

# Trojan-tolerant Hardware

## + Supply Chain Security in Practice

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*Doctoral Researcher, UCL*

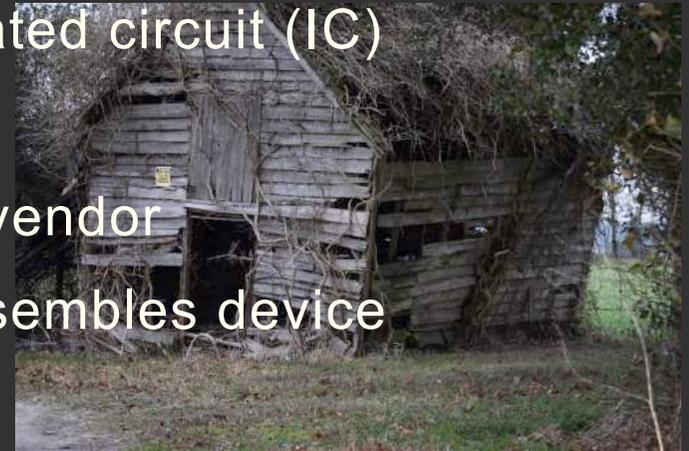
**Dan Cvrcek**  
*CEO, Enigma Bridge*

# Highlights

- The private life of keys
- Weak links of the supply chain
- Lessons learned from airplanes
- Demo of our crypto hardware
- Protocols, Maths & Magic
- Politics, Distrust & Hardware Security

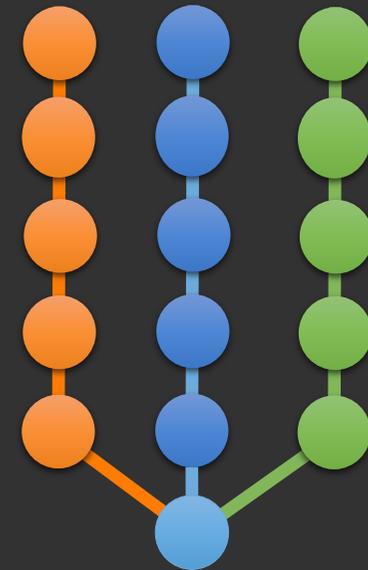
# The Private Life of Keys

1. Someone designs an integrated circuit (IC)
2. IC is fabricated
3. IC is delivered to hardware vendor
4. Vendor loads firmware & assembles device
5. Device is sent to customer
6. Customer generates and stores key on the device



# The Private Life of Keys

1. Someone designs the processor chip
2. Foundry fabricates the chip
3. Haulage transports chips
4. System vendor programs firmware
5. Distributors deliver a device to you
6. You create and use your key on the device



*We can't protect all the steps*

*...but we can duplicate them*

# Hardware Security Modules

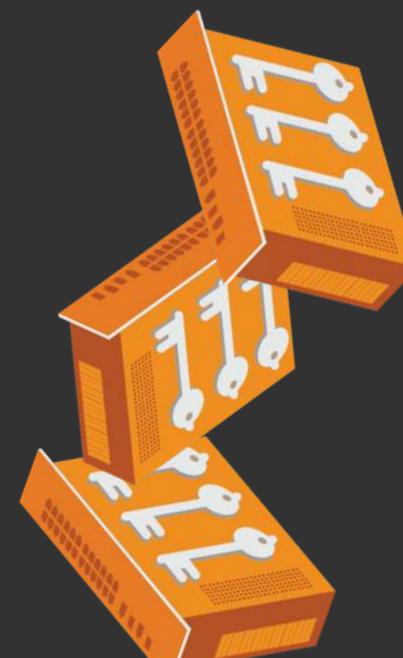
*Physical* computing device that safeguards and manages digital keys for strong authentication and provides *cryptoprocessing*.

## Features:

- Cryptographic key generation, storage, management
- Tamper-evidence, Tamper-resistance, Tamper-response
- Security Validation & Certification

**Crypto Operations are carried out in the device**  
**No need to output the private keys!**

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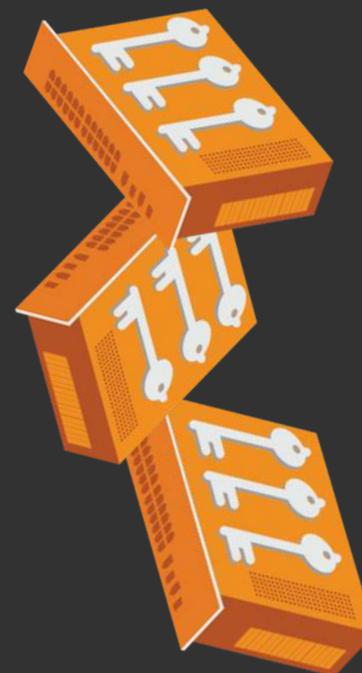
# Hardware Security Modules

## Common Applications

- Public Key Infrastructures
- Payment Processing Systems
- SSL Connections
- DNSSEC
- Transparent Data Encryption

## Cost

- Hardware (>\$10k)
- Integration Cost
- Operational/Support



# HSM Guarantees

1. Someone designs an integrated circuit (IC)
2. IC is fabricated
3. IC is delivered to hardware vendor
4. Vendor loads firmware & assembles device
5. Device is sent to customer
6. Customer generates and stores key on the device

# What could go wrong?

- Bugs

*CVE-2015-5464*

The HSM allows remote authenticated users to bypass intended key-export restrictions ...

- Backdoors/HT?

**THIS 'DEMONICALLY CLEVER'  
BACKDOOR HIDES IN A TINY  
SLICE OF A COMPUTER CHIP**



**NSA's Own Hardware Backdoors  
May Still Be a "Problem from Hell"**

**Expert Says NSA Have Backdoors Built Into  
Intel And AMD Processors**

**Snowden: The NSA planted backdoors in Cisco  
products**

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Proposed Solutions

- Trusted Foundries

- Very expensive
- Prone to errors/bugs

- Split-Manufacturing

- Still Expensive
- Prone to errors/bugs

- Post-fabrication Inspection

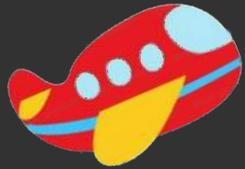
- Expensive (+ re-tooling)
- A huge pain, doesn't scale

## Arms Race

- Adversaries always one step forward
- Can never be 100% certain

**It's safe to assume we will never win**

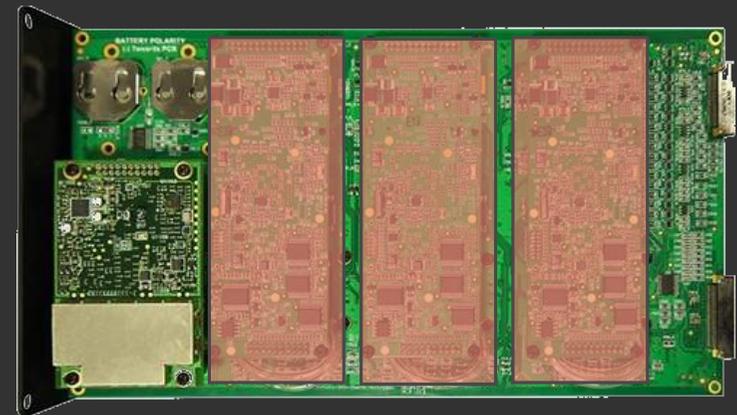
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# Solution from the sky and space

*Lockstep systems are fault-tolerant computer systems that run the same set of operations at the same time in parallel.*

- Dual redundancy  
allows error detection and error correction
- Triple redundancy  
automatic error correction, via majority vote  
→ Triple Redundant 777 Primary Flight Computer



# Safety != Security

Fault-tolerant systems are built for safety  
and the computations are simply replicated



**Not enough for security!**

Keys would have to be copied across all processors

Security of our keys would depend on the weakest link

# Our Solution

1. Someone designs an integrated circuit (IC)
2. IC is fabricated
3. IC is delivered to hardware vendor
4. Vendor loads firmware & assembles device
5. Device is sent to customer
6. Customer generates and stores key on the device

# Who we are

**Vasilios  
Mavroudis**

*Doctoral Researcher,  
UCL*

**Dan Cvrcek**  
*CEO, Enigma Bridge*

**George Danezis**  
*Professor, UCL*

**Petr Svenda**  
*Assistant Professor, MUni  
CTO, Enigma Bridge*

# Ingredients of the Solution

1. Hardware Components (IC)
  - Independent Fabrication
  - Non-overlapping Supply Chains
  - Programmable
  - Affordable
  - Bonus if COTS
2. Cryptographic Protocols
  - No single trusted party
  - Full Distribution of Secrets
  - Distributed Processing
  - Provably Secure (i.e., Math)



# Smart Cards

## Many Independent Manufacturers

- ❑ Private Fabrication Facilities
- ❑ Disjoint Supply Chains (location, factories, design)

## Programmable Secure Execution Environment

- ❑ NIST FIPS140-2 standard, Level 4
- ❑ Common Criteria EAL4+/5+

**Off-the-shelf Cost \$5-\$40**

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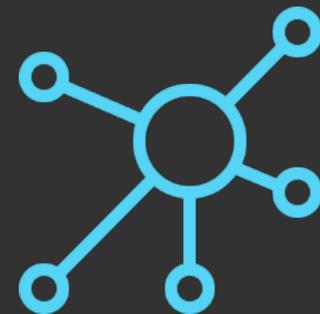
# Multiparty Computation Protocols

## Distributed Operations

- Random number Generation
- Key Pair Generation
- Decryption
- Signing

## Provably Protect against

- $N-1$  Malicious & Colluding parties
- $N$  Malicious & non-colluding parties



# THE prototype

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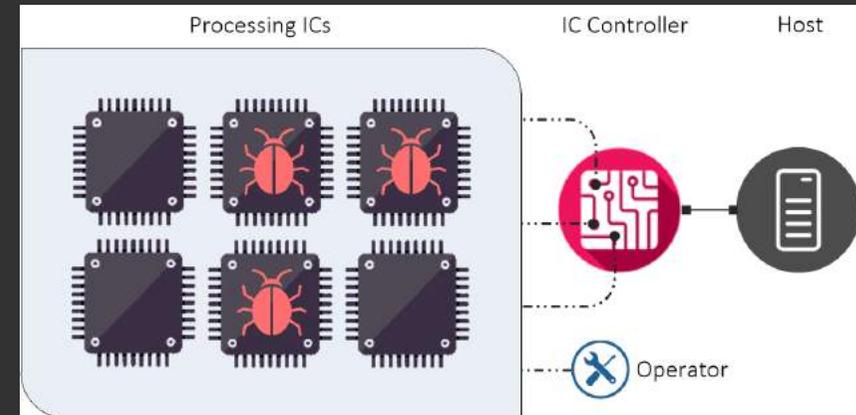


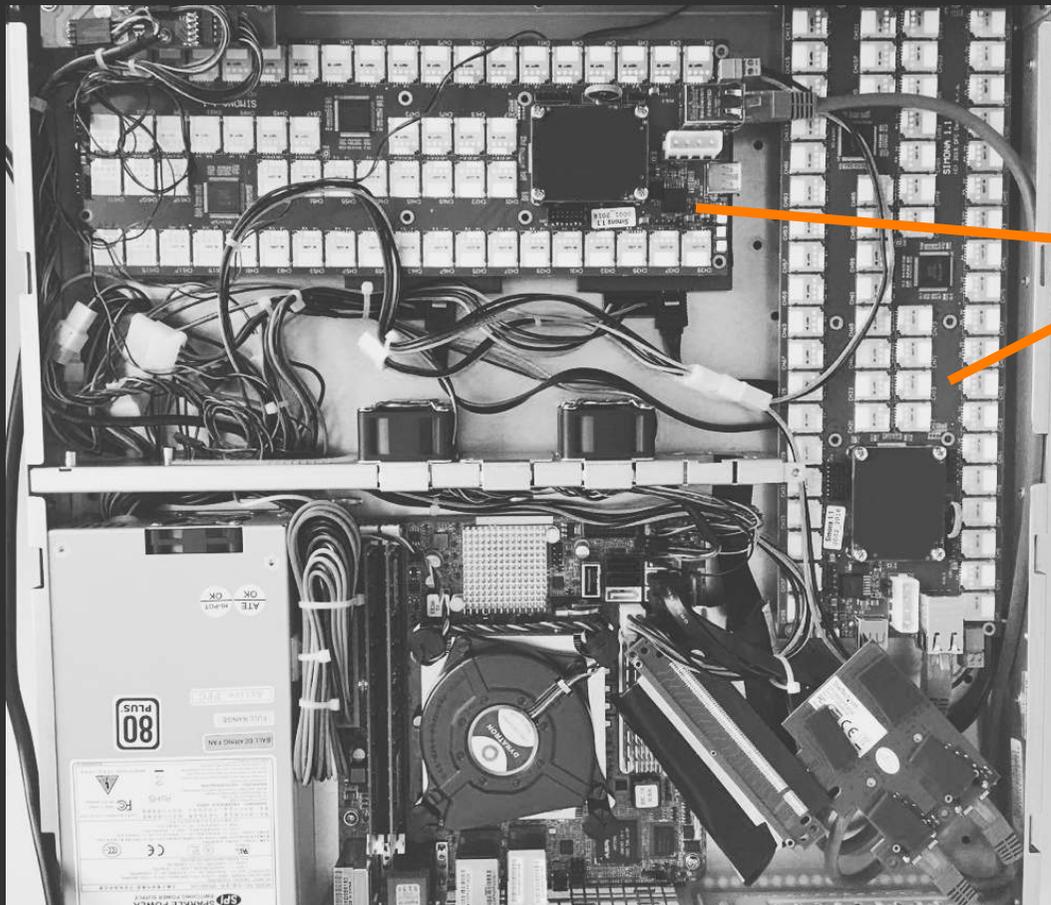
<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Many Smart Cards

## Components

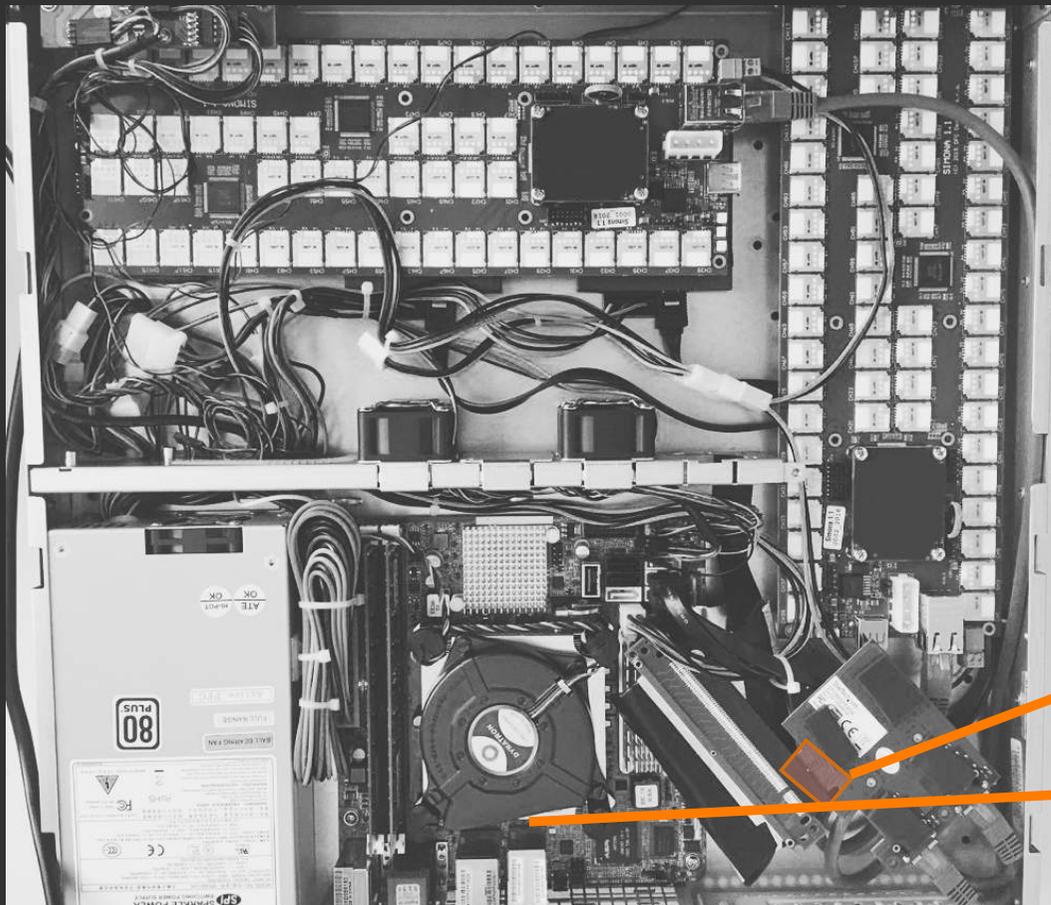
- Multiples of **120** smartcards
- TCP/UDP access to smartcards
- FPGA manages the communication bus
  - **1Gbit/s** bandwidth for requests





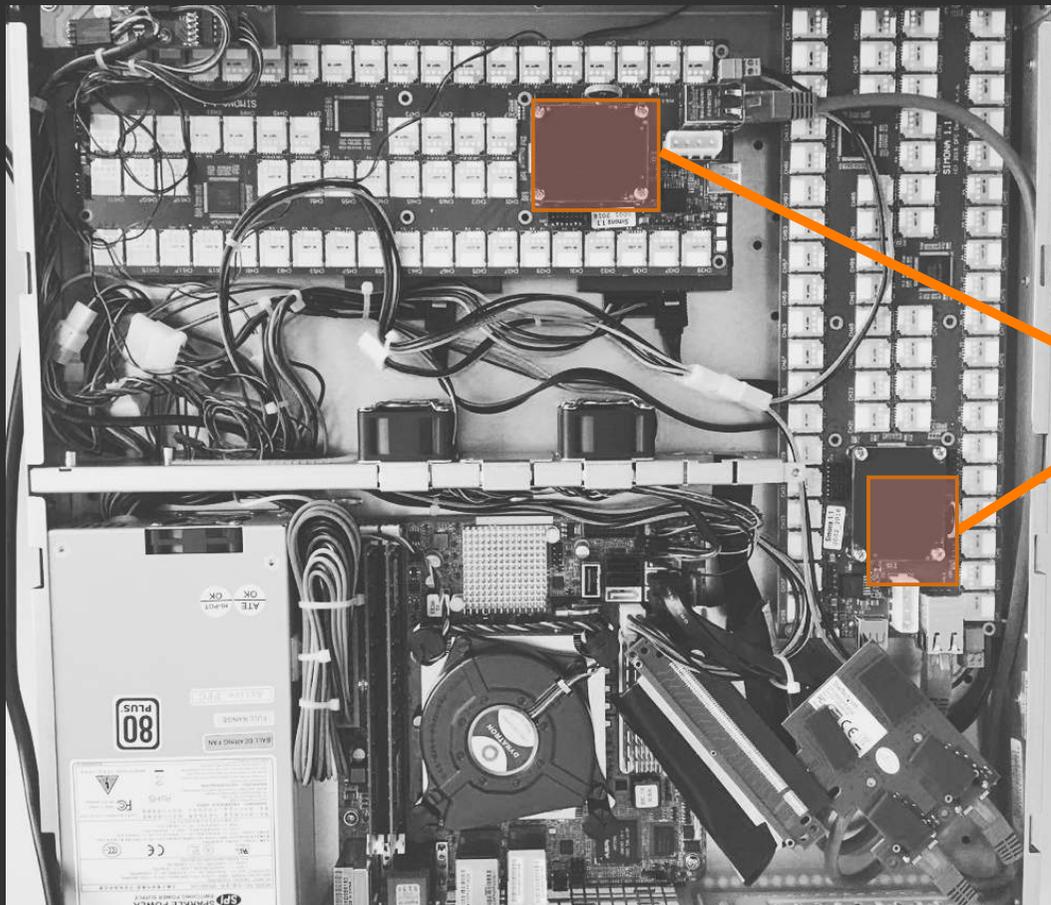
SIMONA boards  
with 120 ICs

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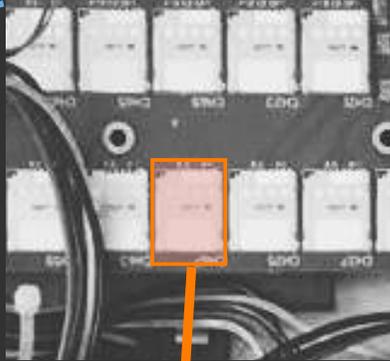
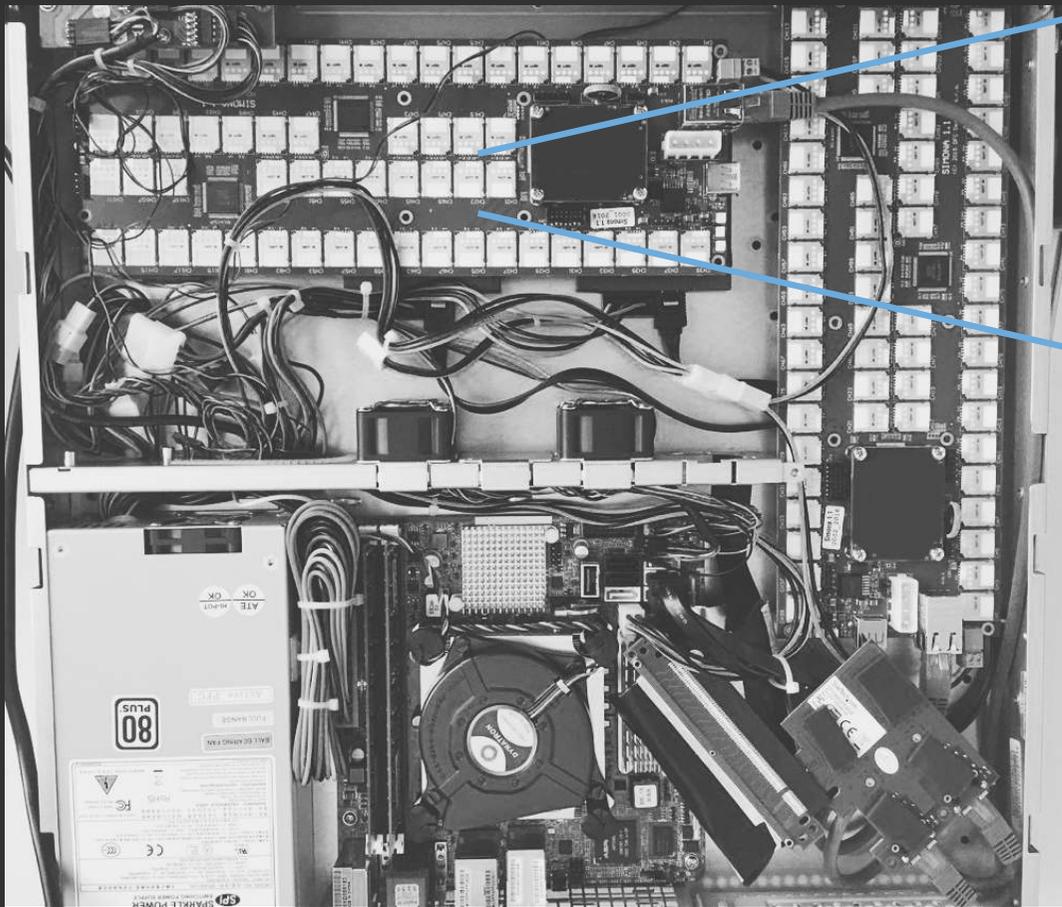
Gigabit link to  
untrusted Linux  
server

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>



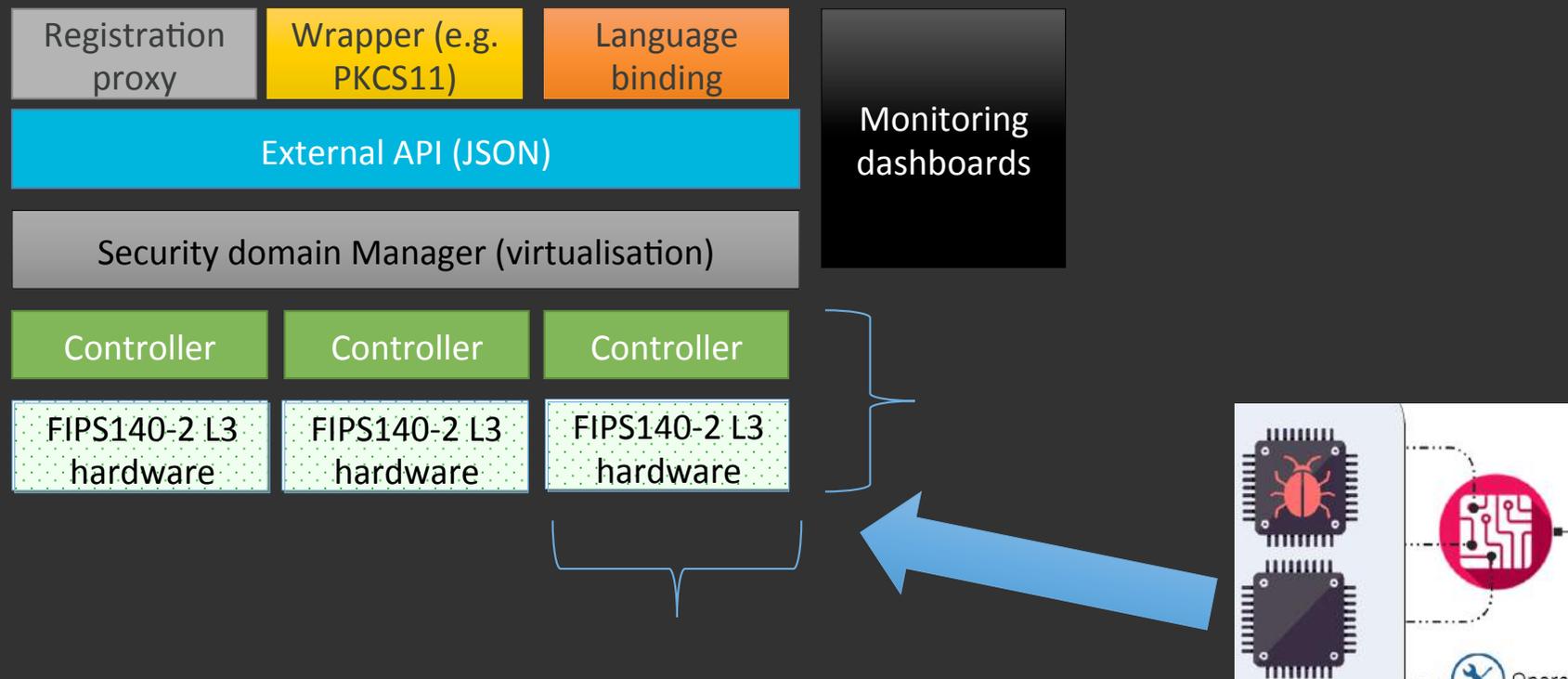
FPGA  
- JC /ISO7816->TCP

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JavaCards  
- FIPS140-2 Level 3  
- CC EAL5+

# Plugging it into a cloud service



# Giving smart-cards an infrastructure

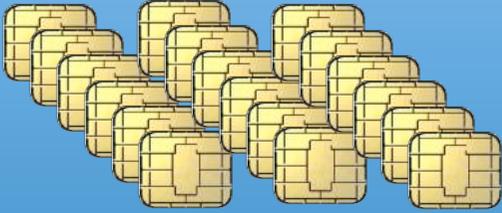
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MacBook-2

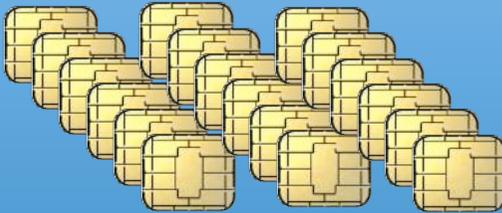


MPC RESTful server

SIMONA board (192.168.42.10)  
**LAS VEGAS**



SIMONA board (84.92.209.143)  
**CAMBRIDGE UK**



<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Demo 1

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Giving smart-cards an infrastructure

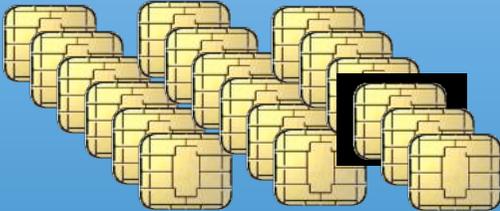
mpc.enigmabridge.com

MacBook-2

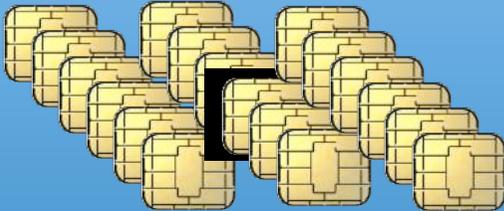


MPC RESTful server

SIMONA board (192.168.42.10)  
LAS VEGAS



SIMONA board (84.92.209.143)  
CAMBRIDGE UK



jCardSim



- ARM
- Intel
- SPARC

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Giving smart-cards an infrastructure

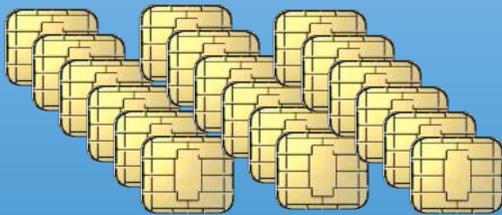
MacBook-2



[mpc.enigmabridge.com](https://mpc.enigmabridge.com)

MPC RESTful server

SIMONA board (192.168.42.10)  
**LAS VEGAS**



<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Demo 2

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Visualizing Cryptography

MacBook-2

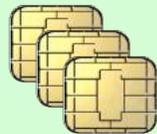


mpc.enigmabridge.com

## Node-red

- RESTful requests (switch evil)
- MPC key generation
- web-socket servers

MPC RESTful server



ICs with Hardware Trojans



Status of the key

Private key status  
● SECURE

Actual public key value  
043197E91C7A90E98

Compromised public key value  
04F72CBD240E26C0E

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

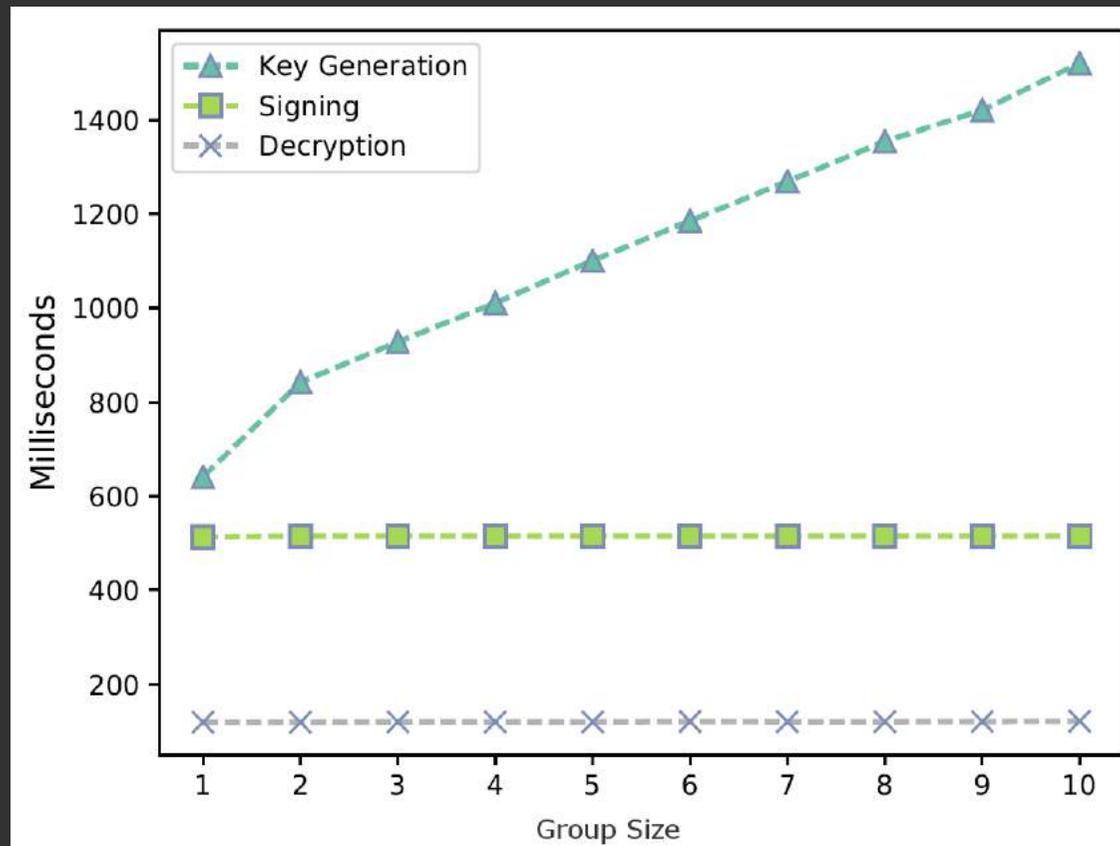
# Demo 3

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# PERFORMANCE

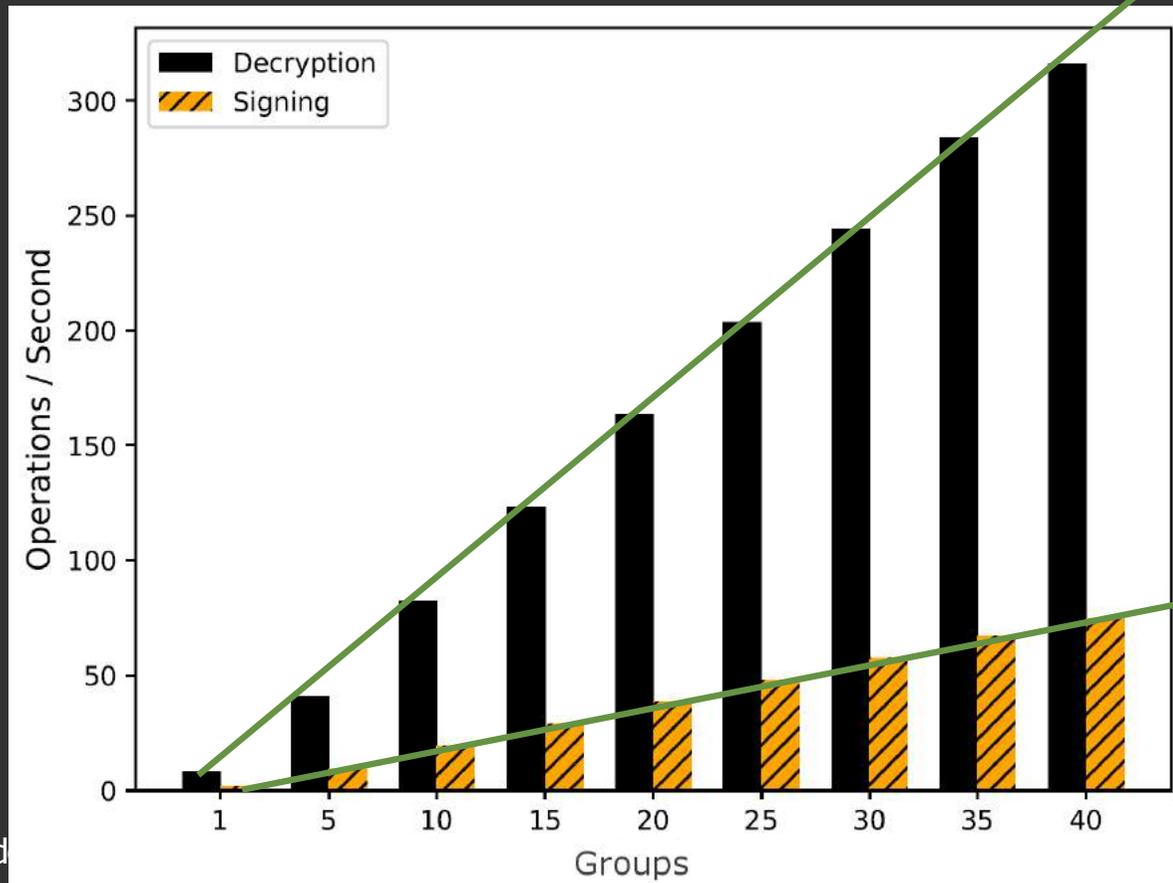
<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Tolerance vs Runtime



<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Scalability



Linear,  
no bottleneck

# Protocols

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# Key Points

- No single IC is trusted with a secret (e.g., private key)
- Misbehaving ICs can be detected by honest ones
- If one IC is excluded from any protocol, user can tell

Bonus: Minimize interaction between ICs for performance

# Sharing a Secret

- Split a secret in *shares*
- The secret can be *reconstructed* later
- Without *sufficient* shares not a single bit is leaked
- Splitting Parameters:
  - How many shares the secret is split into (n)
  - How many shares you need to reconstruct the secret (t)



*In our case: Each 3 ICs hold shares for a secret*

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# Classic Key Generation

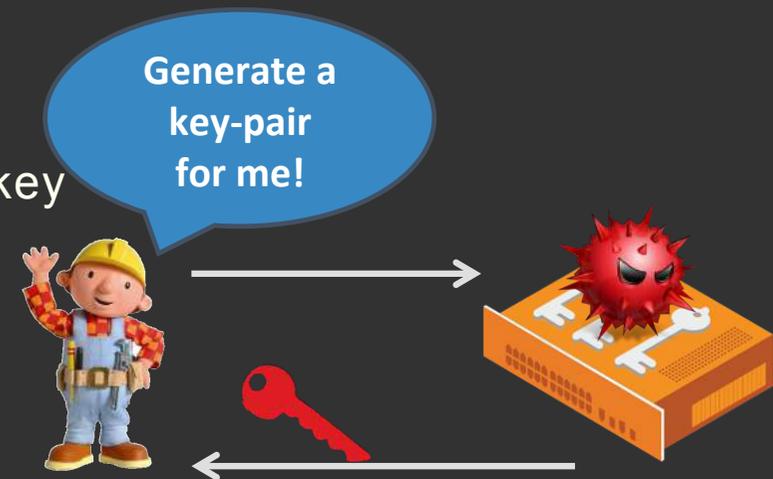
## Single IC System

1. Bob asks for **new key pair**
2. Backdoored IC generates compromised key
3. Private Key is “securely” stored
4. **Weak** Public key is returned

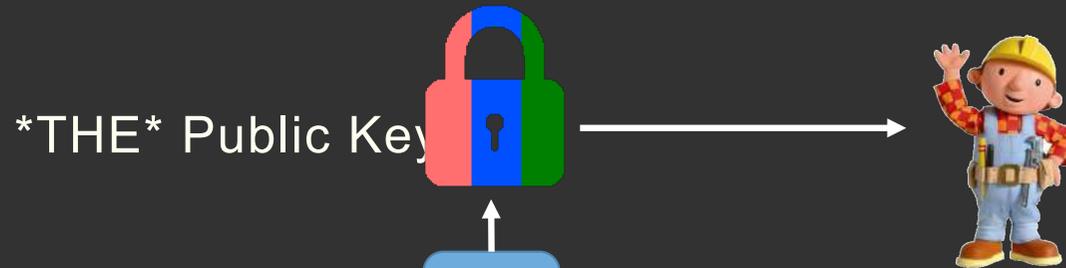
## Problems

- Malicious IC has full access to the private key
- Bob can't tell if he got a “bad” key

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# Distributed Key Generation

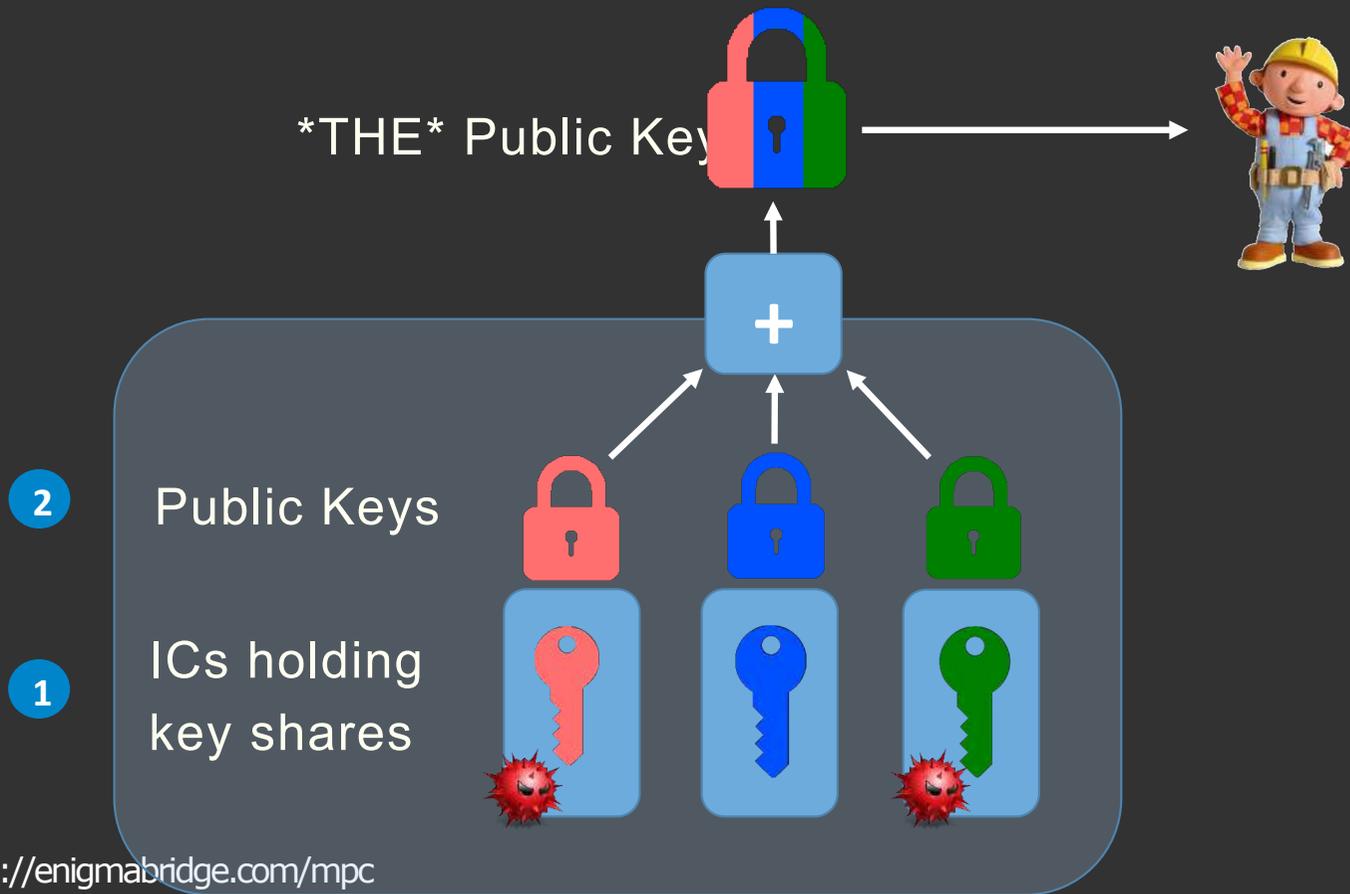


Public Keys

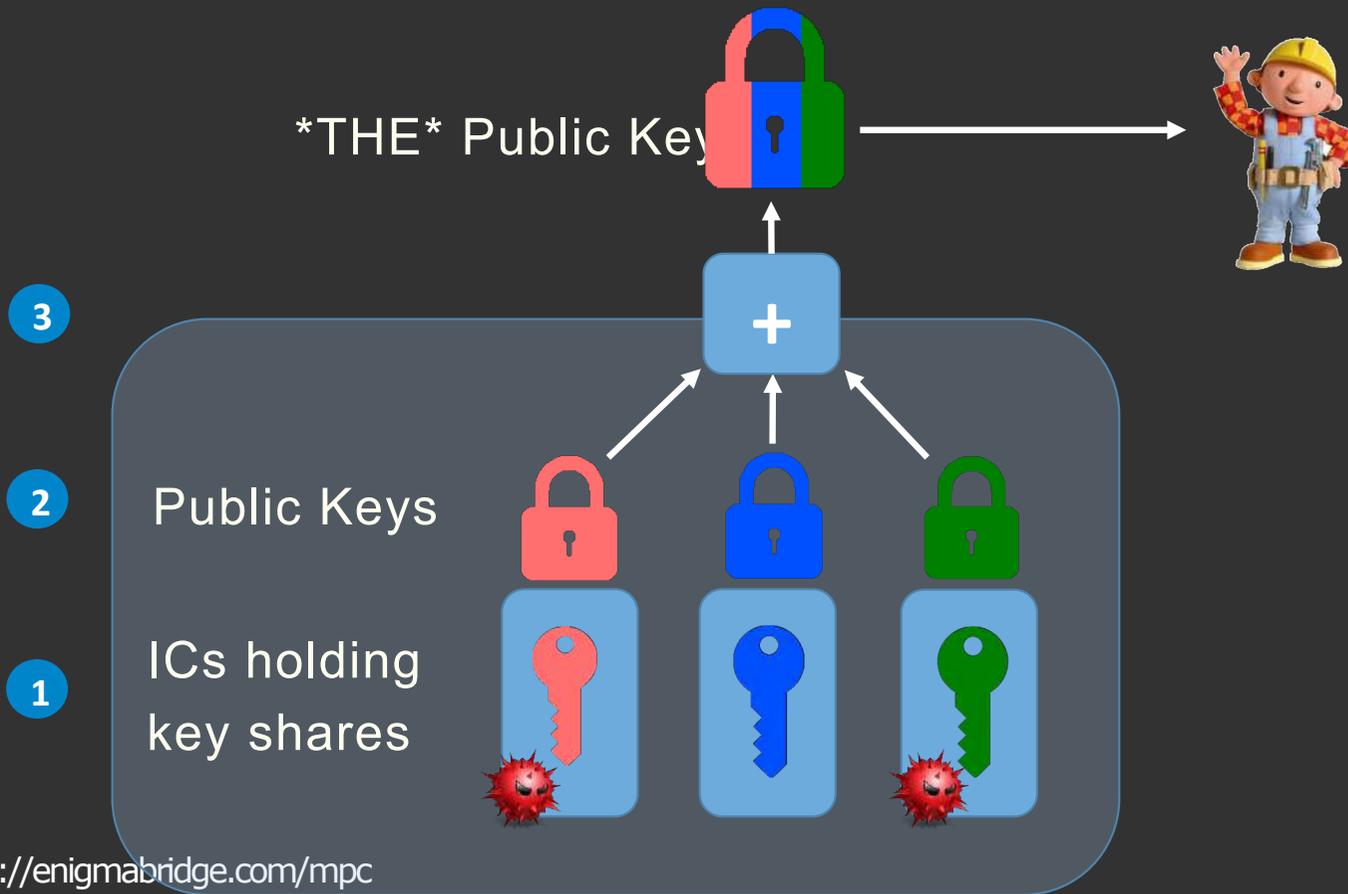
ICs holding  
key shares

1

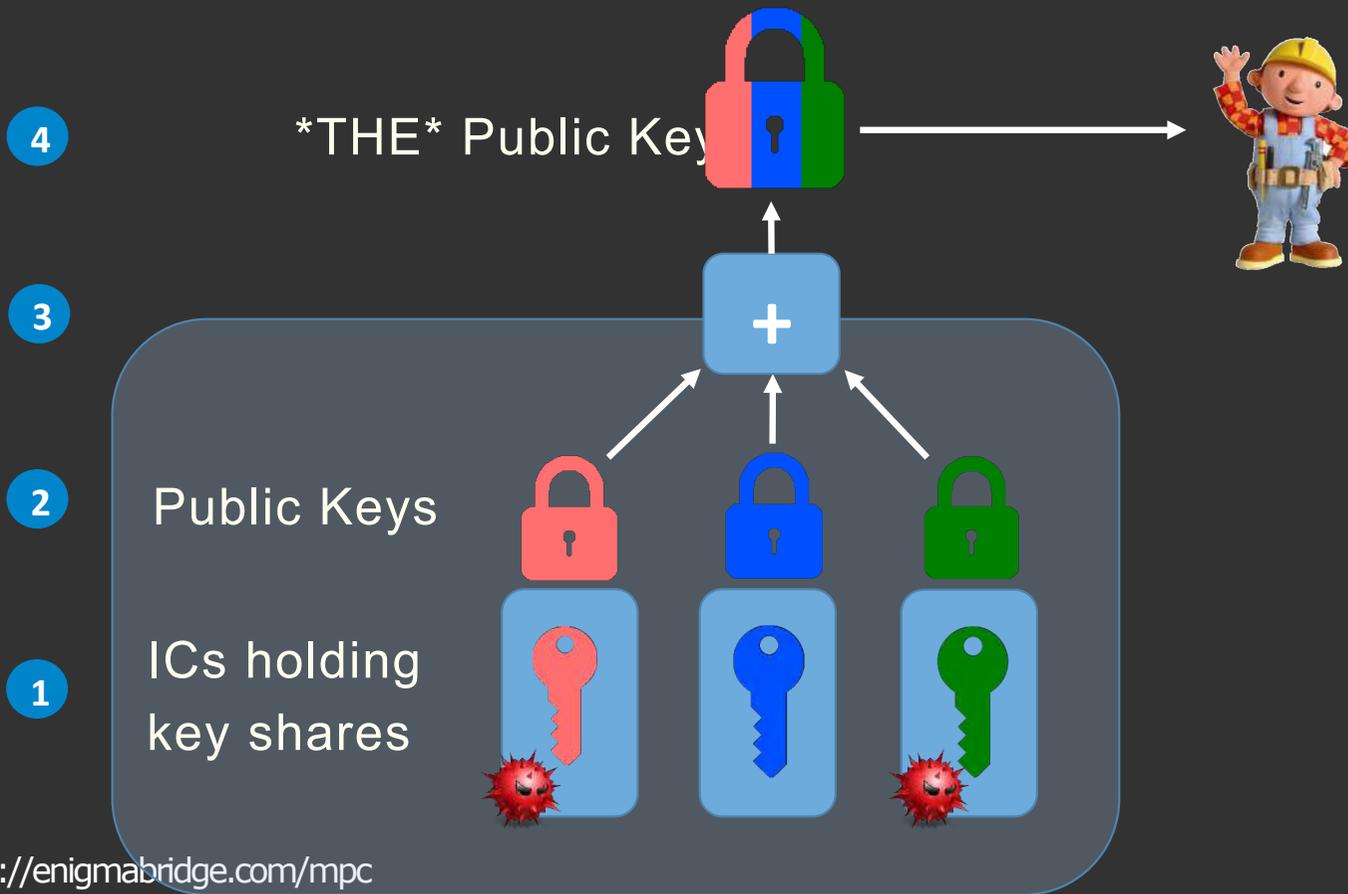
# Distributed Key Generation



# Distributed Key Generation



# Distributed Key Generation



# Distributed Key Generation

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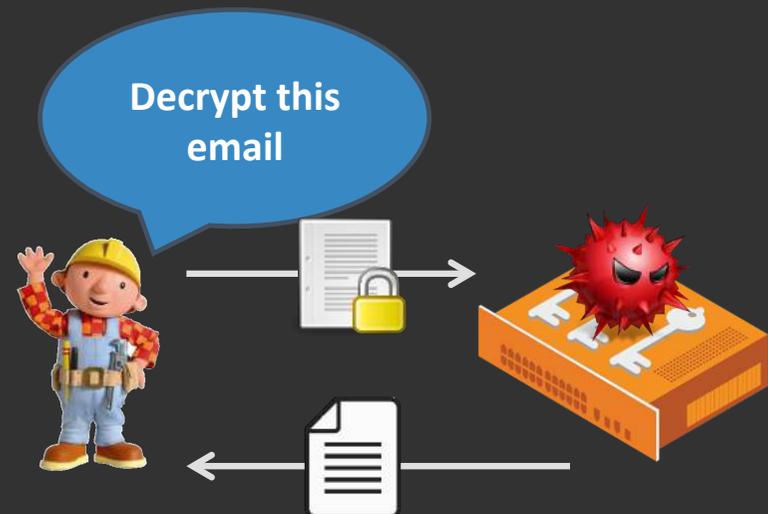
Bonus: Minimize interaction between ICs for performance ✗

# Classic Decryption

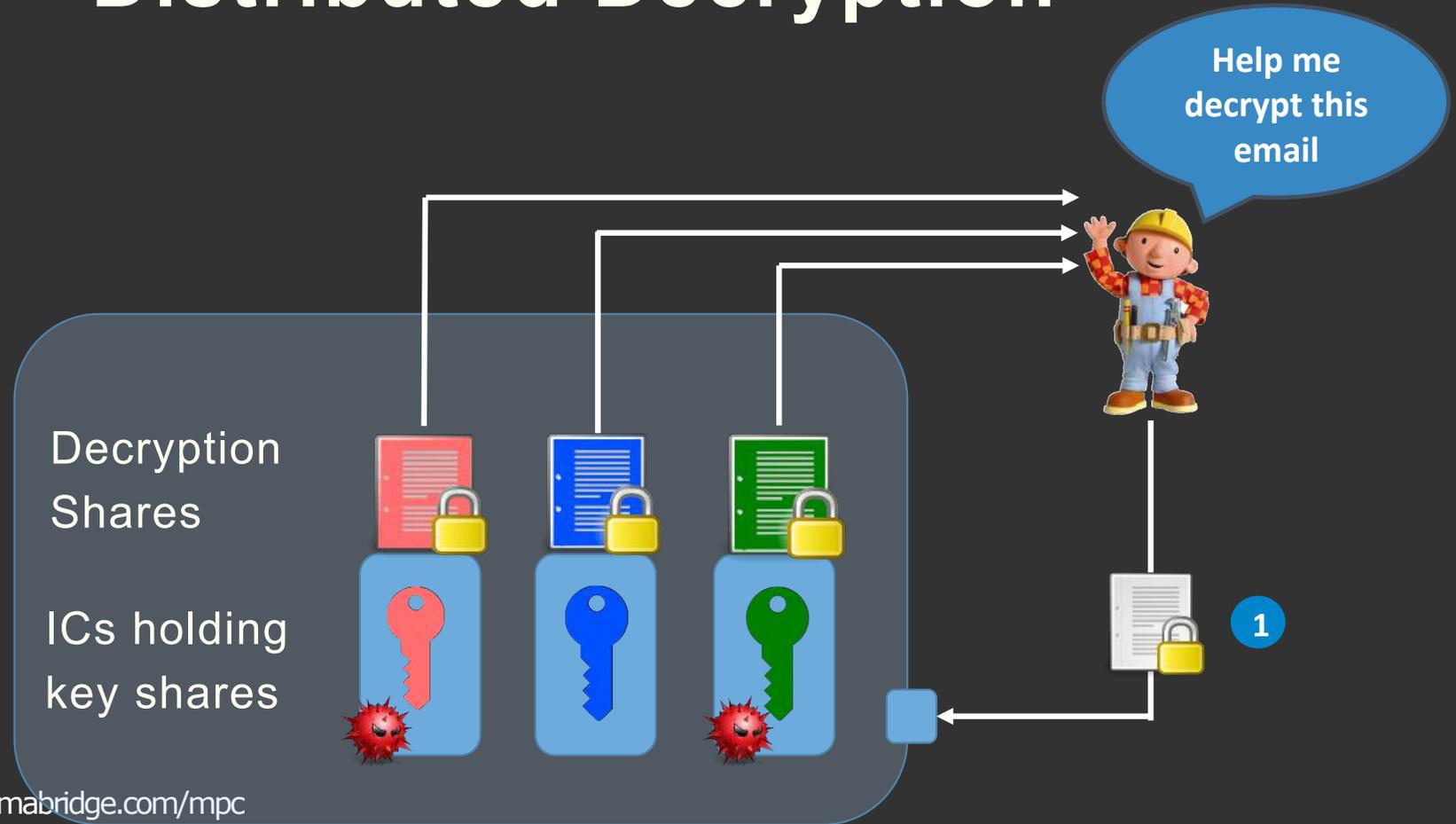
## Single IC System

1. Bob asks for **ciphertext decryption**
2. Backdoored IC decrypts ciphertext
3. Bob retrieves plaintext

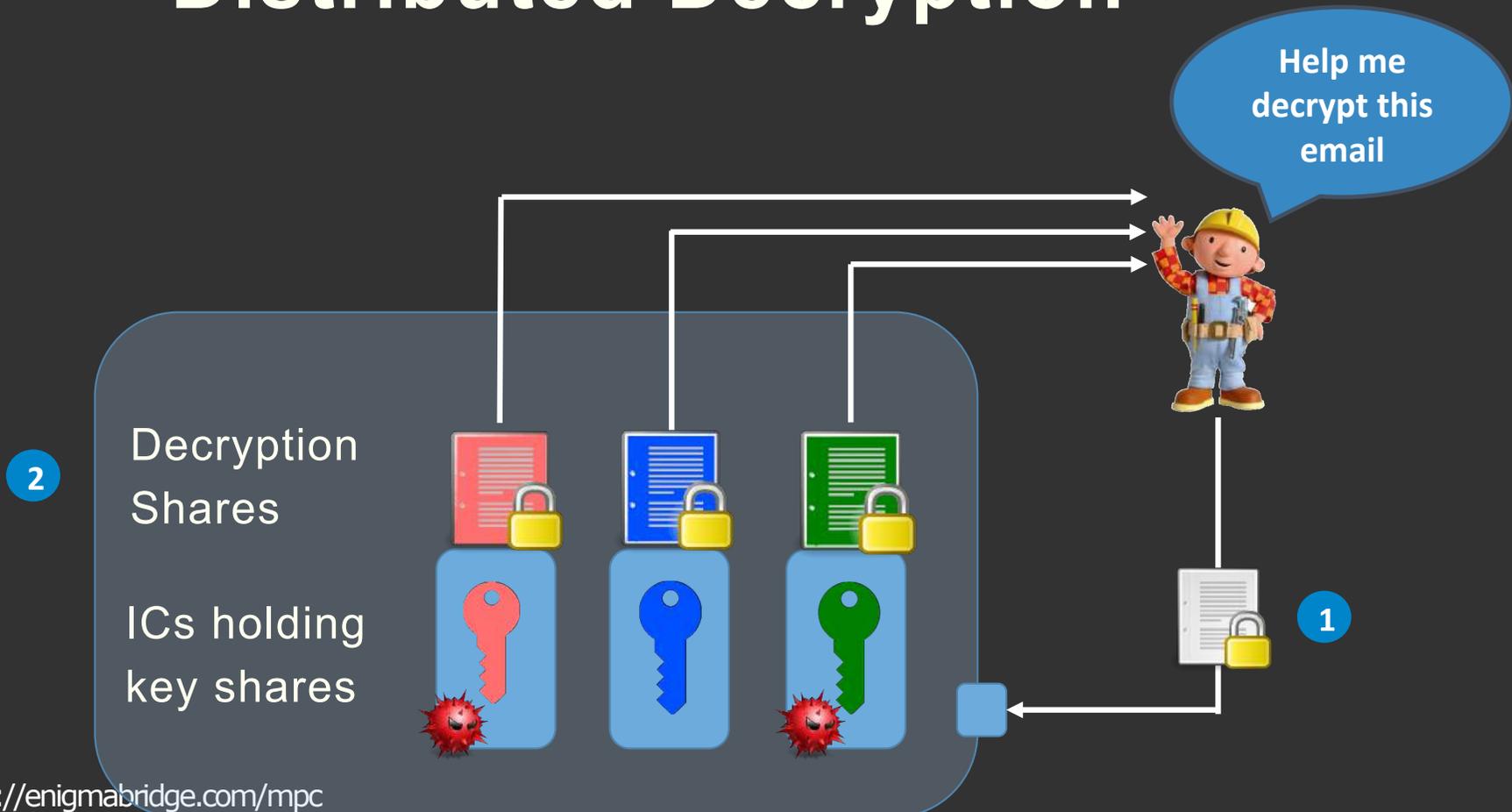
*The IC needs full access to the private key to be able to decrypt ciphertexts.*



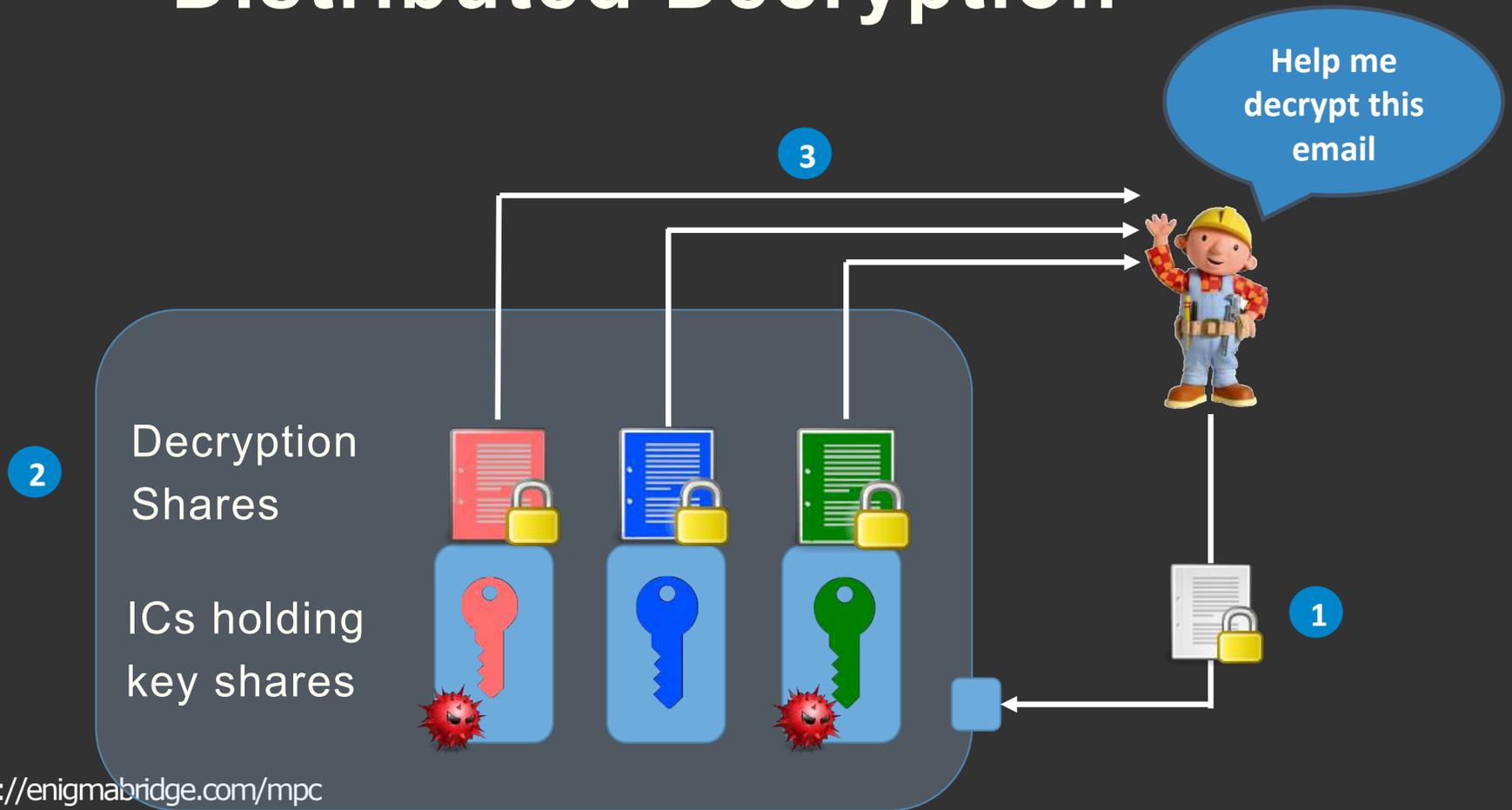
# Distributed Decryption



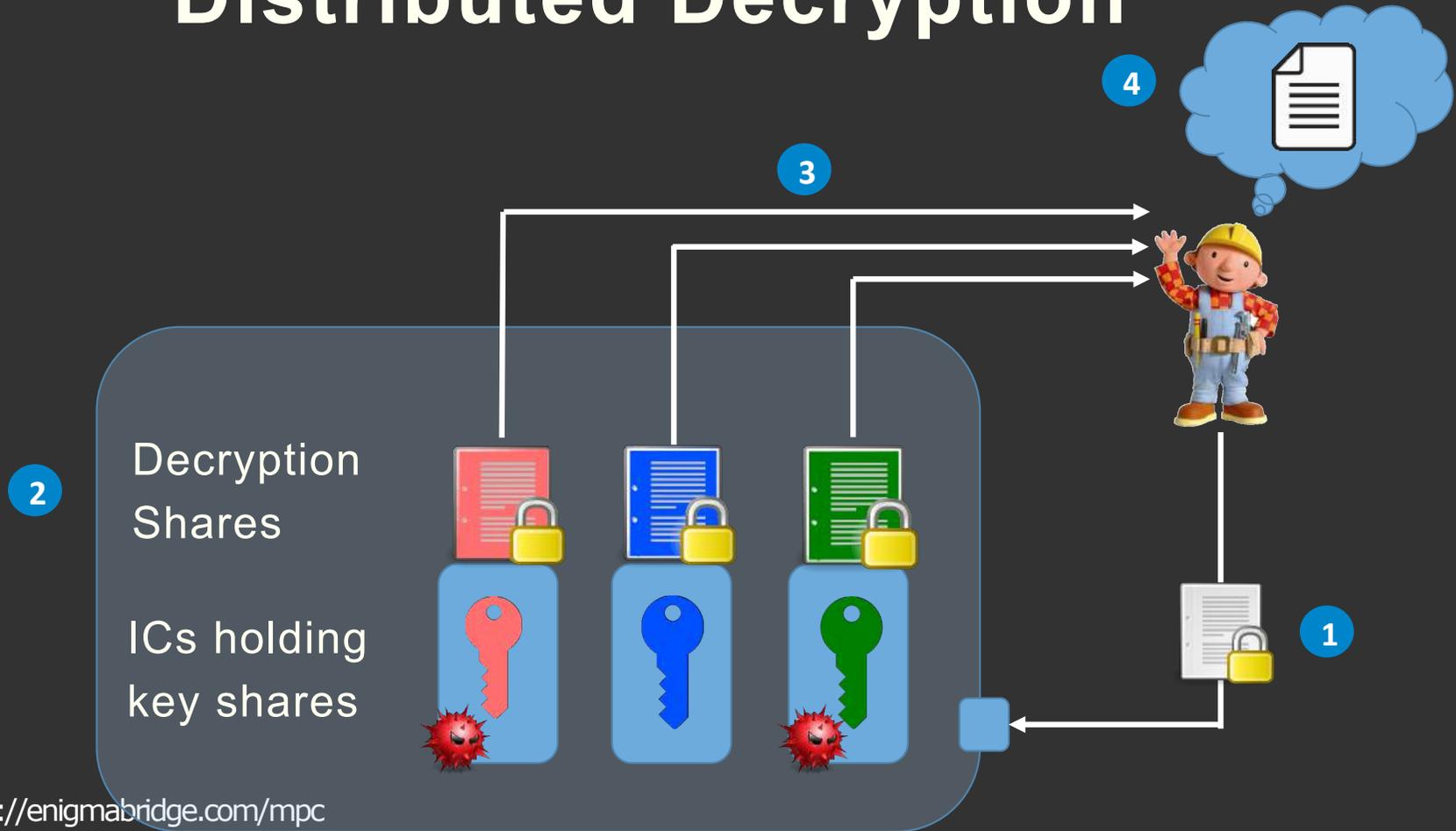
# Distributed Decryption



# Distributed Decryption



# Distributed Decryption



# Distributed Decryption

## Key Points

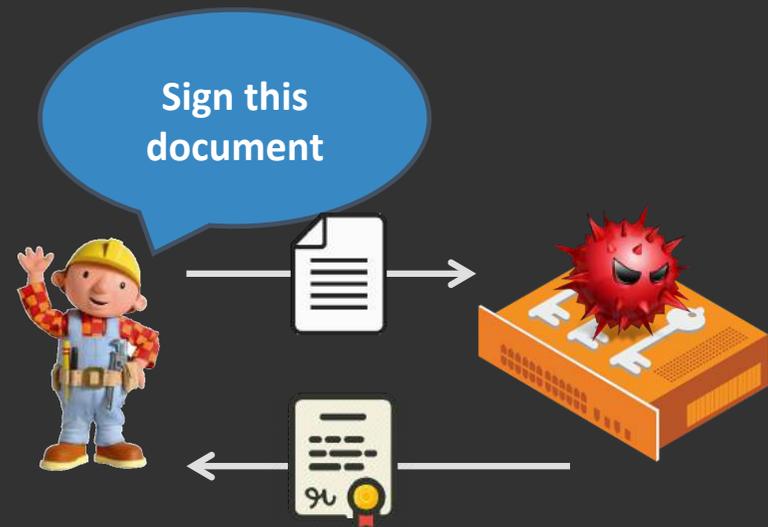
- No single IC is trusted with a secret (e.g., private key) ✓
- Misbehaving ICs can be detected by honest ones -
- If one IC is excluded from any protocol, user can tell ✓

Bonus: Minimize interaction between ICs for performance ✓

# Classic Signing

## Single IC System

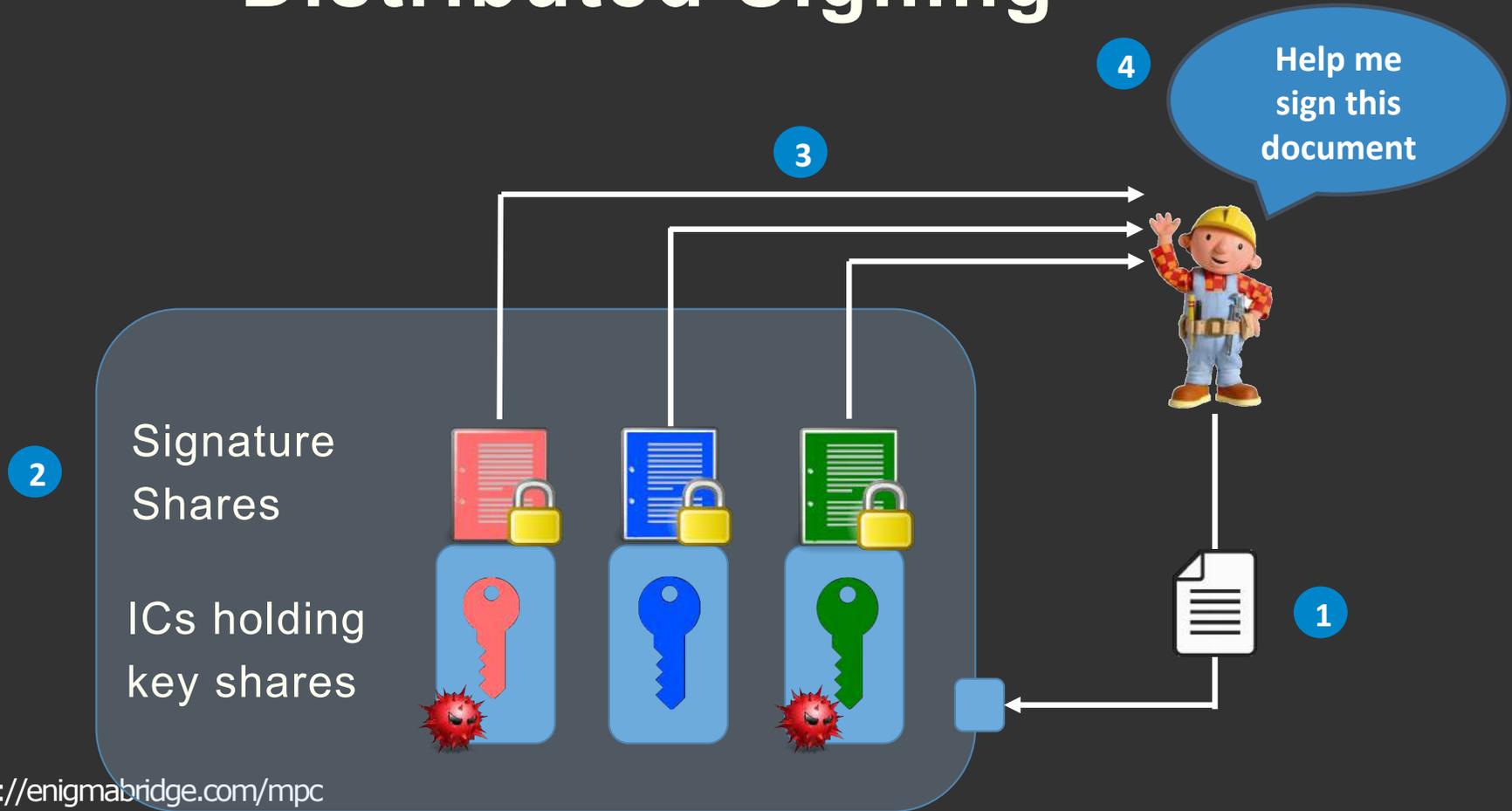
1. Bob asks for **document signing**
2. Backdoored IC signs the plaintext
3. Bob retrieves signature



*The IC needs full access to the private key to be able to sign plaintexts.*

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# Distributed Signing



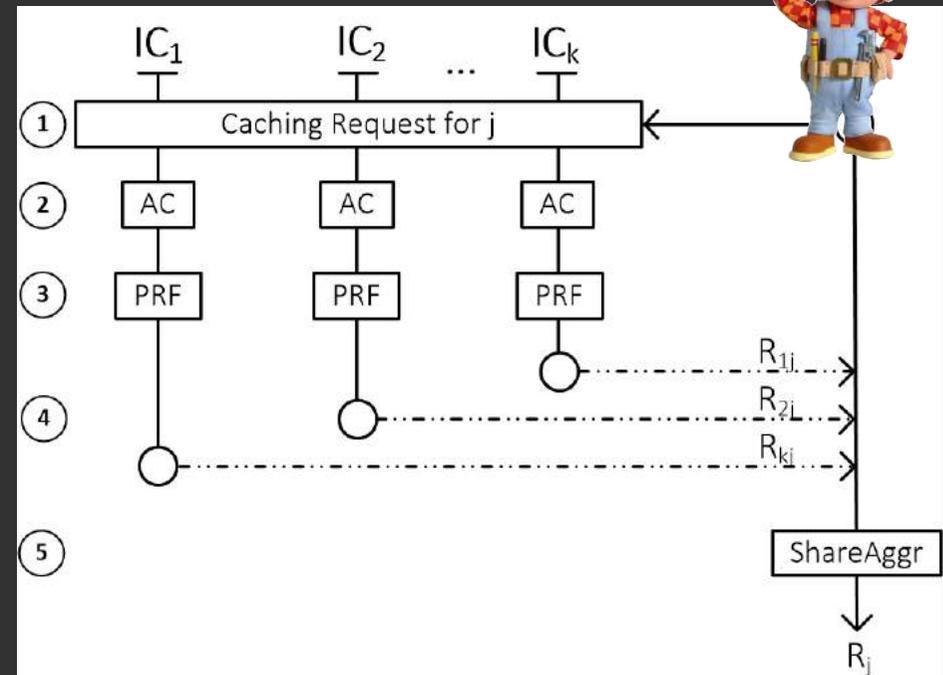
# Distributed Signing I

## Caching

1. Bob sends a **caching request**
2. The ICs verify Bob's authorization
3. Generate a **random** group element based on  $j$
4. Bob sums the random elements

## Properties

- Caching for thousands of rounds ( $j$ )
- Bob stores  $R_j$   
<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>



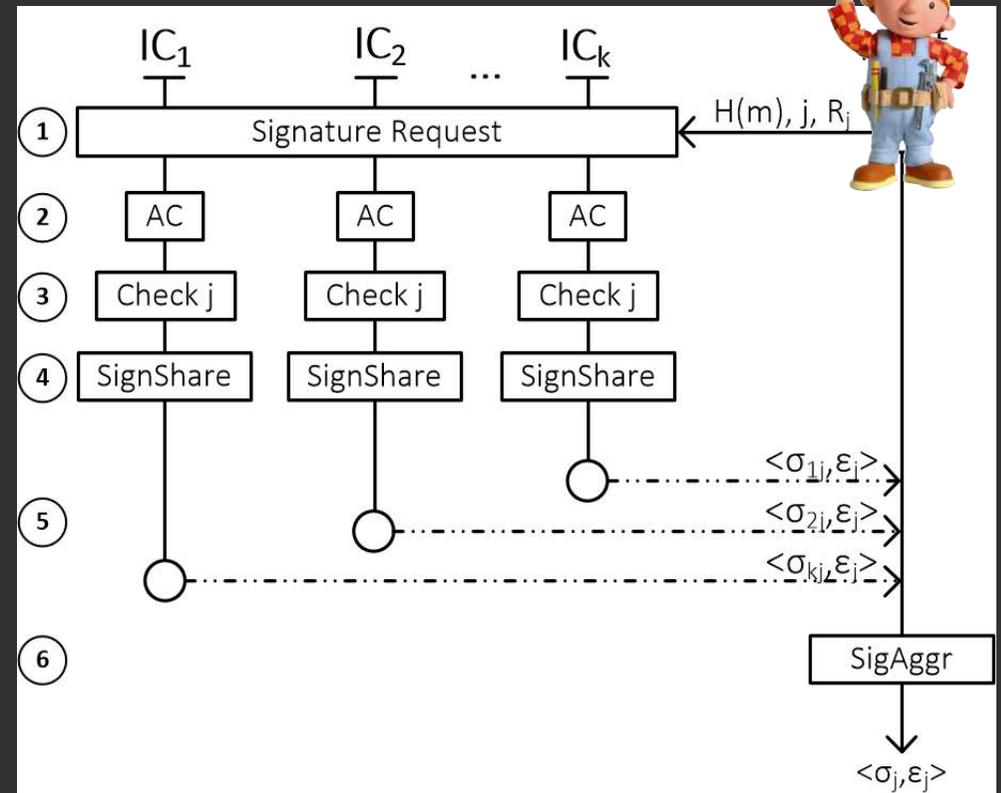
# Distributed Signing II

## Signing

1. Bob asks for **document signing** & sends  $R_j$ ,  $j$ , and the hash of  $m$
2. ICs verify his authorization
3. ICs **check** if  $j$  has been used again
4. ICs compute their **signature share**
5. Bob **sums** all signature shares

## Properties

- **All ICs** must participate
- **Significant speed up** with caching



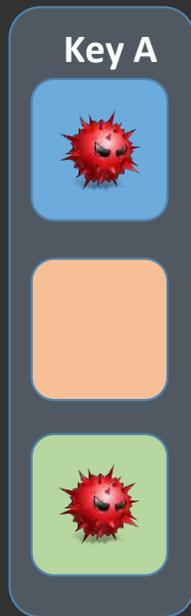
# Distributed Signing

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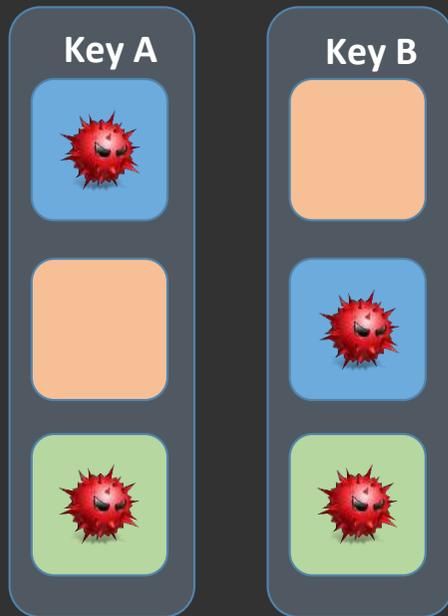
Bonus: Minimize interaction between ICs for performance ✓

# How we made it scale



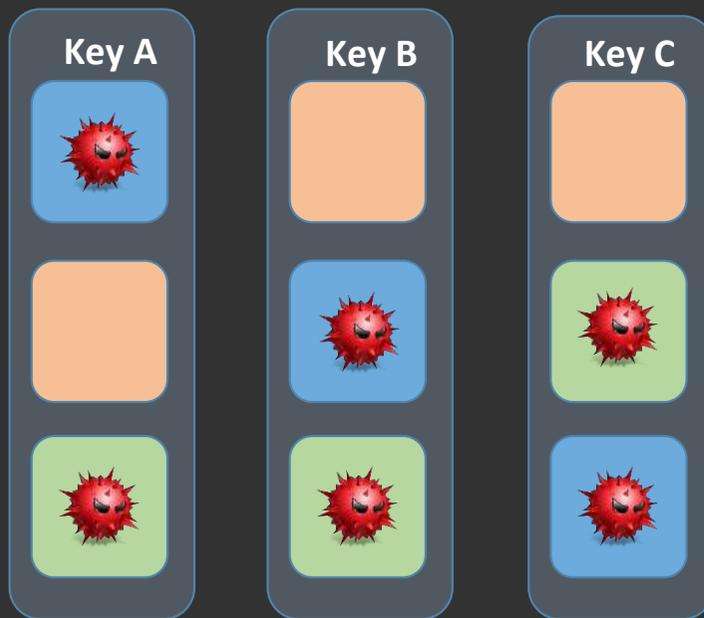
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# How we made it scale



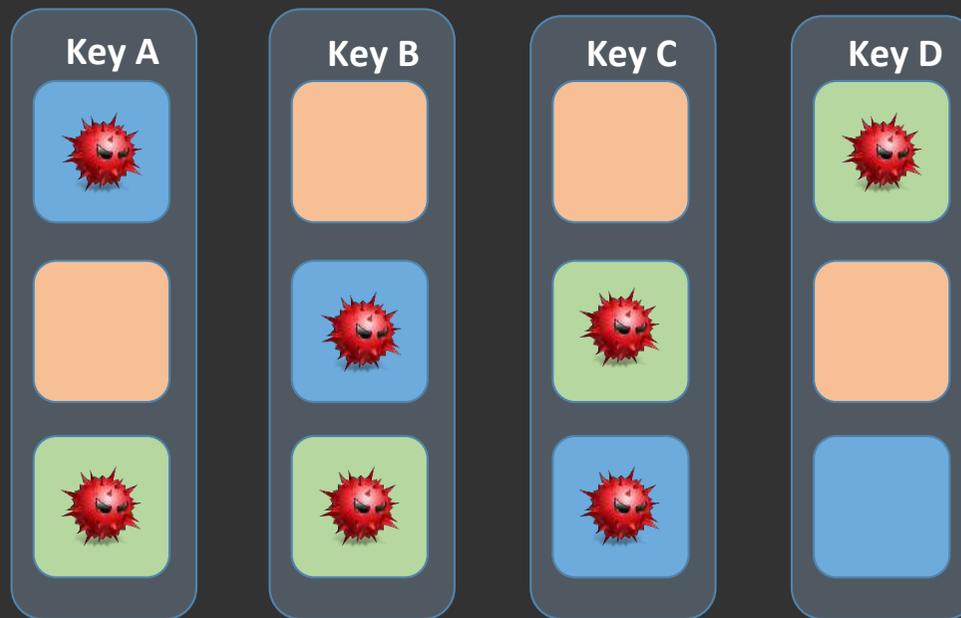
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# How we made it scale



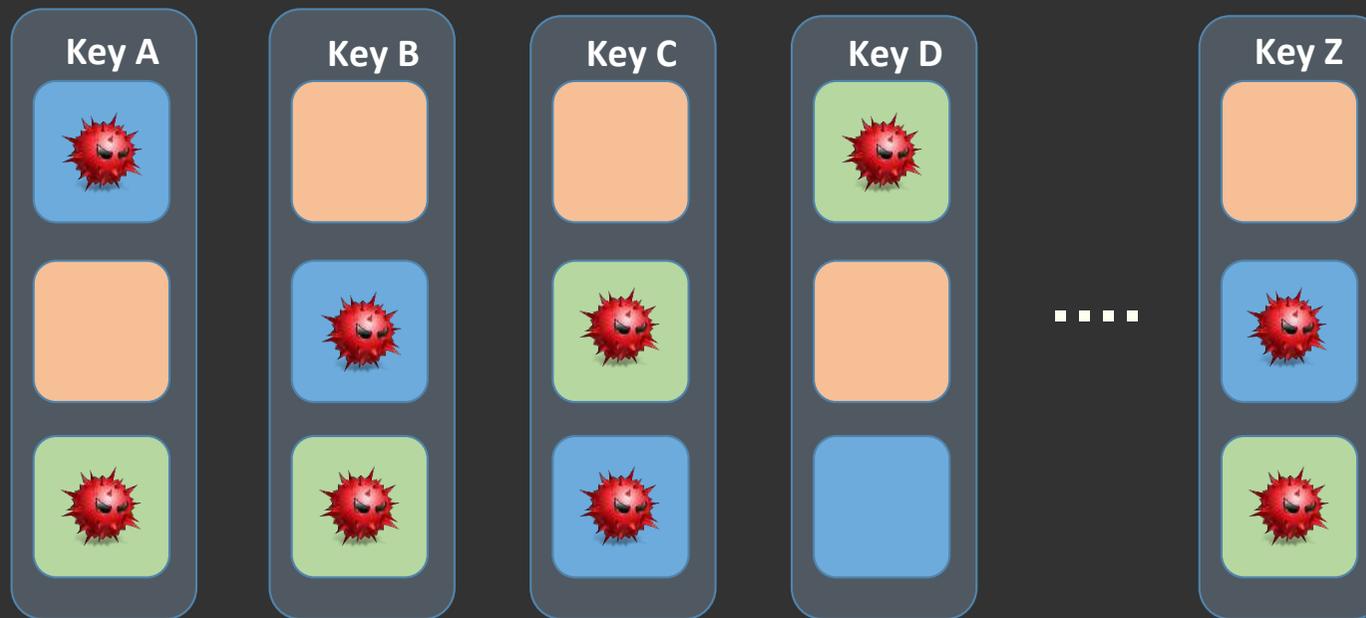
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# How we made it scale



<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

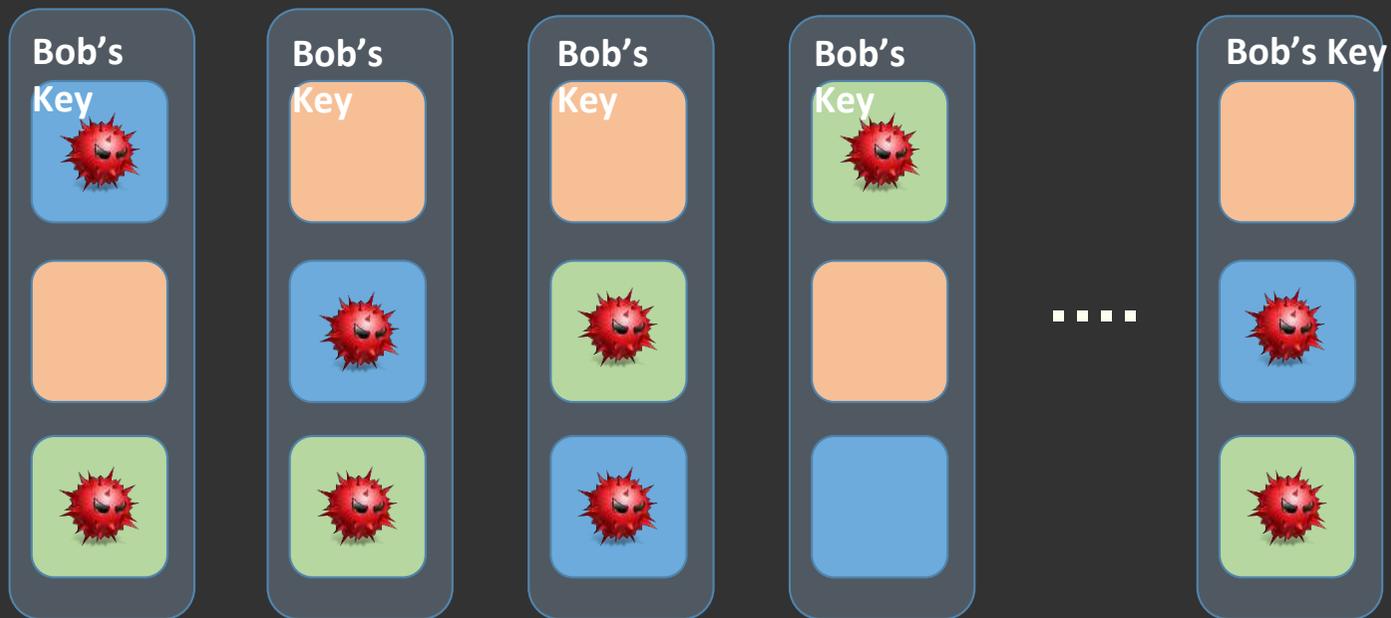
# How we made it scale



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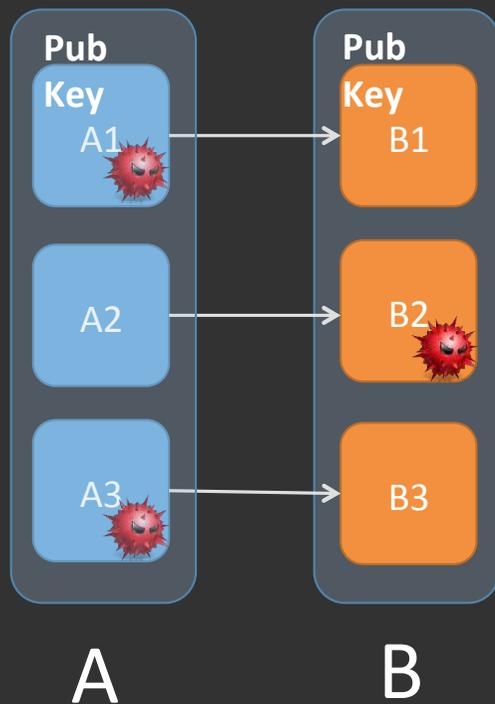
# How we made it scale

But how can all these groups have shares for the same key?



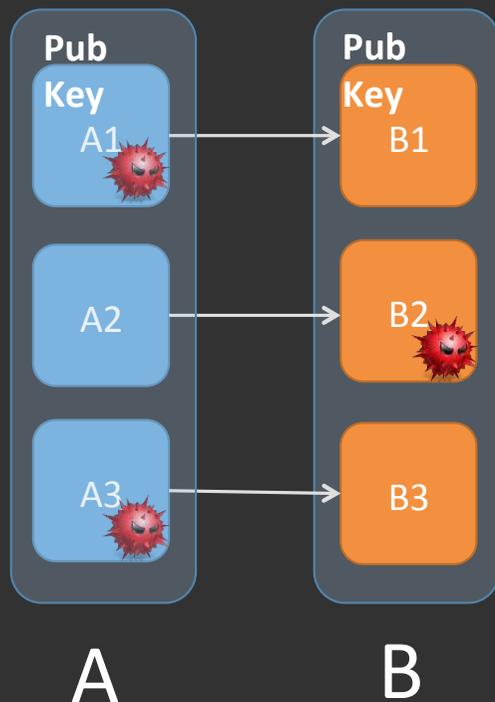
<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

# Key Replication



1. Group A generates a public key
2. A1, A2, A3 send their shares to B1, B2, B3
3. Each IC in B receives shares from A1, A2, A3
4. Each IC in B **combines the 3 shares** and retrieves its private key

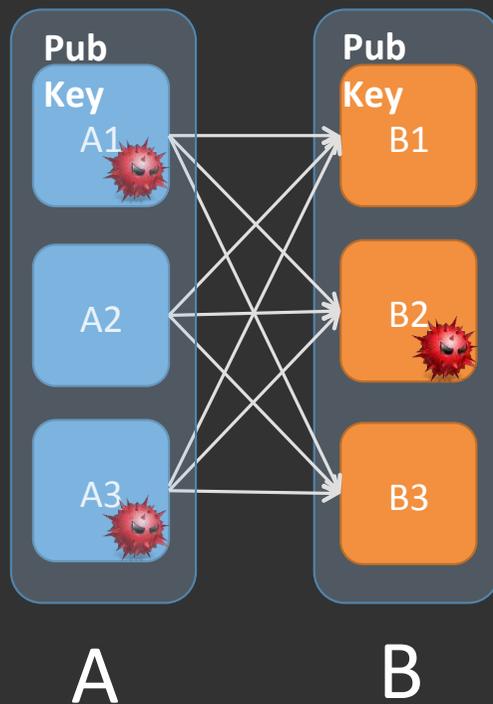
# ~~Key Replication~~



1. Group A generates a public key
2. A1, A2, A3 send their shares to B1, B2, B3
3. Each IC in B receives shares from A1, A2, A3
4. Each IC in B **combines the 3 shares** and retrieves its private key
5. **A1, A3 and B2 collude**

**The adversary retrieves the secret!**

# Key Replication



1. Group A generates a public key
2. Then each IC in A **splits its private key in three shares** and sends them to B1, B2, B3
3. Each IC in B receives shares from A1, A2, A3
4. Each IC in B **combines the 3 shares** and retrieves its private key share

**The full public keys of A and B are the same!**

# geopolitics

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

*“We can guarantee security if there is at least one honest IC that is not backdoored or faulty.”*

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

*“We can guarantee security if there is at least one honest IC that is not backdoored or faulty.”*

What if all ICs are malicious?

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## **Government-level adversaries**

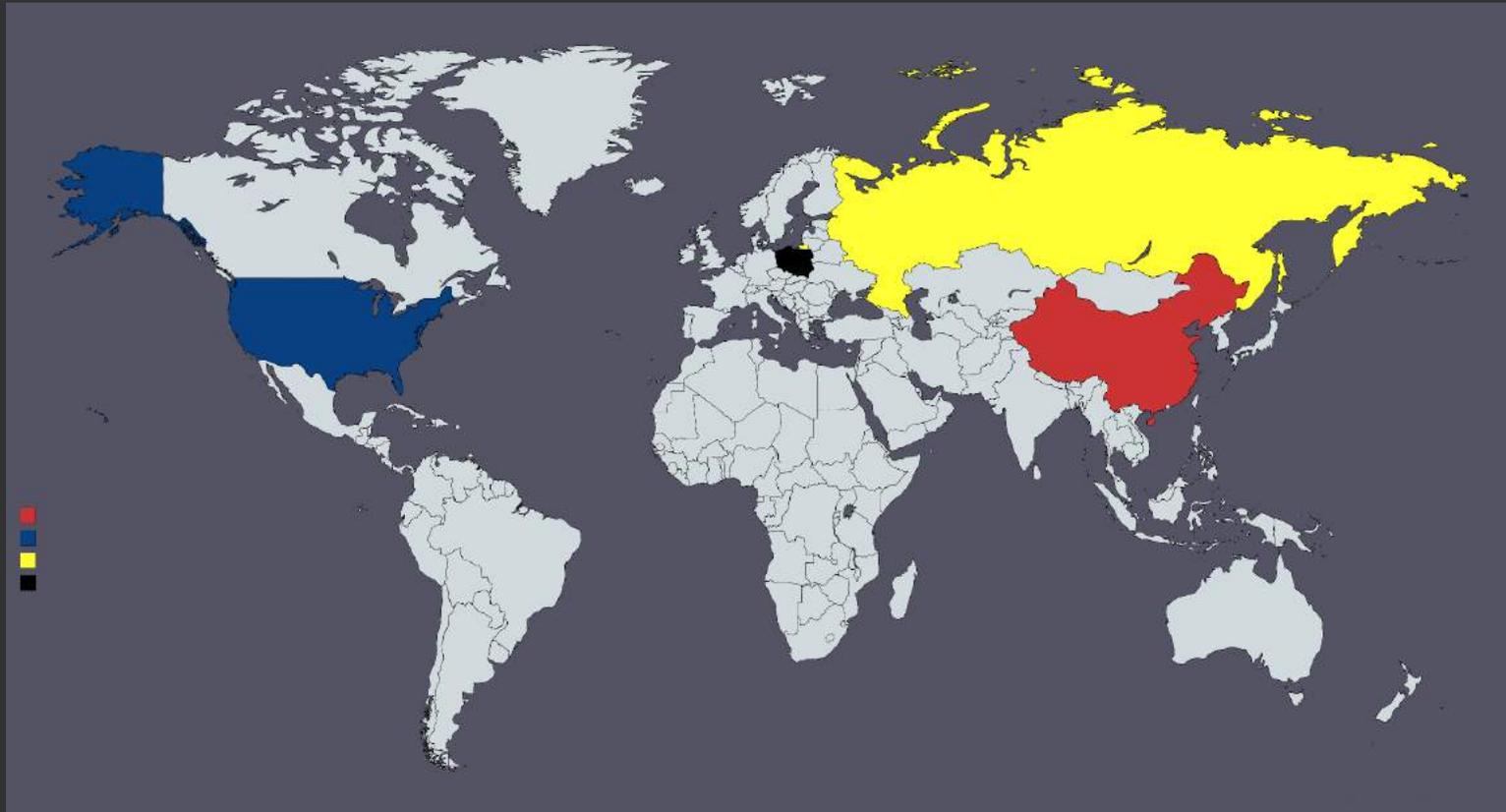
- Deep access to fabrication facilities
- Very sophisticated techniques
- Very hard to detect their Backdoors/  
Trojans
- Very secretive; highly classified
- Won't share their backdoor details

## Government-level adversaries

- Deep access to fabrication facilities
- Very sophisticated techniques
- Very hard to detect their Backdoors/Trojans
- Very secretive; highly classified
- Won't share their backdoor details
- **Unlikely to collude** with anyone

“We can guarantee security even when all *ICs* are malicious, if at least one does not collude.”

<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>



<https://enigmapbridge.com/mpc>

# Conclusions & Future

## **New crypto hardware architecture**

- For the first time, tolerates faulty & malicious hw
- Decent Performance
- Scales nicely; just keep adding ICs
- Suitable for commercial-off-the-shelf components
- Existing malicious insertion countermeasures are very welcome!

# **Trojan-tolerant Hardware** **+ Supply Chain Security in Practice**

find more at  
<https://enigmabridge.com/mpc>

**Vasilios Mavroudis**  
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**Dan Cvrcek**  
*CEO, Enigma Bridge*