

## **Ad Hoc (Wireless) Key Establishment**

### **Problem Definition**

- **Goal:** Secure, authenticated communication between devices that share no prior context
- No prior context:
  - No CAs or other trusted authorities
  - No PKI
  - No shared secrets
  - No common history
- Problem: key establishment
- Diffie-Hellman shows how to share secrets...

## Diffie-Hellman Key Agreement

- Public values: large prime  $p$ , generator  $g$
- Alice has secret value  $a$ , Bob has secret  $b$
- $A \rightarrow B: g^a \bmod p$
- $B \rightarrow A: g^b \bmod p$
- Bob:  $(g^a \bmod p)^b \bmod p = g^{ab} \bmod p$
- Alice:  $(g^b \bmod p)^a \bmod p = g^{ab} \bmod p$
- Eve cannot compute  **$g^{ab} \bmod p$**

Are we done?

## Problem: Man-in-the-middle Attack

- Mallory can impersonate Alice to Bob, and impersonate Bob to Alice!
  - $A \rightarrow M: g^a \bmod p$
  - $M \rightarrow A: g^m \bmod p$
  - $M \rightarrow B: g^m \bmod p$
  - $B \rightarrow M: g^b \bmod p$
  - Bob:  $(g^m \bmod p)^b \bmod p = \mathbf{g^{bm} \bmod p}$
  - Alice:  $(g^m \bmod p)^a \bmod p = \mathbf{g^{am} \bmod p}$

## How Serious is MitM Attack?

- Wireless communication is invisible
  - People can't tell which devices are connected
- Neighbor can easily execute MitM attack
  - If neighbor has a faster computer, it can easily respond faster than the legitimate devices
- **Easy to perform with high success rate!**

**Solution?**

## Solution to Man-in-the-Middle Attack

- **Authentication!**
- Public DH values **must be authenticated**
- How?
  - Tradeoffs between **security**, **usability**, and **transparency** to the user
  - Transparency:
    - ♦ Does the user **realize** s/he is involved in a key establishment protocol?
    - ♦ Does the user **need** to realize this?

## Resurrecting Duckling

- F. Stajano and R. Anderson, IWSP '99
- **Problem:** how can we set up keys in a ubiquitous computing environment?
  - Devices use wireless communication
  - Setup keys between household devices and a PDA
- **Solution?**

## The Resurrecting Duckling

- **Solution:** set up keys using **trusted communication channel**
  - No cryptographic keys to setup this channel
  - Physical (WIRED) contact establishes a secure channel

## The Resurrecting Duckling

### Goals

- Availability
  - ◆ Guard against jamming and battery exhaustion
- Secure transient association with device
  - ◆ Even in absence of a trusted server
  - ◆ Security association is dynamic
    - Devices change owners
    - Owner changes its “controller” (PDA)

## The Resurrecting Duckling

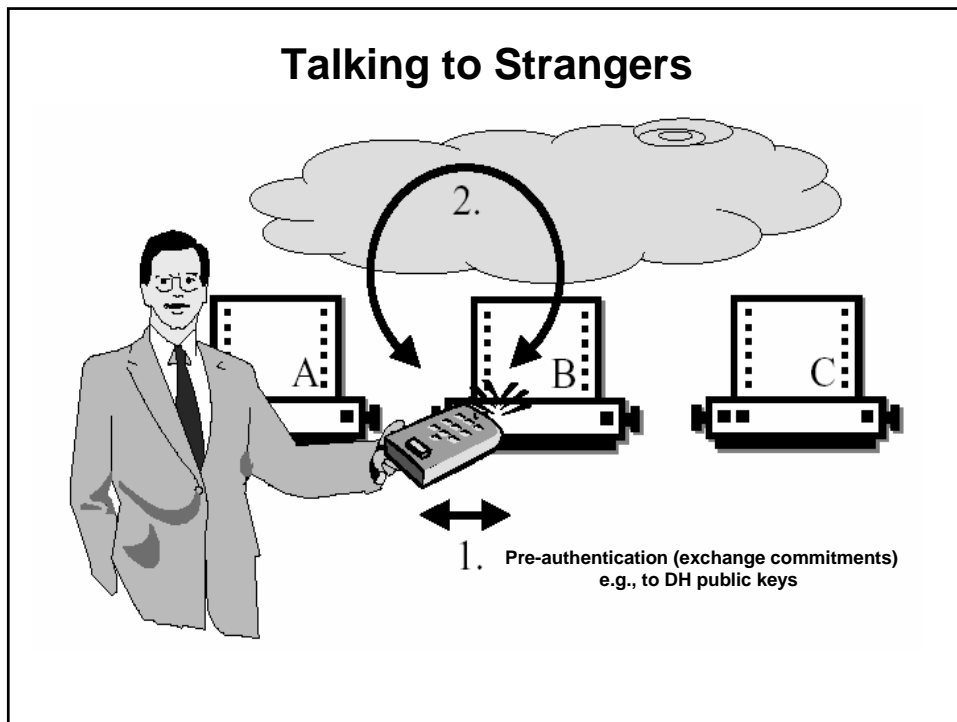
- Life cycle “similarities” between devices and ducklings
  - Life cycle of a **device**
    - ◆ Buy device in store
    - ◆ Unpack at home and use it
    - ◆ Device breaks or gets a new owner
  - Life cycle of a **duckling**
    - ◆ Duckling is in egg
    - ◆ When duckling hatches, first object is viewed as mother: imprinting
    - ◆ Duckling dies
  - Device ownership similar to duck’s “soul”

## The Resurrecting Duckling

- Device life cycle
  - Device **imprinted** by master when it wakes up
  - Reincarnation:
    - ♦ Device dies and gets new owner
  - Escrowed suicide:
    - ♦ Manufacturer can “kill” device to enable renewed imprinting
- Physical contact establishes secure key during imprinting phase
  - MitM ‘impossible’ over physical contact channel
  - Diffie-Hellman can be safely performed

## Talking to Strangers

- Balfanz et al. NDSS '02
- Addresses practical shortcomings of Duckling
  - Devices have no interfaces for physical contact
  - Cables are cumbersome
- Propose Infrared as a “**Location-Limited Side Channel**”
  - Assumed to be immune to MitM attack
  - Many of today’s devices equipped with IR
  - Want **demonstrative identification** of devices



- ### Talking to Strangers
- Pros
    - Works on many commodity devices
  - Cons
    - Most users do not know where their IR port is
    - IR is invisible, attacker may still be able to mount MitM attack
    - Demonstrative identification achieved only if IR works correctly

## Key Agreement in P2P Wireless Networks

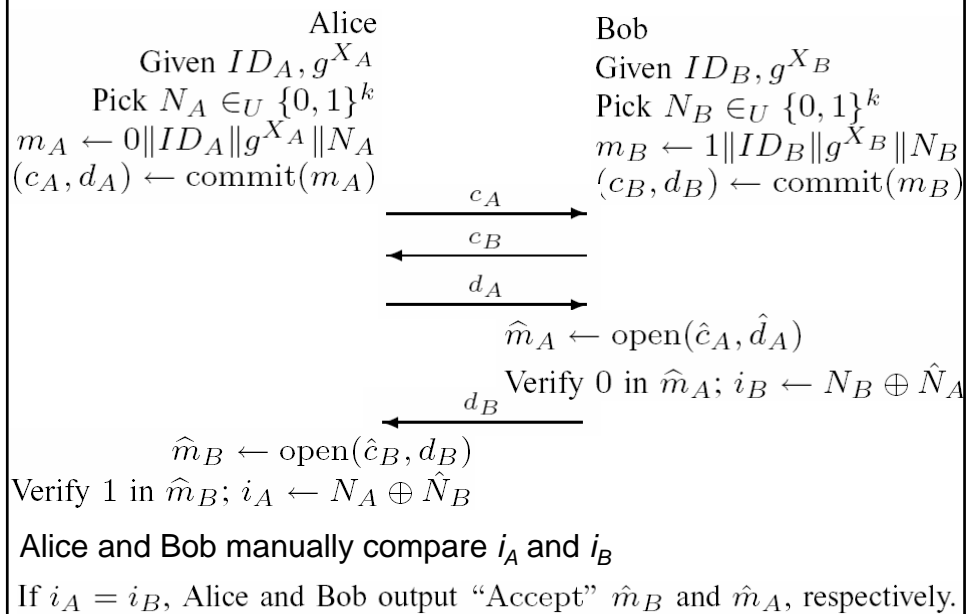
- M. Cagalj, et al.  
Proc. of IEEE, Special Issue on Security and Cryptography, '05
- Avoids use of side-channels
- Uses Diffie-Hellman to establish keys
- Presents three techniques to combat MitM
  - Visual comparison of short strings
  - Distance bounding
  - Integrity codes
- All 3 authenticate public DH parameters  $g^A$  and  $g^B$

## Commitment Schemes

- All 3 techniques use commitment schemes
- Commitment semantics:
  - Binding
  - Hiding
- $(c, d) \leftarrow \text{commit}(m)$
- $m$  – message
- $c$  – commitment value
- $d$  – opening value
- It is infeasible to find  $d'$  such that  $(c, d')$  reveals  $m' \neq m$



## DH using Short String Comparison (DH-SC)



## DH-SC Analysis

- Pros
  - Can be parameterized with shorter strings
  - Tradeoff between usability and security
- Cons
  - Users manually compare  $i_A$  and  $i_B$
  - Requires user diligence
- Why use commitments? Why not just compare the hash of the public DH values?

## DH-SC Analysis

- Why use commitments? Why not just compare the combined hash of the two public DH values?
- Attacker has control of inputs to **both** hash functions
- Short string greatly reduces search space for an attacker to find *collisions*
  - This is dangerous
  - Requires attack on strong collision-resistance of hash function
  - Recall recent results against MD5 and SHA-1

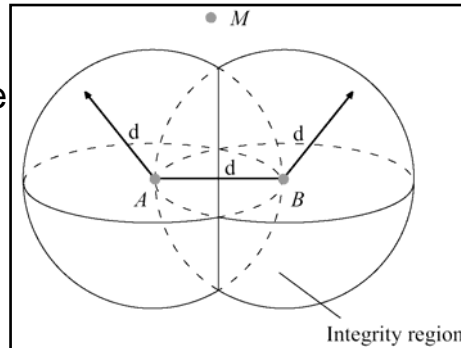
However, could perform two comparisons and forget the Commitments...

## Reminder: Desired (cryptographic) Hash Function Properties

- Pre-image resistance (one-way-ness)
  - Given  $y = h(x)$  it is difficult to find  $x$
- Second Pre-image resistance
  - A.k.a. “weak” collision resistance
  - For a given  $x$ , it is difficult to find  $x'$  such that  $h(x) = h(x')$
  - Attacker chooses only **one** input
  - Used in digital signatures
- Collision resistance
  - A.k.a. “strong” collision resistance
  - It is difficult to find  $x$  and  $x'$  such that  $h(x) = h(x')$
  - Attacker chooses **both** inputs

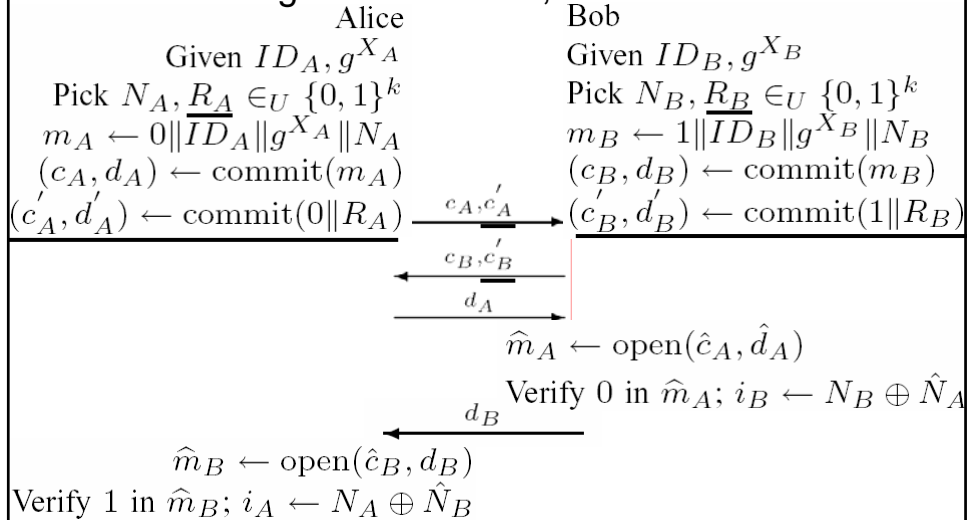
## DH using Distance Bounding (DH-DB)

- Using precise timing by the radio interface, one can bound the maximum possible distance between devices  $A$  and  $B$
- Results in an **integrity region** which provides proximity verification
- If users can visually verify there are no other users / devices within the integrity region, then  $i_A = i_B$
- How does this work?



## DH using Distance Bounding (DH-DB)

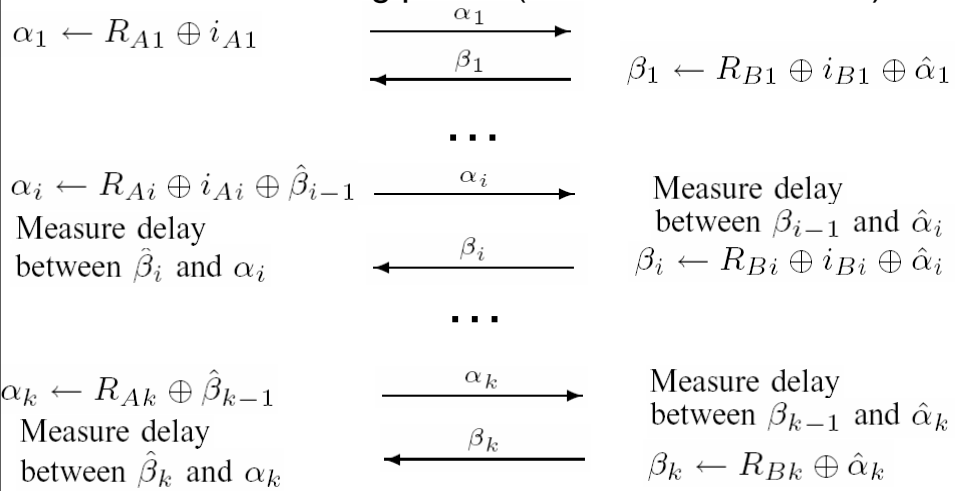
- Protocol begins like DH-SC, with a small addition



- Next, we use distance-bounding to verify  $i_A = i_B$

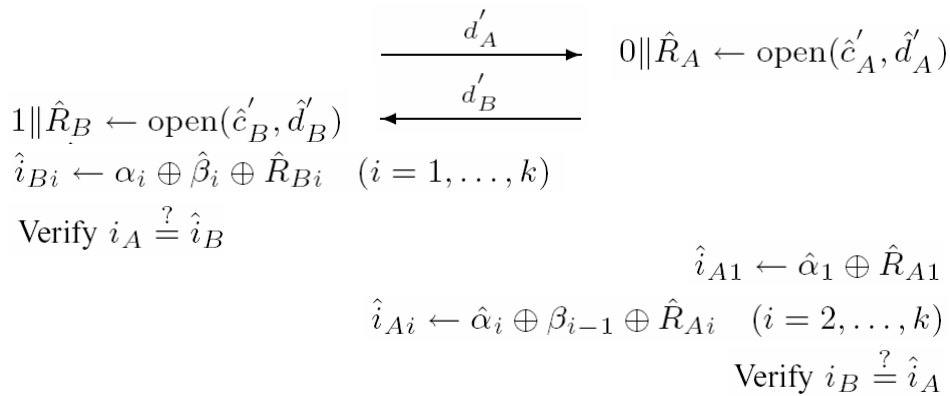
## DH using Distance Bounding (DH-DB)

- Distance-bounding phase (Brands & Chaum '93)



## DH using Distance Bounding (DH-DB)

- End of distance bounding phase



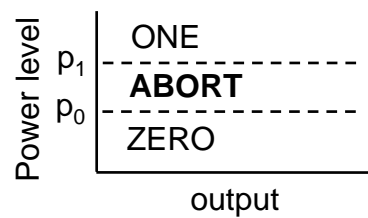
- Alice and Bob visually verify there are no other devices / users in their vicinity (the "integrity region")

## DH-DB Analysis

- Pros:
  - $i_A$  and  $i_B$  are compared by devices instead of users
  - Does not depend on the power ranges of devices
    - ♦ Depends solely on their proximity
  - Ultrasound requires millisecond timing precision
- Cons:
  - Pure RF implementation requires nanosecond timing precision (of XOR ops as well as radio)
    - ♦ To date, only Ultra Wide Band (UWB) can do this
    - ♦ Not available in commodity devices
  - Ultrasound available today, but not in commodity devices
  - No interference from other sw on devices...

## DH using Integrity Codes (DH-IC)

- The sending radio transmits at only 2 power levels
  - Power level 0 indicates a logical 0
  - Power level  $p$  indicates a logical 1
- The receiver applies 2 thresholds ( $p_0$  and  $p_1$ )
  - Signals above  $p_1$  are a logical 1
  - Signals below  $p_0$  are a logical 0
  - Signals between  $p_0$  and  $p_1$  **abort** the protocol



### DH using Integrity Codes (DH-IC)

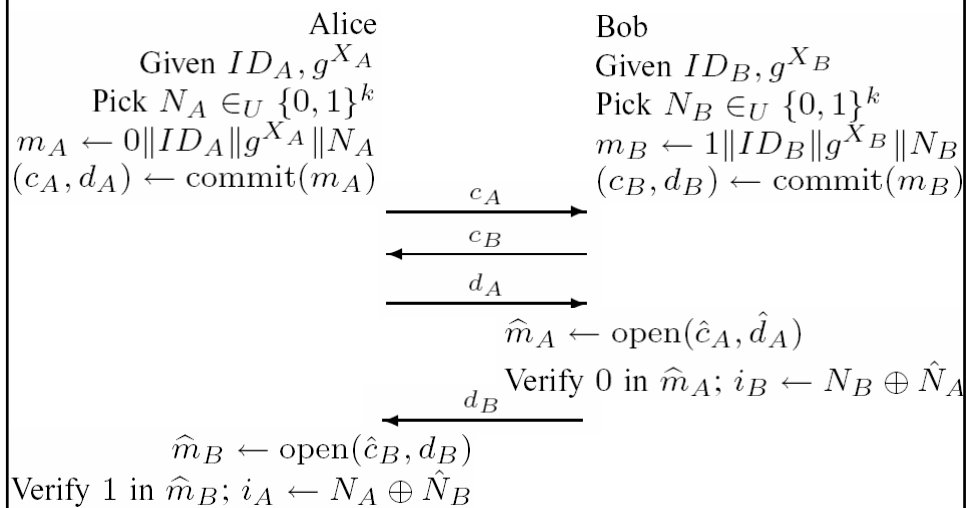
- Transmit messages in code words with a fixed number of 1's
- Attacker can inject 1's, but cannot remove 1's
- The receiver must be turned on and listening on the correct channel during the sender's transmission

• Example:

Messages:	00	01	10	11
Code words:	0001	0010	0100	1000

### DH using Integrity Codes (DH-IC)

- Protocol begins as in DH-SC



## DH using Integrity Codes (DH-IC)

- Alice makes sure that Bob's device is listening
- Alice pushes a button
- I-codes( $i_A$ ) sent to Bob's device
- Alice announces "Message Sent" to Bob
- Bob updates his device (pushes a button)
- Verify I-code message integrity and  $i_A = N_B \oplus \hat{N}_A$
- If verification okay, Alice and Bob output "Accept"  $\hat{m}_B$  and  $\hat{m}_A$ , respectively

## DH-IC Analysis

- User requirements
  - Alice must make sure Bob's device is listening before pressing a button on her device
  - Bob then presses a button on his device
- Radio system requirements
  - It is not possible to block emitted signals without being detected, except with negligible probability
  - Multiple waveforms to send a '1'
  - No rigorous treatment of its feasibility

N. Asokan and P. Ginzboorg, "Key Agreement in Ad-hoc Networks," *Computer Communications*, vol. 23, no. 17, pp. 1627–1637, 2000.

- Problem: how to set up a session key between a group of people/devices their who meet and have no prior context
- Shared password approach
- No PKI, no TTP
- Fresh password is chosen and manually shared among those present in the room (e.g., by writing on blackboard)
- Password used to derive a strong shared session key using either group DH or group-EKE
- Requires each user to type in the password

FYI: See paper on keyboard snooping from S&P'04

## Seeing-is-Believing (SiB)

McCune et al. IEEE Security & Privacy '05

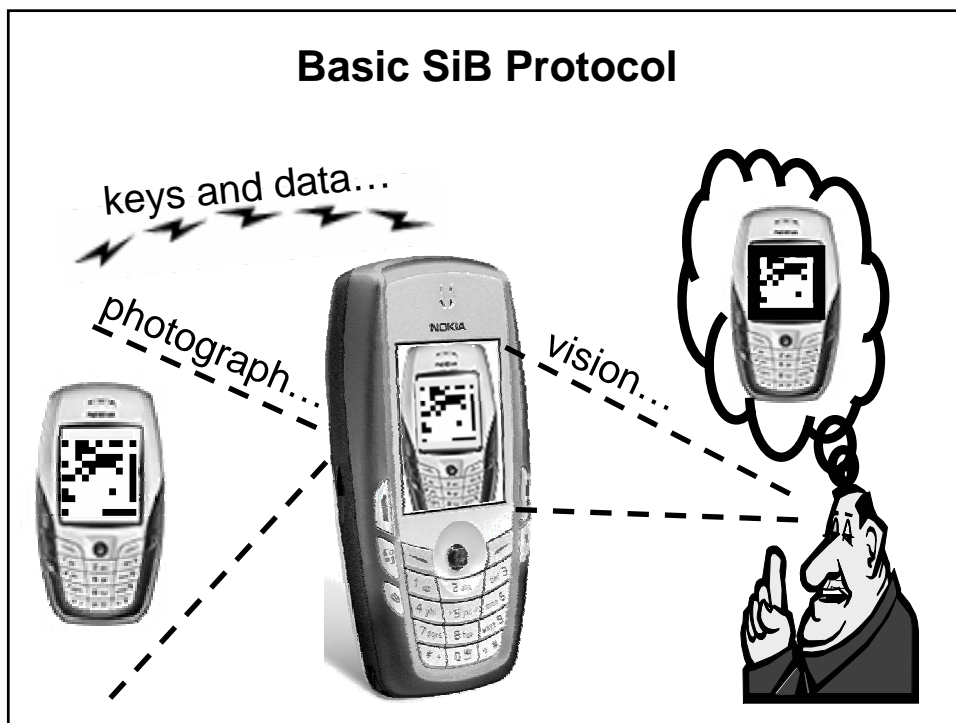
- Difficult to achieve **demonstrative identification** of devices communicating wirelessly with no prior context
- Prior work proposes the use of a **location-limited side-channel** to authenticate devices
  - Infrared, ultrasound, physical contact
- Proposals to-date too cumbersome for non-expert users
  - None of them convince the user that they are really communicating with *the target* device



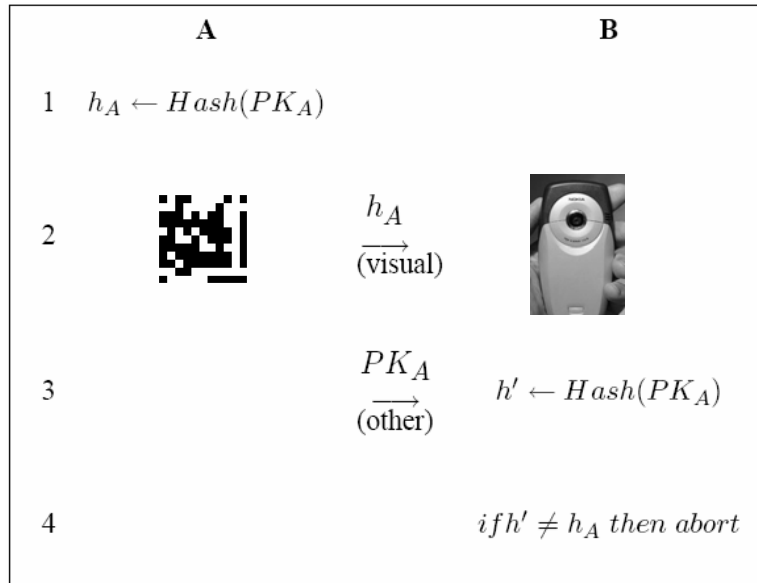
## Seeing-Is-Believing

- Camera Phones now have sufficient resources to scan 2D barcodes
- Also have high-quality screens which can display freshly-generated barcodes
- Using them together yields a **visual**, location-limited channel
- Visual channel **can** provide **demonstrative identification** of communicating parties to the user
- Enables strong authentication

## Basic SiB Protocol



## Basic SiB Protocol



## Device Configurations (SiB)

- Both devices have cameras and displays (most desirable configuration)
- SiB can be useful even if some devices are missing a camera, a display, or both
  - Display-only **or** Camera-less
    - ♦ Laptop, cable box, ...
  - Camera-less **and** Display-less
    - ♦ 802.11 access point, printer, ...

## Bidirectional Authentication (SiB)

- Both parties perform the basic SiB protocol
- Both parties get an authenticated copy of the other party's public key
- SiB serves the same purpose as certificates in an SSL/TLS session
- The keys used can be freshly generated for privacy reasons
  - Users may not want a single public key broadcast every time they're using their device
  - Avoids problems of user-tracking



## Display-less Devices (SiB)



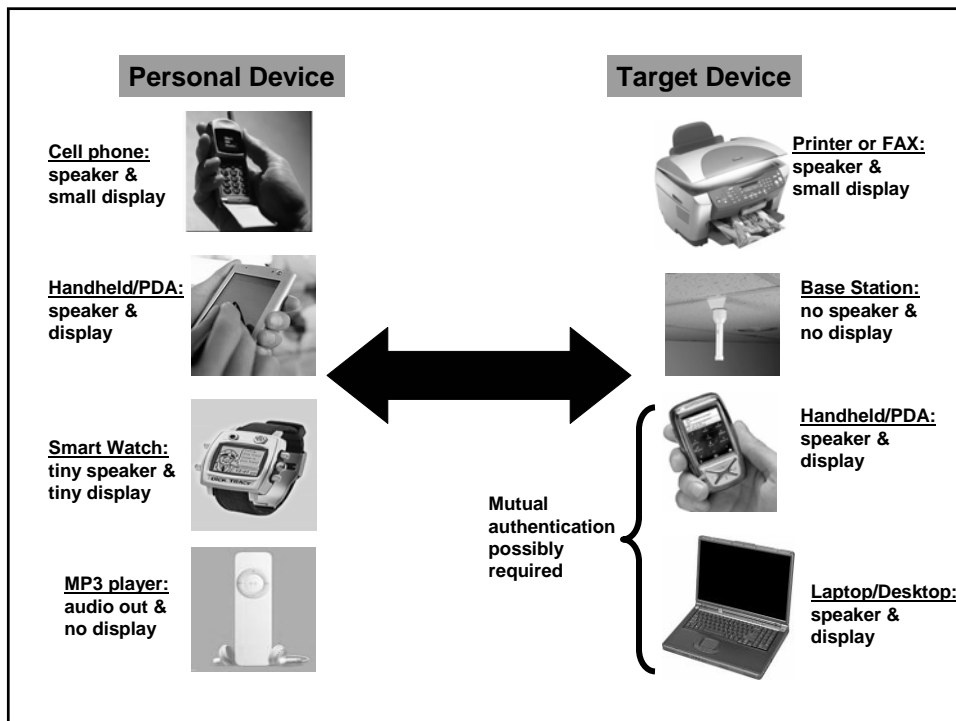
- Must be equipped with a long-term public key and a barcode sticker on their housing
  - Cannot use freshly generated public keys
- Resulting communications channel (following SiB) remains secure against active adversaries
- Like SSL/TLS, a *display-less* device has one identity that it presents to the world
- But, barcodes are easily “subverted” (replaced)

# Loud and Clear (L&C) Security

M. Goodrich, et al. 2005

What if:

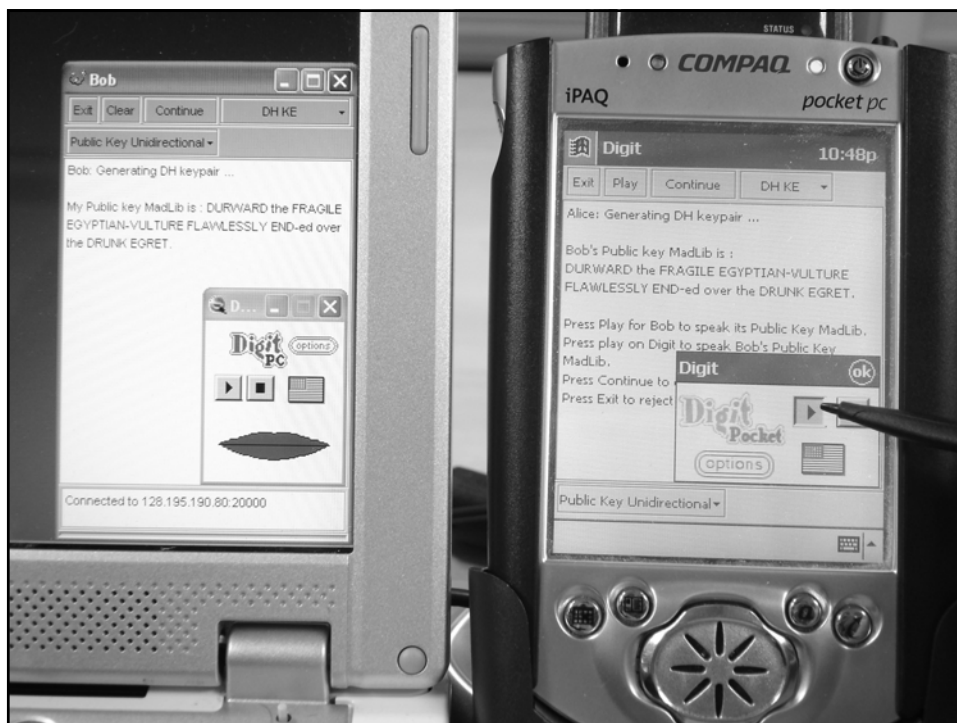
- Visually impaired user
- Not enough ambient light
- No camera-equipped device
- Afraid of barcode stickers being replaced?



## L&C Security

- Solution: use audio channel
- Human-assisted vocalized string comparison
- Exchange DH (or RSA) keys via any wireless (or wired) channel
- Hash other party's key and convert to MadLib sentence: non-sensical but grammatically-correct construction, e.g., 70-bit string represented as:

DONALD the FORTUNATE BLUE-JAY  
FRAUDULENTLY CRUSH-ed over the CREEPY  
ARCTIC-TERN.



### Scenarios (use types):

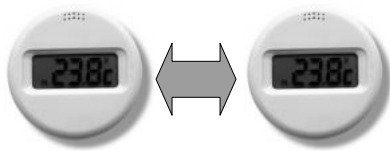
- TYPE 1: hear and compare two audible sequences, one from each device.
- TYPE 2: hear an audible sequence from the target device and compare it to text displayed by the personal device.
- TYPE 3: hear an audible sequence from the personal device and compare it to text displayed by target device.
- TYPE 4: compare text displayed by the personal device to text displayed by target device.

Row	Use Type	Personal Device		Target Device	
		Display	Speaker	Display	Speaker
1	1	no	yes	no	yes
2	3	no	yes	yes	no
3	3 or 1	no	yes	yes	yes
4	2	yes	no	no	yes
5	4	yes	no	yes	no
6	2 or 1	yes	yes	no	yes
7	3 or 4	yes	yes	yes	no
8	1,2,3 or 4	yes	yes	yes	yes
9	n.a.	no	no	*	*
10	n.a.	*	*	no	no

## Shake Them UP

C. Castelluccia, P. Mutaf, Mobisys'05

- Need to pair (i.e., establish a shared secret on-the-fly) between two wireless devices
- Devices, such as sensors, have *very limited* CPU, memory and power!
- Standard methods such as the DH key exchange are not suitable
- Example:



## Current Solutions

- PKC-based schemes
  - Rely on PK key exchange protocols such as RSA or DH
  - Perform CPU-intensive operations: modular exponentiations
  - Too expensive for tiny devices
- PIN-based schemes (for ex. Bluetooth)
  - Key derived from a PIN
  - PIN typically entered via out-of-band channel such as a keyboard.
  - Computationally efficient
  - ...but requires a physical user interface (keyboard)  
...and most sensors do not have a keyboard ☹!
  - Security is pretty weak since it depends on the PIN....

## Other Solutions (2)

- Physical Contact (imprinting) - Duckling
  - establish a key via physical contact by linking devices with a wire....
  - not always practical and requires additional hardware..
- InfraRed channel - Strangers
  - IR is difficult to intercept since requires line-of-sight links.
  - most sensors do not have IR interface!
- Faraday Cage
  - Devices could be placed into a Faraday cage
  - It is clearly impractical to ask users to lug around a metal box ;-)

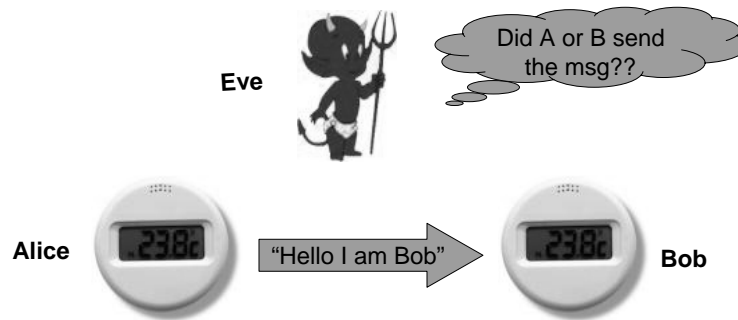
## Goals

- Design a secure pairing protocols that:
  - Does not rely on PK cryptography
  - Does not rely on pre-configured information
  - Does not increase the complexity (and cost) of the sensors by requiring additional hardware such as a display, keyboard, IR channel...
  - Does not require special equipment (cable, faraday cage)
- Security Model
  - protocol must ensure that active or passive attackers do not learn the exchanged key
  - must provide some DoS protection,i.e. prevent an attacker from disrupting the key exchange and exhausting the devices' resources.



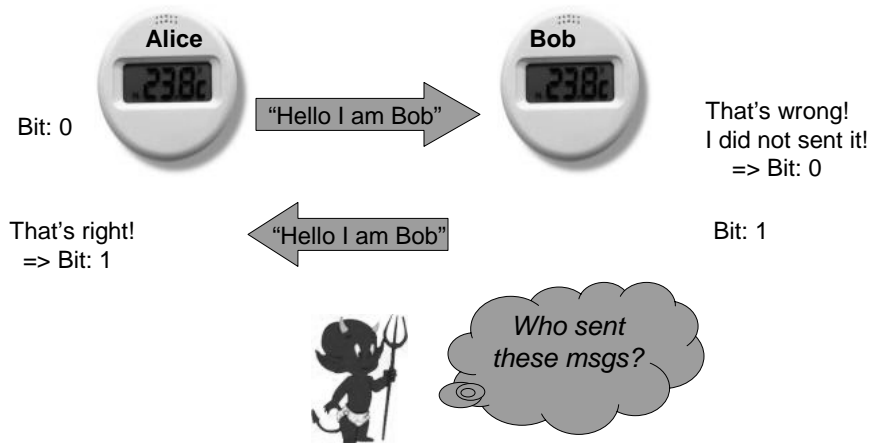
## How to exchange one secret bit

- Let's assume that Alice (A) and Bob (B) communicate over a wireless *anonymous* broadcast channel
  - Eve can read the exchanged packets
  - ...but can not identify the source of the packets.



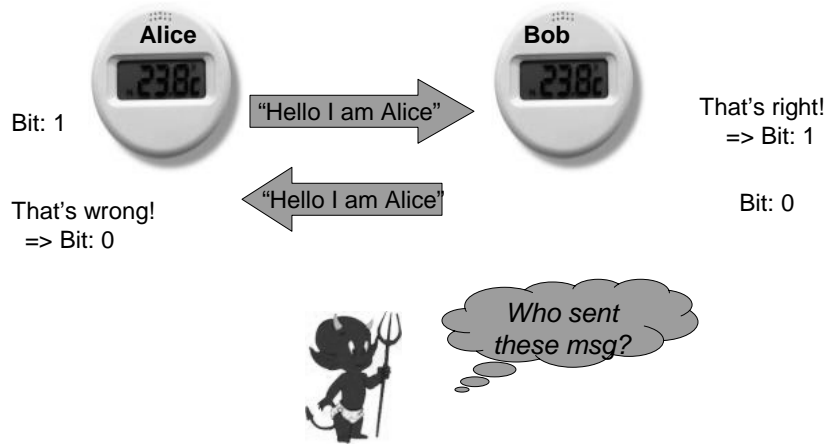
## How to exchange one secret bit (2)

- Alice and Bob can then use the following algorithm:



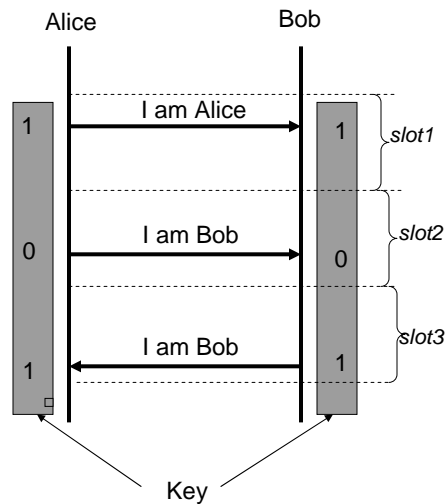
## How to exchange one secret bit (3)

- Of course the protocol is symmetrical i.e. Alice can also send the bit "1" and Bob the bit "0"



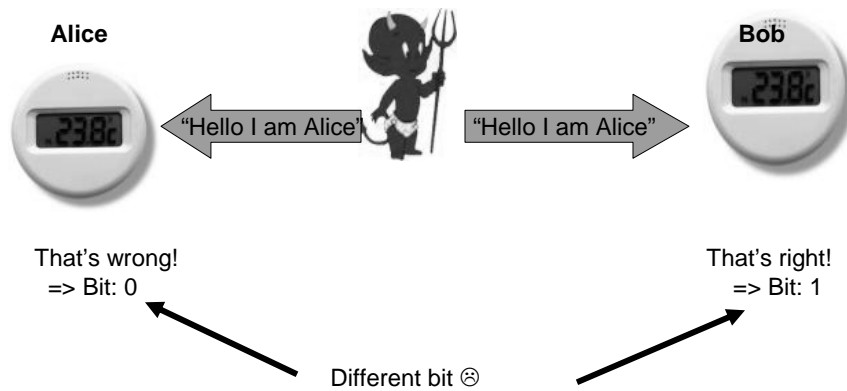
## How to exchange N-bit secret

- Divide the time in N slots.
- In each slot, either A or B sends a message
- Transmission order is random  
 → Eve can not group the messages and retrieve the key...



## Key poisoning Attack

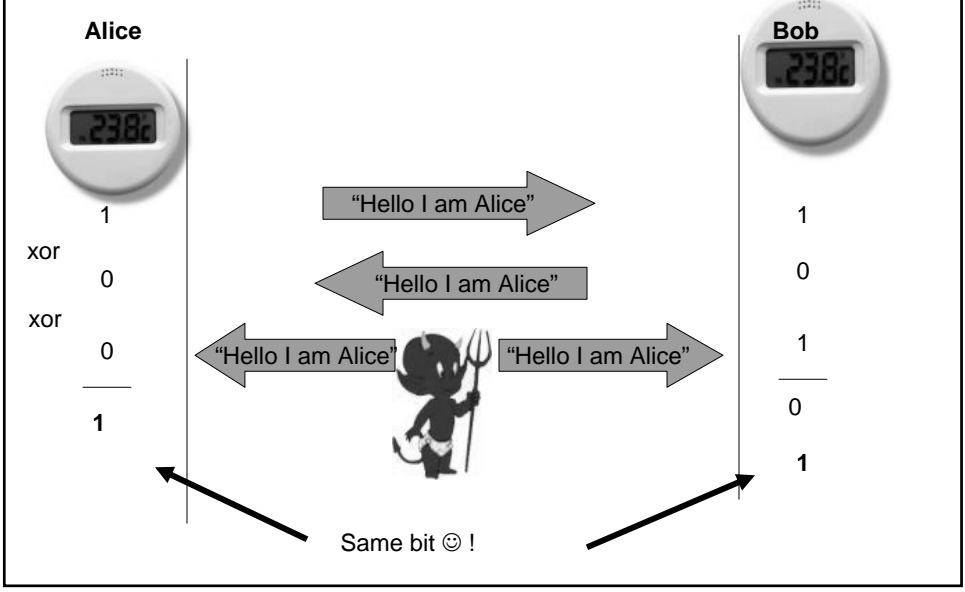
- What if Eve injects a fake message?



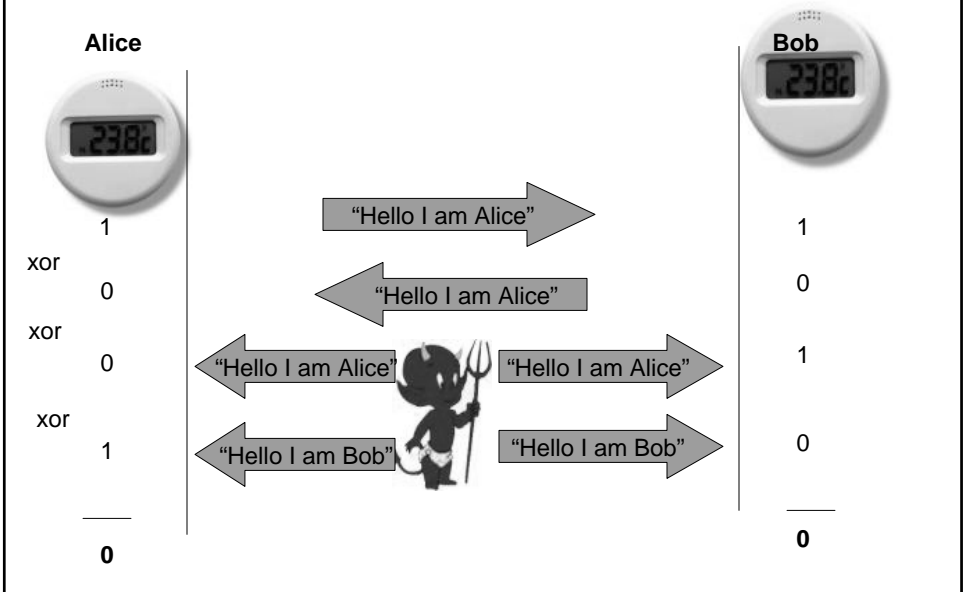
## Key Poisoning Protection

- Both Alice and Bob must send one message during a specified time slot  $T$  at a *random* time in  $[0, T]$
- Alice and Bob expect 2 messages per time slot
- If more than 2 packets are received ...then there is a DoS attack!
- To compute the secret bit:
  - Alice XORs all received bits..
  - Bob XORs all received bits
    - ♦ if number of messages is odd it takes the inverse of the XORed bit

# An Example



# An Example (2)

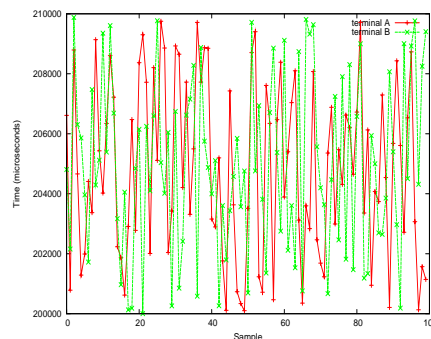


## Wireless Anonymous Communication

- We assume source anonymity...
  - Can an 802.11-based system provide source anonymity?
- Eve can potentially identify the real source of the messages
  - Timing information
  - Reception Power
  - Frequency

## Wireless Anonymous Communication (2)

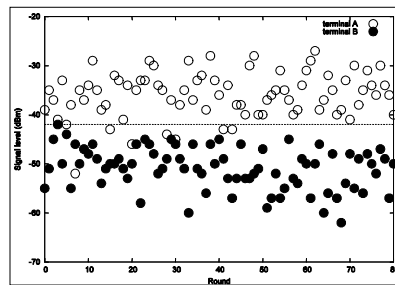
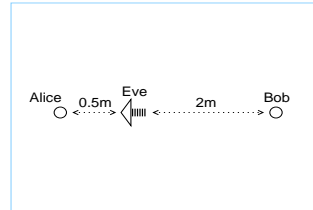
- Timing
    - This is quite trivial in TDMA based scheme since devices always transmit during their allocated slots
    - However Timing does not provide any information if a random access MAC protocol, such as CSMA, is used since each device access the channel at a random time!
- => Protocol only works with CSMA-based technologies, such 802.11,802.15.4



### Wireless Anonymous Communication (3)

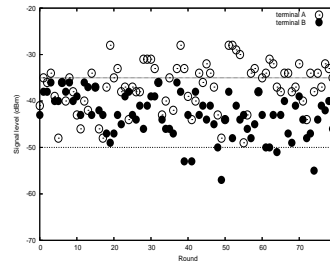
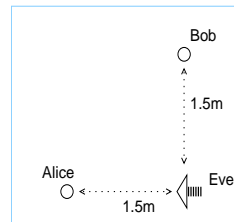
- Reception Power

- If Eve is closer to Alice than Bob, she will receive Alice's message which a higher power!
- Note: assume A and B transmit at the same power level.



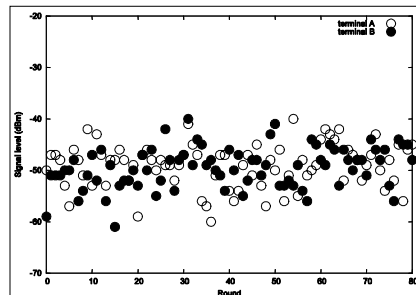
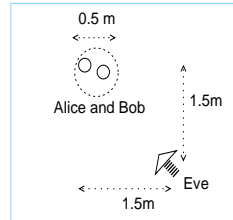
### What can be done? (1)

- Can randomly change Alice and Bob's transmission power
  - Some bits will still be revealed
  - If Eve has a directional antenna she can aim it at one of the devices!



## What can be done? (2)

- We can bring the devices together and move them (shake them up) one around the other!
  - The reception power of A's and B's messages will be similar...
  - Eve cannot use a directional antenna since the devices are moving!
- In summary, shaking 2 devices prevents using power to identify source!

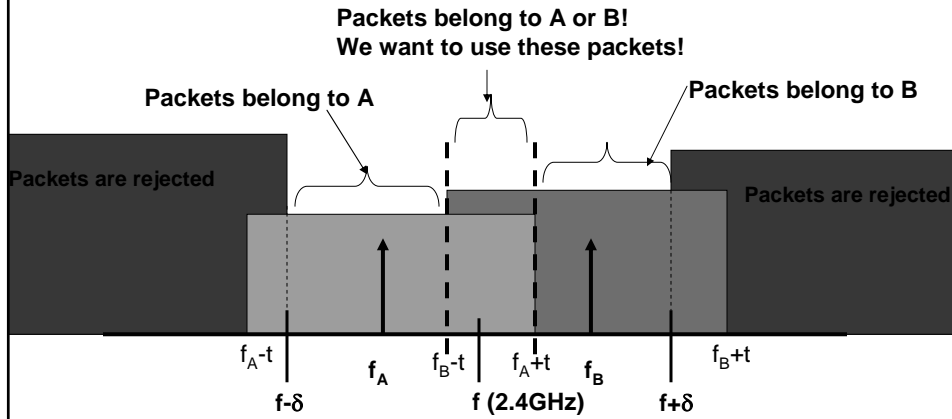


## Frequency Fingerprinting

- Even though standards specify one frequency, each device uses a different frequency.
- Difference due to the crystal oscillator and clock drift, resulting from aging, temperature and so on.
- Typically an error of 25ppm (parts per million) is allowed
- So, if transmitting frequency is 2.4GHz, a frequency offset of up to 120kHz is allowed.
- Possibly, a (well-equipped) Eve can use this frequency difference to identify the source and retrieve the secret...

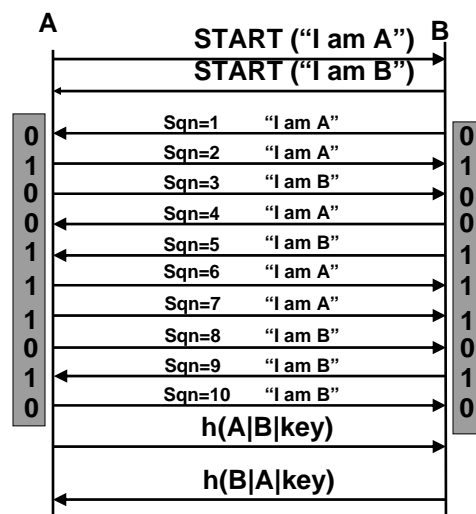
## Frequency Fingerprinting (2)

- If you move the devices at a high speed, the doppler effect might solve the problem for you ☺!
- A more practical solution is to add a random frequency offset so that A and B span over similar frequency ranges.
  - Btw This solution does not require modifying the standard!



## The Shake' em Up protocol (STU)

- We combine the previous protocol with shaking.
- A user that wants to pair to devices A and B
  - Brings the devices together
  - Shakes them up!
  - Triggers the protocol (for example by pushing a button on the devices)...





## Performance: Energy Consumption

- In STU, each device
  - processes  $N$  small messages, where  $N$  is # of bits of the secret (total number of bits sent: 2016)
  - ...but performs almost no computation.
- In a DH-based scheme,
  - each node sends only one large message ( $>1024$  bits)...
  - but performs a lot of computation...i.e.  $4.12 \times 10^8$  single precision multiplications (if  $N=72$ ).
- By using the heuristic that transmitting one bit consumes as much energy as executing 800 instructions...
  - this scheme is ca. 100 times more energy efficient than a plain DH-based scheme

## Conclusions

- Key establishment in ad hoc networks requires a trade-off between security, usability, and transparency to the user
- It is not necessarily desirable to have a totally human-transparent scheme
- If possible, involve the user, but in a way that is intuitive
- Taking pictures of desired communication endpoints is one way to achieve this property
- Listening is another way
- And shaking (juggling?) works too...