## Security of Alerting Authorities in the WWW: Measuring Namespaces, DNSSEC, and Web PKI

#### Pouyan Fotouhi Tehrani<sup>1</sup>, Eric Osterweil<sup>2</sup>, Jochen Schiller<sup>3</sup>, Thomas C. Schmidt<sup>4</sup>, Matthias Wählisch<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Weizenbaum Institut / Fraunhofer FOKUS <sup>2</sup>George Mason University <sup>3</sup>Freie Universität Berlin <sup>4</sup>Hamburg University of Applied Sciences

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weizenbaum institut





#### People rely on **trustworthy sources**.



- People rely on **trustworthy sources**.
- Authorities provide services **via web**.

Top Domains							
Now	7 Days	30 Days					
Visits over the last week to don domain.	ains, including traffic to a	ll pages within that					
cdc.gov		55,873,975					
ncbi.nlm.nih.gov		44,132,759					
tools.usps.com		37,923,234					
irs.gov	_	21,684,666					
sa.www4.irs.gov		16,277,095					

- People rely on **trustworthy sources**.
- Authorities provide services **via web**.
- Evaluating trustworthiness is a challenge.





## Scammers Attack a German Paycheck Protection Plan. True Story.

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https://nrw-corona-soforthilfe.de

- $\checkmark~$  Sound domain name under . de
- HTTPS enabled
- DNSSEC enabled

https://soforthilfe-corona.nrw.de

- $\checkmark$  Sound domain name under .de
- HTTPS enabled
- ✗ DNSSEC not enabled

## Scammers Attack a German Paycheck Protection Plan. True Story.



- $\checkmark$  Sound domain name under .de
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- DNSSEC enabled

- Sound domain name under .de
- HTTPS enabled
- X DNSSEC not enabled



Authority













-Proof of Identity



## We contribute:

# (1) A threat model for Web-based communication. (2) A method to discover and analyze Alerting Authorities. (3) Web security profiles of Alerting Authorities in the US.

Certification authority

-Proof of domain ownership

-Proof of Identity

Identification Securely authenticating the person, etc. behind the service name.

#### Threat Model. Three Dimensions.

- Identification Securely authenticating the person, etc. behind the service name.
  - **Resolution** Securely verifying that users have not been misdirected and are transacting with the service name they have identified.

#### Threat Model. Three Dimensions.

- Identification Securely authenticating the person, etc. behind the service name.
  - **Resolution** Securely verifying that users have not been misdirected and are transacting with the service name they have identified.
  - **Transaction** Ensuring that the content was not altered, leaks privacy etc. during the session.

#### Threat Model. Three Dimensions.

Identification Securely authenticating the person, etc. behind the service name.

## How DNS(SEC) and WebPKI amount to secure communication?

the session.





 $\rightarrow$  Proof of domain ownership





 $\rightarrow$  Proof of domain ownership

	DNS		We	eb PKI	Secu	Security Implications			Assurance	
#	Restricted TLD	DNSSEC	DV	OV/EV	Identification	Resolution	Transaction	Weakness	Profile	
01	1	1	-	1	Ċ	ഗ്	്	N/A	•	
02	1	1	1	×	A	Ċ	Ċ	Ambiguous identifi- cation	O	
03	×	1	-	1	A	്ര	đ	Possible imperson- ation through name spoofing	Ð	
04 05	×	× ×	-	<i>s</i>	Å	ф Ф	ර ර	DNS hijacking Name spoofing, DNS hijacking	D D	
06	1	×	1	×	A	Ģ	Ċ	DNS hijacking and ambiguous identifi- cation	0	
07	×	×	1	×	Q	Ģ	ß	Impersonation and DNS hijacking	0	
08	×		1	×	Q	ů	ർ	Impersonation	0	
. 09			×	×	₽	<b>.</b>	<b>Ş</b>	Content poisoning	0	
10	1	×	×	×	Q	Ċ	Ŷ	DNS hijacking, con- tent poisoning	0	
11	×	1	×	×	Q	ർ	Ģ	Impersonation, con- tent poisoning	0	
12	×	×	×	×	Ģ	Ģ	Ģ	DNS hijacking, impersonation, content poisoning	0	

	DNS		W	eb PKI	Sec	Security Implications			Assurance
#	Restricted TLD	DNSSEC	DV	OV/EV	Identification	Resolution	Transaction	Weakness	Profile
01	1	1	-	1	Ċ	്	Ċ	N/A	•
02	1	1	1	×	A	Ċ	Ċ	Ambiguous identifi- cation	Ð
03	×	1	-	1	A	đ	ß	Possible imperson- ation through name spoofing	Ð
04		×	· · · · · - · · ·	1	<b>A</b>	Q	ů	DNS hijacking	•
05	×	×	-	1	A	Ŷ	Ċ	Name spoofing, DNS hijacking	Ð
06	1	×	1	×	A	Ô	Ċ	DNS hijacking and ambiguous identifi- cation	0
07	×	×	1	×	Ģ	Ģ	Ċ	Impersonation and DNS hijacking	0
08	×		1	×	Q	ů	ർ	Impersonation	0
09			×	×		<b>Ş</b>		Content poisoning	0
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#	Restricted TLD	DNSSEC	DV	OV/EV	Identification	Resolution	Transaction	Weakness	Profile
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02	1	1	1	×	A	Ô	Ċ	Ambiguous identifi- cation	Ð
03	×	1	-	1	A	ß	Ċ	Possible imperson- ation through name	Ð
04 05	×	×		<i>·</i>	<b>A</b>	Q Q	С С	DNS hijacking Name spoofing, DNS hijacking	0
06	1	×	1	×	A	Ô	Ċ	DNS hijacking and ambiguous identifi- cation	0
07	×	×	1	×	Ģ	Q	đ	Impersonation and DNS hijacking	0
08	×		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	×	₽ 	ۍ D	ۍ D	Impersonation	0
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Security of Alerting Authorities in the WWW: Measuring Namespaces, DNSSEC, and Web PKI

## Methodology, Toolchain, and Data Set



Measurement Period October 2019 - March 2020

1388 Alerting Authorities in the US  $\rightarrow$  1365 URLs  $\rightarrow$  1327 unique hosts

Security of Alerting Authorities in the WWW: Measuring Namespaces, DNSSEC, and Web PKI

- Does each AA have its own dedicated domain name?
- How do AAs integrate in the global DNS namespace?
- Do AAs secure their names using DNSSEC?



1327 Unique Hosts

■ Does each AA have its own dedicated domain name? About 49% of Alerting Authorities do not have dedicated names, *e.g.*, https://www.vercounty.org/ema.htm → unnecessary dependencies, *e.g.*, for X.509 certificates.



- About 49% of Alerting Authorities do not have dedicated names
- How do AAs integrate in the global DNS namespace? More than 50% of unique names are under **non**-restricted TLDs → poor recognizability and inferior security.



- About 49% of Alerting Authorities do not have dedicated names
- More than 50% of unique names are under **non**-restricted TLDs
- **Do AAs secure their names using DNSSEC?** 96% of unique hosts do not support DNSSEC → high susceptibility to DNS hijacking



- About 49% of Alerting Authorities do not have dedicated names
- More than 50% of unique names are under **non**-restricted TLDs
- 96% of unique hosts do not support DNSSEC



Security of Alerting Authorities in the WWW: Measuring Namespaces, DNSSEC, and Web PKI

- To what extent do AAs adapt web PKI?
- How is the historic landscape of X.509 certificates shaped among AAs?



1327 Unique Hosts

#### To what extent do AAs adapt web PKI?

About 15% provide none or invalid certificates (OpenSSL validation)  $\rightarrow$  secure identification and transaction impossible



- About 15% provide none or invalid certificates
- How is the historic landscape of X.509 certificates shaped among AAs?



1327 Unique Hosts

- About 15% provide none or invalid certificates
- How is the historic landscape of X.509 certificates shaped among AAs?
  - Which validation types have been popular?

OV/EV certificates are losing popularity







1327 Unique Hosts

About 15% provide none or invalid certificates

#### How is the historic landscape of X.509 certificates shaped among AAs?

- OV/EV certificates are losing popularity
- Has certificate usage been exclusive?
  - Certificate sharing is on the rise
  - $\rightarrow$  fate-sharing is increasing







1327 Unique Hosts

About 15% provide none or invalid certificates

#### How is the historic landscape of X.509 certificates shaped among AAs?

- OV/EV certificates are losing popularity
- Certificate sharing is on the rise
- How has the CA market been changed?

CA giants are losing to free and automated DV certificate issuers

 $\rightarrow$  AAs care more about encryption than identification



- About 15% provide none or invalid certificates
- OV/EV certificates are losing popularity
- Certificate sharing is on the rise
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Security of Alerting Authorities in the WWW: Measuring Namespaces, DNSSEC, and Web PKI

 Only about 22% exhibit strong or weak assurance profiles.

DN	IS	Cert	ificate		
Restricted delegation	Supports DNSSEC	DV	O/EV	Assurance profile <sup>1</sup>	e # Names
1	1	-	1	•	29 ( $\approx 2\%$ )
1	1	1	×	O	11
×	1	-	1	O	2
1	×	-	1	O	132
×	×	-	1	O	117
				Total:	262 ( $\approx 20\%$ )
1	×	1	×	0	354
×	×	1	×	0	482
×	1	1	×	0	3
1	1	×	×	0	2
1	×	×	×	0	67
×	1	×	×	0	2
×	×	×	×	0	126
				Total:	036 (≈ 78%)
			Grand	Total:	1327

 $^{1}$   $\bullet$  strong,  $\bullet$  weak,  $\bigcirc$  inadequate

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- About 67% provide inadequate assurance because of vulnerable identification and resolution.

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Choose securely delegated names under restricted TLDs + OV/EV certificates. Makes affiliations recognizable and proofs identity.

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#### Enable DNSSEC.

Secures name resolution and avoids possible DV misissuance.

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Consider TLSA domain issued certificates (DANE EE) Provides alternative to DV certificates.

- Choose securely delegated names under restricted TLDs + OV/EV certificates. Makes affiliations recognizable and proofs identity.
- Enable DNSSEC.

Secures name resolution and avoids possible DV misissuance.

- Consider TLSA domain issued certificates (DANE EE) Provides alternative to DV certificates.
- Use dedicated domain names and certificates. Avoids fate-sharing.

#### Data? More Details? Check out https://aa.secnow.net!

~

#### SECNOW

Home Alerting Authority Browser Paper Contact

#### - Summary

Alerting Authority

AZ - Graham County Emergency Management

Graham County Emergency Management (AZ) is accessible under https://www.graham.az.gov/ (Za3/Emergency-Management. It's domain name is registered under.gov. a Sponsored Top-Level Domain (TLD). It is on securely delegated (DNSSEC). Transport layer security is <u>enabled</u> for this host with a <u>valid</u> certificate. Provided certificate is a (n) <u>Domain Validation</u> (Dy) certificate.

#### – Details –

#### Identification

Your domain name is registered under a <u>restricted top-</u> level domain (TLD) and a such provides the first hint about its owner (e.g., edu TLD is only reserved for higher education institutes). A <u>domain validation (DV)</u> certificate lack identification information. Moreover, <u>lack of DNSSEC</u> can lead to DV certificate missuance. Finally, <u>inaccure domain name</u> (no DNSSEC) are susceptible to hijacking and can lead to forwarding to malicious hosts regardless of the certificate provided.

#### Resolution

You don't seem to have DNSSEC enabled (verify <u>here</u>) and as such susceptible to DNS hijacking.

#### Transaction

You are using a valid certificate and as such transactions with users are secure against eavesdropping or manipulation.

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\* You can also download the raw data and our toolchain on zenodo.

Question, critique, cooperation? pft@acm.org



## **Backup Slides**

DNS and Web PKI alongside assurance profiles

	DN	١S	Cert	ificate		
	Restricted	Supports			-	
#	delegation	DNSSEC	DV	O/EV	Assurance profile <sup>1</sup>	# Names
1	1	1	-	1	•	29 ( $\approx 2\%$ )
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#	delegation	DNSSEC	DV	O/EV	Assurance profile <sup>1</sup>	# Names
1	1	1	-	1	•	$29 (\approx 2\%)$
2	1	✓	1	×	D	11
3	×	1	-	1	D	2
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Validation types and assurance profiles per sector

× [ 2 2 3	DV 415 318 110	OV 119 102 31	EV 8 6 0	• 10 7 5	● 120 104 28	0 514 388
2 4 3 1	415 318 110	119 102 31	8 6 0	10 7 5	120 104 28	514 388
3	318 110	102 31	6	7	104 28	388 129
1	110	31	0	5	28	120
			•	5	20	129
	4	5	1	6	3	2
	0	4	0	0	4	0
	3	3	1	1	3	3
' E	850	264	16	29	262	1036
7	7	4 0 3 7 850	4 5 0 4 3 3 7 850 264	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

13/13