

Trust and Security

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Which Bank?

The screenshot shows the CommBank website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following links: BANKING, HOME BUYING, INSURANCE, INVESTING & SUPER, BUSINESS, and INSTITUTIONAL. A search icon, a refresh icon, and a 'Log on' button are also present in the navigation bar. The main content area features a large hero section with a background image of a woman in a yellow sweater standing by a window. The text in the hero section reads: "You can count on CommBank in uncertain times." Below this, it says "Continuing to serve our customers and support the economy." and includes a button that says "See coronavirus support". Below the hero section, there is a horizontal menu with the following items: Explore products, Support, Rates & fees, and Tools & calculators. The main content area is divided into four sections: "Bank accounts" with a bank account icon, "Credit cards" with a credit card icon, "Savings with certainty" with a photo of a family and the text "We're offering a range of Term", and "Coronavirus support for home loan customers" with a photo of a woman on a laptop. Another "Coronavirus support for business" section is partially visible at the bottom right.

Personal banking including accounts, credit cards and home loans - CommBank


[BANKING](#) [HOME BUYING](#) [INSURANCE](#) [INVESTING & SUPER](#) [BUSINESS](#) [INSTITUTIONAL](#) [Log on](#)


You can count on CommBank in uncertain times.


Continuing to serve our customers and support the economy.


[See coronavirus support](#)


[Explore products](#) [Support](#) [Rates & fees](#) [Tools & calculators](#)

 **Bank accounts**

 **Credit cards**

 **Savings with certainty**
We're offering a range of Term

 **Coronavirus support for home loan customers**

 **Coronavirus support for business**

Which Bank? My Bank!

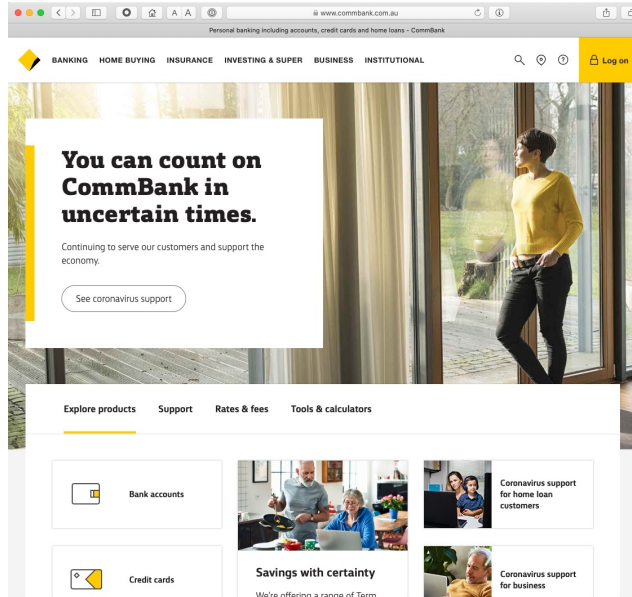
i hope!

The screenshot shows the CommBank website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for BANKING, HOME BUYING, INSURANCE, INVESTING & SUPER, BUSINESS, and INSTITUTIONAL. A search icon, a refresh icon, and a 'Log on' button are also present. The main headline reads 'You can count on CommBank in uncertain times.' Below this, a sub-headline states 'Continuing to serve our customers and support the economy.' A button labeled 'See coronavirus support' is visible. A secondary navigation bar includes 'Explore products', 'Support', 'Rates & fees', and 'Tools & calculators'. The page features several content tiles: 'Bank accounts', 'Credit cards', 'Savings with certainty' (with a sub-note 'We're offering a range of Term'), 'Coronavirus support for home loan customers', and 'Coronavirus support for business'.

Security on the Internet

How do you know that you are really going to where you thought you were going to?

its trivial to create a web page to look exactly like another



Opening the Connection: First Steps



Client:

DNS Query:

www.commbank.com.au?



DNS Response:

104.97.78.80

TCP Session:

TCP Connect 104.97.78.80, port 443



Hang on...

Who “owns” that IP address? The Commonwealth Bank? Someone else?

Let’s look at little more:

```
$ dig -x 104.97.78.80 +short  
a104-97-78-80.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com
```

Hang on...

```
$ dig -k 104.97.78.80 +short  
a104-97-78-80.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com
```

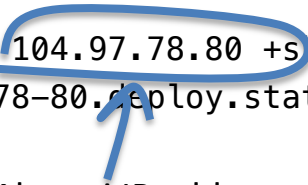


That's **not** an IP addresses that was allocated to the Commonwealth Bank!

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia has the address blocks
140.168.0.0 - 140.168.255.255 and
203.17.185.0 - 203.17.185.255

Hang on...

```
$ dig -x 104.97.78.80 +short  
a104-97-78-80.deploy.static.akamaitechnologies.com
```



That's an Akamai IP address

And I'm NOT a customer of the Internet Bank of Akamai!

Why should my browser trust that 104.97.78.80 is really the authentic web site for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and not some dastardly evil scam designed to steal my passwords and my money?

And why should I trust my browser?

Trust

More generally: **Who and What am I trusting?**

It seems that I'm trusting in the "correct" operation of:

- My browser
- My host platform
- My system clock
- DNS name resolution
- The Internet's Routing System
- All of the Web PKI CAs
- Public/Private key cryptographic algorithms
- The other end's infrastructure

How?

- HOW is this trust authenticated?

Asymmetric Cryptography

Using public/private key cryptography requires a pair of keys (A,B) such that:

- Anything encrypted using key A can ONLY be decrypted using key B, and no other key
- Anything encrypted using key B can ONLY be decrypted using key A, and no other key
- Knowing the value of one key WILL NOT let you work out the value of the other key!

This form of asymmetric cryptography lies at the heart of the Internet's security framework



Public/Private Key Pairs

If I have a copy of your PUBLIC key, and you encrypt a message with your PRIVATE key, and I can decrypt the message using your PUBLIC key, then

- I know no one has tampered with your original message
- And I know it was you that sent it.
- And you can't deny it.

If we negotiate a session key using the combination of your public key and a local private session key and encrypt all session messages using this session key, then

- I am confident no one else can eavesdrop on our conversation in this session

Public Key Certificates

But how do I know this is YOUR public key?

– And not the public key of some dastardly evil agent pretending to be you?

- I don't know you
- I've never met you
- So, I have absolutely no clue if this public key value is yours or not!

Public Key Certificates

What if I 'trust' an intermediary*?

- Who has contacted you and validated your identity and conducted a 'proof of possession' test that you have control of a private key that matches your public key
- If this trusted intermediary signs an attestation that this is your public key (with their private key) then I would be able to trust this public key
- This 'attestation' takes the form of a "public key certificate"

** If you have ever used "public notaries" to validate a document, then this is a digital equivalent*

TLS - Transport Layer Security

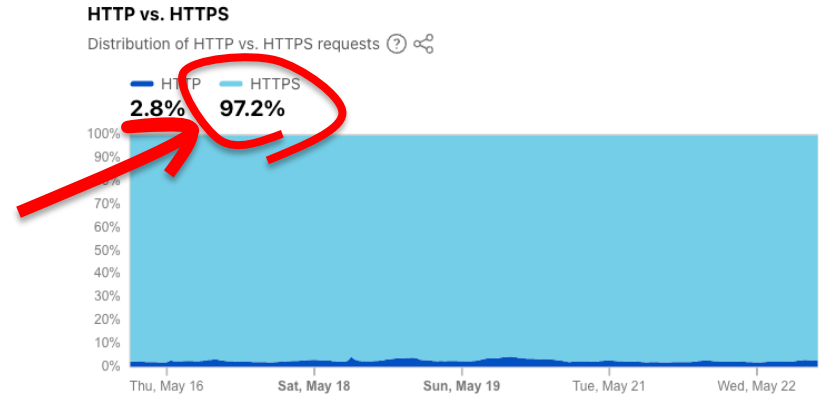
“Am I connecting to the named service that I intended to to connect to?”

- Almost universally used in the web context

TLS - Transport Layer Security

“Am I connecting to the named service that I intended to to connect to?”

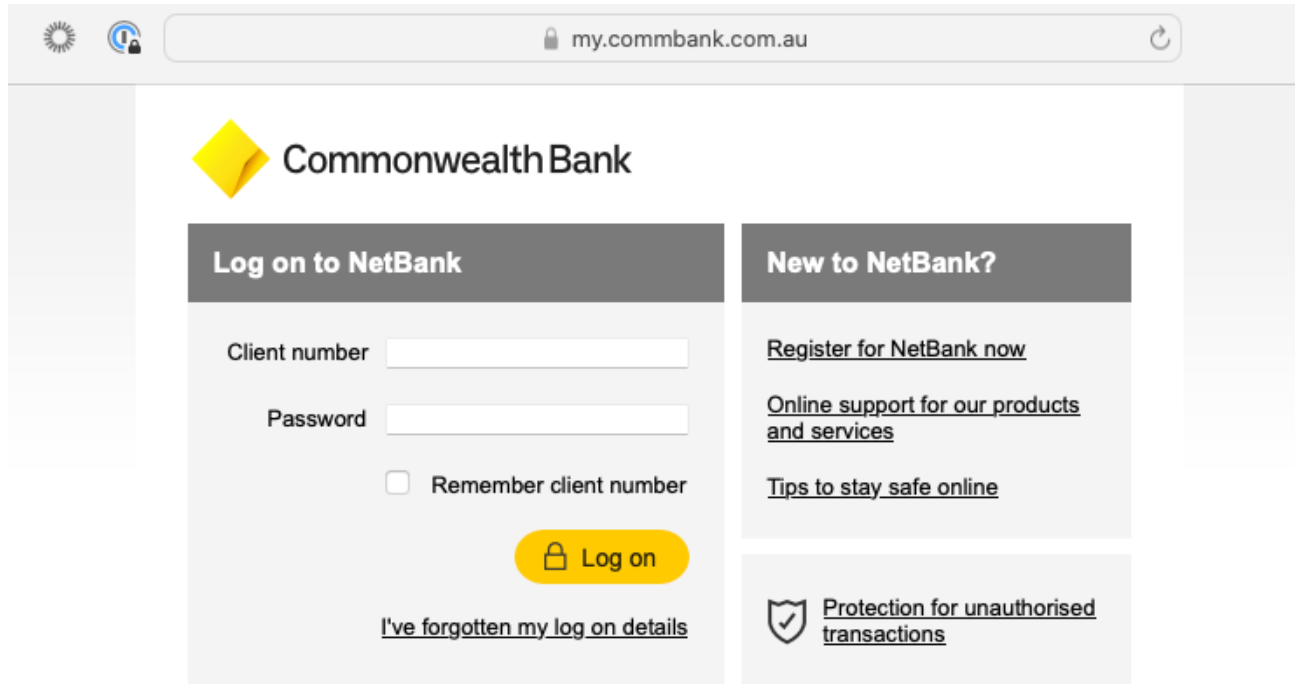
- Almost universally used in the web context



How does TLS work?

- The domain name owner demonstrates to a trusted Certification Authority that it has **control over a domain name**
- The CA certifies the domain name owner's public key in the form of a **domain name certificate** as an X.509 domain name certificate
- This certificate (and the public key) is passed to the client in the Server Hello party of a TLS handshake, together with a cipher text that was encrypted using the matching private key
- If the client application can decode the cipher text using the provided public key, and validate the certificate against any of its trusted CAs then it assumes that it is connecting to the authentic service

TLS on Safari



The image shows a Safari browser window displaying the Commonwealth Bank NetBank login page. The address bar shows the URL `my.commbank.com.au`. The page features the Commonwealth Bank logo and two main sections: "Log on to NetBank" and "New to NetBank?".

Log on to NetBank

Client number

Password

Remember client number

[Log on](#)

[I've forgotten my log on details](#)

New to NetBank?

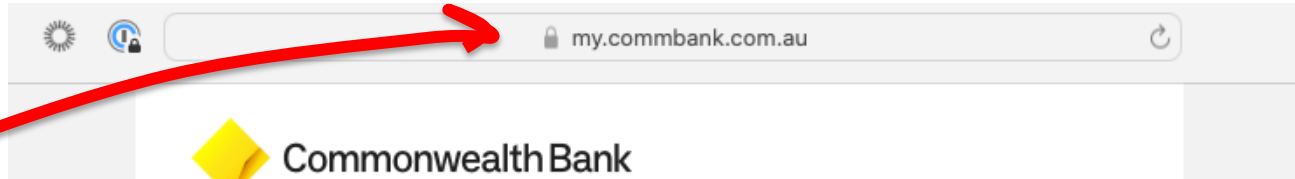
[Register for NetBank now](#)

[Online support for our products and services](#)

[Tips to stay safe online](#)

[Protection for unauthorised transactions](#)

TLS on Safari



Safari is using an encrypted connection to www.my.commbank.com.au.

Encryption with a digital certificate keeps information private as it's sent to or from the [https](https://www.my.commbank.com.au) website www.my.commbank.com.au.

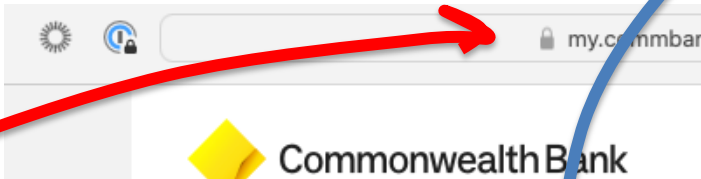
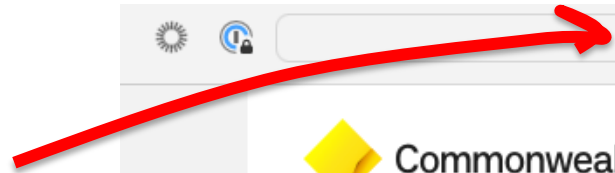
Entrust, Inc. has identified www.my.commbank.com.au as being owned by Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, New South Wales, AU.



Show Certificate

OK

TLS on S



Safari is using an encrypted connection to v

Encryption with a digital certificate keeps informat
https website www.my.commbank.com.au.

Entrust, Inc. has identified www.my.commbank.com
Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, New S



Show Certificate



Safari is using an encrypted connection to www.my.commbank.com.au.

Encryption with a digital certificate keeps information private as it's sent to or from the https website www.my.commbank.com.au.

Entrust, Inc. has identified www.my.commbank.com.au as being owned by Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, New South Wales, AU.

Entrust Root Certification Authority - G2

L Entrust Certification Authority - L1M

L my.commbank.com.au



my.commbank.com.au

Issued by: Entrust Certification Authority - L1M

Expires: Saturday 27 July 2024 at 10:11:46 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time

This certificate is valid

Trust

When using this certificate: Use System Defaults ?

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) no value specified

X.509 Basic Policy no value specified

Details

Subject Name _____
Country or Region AU
State/Province New South Wales
Locality Sydney
Inc. Country/Region AU
Organisation Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Business Category Private Organization
Serial Number 48 123 123 124
Common Name my.commbank.com.au

Issuer Name _____
Country or Region US
Organisation Entrust, Inc.
Organisational Unit See www.entrust.net/legal-terms
Organisational Unit (c) 2014 Entrust, Inc. - for authorized use only
Common Name Entrust Certification Authority - L1M

Serial Number 7A AD 6D 2C 64 84 F9 0A 53 60 A2 3A B4 41 2D F1
Version 3
Signature Algorithm SHA-256 with RSA Encryption (1.2.840.113549.1.1.1)
Parameters None

Not Valid Before Monday 3 July 2023 at 10:11:47 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time

Not Valid After Saturday 27 July 2024 at 10:11:46 AM Australian Eastern Standard Time

Public Key Info _____

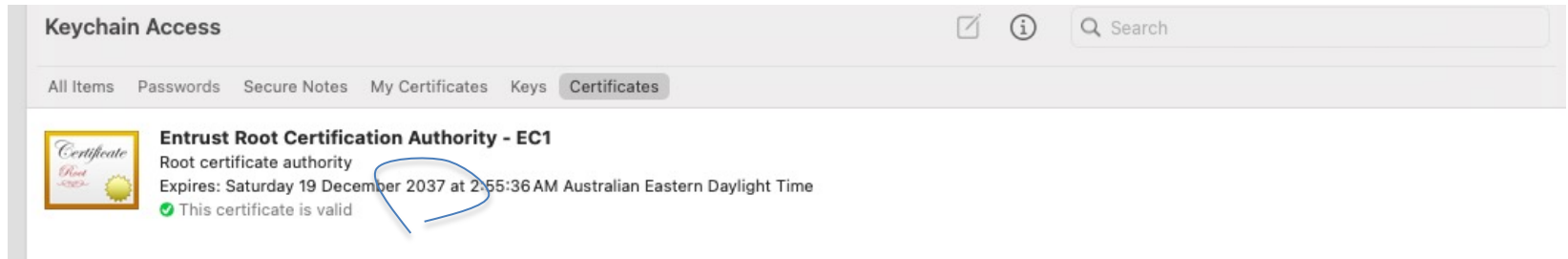


Hide Certificate

OK

Trust

My system trusts EVERYTHING that Entrust certifies - and for the next 13 years too!



What is assumed here?

- That all of these trusted CAs (and there are a few hundred of them) NEVER EVER lie!
- That the tests applied by the CA in issuing a certificate are robust
- That the CA has not been compromised in any way
- That there is a single unique DNS name space
- The integrity and strength of encryption algorithms

Subverting the Web PKI

- The problem here is that the TLS handshake does not tell the client WHICH CA has certified the server's public key
- So if I can compromise ANY CA then I can generate certificates for ANY domain name
- And the client can't tell the difference
- So this system is only as strong as the weakest CA
- So you would think we'd like to limit the number of CAs in this system – yes?

Trust? or Credulity?

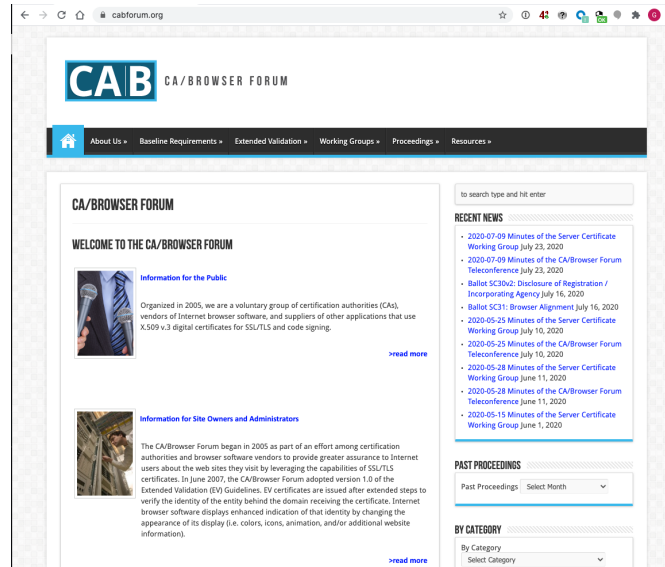
| Name | Kind | Expires | Keychain |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| AAA Certificate Services | certificate | 1 Jan 2029 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| AC RAIZ FNMT-RCM | certificate | 1 Jan 2030 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| ACCVIAZ1 | certificate | 31 Dec 2030 at 8:37:37 PM | System Roots |
| Actalis Authentication Root CA | certificate | 22 Sep 2030 at 9:22:02 PM | System Roots |
| AffirmTrust Commercial | certificate | 1 Jan 2031 at 1:06:06 AM | System Roots |
| AffirmTrust Networking | certificate | 1 Jan 2031 at 1:08:24 AM | System Roots |
| AffirmTrust Premium | certificate | 1 Jan 2041 at 1:10:36 AM | System Roots |
| AffirmTrust Premium ECC | certificate | 1 Jan 2041 at 1:20:24 AM | System Roots |
| Amazon Root CA 1 | certificate | 17 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Amazon Root CA 2 | certificate | 26 May 2040 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Amazon Root CA 3 | certificate | 26 May 2040 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Amazon Root CA 4 | certificate | 26 May 2040 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Apple Root CA | certificate | 10 Feb 2035 at 8:40:36 AM | System Roots |
| Apple Root CA - G2 | certificate | 1 May 2039 at 4:10:09 AM | System Roots |
| Apple Root CA - G3 | certificate | 1 May 2039 at 4:19:06 AM | System Roots |
| Apple Root Certificate Authority | certificate | 10 Feb 2025 at 11:18:14 AM | System Roots |
| Atos TrustedRoot 2011 | certificate | 1 Jan 2031 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| Atos TrustedRoot Root CA ECC G2 2020 | certificate | 10 Dec 2040 at 7:39:09 PM | System Roots |
| Atos TrustedRoot Root CA ECC TLS 2021 | certificate | 17 Apr 2041 at 7:26:22 PM | System Roots |
| Atos TrustedRoot Root CA RSA G2 2020 | certificate | 10 Dec 2040 at 7:41:22 PM | System Roots |
| Atos TrustedRoot Root CA RSA TLS 2021 | certificate | 17 Apr 2041 at 7:21:09 PM | System Roots |
| Autoridad de Certificación Firmaprofesional CIF A62834068 | certificate | 31 Dec 2030 at 7:38:15 PM | System Roots |
| Baltimore CyberTrust Root | certificate | 13 May 2025 at 9:59:00 AM | System Roots |
| Bypass Class 2 Root CA | certificate | 26 Oct 2040 at 7:38:03 PM | System Roots |
| Bypass Class 3 Root CA | certificate | 26 Oct 2040 at 7:28:58 PM | System Roots |
| CA Disig Root R2 | certificate | 19 Jul 2042 at 7:15:30 PM | System Roots |
| Certainly Root E1 | certificate | 1 Apr 2046 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Certainly Root R1 | certificate | 1 Apr 2046 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Certigna | certificate | 30 Jun 2027 at 1:13:05 AM | System Roots |
| certSIGN ROOT CA | certificate | 5 Jul 2031 at 3:20:04 AM | System Roots |
| certSIGN ROOT CA G2 | certificate | 6 Feb 2042 at 8:27:35 PM | System Roots |
| Certum CA | certificate | 11 Jun 2027 at 8:46:39 PM | System Roots |
| Certum EC-384 CA | certificate | 26 Mar 2043 at 6:24:54 PM | System Roots |
| Certum Trusted Network CA | certificate | 31 Dec 2029 at 11:07:37 PM | System Roots |
| Certum Trusted Network CA 2 | certificate | 6 Oct 2046 at 6:39:56 PM | System Roots |
| Certum Trusted Root CA | certificate | 16 Mar 2043 at 11:10:13 PM | System Roots |
| CFCA EV ROOT | certificate | 31 Dec 2029 at 2:07:01 PM | System Roots |
| Chambers of Commerce Root - 2008 | certificate | 31 Jul 2038 at 10:28:50 PM | System Roots |
| Cisco Root CA 2048 | certificate | 15 May 2029 at 6:25:42 AM | System Roots |
| COMODO Certification Authority | certificate | 1 Jan 2030 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| COMODO ECC Certification Authority | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| COMODO RSA Certification Authority | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| ComSign Global Root CA | certificate | 16 Jul 2036 at 8:24:55 PM | System Roots |
| D-TRUST Root CA 3 2013 | certificate | 20 Sep 2028 at 6:25:51 PM | System Roots |
| D-TRUST Root Class 3 CA 2 2009 | certificate | 5 Nov 2029 at 7:35:58 PM | System Roots |
| D-TRUST Root Class 3 CA 2 EV 2009 | certificate | 5 Nov 2029 at 7:50:46 PM | System Roots |
| Developer ID Certification Authority | certificate | 2 Feb 2027 at 9:12:15 AM | System Roots |

| Name | Kind | Expires | Keychain |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| DigiCert Assured ID Root CA | certificate | 10 Nov 2031 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Assured ID Root G2 | certificate | 15 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Assured ID Root G3 | certificate | 15 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Global Root CA | certificate | 10 Nov 2031 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Global Root G2 | certificate | 15 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Global Root G3 | certificate | 15 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert High Assurance EV Root CA | certificate | 10 Nov 2031 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| DigiCert Trusted Root G4 | certificate | 15 Jan 2038 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| emSign ECC Root CA - G3 | certificate | 19 Feb 2043 at 5:30:00 AM | System Roots |
| emSign Root CA - G1 | certificate | 19 Feb 2043 at 5:30:00 AM | System Roots |
| EnTrust Root Certification Authority | certificate | 28 Nov 2026 at 7:53:42 AM | System Roots |
| EnTrust Root Certification Authority - EC1 | certificate | 19 Dec 2037 at 2:55:36 AM | System Roots |
| EnTrust Root Certification Authority - G2 | certificate | 8 Dec 2030 at 4:55:54 AM | System Roots |
| EnTrust Root Certification Authority - G4 | certificate | 27 Dec 2037 at 10:41:16 AM | System Roots |
| EnTrust.net Certification Authority (2048) | certificate | 25 Jul 2029 at 12:15:12 AM | System Roots |
| ePKI Root Certification Authority | certificate | 20 Dec 2034 at 1:31:27 PM | System Roots |
| GDCA TrustAUTH R5 ROOT | certificate | 1 Jan 2041 at 2:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| GeoTrust Primary Certification Authority - G2 | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| Global Chambersign Root - 2008 | certificate | 31 Jul 2038 at 10:31:40 PM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 2:14:07 PM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 2:14:07 PM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign | certificate | 19 Jan 2038 at 2:14:07 PM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign | certificate | 18 Mar 2029 at 9:00:00 PM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign | certificate | 10 Dec 2034 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign Root CA | certificate | 28 Jan 2028 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign Root E46 | certificate | 20 Mar 2046 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign Root R46 | certificate | 20 Mar 2046 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign Secure Mail Root E45 | certificate | 18 Mar 2045 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GlobalSign Secure Mail Root R45 | certificate | 18 Mar 2045 at 11:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GLOBALTRUST 2020 | certificate | 10 Jun 2040 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| Go Daddy Class 2 Certification Authority | certificate | 30 Jun 2034 at 3:06:20 AM | System Roots |
| Go Daddy Root Certificate Authority - G2 | certificate | 1 Jan 2038 at 10:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R1 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R1 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R2 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R2 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R3 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R3 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R4 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| GTS Root R4 | certificate | 22 Jun 2036 at 10:00:00 AM | System Roots |
| HARICA Client ECC Root CA 2021 | certificate | 13 Feb 2045 at 10:03:33 AM | System Roots |
| HARICA Client RSA Root CA 2021 | certificate | 13 Feb 2045 at 9:58:45 PM | System Roots |
| HARICA TLS ECC Root CA 2021 | certificate | 13 Feb 2045 at 10:01:09 AM | System Roots |
| HARICA TLS RSA Root CA 2021 | certificate | 13 Feb 2045 at 9:55:37 PM | System Roots |
| Hellenic Academic and Research Institutions ECC RootCA 2015 | certificate | 30 Jun 2040 at 8:37:12 PM | System Roots |
| Hellenic Academic and Research Institutions RootCA 2015 | certificate | 30 Jun 2040 at 8:11:21 PM | System Roots |
| HIPKI Root CA - G1 | certificate | 1 Jan 2038 at 2:59:59 AM | System Roots |
| Hongkong Post Root CA 3 | certificate | 3 Jun 2042 at 12:29:46 PM | System Roots |

CA's trusted by my computer - and I'm only up to the letter H!

Trust

These Certificate Authorities are listed in my computer's trust set because they claim to operate according to the practices defined by the CAB industry forum (of which they are a member) and they **never** lie!

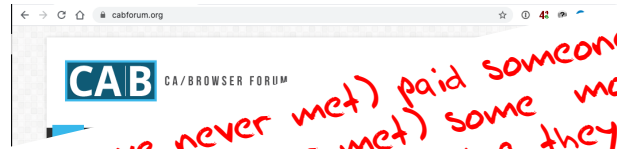


The screenshot shows the homepage of the CAB/BROWSER FORUM website. The browser address bar displays 'cabforum.org'. The website header features the CAB/BROWSER FORUM logo and a navigation menu with items: About Us, Baseline Requirements, Extended Validation, Working Groups, Proceedings, and Resources. The main content area is titled 'CA/BROWSER FORUM' and includes a 'WELCOME TO THE CA/BROWSER FORUM' section. Below this, there are two informational sections: 'Information for the Public' and 'Information for Site Owners and Administrators'. The 'Information for the Public' section states that the forum was organized in 2005 and lists its members as vendors of Internet browser software and suppliers of other applications that use X.509 v.3 digital certificates for SSL/TLS and code signing. The 'Information for Site Owners and Administrators' section explains that the forum began in 2005 as part of an effort among certification authorities and browser software vendors to provide greater assurance to Internet users about the web sites they visit by leveraging the capabilities of SSL/TLS certificates. In June 2007, the CAB/Browser Forum adopted version 1.3 of the Extended Validation (EV) Guidelines. EV certificates are issued after extended steps to verify the identity of the entity behind the domain receiving the certificate. Internet browser software displays enhanced indication of that identity by changing the appearance of its display (i.e. colors, icons, animation, and/or additional website information). On the right side of the page, there is a search bar and two sections: 'RECENT NEWS' and 'PAST PROCEEDINGS'. The 'RECENT NEWS' section lists several recent events, including '2020-07-09 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group July 23, 2020', '2020-07-09 Minutes of the CA/Browser Forum Teleconference July 23, 2020', 'Ballot SC30v2: Disclosure of Registration / Incorporating Agency July 16, 2020', 'Ballot SC31: Browser Alignment July 16, 2020', '2020-05-25 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group July 10, 2020', '2020-05-25 Minutes of the CA/Browser Forum Teleconference July 10, 2020', '2020-05-28 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group June 11, 2020', '2020-05-28 Minutes of the CA/Browser Forum Teleconference June 11, 2020', and '2020-05-15 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group June 1, 2020'. The 'PAST PROCEEDINGS' section has a dropdown menu for 'Past Proceedings: Select Month'. The 'BY CATEGORY' section has a dropdown menu for 'By Category: Select Category'.

Local Trust

These Certificate Authorities are listed in my computer's trust set because they claim to operate according to the practices defined by the CAB industry forum (of which they are a member) and they **never** lie!

So somebody (i have never met) paid someone else (whom i have also never met) some money and then my browser trusts everything they have ever done and everything they will ever do in the future - ok?



A screenshot of the 'Information for Site Owners and Administrators' page on the CAB website. The page includes a small image of a person and a paragraph of text explaining the forum's mission. Below the text are two 'read more' links. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a 'PAST PROCEEDINGS' section containing a list of recent minutes and a 'By CATEGORY' dropdown menu.

Information for Site Owners and Administrators

The CA/Browser Forum began in 2005 as part of an effort among certification authorities and browser software vendors to provide greater assurance to Internet users about the web sites they visit by leveraging the capabilities of SSL/TLS certificates. In June 2007, the CA/Browser Forum adopted version 1.3 of the Extended Validation (EV) Guidelines. EV certificates are issued after extended steps to verify the identity of the entity behind the domain receiving the certificate. Internet browser software displays enhanced indication of that identity by changing the appearance of its display (i.e. colors, icons, animation, and/or additional website information).

[read more](#)

[read more](#)

- Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group July 16, 2020
- Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group July 10, 2020
 - 2020-05-25 Minutes of the CA/Browser Forum Teleconference July 10, 2020
 - 2020-05-28 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group June 11, 2020
 - 2020-05-28 Minutes of the CA/Browser Forum Teleconference June 11, 2020
 - 2020-05-15 Minutes of the Server Certificate Working Group June 1, 2020

PAST PROCEEDINGS

Past Proceedings:

By CATEGORY

By Category:

Local Trust or Local Credulity*?

Wow!

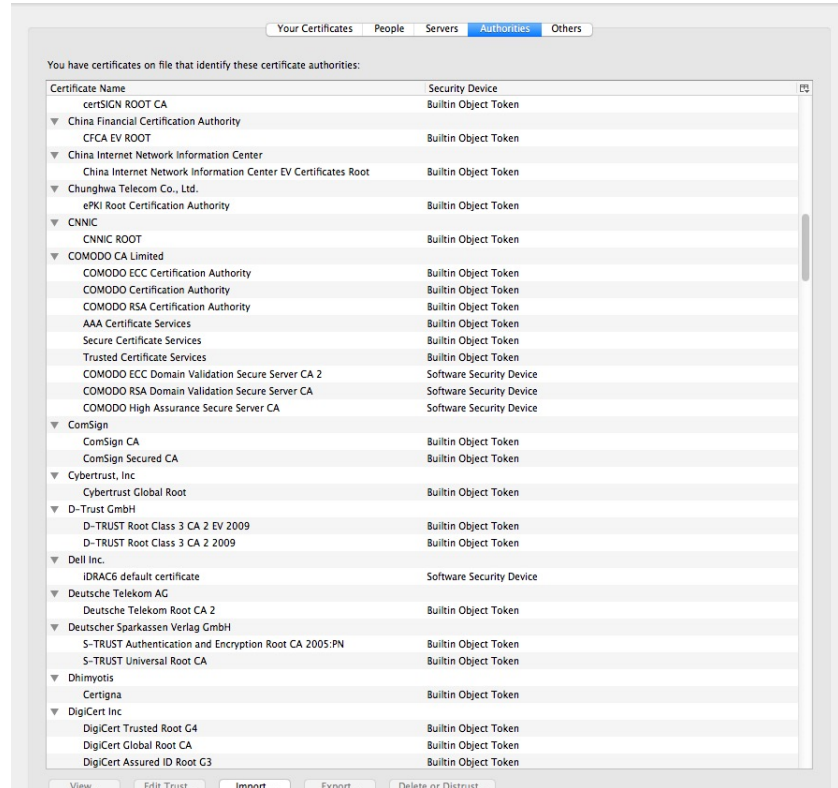
Are they **all** trustable?

* cre·du·li·ty

/kraˈd(y)oələdē/

noun

a tendency to be too ready to believe that something is real or true.



Local Credulity

Wow!

Are they all trustable?

Evidently Not!

The screenshot shows the Windows Certificate Manager interface. The 'Authorities' tab is active, displaying a list of certificate authorities. A blue circle highlights the 'CNNIC' entry in the list. A blue arrow points from this entry to a blog article titled 'Maintaining digital certificate security' on the website 'googleonlinesecurity.blogspot.com'. The article is dated Monday, March 23, 2015, and is posted by Adam Langley, Security Engineer. The article text states: 'On Friday, March 20th, we became aware of unauthorized digital certificates for several Google domains. The certificates were issued by an intermediate certificate authority apparently held by a company called MCS Holdings. This intermediate certificate was issued by CNNIC. CNNIC is included in all major root stores and so the misissued certificates would be trusted by almost all browsers and operating systems. Chrome on Windows, OS X, and Linux, ChromeOS, and Firefox 33 and greater would have rejected these certificates because of public-key pinning, although misissued certificates for other sites likely exist. We promptly alerted CNNIC and other major browsers about the incident, and we blocked the MCS Holdings certificate in Chrome with a CRLSet push. CNNIC responded on the 22nd to explain that they had contracted with MCS Holdings on the basis that MCS would only issue certificates for domains that they had registered. However, rather than keep the private key in a suitable HSM, MCS installed it in a man-in-the-middle proxy. These devices intercept secure connections by masquerading as the intended destination and are sometimes used by companies to intercept their employees' secure traffic for monitoring or legal reasons. The employees' computers normally have to be configured to trust a proxy for it to be able to do this. However, in this case, the presumed proxy was given the full authority of a public CA, which is a serious breach of the CA system. This situation is similar to a failure by ANSSI in 2013.'

Local Credulity

Wow!

Are they all trustable?

Evidently Not!

The screenshot shows a Windows certificate manager window in the foreground, displaying a list of certificate authorities. The list includes:

- certSIGN ROOT CA
- China Financial Certification Authority
- CFCA EV ROOT
- China Internet Network Informatic
- China Internet Network Inform
- Chunghwa Telecom Co., Ltd.
- ePKI Root Certification Authority
- CNNIC
- CNNIC ROOT
- COMODO CA Limited
- COMODO ECC Certification Authority
- COMODO Certification Authority
- COMODO RSA Certification Authority
- AAA Certificate Services
- Secure Certificate Services
- Trusted Certificate Services
- COMODO ECC Domain Validation
- COMODO RSA Domain Validation
- COMODO High Assurance Security
- ComSign
- ComSign CA
- ComSign Secured CA
- Cybertrust, Inc
- Cybertrust Global Root
- D-Trust GmbH
- D-TRUST Root Class 3 CA 2 EV
- D-TRUST Root Class 3 CA 2 TC
- Dell Inc.
- IDRAC6 default certificate
- Deutsche Telekom AG
- Deutsche Telekom Root CA 2
- Deutscher Sparkassen Verlag Gm
- S-TRUST Authentication and E
- S-TRUST Universal Root CA
- Dhimyotis
- Certigna
- DigiCert Inc
- DigiCert Trusted Root G4
- DigiCert Global Root CA
- DigiCert Assured ID Root G3

The browser window shows an article titled "The real security issue behind the Comodo hack" by Roger A. Grimes. The article text includes:

The Comodo hack has grabbed headlines, but more troubling is the public's ignorance over PKI and digital certificates

News of an Iranian hacker duping certification authority Comodo into issuing digital certificates to one or more unauthorized parties has caused an uproar in the IT community, moving some critics to call for Microsoft and Mozilla to remove Comodo as a trusted root certification authority from the systems under their control. Though the hacker managed to never first compromising a site containing a hard-coded logon name and password, then generating certificates for several well-known sites, including Google, Live.com, Skype, and Yahoo, I'm not bothered by the

Never?

Well, hardly ever


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RISK ASSESSMENT —

Already on probation, Symantec issues more illegit HTTPS certificates

At least 108 Symantec certificates threatened the integrity of the encrypted Web.

DAN GOODIN · 1/21/2017, 8:40 AM



Enlarge

62

A security researcher has unearthed evidence showing that three browser-trusted certificate authorities (CAs) owned and operated by Symantec improperly issued more than 100 unvalidated [transport layer security](#) certificates. In some cases, those certificates made it possible to spoof HTTPS-protected websites.

<http://arstechnica.com/security/2017/01/already-on-probation-symantec-issues-more-illegit-https-certificates/>

Misissued/Suspicious Symantec Certificates

Andrew Ayer | Thu, 19 Jan 2017 13:47:06 -0800

I. Misissued certificates for example.com

On 2016-07-14, Symantec misissued the following certificates for example.com:

<https://crt.sh/?sha256=A8F14F52CC1282D7153A13316E7DA396AE37B1A10C16288B9024A9B9DC3C4C6>

<https://crt.sh/?sha256=8B5956C57FDC720B6907A4B1BC8CA2E46CD90EAD5C061A426CF48A6117BFBFA>

<https://crt.sh/?sha256=94482136A1400BC3A1136FPCA3E79D4D200E03DD20B245D19F0E78B5679EAF48>

<https://crt.sh/?sha256=C69AB94C1B20E6FC7861C67476CADD1DAE7A8DCF6E23E15311C2D2794BFCDD11>

I confirmed with ICANN, the owner of example.com, that they did not authorize these certificates. These certificates were already revoked at the time I found them.

II. Suspicious certificates for domains containing the word "test"

On 2016-11-15 and 2016-10-26, Symantec issued certificates for various domains containing the word "test" which I strongly suspect were misissued:

Well, hardly ever



Google Security Blog

The latest news and insights from Google on security and safety on the Internet

Distrust of the Symantec PKI: Immediate action needed by site operators

March 7, 2018

Posted by Devon O'Brien, Ryan Sleevi, Emily Stark, Chrome security team

We [previously announced](#) plans to deprecate Chrome's trust in the Symantec certificate authority (including Symantec-owned brands like Thawte, VeriSign, Equifax, GeoTrust, and RapidSSL). This post outlines how site operators can determine if they're affected by this deprecation, and if so, what needs to be done and by when. Failure to replace these certificates will result in site breakage in upcoming versions of major browsers, including Chrome.

Chrome 66

If your site is using a SSL/TLS certificate from Symantec that was issued before June 1, 2016, it will stop functioning in Chrome 66, which could already be impacting your users.

If you are uncertain about whether your site is using such a certificate, you can preview these changes in [Chrome Canary](#) to see if your site is affected. If connecting to your site displays a certificate error or a warning in DevTools as shown below, you'll need to replace your certificate. You can get a new certificate from any [trusted CA](#), including Digicert, which recently acquired Symantec's CA business.

These are isolated events

No, they're not:

<https://www.feistyduck.com/ssl-tls-and-pki-history/>



HOME BOOKS TRAINING NEWSLETTER RESOURCES

SSL/TLS and PKI History

A comprehensive history of the most important events that shaped the SSL/TLS and PKI ecosystem. Based on [Bulletproof TLS and PKI](#), by Ivan Ristić. [Tweet](#)

Last updated in February 2022.

1994

SSL v2

Netscape develops SSL v2, an encryption protocol designed to support the Web as a hot new commerce platform. This first secure protocol version shipped in Netscape Navigator 1.1 in March 1995.

November 1994

With unpleasant consequences when it all
goes wrong

With unpleasant consequences when it all goes wrong



International Herald Tribune
Sep 13, 2011 Front Page

BORDER GATEWAY PROTOCOL ATTACK —

Suspicious event hijacks Amazon traffic for 2 hours, steals cryptocurrency

Almost 1,300 addresses for Amazon Route 53 rerouted for two hours.

DAN GOODIN - 4/25/2018, 5:00 AM

The image shows the Amazon.com logo, consisting of the text "amazon.com" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a yellow curved arrow underneath the text that starts under the 'a' and ends under the 'm'.

Amazon

123



Amazon lost control of a small number of its cloud services IP addresses for two hours on Tuesday morning when hackers exploited a known Internet-protocol weakness that let them to redirect traffic to rogue destinations. By subverting Amazon's domain-resolution service, the attackers masqueraded as cryptocurrency website MyEtherWallet.com and stole about \$150,000 in digital coins from unwitting end users. They may have targeted other Amazon customers as well.

The incident, which started around 6 AM California time, hijacked roughly 1,300 IP addresses, Oracle-owned Internet Intelligence [said on Twitter](#). The malicious redirection was caused by fraudulent routes that were announced by [Columbus, Ohio-based eNet](#), a large Internet service provider that is referred to as autonomous system 10297. Once in place, the eNet announcement caused Hurricane Electric and possibly Hurricane Electric customers and other eNet peers to send traffic over the same unauthorized routes. The 1,300 addresses belonged to [Route 53](#), Amazon's domain name system service

The attackers managed to steal about \$150,000 of currency from MyEtherWallet users,

What's going wrong here?

What's going wrong here?

- There is no incentive for quality in the CA marketplace
- Why pay more for any certificate when the entire CA structure is only as strong as the weakest CA
- And your browser trusts a LOT of CAs!
 - About 60 – 100 CA's
 - About 1,500 Subordinate RA's
 - Operated by 650 different organisations

See the EFF SSL observatory
<http://www.eff.org/files/DefconSSLiverse.pdf>

In a Commercial Environment

Where CA's compete with each other for market share
And quality offers no protection
Then what 'wins' in the market?

Sustainable
Resilient

Secure

Privacy

Trusted



cheap!

But it's all OK

Really.

- Because 'bad' certificates can be revoked
- And browsers **always** check revocation status of certificates before they trust them

Always?

Ok - Not Always.
Some do.
Sometimes.

| Platform | Chrome | Firefox | Opera | Safari | Edge |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Mac OS X 10.15.3 | YES 80.0.3987.132 | YES 73.0.1 | YES 67.0.3575.53 | YES 13.0.5 | |
| iOS 13.3.1 | YES 80.0.3987.95 | YES 23.0 | NO 16.0.15 | YES 13.3.1 | |
| Android 10 | NO 80.0.3987.132 | NO 68.6.0 | NO 56.1 | | |
| Windows 10 | NO 80.0.3987.132 | YES 74.0 | NO 67 | | YES 44.18362 |

Table 1 – Browser Revocation Status

So, we can't count on revocation

- If we can't revoke certificates, then we need to reduce certificate lifetimes

So, we can't count on revocation

- If we can't revoke certificates then we need to reduce certificate lifetimes
- What's a "safe" certificate lifetime?

ars TECHNICA

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BORDER GATEWAY PROTOCOL ATTACK —

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So, we can't count on revocation

- If we can't revoke certificates then we need to reduce certificate lifetimes
- What's a "safe" certificate lifetime?
- If we want 2 hours or less, then we need to think hard about how to achieve this

Why is this so hard?

Why is this so hard?

We have different goals

- Some people want to provide strong hierarchical controls on the certificates and keys because it entrenches their role in providing services
- Some want to do it because it gives them a point of control to intrude into the conversations of their citizens
- Others want to exploit weaknesses in the system to leverage a competitive advantage
- Some people think users prefer faster application startup, even if faster startup admits security weaknesses
- Others think users are willing to pay a time penalty for better authentication controls

Why is this so hard?

Because there are so many moving parts?

- In a system that is constructed upon the efforts of multiple systems and multiple providers we are relying on someone in charge to orchestrate the components to as working whole



Saturn V Launch Vehicle

Three stage rocket, each built by a different contractor

Each of whom used multiple subcontractors

3 million components

Each supplied by the lowest bidder!

It's a tough problem...



A rather bleak prognosis from the Economist – don't look for technology to improve this rather disturbing situation!

They suggest looking at economics and markets to try and address this problem

The problem with this suggestion is that there is no natural market that provides incentive for highly robust and secure technologies. The major market incentives are based on driving down unit costs of service delivery, and security is an obvious point of avoidable cost

The Economics of Security

- Effective security for services and infrastructure is a market failure in the IT industry
- Consumers are unwilling to pay a major price premium for a highly robust service
- Service providers do not have any market-based incentive to add robust security to their products and offerings
- The reason why the public sector is undertaking investment in cyber defence measures is that the private sector is not naturally motivated to do so!

The Economics of Security

- Domain Name certificates have only taken off when the cost of obtaining them has dropped to zero, and the demonstration of proof of control is cursory
- And in a demonstration that Gresham's Law applies equally well in security, the low-quality cheap certificate product has driven out other forms of extended validation certification

Trust and Internet Fragmentation

- Trust is typically based upon the roles of mutually trusted intermediaries
- For this to work as intended, we all need to share a single context:
 - A single rooted name system without local additions or removals
 - A single coherent address system
 - Applications making consistent use of this underlying common name, address and routing infrastructure
- Fragmentation shatters this assumption, allowing ambiguity to undermine trust by altering the context of the use of a named resource across instances of the use of a network resource

Why is this so hard?

Because we are relying on the market to provide coherence and consistency of orchestration across providers?

- And perhaps that's the key point here
- Loosely coupled fragmented systems will always present windows of vulnerability
 - Routing integrity
 - Name registration
 - Name certification
 - Service control
- Effective defence involves not only component defence but also in defending the points of interaction between components
- And we find this very hard to achieve when the market itself is the orchestration agent

Is this another of those massive challenges of our time?

We just don't have the mechanisms to enforce outcomes across the global Internet

We can't regulate behaviours of the platforms, their distributors, nor their operators

We can't regulate trust!

What a dysfunctional mess we've created!

Users and Trust

- Users just want to be able to trust that the websites and services that they connect to and share their credentials, passwords and content with are truly the ones they expected to be using without first studying for a PhD in Network Operational Security
- Somehow, we're missing that simple objective and we've interposed complexity and adornment that have taken on a life of their own and are in fact eroding trust
- And that's bad!
- **If we can't trust our communications infrastructure, then we don't have a useful communications infrastructure.**



Questions?