

Practical Cryptography

with Tink

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Found “Psychic Signatures” vulnerability in Java ECDSA

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Tink

Developed by Google

Java, Go, C++, Obj-C,
Python

Designed by
cryptographers

Easy to use securely



AEAD

Authenticated Encryption (with Associated Data)

Confidentiality + Integrity

Data Origin Authentication

Encrypting a file

```
var cipher =  
    Cipher.getInstance("AES/GCM/NoPadding");  
cipher.init(Cipher.ENCRYPT_MODE, key);  
var iv = cipher.getIV();  
cipher.updateAAD(filename.getBytes());  
var ciphertext = cipher.doFinal(data);  
  
try (var out =  
    new FileOutputStream(filename)) {  
    out.write(iv);  
    out.write(ciphertext);  
}
```

Decrypting a file

```
var cipher =  
    Cipher.getInstance("AES/GCM/NoPadding");  
  
try (var in = new FileInputStream(filename)) {  
    var iv = in.readNBytes(12);  
    var ciphertext = in.readAllBytes();  
  
    cipher.init(Cipher.DECRYPT_MODE, key,  
        new GCMParameterSpec(128, iv));  
    cipher.updateAAD(filename.getBytes());  
    return cipher.doFinal(ciphertext);  
}
```


Old-style crypto libraries

- Very general abstractions
- Lots of algorithm choices
- Expert user assumption
- Easy to misuse



rawpixel.com / US Department of Defense (Public Domain)



Modern cryptography libraries

- Tink
- NaCl (“salt”) / libsodium
- Sandwich
- Themis

Tink: encrypting a (small) file

```
Aead aead = keyset.getPrimitive(Aead.class);  
try (var out = new FileOutputStream(filename)) {  
    out.write(aead.encrypt(data, filename.getBytes()));  
}
```

Decrypting

```
Aead aead = keyset.getPrimitive(Aead.class);  
try (var in = new FileInputStream(filename)) {  
    return aead.decrypt(in.readAllBytes(),  
        filename.getBytes());  
}
```

Tink design principles

- Each “primitive” has its own interface like `Aead`
- All implementations of that interface achieve the same *security goal*
- Different choices may have different performance profiles, but all are secure
- Easy to misuse options are hidden from users



Supported AEAD algorithms

Algorithm	Pros	Cons
AES-GCM	Fast on most CPUs	Max 2^{32} messages, fragile
AES-CTR+HMAC	Simple, robust	Slower
AES-EAX	Simple, robust	Rarely used
AES-GCM-SIV	Fast, robust	Rarely used, max 2^{32} messages
ChaCha20-Poly1305	Fast in software	Max 2^{32} messages
XChaCha20-Poly1305	Fast, 2^{80} messages(!)	Rarely used

Principle:

Tink supports many algorithms, but they all implement the same security goal.



“Cryptography is a tool for turning lots of different problems into key management problems.”

— Lea Kissner

Key sets and cryptographic agility

Dangerous cryptographic agility?

**It has been 245 days since the
last alg:none JWT
vulnerability.**

An unauthenticated attacker could impersonate any user in SharePoint 2019 by using an alg:none JWT for OAuth authentication.

“If you have to perform any cryptographic operation before [authenticating] a message you’ve received, it will somehow inevitably lead to doom.”

— Moxie Marlinspike

Confused Deputies

`{"alg": "HS256"}`

RSA Public
Key

Key-driven
cryptographic
agility

O'REILLY®

Software
Engineering at
Google

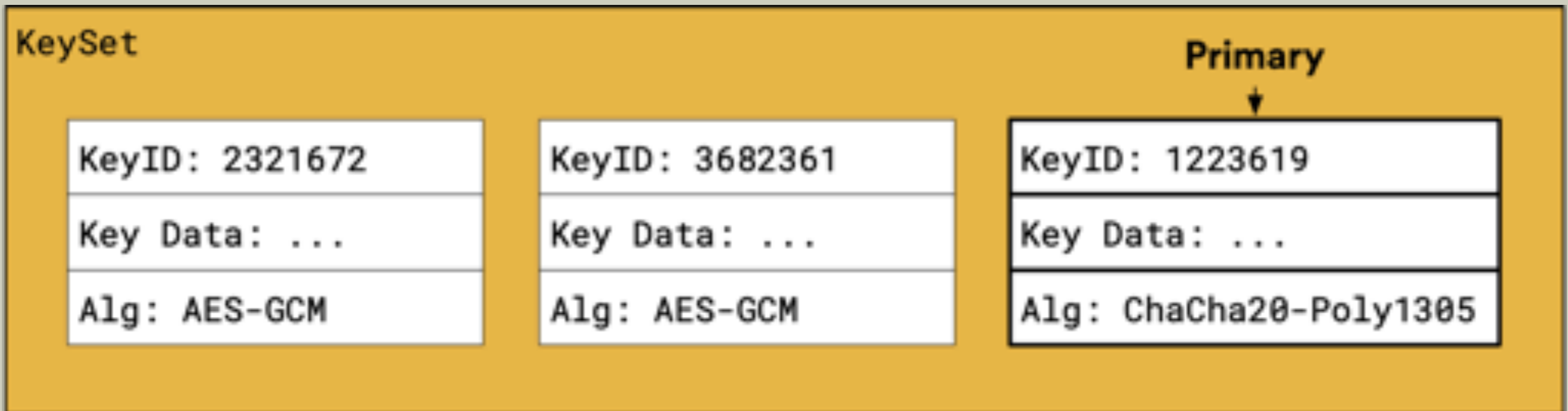
Lessons Learned
from Programming
Over Time



Curated by Titus Winters,
Tom Manshreck & Hyrum Wright

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Keysets



Tink AEAD format



- By default, Tink prepends a Key ID and the IV to the ciphertext.
- Provides `RAW` variants that do not include Key ID

Creating a keyset

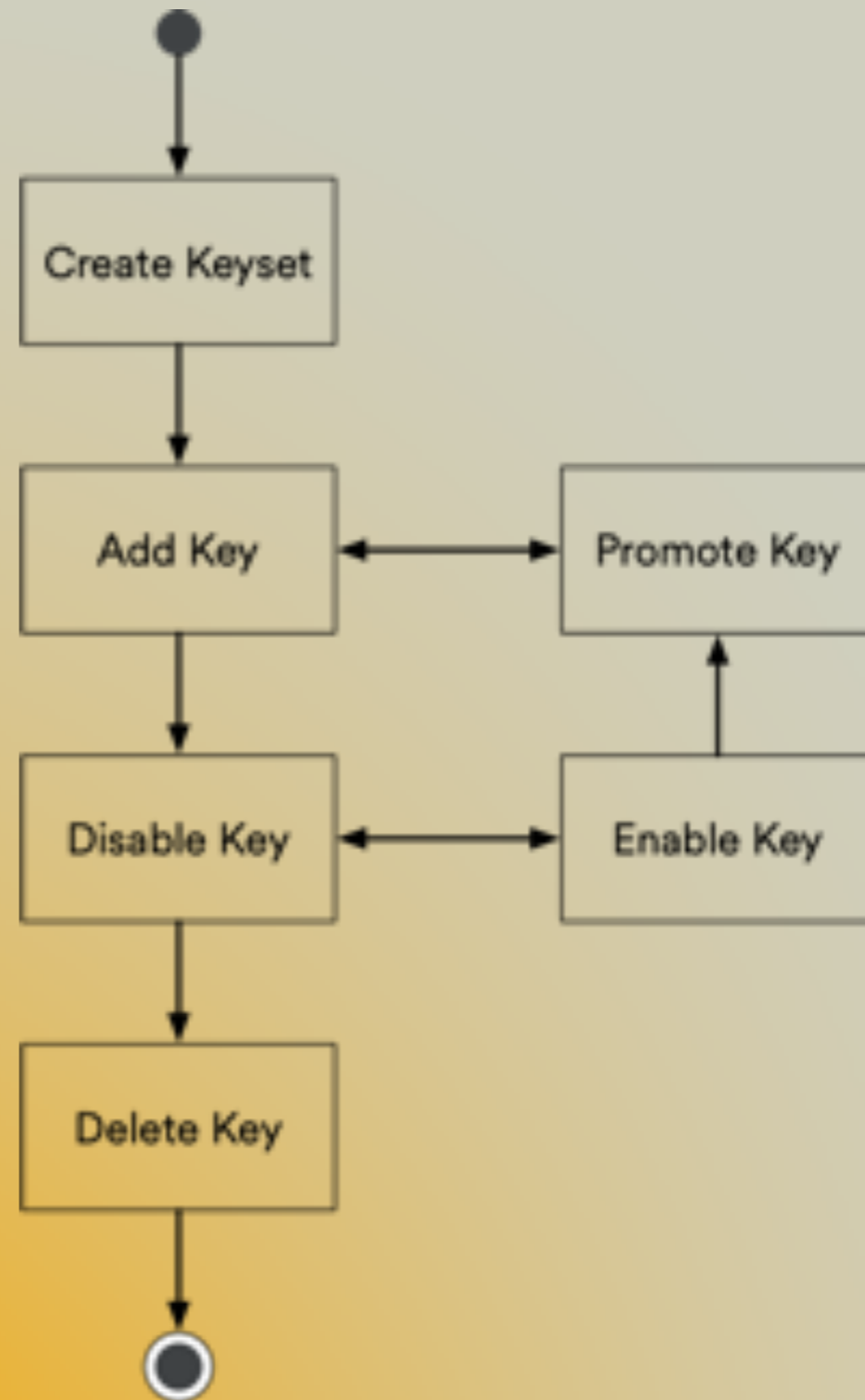
```
tinkey create-keyset \  
  --key-template AES256_GCM \  
  --out-format json \  
  --out keys.json
```

Warning: insecure unencrypted format

Using a keyset

```
var keysetData =  
    Files.readString(  
        Paths.get("keys.json"));  
  
return  
    TinkJsonProtoKeysetFormat.parseKeyset(  
        keysetData,  
        InsecureSecretKeyAccess.get());
```

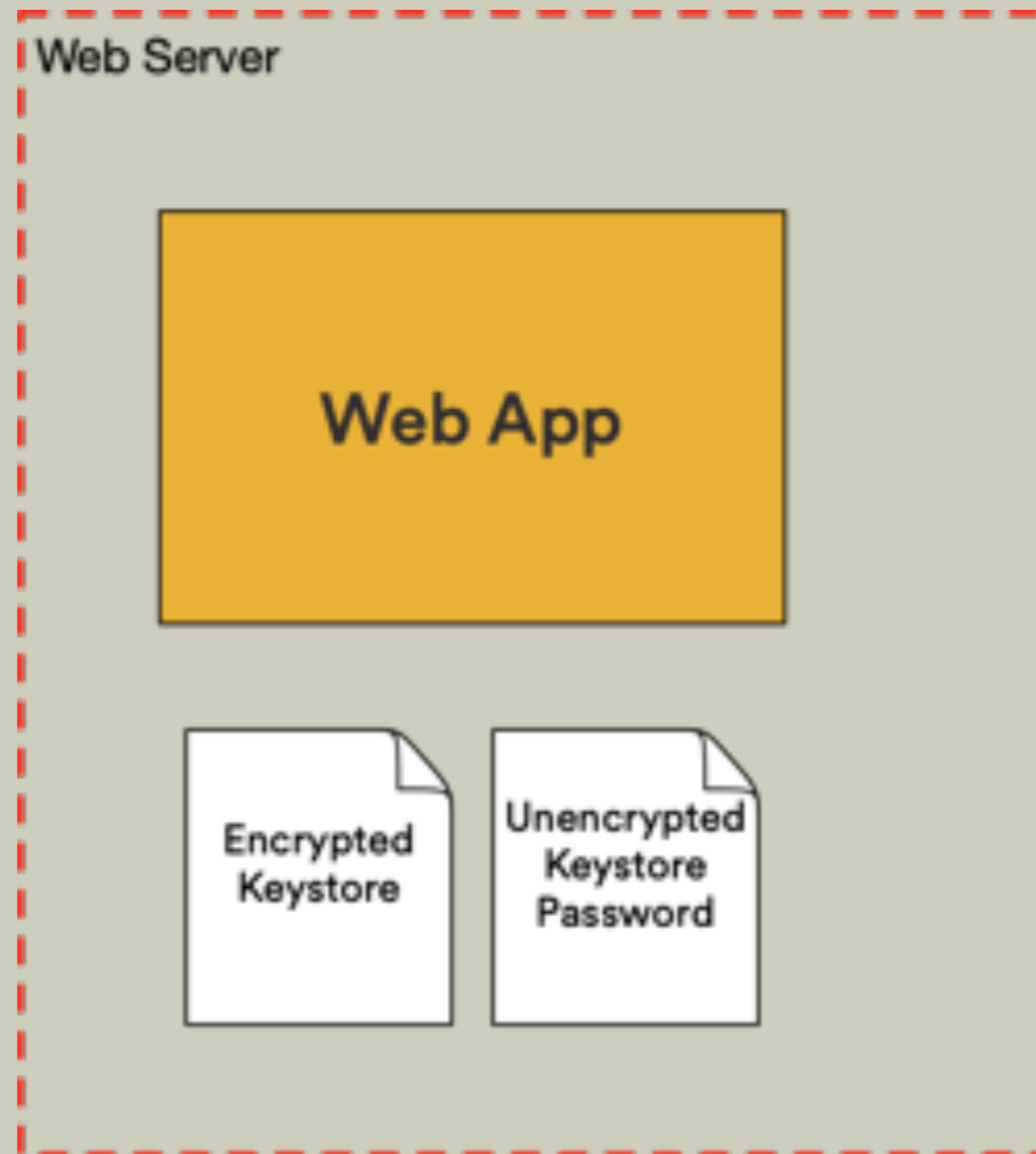
Key lifecycle



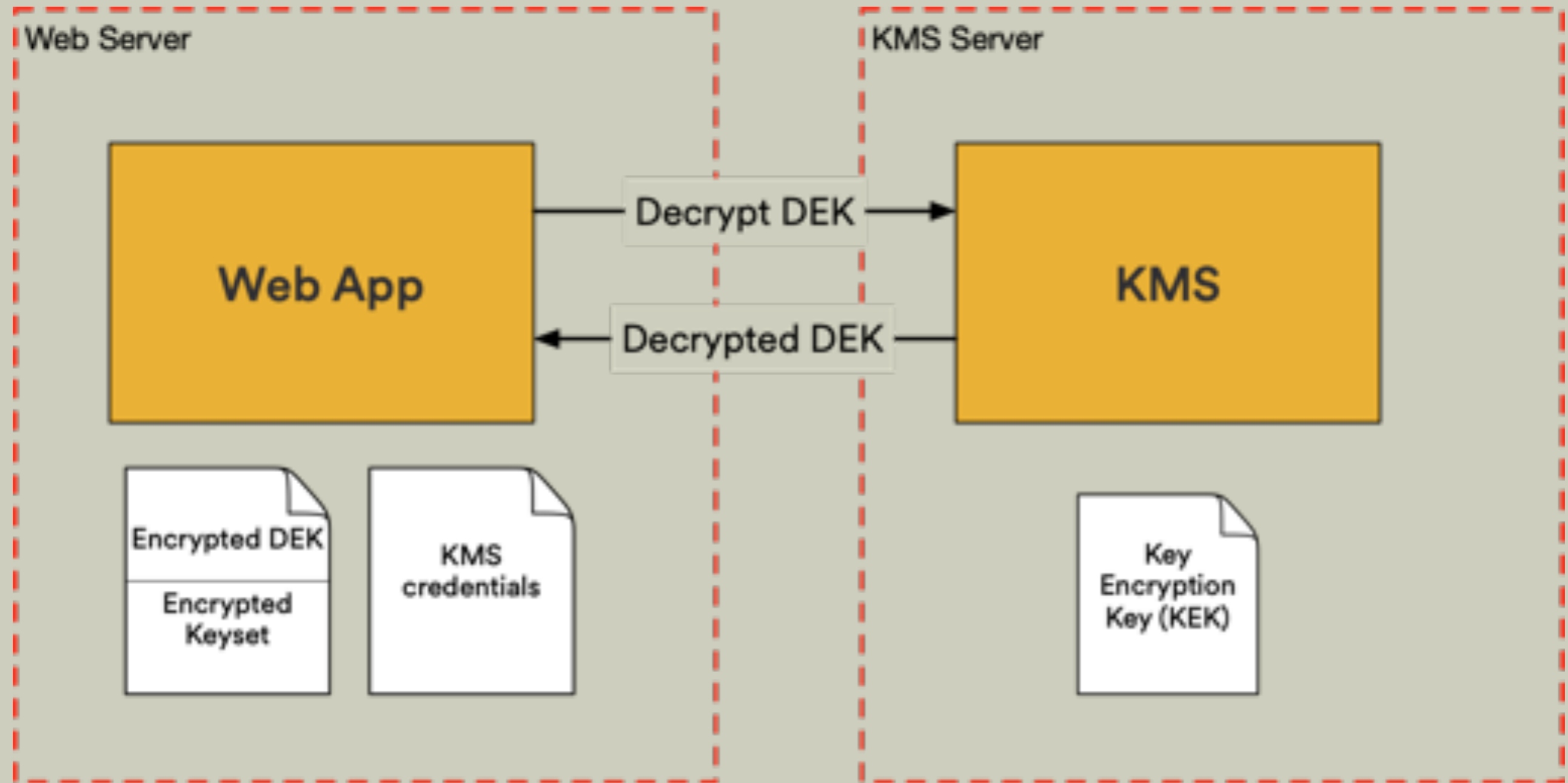
Encrypted Keysets

and Key Management Systems

Password next to keystore



Key Management Systems



Supported KMSEs

- Google Cloud KMS
- AWS KMS
- Hashicorp Vault (Go only)
- Android Keystore (Java)
- iOS Keychain (Obj-C)



Generating an encrypted keyset

```
tinkey create-keyset \  
  --key-template AES256_GCM \  
  --out-format json \  
  --out encrypted-keys.json \  
  --master-key-uri gcp-kms://... \  
  [--credential kms-credentials.json]
```

Why not use the KMS directly?



© Toni Verdú Carbó



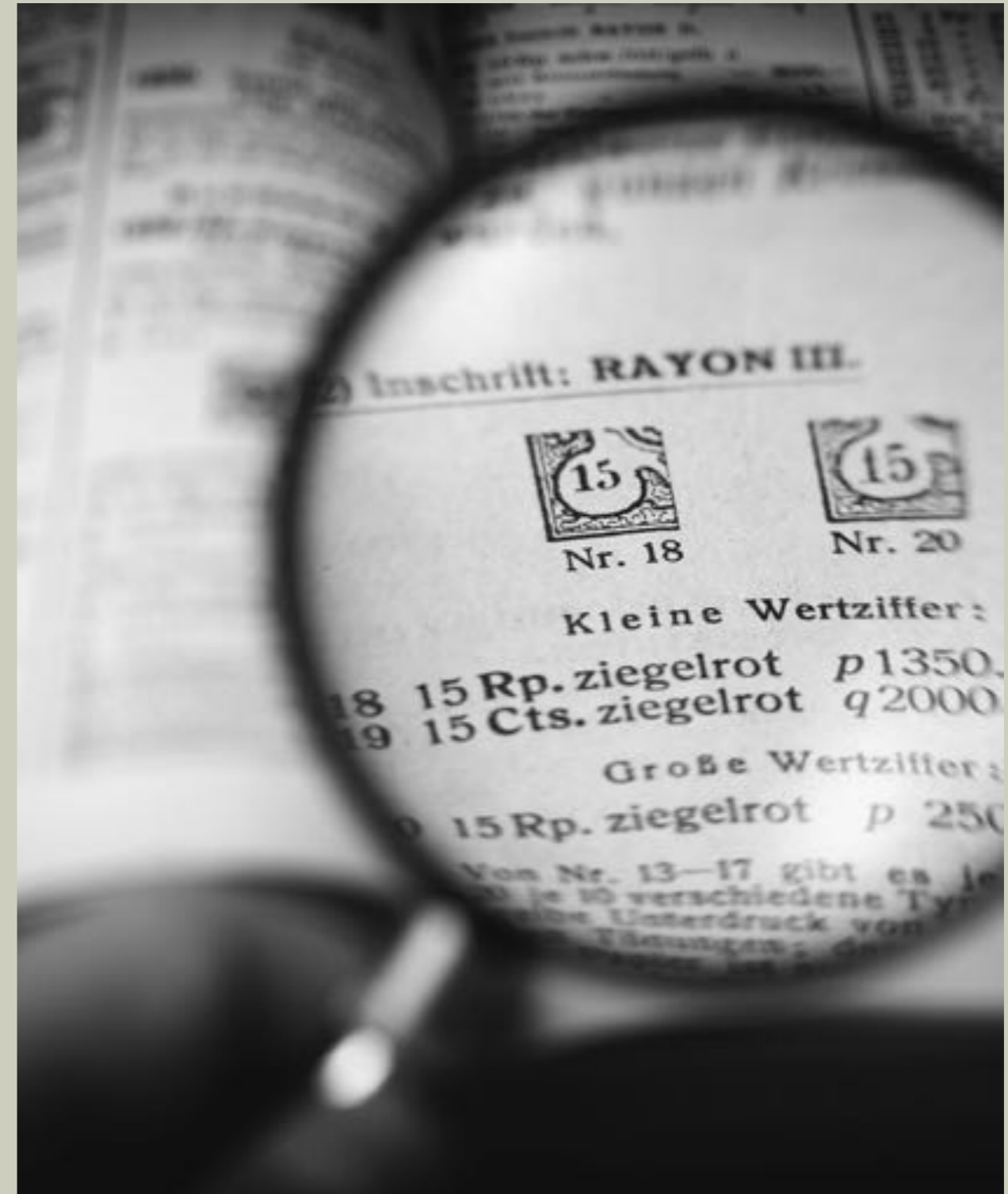
© a4gpa

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Auditability

`InsecureSecretKeyAccess`

- Required anywhere raw key material is manipulated
- These are key areas for security review
- IDE: Find All Usages





Streaming encryption for larger data

Java's CipherInputStream

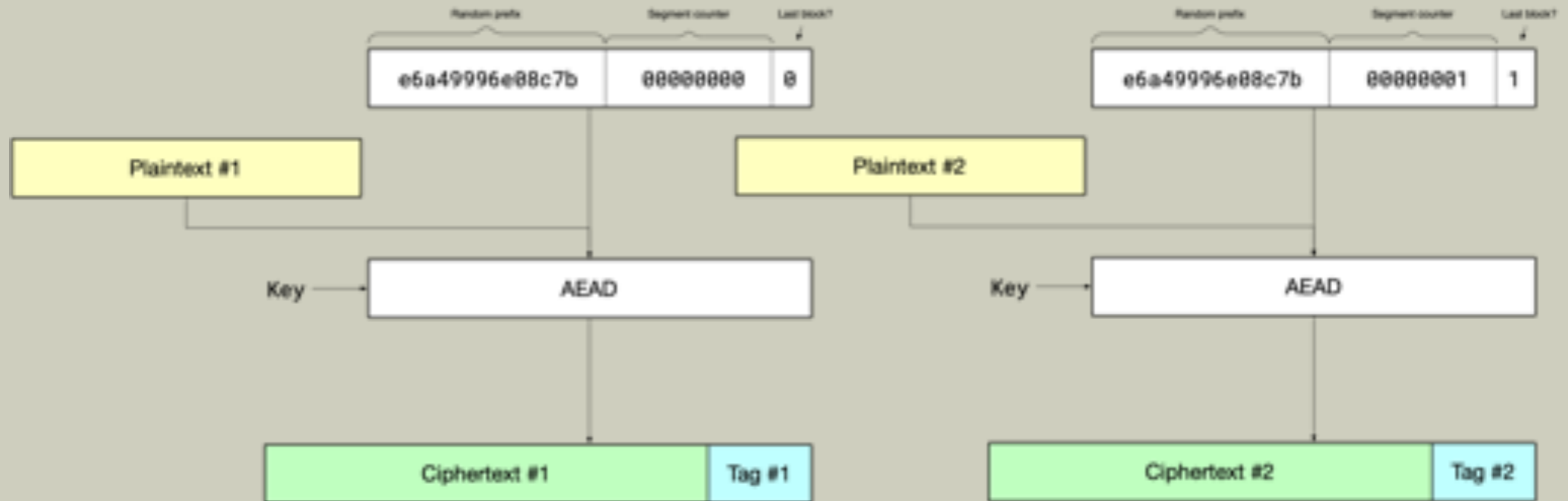
```
try (var in = new CipherInputStream(  
    new FileInputStream(path), cipher))  
{  
    while (in.read(buffer) > -1) {  
        process(buffer);  
    }  
} catch (IOException e) {  
    logger.warning(e);  
}
```


Releasing unverified plaintext

```
try (var in = new CipherInputStream(...)) {  
    while (in.read(buffer) > -1) {  
        process(buffer);  
    }  
}
```

When does this data get authenticated?

Streaming AEAD



Streaming AEAD

```
var aead = keyset.getPrimitive(  
    StreamingAead.class);  
try (var in =  
    aead.newDecryptingStream(...)) {  
  
    while (in.read(buffer) > -1) {  
        process(buffer);  
    }  
  
} catch (IOException e) { ... }
```

Streaming AEAD algorithms

Algorithm¹	Pros	Cons
AES-CTR+HMAC	Simple, robust	Slower
AES-GCM+HKDF	Fast	Fragile-ish

1. Both available in 4KiB and 1MiB variants and 128- or 256-bit keys

A warm, golden-toned photograph of a desk. In the foreground, a pen with a textured, light-colored barrel and a dark tip lies diagonally across a document. The document has some faint, illegible text. In the background, a string of pearls is draped over the desk. The lighting is soft and focused, creating a sense of intimacy and focus on the objects.

Message Authentication and Signatures

Compute a MAC

```
var mac = keyset.getPrimitive(Mac.class);  
var tag = mac.computeMac(data);
```

Verifying

```
var mac = keyset.getPrimitive(Mac.class);  
mac.verifyMac(tag, data);
```


MAC algorithms

Algorithm	Pros	Cons
HMAC-SHA2	Robust, very secure	Relatively slow
AES-CMAC	Relatively fast	Less common

Signing

```
PublicKeySign signer =  
    keyset.getPrimitive(PublicKeySign.class);  
var signature = signer.sign(data);
```

Verification

```
PublicKeyVerify verifier =  
    keyset.getPrimitive(  
        PublicKeyVerify.class);  
verifier.verify(signature, data);
```

Signature Algorithms

Algorithm	Pros	Cons
ECDSA	Small signatures, widely used	Slow(ish), fragile
Ed25519	Small signatures, fast	Less widely implemented
RSA-3072	Fastest verification	Slow signing speed, large sigs



JWTS

Creating a JWT

```
var now = Instant.now();
RawJwt rawJwt = RawJwt.newBuilder()
    .setIssuer("https://issuer.example/")
    .setIssuedAt(now)
    .setExpiration(now.plus(10, MINUTES))
    .setTypeHeader("x-jwt-example")
    .build();

JwtMac jwtSigner =
    keyset.getPrimitive(JwtMac.class);
String jwt =
    jwtSigner.computeMacAndEncode(rawJwt);
```

Verifying a JWT

```
var validator = JwtValidator.newBuilder()
    .expectIssuer(
        "https://issuer.example/")
    .expectTypeHeader("x-jwt-example")
    .setClockSkew(Duration.ofMinutes(2))
    .build();
var jwtVerifier =
    keyset.getPrimitive(JwtMac.class);

VerifiedJwt verified =
    jwtVerifier.verifyMacAndDecode(
        jwt, validator);
```


Public key signed JWTs

Signing

```
var jwtSigner =  
    keyset.getPrimitive (JwtPublicKeySign.class);  
String jwt =  
    jwtSigner.signAndEncode (rawJwt);
```

Verification

```
var jwtVerifier =  
    keyset  
        .getPublicKeysetHandle ()  
        .getPrimitive (JwtPublicKeyVerify.class);  
VerifiedJwt verified =  
    jwtVerifier.verifyAndDecode (jwt, validator);
```

Supported algorithms

- HMAC: HS256, HS384, HS512
- ECDSA: ES256, ES384, ES512
- RSA: RS256, RS384, RS512, PS256, PS384, PS512

Not supported:

- Encrypted JWTs
- EdDSA signatures

Publishing public keys as JSON Web Keys

```
String jwks =  
    JwkSetConverter.fromPublicKeysetHandle(  
        keyset.getPublicKeysetHandle());  
System.out.println(jwks);
```

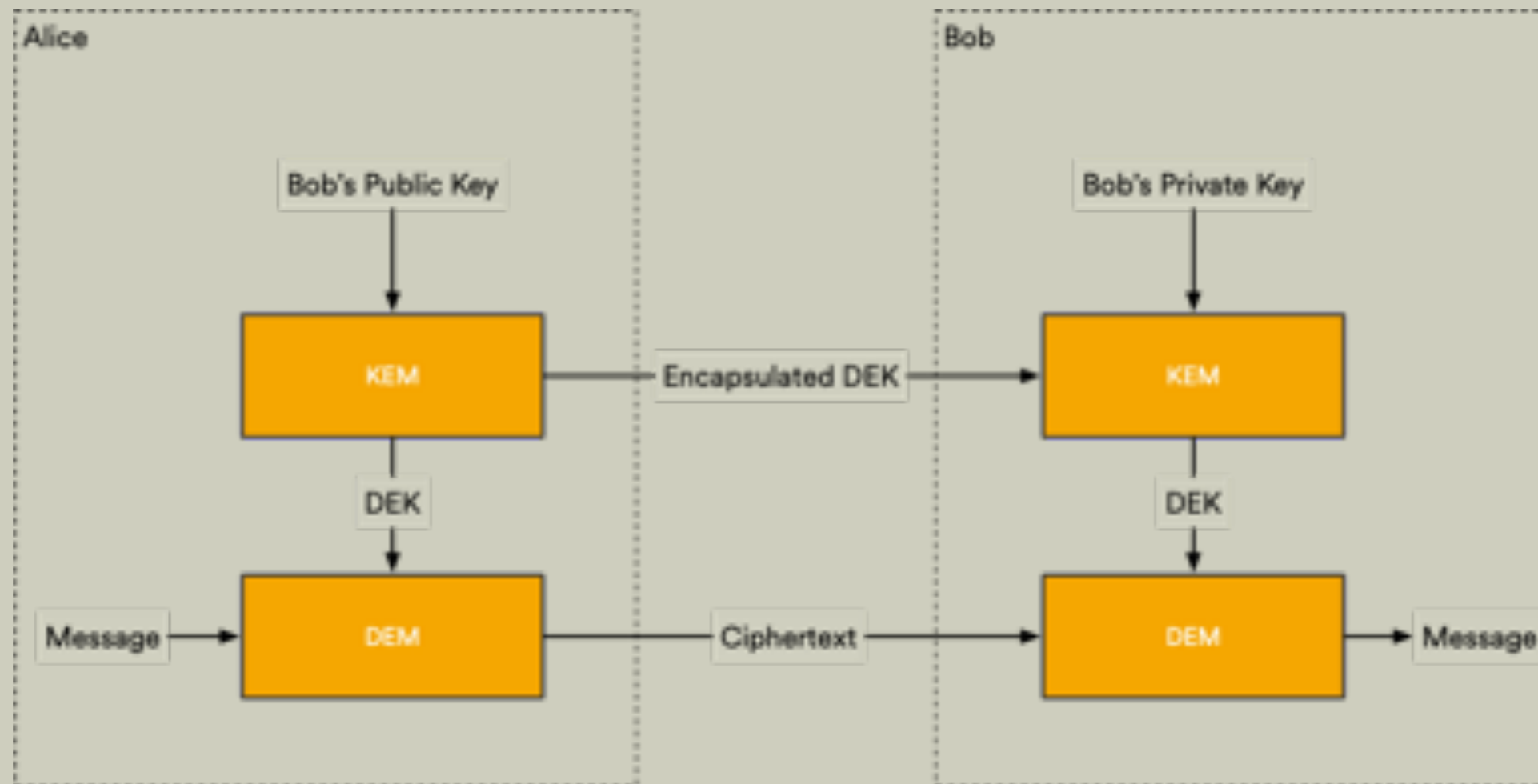
```
{ "keys": [{  
  "kty": "EC",  
  "crv": "P-256",  
  "x": "DYC8gjX5p9BoVak2U8f1ovKOewktzODi4rsgv3-I0vc",  
  "y": "F6tzT7oKH6qXT8qdJhIb9Ou49KhdZEM6_7973vuuY7s",  
  "use": "sig",  
  "alg": "ES256",  
  "key_ops": ["verify"],  
  "kid": "qqhSFg"  
}] }
```



Public key encryption

Hybrid encryption

and the KEM-DEM paradigm



Encrypting a message

```
var encryptor =  
    keyset.getPrimitive (HybridEncrypt.class);  
var ciphertext =  
    encryptor.encrypt (plaintext, ad);
```

Decrypting

```
var decryptor =  
    keyset.getPrimitive (HybridDecrypt.class);  
var plaintext =  
    decryptor.decrypt (ciphertext, ad);
```


Public key encryption algorithms

Algorithm	Pros	Cons
ECIES	Simple	Non-standard
HPKE	More complex	Standard

Limitations: single-recipient, no authenticated KEMs

Summary

Easy to use

Hard to *misuse*

Cryptographic agility

Easy to audit



Odds and ends

Deterministic AEAD

AES256-SIV

```
var daead = keyset.getPrimitive(  
    DeterministicAead.class);  
var ciphertext = daead  
    .encryptDeterministically(data, ad);  
var plaintext = daead  
    .decryptDeterministically(ciphertext,  
ad);
```