

# Resilience against quantum (and other) threats with crypto agility

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Cryptographer, Smals Research

12 June 2025

Management summary & key take aways at the end



Agentic AI

Code security assistants

GraphRAG

Native Graph ML

Knowledge Graphs

Agent-Computer Interaction

Guardrails & Evaluations for RAG

Administrative Digital Twins

Rules and code generation

Semantic Search

Zero-Knowledge proofs

Metadata Management Solutions

Legacy code & AI

Confidential cross-institutional collaboration

Neuro-symbolic AI

Verifiable Credentials & EU Digital Wallet

Dark & Deep Web

- ❖ IoT
- ❖ Smartcard (eld, bank)
- ❖ Smartphone
- ❖ Servers
- ❖ House
- ❖ Car
- ❖ Plane
- ❖ Satellite
- ❖ ...

- ❖ Financial transactions
- ❖ Secure communication
- ❖ Document signing
- ❖ Authentication
- ❖ ...

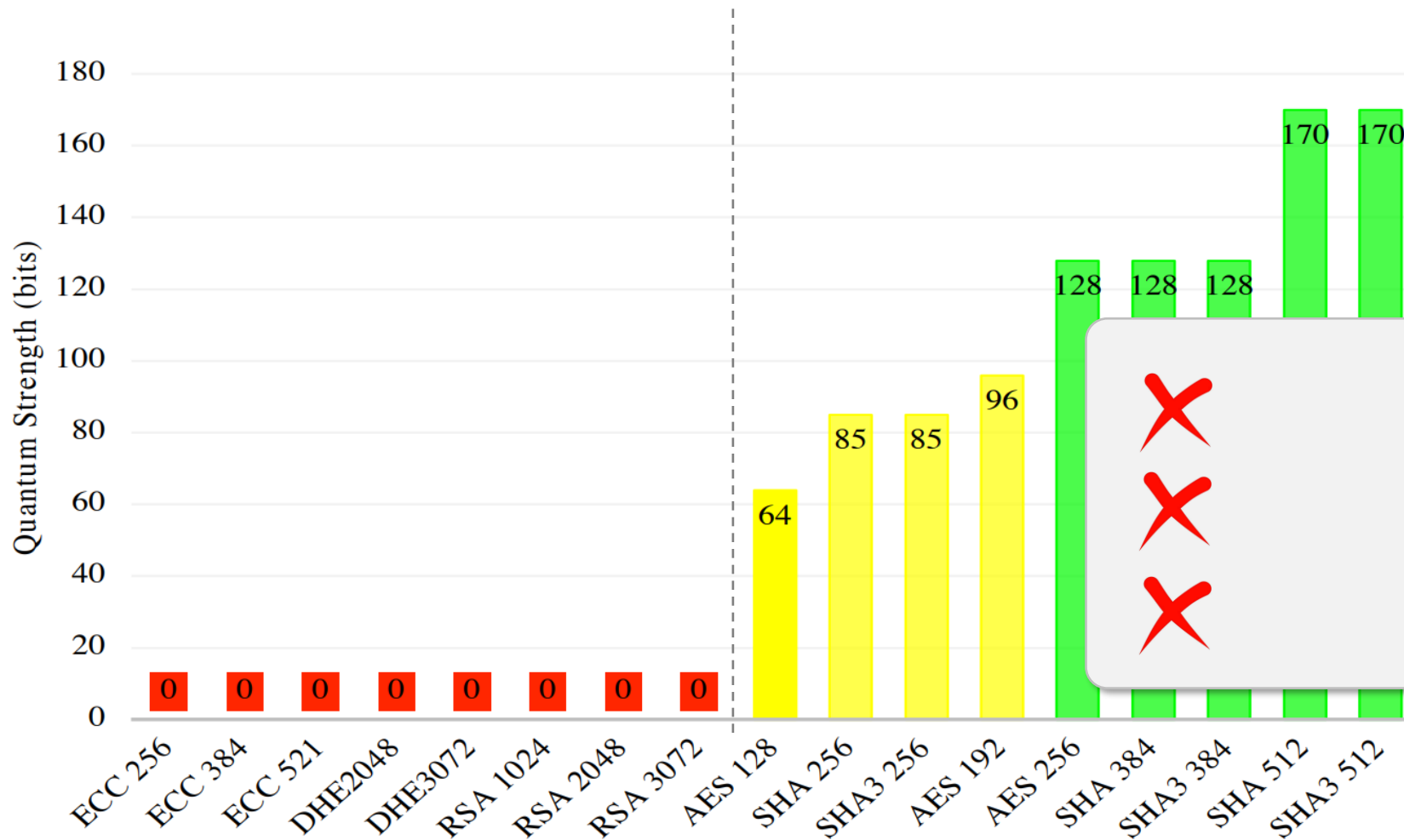
- ❖ Defense / military
- ❖ Public sector
- ❖ Private sector
- ❖ Individuals
- ❖ ...



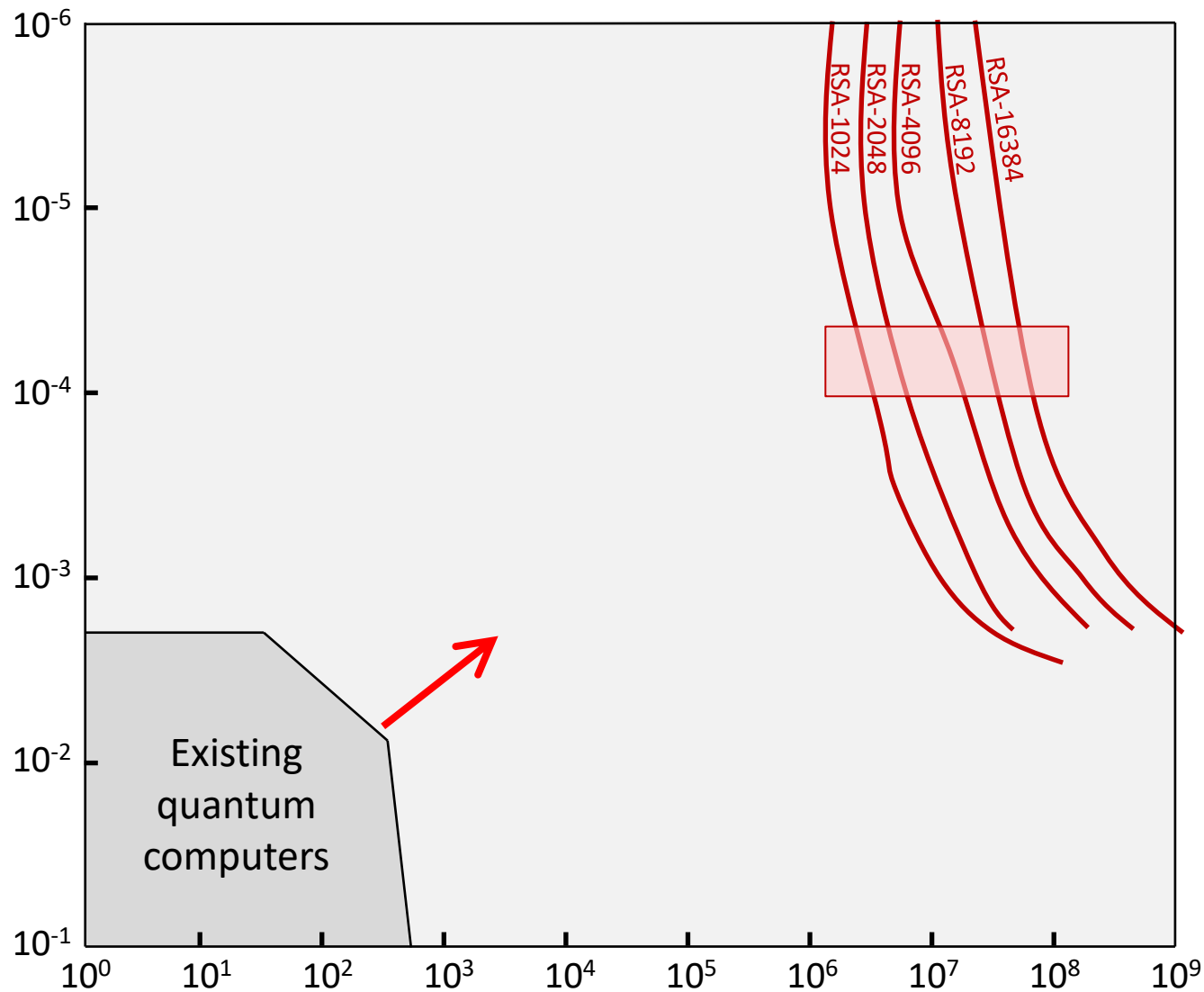
*“To ensure an acceptable level of readiness, we recommend that [the most sensitive use cases] should be protected against ‘store now, decrypt later’ attacks as soon as possible, latest by the end of 2030.”*

Joint statement from partners from 18 EU member states (11/2024)





*Expected Impact of Quantum Threat for Classic Cryptography*



*"We need Moore's-law type scaling for quantum computers to ever be useful"*

Figure inspired by Samuel Jaques  
[https://sam-jaques.appspot.com/quantum\\_landscape](https://sam-jaques.appspot.com/quantum_landscape)

# How to factor 2048 bit RSA integers with less than a million noisy qubits

Craig Gidney

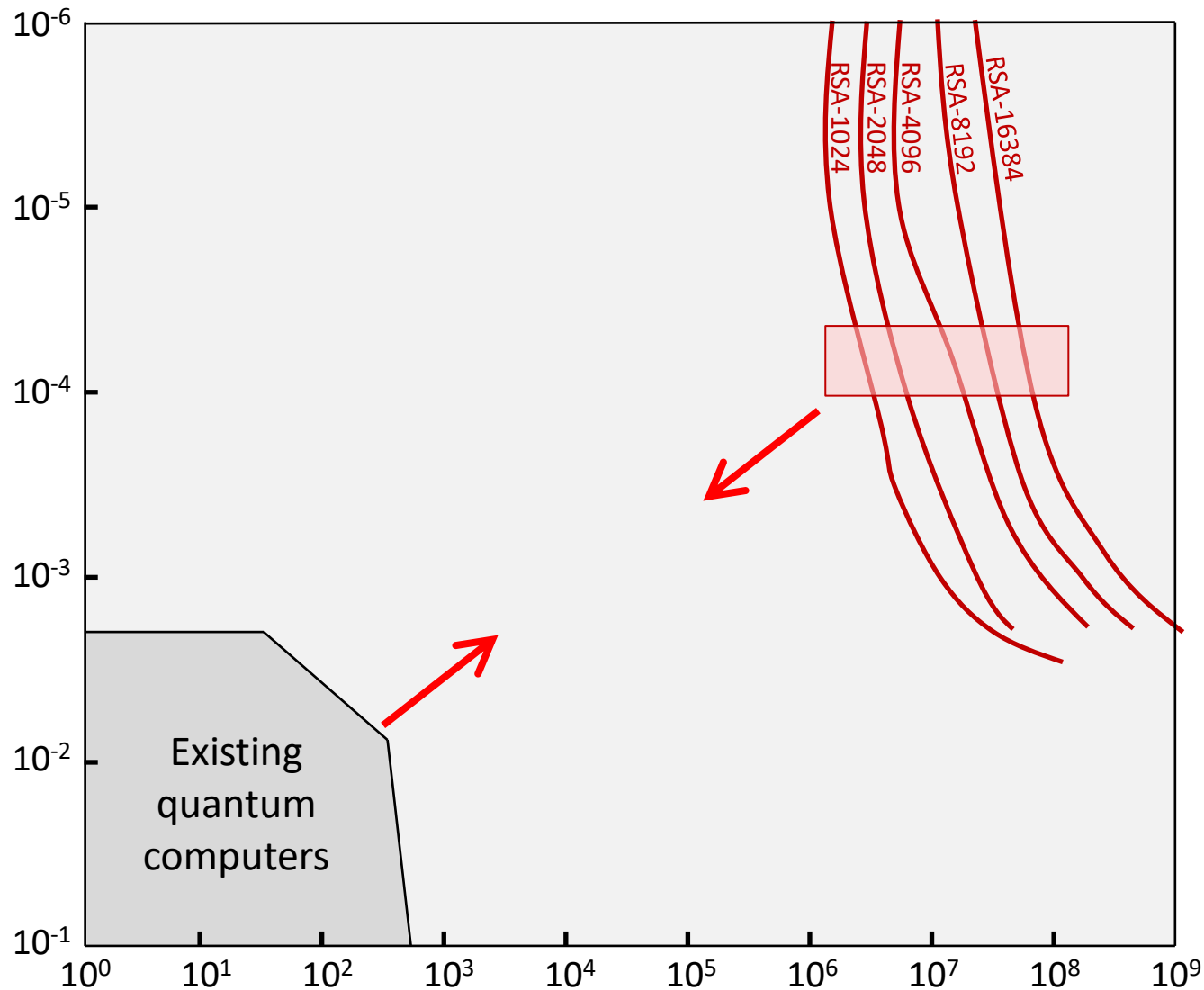
Google Quantum AI, Santa Barbara, California 93117, USA

May 28, 2025

Planning the transition to quantum-safe cryptosystems requires understanding the cost of quantum attacks on vulnerable cryptosystems. In Gidney+Baker 2019, I published an estimate stating that 2048 bit RSA integers could be factored in eight hours by a quantum computer with 20 million noisy qubits. In this paper, I substantially reduce the number of qubits required. I estimate that a 2048 bit RSA integer could be factored in less than a week by a quantum computer with less than a million noisy qubits. I make the same assumptions as in 2019: a square grid of qubits with nearest neighbor connections, a uniform gate error rate of 0.1%, a surface code cycle time of 1 microsecond, and a control system reaction time of 10 microseconds.

The qubit count reduction comes mainly from using approximate residue arithmetic (Chevignard+Rouque+Schrottenloher 2024), from storing idle logical qubits with yoked surface codes (Gidney+Newman+Brooks+Jones 2023), and from allocating less space to magic state distillation by using magic state cultivation (Gidney+Smatty+Jones 2024). The longer runtime is mainly due to performing more Toffoli gates and using

resources compared to Smatty+Hirt+Jones+Schrottenloher 2024, which uses a new magic state resource. The Toffoli count is 1.60x compared to Chevignard+Rouque+Schrottenloher 2024. Toffoli count by over

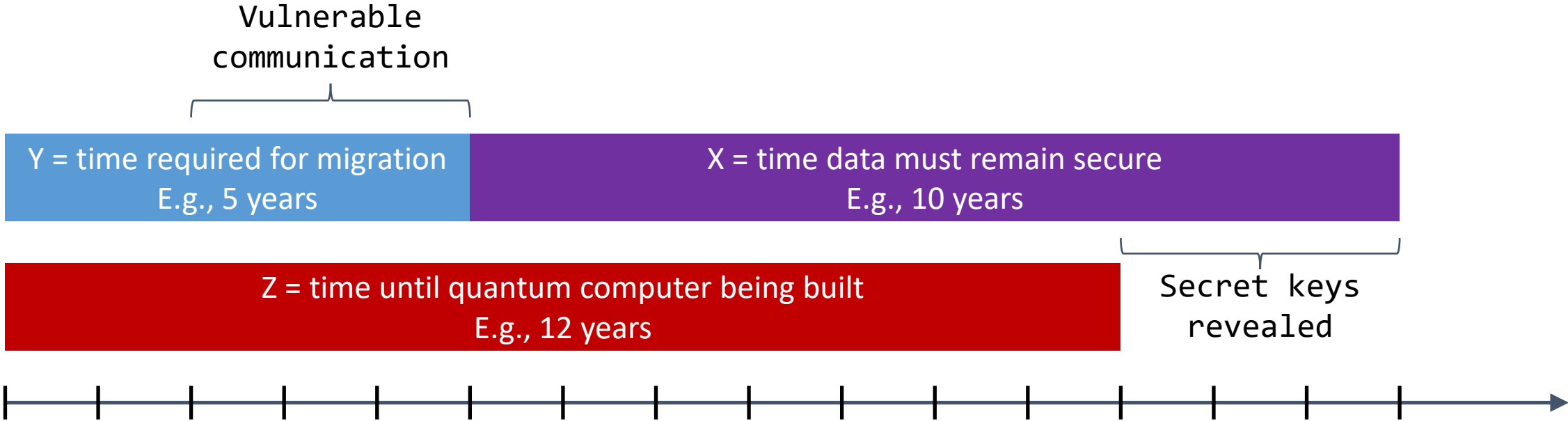


*"We need Moore's-law type scaling for quantum computers to ever be useful"*

Improvements of the quantum algorithms & implementations to break modern public-key cryptography possible

Figure inspired by Samuel Jaques,  
[https://sam-jaques.appspot.com/quantum\\_landscape](https://sam-jaques.appspot.com/quantum_landscape)

Encrypted communication intercepted today can be encrypted in the future



**if**       $X + Y > Z$   
**then**    Sensitive data exposed

*Harvest now, decrypt later*  
→ Forced to think a long time in advance!  
→ Primarily key-agreement schemes (data in transit)  
→

*“To ensure an acceptable level of readiness, we recommend that [the most sensitive use cases] should be protected against ‘store now, decrypt later’ attacks as soon as possible, latest by the end of 2030.”*

Joint statement from partners from 18 EU member states (11/2024)



- ❖ Increasing computing power
- ❖
- ❖ Side-channel attacks in implementations

Applies on modern and post-quantum cryptography



NEWS COMPUTING

# “Quantum-Safe” Crypto Hacked by 10-Year-Old PC

## › Many challenges still lie ahead for postquantum cryptography

BY CHARLES Q. CHOI | 19 AUG 2022 | 7 MIN READ | 

Charles Q. Choi is a contributing editor for IEEE Spectrum.

SHARE THIS STORY



TAGS

QUANTUM COMPUTING

CRYPTOGRAPHY NIST

**FUTURE QUANTUM COMPUTERS** may rapidly break modern cryptography. Now researchers find that a promising algorithm designed to protect computers from these advanced attacks could get broken in just 4 minutes. And the catch is that 4-minute time stamp was not achieved by a cutting-edge machine but by a regular 10-year-old desktop computer. This latest, surprising defeat highlights the many hurdles postquantum

ptography will need to clear before adoption, researchers say.

POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRA...



*“To ensure an acceptable level of readiness, we recommend that [the most sensitive use cases] should be protected against ‘store now, decrypt later’ attacks as soon as possible, latest by the end of 2030.”*

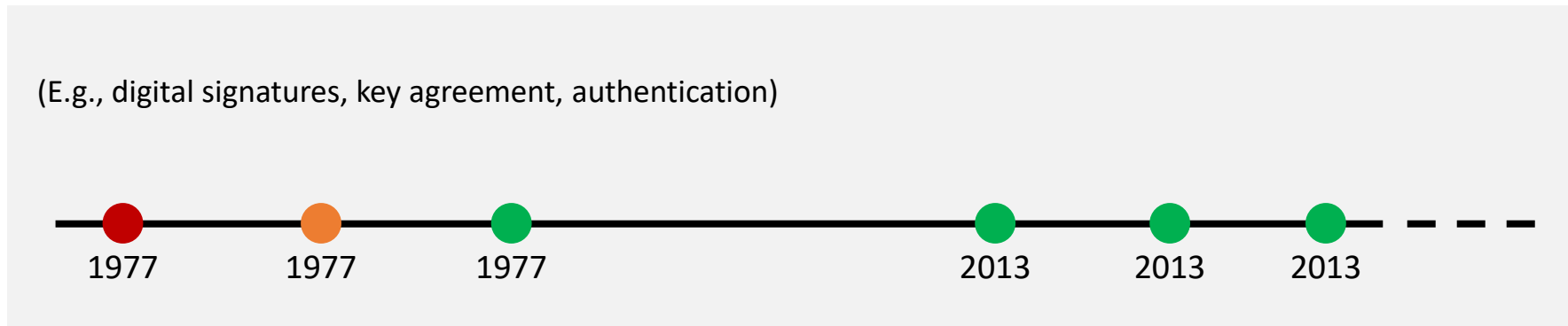
Joint statement from partners from 18 EU member states (11/2024)



- ❖ Increasing computing power
- ❖
- ❖ Side-channel attacks in implementations

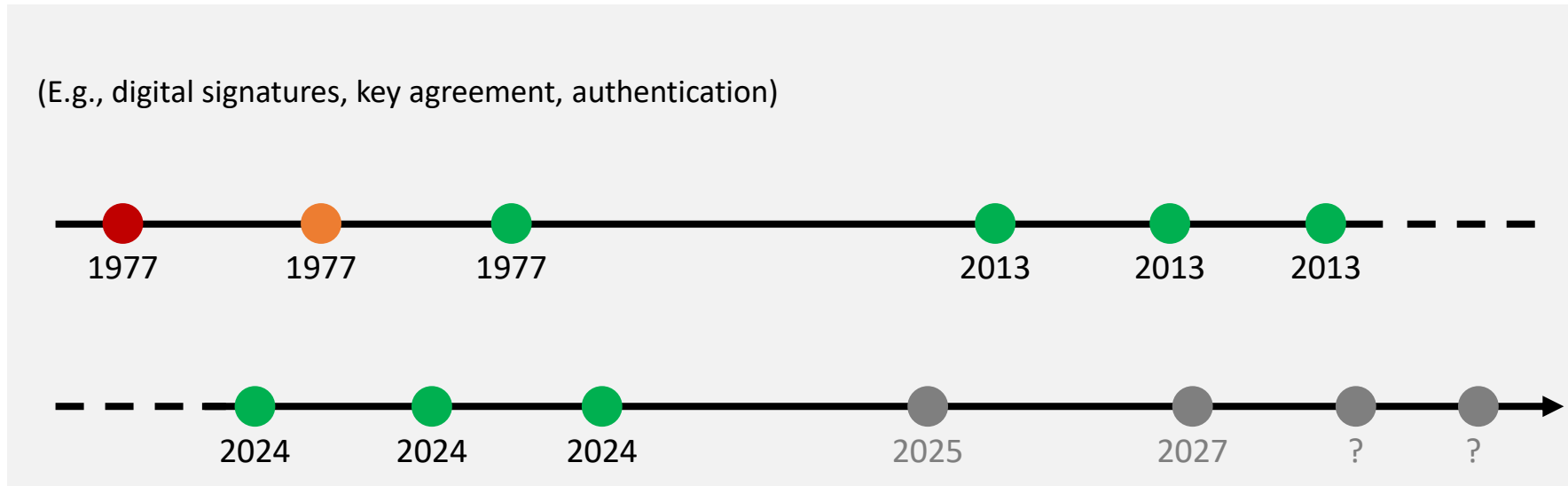
Applies on modern and post-quantum cryptography





MULTIPLE CRYPTO  
MIGRATIONS IN THE PAST

SLOW, CUMBERSOME  
AND EXPENSIVE PROCESS  
- TAKES 5 TO 15 YEARS  
TO MIGRATE



POTENTIALLY  
MULTIPLE CRYPTO  
MIGRATIONS IN THE  
NOT-SO-DISTANT  
FUTURE!

BECOMING  
QUANTUM-READY  
MAY NOT BE A ONE-  
TIME SHOT

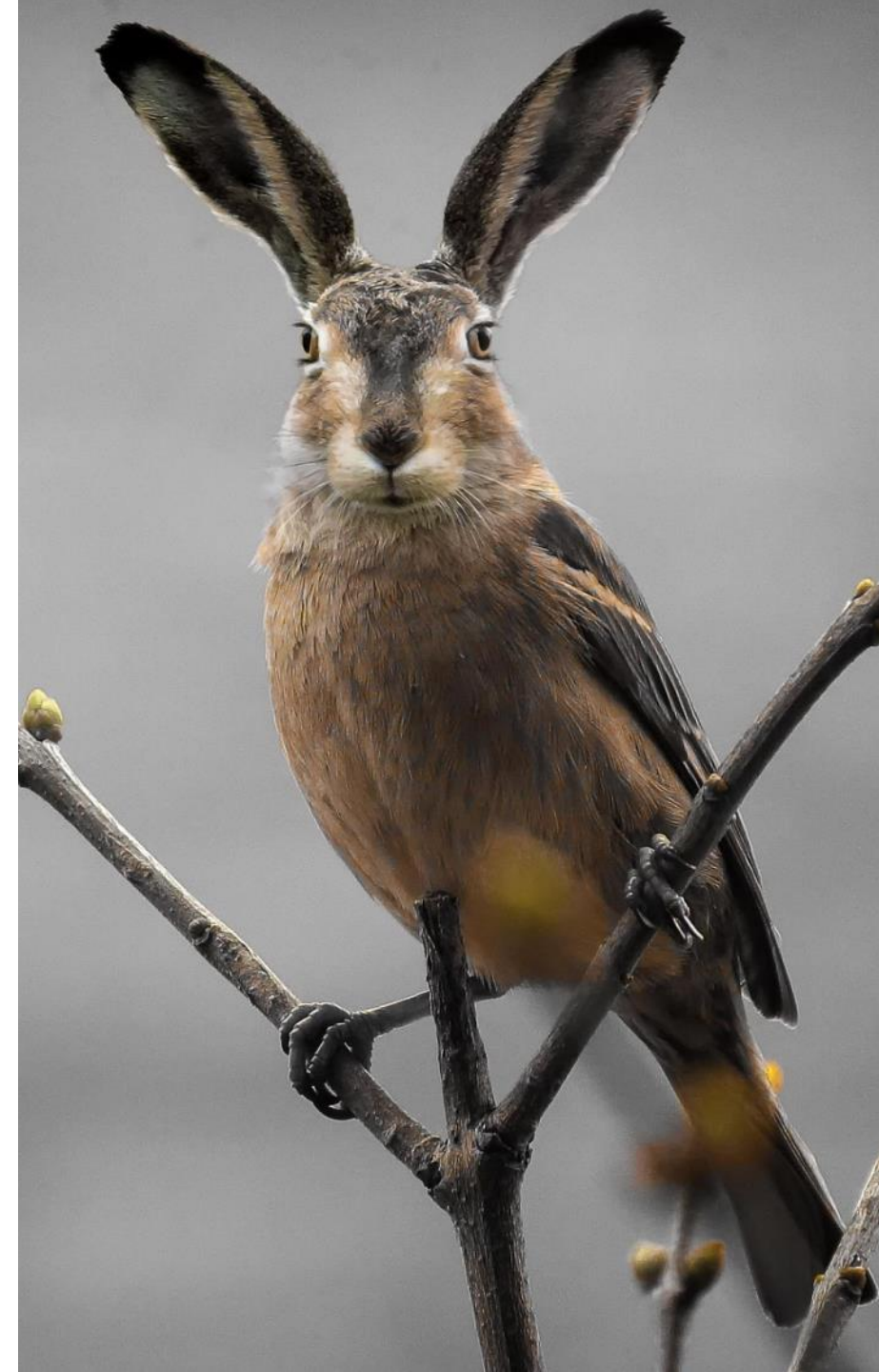




Bundesamt  
für Sicherheit in der  
Informationstechnik

*The quantum-safe algorithms that are currently being standardized are not yet as well researched as the "classical" methods (for example RSA and ECC). This applies in particular to weaknesses that largely only become apparent in applications, such as typical implementation errors, possible side-channel attacks, etc. **BSI therefore recommends that post-quantum cryptography should not be used in isolation if possible, but only in hybrid mode, i.e. in combination with classical algorithms. [...]** Hash-based signatures can in principle also be used on its own (i.e., not in hybrid mode).*

Quantum-safe cryptography –fundamentals, current developments and recommendations. October 2022



- ❖ Multiple in the past & multiple in the future
- ❖ Slow and cumbersome process - Takes 5 to 15 years to migrate

Cryptographic algorithms have a life cycle  
Recommended → Secure → Phase out → Insecure  
Cryptography: Assets that need to be managed

Where what crypto for  
which purpose?

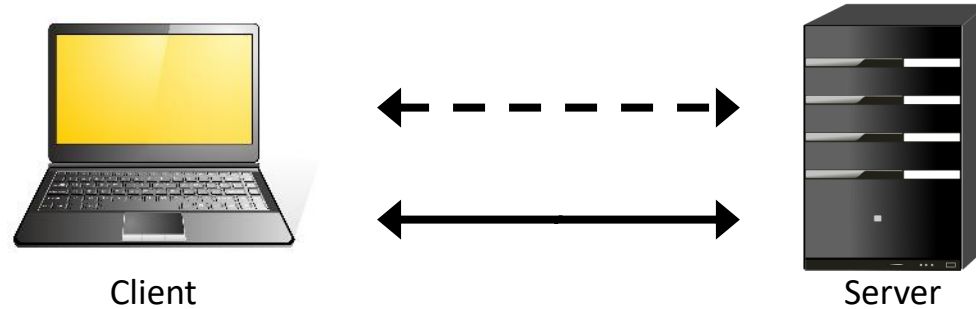
What cryptography  
should (not) be used?

Migrate easily from/to  
crypto mechanisms



# Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Example of cryptographic *protocol* agility (see RFC7696)



Agree on TLS version (1.2 or 1.3)  
 Agree on cipher suite  
 Authenticate  
 Generate shared session keys

- TLS\_SM4\_GCM\_SM3
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8\_SHA256
  - TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1205\_SHA256
- ↗
- TLS\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384
  - TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1205\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256
  - TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8\_SHA256
  - TLS\_SM4\_GCM\_SM3

- Recommended
- Secure
- Phase out
- Insecure
- Deactivated

Cryptographic service offers to application / service

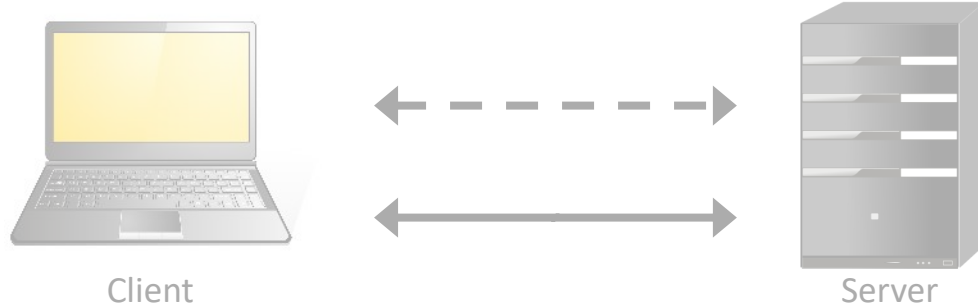
Cryptographic functions

and Cryptographic functions

*Cryptographic functions: Hardware, software, firmware, algorithms, parameters, ...*

# Transport Layer Security (TLS)

Example of cryptographic protocol agility (see RFC7696)

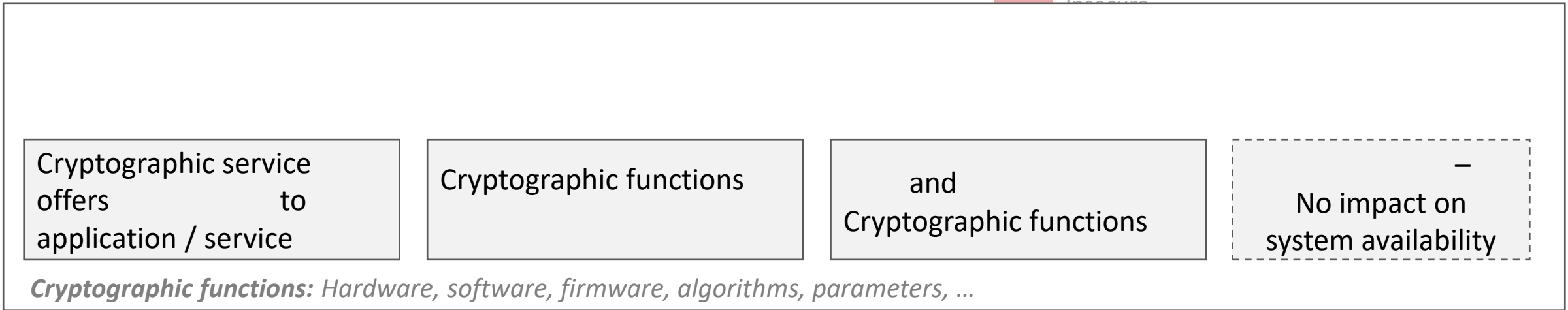


Agree on TLS version (1.2 or 1.3)  
 Agree on cipher suite  
 Authenticate  
 Generate shared session keys

TLS\_SM4\_GCM\_SM3  
 TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256  
 TLS\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256

TLS\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256  
 TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384  
 TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1205\_SHA256

- Recommended
- Secure
- Phase out
- Insecure





Why & What?

## **In the Public Sector**

Crypto Inventory

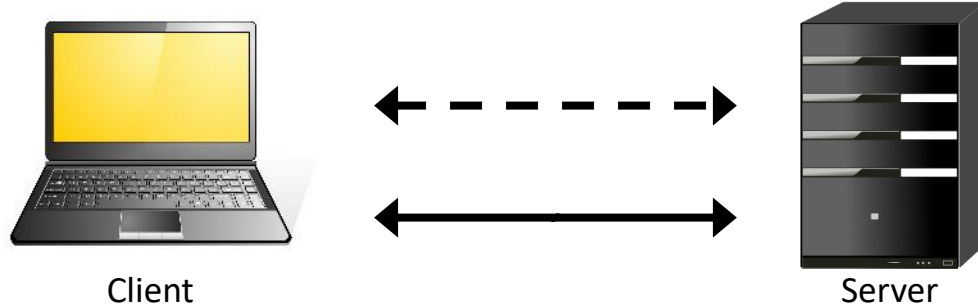
Crypto Policy as Code

Cryptography in Hybrid Mode

Outlook & Challenges

Wrapping Up

# Transport Layer Security (TLS)



Agree on TLS version  
Agree on cipher suite  
Authenticate  
Generate shared session keys

TLS\_SM4\_GCM\_SM3  
TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256

TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384  
TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8\_SHA256  
TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1205\_SHA256

TLS\_AES\_256\_GCM\_SHA384  
TLS\_CHACHA20\_POLY1205\_SHA256  
TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_SHA256  
TLS\_AES\_128\_CCM\_8\_SHA256  
TLS\_SM4\_GCM\_SM3

- Recommended
- Secure
- Phase out
- Insecure
- Deactivated

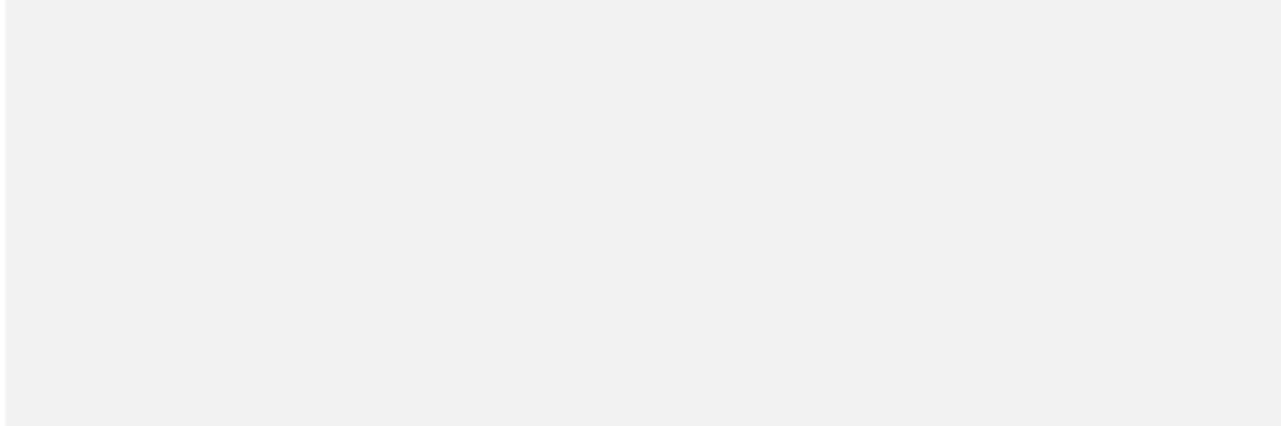


- Cipher suites
- Parameters
- Extensions

CRYPTO AGILITY BY AUTOMATING AND  
CENTRALIZING TLS CONFIGURATION

OVERVIEW OF POLICY DEVIATIONS

# Sepia



Runner-up for *Best Cybersecurity Innovation Europe* award issued by Cybersec Europe



- ❖ Doctor only sees identifiers
- ❖ Backend only sees pseudonyms
- ❖ Pseudon. service sees neither

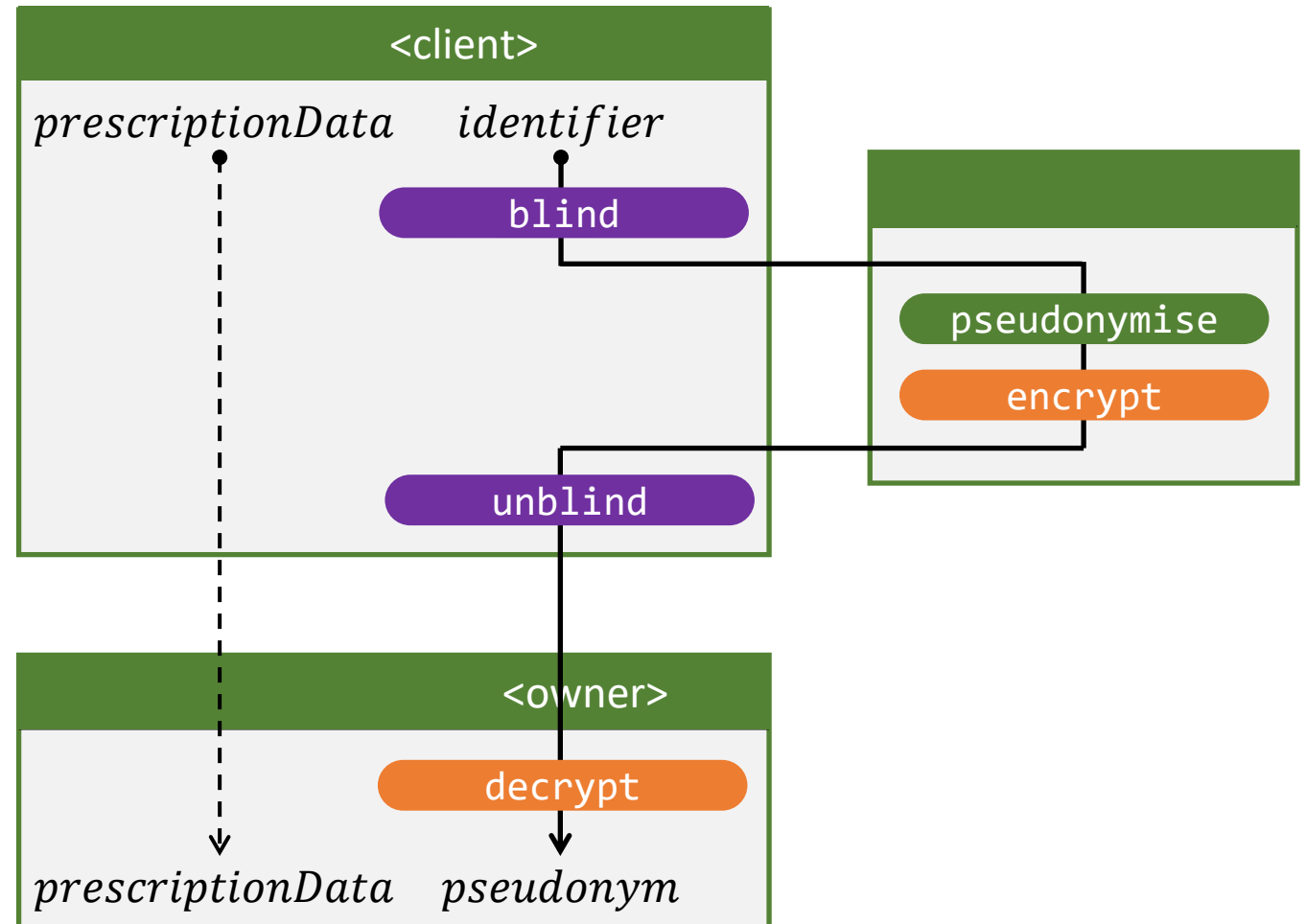


- ❖ Direct communication between healthcare professional and prescription service
- ❖ No in-between entity



- ❖ No extra keys required
- ❖ Relatively simple implementation

Doctor requests *Prescription* service to register medical prescription

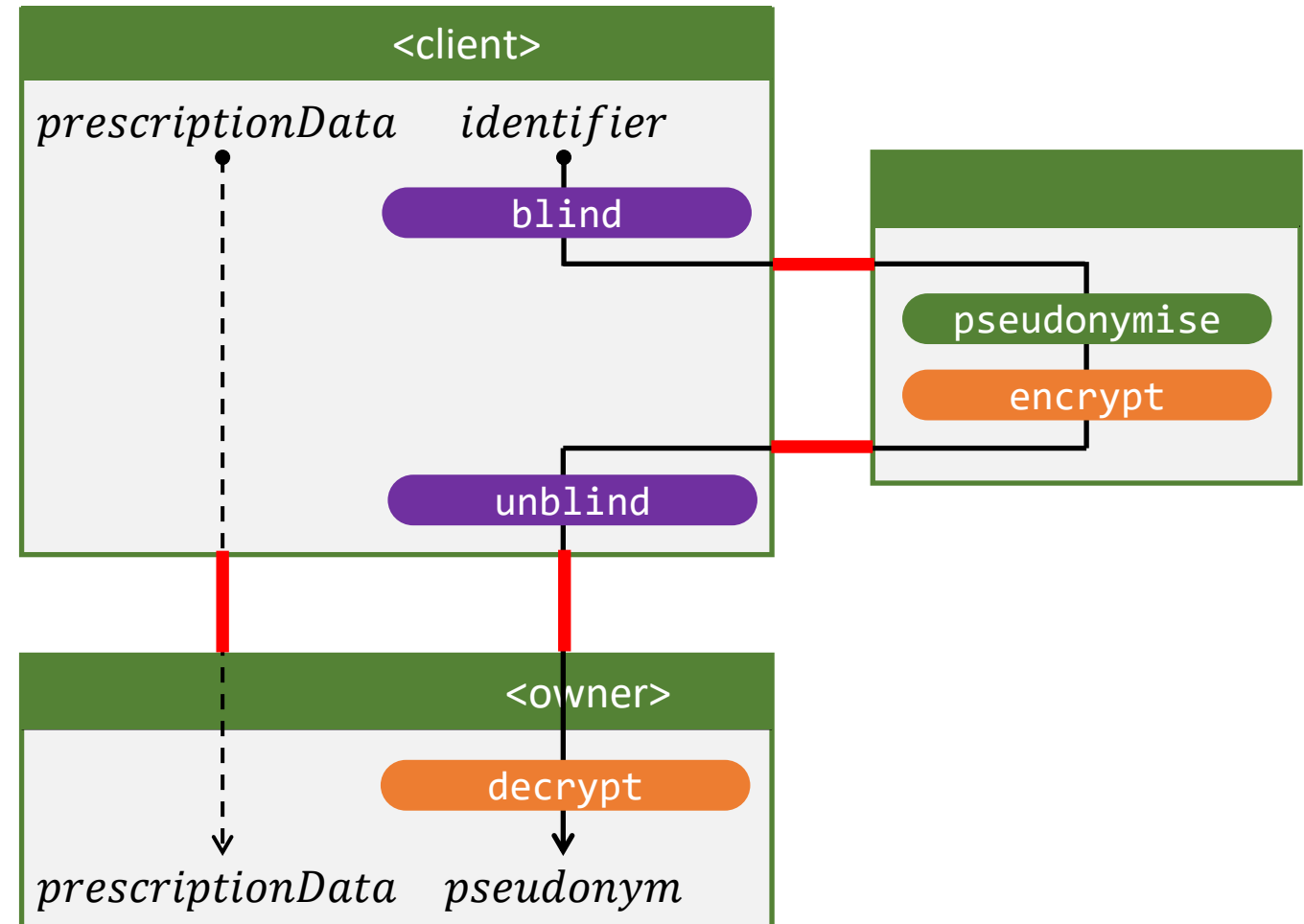


HOW QUANTUM RESISTANT IS THIS SOLUTION?

- ❖ Mix of symmetric and public-key crypto
- ❖ Designed before NIST PQC standards (like close to all applications in the world)

- ❖ Most important → harvest now decrypt later
- ❖ Update TLS clients
- ❖ Not different from other applications
- ❖ Single quantum risk: backend-stored pseudonyms
- ❖ Roadmap to mitigate risk
  1. Alternative based on lattices (PQC)
  2. Integration of crypto agility
  3. Defining procedures
  4. Actual migration

Doctor requests Prescription service to register medical prescription



SMALS IS EARLY BY PROACTIVELY WORKING ON QUANTUM-READINESS & CRYPTO AGILITY

- ❖ Deriving TLS configs from central policy-as-code and deviations-as-code
- ❖ Status: Research

- ❖ Quantum-resistant pseudonymisation being developed
- ❖ Crypto-agility being examined
- ❖ Status: Research

- ❖ Central, flexible service for document signing
- ❖ Status: Live

- ❖ Storing middleware keys in a central vault
- ❖ Status: Soon live

- ❖ Automatic TLS certificate install & updates
- ❖ Status: Soon live

SMALS IS EARLY WITH CRYPTO-AGILITY & TAKING INITIATIVES  
NEVERTHELESS, A LONG ROAD AHEAD OF US!



Why & What?

In the Public Sector

## **Crypto Inventory**

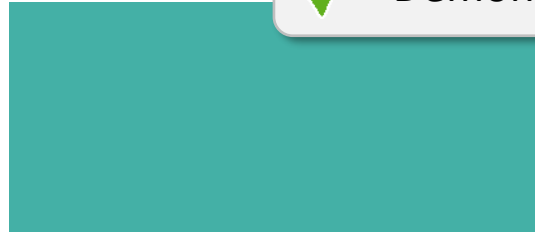
Crypto Policy as Code

Cryptography in Hybrid Mode

Outlook & Challenges

Wrapping Up

- ✓ Prepare crypto migrations
- ✓ Intervene quickly in case of vulnerability
- ✓ Demonstrate compliance



n

# github.com/keycloak/keycloak

128 cryptographic assets found. Scanned 616.7K lines of code across 5.3K files. Took 2m 21s to scan (4m 7s in total).

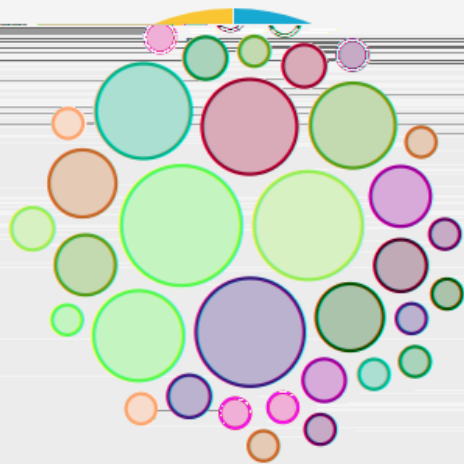
gitUrl: <https://github.com/keycloak/keycloak>

revision: main

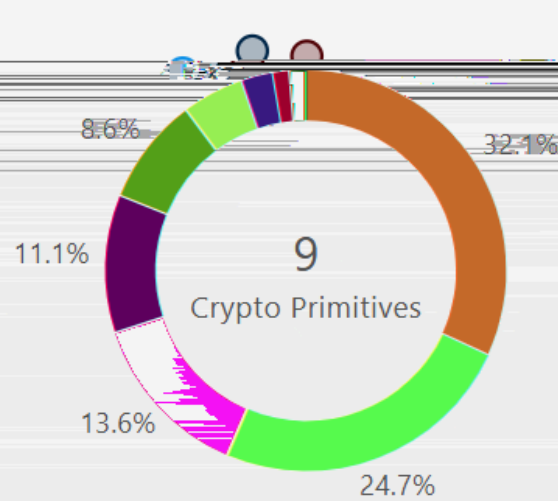
commit: f8a4a8d

**! Not compliant** – This CBOM does not comply with the policy "quantum\_safe".

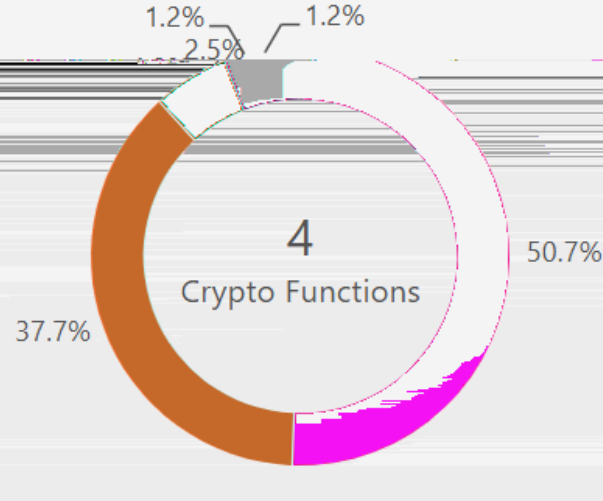
Source: Basic Backend Compliance Service



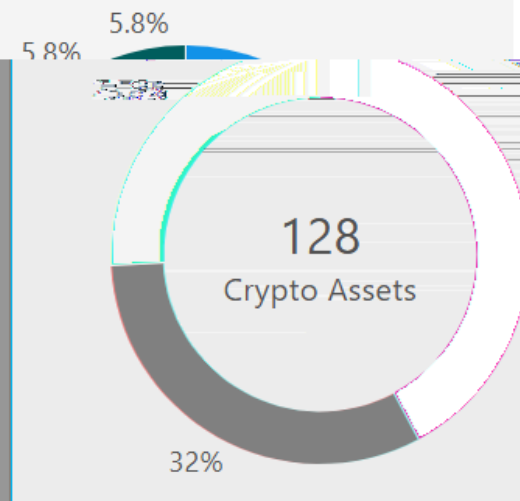
35 types of crypto assets



- Hash
- Signature
- Block-cipher
- Other
- Pke
- Kdf
- Key-agree
- Ae
- Mac




- Digest
- Keygen
- Decapsulate
- Tag





















- Unknown
- Not Applicable
- Not Quantum Safe
- Quantum Safe

## List of all assets

 Scan finished

Download CBOM



Cryptographic asset	Type	Primitive	Location	
 PUBLIC-KEY	Related Crypto Material	Unspecified	<a href="#">BCFIPSECDSACryptoProvider.java:85</a>	
 RAW	Algorithm	Other	<a href="#">HmacOTP.java:159</a>	
 EDDSA	Algorithm	Digital Signature	<a href="#">GeneratedEddsaKeyProvider.java:50</a>	
 EDDSA	Algorithm	Digital Signature	<a href="#">GeneratedEddsaKeyProviderFactory.java:133</a>	
-- HMAC-SHA256	Algorithm	Message Authentication Code	<a href="#">HMACProvider.java:41</a>	
-- HMAC-SHA256	Algorithm	Message Authentication Code	<a href="#">KeycloakModelUtils.java:215</a>	
 SECRET-KEY	Related Crypto Material	Unspecified	<a href="#">AesCbcHmacShaEncryptionProvider.java:170</a>	
 PUBLIC-KEY	Related Crypto Material	Unspecified	<a href="#">BCECDSACryptoProvider.java:80</a>	
 RSA-2048	Algorithm	Public Key Encryption	<a href="#">KeyUtils.java:69</a>	
 RSA-2048	Algorithm	Public Key Encryption	<a href="#">RSAKeyValue.java:103</a>	

Items per page:

10



11-20 of 128 items

2



of 13 pages



28

```
1 {
2   "name": "RSA-2048",
3   "type": "cryptographic-asset",
4   "bom-ref": "e2c92908-3559-4f86-8212-2e134dfce30a",
5   "evidence": {
6     "occurrences": [
7       {
8         "line": 110,
9         "offset": 28,
10        "location": "core/src/main/java/org/keycloak/jose/jwk/AbstractJWKParser.java",
11        "additionalContext": "java.security.KeyFactory#getInstance(Ljava/lang/String;)Ljava/security/KeyFactory;"
12      },
13      {
14        "line": 103,
15        "offset": 39,
16        "location": "saml-core-api/src/main/java/org/keycloak/dom/xmlsec/w3/xmlsig/RSAPublicKeyType.java",
17        "additionalContext": "java.security.KeyFactory#getInstance(Ljava/lang/String;)Ljava/security/KeyFactory;"
18      },
19      {
20        "line": 122,
21        "offset": 39,
22        "location": "saml-core-api/src/main/java/org/keycloak/dom/xmlsec/w3/xmlsig/RSAPublicKeyType.java",
23        "additionalContext": "java.security.KeyFactory#getInstance(Ljava/lang/String;)Ljava/security/KeyFactory;"
24      }
25    ]
26  }
27 }
```

Component (type = cryptographic-asset)

Crypto Properties

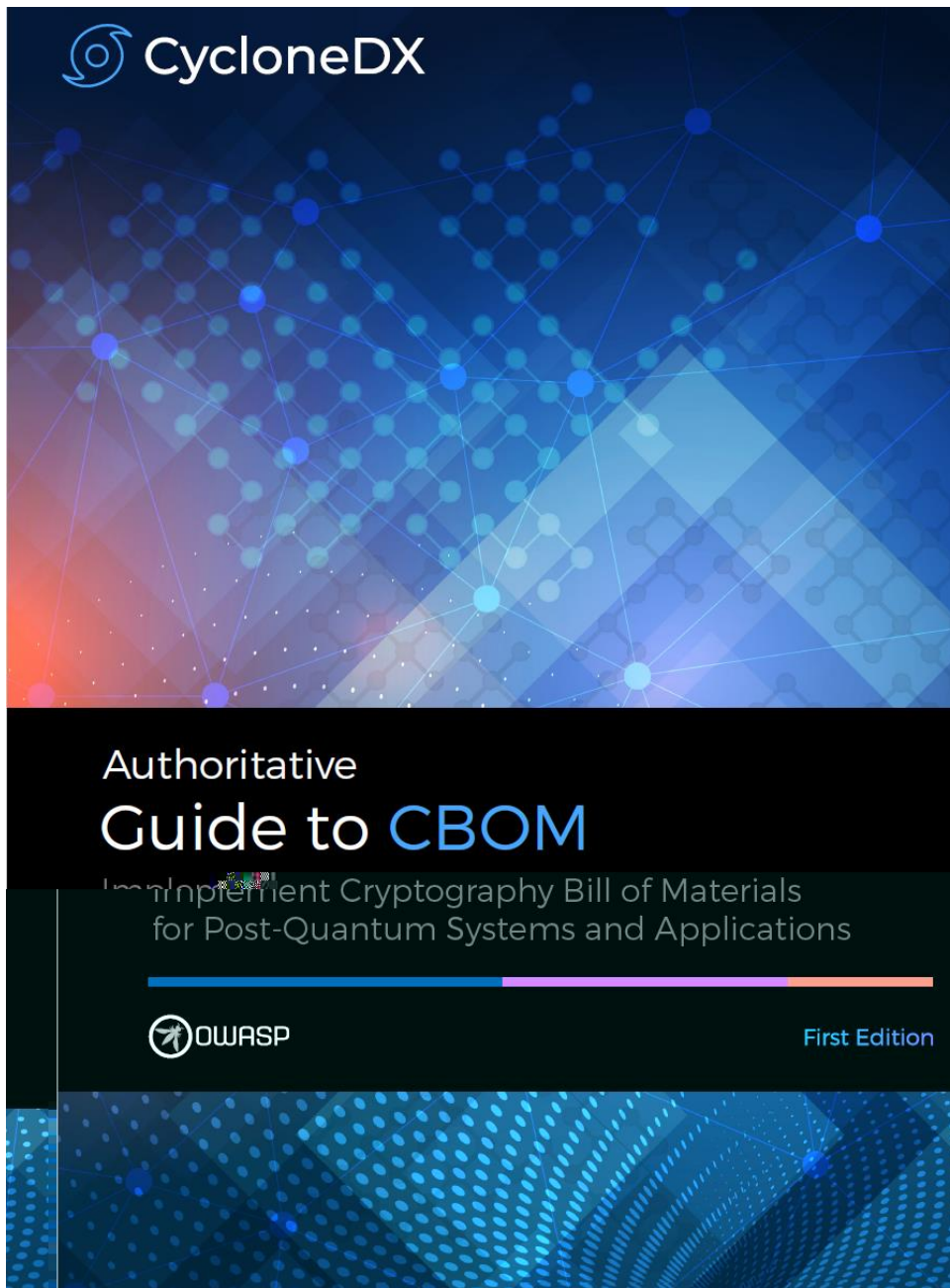
Algorithm Properties

Certificate Properties

Protocol Properties

Related Crypto Materials Properties

Public Key	Key	Salt	Credential	Password	Ciphertext
Private Key	Digest	Shared Secret	Token	Signature	Seed
Secret Key	Initialization Vector	Tag	Additional Data	Nonce	Other



- ❖ External network
- ❖ Internal network

- ❖ IT assets  
(IoT, servers, ...)
- ❖ Databases
- ❖ Code

- ❖ In-house applications
- ❖ Certificate management

- ❖ Cloud services
- ❖ External libraries
- ❖ Operating systems
- ❖ Hardware  
(HSM, firewalls, ...)

NEED TO CONSOLIDATE EVERYTHING IN ONE INVENTORY & KEEP IT UP-TO-DATE  
REQUIRES AUTOMATED, INTEGRATED PROCESSES → LONG SHOT

START SIMPLE, WITH A FOCUS ON YOUR MOST VALUABLE ASSETS & EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION  
CONSOLIDATE WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE



Why & What?

In The Public Sector

Crypto Inventory

**Crypto Policy as Code**

Cryptography in Hybrid Mode

Outlook & Challenges

Wrapping Up

# Symmetric Encryption Schemes

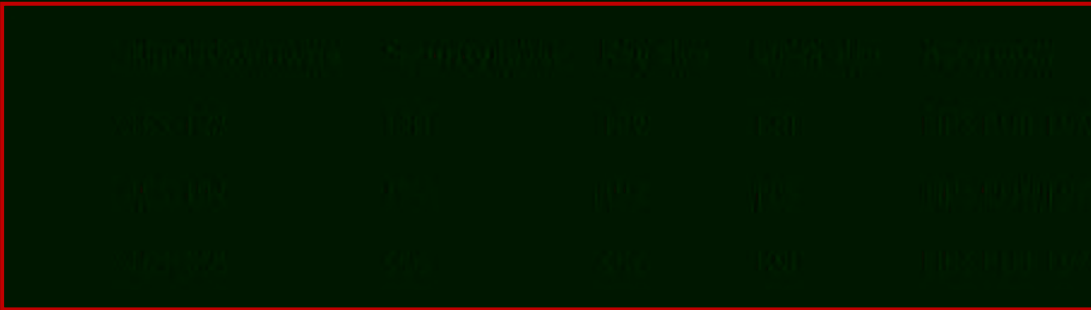
Created by Kristof Verslype, last updated on Jul 29, 2024 • 5 minute read

**Corresponds to section 3. Symmetric Encryption Schemes in BSI TR-02102-1 (version 2024).**

Symmetric encryption schemes are used to guarantee the confidentiality of data that is transmitted, for example, via a public channel. Integrity is guaranteed. For integrity protection, see Chapter 6 and Section A.1. Even in cases where at first glance the protection of the confidentiality and integrity-secur

- ❖ Smals has cryptographic recommendations.
- ❖ Based on recommendations German BSI
- ❖ Helps us to anticipate change
- ❖ Next step: express as code

integrity  
even th



```

"components": [
  {
    "type": "cryptographic-asset",
    "name": "AES-128-GCM",
    "cryptoProperties": {
      "assetType": "algorithm",
      "algorithmProperties": {
        "primitive": "ae",
        "parameterSetIdentifier": "128",
        "mode": "gcm",
        "executionEnvironment": "software-plain-ram",
        "implementationPlatform": "x86_64",
        "certificationLevel": [ "none" ],
        "cryptoFunctions": [ "keygen", "encrypt", "decrypt", "tag" ],
        "classicalSecurityLevel": 128,
        "nistQuantumSecurityLevel": 1
      },
      "oid": "2.16.840.1.101.3.4.1.6"
    }
  }
]

```

```

"components": [
  {
    "type": "cryptographic-asset",
    "name": "AES-128-GCM",
    "cryptoProperties": {
      "assetType": "algorithm",
      "algorithmProperties": {
        "primitive": "ae"
      }
    }
  }
]

```



Keep structure  
Keep names and identifiers  
No information-duplication



Include additional  
information, s.a., conditions  
of use

I	At least as hard to break as AES128 (exhaustive key search)
II	At least as hard to break as SHA256 (collision search)
III	At least as hard to break as AES192 (exhaustive key search)
IV	At least as hard to break as AES192 (exhaustive key search)
V	At least as hard to break as AES256 (exhaustive key search)

```

{
  "deviations": [
    {
      "scope": {
        "type": "application",
        "name": "Quatro",
        "info": "https://...",
        "module": "..."
      },
      "approval": {
        "approvalDate": "01/05/2023",
        "from": "01/05/2025",
        "until": "31/12/2025",
        "reference": "...",
        "justification": "Ensure availability for ..."
      },
      "assessment": {
        "risk": "low",
        "impact": " low",
        "probability": "medium",
        "data": "...",
        "explanation": "..."
      }
    },
  ],
}

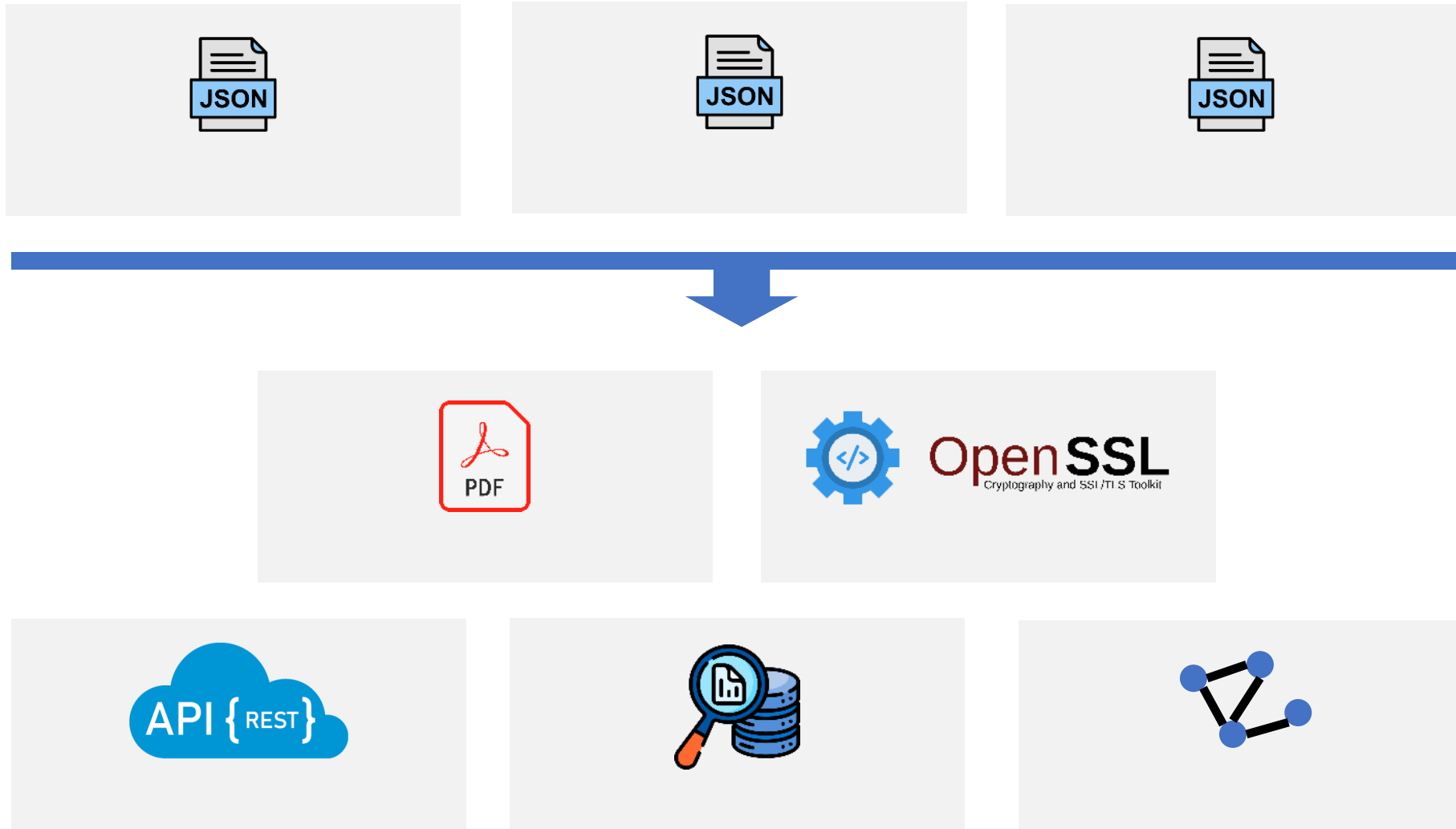
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```

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    "protocolProperties": {
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      "version": "1.2",
    }
  }
}
]
}
}
]
}

```

CBOM Model



RECOMMENDATIONS + EXCEPTIONS + INVENTORY AS CODE = A POWERFUL COMBINATION

EVERYTHING AS CODE  
ENABLES A HIGH DEGREE OF AUTOMATION AND INSIGHT

SMALS RESEARCH IS WORKING ON THIS



Why & What?

In the Public Sector

Crypto Inventory

Crypto Policy as Code

**Cryptography in Hybrid Mode**

Outlook & Challenges

Wrapping Up



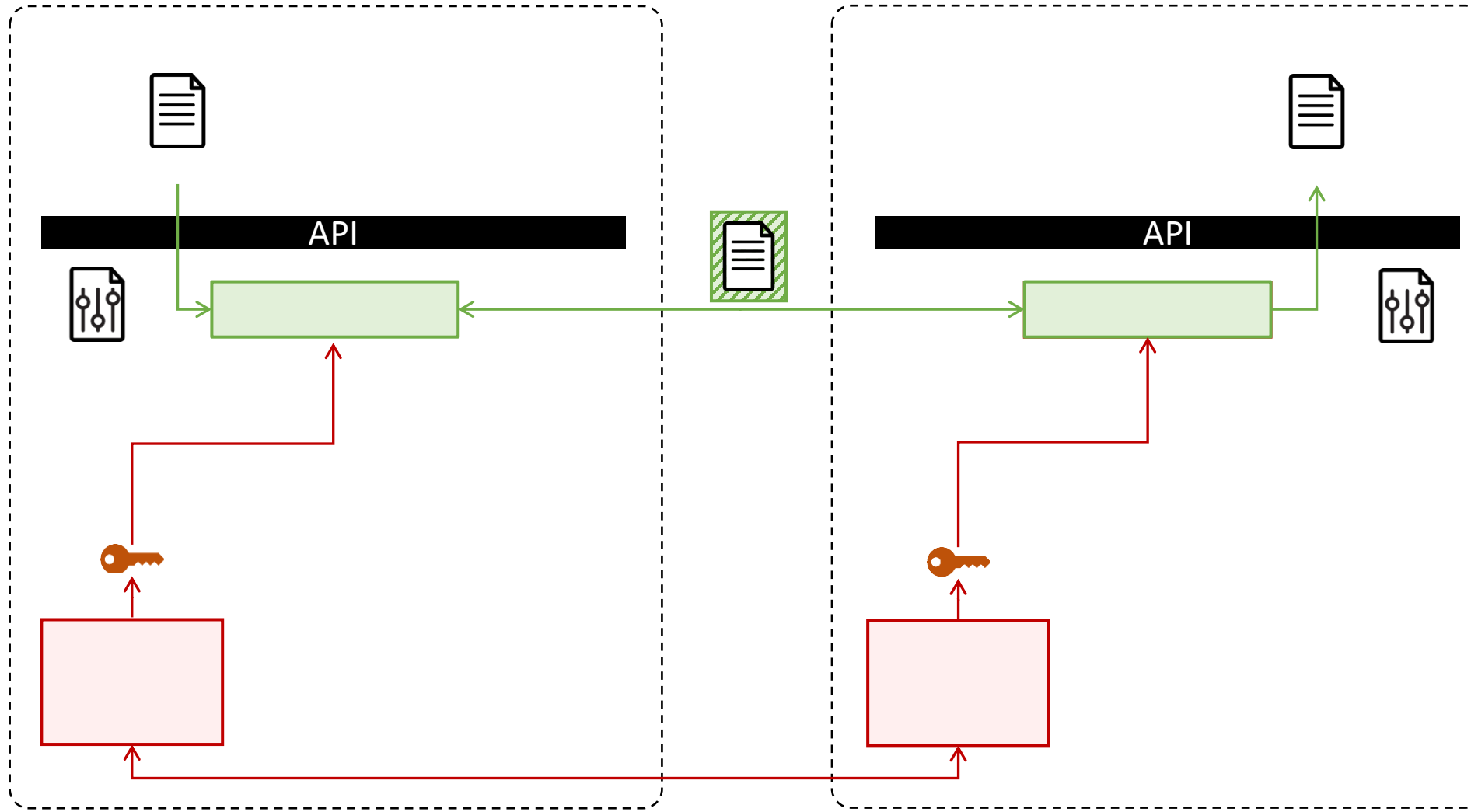
Bundesamt  
für Sicherheit in der  
Informationstechnik

*The quantum-safe algorithms that are currently being standardized are not yet as well researched as the "classical" methods (for example RSA and ECC). This applies in particular to weaknesses that largely only become apparent in applications, such as typical implementation errors, possible side-channel attacks, etc. **BSI therefore recommends that post-quantum cryptography should not be used in isolation, if possible, but only in hybrid mode, i.e., in combination with classical algorithms. [...]** Hash-based signatures can in principle also be used on its own (i.e., not in hybrid mode).*

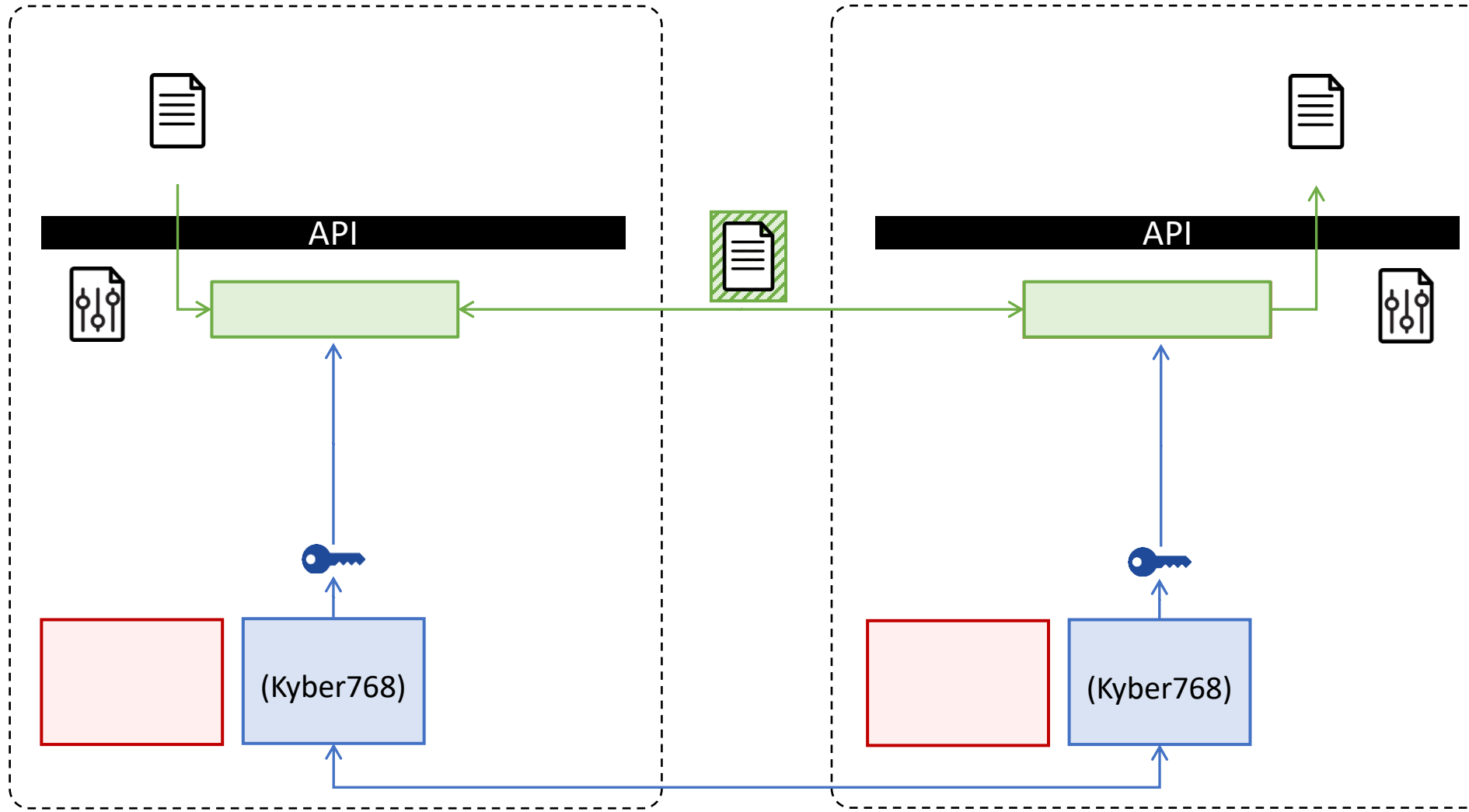
Quantum-safe cryptography –fundamentals, current developments and recommendations. October 2022



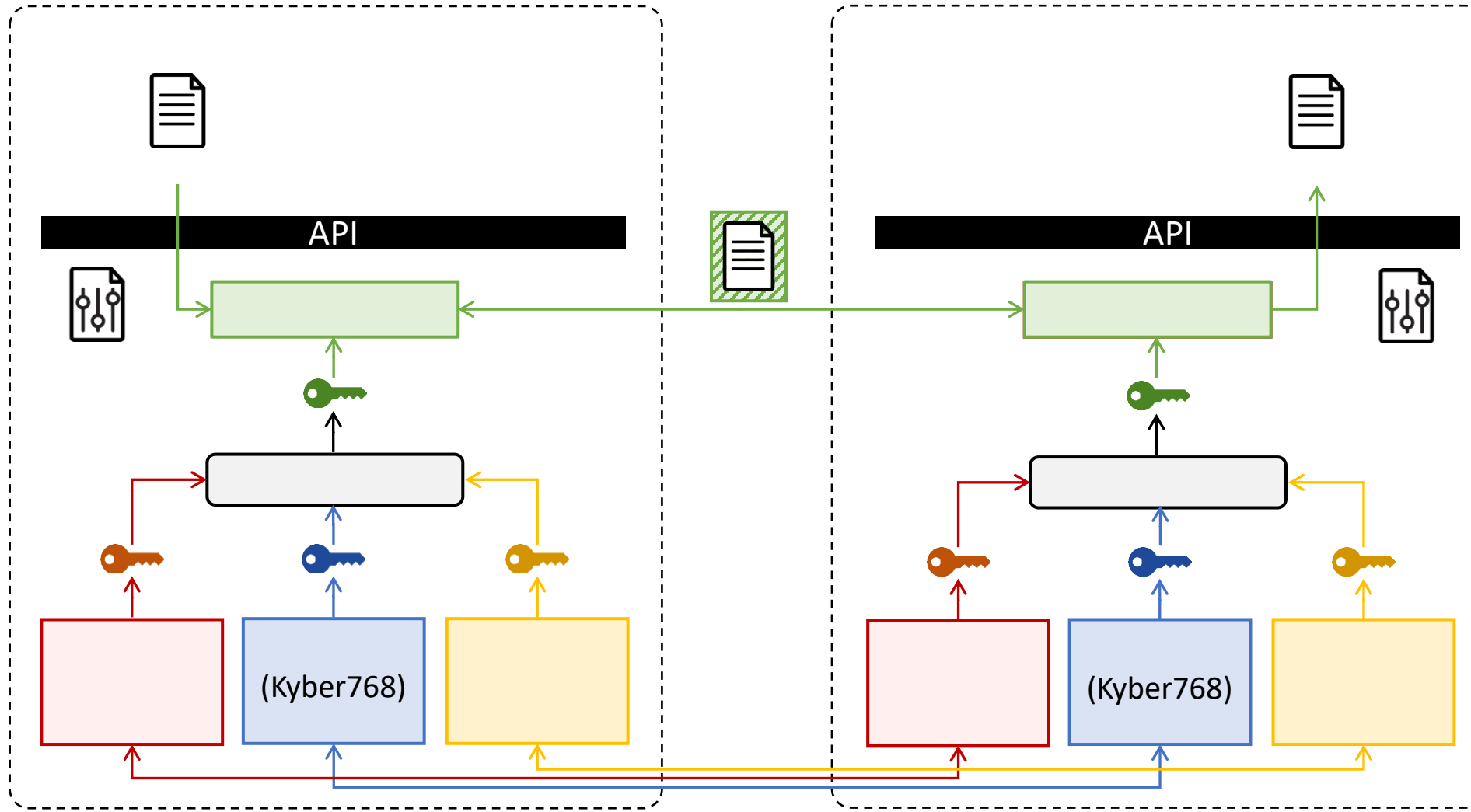
# Key agreement with classical cryptography



# Key agreement with PQC (Post-Quantum Cryptography)



# Key agreement – Hybrid mode with Crypto Agility



HYBRID MODE HELPS  
NAVIGATING CRYPTO  
MIGRATION  
TRANSITION PERIODS

CRYPTO AGILITY  
FACILITATES  
HYBRID MODE

ALREADY  
IMPLEMENTED  
BY VENDORS



Why & What?

In the Public Sector

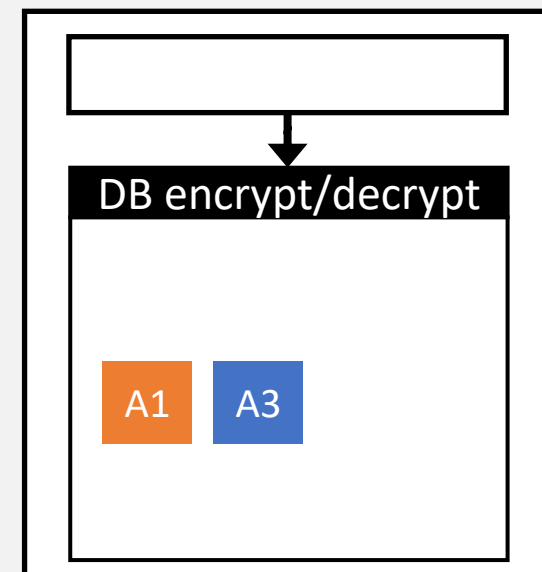
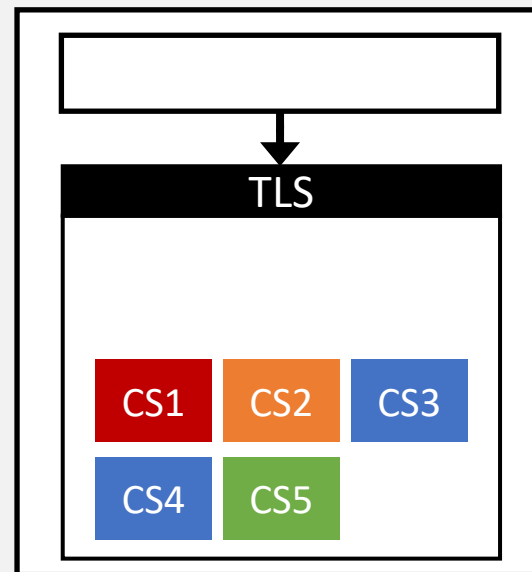
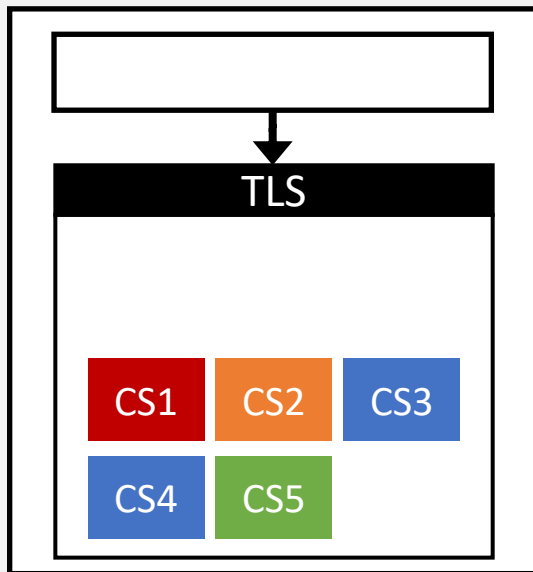
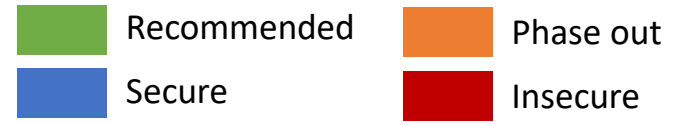
Crypto Inventory

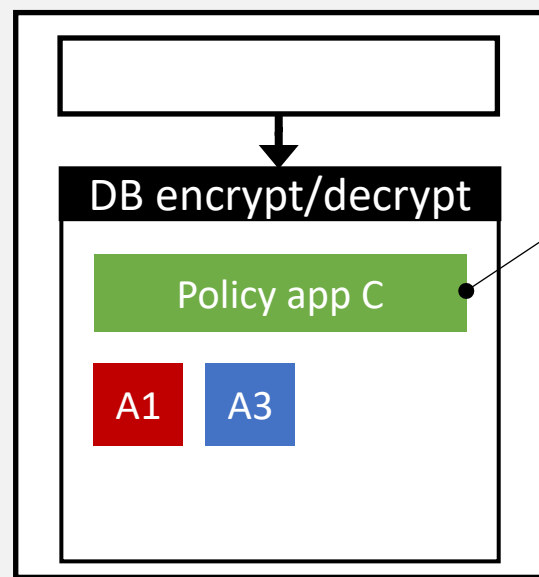
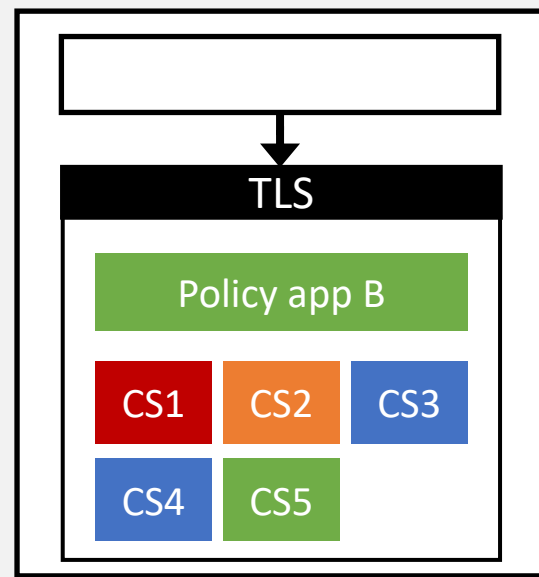
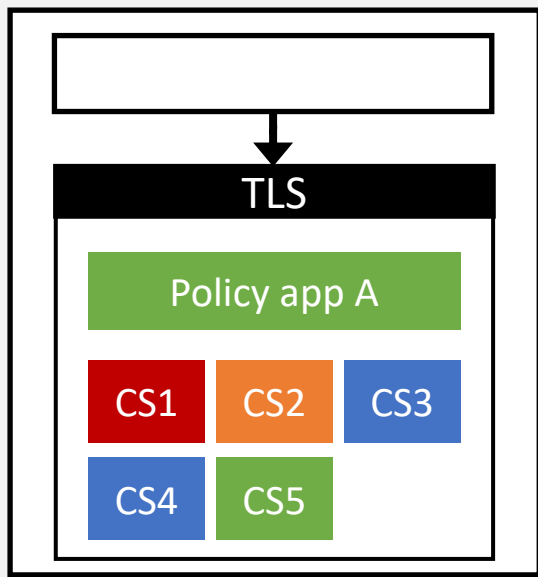
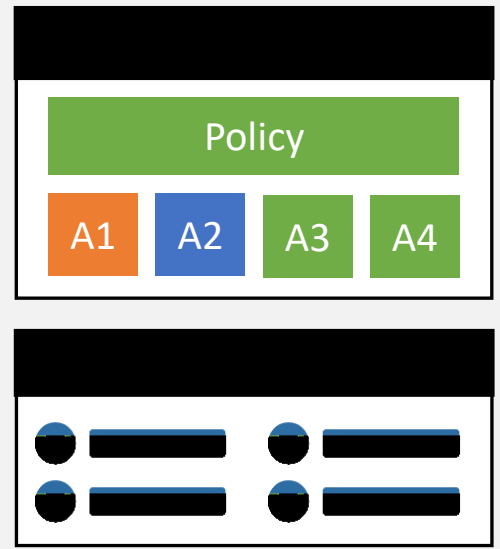
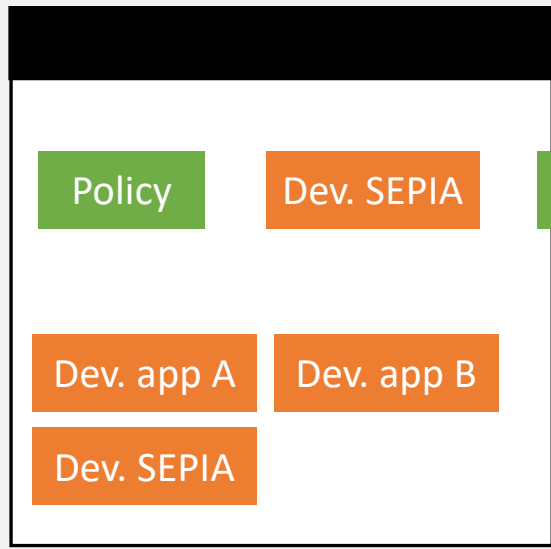
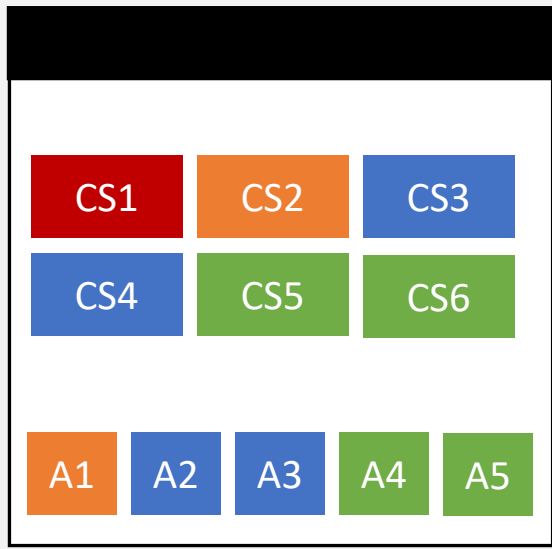
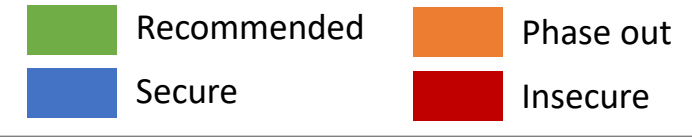
Crypto Policy as Code

Cryptography in Hybrid Mode

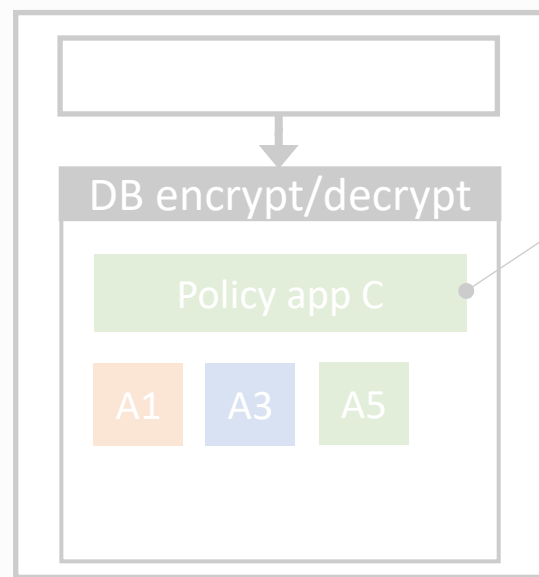
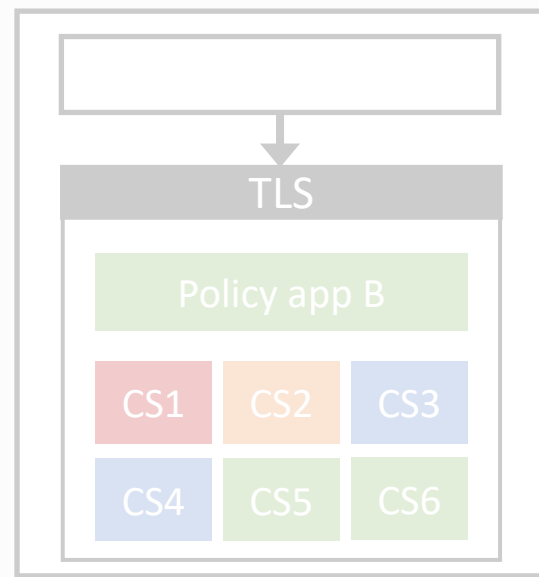
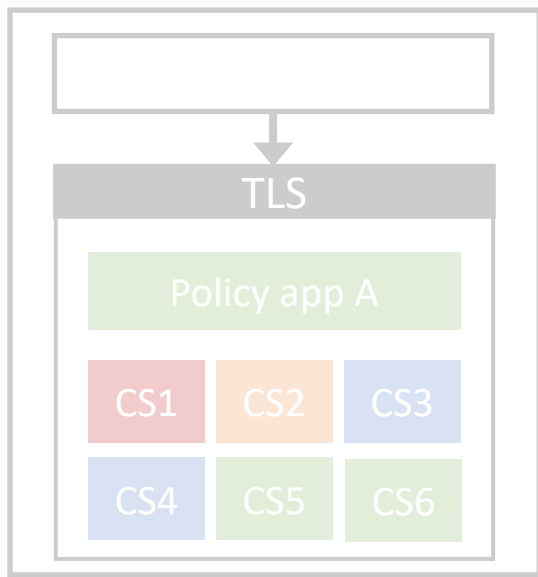
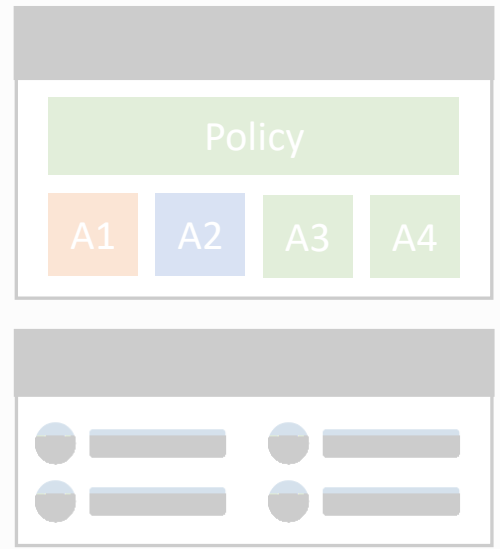
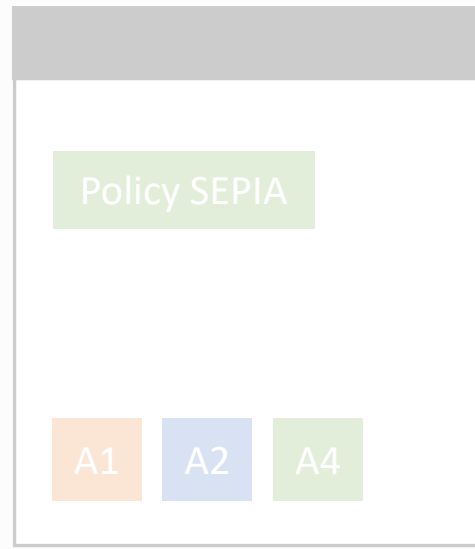
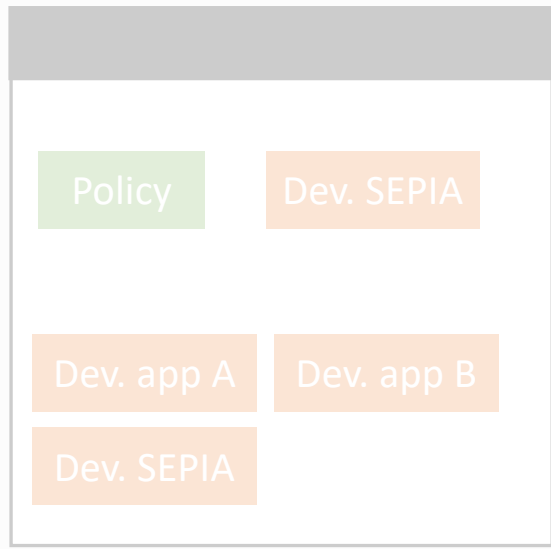
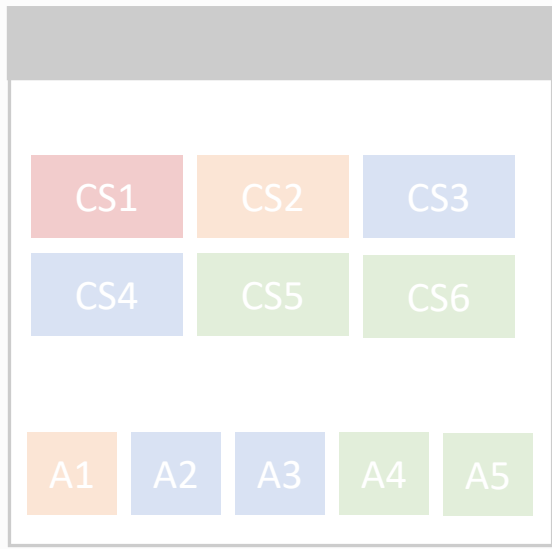
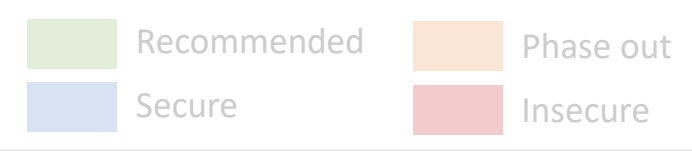
**Outlook & Challenges**

Wrapping Up





*"A1 only to decrypt"*



*"A1 only to decrypt"*

# Crypto-Agility Maturity Model (CAMM)

## Initial / Not possible

At least one subsystem or component violates L1 requirements

0

## Possible

Systems can be adapted to respond dynamically to future crypto challenges

### Knowledge

- ❖ System knowledge
- ❖ **Cryptography inventory**

### Process

- ❖ Updateability
- ❖ Reversibility

### System property

- ❖ Extensibility

## Prepared

Actual crypto migration still requires some preparatory work

### Knowledge

- ❖ Algorithm IDs

### System property

- ❖ Cryptographic modularity (API)
- ❖ Algorithm intersection
- ❖ Algorithm exclusion
- ❖ Opportunistic security
- ❖ Usability of crypto agility

## Practiced

Crypto migration demonstrable, effectively and securely feasible

### Knowledge

- ❖ Performance awareness
- ❖ Secure crypto agility

### Process

- ❖ **Policies**
- ❖ Compliance testing
- ❖ Enforceability of CA
- ❖ Transition mechanism
- ❖ Effectiveness

### System property

- ❖ Hardware modularity
- ❖ Backwards compatibility

## Sophisticated

Enables fast crypto migration, applied on broader infrastructure

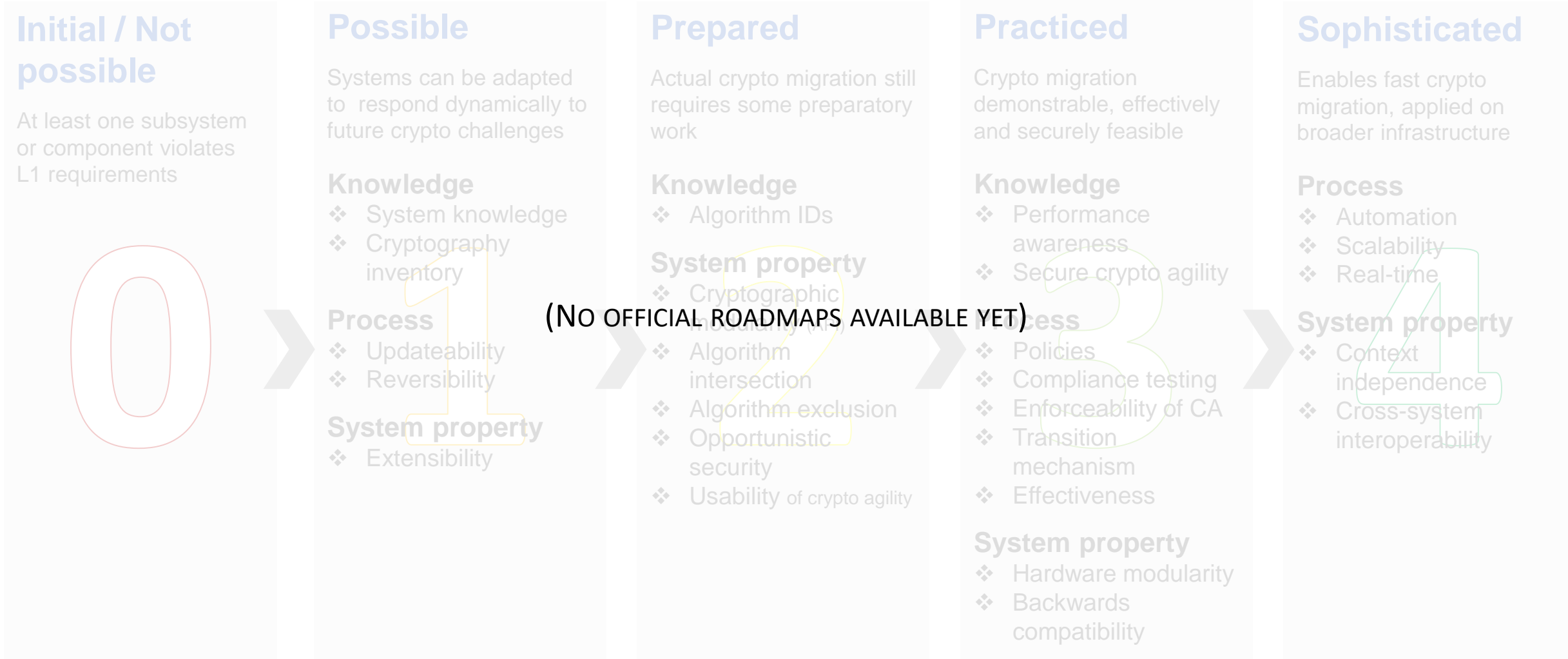
### Process

- ❖ Automation
- ❖ Scalability
- ❖ Real-time

### System property

- ❖ Context independence
- ❖ Cross-system interoperability

# Crypto-Agility Maturity Model (CAMMM)



n




		(in bytes)	(in bytes)	(lower is better)	(lower is better)
<i>Ed25519 (Elliptic curves)</i>	No	32	64	1 (baseline)	1 (baseline)
<i>RSA-2048</i>	No	256	256	70	0,3
<i>ML-DSA-44 (Dilithium2)</i>	Yes	1 312	2 420	4,8	0,5
<i>FN-DSA-512 (Falcon512)</i>	Yes	897	666	8	0,5
<i>SLH-DSA-128s (SPHINCS+128s)</i>	Yes	32	7 856	8 000	2,8
<i>SLH-DSA-128f (SPHINCS+128f)</i>	Yes	32	17 088	550	7

n



Contains public key and signature



TLS handshake:  
+ 15 KB



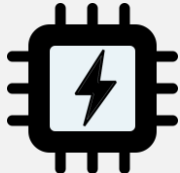
E.g. Belgian eID  
Limited resources



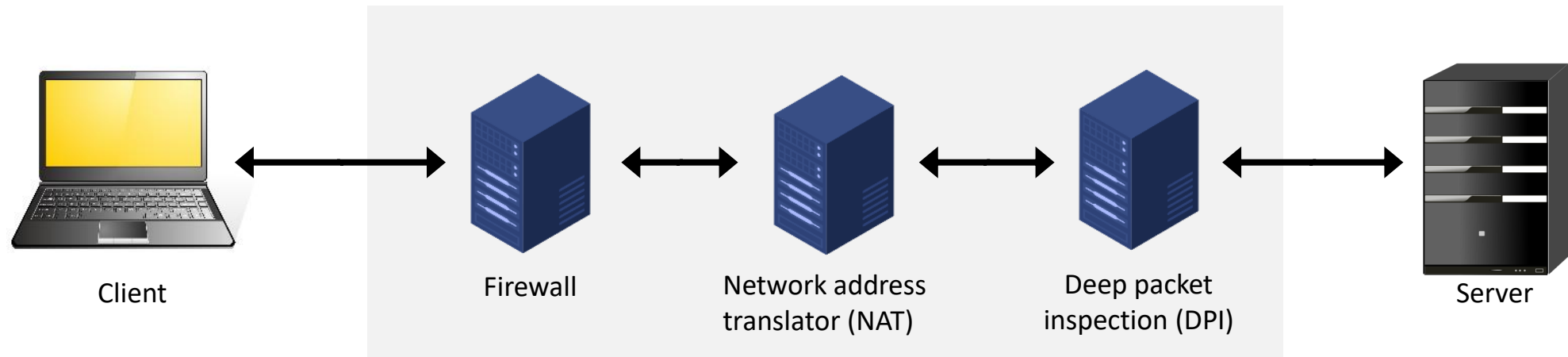
Limited resources  
& bandwidth



Encode signature  
in QR code



Acceleration,  
resources





Why & What?

In the Public Sector

Crypto Inventory

Crypto Policy as Code

Cryptography in Hybrid Mode

Outlook & Challenges

**Wrapping Up**



”

If I could give companies and organisations three pieces of advice as they prepare for quantum safety, they would be:

- Include the threat in your risk management system
- Create a crypto inventory
- Implement and use crypto-agility

“



**Dr. Gerhard Schabhüser**  
Vice President, BSI



Bundesamt  
für Sicherheit in der  
Informationstechnik

Start simple, with a focus on your most valuable assets & external communication. Consolidate what you already have.

In-house development → focus on cases that may save money  
Stimulate your vendors / suppliers! What are their plans?



*“IAD [Defensive branch of NSA] will initiate a transition to quantum resistant algorithms in the not-too-distant future. [...] For those partners and vendors that have not yet made the transition to Suite B elliptic curve algorithms, we recommend not making a significant expenditure to do so at this point but instead to prepare for the upcoming quantum resistant algorithm transition.”*

NAS-CSS. Commercial National Security Algorithm Suite. 19 August 2015.



We are not sure if quantum computers will ever be strong enough to break classical public-key cryptography (for sure not in the next 5 years) Nevertheless, we should mitigate the risk.

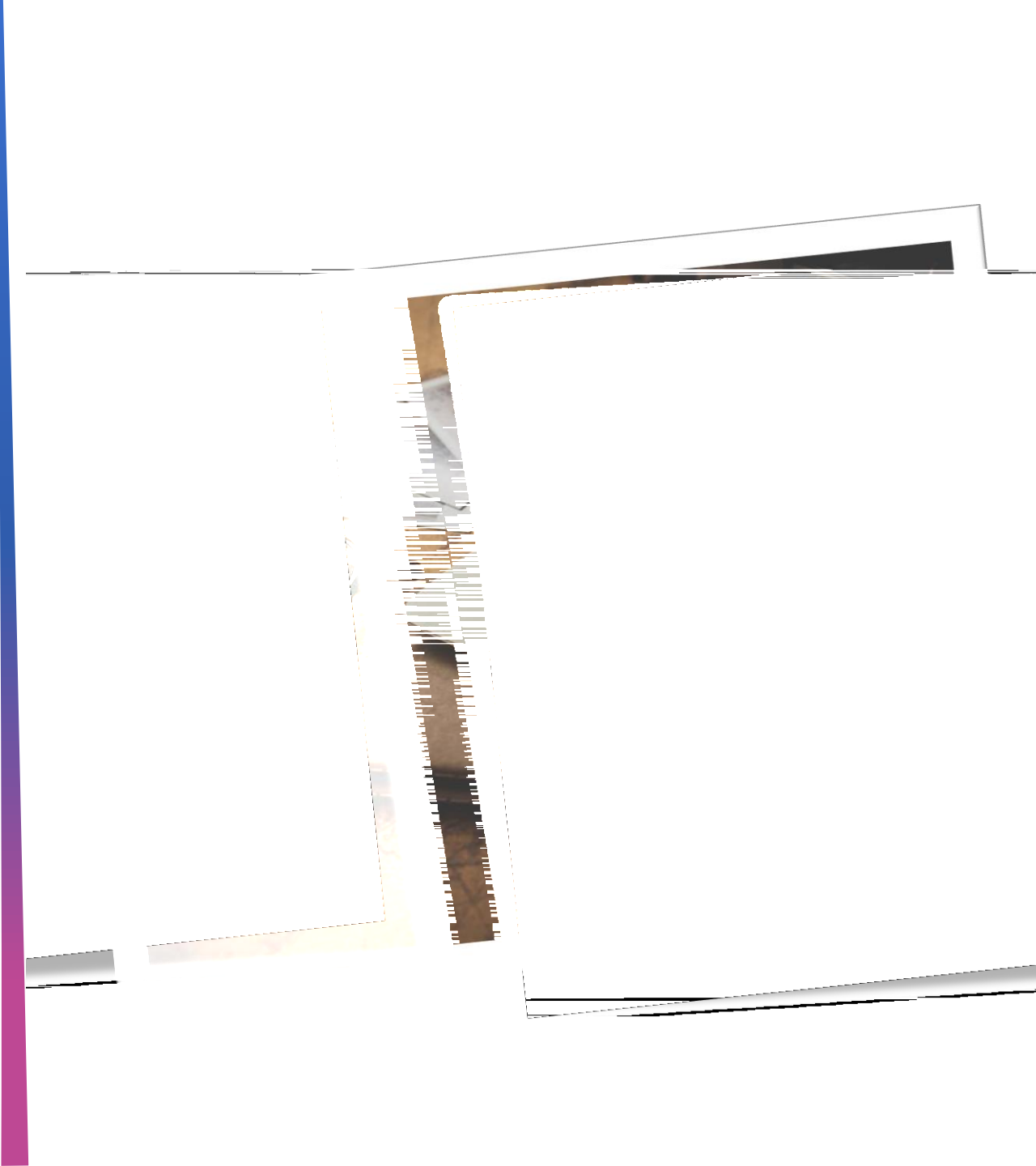


*Harvest now decrypt later* attack: Intercepted encrypted communication is decrypted later



Public-key crypto often relies on certificates. Certificate authorities will determine when to introduce new and phase-out old crypto.



- 
- ❖ Assumption in the past: “*RSA and elliptic curve cryptography rock-solid*” → Historical neglect
  - ❖ Crypto inventory / policy / agility → *No-regret moves*

Crypto inventory and crypto agility prevent further expenses in the long run. They are long-term investments  
→ Insight, compliance, quick vulnerability response

- Don't waste resources on refactoring legacy that reaches end-of-life in a few years
- Embrace crypto agility as design principle for new applications

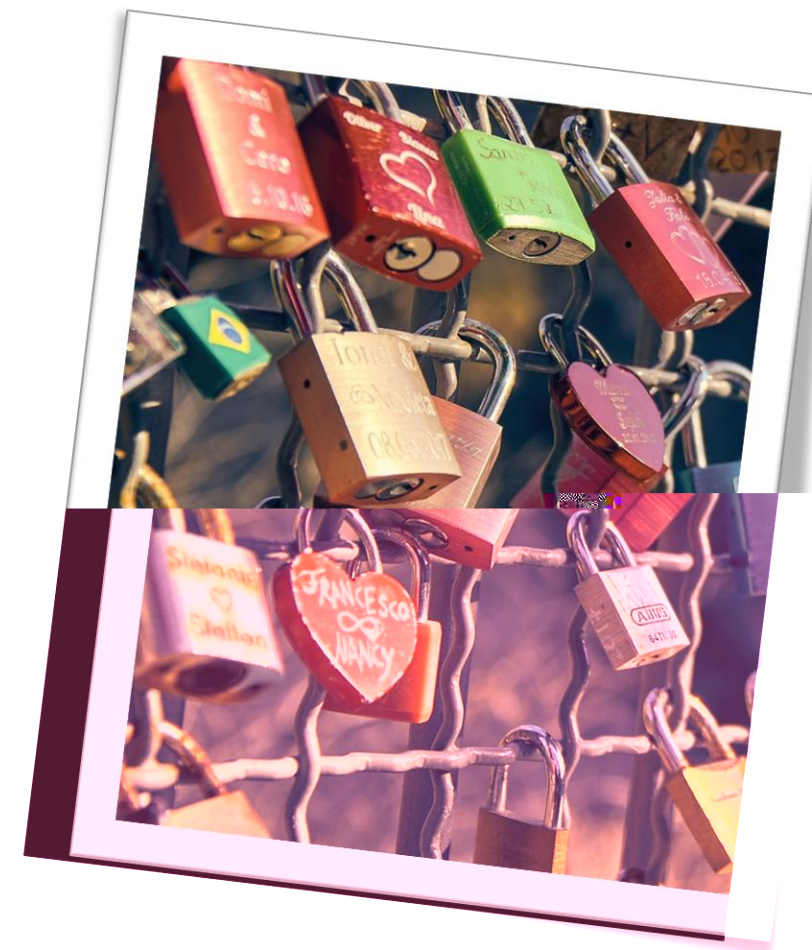


- ❖ Post-quantum cryptography, Crypto inventory, Crypto agility and crypto policy as code
- ❖ Sepia, Middleware key vault, automated certificate management
- ❖ Coming later this year  
Awareness, inventory, risk analysis, next steps, ...
- ❖

- ❖ Is everywhere → Need for secure cryptography
- ❖ Public-key cryptography required for, among others, key-exchange (communication), authentication and digital signatures
- ❖ Classical public-key cryptography based mainly on RSA and elliptic curves

- ❖ Future quantum computers may break classical public-key cryptography
- ❖ Also other threats, such as cryptanalysis and side-channel attacks (cfr. SIKE, a NIST post-quantum finalist, broken in 2022)
- ❖ Focus on communication, due to *harvest now, decrypt later attack*. Encrypted data intercepted today may be decryptable in the future

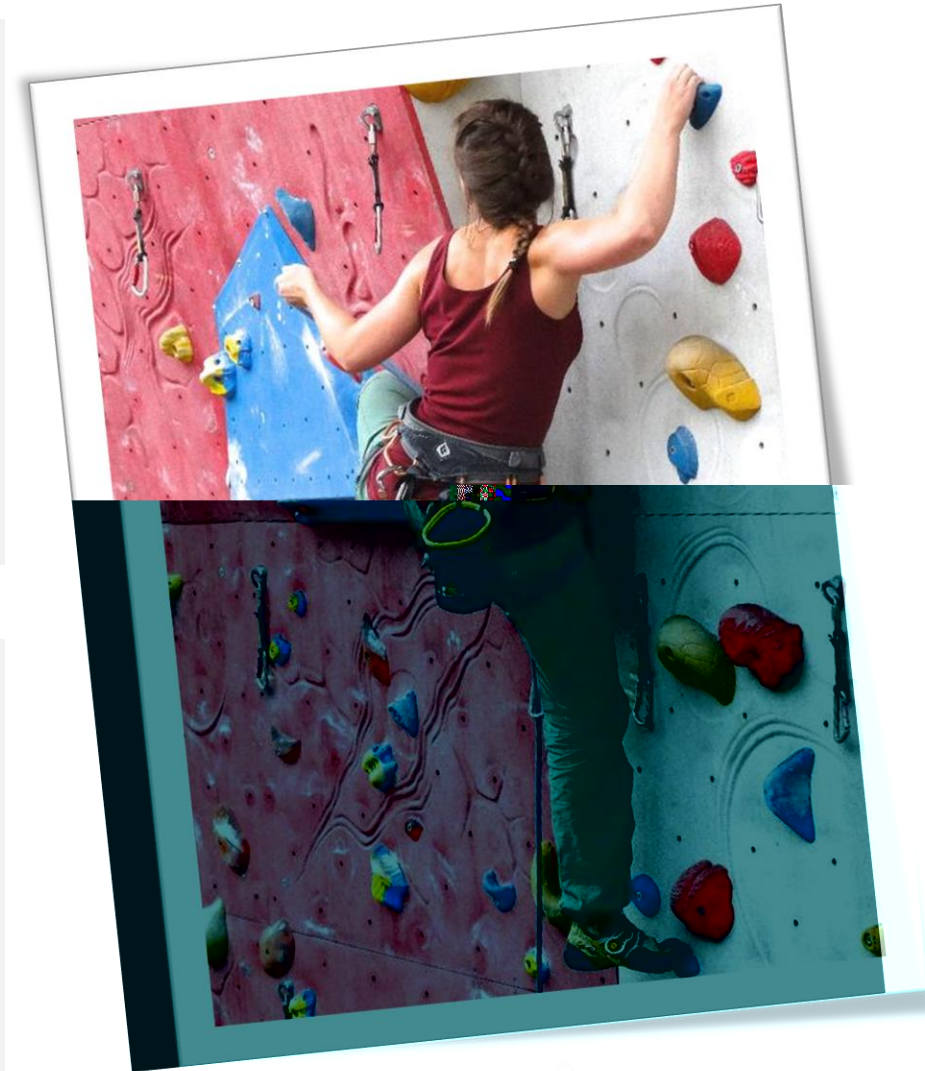
- ❖ Multiple migrations in the past  
→ slow, cumbersome & expensive (5-15 years)
- ❖ Most likely, multiple migrations in the future
- ❖  
→ make applications & infrastructure crypto agile!



- ❖ Applications no longer embed crypto logic, but instead consume cryptography by using APIs that hide crypto details
- ❖ Multiple cryptographic functions supported simultaneously
- ❖ Systems can choose/negotiate in real-time which ones to use
- ❖ New cryptographic functions can be easily added and removed
- ❖ Without affecting system availability

Cryptographic functions: algorithms, implementations, cipher suites, hardware, ...

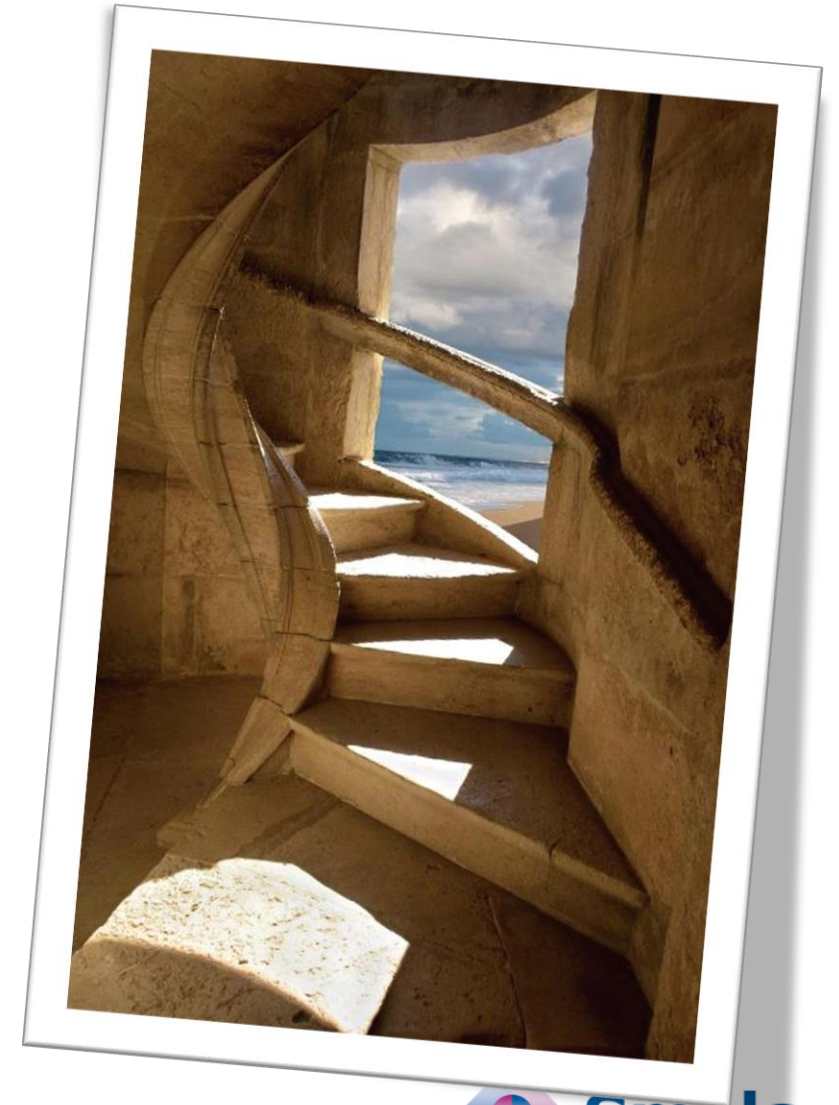
- ❖ **protocol** already adopted, for instance by TLS clients.
- ❖ is on the level of a broader infrastructure
- ❖ Term only recently more widely adopted, due to the quantum threat  
→ Still a lot of work to be done by industry
- ❖ Quantum resistant and/or crypto agile systems are still rare

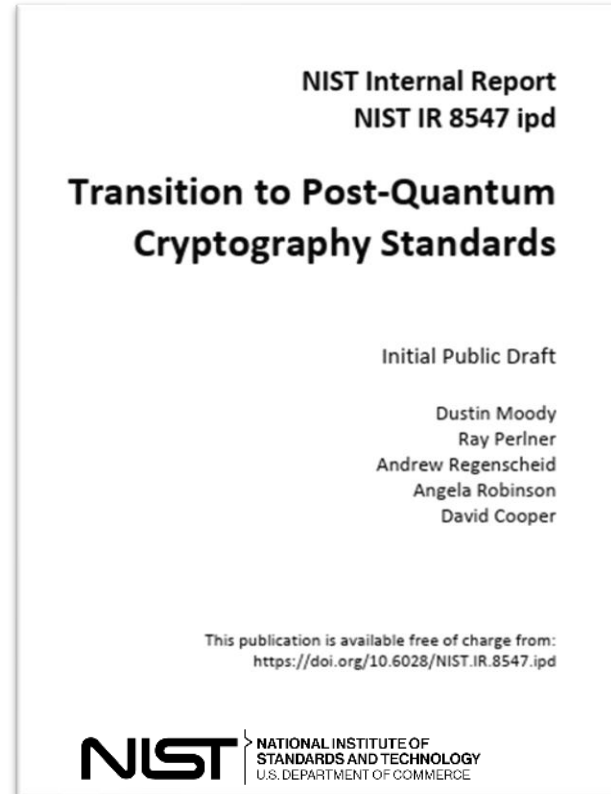
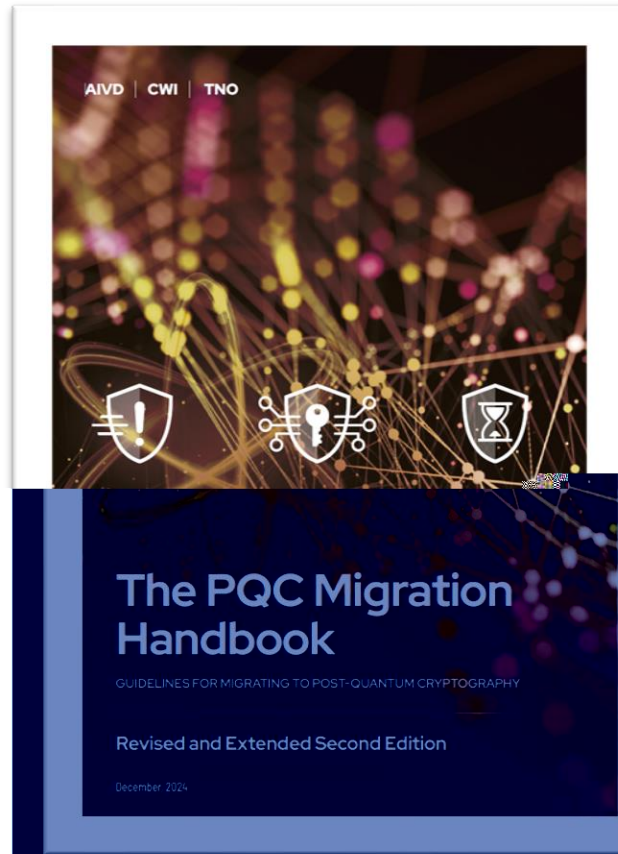


- ❖ Crypto agility requires a
    - ❖ Crypto inventory: what crypto is used where?
    - ❖ Crypto policy: what crypto is recommended, insecure, ...
- Agility / inventory / policy improve organisation's crypto maturity

- ❖ Crypto inventory as code & policy as code enable automated processes and management of complexity related to cryptography asset management
- ❖ Standards required for interoperability: CBOM (Cryptography Bill Of Materials) to express crypto inventory. Likely adopted by industry
- ❖ Smals Research is working on CBOM-inspired crypto policy as code

- ❖ Cryptographic agility implies centralization and automated processes
- ❖ Importance of testing before migration in life production environment
- ❖ Cryptographic agility is a journey (No adopted maturity model yet)





**BECOME A CHEETAH:  
EMBRACE CRYPTO  
AGILITY**

*Not in panic, but  
alert & ready for  
action*



*Relies on agility  
and rapid  
acceleration*



Feedback / questions / discussions welcome!

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