes J. Cryptography
- Around 1600 members, (25% students), from 74 countries, 27 Fellows.

Theoretical Foundations of Security

- "Probabilistic Encryption" Shafi Goldwasser, Silvio Micali (1982) (Encryption should be *randomized*!)

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- "A Digital Signature Scheme Secure Against Adaptive Chosen Message Attacks" Goldwasser, Micali, Rivest (1988) (Uses well-defined *game* to define security objective.)

RC4 stream cipher (Rivest, 1987)

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- Not public-key; exclusive-ors stream of pseudo-random bytes with plaintext to derive ciphertext.
- Extremely simple and fast: uses array *S*[0..255] to keep a permutation of 0..255, initialized using secret key, and uses two pointers *i*,*j* into *S*.

  To output a pseudo-random byte:

```
i = (i + 1) mod 256
j = (j + S[i]) mod 256
swap S[i] and S[j]
Output S[(S[i] + S[j]) mod 256]
```

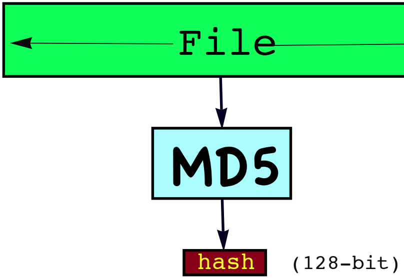
RC4 stream cipher (Rivest, 1987)

- RC4 is the most widely used software stream cipher
- Not public-key; exclusive-ors stream of pseudo-random bytes with plaintext to derive ciphertext.
- Extremely simple and fast: uses array $S[0..255]$ to keep a permutation of 0..255, initialized using secret key, and uses two pointers i,j into S.

  To output a pseudo-random byte:

  ```
  i = (i + 1) mod 256
  j = (j + S[i]) mod 256
  swap S[i] and S[j]
  Output S[(S[i] + S[j]) mod 256]
  ```
- Used in: WEP, BitTorrent, SSL, Kerberos, PDF, Skype, ...

MD5 Cryptographic Hash Function (Rivest, 1991)



- MD5 proposed as pseudo-random function mapping files to 128-bit fingerprints. (variant of earlier MD4)
- Collision-resistance was a design goal – it should be infeasible to find two files with the same fingerprint.
- Many, many uses (e.g. in digital signatures) – very widely used, and a model for many other later hash function designs.

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U.S. Patent 4,405,829

United States Patent [19] | [11] **4,405,829**
Rivest et al. | [45] **Sep. 20, 1983**

[54] **CRYPTOGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND METHOD**

[75] Inventors: **Ronald L. Rivest**, Belmont; **Adi Shamir**, Cambridge; **Leonard M. Adleman**, Arlington, all of Mass.

[73] Assignee: **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, Mass.

[21] Appl. No.: **860,586**

[22] Filed: **Dec. 14, 1977**

[51] **Int. Cl.**^{3} **H04K 1/00**; H04I 9/04
[52] **U.S. Cl.** **178/22.1**; 178/22.11
[58] **Field of Search** 178/22, 22.1, 22.11, 178/22.14, 22.15

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,657,476 4/1972 Aiken 178/22

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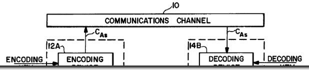
"New Directions in Cryptography", Diffie et al., *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory*, vol. IT–22, No. 6, Nov. 1976, pp. 644–654.
"Theory of Numbers" Stewart, MacMillan Co., 1952, pp. 133–135.
"Diffie et al., Multi–User Cryptographic Techniques", AFIPS. Conference Proceedings, vol. 45, pp. 109–112, Jun. 8, 1976.

Primary Examiner—Sal Cangialosi
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Arthur A. Smith, Jr.; Robert J. Horn, Jr.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A cryptographic communications system and method. The system includes a communications channel coupled to at least one terminal having an encoding device and to at least one terminal having a decoding device. A message-to-be-transferred is enciphered to ciphertext at the encoding terminal by first encoding the message as a number M in a predetermined set, and then raising that number to a first predetermined power (associated with the intended receiver) and finally computing the remainder, or residue, C, when the exponentiated number is divided by the product of two predetermined prime numbers (associated with the intended receiver). The residue C is the ciphertext. The ciphertext is deciphered to the original message at the decoding terminal in a similar manner by raising the ciphertext to a second predetermined power (associated with the intended receiver), and then computing the residue, M′, when the exponentiated ciphertext is divided by the product of the two predetermined prime numbers associated with the intended receiver. The residue M′ corresponds to the original encoded message M.

40 Claims, 7 Drawing Figures



Filed December 1977 (MIT TLO)
Issued September 1983

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  1.3 billion certificate status checks/day

  65 billion DNS requests/day (DNSSEC coming)

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  1.3 billion certificate status checks/day
  65 billion DNS requests/day (DNSSEC coming)
- RSA acquired by Security Dyamics in 1996, now part of EMC.

World Wide Web (Sir Tim Berners-Lee, 1990)

- Just as radio did, this new communication medium, the World-Wide Web, drove demand for cryptography to new heights.
- Cemented transition of cryptography from primarily military to primarily commercial.

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U.S. cryptography policy evolves

- U.S. government initially tried to control and limit public-sector research and use of cryptography
- Attempt to chill research via ITAR (1977)
- MIT "Changing Nature of Information" Committee (1981; Dertouzos, Low, Rosenblith, Deutch,Rivest,...)

MIT Committee Seeks Cryptography Policy

Questions of who should do research on cryptography and how results should be disseminated are the first order of business

Within the next 10 years, networks consisting of tens of thousands of computers will connect businesses, corpora-

quences for individuals and for society if computers continue to be connected, as they are now, according to local deci-

easy to send computer programs between connected machines and to instruct a program to search for, select,

Science, 13 Mar 1981

U.S. cryptography policy evolves

- U.S. government tried to mandate availability of all encryption keys via “key escrow” and/or “Clipper Chip” (1993)

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- Today, US policy leans toward strong cybersecurity, including strong cryptography, for all information systems as a matter of national security.

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Factorization of RSA-129 (April 1994)

- RSA-129 =

  114381625757888867669235779976146612010218296
  7212423625625618429357069352457338978305971
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  ```

- Derek Atkins, Michael Graff, Arjen Lenstra, Paul Leyland: RSA-129 =

  ```
  34905295108476509491478496199038981334177646
  38493387843990820577 x
  32769132993266709549961988190834461413177642
  96799294253979828 8533
  ```

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- 8 months work by about 600 volunteers from more than 20 countries; 5000 MIPS-years.

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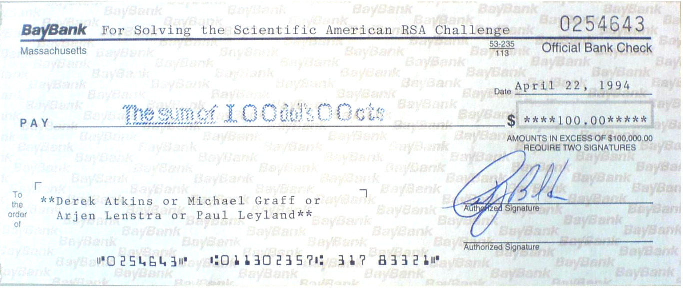
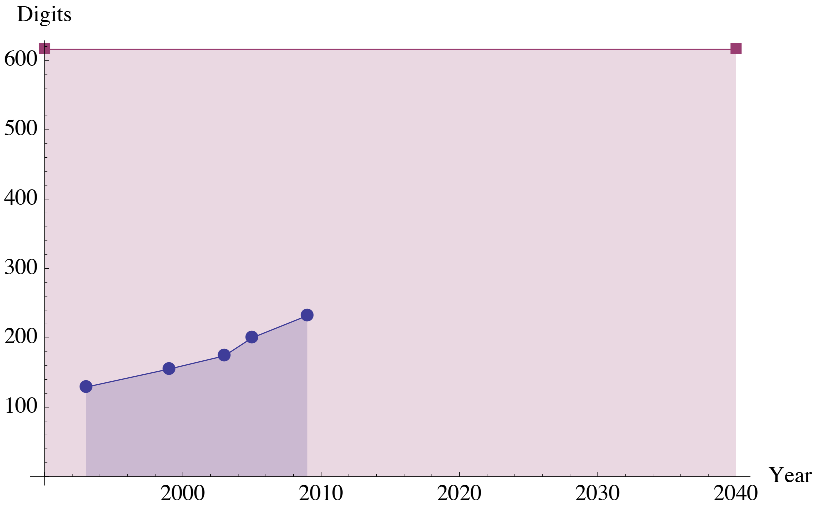
- 8 months work by about 600 volunteers from more than 20 countries; 5000 MIPS-years.
- secret message:
  `The Magic Words Are Squeamish Ossifrage`

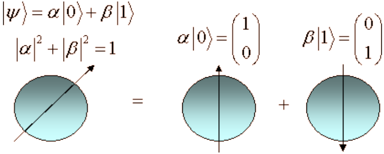

THE MAGIC WORDS ARE SQUEAMISH OSSIFRAGE
010, 218, 296, 72


BayBank
Massachusetts
For Solving the Scientific American RSA Challenge
0254643
53-235
113
Official Bank Check
Date April 22, 1994
PAY The sum of 100 dols 00 cts
$ ****100.00*****
AMOUNTS IN EXCESS OF $100,000.00 REQUIRE TWO SIGNATURES
To the order of **Derek Atkins or Michael Graff or Arjen Lenstra or Paul Leyland**
Authorized Signature
Authorized Signature
⑈0254643⑈ ⑆011302357⑆ 317 83321⑈

Factoring Records



Factoring on a Quantum Computer?



In 1994, Peter Shor invented a fast factorization algorithm that runs on a (hypothetical) *quantum computer* and works by determining multiplicative period of elements mod *n*.

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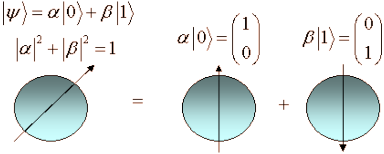

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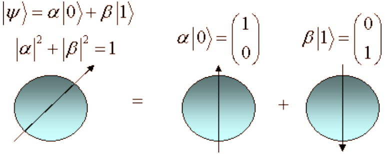

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- Dark clouds on horizon for RSA?

Hash Function Attacks

- In 2004 Xiaoyun Wang and colleagues found a way to produce *collisions* for MD5:

$$\texttt{MD5}(\mathit{file}1) = \texttt{MD5}(\mathit{file}2) \quad !!!$$

Also for SHA-1 and many other hash functions.
Major break!!

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  Also for SHA-1 and many other hash functions.
  Major break!!
- NIST now running competition for new hash function standard (SHA-3).

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Many new research problems and directions

- secret-sharing
- anonymity
- commitments
- multi-party protocols
- elliptic curves
- crypto hardware
- key leakage
- proxy encryption
- crypto for smart cards
- password-based keys
- random oracles
- oblivious transfer
- ...

- zero-knowledge proofs
- payment systems
- voting systems
- homomorphic encryption
- lattice-based crypto
- private information retrieval
- public-key infrastructure
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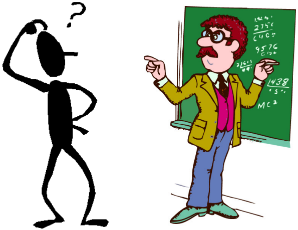
Zero-Knowledge Proofs



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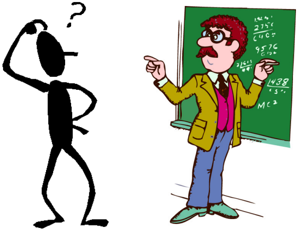
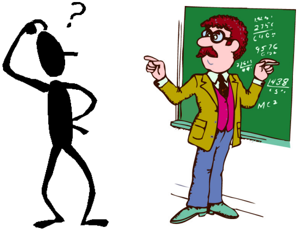


I can convince you

Zero-Knowledge Proofs



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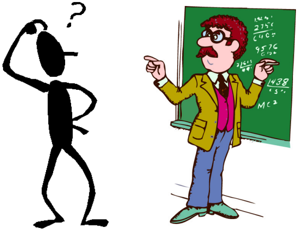

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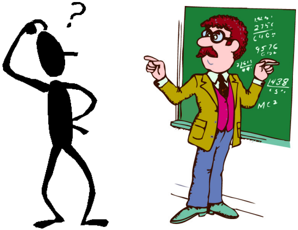

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Goldwasser, Micali, Rackoff (1985)
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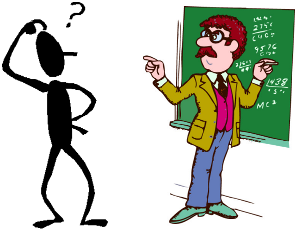

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An enormously useful capability!

Probabilistic MicroPayment System

- Micali and Rivest (2001)

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  Uses pseudorandom digital signatures for "verifiable fair dice."

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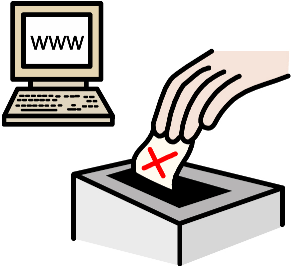
- Peppercoin Company founded 2001, sold in 2007.

Voting Systems

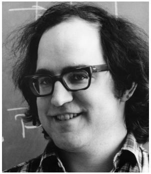
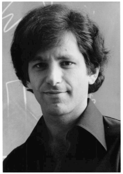


New “end-to-end” cryptographic voting systems (Chaum, Neff, Benaloh, Ryan, Rivest, Adida, ...):

- all ballots posted on web (encrypted)
- voters verify their votes are correct (while preventing vote-selling and coercion)
- anyone can verify final tally
- may be done with paper ballots

Cryptography *increases* transparency and verifiability!

Fully Homomorphic Encryption

   ?

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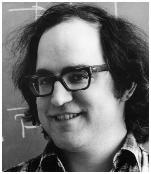
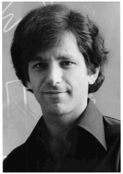

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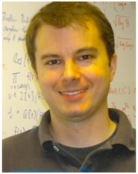
!

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- In 2009, Craig Gentry (Stanford,IBM) gave solution based on use of lattices. If efficiency can be greatly improved, could be huge implications (e.g. for cloud computing).

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Challenges

- Make more crypto theory results practical
- Is factoring really hard?
- Minimize assumptions
- Show $P \neq NP$!
- Is quantum computing practical?
- Give Alice and Bob smartphones!
- Ground crypto practice better in vulnerable computer systems

Stata Center Time Capsule Crypto Puzzle

“Time Capsule”
(really, a large lead bag)
sealed at LCS/AI 35th Celebration
April 1999

- Contains many historic LCS/AI artifacts
- There is an associated cryptographic puzzle I designed to be solvable around 2034, given predicted advances in computational power.
- When puzzle is solved, Time Capsule will be opened.

Conclusions

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- While we have accomplished a lot in a few decades, much remains to be done.
- Like Alice and Bob, cryptography is here to stay.
- Cryptography is fun!

Acknowledgments

L. Adleman, R. Anderson, D. Bailey, M. Bellare, J. Benaloh, J. Bidzos, M. Bond, K. Bowers, M. Burmeister, J. Brainard, R. Canetti, D. Chaum, J. Clulow, M. Dertouzos, S. Devadas, Y. Dodis, W. Diffie, C. Ellison, M. Gardner, O. Goldreich, S. Goldwasser, M. Hellman, P. Hernson, M. Jakobsson, A. Juels, L. Knudsen, B. Lampson, R. Lee, R. Merkle, S. Micali, A. Oprea, M. Rabin, T. Rabin, L. Reyzin, V. Rijmen, M. Robshaw, P. Ryan, A. Shamir, A. Sherman, R. Silverman, M. Sudan, D. Sutherland, M. Szydlo, Y. Tauman, L. Trevisan, E. Tromer, S. Vadhan, M. Van Dijk, D. Wagner, P. Vora, H. Wee, T. Ylonen, M. Yung

Students: B. Adida, S. Boyack, V. Boyko, M. Burnside, R. Carback, B. Chor, D. Chau, J. Clark, D. Clarke, C. Crutchfield, J. Elien, A. Essex, K. Fleming, M. Fredette, K. Fu, B. Gassend, J. Herzog, S. Hohenberger, A. Khan, B. Kaliski, T. Kotwal, J. Krishnamurthy, A. Lin, A. Lysyanskaya, M. Liskov, A. Maywah, S. Popoveniuc, Z. Ramzan, E. Shen, R. Sidney, J. Sukha, S. Weis, Y. Yin

Be Blackburn

Mom and Dad, Gail, Alex, Chris.

Thank You!