



ASIA 2021

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BRIEFINGS

# Domain Borrowing: Catch My C2 Traffic If You Can

Tianze Ding / Junyu Zhou

# Who are we?

Junyu Zhou @md5\_salt

Web Security Researcher & Pentester

Defcon / ZeroNights / HITB speaker

Tianze Ding

Web Security / Red Team

Found multiple vulnerabilities in Microsoft and Safari

**Tencent 腾讯**



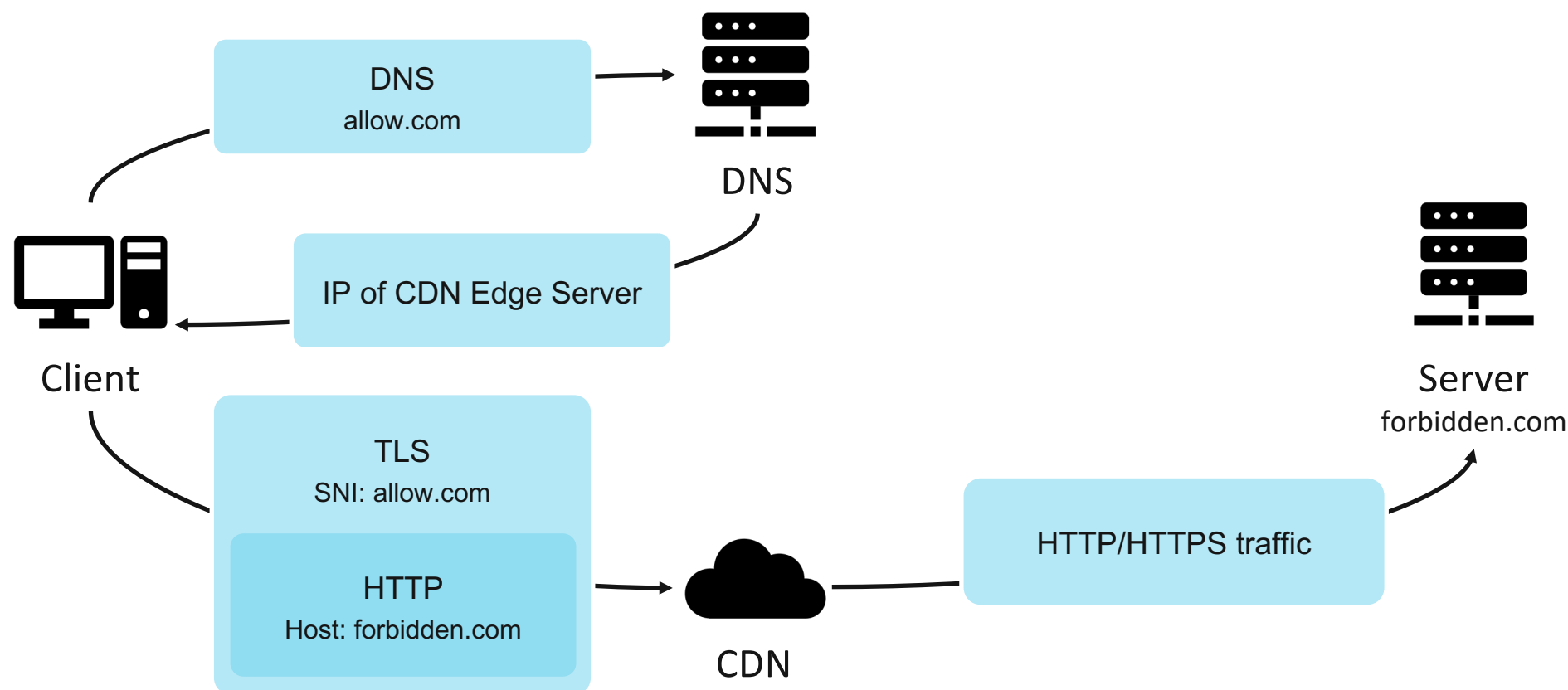
**腾讯安全玄武实验室**  
TENCENT SECURITY XUANWU LAB

# Outline

- Background & Previous Work
  - Domain Fronting
  - Domain Hiding with TLS1.3 and ESNI
- Domain Borrowing
  - The HTTPS CDN workflow
  - Borrow arbitrary domain
  - Borrow valid HTTPS certificates
- Detection & Mitigation
- Demo: Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

# Domain Fronting

- Fifield, David; Lan, Chang; Hynes, Rod; Wegmann, Percy; Paxson, Vern. Blocking-resistant communication through domain fronting; 2015



# Domain Fronting - Limitations

- SNI != Host
  - Decrypt HTTPS traffic and check if SNI == Host
- Some CDN vendors no longer support Domain Fronting

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## Proxy: Domain Fronting

### Mitigations

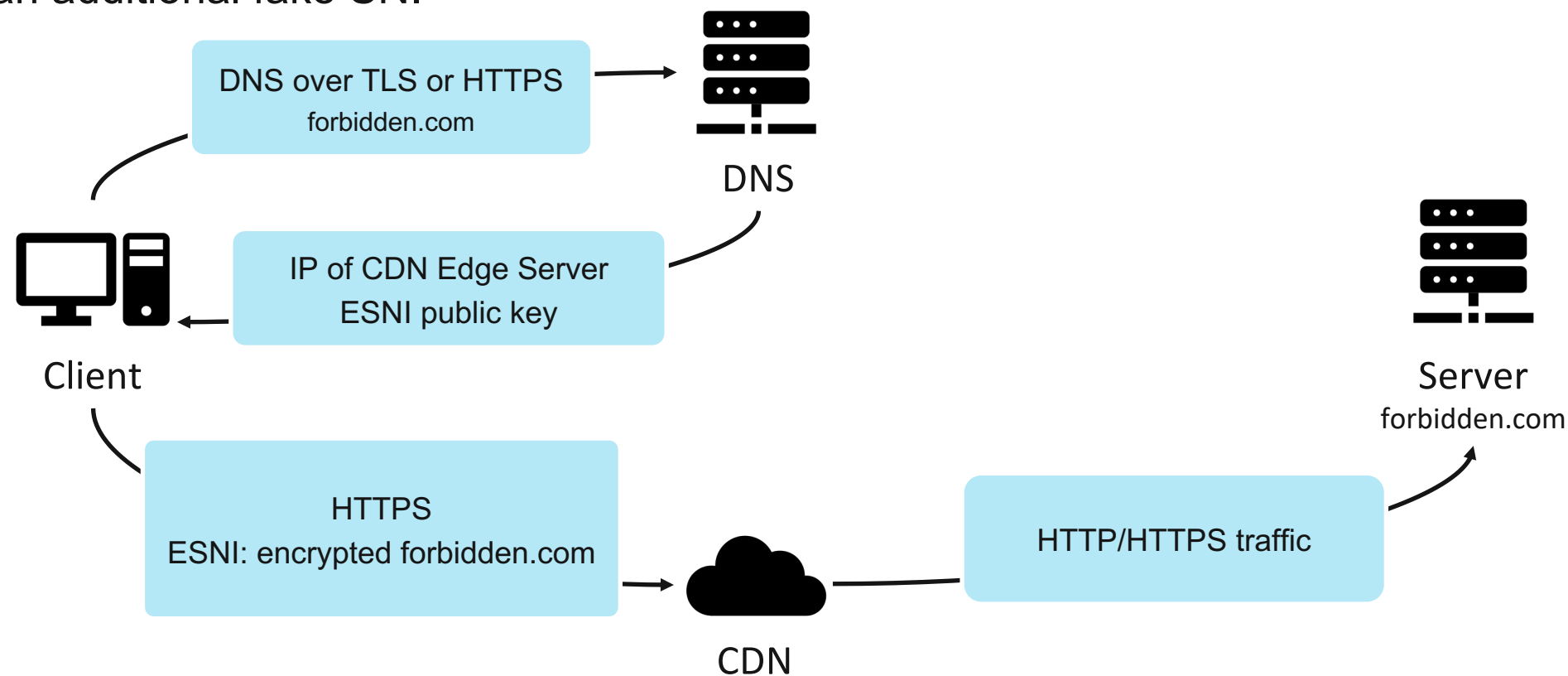
| Mitigation         | Description   |
|--------------------|---|
| SSL/TLS Inspection | If it is possible to inspect HTTPS traffic, the captures can be analyzed for connections that appear to be domain fronting. |

### Detection

If SSL inspection is in place or the traffic is not encrypted, the Host field of the HTTP header can be checked if it matches the HTTPS SNI or against a blacklist or allowlist of domain names.<sup>[1]</sup>

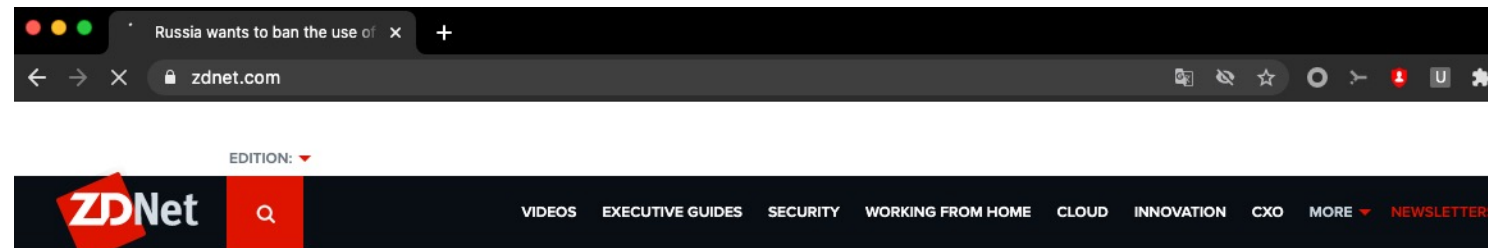
# Domain Hiding

- Defcon 28 Erik Hunstad, Domain Fronting Is Dead, Long Live Domain Fronting, 2020
- Cloudflare TLS1.3 ESNI (IETF draft)
  - ESNI + an additional fake SNI



# Domain Hiding - Limitations

- Cloudflare
  - Refused any Client Hello which has both ESNI and SNI
- TLS1.3 ESNI
  - Blocked in some enterprise environment
  - Some country-wide firewalls have blocked<sup>[1]</sup> / want to block ESNI



## Russia wants to ban the use of secure protocols such as TLS 1.3, DoH, DoT, ESNI

Amendment to IT law would make it illegal to use encryption protocols that fully hide the traffic's destination.

[1] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Server\\_Name\\_Indication#Encrypted\\_Client\\_Hello](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Server_Name_Indication#Encrypted_Client_Hello)

# What we want for an ideal C2

- A large number of IP addresses for C2
- Encrypted traffic (e.g. HTTPS)
- High-reputation domains with valid HTTPS certificates
- Even decrypted, the network traffic looks like normal HTTPS traffic (SNI == Host)
- Not be blocked in some specific districts

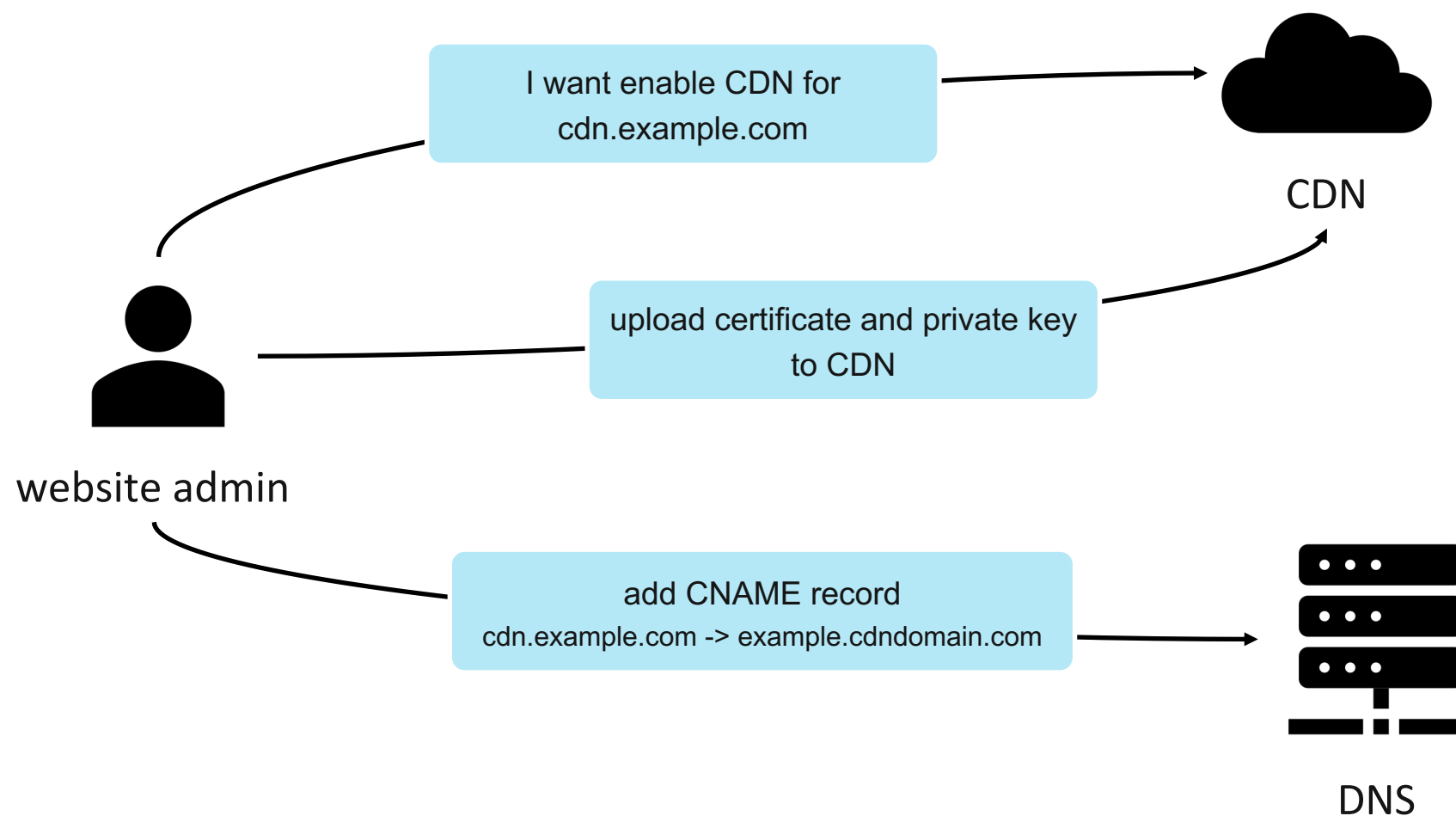


# Outline

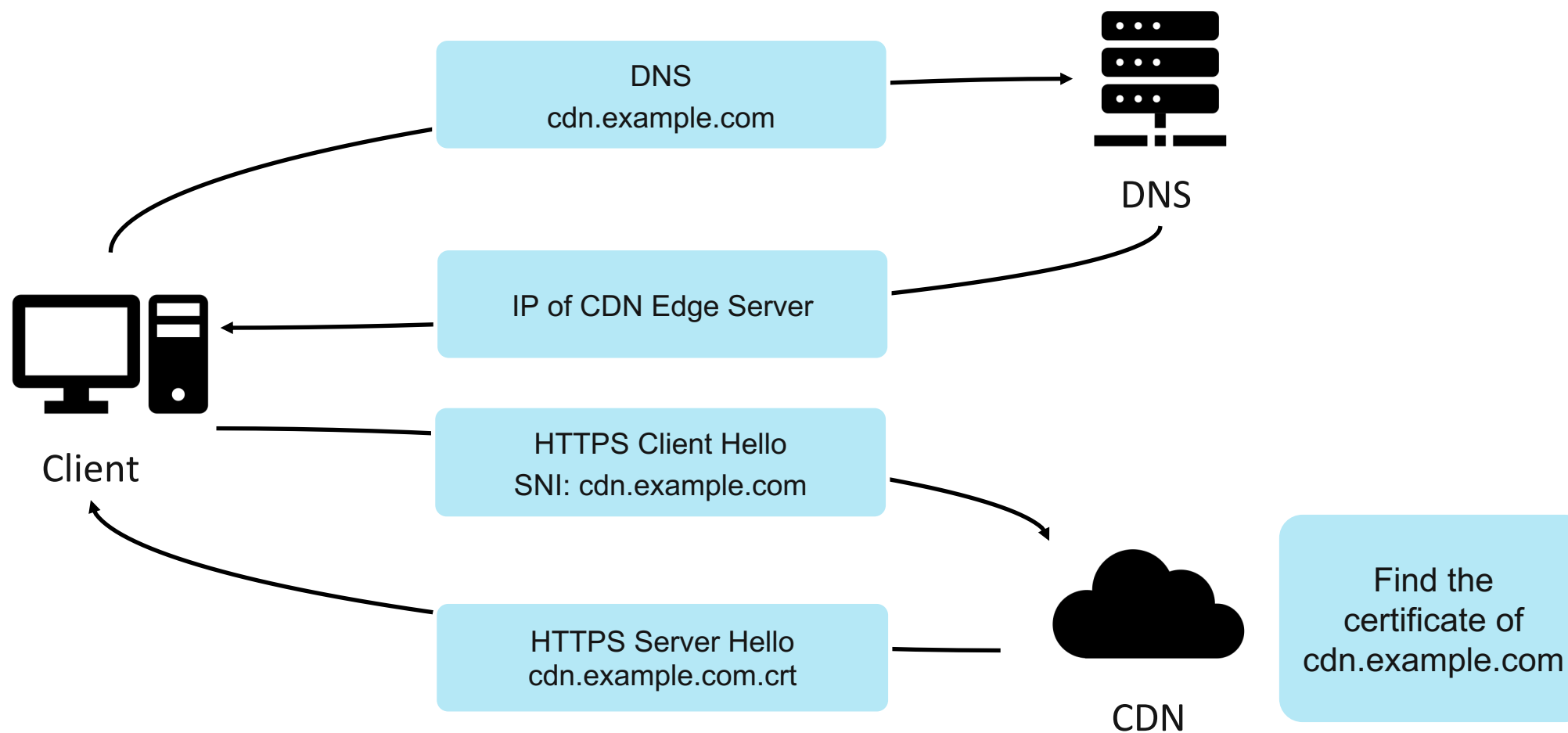
- Background & Previous Work
  - Domain Fronting
  - Domain Hiding with TLS1.3 and ESNI
- Domain Borrowing
  - The HTTPS CDN workflow
  - Borrow arbitrary domain
  - Borrow valid HTTPS certificates
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- Demo: Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

# The HTTPS CDN workflow

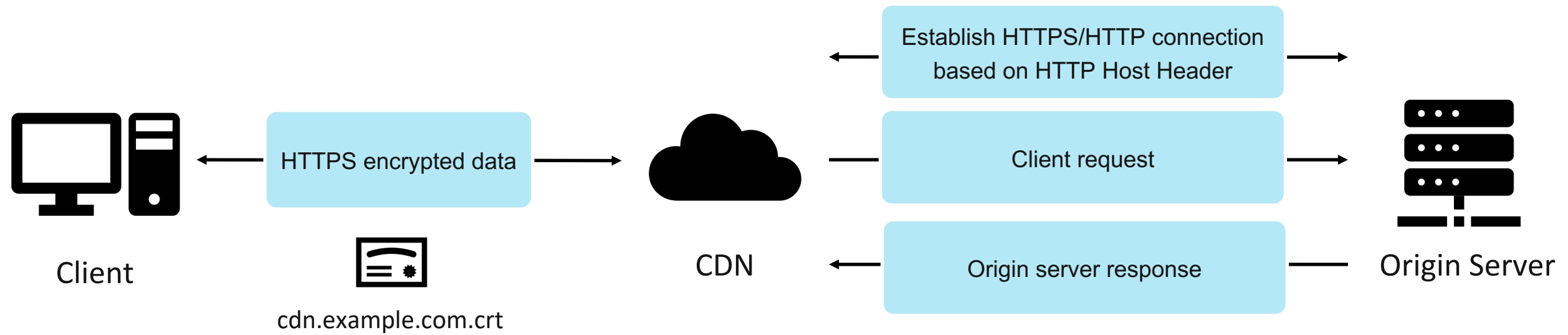
- CDN works like a man in the middle, it needs private keys of custom domains to decrypt HTTPS traffic



# The HTTPS CDN workflow

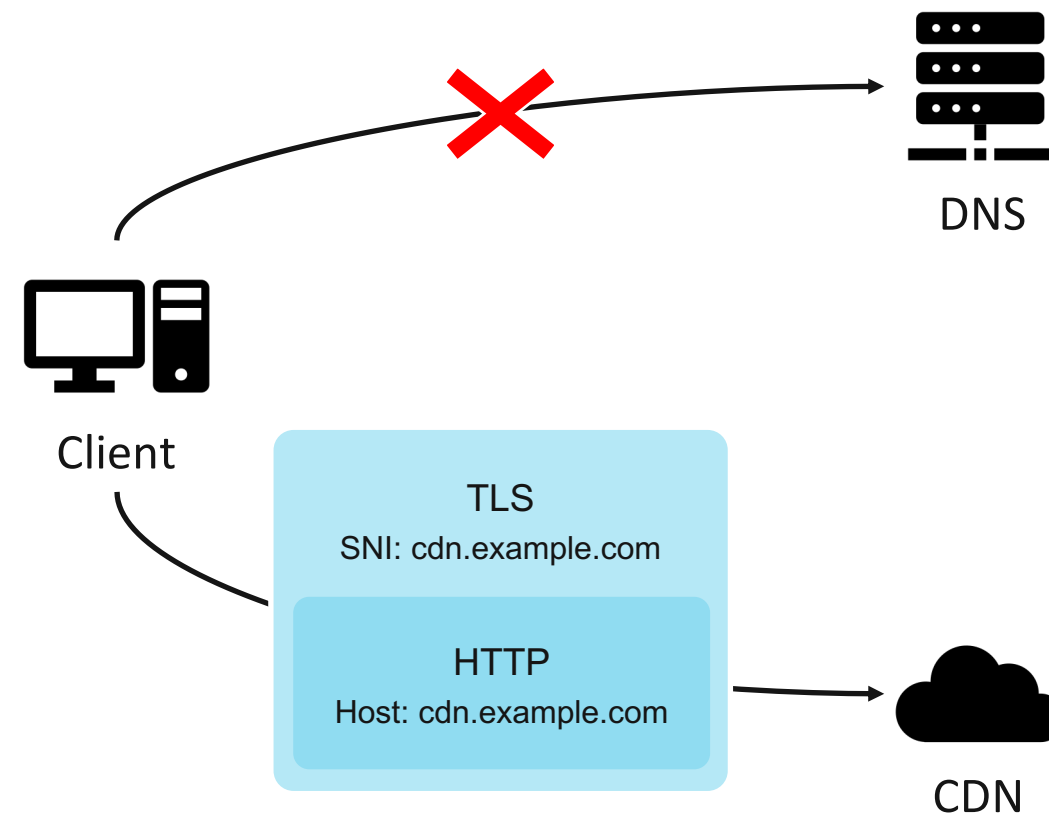


# The HTTPS CDN workflow



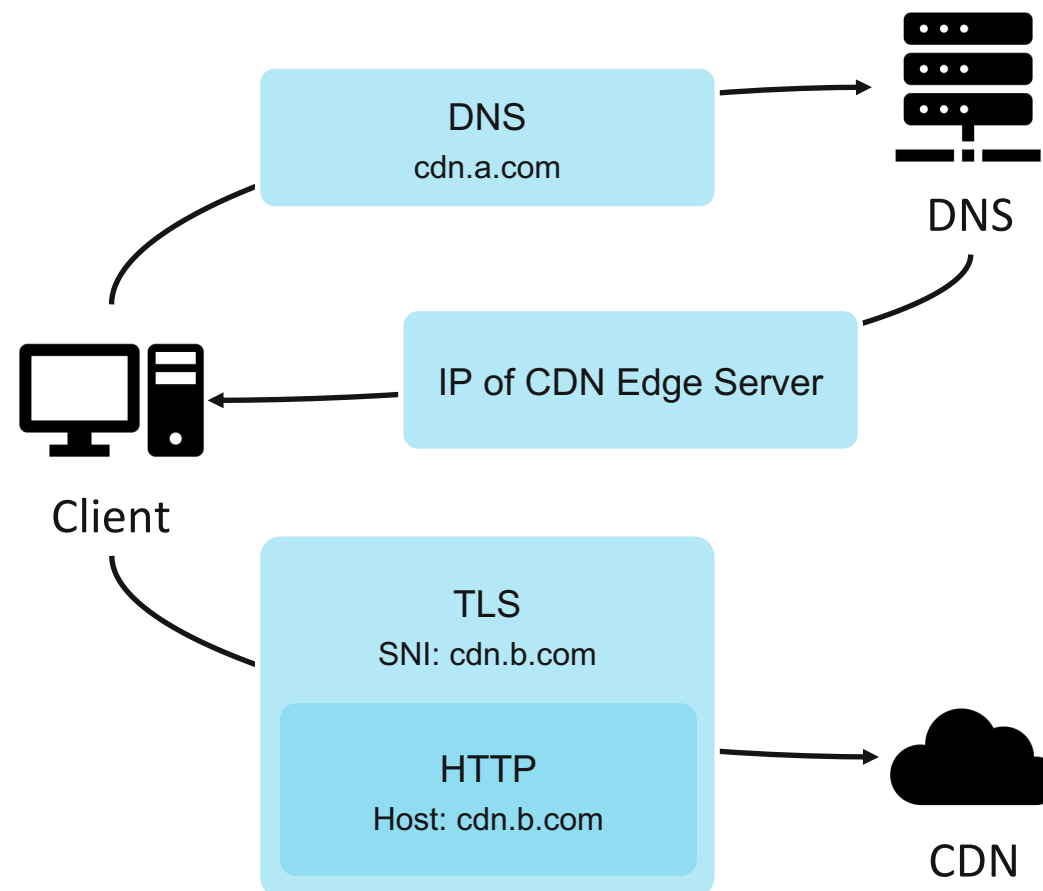
# Domain Borrowing Basics – Abandon DNS

- DNS query is not a necessary condition for HTTPS connections
- Client can set an SNI in Client Hello and directly connect to IPs of CDN edge servers



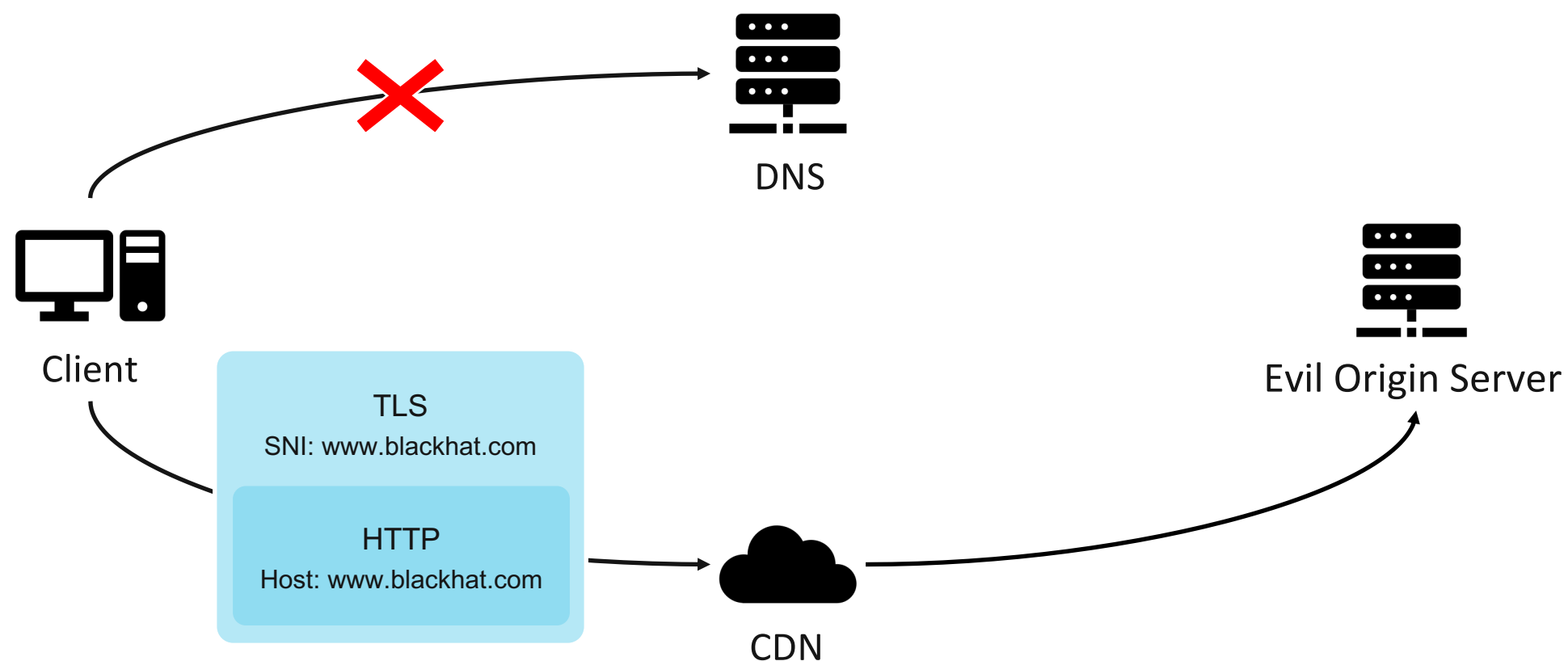
# Domain Borrowing Basics – Abandon DNS

- Client can use another CDN domain for DNS resolution



# Domain Borrowing Basics – Domain Abusing

- Can we register an arbitrary domain in CDN?
- e.g. www.blackhat.com



# CDN domain validation


















|                  | DNS | HTTPS certificate | AnyCast | None |
|------------------|-----|-------------------|---------|------|
| AWS CloudFront   |     | 😊                 |         |      |
| Azure CDN        | 😊   |                   |         |      |
| Google Cloud CDN |     |                   | 😊       |      |
| Cloudflare       | 😊   |                   |         |      |
| Fastly           |     |                   |         | 😈    |
| StackPath        |     |                   |         | 😈    |
| KeyCDN           |     |                   |         | 😈    |
| CDN77            |     |                   |         | 😈    |
| CDNSun           |     |                   |         | 😈    |



# Abusing CDN domain validation

- Register arbitrary domain in CDN

**DOMAIN** ▲

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  accounts.google.com  | <p><b>Domains</b></p> <p>Domains are used to route requests to your service. Customers associate their domain names with their origin (content source) when provisioning a Fastly service.</p> <p><a href="#">+ CREATE DOMAIN</a></p> <p>cloud.amazonaws.com  <span>Activate to test this domain.</span> </p> <p>fonts.googleapis.com  <span>Activate to test this domain.</span> </p> <p>login.microsoftonline.com  <span>Activate to test this domain.</span> </p> <p>www.blackhat.com  <span>Activate to test this domain.</span> </p> <p>zoom.us  <span>Activate to test this domain.</span> </p> |
|  api.github.com       |   |
|  api.twitter.com     |   |
|  docs.microsoft.com |   |
|  onedrive.live.com  |   |
|  www.blackhat.com   |   |
|  www.office.com     |   |

# When CDN can't find the certificate

- Most CDNs will send the default certificate to the client
- Some CDNs will send TCP RST to the client

```
curl https://www.blackhat.com --resolve www.blackhat.com:443:151.101.108.249 -k -v
```

```
.....
```

```
* SSL connection using TLSv1.2 / ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256
```

```
* ALPN, server accepted to use http/1.1
```

```
* Server certificate:
```

```
* subject: C=US; ST=California; L=San Francisco; O=Fastly, Inc.; CN=default.ssl.fastly.net
```

```
* start date: Nov 12 16:01:03 2019 GMT
```

```
* expire date: Jan 8 17:01:02 2022 GMT
```

```
* subjectAltName does not match www.blackhat.com
```

```
* SSL: no alternative certificate subject name matches target host name 'www.blackhat.com'
```

```
.....
```

# Borrow arbitrary domain

- Register `www.blackhat.com` in CDN
- The client use `www.blackhat.com` to establish an HTTPS connection with CDN
- SNI == Host
  - Can bypass Domain Fronting detection
- Better than self-signed certificates, but still incorrect HTTPS certificates (`default.ssl.fastly.net`) 🐱

# Obtain valid HTTPS certificates

- Gain the power by hacking

Read the certificate and private key directly

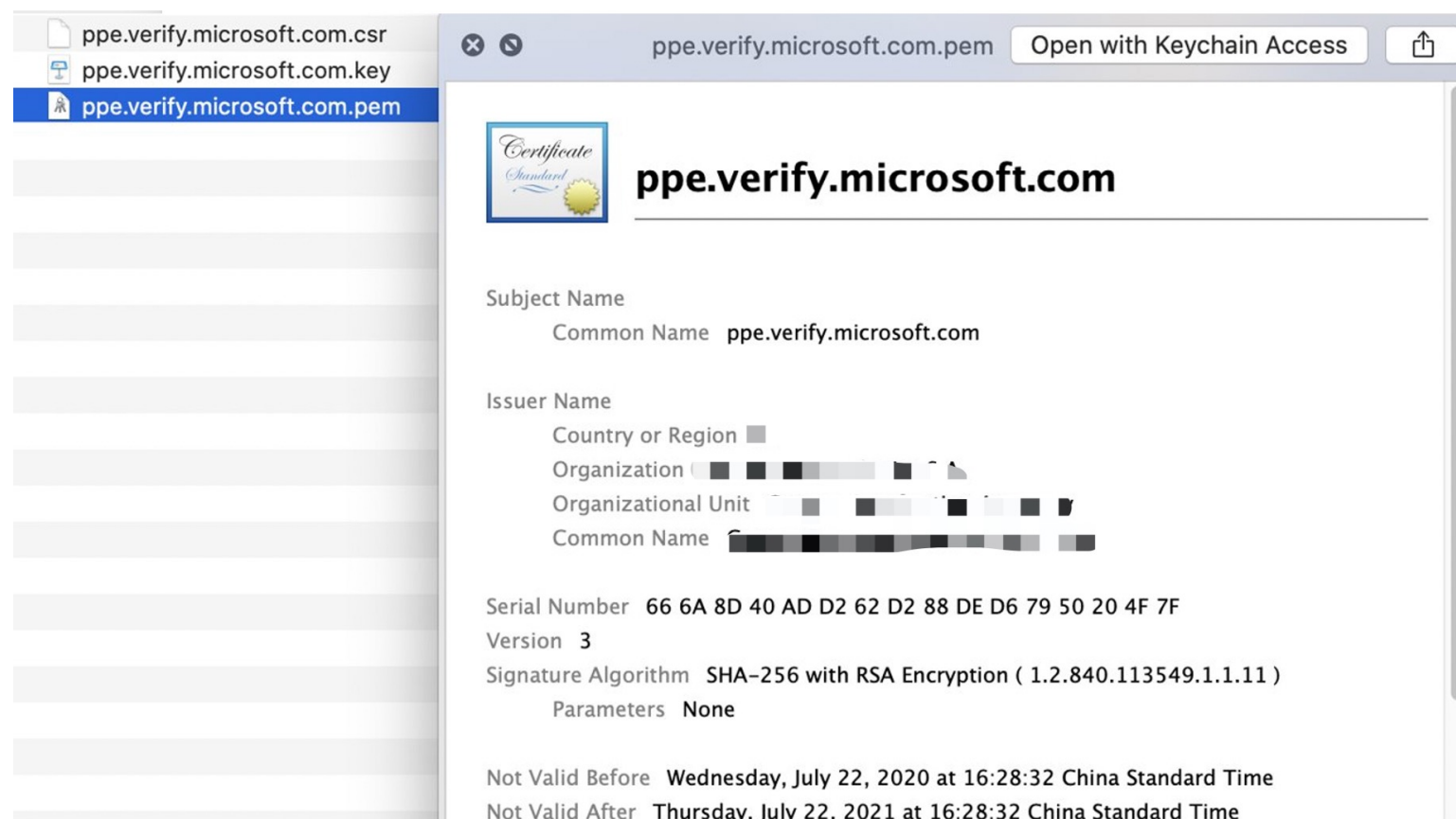
- Web application RCE
- Arbitrary file download
- .....

Apply for a new HTTPS certificate with HTTP-based validation (.well-known)

- Web application RCE
- Subdomain takeover
- Arbitrary file upload, especially upload to cloud storage
- .....

# Obtain valid HTTPS certificates

- Subdomain takeover: ppe.verify.microsoft.com [1]
- Apply for a HTTPS certificate/private key of ppe.verify.microsoft.com



```
ubuntu@xuanwu-lab:~$ curl http://ppe.verify.microsoft.com/ -I
HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2021 10:29:02 GMT
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8
Content-Length: 0
Connection: keep-alive
Location: https://redirect.microsoft/
```

[1] ppe.verify.microsoft.com subdomain takeover was found by a friend of ours

# CDN domain validation bypass

- AWS CloudFront validates the CDN domain only by the HTTPS certificate.

Alternate Domain Names  
(CNAMEs)



SSL Certificate

Default CloudFront Certificate (\*.cloudfront.net)

Choose this option if you want your users to use HTTPS or HTTP to access your content with the CloudFront domain name (such as <https://d1111111abcdef8.cloudfront.net/logo.jpg>).

Important: If you choose this option, CloudFront requires that browsers or devices support TLSv1 or later to access your content.

Custom SSL Certificate (example.com):

Choose this option if you want your users to access your content by using an alternate domain name, such as <https://www.example.com/logo.jpg>.

You can use a certificate stored in AWS Certificate Manager (ACM) in the US East (N. Virginia) Region, or you can use a certificate stored in IAM.



**Request or Import a Certificate with ACM**

[Learn more](#) about using custom SSL/TLS certificates with CloudFront.

[Learn more](#) about using ACM.

# CDN domain validation bypass

- We can register ppe.verify.microsoft.com in AWS CloudFront

Viewing certificates 1 to 2 >>

| <input type="checkbox"/> | Name | Domain name              | Additional names | Status | Type     | In use? | Renewal eligibility |
|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------|--------|----------|---------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | -    | ppe.verify.microsoft.com | -                | Issued | Imported | Yes     | Ineligible          |

**Status**

**Status** Issued  
**Detailed status** The cert was imported at 2020-12-11T05:30:35UTC

[Reimport certificate](#)

---

**Details**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Type</b> Imported                        | <b>Imported at</b> 2020-12-11T05:30:35UTC |
| <b>In use?</b> Yes                          | <b>Not after</b> 2021-07-22T08:28:32UTC   |
| <b>Domain name</b> ppe.verify.microsoft.com | <b>Expires in</b> 216 Days                |

## CloudFront Distributions

[Create Distribution](#)
[Distribution Settings](#)
[Delete](#)
[Enable](#)
[Disable](#)

[Refresh](#)
[Settings](#)
[Help](#)
[User](#)

Viewing: Any Delivery Method | Any State |

Viewing 1 to 1 of 1 Items >>

| <input type="checkbox"/> | Delivery Method | ID       | Domain Name         | Comment | Origin | CNAMEs                   | Status   | State   | Last Modified       |           |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|---------------------|---------|--------|--------------------------|----------|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Web             | E1XY6KK4 | d2o8515f9163be.clou | -       |        | ppe.verify.microsoft.com | Deployed | Enabled | 2020-12-17 17:49 UT | IATEVENTS |

# C2 agent with “Microsoft” traffic

- Demo
  - Covenant C2 with a customed ImplantTemplate
  - DNS: blogs.aws.amazon.com
  - SNI == Host == ppe.verify.microsoft.com
  - Apply for a valid certificate through subdomain takeover
  - Register CDN domain (ppe.verify.microsoft.com) in AWS CloudFront



tls.handshake.type == 1 || tls.handshake.type == 2

| No. | Time      | Source        | Destination   | Protocol | Length | Info  |
|-----|-----------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|---|
| 55  | 49.989929 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.71  | TLSv1.2  | 234    | Client Hello  |
| 59  | 50.044078 | 13.225.93.71  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 1342   | Server Hello  |
| 79  | 50.534396 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.71  | TLSv1.2  | 370    | Client Hello  |
| 81  | 50.592371 | 13.225.93.71  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 197    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 97  | 51.466191 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.71  | TLSv1.2  | 370    | Client Hello  |
| 99  | 51.520787 | 13.225.93.71  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 197    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 111 | 51.837201 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.71  | TLSv1.2  | 370    | Client Hello  |
| 113 | 51.892624 | 13.225.93.71  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 197    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 198 | 52.981239 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.56  | TLSv1.2  | 370    | Client Hello  |
| 200 | 53.026434 | 13.225.93.56  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 197    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 212 | 53.348880 | 192.168.2.131 | 13.225.93.56  | TLSv1.2  | 370    | Client Hello  |
| 214 | 53.305853 | 13.225.93.56  | 192.168.2.131 | TLSv1.2  | 197    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |

- Cipher Suites Length: 42
- ▶ Cipher Suites (21 suites)
- Compression Methods Length: 1
- ▶ Compression Methods (1 method)
- Extensions Length: 88
- ▼ Extension: server\_name (len=29)
  - Type: server\_name (0)
  - Length: 29
  - ▼ Server Name Indication extension
    - Server Name list length: 27
    - Server Name Type: host\_name (0)
    - Server Name length: 24
    - Server Name: ppe.verify.microsoft.com
- ▼ Extension: supported\_groups (len=8)
  - Type: supported\_groups (10)
  - Length: 8
  - Supported Groups List Length: 6
  - ▶ Supported Groups (3 groups)
- ▼ Extension: ec\_point\_formats (len=2)
  - Type: ec\_point\_formats (11)
  - Length: 2

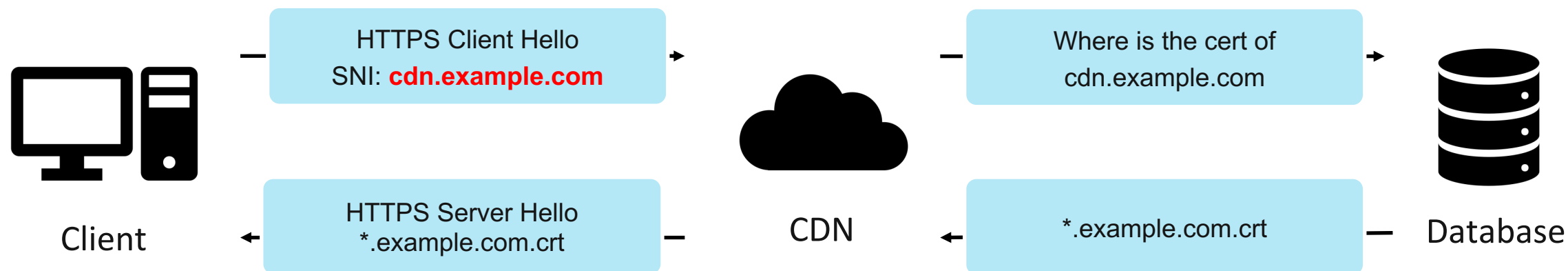
```

0000 00 50 56 e4 7b e8 00 0c 29 e5 ba 7a 08 00 45 00  .PV{...}..z..E.
0010 00 dc 7d d9 40 00 80 06 4d ef c0 a8 02 83 0d e1  ..}@...M.....
0020 5d 47 cc e1 01 bb 77 a8 32 9c b9 42 77 5b 50 18  ]G...w.2..Bw[P.
0030 fa f0 ca 95 00 00 16 03 03 00 af 01 00 00 ab 03  .....
0040 03 60 65 34 a2 23 9a a4 bc 6d 00 ca 26 0c d1 73  `e4.#...m.&..s
0050 61 e3 65 8f 81 00 17 08 45 8d 3b 1a c6 c1 f8 4a  a.e.....E;...J
0060 b8 00 00 2a c0 2c c0 2b c0 30 c0 2f 00 9f 00 9e  ...*,+..0./....
0070 c0 24 c0 23 c0 28 c0 27 c0 0a c0 09 c0 14 c0 13  .$.#(..'.....
0080 00 9d 00 9c 00 3d 00 3c 00 35 00 2f 00 0a 01 00  .....=<..5/....
0090 00 58 00 00 00 1d 00 1b 00 00 18 70 70 65 2e 76  .X.....ppe.v
00a0 65 72 69 66 79 2e 6d 69 63 72 6f 73 6f 66 74 2e  erify.mi crossoft.
00b0 63 6f 6d 00 0a 00 08 00 06 00 1d 00 17 00 18 00  com.....
00c0 0b 00 02 01 00 00 0d 00 14 00 12 04 01 05 01 02  .....
00d0 01 04 03 05 03 02 03 02 02 06 01 06 03 00 23 00  .....#
00e0 00 00 17 00 00 ff 01 00 01 00  .....
    
```

# How to obtain valid HTTPS certificates **without** hacking 🤔

# CDN HTTPS certificates distribution

- Correct way to distribute wildcard HTTPS certificates

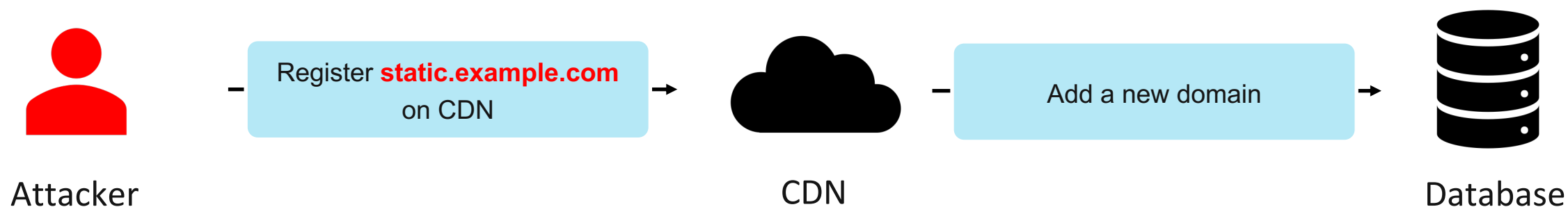


select certificate from db where domain\_name = "cdn.example.com"

| cdn user | domain name     | certificate       |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| alice    | cdn.example.com | *.example.com.crt |
| bob      | cdn.a.com       | cdn.a.com.crt     |
|          | .....           | .....             |

# CDN HTTPS certificates distribution

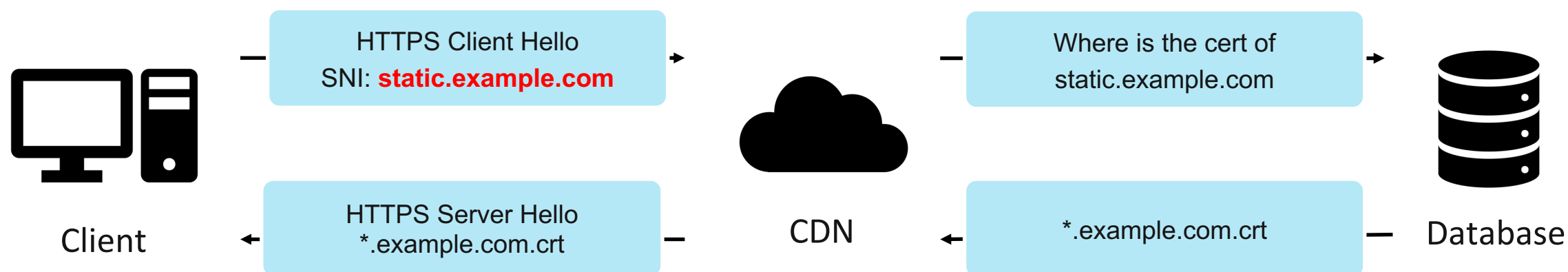
- Some CDNs improperly implement wildcard HTTPS certificates distribution



| cdn user        | domain name               | certificate       |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| alice           | cdn.example.com           | *.example.com.crt |
| bob             | cdn.a.com                 | cdn.a.com.crt     |
| <b>attacker</b> | <b>static.example.com</b> | <b>NULL</b>       |
| .....           | .....                     | .....             |

# CDN HTTPS certificates distribution

- Attackers can borrow subdomains and wildcard HTTPS certificates from other users



select certificate from db where **certificate matches "static.example.com"**

attacker borrows alice's certificate



| cdn user        | domain name               | certificate              |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| alice           | cdn.example.com           | <b>*.example.com.crt</b> |
| bob             | cdn.a.com                 | cdn.a.com.crt            |
| <b>attacker</b> | <b>static.example.com</b> | NULL                     |
| .....           | .....                     | .....                    |

# Borrow valid HTTPS certificates

- We can borrow wildcard HTTPS certificates on StackPath and CDN77



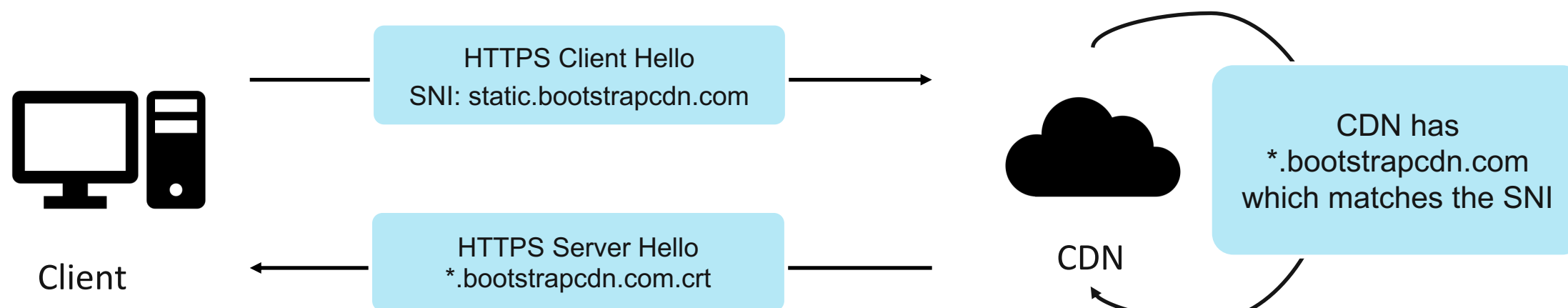
# Borrow valid HTTPS certificates

- Lots of well-known domains with wildcard HTTPS certificates are on StackPath / CDN77
  - \*.bootstrapcdn.com
  - \*.fontawesome.com
  - \*.xvideos-cdn.com 🙄
  - .....



# Borrow valid HTTPS certificates

- We can register any subdomain of bootstrapcdn.com
  - even a non-existent domain
- e.g. static.bootstrapcdn.com





# Borrow valid HTTPS certificates

- static.bootstrapcdn.com on StackPath

The screenshot shows the StackPath dashboard interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with options: Dashboard, DNS, Sites, Monitoring, Object Storage, and Edge Compute. The main content area is titled 'Sites / 1' and includes a search bar and a 'Create Site' button. Below this is a table with columns 'DOMAIN' and 'SERVICES'. A single row is visible with the domain 'static.bootstrapcdn.com' and services 'CDN', 'WAF', and 'Scripts'.

| DOMAIN                  | SERVICES        |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| static.bootstrapcdn.com | CDN WAF Scripts |

# Borrow valid HTTPS certificates

- static.bootstrapcdn.com

```
ubuntu@xuanwu-lab:~$ dig static.bootstrapcdn.com

; <<>> DiG 9.16.1-Ubuntu <<>> static.bootstrapcdn.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NXDOMAIN, id: 39473
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 65494
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;static.bootstrapcdn.com.      IN      A

;; Query time: 8 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.53#53(127.0.0.53)
;; WHEN: Wed Mar 31 11:55:48 CST 2021
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 52
```

```
ubuntu@xuanwu-lab:~$ curl https://static.bootstrapcdn.com/test.php --resolve static.bootstrapcdn.com:443:151.139.128.11 -v
* Added static.bootstrapcdn.com:443:151.139.128.11 to DNS cache
* Hostname static.bootstrapcdn.com was found in DNS cache
*   Trying 151.139.128.11:443...
* TCP_NODELAY set
* Connected to static.bootstrapcdn.com (151.139.128.11) port 443 (#0)
* ALPN, offering h2
* ALPN, offering http/1.1
* successfully set certificate verify locations:
*   CAfile: /etc/ssl/certs/ca-certificates.crt
   Cpath: /etc/ssl/certs
* TLSv1.3 (OUT), TLS handshake, Client hello (1):
* TLSv1.3 (IN), TLS handshake, Server hello (2):
* TLSv1.3 (IN), TLS handshake, Encrypted Extensions (8):
* TLSv1.3 (IN), TLS handshake, Certificate (11):
* TLSv1.3 (IN), TLS handshake, CERT verify (15):
* TLSv1.3 (IN), TLS handshake, Finished (20):
* TLSv1.3 (OUT), TLS change cipher, Change cipher spec (1):
* TLSv1.3 (OUT), TLS handshake, Finished (20):
* SSL connection using TLSv1.3 / TLS_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
* ALPN, server accepted to use h2
* Server certificate:
*   subject: CN=*.bootstrapcdn.com
*   start date: Sep 22 00:00:00 2020 GMT
*   expire date: Oct 12 23:59:59 2021 GMT
*   subjectAltName: host "static.bootstrapcdn.com" matched cert's "*.bootstrapcdn.com"
*   issuer: C=GB; ST=Greater Manchester; L=Salford; O=Sectigo Limited; CN=Sectigo RSA Domain Validation Secure Server CA
*   SSL certificate verify ok.
```

# C2 agent with “Bootstrap” traffic

- Demo
  - Covenant C2 with a customed ImplantTemplate
  - DNS: `www.stackpath.com`
  - SNI == Host == `static.bootstrapcdn.com`
  - Register CDN domain (`static.bootstrapcdn.com`) in StackPath
  - Valid HTTPS certificate (`*.bootstrapcdn.com`)



| No. | Time       | Source         | Destination    | Protocol | Length | Info  |
|-----|------------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------|---|
| 30  | 112.205398 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 233    | Client Hello  |
| 32  | 112.333436 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 1342   | Server Hello  |
| 51  | 112.578234 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 393    | Client Hello  |
| 53  | 112.629091 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 159    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 65  | 113.062278 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 393    | Client Hello  |
| 67  | 113.113158 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 159    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 81  | 113.528636 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 393    | Client Hello  |
| 83  | 113.577816 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 159    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 164 | 114.628960 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 393    | Client Hello  |
| 166 | 114.677747 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 159    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |
| 178 | 115.086714 | 192.168.2.131  | 151.139.128.11 | TLSv1.2  | 393    | Client Hello  |
| 180 | 115.120251 | 151.139.128.11 | 192.168.2.131  | TLSv1.2  | 159    | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Encrypted Handshake Message |

Transport Layer Security

- ▼ TLSv1.2 Record Layer: Handshake Protocol: Server Hello
  - Content Type: Handshake (22)
  - Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
  - Length: 61
  - ▼ Handshake Protocol: Server Hello
    - Handshake Type: Server Hello (2)
    - Length: 57
    - Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
    - ▶ Random: 848dd70c19b14d53f59c193ec03d2addc9eb535508f4edec444f574e47524401
    - Session ID Length: 0
    - Cipher Suite: TLS\_ECDHE\_RSA\_WITH\_AES\_128\_GCM\_SHA256 (0xc02f)
    - Compression Method: null (0)
    - Extensions Length: 17
    - ▼ Extension: renegotiation\_info (len=1)
      - Type: renegotiation\_info (65281)
      - Length: 1
      - ▼ Renegotiation Info extension
        - Renegotiation info extension length: 0
    - ▼ Extension: ec\_point\_formats (len=4)
      - Type: ec\_point\_formats (11)

```

0030 fa f0 e7 43 00 00 16 03 03 00 3d 02 00 00 39 03 ...C... ..=...9.
0040 03 84 8d d7 0c 19 b1 4d 53 f5 9c 19 3e c0 3d 2a .....M S...>.*
0050 dd c9 eb 53 55 08 f4 ed ec 44 4f 57 4e 47 52 44 ...SU... .DOWNGRD
0060 01 00 c0 2f 00 00 11 ff 01 00 01 00 00 0b 00 04 .../... ..
0070 03 00 01 02 00 23 00 00 16 03 03 15 ae 0b 00 15 ...#... ..
0080 aa 00 15 a7 00 05 c9 30 82 05 c5 30 82 04 ad a0 .....0 ...0...
0090 03 02 01 02 02 10 39 6c 45 e1 93 57 f3 c7 e2 38 .....9l E..w...8
00a0 f4 1c 80 0e 97 7f 30 0d 06 09 2a 86 48 86 f7 0d .....0. ...*H...
00b0 01 01 0b 05 00 30 81 8f 31 0b 30 09 06 03 55 04 .....0.. 1.0...U.
00c0 06 13 02 47 42 31 1b 30 19 06 03 55 04 08 13 12 ...GB1.0 ...U...
00d0 47 72 65 61 74 65 72 20 4d 61 6e 63 68 65 73 74 Greater Manchest
00e0 65 72 31 10 30 0e 06 03 55 04 07 13 07 53 61 6c er1.0... U...Sal
00f0 66 6f 72 64 31 18 30 16 06 03 55 04 0a 13 0f 53 ford1.0... ..U...S
0100 65 63 74 69 67 6f 20 4c 69 6d 69 74 65 64 31 37 ectigo L imited17
0110 30 35 06 03 55 04 03 13 2e 53 65 63 74 69 67 6f 05..U... .Sectigo
0120 20 52 53 41 20 44 6f 6d 61 69 6e 20 56 61 6c 69 RSA Dom ain Vali
0130 64 61 74 69 6f 6e 20 53 65 63 75 72 65 20 53 65 dation S ecure Se
0140 72 76 65 72 20 43 41 30 1e 17 0d 32 30 30 39 32 rver CA0 ...20092
0150 32 30 30 30 30 30 5a 17 0d 32 31 31 30 31 32 200000Z ...211012
0160 32 33 35 39 35 39 5a 30 1d 31 1b 30 19 06 03 55 235959Z0 .1.0...U
0170 04 03 0c 12 2a 2e 62 6f 6f 74 73 74 72 61 70 63 ...*.bo otstrapc
0180 64 6e 2e 63 6f 6d 30 82 01 22 30 0d 06 09 2a 86 dn.com0. ."0...*
0190 48 86 f7 0d 01 01 01 05 00 03 82 01 0f 00 30 82 H..... ..0.
01a0 01 0a 02 82 01 01 00 e7 5d c0 8a 20 bb d9 ae d7 ..... ]...
01b0 84 6b 12 b2 c0 83 fa 70 53 23 c6 c2 c6 2b ad 2e .k.....p S#...+.
01c0 66 a4 17 1c bb 4a 5c 3d d4 dd be dc c9 ec 2a 25 f....J\= .....*%
01d0 94 d3 be c9 34 11 a3 5f 23 d0 be 6d ca 3f cd 50 ....4... #..m.?P

```

# Domain Borrowing

- Register high-reputation domains on CDN
- Borrow valid HTTPS certificates
  - certificates from vulnerable websites
  - wildcard certificates from other CDN users
- Then combine them to hide your C2 traffic to circumvent censorship

# Domain Borrowing vs. Others

| Detection method            | Domain Borrowing | Domain Fronting | Domain Hiding |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| high reputation SNI         | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             |
| high reputation Host        | ✓                | ✗               | --- [2]       |
| check if SNI == Host        | ✓                | ✗               | --- [2]       |
| valid HTTPS certificates    | ✓                | ✓               | ✓             |
| without ESNI <sup>[1]</sup> | ✓                | ✓               | ✗             |

[1] ESNI will be blocked by some country-wide and enterprise firewalls

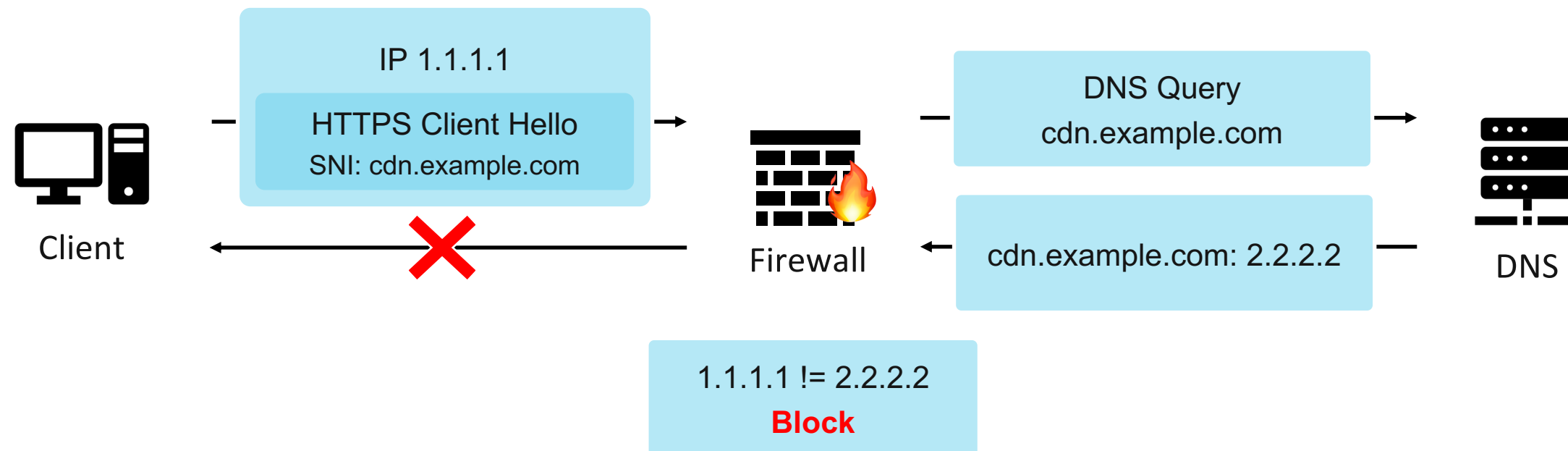
[2] TLSv1.3 + ESNI cannot be decrypted by well-known firewalls currently

# Outline

- Background & Previous Work
  - Domain Fronting
  - Domain Hiding with TLS1.3 and ESNI
- Domain Borrowing
  - The HTTPS CDN workflow
  - Borrow arbitrary domain
  - Borrow valid HTTPS certificates
- **Detection & Mitigation**
- Demo: Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

# Detection

- Check if `DNSLookup(SNI) == IP.dst`





# Mitigation

- For CDN vendors
  - Validate the custom domain strictly
    - DNS records is a better than HTTPS certificates
  - Distribute wildcard HTTPS certificates correctly
- For website admins
  - Certificate Revocation, If attackers steal your HTTPS certificates
  - Certificate Transparency, If attackers applied for new HTTPS certificates of your domains

# Outline

- Background & Previous Work
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- Detection & Mitigation
- Demo: Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

# Palo Alto Firewall

- PAN-VM 10.0.4
  - Next-Generation and HTTPS Decryption Firewall
  - Supports SSLv3.0 – TLSv1.3 decryption

**SSL Decryption** | No Decryption | SSH Proxy

SSL Forward Proxy | SSL Inbound Inspection | **SSL Protocol Settings**

**Protocol Versions**

Min Version

Max Version

**Key Exchange Algorithms**

RSA       DHE       ECDHE

**Encryption Algorithms**

3DES       AES128-CBC       AES128-GCM       CHACHA20-POLY1305

RC4       AES256-CBC       AES256-GCM

**Authentication Algorithms**

MD5       SHA1       SHA256       SHA384

Note: For unsupported modes and failures, the session information is cached for 12 hours, so future sessions between the same host and server pair are not decrypted. Check boxes to block those sessions instead.

# Palo Alto Firewall

- Anti-Spyware Evasion Signatures [1]
  - Suspicious HTTP Evasion Found
    - DNSLookup(HOST) != IP.dst
  - Suspicious TLS Evasion Found
    - DNSLookup(SNI) != IP.dst

Signature Policies | **Signature Exceptions** | DNS Policies | DNS Exceptions

| ENA...                   | ID ^  | THREAT NAME                   | IP ADDRESS EXEMPTIONS | POLICY    | CATEGORY | SEVERITY      | ACTION          | PACKET CAPTURE |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14978 | Suspicious TLS Evasion Found  |                       | alert-all | spyware  | informational | default (allow) | disable        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 14984 | Suspicious HTTP Evasion Found |                       | alert-all | spyware  | informational | default (allow) | disable        |

[1] <https://docs.paloaltonetworks.com/pan-os/10-0/pan-os-admin/threat-prevention/enable-evasion-signatures.html>

# Palo Alto Firewall

- Anti-Spyware Evasion Signatures
  - Can detect domain borrowing **theoretically**
  - But with improper implementation 😈

# Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

- Anti-Spyware Evasion Signatures feature
  - passthrough if Palo Alto Firewall **cannot resolve** the domain in SNI/Host
- Domain Borrowing
  - The SNI can be any domain, even a **non-existent domain**
  - Bypass Anti-Spyware Evasion Signatures

# Bypass Palo Alto Firewall

- Demo
  - Covenant C2 with customed ImplantTemplate
  - DNS: staging.fontawesome.com
  - SNI == Host == img.fontawesome.com
  - Register CDN domain (img.fontawesome.com) in StackPath
  - Valid HTTPS certificate (\*.fontawesome.com)

```
ubuntu@xuanwu-lab:~$ dig img.fontawesome.com

; <<>> DiG 9.16.1-Ubuntu <<>> img.fontawesome.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NXDOMAIN, id: 26310
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 0, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
; EDNS: version: 0, flags::; udp: 65494
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;img.fontawesome.com.          IN      A

;; Query time: 4 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.53#53(127.0.0.53)
;; WHEN: Tue Mar 23 17:50:35 CST 2021
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 48
```

PA-VM DASHBOARD ACC MONITOR POLICIES OBJECTS NETWORK DEVICE

Manual

Logs

- Traffic
- Threat
- URL Filtering
- WildFire Submissions
- Data Filtering
- HIP Match
- GlobalProtect
- IP-Tag
- User-ID
- Decryption**
- Tunnel Inspection
- Configuration
- System
- Alarms
- Authentication
- Unified
- Packet Capture
- App Scope
- Summary
- Change Monitor
- Threat Monitor
- Threat Map
- Network Monitor
- Traffic Map
- Session Browser
- Botnet
- PDF Reports
- Manage PDF Summary
- User Activity Report
- SaaS Application Usage
- Report Groups
- Email Scheduler
- Manage Custom Reports
- Reports

| RECEIVE TIME   | APPLICATI... | POLICY NAME | SERVER NAME INDICATION | SUBJECT COMMON NAME | ISSUER COMMON NAME               | SOURCE ADDRESS | DESTINATI... |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 03/31 00:24:54 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:53 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:52 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:51 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:49 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:48 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:47 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:45 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:41 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:40 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:39 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:39 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:39 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:35 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:35 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:24:34 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:21:59 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:21:57 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:21:56 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |
| 03/31 00:21:55 | web-browsing | decrypt-all | img.fontawesome.com    | *.fontawesome.com   | DigiCert TLS RSA SHA256 2020 CA1 | 192.168.101.59 | 151.139.128. |

Windows 10 x64 - VMware Workstation

文件(F) 编辑(E) 查看(V) 虚拟机(M) 选项卡(T) 帮助(H)

Windows 10 x64

管理 新建文件夹

文件 主页 共享 查看 应用程序工具

移动 移动到 删除 全部选择

C:\Users\lab\Desktop\新建文件夹\img.fontawesome.com.exe

```

===== HTTP REQ =====
GET /api/message.php?id=a50df39648 HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/41.0.2228.0 Safari/537.36
Host: img.fontawesome.com
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en
Connection: close

=====
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 31 Mar 20
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Type: text/p
X-HW: 1617175497.cds
Server: Nginx
Cache-Control: max-age=
Access-Control-Allow
Connection: close
Content-Length: 0
  
```

计算器

标准

MC MR M+ M- MS M\*

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ASIA 2021

MAY 6-7, 2021

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BRIEFINGS

**Domain Borrowing Implant Template:  
<https://github.com/Dliv3/DomainBorrowing>**



ASIA 2021

MAY 6-7, 2021

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BRIEFINGS

**Thank you**

**Q & A**