## **Authentication protocols**



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

.

## **Identity attributes**

- > Set of attributes for setting apart individuals
  - Name
  - Numerical identifiers
    - · Fixed for life
    - · Variable with context
  - Address
  - Photo
  - Identity of relatives
    - · Usually parents



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### **Authentication: Definition**

- > Proof that an entity has a claimed identity attribute
  - —Hi, I'm Joe
  - -Prove it!
  - —Here are my Joe's credentials
  - -Credentials accepted/not accepted
  - —Hi, I'm over 18
  - -Prove it!
  - —Here is the proof
  - —Proof accepted/not accepted



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

3

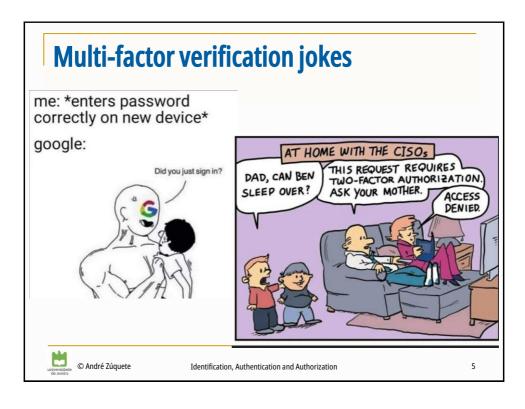
## **Authentication: proof types**

- Something we know
  - A secret memorized (or written down...) by Joe
- > Something we have
  - An object/token solely held by Joe
- Something we are
  - Joe's Biometry
- - Join or consecutive use of different proof types



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization



## **Authentication: goals**

- > Authenticate interactors
  - People, services, servers, hosts, networks, etc.
- > Enable the enforcement of authorization policies and mechanisms
  - Authorization ⇒ authentication
- > Facilitate the exploitation of other securityrelated protocols
  - e.g. key distribution for secure communication



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### **Authentication: requirements**

#### > Trustworthiness

- How good is it in proving the identity of an entity?
- How difficult is it to be deceived?
- Level of Assurance (LoA) (NIST, eIDAS, ISO 29115)
  - LoA 1 Little or no confidence in the asserted identity
  - LoA 2 Some confidence in the asserted identity
  - LoA 3 High confidence in the asserted identity
  - LoA 4 Very high confidence in the asserted identity

#### 

No disclosure of secrets used by legitimate entities



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

7

### **Authentication: requirements**

#### ▶ Robustness

- Prevent attacks to the protocol data exchanges
- Prevent on-line DoS attack scenarios
- · Prevent off-line dictionary attacks

#### ⊳ Simplicity

• It should be as simple as possible to prevent entities from choosing dangerous shortcuts

#### > Deal with vulnerabilities introduced by people

• They have a natural tendency to facilitate or to take shortcuts



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

# **Authentication: Entities and deployment model**

- > Entities
  - People
  - Hosts
  - Networks
  - Services / servers

#### > Deployment model

- · Along the time
  - · Only when interaction starts
  - · Continuously along the interaction
- Directionality
  - · Unidirectional
  - · Bidirectional (or mutual)



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

9

# **Authentication interactions: Basic approaches**

- Direct approach
  - Provide credentials
  - Wait for verdict
  - · Authenticator checks credentials against what it knows
- - Get challenge
  - Provide a response computed from the challenge and the credentials
  - · Wait for verdict
  - Authenticator checks response for the challenge provided and the credentials it knows

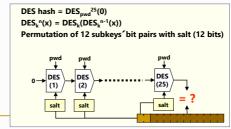


© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

# Authentication of people: Direct approach w/ known password

- > A password is matched with a stored value
  - For a claimed identity (username)
- ▷ Personal stored value:
  - Transformed by a unidirectional function
    - · Key Derivation Function (KDF)
    - · Preferably slow!
    - Bcrypt, scrypt, Argon2, PBKDF2
  - UNIX: DES hash + salt
  - Linux: KDF + salt
  - · Windows: digest function





© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization



- Advantage
  - Simplicity!
- ▶ Problems
  - Usage of predictable passwords
    - · They enable dictionary attacks
  - Different passwords for different systems
    - To prevent impersonation by malicious admins
    - · But our memory has limits!
  - Exchange along insecure communication channels
    - · Eavesdroppers can easily learn the password
    - e.g. Unix remote services, PAP

TOP 15 2019 by Splashdata

1 - 123456
2 - 123456789
3 - qwerty
4 - password
5 - 12345678
7 - 12345678
7 - 12345678

7 - 12345 8 - iloveyou 9 - 111111

10 - 123123 11 - abc123

12 - qwerty123

13 - 1q2w3e4r 14 - admin

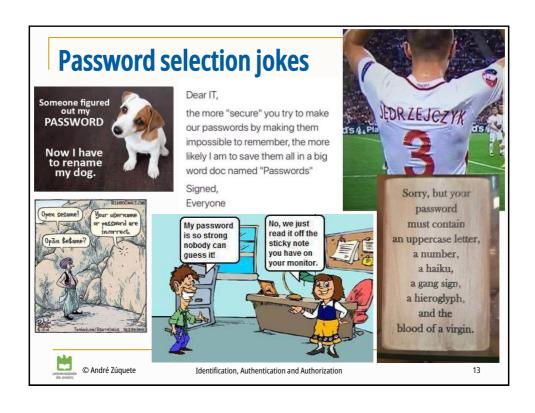
PAP 15 - qwertyuiop source: https://www.teampassword.com/blog/top-50-worst-passwords-of-2019



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

Image https://www.pinterest.com/networkboxusa/it-humor





# Authentication of people: Direct approach with biometrics

- > People get authenticated using body measurements
  - Biometric samples or features
  - Common modalities
    - · Fingerprint
    - · Facial recognition
    - · Palm print
    - · Iris scan
    - · Voice recognition
    - · DNA
- Measures are compared with personal records
  - Biometric references (or template)
  - · Registered in the system with a previous enrolment procedure



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

15

## **Biometrics: advantages**

- - Just be their self
- People cannot chose weak passwords
  - · In fact, they don't chose anything
- Credentials cannot be transferred to others
  - One cannot delegate their own authentication
- Stealth identification
  - · Interesting for security surveillance



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## **Biometrics: problems**

- Usability
  - · Comfort of people, ergonomic
  - · Exploitation scenario
- Biometrics are still being improved
  - · In many cases they can be easily cheated
  - · Liveness detection
- People cannot change their credentials
  - Upon their robbery
- ▷ It can be risky for people
  - · Removal of body parts for impersonation of the victim



© André Zúquete

Image source: https://biometrics.mainguet.org/types/tongue.htm Identification, Authentication and Authorization

Rejected Biometric

Technologie

## **Biometrics: problems**

- Sensitivity tuning
  - Reduction of FRR (annoying)
  - · Reduction of FAR (dangerous)
  - Tuning is mainly performed with the target population
    - · Not with attackers!
- Not easy to deploy remotely
  - · Requires trusting the remote sample acquisition system
- - Diseases
- ▷ Credentials cannot be (easily) copied to others
  - · In case of need in exceptional circumstances



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

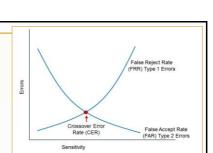


Image source: http://www.pearsonitcertification.com/articles/article.aspx?p=1718488

# **Authentication of people: Direct approach with OTPs**

- - Credential that can be used only once
- > Advantage
  - OTPs can be eavesdropped
  - Eavesdroppers cannot impersonate the OTP owner
    - True for passive eavesdroppers
    - · False for active attackers!



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

19

# **Authentication of people: Direct approach with OTPs**

- > Problems
  - Interactors need to know which password they should use at different occasions
    - · Requires some form of synchronization
  - People may need to use extra resources to maintain or generate one-time passwords
    - · Paper sheets
    - Computer programs
    - · Special devices, etc.



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## Authentication of people: OTPs and secondary channels

- > OTPs are codes sent through secondary channels
  - A secondary channel is a channel that is not the one were the code is going to be used
    - · SMS, email, Twitter, Firebase, QR codes, NFC, etc.
  - · The secondary channel provides the synchronization
    - · Just-in-time provision of OTP
- > Two authentications are possible
  - Confirm a secondary channel provided by a profile owner
    - · In order to trust that that channel belongs to the profile owner
  - Authenticate the owner of a profile
    - · Which is bound to a secondary channel



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

21

# Authentication of people: OTPs produced from a shared key

- → HOTP (Hash-based One Time Password, RFC 4226)
  - OTP generated from a counter and a shared key
  - · Counters are updated independently
- → TOTP (Time-based One Time Password, RFC 6238)
  - OTP generated from a timestamp and a shared password
  - TOTP is HOTP with timestamps instead of counters
  - · Clocks need a rough synchronization



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### **HOTP** (HMAC-based one-time password, RFC 4226)

- Numeric OTP computed from shared key K and synchronized counter C
  - · Hash key and counter
    - · And increase counter
  - From hash, get a (floating) portion of 31 contiguous bits
    - · Dynamic Binary Code (DBC)
  - Compute a d-long decimal number
    - d ≥ 6
- ▶ Issues
  - · Counter synchronization upon a failure
    - If the authenticator keeps it after a failure, exhaustive search attacks are viable
    - · If the authenticator always increments it, DoS attacks are possible
  - Acceptance windows
    - · Mitigates minor desynchronizations, but decreases security



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

23

### **TOPT** (Time-based one-time password, RFC 6238)

> HOTP with a counter derived from time

$$\triangleright C_T = \left\lfloor \frac{T - T_0}{T_r} \right\rfloor$$

- T initial time
- $T_0$  initial time
- $T_x$  time interval (default: 30 seconds)
- $\triangleright \text{TOTP}(K) = \text{HOTP}(K, C_T)$



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## Token-based OTP generators: RSA SecurID







- Personal authentication token
  - Or software modules for handhelds (PDAs, smartphones, etc.)
- > It generates a unique number at a fixed rate
  - Usually one per minute (or 30 seconds)
  - Bound to a person (User ID)
  - Unique number computed with:
    - · A 64-bit key stored in the token
    - The actual timestamp
    - · A proprietary digest algorithm (SecurID hash)
    - · An extra PIN (only for some tokens)



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

25

### **RSA SecurID**

- ▷ OTP-based authentication
  - A user combines their User ID with the current token number
     OTP = User ID, Token Number
- ▷ An RSA ACE Server does the same and checks for match
  - It also knows the person's key stored in the token
  - There must be a synchronization to tackle clock drifts
    - · RSA Security Time Synchronization
- Robust against dictionary attacks
  - Keys are not selected by people



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## Challenge-response approach: Generic description

- > The authenticator provides a challenge
- > The entity being authenticated transforms the challenge
  - · With its authentication credentials
- > The authenticator checks the response
  - Produces a similar result and checks if they match
  - Transforms the result and checks if it matches the challenge or a related value

challenge
response = f( challenge, credentials )



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

2.

# Challenge-response approach: Generic description

- ▶ Advantage
  - Authentication credentials are not exposed
- > Problems
  - People may require means to compute responses
    - · Hardware or software
  - The authenticator may have to have access to shared secrets
    - · How can we prevent them from using the secrets elsewhere?
  - · Offline dictionary attacks
    - · Against recorded challenge-response dialogs
    - · Can reveal secret credentials (passwords, keys)



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

# Challenge-response protocols: selection of challenges

- ▷ Challenges cannot be repeated for the same entity
  - Same challenge → same response
  - An active attacker can impersonate a user using a previously recorded protocol run

#### Challenges should be nonces

- · Nonce: number used only once
- Stateful services can use counters
- Stateless services can use (large) random numbers
- · Time can be used, but with caution
  - · Because one cannot repeat a timestamp



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

29

## Authentication of people: Challenge-response with smartcards

- > Authentication credentials
  - The smartcard
    - · e.g. Citizen Card
  - · The private key stored in the smartcard
  - The PIN to unlock the private key

#### The authenticator knows

- The corresponding public key
- · Or some personal identifier
  - Which can be related with a public key through a (verifiable) certificate







© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

RN.

# Authentication of people: Challenge-response with smartcards

Authenticator
(knows K<sub>pub</sub>)

response = E( K<sub>priv</sub>, challenge )

Card Owner
(has card, knows PIN)

Kpriv

- Signature-based protocol
  - · The authenticator generates a random challenge
    - · Or a value not used before
  - The card owner ciphers the challenge with their private key
    - · PIN-protected
  - The authenticator decrypts the result with the public key
    - · If the output matches the challenge, the authentication succeeds
- Encryption-based protocol
  - Possible when private key decryption is available



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

31

## Authentication of people: Challenge-response with memorized password

- > Authentication credentials
  - Passwords selected by people
- > The authenticator knows
  - All the registered passwords; or
  - A transformation of each password
    - · Preferable option
    - Preferably combined with some local value (salt)
    - Preferable using a tunable function (e.g. iterations)



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## Authentication of people: Challenge-response with memorized password

- > The authenticator generates a random challenge
- > The person computes a function of the challenge and password
  - e.g. a joint digest: response = digest (challenge, password)
  - e.g. an encryption response = E<sub>password</sub> (challenge)
- - If the output matches the response (or the challenge), the authentication succeeds
- - · CHAP, MS-CHAP v1/v2, S/Key



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

33

## PAP & CHAP (RFC 1334, 1992, RFC 1994, 1996)

- ▶ Protocols used in PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol)
  - Unidirectional authentication
    - Authenticator is not authenticated
- > PPP developed in 1992
  - Mostly used for dial-up connections
- > PPP protocols are used by PPTP VPNs
  - e.g. vpn.ua.pt



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### PAP & CHAP (RFC 1334, 1992, RFC 1994, 1996)

- ▶ PAP (PPP Authentication Protocol)
  - Simple UID/password presentation
  - Insecure cleartext password transmission

Aut  $\rightarrow$  U: authID, challenge U  $\rightarrow$  Aut: authID, MD5( authID, pwd, challenge ), identity Aut  $\rightarrow$  U: authID, OK/not OK

The authenticator may require a reauthentication anytime



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

35

## MS-CHAP (Microsoft CHAP) (RFC 2433, 1998, RFC 2759, 2000)

 $A \rightarrow U$ : authID, **C**  $U \rightarrow A$ : **R1**, **R2** 

A →U: OK/not OK

 $R1 = DES_{LMPH}(C)$  $R2 = DES_{NTPH}(C)$ 

LMPH = DEShash( pwd' ) NTPH = MD4( pwd )

pwd' = capitalized( pwd )

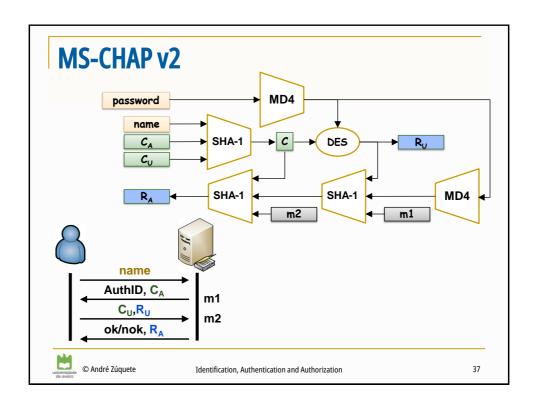
A  $\rightarrow$  U: authID,  $C_A \leftarrow m1$ U  $\rightarrow$  A:  $C_U$ , R1A  $\rightarrow$  U: OK/not OK, R2R1 = DES<sub>PH</sub> (C) C = SHA( $C_U$ ,  $C_A$ , username) PH = MD4(password) R2 = SHA(SHA(MD4(PH), R1, m1), C, m2)

- Mutual authentication
- Passwords can be updated



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

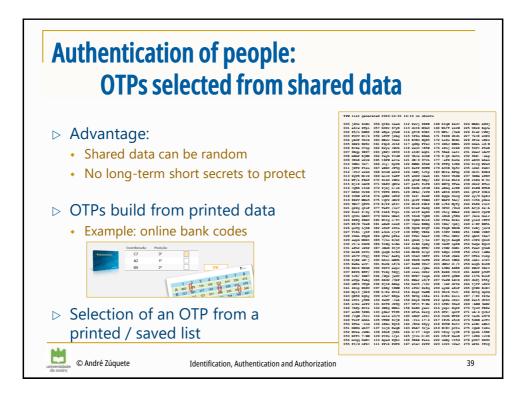


# **Authentication of people: Generation of OTPs with challenges**

- > OTPs can be produced from a challenge received
  - The fundamental protocol is password-based
    - But passwords are OTPs
  - OTPs are produced from a challenge
  - One can use several algorithms to handle OTPs



Identification, Authentication and Authorization



## S/Key (RFC 2289, 1998)

- > Authentication credentials
  - A password (pwd)
- > The authenticator knows
  - The last used one-time password (OTP)
  - The last used OTP index
    - · Defines an order among consecutive OTPs
  - An seed value for the each person's OTPs
    - · The seed is similar to a UNIX salt



Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## S/Key setup

- > The authenticator defines a random seed

```
OTP_n = h^n (seed, pwd), where h = MD4
```

- Some S/Key versions also use MD5 or SHA-1
- authentication credentials



Identification, Authentication and Authorization

41

## S/Key authentication protocol

- - They act as a challenge
- - · And selects the last one as result
  - result = OPT<sub>index-1</sub>
- ▷ The authenticator computes h (result) and compares the result with the stored OPT<sub>index</sub>
  - If they match, the authentication succeeds
  - Upon success, stores the recently used index & OTP
    - index-1 and OPT<sub>index-1</sub>



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

## **S/Key**

- ▶ Advantages
  - Users passwords are unknown to authenticators
  - OTPs can be used as ordinary passwords
- - People need an application to compute OTPs
  - Passwords can be derived using dictionary attacks
    - From data stored in authenticators
    - · From captured protocol runs



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

43

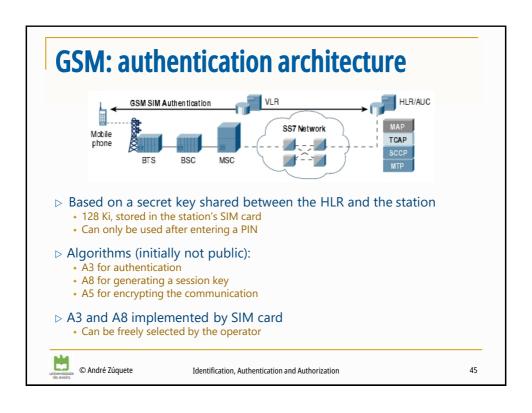
# Authentication of people: Challenge-response with shared key

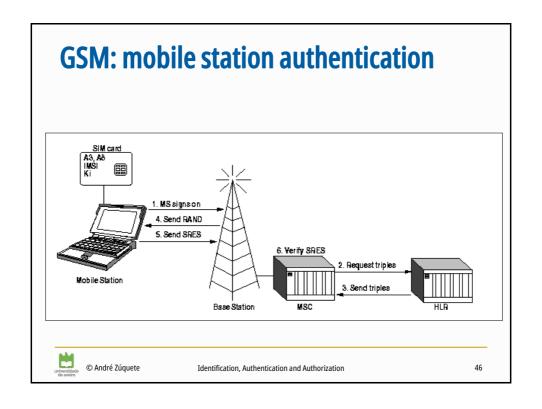
- - Robust against dictionary attacks
  - Requires some token to store the key
- - GSM



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization





### **GSM:** mobile station authentication

- MSC fetches trio from HLR
  - RAND, SRES, Kc
  - · In fact more than one are requested
- ▶ HLR generates RAND and corresponding trio using subscriber's Ki
  - RAND, random value (128 bits)
  - SRES = A3 (Ki, RAND) (32 bits)
  - Kc = A8 (Ki, RAND) (64 bits)
- - Recommended by the GSM Consortium
  - [SRES, Kc] = COMP128 (Ki, RAND)



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

47

### **Host authentication**

- - · DNS name, IP address, MAC address, other
  - Extremely weak, no cryptographic proofs
    - · Nevertheless, used by many services
    - · e.g. NFS, TCP wrappers
- With cryptographic keys
  - Keys shared among peers
    - · With an history of usual interaction
  - · Per-host asymmetric key pair
    - · Pre-shared public keys with usual peers
    - · Certified public keys with any peer



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### Service / server authentication

- - All co-located services/servers are indirectly authenticated
- > Per-service/server credentials
  - Shared keys
    - · When related with the authentication of people
    - The key shared with each person can be used to authenticate the service to that person
  - Per-service/server asymmetric key pair
    - · Certified or not



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

49

## **TLS (Transport Layer Security, RFC 8446)**

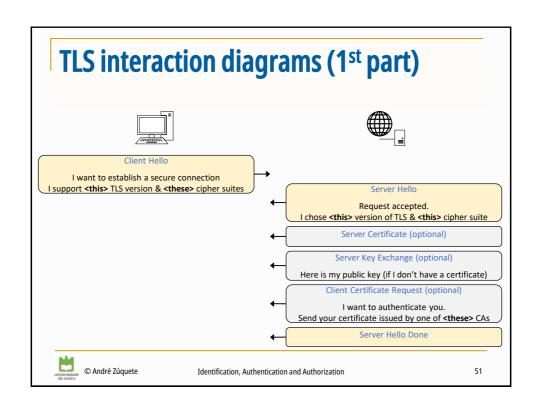
- Secure communication protocol over TCP/IP
  - Created upon SSL V3 (Secure Sockets Layer)
  - Manages per-application secure sessions over TCP/IP
    - · Initially conceived for HTTP traffic
    - · Actually used for other traffic types
- Security mechanisms
  - Communication confidentiality and integrity
    - · Key distribution
  - Authentication of communication endpoints
    - · Servers (or, more frequently, services)
    - · Client users
    - · Both with asymmetric key pairs, typically with certified public keys

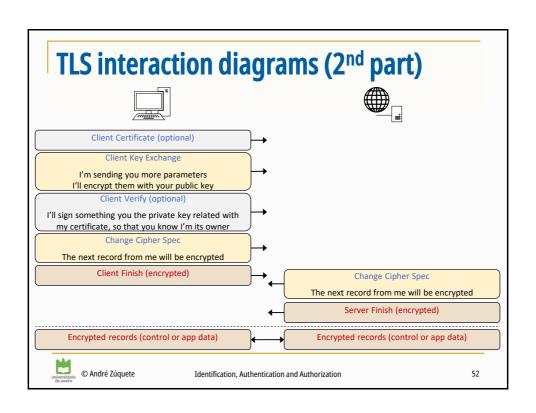


© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

Image source: https://hpbn.co/transport-layer-security-tls/





## SSH (Secure Shell, RFC 4251)

- - Manages secure consoles over TCP/IP
  - · Initially conceived to replace telnet
  - · Actually used for other applications
    - · Secure execution of remote commands (rsh/rexec)
    - · Secure copy of contents between machines (rcp)
    - · Secure FTP (sftp)
    - · Creation of arbitrary secure tunnels (inbound/outbound/dynamic)

#### Security mechanisms

- · Communication confidentiality and integrity
  - Key distribution
- Authentication of communication endpoints
  - · Servers / machines
  - · Client users
  - · Both with different techniques



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

53

### **SSH authentication mechanisms**

- > Server: with asymmetric keys pair
  - Inline public key distribution
    - · Not certified!
  - · Clients cache previously used public keys
    - · Caching should occur in a trustworthy environment
    - · Update of a server's key raises a problem to its usual clients
- - Username + password
    - By default
  - Username + private key
    - · Upload of public key in advance to the server



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### Single Sign-On (SSO)

- ▶ Unique, centralized authentication for a set of federated services
  - The identity of a client, upon authentication, is given to all federated services
  - The identity attributes given to each service may vary
  - The authenticator is called Identity Provider (IdP)
- Examples
  - SSO authentication @ UA
    - · Performed by a central IdP (idp.ua.pt)
    - The identity attributes are securely conveyed to the service accessed by the user



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

55

## **Authentication metaprotocols**

- Generic authentication protocols that encapsulate other authentication protocols
- - EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol)
    - · Used in 802.1X (WiFi, enterprise mode)
    - e.g. PEAP (Protected EAP) and EAP-TLS run over EAP
  - ISAKMP(Internet Security Association and Key Management Protocol)
    - · Formerly used in IPSec
    - e.g. IKE v1 (Internet Key Exchange) runs over ISAKMP



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

### **Authentication services**

- > Trusted third parties (TTP) used for authentication
  - But often combined with other related functionalities
- > AAA services
  - Authentication, Authorization and Accounting
  - e.g. RADIUS



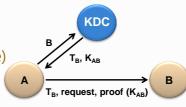
© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization

57

## **Key distribution services** > Services that distribute a shared key for authenticated entities

- That key can then be used by those entities to protect their communication and ensure
- source authentication
- - 802.1X (Wi-Fi, enterprise mode)
  - Kerberos



**KDC** 



© André Zúquete

Identification, Authentication and Authorization