



# Repository Of Signed Code\*

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\* work funded by the Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG)

# Motivation

- modern operating systems require digital signature on system software before it is installed
  - drivers, OS updates, ...
- advanced attackers (APTs) started to use malware signed with compromised keys or fake certificates
  - kernel drivers used by Stuxnet and Duqu were signed with **compromised keys** of otherwise legitimate hardware manufacturers
  - Flame appeared to be a signed Windows update; certificate chain contained a **fake certificate** that looked like a valid Microsoft certificate



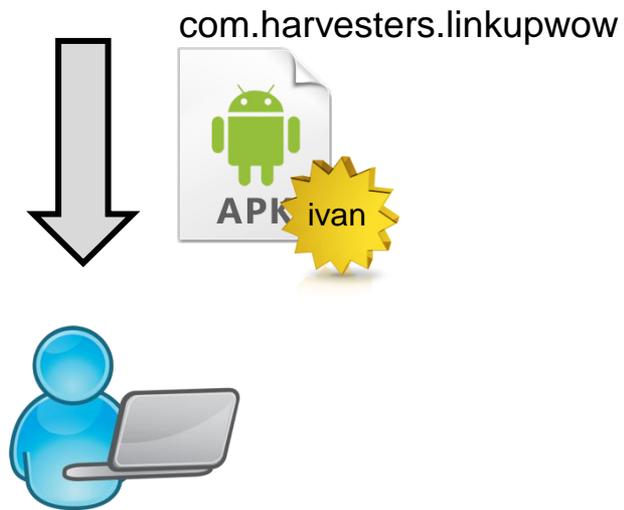
# Motivation

- more recent examples
  - Winnti (2011, 2013)
    - in 2011, the group infected players of a popular online game via a malicious game update signed with the possibly compromised code signing key of a South-Korean game vendor
    - attacks against South Korean social networks Cyworld and Nate in 2011 used a Trojan that was digitally signed using a certificate stolen from a Japanese gaming company
    - a digital certificate of the same company was used in 2013 in Trojans deployed against Tibetan and Uyghur activists
  - return of Wild Neutron (2015)
    - successful cyber espionage attacks on companies such as Apple, Facebook, Twitter and Microsoft in 2013
    - attackers returned in 2015 and used a dropper that was signed with a stolen and still valid code signing certificate belonging to Taiwanese electronics maker Acer
- problem: standard signature verification procedure does not allow for detecting key compromise and fake certificates

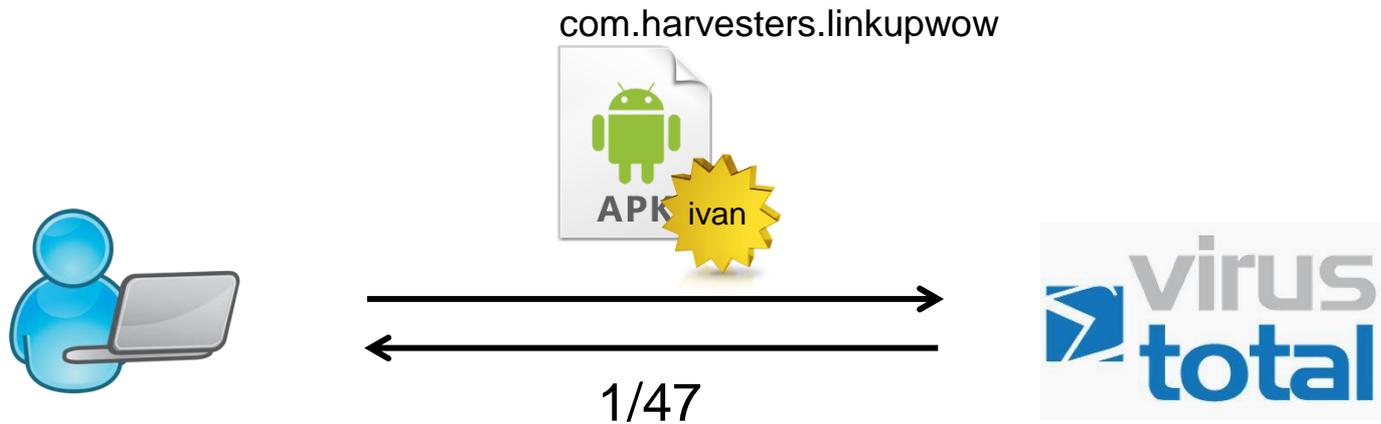
# Objectives

- augment the standard signature verification workflow with additional services that help to detect malicious software
  - provide reputation information on signers and signed code
    - Is this a known signed software?
    - What do we know about it? (e.g., Virus Total score)
    - How many other users have requested information about this software?
    - Is this software has a known signer?
    - What do we know about pieces of software it signed before?
  - notify key owner when a new object signed with a specific key is seen
    - this makes it possible to detect key compromise and fake certificates relatively quickly
- build a system that provides the necessary infrastructure and mechanisms for these additional services

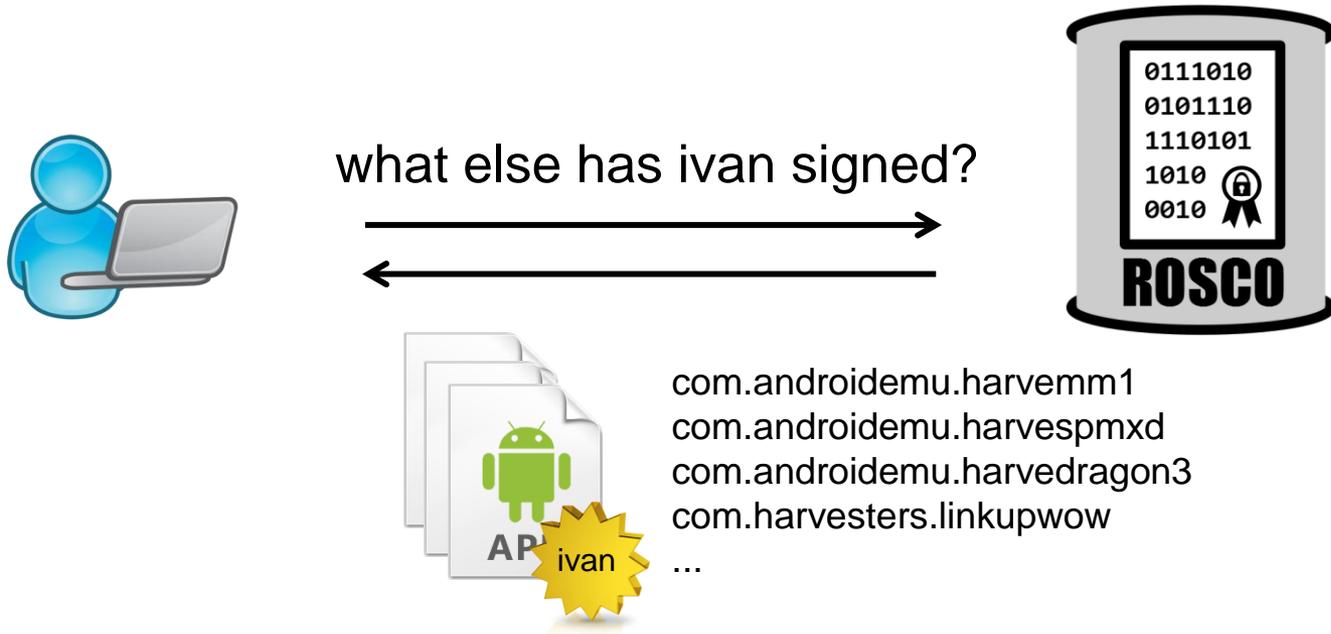
# Use case: Checking signer reputation



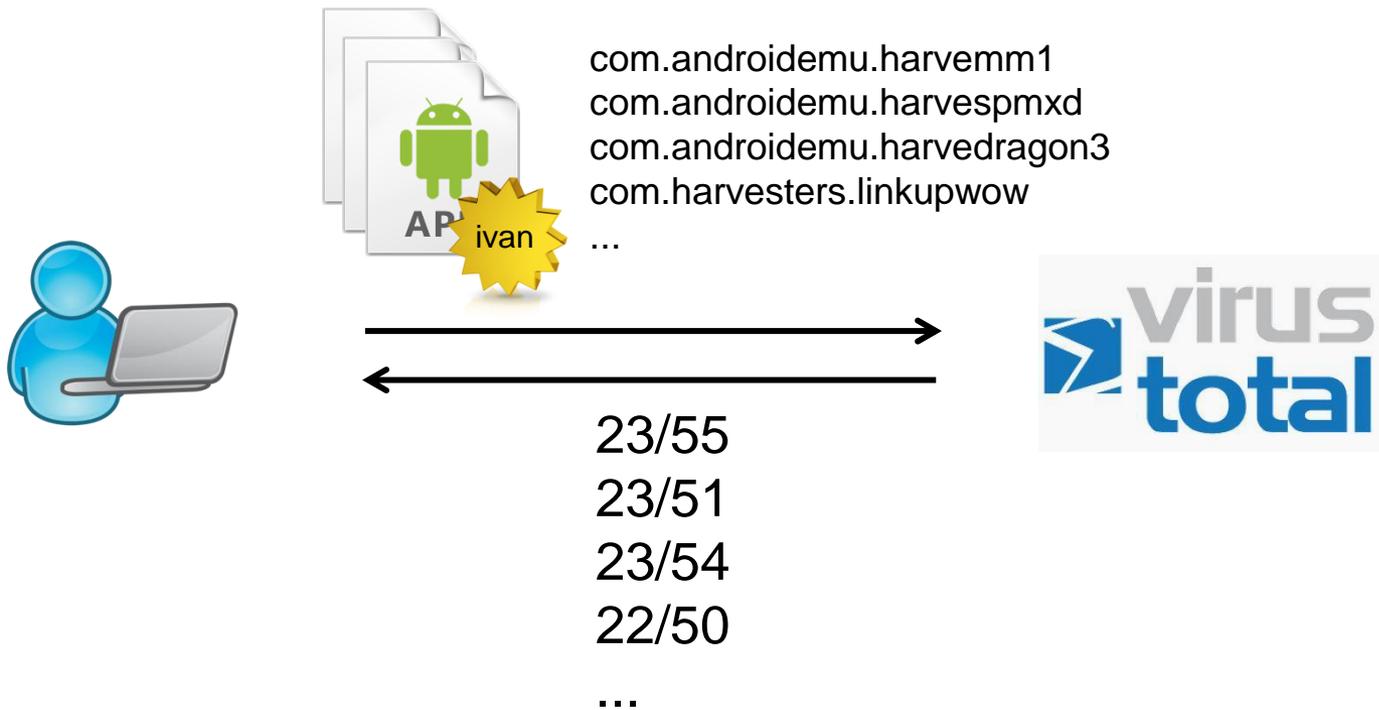
# Use case: Checking signer reputation



# Use case: Checking signer reputation



# Use case: Checking signer reputation



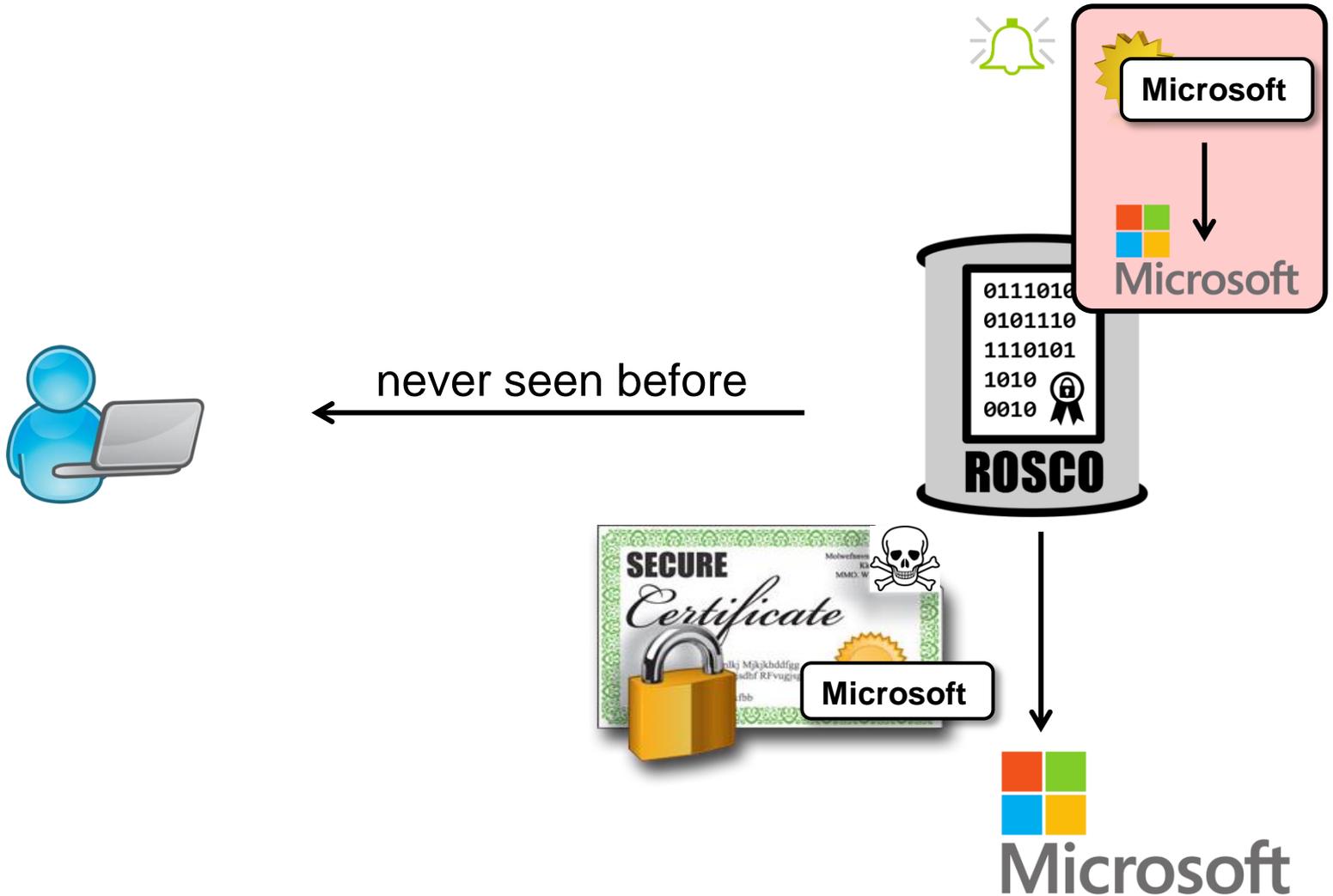
# Use case: Alerting key owners



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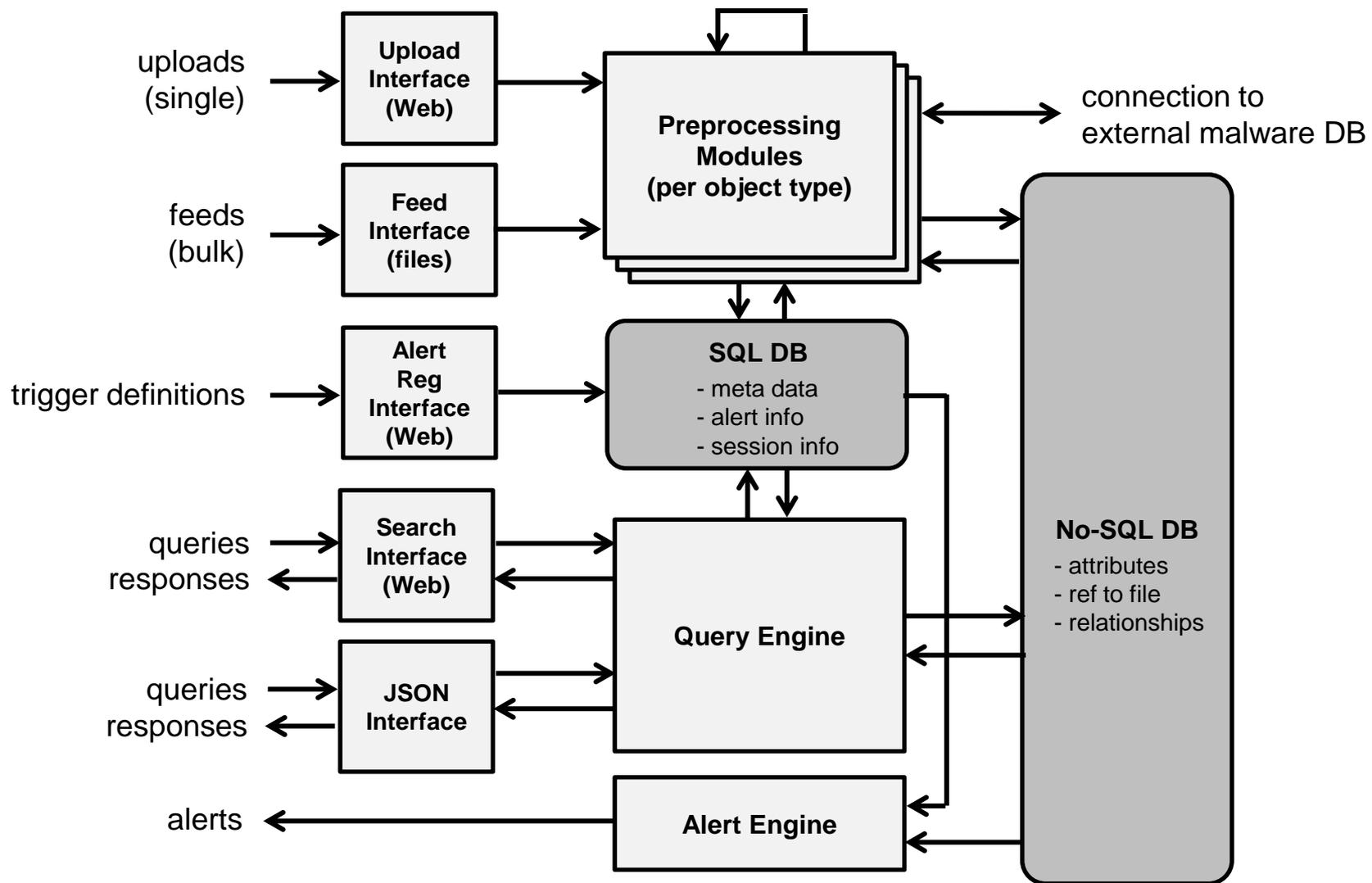
# Use case: Alerting key owners



# Approach

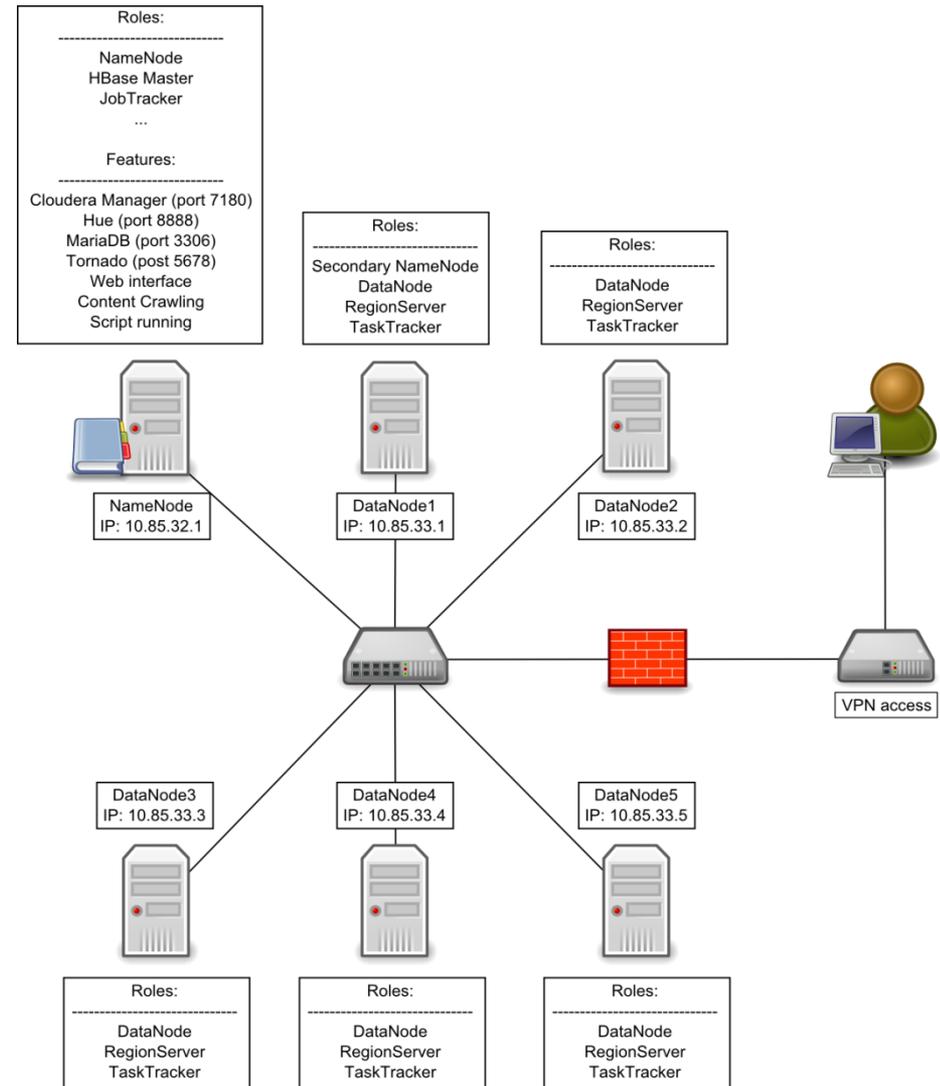
- develop a large database that can store millions of signed objects
  - Portable Executable (PE) files
  - Java Archives and Android Packages (JAR/APK)
  - public key certificates
- provide services built on top of the database
  - simple queries for file hashes
  - complex queries based on object attributes
  - visualization of relationships between signed software and certificates
  - alerting users when the system encounters an object matching some pre-registered criteria
- provide a web based and a programmatic (JSON) interface to the services
- collect signed software and certificates massively
  - proactive crawling of public sites and repositories
  - allow for uploading objects by users

# System architecture



# ROSCO DBs

- Hadoop cluster of 6 nodes
  - 1 name node, 5 data nodes
  - 100TB total disk space
  - ~33TB effective capacity
- HBase database
  - open source, no-SQL, distributed DB
  - tables for object attributes and relationships between objects
- regular SQL database
  - meta-data of objects
  - alert filters
  - user and session data



# Object types collected

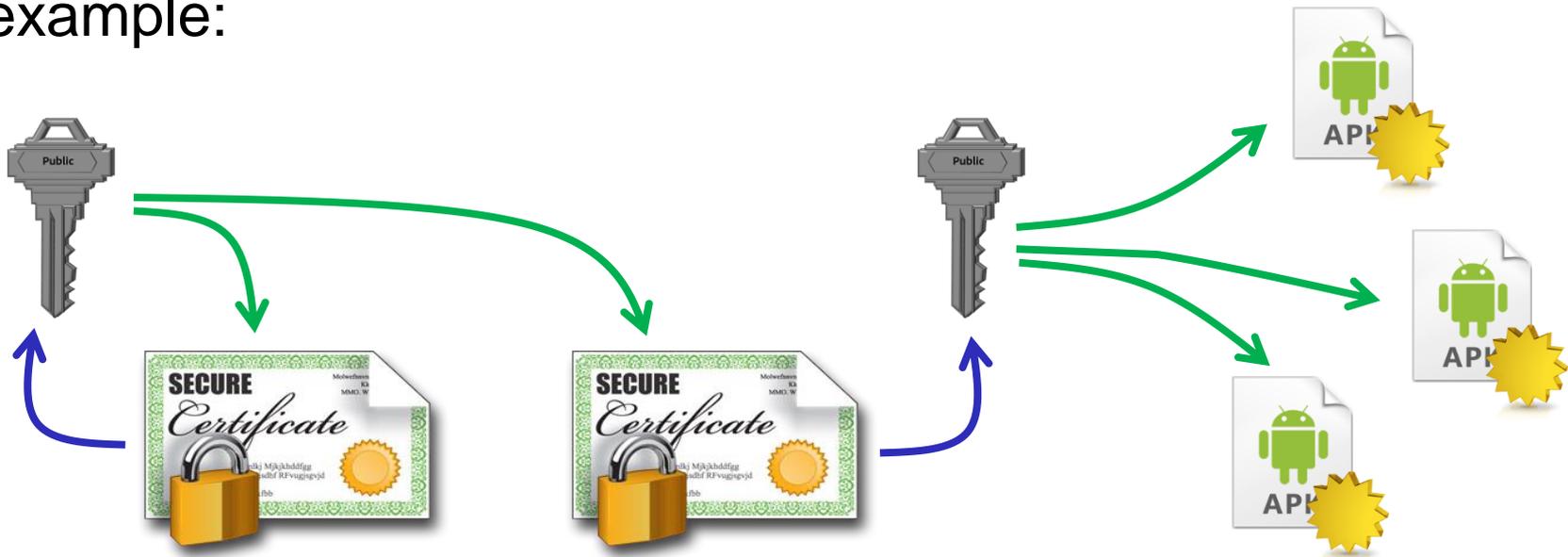
- X.509 public key certificates
  - millions of certificates collected (~60 million) by
    - acquiring available collections (e.g., SSL Observatory) and using ZMap
    - extracting certificates from signed software
- signed Portable Executables (exe, dll)
  - thousands of files collected by
    - crawling public software repos (e.g., SourceForge)
    - browsing OS distributions
    - filtering malware feeds
- signed Java Archives (jar) and Android Packages (apk)
  - thousands of files collected by crawling third party app stores

# Pre-processing modules

- each object type has its own pre-processing module that parses the object and inserts appropriate data in the DBs
- parsing process may invoke other pre-processing modules
  - e.g., PE file may have certificates embedded, which are passed to the pre-processing module responsible for certificates
- duplicates are checked before inserting data into the DB
  - crawlers may return objects that have already been stored
  - in case of duplicates, only meta-data is updated
- relationships to already stored objects are identified when inserting a new object
  - is the new object signed with a known public key?
  - if the new object is a certificate, does it contain a known public key?

# Relationships between objects

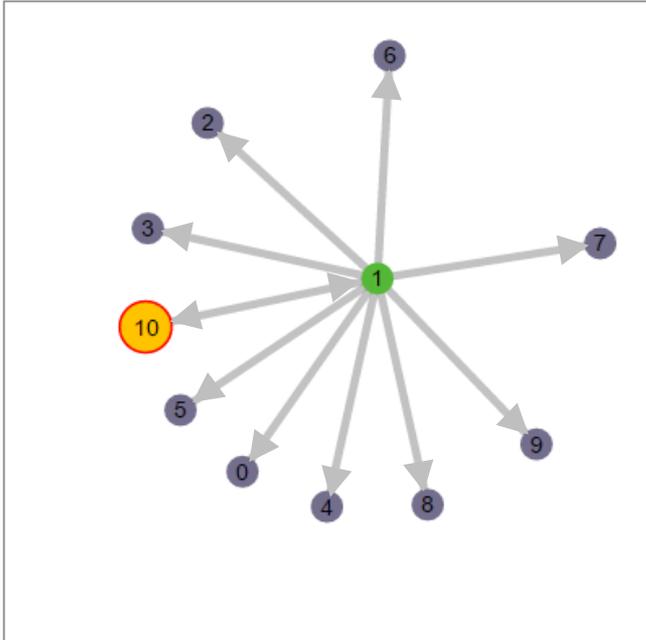
- can be represented by a directed graph
  - three types of nodes: certificate, public key, signed software
  - two types of edges:
    - certificate → public key: certificate contains the public key
    - public key → signed object : public key verifies signature
- example:



# Relationships between objects

Graph representation of connected signed objects

[← Previous graph](#) [📄 Download as SVG](#) [📄 Download data](#)



[← Back to list view](#)

## Nodes

- Public key
- Certificate
- PE
- JAR
- APK

## Edges

- Public key → SO: Completely verified
- Public key ← SO: Contained
- Public key ↔ SO: Self signed

## Details

### ID Data

0 **Hash:** 51A97AD597E4B48443BDFAFA97BE6244F0FF48E4512CA6F4D8EC5F66A20AE146A

**Vendor:** Sun Microsystems Inc.

**Package name:** com.harvesters.linkupwow

**Filename:** com.harvesters.linkupwow\_093124.apk

1 **Hash:** 14E67541980C7E3185418CB098BC2BA03746F0E4AF5BE614018B834C8615C42F

**Type:** RSA

**Length:** 1024

10 **Hash:** 14EA22D3A0CB6EA5DC17BB80C67F6906AFD25D26F72F5856C6645EE9E77EB16C

**Issuer CN:** ivan

**Subject CN:** ivan

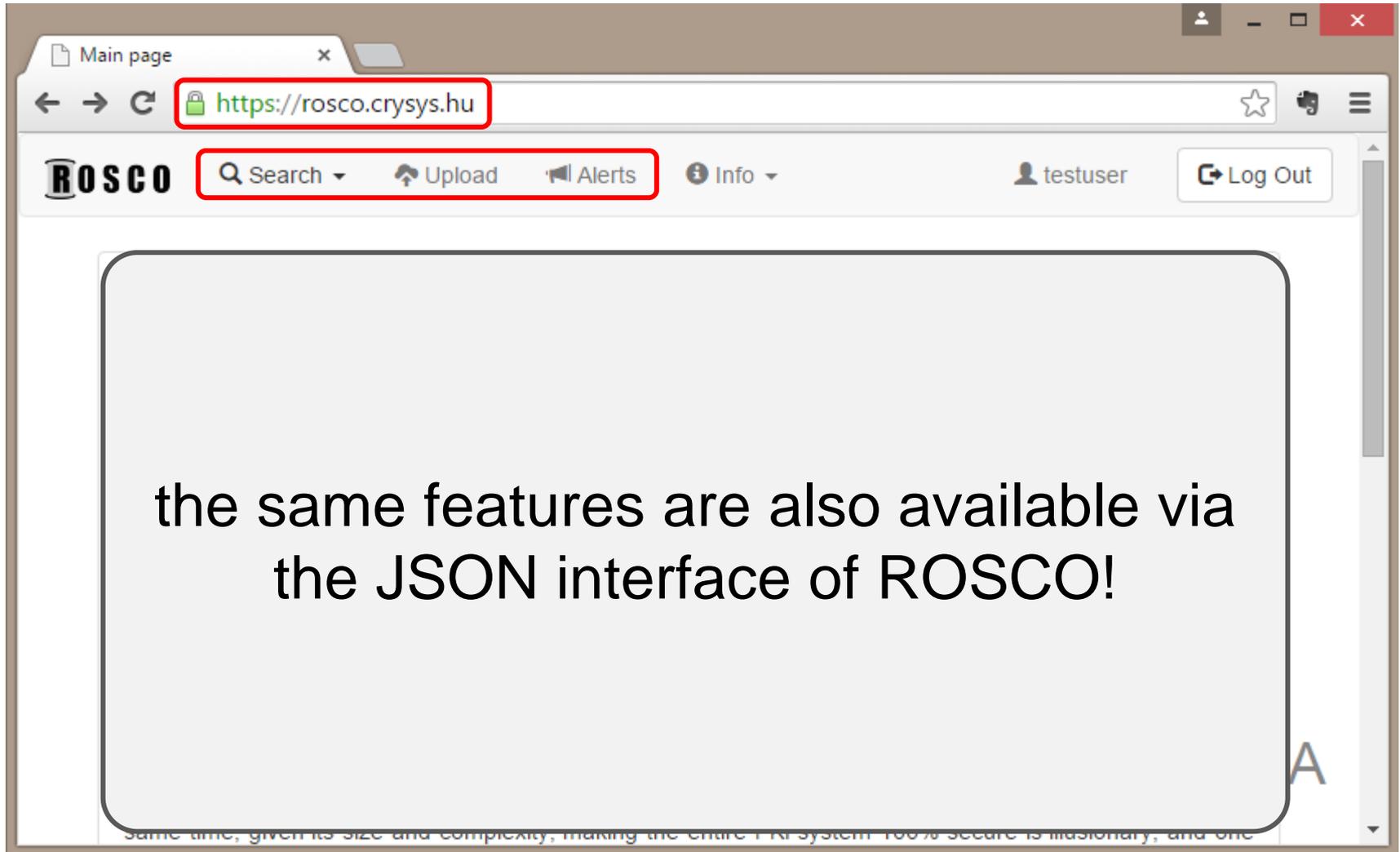
**Valid from:** 2011-04-16 11:28:46

**Valid to:** 2066-01-17 11:28:46

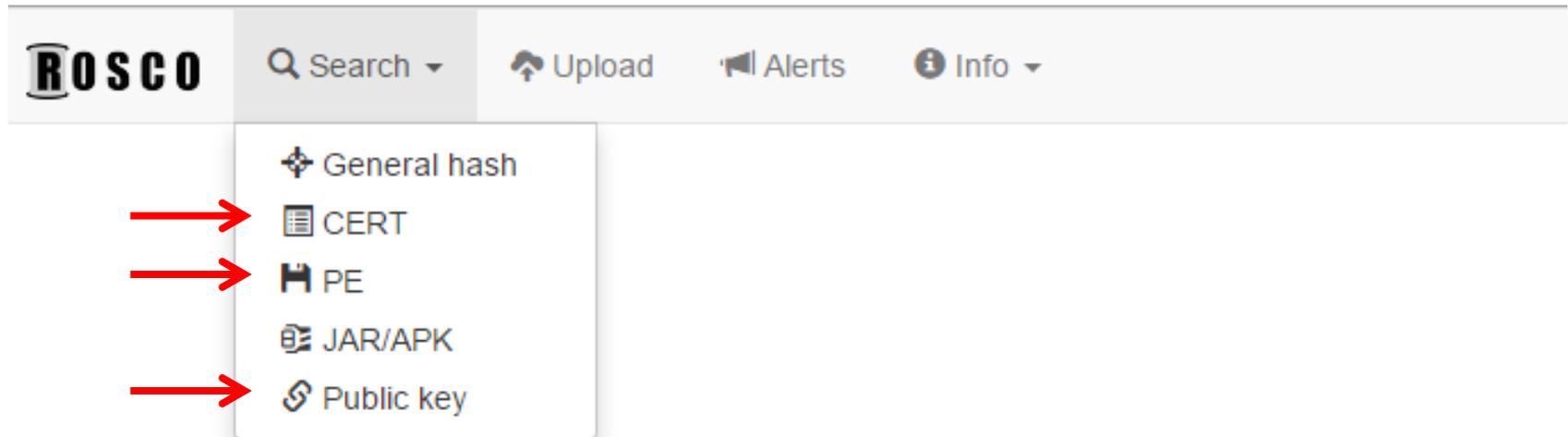
**Issuer C:** ZH

**Subject C:** ZH

# ROSCO web-based interface



# Search options



# Certificate search

X.509 certificate fields and estensions

## CERT

--- Common attributes ---



Prefix search is case sensitive

- suggested when you exactly know what to search

Not prefix search is not case sensitive

- suggested when you not exactly know what to search

Timeout for searches:



60 sec

Not given parameter: NULL

Malformed parameter: MALFORMED

Search

# Certificate search

## CERT

Issuer C (country) ▾ +

Issuer C (country):

HU|

Prefix search is case sensitive

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- suggested when you not exactly know

Timeout for searches:



60 sec

Not given parameter: NULL

Malformed parameter: MALFORMED

Search

## Results - All result: 6182

- E7051650A758A4820B2B614CB2A185A867320575E69ADCF258EDB1437B215832 +
- A048C4C84FA0B046E9DC49F2CA4D3D89FDC2008CDFBFFD859B03C1BFCED18898 +
- 666057354045624C7444AD00FAE3852A0BD3228FD7AA04145E92CB2EC20FE26E +
- A54EAF02BC35E911FA513A99D3119E015B125403CE311102238D69ED62CBA74 +
- 2347AB242719DF0EAB91E230A5086EAD604ECF27A4C176F84AB1574AAC590452 +
- 348207703C80C189750324885AB728E691EF6E2514E79EAA264C18D5C4E76066 +
- 1FA2353C597D5D6EEE6115E876B37341EAAB5A3EF9A3D52061DC4295E4E70BBA +
- 15F16D132D4AA6D7855D909E9D34844FC36554399C1BE2507B119D57FAEE4E8B +
- 7EF2F1B63F747B3D3D9A4F4519CF65D3DFF28715509586437644C3B37816D426 +
- 278AC217F30D90EC8108C741EA2E406E0363D1395D0C565DE409C6A2DAB6A911 +
- 1B517B585CFDED60C00022B519C33C8DE3485BFF759BD0C2D18C143F85913375 +
- D60E5D19F4379670338698C83602DAC7D216C180E95C1E68672B5DAD556D9228 +
- 2B8ADBE565C07E22AFD322C8B67010B8675467C297D0F1623F8C8472C3610FFC +
- 61540F87A9E541C894206DA78CE6EFF65069913223E85C7F9E261D4A81B598BB +
- D22D6A42000C0B2750004235D0740C0070007503132043C42413720E022C0E27

# Certificate search

- 7EF2F1B63F747B3D3D9A4F4519CF65D3DFF28715509586437644C3B37816D426 —

 [Jump to graph view](#)

## Metadata

Last viewed 2015-09-29 06:27:30

Uploaded at 2014-12-02 18:54:24

Uploaded from sslobservatory

Uploaded at 2015-09-17 06:23:31

Uploaded from sslobservatory

Queried counter 34

## Certificate

Signed Object SHA1 3A82B1B23E3498D8296C15BDD0205DFCDEC98278

Signed Object MD5 F3D3CBB2CBE094F6FA93BEC1D082B9CF

Version 3

Serial number 12345678



Valid from 2005-07-07 12:57:15



Valid to 2007-05-22 16:41:47



Issuer CN admin.starkingnet.hu



# Certificate search

## CERT

Serial Number



Serial Number:

12345678

Issuer C (country):

HU

Prefix search is case sensitiv

- suggested when you exact

Not prefix search is not case :

- suggested when you not e)

Timeout for searches:



60 sec

Not given parameter: NULL

Malformed parameter: MALF

Search

## Results - All result: 8

- 4FA0C6A5D7B40020ED9CFF860BC5A6BDCE35376809D1ED043A4CEC7A18763F05 +
- 7EF2F1B63F747B3D3D9A4F4519CF65D3DFF28715509586437644C3B37816D426 +
- AB7A7543B2ED3C07D6FDF7D43246D8E3C55AEEBBB19DE0ED8957F6C6035E016A +
- 225F3BA987D21FF8BBC2C49EAB39C88A456443AE13615BDE5358BF0F87B2EE26 +
- 687BDCC88E17EE452FF3A021C502353D26498C0B18FA0AD730C39E5DF2BDE5DF +
- 86A6D8A4B642F096308C0AAC24B5FE7537CDDDB47A7863CDE345FE09248D72284 +
- 9C51C34588992884699EE10410497296A55D52B944464285BF04C18F503E4018 +
- 72961F38BED425C63209D06BA504CD65F9AB4168D065DFBEA0B2D965D6C65967 +



1



# PE search

Type  
Filename  
Timestamp  
Min OS version  
Potential Malware

PE

--- Filters --- ▼ +

---

Prefix search is case sensitive

- suggested when you exactly know what to search

Not prefix search is not case sensitive

- suggested when you not exactly know what to search

Timeout for searches:

60 sec

Not given parameter: NULL

Malformed parameter: MALFORMED

# PE search

PE

Type

Type:

EXE

Prefix search is case sen:

- suggested when you e:

Not prefix search is not ca:

- suggested when you n:

Timeout for searches:



60 sec

Not given parameter: NU

Malformed parameter: M

Search

## Results - All result: 3811

- 0484DEFCEB264AF7FF71548F53F6274D29CA74EF0520D96F079E58585793B106 +
- 82F14FC1A9175A842CE3F1204906E27A64680CA199C63BB93866A9A99F754CEE +
- F291EAF4B561C80A63346DB6E38E8DAC6A7F3B51D4E65893A377D24E68AD6143 +
- A8B6504711179C2D54B306D3FEC17C3CD1BB369F64041CDA0AD3FB7924A4BBCF +
- 6858F7CDAC133077BE5DFC831FDFA8F587BE01A144639CE533E47D3F18BDDFCC +
- 1D42C869EACC2925B183B8E8CCFD537C48D9CCC1B2877A8B656D0C62C3F5E78E +
- 7738DB32095B3F27FE8BA6D3A901A5D10A51F94E6692BDC0213E21060C89A350 +
- 785A4222BEDA2E2AE35E579EE27AF0944D53FC111E2DD0C364E58628B1CB3519 +
- 15721AFB2B245E9C90F7C647D07ED756463DB979D0270025A23F2DC214AD2492 +
- C3AAD1CFB2F0355BA557B2A50C728E29DB7A713095F8B541EF3B0D909F47C8C3 +
- 0BF4CF478FA7A705B4762BE9EE4B5282722FFB67163C2CDCFC18CFF39561A104C +
- 6A3FD1EE1B4CFD67ED231C974406806FC18F837CC7C8579E1E6009F5E8FF10F7 +
- 11F7D7F4E51D5C11CEBDD17F6DFFCABF4DBB79A93E2304D480E096E4426F54 +
- 6FA58E9C27F76AC0D423B2A9ECDB9385A4814CB97766D8180E38A4A46E727BA +

# PE search

## Portable Executable

Signed Object SHA1 856A05E29D83805D169064270DC5AA9780820DE0

Signed Object MD5 3BCC47F0A80365ED415630CE7DCB16D5

Type EXE

Timestamp 2011-03-17 10:22:54

Potential malware False

Minimum OS version 5.0

Machine 332

Characteristic flags 33167

Minimum subsystem 5.0

Linker version 2.25

Signature algorithm sha1WithrsaEncryption

## Certificates

Certificate [178439CF1D0C81E7F3AEC4F1193C4884BEF139FE0A016016AA7E72177AE01419](#)

Certificate [958CF204EB1A52020F2FFB3B024CDE738B726C750A04669CF907837C3F4B72A7](#)

Certificate [B936337E2FC88F237FD8924D0808BC48559B1A2E41A77F031DD6EDF0D7EED9A1](#)

Certificate [C977923C771E1A66C925A2B6F501732E678DC9887AFE6BFAAC039D1D9A71F0EC](#)

binary was obtained from a malware feed (via bulk upload) or VT score > 33% (a script regularly checks the VT score of all stored binaries)

# Public key search

Public key

Type  
Length

--- Filters --- ▾ +

---

Prefix search is case sensitive

- suggested when you exactly know what to search

Not prefix search is not case sensitive

- suggested when you not exactly know what to search

Timeout for searches:

60 sec

Not given parameter: NULL

Malformed parameter: MALFORMED

Search

# Public key search

## Public key

Length

Length:

768

Prefix search is case sensit  
• suggested when you exa  
Not prefix search is not cas  
• suggested when you not  
Timeout for searches:  
60 sec  
Not given parameter: NULL  
Malformed parameter: MAL

Search

## Results

All result: 51075 !

- 94D6A51FB54510609143A3B089220C5F94FF59B80DFB3656949191D882F8D296 +
- DEA37448C6C9976B47E55835498AC73BE9865507B9A031753EEF5E8B944503E3 +
- 30F69AAB30B1F113AD364300C53E343AF9D9BE07D10087900B35FE3D68C10FD1 +
- 717ECB67DB141295F9404AC8FA66BB8E8B3513EC52DAE7DD0EA682BFFA4D9F5D +
- 3D119640ED32C38629997AED357194EC31425430B9EE02E374774C76183BC8C6 +
- 0C22E2BD6DA5E853808779A4B9D060C9FD6D7EB5603A59AE8CCAC00185002DF2 +
- C4030ABF2BD4361E25EA5DD75A48E8DA93E1C3D27BFD94E944A5DCAF96092BC8 +
- 99B139EB6B2FD68A0554E5B98E9827B647C5B1EE14811FC91015044DA5618749 +
- 3065B3126384155500688D14B97F6581AB7DFD98E14F8803F6A0FA9A3F7B4F22 +
- 04A6055B9F39194CA0CC68899F5CE881E91F8F95A4CBDC325639CB120196CFF1 +
- 37F52D388F357A6AB5C140C94BDC4AFD7A9A9F4998BB485B7531F85522D285E3 +
- 2580F33CD37D26E02DEE14C20A3E3AE527EC5938EFC8F2F2FAE0E415E9968EF8 +
- 74F467C7C2BD6301258A42CE0DFA8248B291CA3C12BD1CFFD1DBE529706F87F0 +
- ... +

# Public key search

94D6A51FB54510609147A3B089220C5F94FF59B80DFB3656949191D882F8D296 

 [Jump to graph view](#)

Type RSA

Length 768

RSA modulus

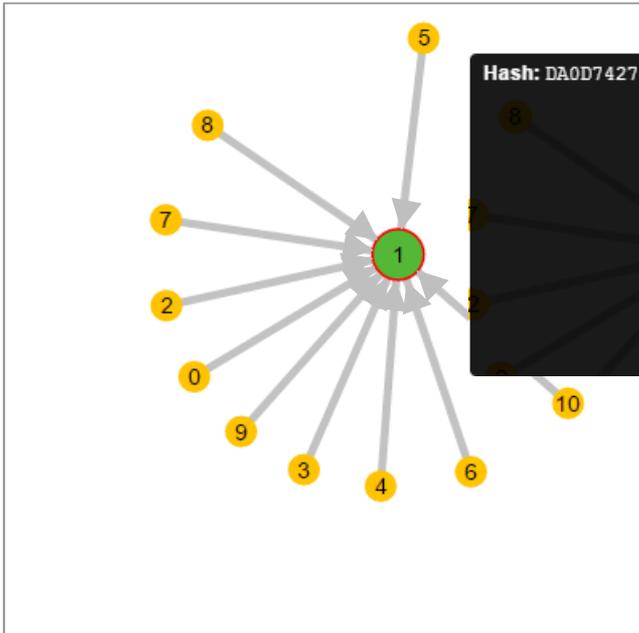
```
C7599A86C45E3A2E55CD4486A9373322635208902D25ADC83BC3B3
2D434B3B929DAECB31754F55663EDF3F82B91B8F25C0856DED631A
41763DAF0FA429EE3AC3DBC9DD737F3772341FDD94734C28D4A4B
462475D45E2B484DE4397CC4341B6ED
```

RSA exponent

# Public key search – graph view

Graph representation of connected signed objects

[← Previous graph](#) [Download as SVG](#) [Download data](#)



[← Back to list view](#)

**Hash:** DA0D74279222638872A05B3D78D996490ED01D1B6C017632878EA16D47BE7B2C

**Issuer CN:** b4.b4.local

**Subject CN:** b4.b4.local

**Valid from:** 2013-04-07 13:14:02

**Valid to:** 2023-04-05 13:14:02

**Issuer C:** NULL

**Subject C:** NULL

Details

ID Data

- | ID | Data   |
|----|--|
| 0  | <p><b>Hash:</b> 40CBED9F9020576792BF604B614A81887AD03F020314CDF6F71D4B393E5D39F6</p> <p><b>Issuer CN:</b> b4.b4.local</p> <p><b>Subject CN:</b> b4.b4.local</p> <p><b>Valid from:</b> 2013-04-01 11:54:35</p> <p><b>Valid to:</b> 2023-03-30 11:54:35</p> <p><b>Issuer C:</b> NULL</p> <p><b>Subject C:</b> NULL</p> |
| 1  | <p><b>Hash:</b> 94D6A51FB54510609143A3B089220C5F94FF59B80DFB3656949191D882F8D296</p> <p><b>Type:</b> RSA</p>   |

Public key  
Certificate  
PE  
JAR  
APK

Completely verified  
Contained  
Self signed

# Alerts

 [Subscribe to RSS feed](#)

## String alerts

Active	Name	Type	Field	Keyword	Email	Notify	RSS	Matched	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="Microsec cert"/>	<input type="text" value="CERT"/>	<input type="text" value="Issuer CN (common name)"/>	<input type="text" value="Microsec"/>	<input type="text" value="buttyan@crysys.hu"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="View 0"/>	 

[+ Add alert](#)

## Signed alerts

Active	Name		Email	Notify	RSS	Matched	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="Name"/>	CERT upload <input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen	<input type="text" value="rosco@crysys.hu"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

[Save alert](#)

DET

# Why should anyone use ROSCO?

- end-user
  - ROSCO helps identifying potentially malicious software before it is installed
- signing party (CA or software maker)
  - ROSCO helps detecting key compromise and fake certificates
- software platform operators (e.g., operating system providers and global software service providers)
  - they are also signing parties
  - providing data to ROSCO helps to maintain trust in their platform
- security companies
  - ROSCO can be an additional source of information
    - on end-user behavior (what applications they install?)
    - on attack campaigns and trends in signing malicious code
- regulators and authorities
  - ROSCO can help them to derive statistics that can serve as an input when defining global defense strategies and coordination mechanisms

# Potential limitations

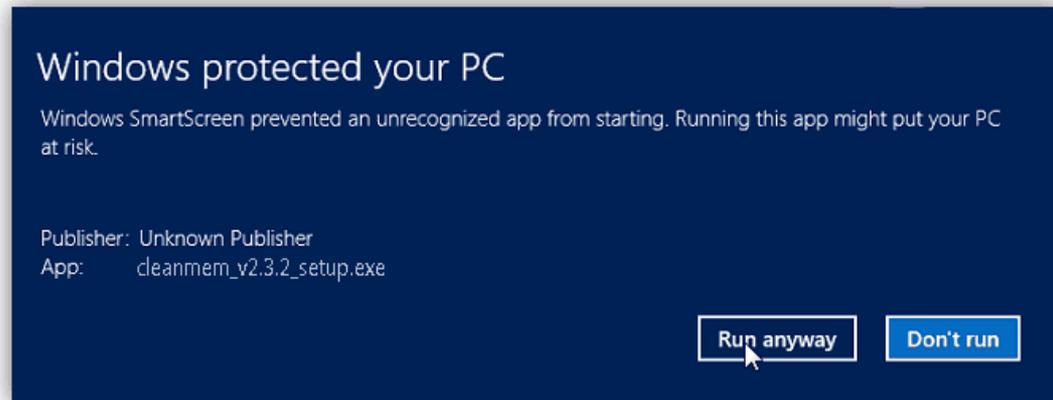
- central database operated by a single entity
  - needs to be trusted (→ independent academic research lab)
  - single point of failure (→ only extends current PKI, not replaces it)
- database must be fed with new data all the time
  - new signed objects (code and certificates)
  - regular update of "potential malware" flags
- users should learn about ROSCO and be motivated to use it
  - average user may not understand how ROSCO differs from Virus Total, Google's Certificate Transparency, or Microsoft SmartScreen's Filter
- signing parties should learn about ROSCO and be motivated to use it
  - usefulness of the alert service depends on the upload rate of new content and the overall coverage of ROSCO

- Virus Total
  - also allows for identifying potentially malicious software
  - based on a completely different approach
    - scanning submitted file with AV products
  - does not detect new malware immediately
    - ROSCO can identify fresh malware based on signer information
  - however, unlike ROSCO, VT also works for unsigned software
- ROSCO complements the services provided by Virus Total

# Related work

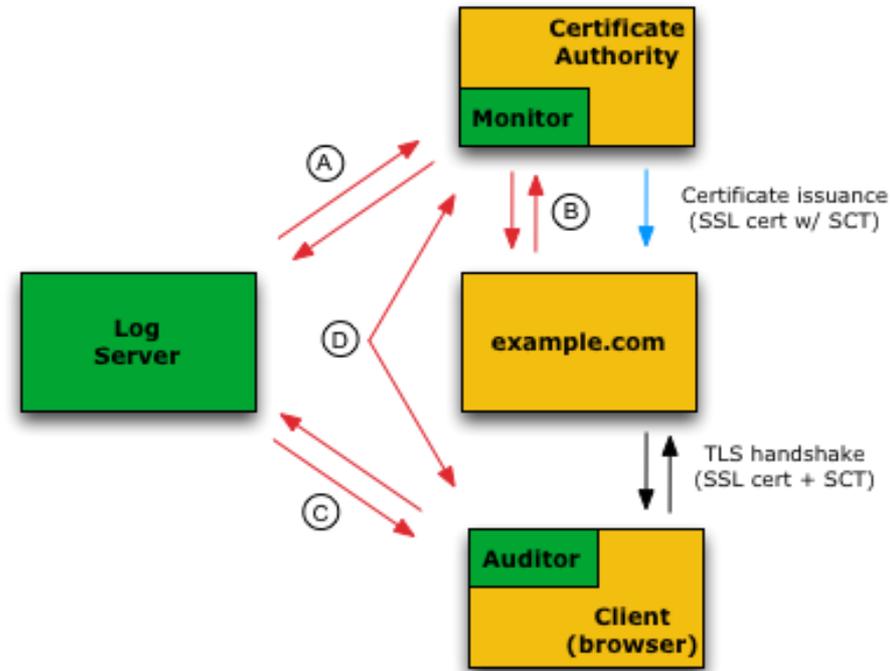
## ■ Windows SmartScreen

- a feature that helps to detect phishing websites and protects the user from installing malware
  - checks the visited sites against a dynamic list of reported phishing sites
  - checks files downloaded from the web against a black list of reported malicious software and a white list of well-known applications
- only works on Windows
- details are not public
  - are digital signatures used to reduce false positives?
  - does it use any other reputation information?



# Related work

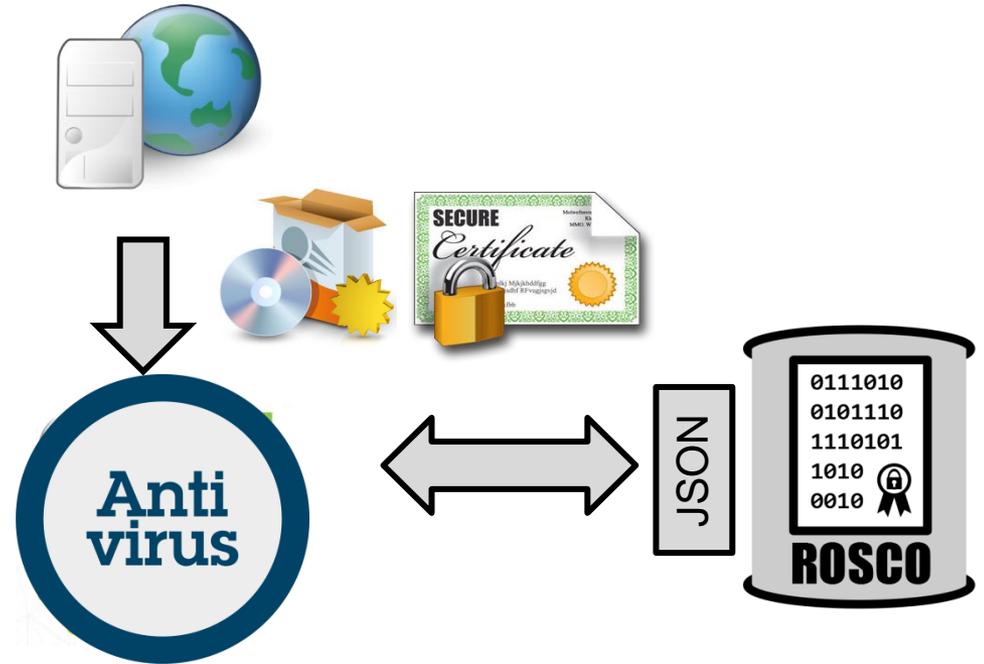
- Google Certificate Transparency
  - makes it possible to detect certificates that have been mistakenly issued or maliciously acquired
  - based on three components
    - Certificate Logs
      - publicly auditable, append-only records of certificates
    - Monitors
      - periodically contact all of the log servers and watch for suspicious certificates
    - Auditors
      - verify that a particular certificate appears in a log
  - similar concept but focuses only on SSL/TLS certificates



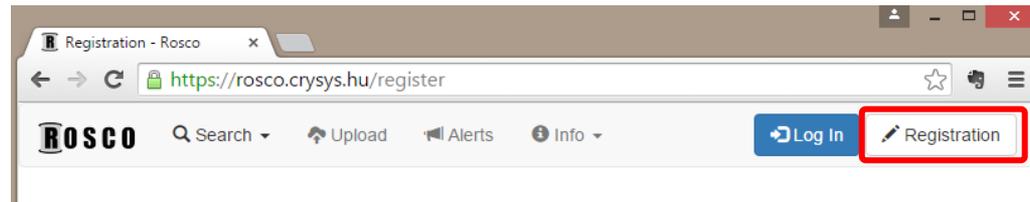
- (A) Monitors watch logs for suspicious certs and verify that all logged certs are visible.
- (B) Certificate owners query monitors to verify that nobody has logged illegitimate certs for their domain.
- (C) Auditors verify that logs are behaving properly; they can also verify that a particular cert has been logged.
- (D) Monitors and auditors exchange information about logs to help detect forked or branched logs.

# Future plans

- acquire more data
  - continue crawling
  - develop collector apps
    - browser plug-in
    - mobile app
  - collaboration
  - build and run a Monitor for Certificate Transparency
- search for interesting anomalies and statistics in the DB
- open ROSCO for public non-commercial use



# Interested in trying out?



or send an e-mail to: **rosco-vb2015@crysys.hu**

A screenshot of the ROSCO registration form. The form is titled "ROSCO - Registration" and contains three input fields: "Email address", "Username", and "Where did you hear from us?". The "Where did you hear from us?" field has the text "At a conference" entered. A blue "Register" button is located at the bottom of the form. The word "BETA" is displayed in the bottom right corner of the form area.

please send feedback to: **rosco-feedback@crysys.hu**



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