

# Network Security: TLS 1.3 handshake

# Handshake and session protocol

Network security protocols have two parts:

- **Handshake** = authenticated key exchange that creates symmetric session keys
- **Session protocol** = encryption and authentication of the session data with the session keys
- Handshake needs a **root of trust**: PKI (CAs), pre-distributed public keys, or shared master key

# TLS 1.3 full handshake

## Client

ClientHello

+ key\_share\*

+ signature\_algorithms\*

+ supported\_groups\*

+ server\_name\*

+ certificate\_authorities\*

{Certificate\*}  
{CertificateVerify\*}  
{Finished}  
[Application data]

## Server

{encrypted}  
{encrypted}  
+ extension  
\* Optional

ServerHello

+ key\_share\*

{EncryptedExtensions}  
{CertificateRequest\*}  
{Certificate\*}  
{CertificateVerify\*}  
{Finished}  
[ApplicationData\*]

[Application data]

1. Parameter  
negotiation

2. DHE or ECDHE  
key exchange

3. Server  
authentication

4. Client  
authentication  
(typically omitted)

5. Key  
confirmation

6. Protected session data

# TLS 1.3 full handshake

1.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $N_C$ , supported\_versions, supported\_groups, signature\_algorithms, cipher\_suites, server\_name, certificate\_authorities,  $g^x$
  2.  $S \rightarrow C$ :  $N_S$ , version, cipher\_suite,  $g^y$   
EncryptedExtensions  
 $Cert_S, Sign_S(TH)$   
 $HMAC_{K_{fks}}(TH)$
  3.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $Cert_C, Sign_C(TH)$   
 $HMAC_{K_{fkc}}(TH)$
- encrypted with  $K_{shts}$   
 $K_{shts}$ : server\_handshake\_traffic\_secret
- encrypted with  $K_{chts}$   
 $K_{chts}$ : client\_handshake\_traffic\_secret

$N_C, N_S$  = client and server random = nonces

$Cert_C, Cert_S$  = certificate chains

TH = transcript hash, i.e., hash of all previous messages

Exchange keys  $K_{chts}, K_{shts}, K_{fkc}, K_{fks}$  and session keys  $K_{cats}, K_{sats}$  are derived from  $g^{xy}$  and TH

$K_{cats}$ : client\_application\_traffic\_secret\_N

# TLS 1.3 algorithms

- Small number of modern cipher suites
- AEAD ciphers: encryption and authentication always together
- Perfect forward secrecy required
  - Only ephemeral key exchanges: DHE or ECDHE
  - Old RSA handshake is not supported

# 1-RTT handshake

Client

ClientHello

+ key\_share\*

+ signature\_algorithms\*

+ supported\_groups\*

+ server\_name\*

+ certificate\_authorities\*

Client does not know which groups the server supports but makes a guess

Server

ServerHello

+ key\_share\*

{EncryptedExtensions}

{CertificateRequest\*}

{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

< [ApplicationData\*] >

{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

[Application data]

----->

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[Application data]

# 1-RTT handshake

- TLS 1.3 handshake causes only one round-trip delay
  - Client can send HTTP request (application data) right after client Finished
  - TLS 1.2 and most other key-exchange protocols require **two RTT**
  - Important for page load times in web browsing
- However, TCP + TLS 1.3 together cause 2-RTT latency
  - QUIC avoids this because it runs over UDP
- Sometimes TLS 1.3 handshake takes two RTT:
  - If server does not support the group of `key_share` in `ClientHello`, server sends `HelloRetryRequest` to ask for a different curve
  - DTLS server under DoS attack can send a `Cookie` in `HelloRetryRequest`

# Key derivation

## Inputs to key derivation:

1. PSK (external PSK or resumption PSK)
  2. DHE/ECDHE secret
  3. Transcript of handshake messages, up to the point where the key is derived
- } one or both, as available

## Keys:

- client\_early\_traffic\_secret → used to derive AEAD keys for early data in 0-RTT (...)
- client/server\_handshake\_traffic\_secret → used to derive AEAD keys for handshake messages {...} and Finished HMAC keys
- client/server\_application\_traffic\_secret\_N → used to derive AEAD encryption keys for post-handshake application data and messages [...]
- resumption\_master\_secret and ticket\_nonce → derive resumption PSK
- exporter\_master\_secret → used to create keys for the application layer

# References

- TLS 1.3, [RFC 8446](#)
- The New Illustrated TLS Connection, <https://tls13.ulfheim.net/>
- **A Readable Specification of TLS 1.3**  
<https://www.davidwong.fr/tls13/>

# Exercises

- Use a network sniffer (e.g., tcpdump, Wireshark) to look at TLS handshakes. Can you spot a full handshake and session resumption? Can you see the plaintext server name indication (SNI)?
- Compare TLS 1.3 and TLS 1.2 handshakes in network trace: Can you see the difference in round-trips, identity protection?
- How would you modify the TLS 1.3 handshake to improve identity protection? Learn about Protected Extensible Authentication Protocol (PEAP). How does PEAP protect the client identity?
- Consider removing different message fields from the handshake. How does each message field contribute to security?
- Why have the supported and mandatory-to-implement cipher suites in TLS changed over time?
- Why did most web servers for a long time prefer the RSA handshake?
- One reason why the RSA handshake is no longer supported in TLS 1.3 is that it does not provide PFS. Is it possible to implement PFS without Diffie-Hellman?
- Find applications that could benefit significantly from the 0-RTT handshake. Is there any cost to deploying it?
- What problems arise if you want to set up multiple secure (HTTPS) web sites behind a NAT or on virtual servers that share one IP address? How do TLS 1.3 and TLS 1.2 solve this issue?
- If an online service (e.g., webmail) uses TLS with server-only authentication to protect passwords, is the system vulnerable to offline password cracking?

# TLS 1.3 full handshake

1.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $N_C$ , supported\_versions, supported\_groups, signature\_algorithms, cipher\_suites, server\_name, certificate\_authorities,  $g^x$
  2.  $S \rightarrow C$ :  $N_S$ , version, cipher\_suite,  $g^y$   
EncryptedExtensions  
 $Cert_S, Sign_S(TH)$   
 $HMAC_{K_{fks}}(TH)$   
3.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $Cert_C, Sign_C(TH)$   
 $HMAC_{K_{fkc}}(TH)$
- encrypted with  $K_{shts}$
- encrypted with  $K_{chts}$

## Which security properties?

- Secret, fresh session key
- Mutual or one-way authentication
- Entity authentication, key confirmation
- Perfect forward secrecy (PFS)
- Contributory key exchange
- Downgrading protection
- Identity protection
- Non-repudiation
- Plausible deniability
- DoS resistance

$Cert_C, Cert_S$  = certificate chain

TH = transcript hash i.e. hash of all previous messages

Exchange keys  $K_{chts}, K_{shts}, K_{fkc}, K_{fks}$  session keys  $K_{cats}, K_{sats}$  derived from  $g^{xy}$  and TH

# Identity protection?

- Client sends **server name indication (SNI)** and **CAs** in plaintext
  - SNI needed to have multiple server names at one IP address
- **Server certificates** are encrypted **against passive sniffing**
  - However, anyone can get them from server by connecting to it and sending the right SNI
- **Client certificates** (if used) are encrypted
  - Protected also against **server impersonation**

Summary: server identity leaked; client identity well protected

# Network Security:

## TLS 1.3 PSK and session resumption

# Outline

- Recall TLS 1.3 full handshake
- Pre-shared key (PSK) mode
- Session resumption

# TLS 1.3 full handshake

## Client

ClientHello

+ key\_share\*

+ signature\_algorithms\*

+ supported\_groups\*

+ server\_name\*

+ certificate\_authorities\*

1. Parameter  
negotiation

2. DHE or ECDHE  
key exchange

{encrypted}  
{encrypted}  
+ extension  
\* Optional

## Server

ServerHello

+ key\_share\*

{EncryptedExtensions}

{CertificateRequest\*}

{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

[ApplicationData\*]

4. Client  
authentication  
(typically omitted)

3. Server  
authentication

{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

[Application data]

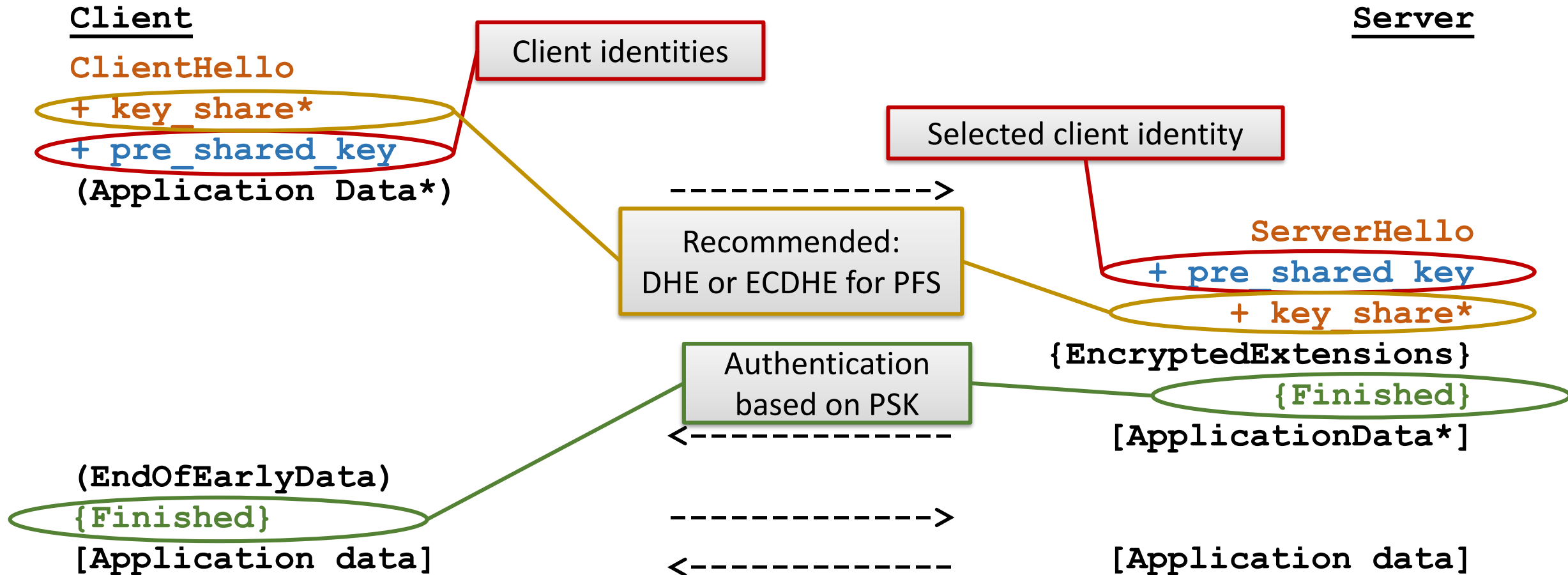
5. Key  
confirmation

6. Protected session data

The slides from CS-E4300 - Network Security at Aalto  
University

[Application data]

# Pre-shared key (PSK) mode



# Pre-shared key (PSK) mode

1.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $N_C, g^x, \text{ClientIdentity}$
2.  $S \rightarrow C$ :  $N_S, g^y, \text{HMAC}_{K_{fks}}(\text{TH}),$   
early data
3.  $C \rightarrow S$ :  $\text{HMAC}_{K_{fkc}}(\text{TH})$

- Mutual authentication based on a pre-established identity and session key (*external PSK*)
  - PSK = pre-established shared key between C and S
  - HMAC keys  $K_{fks}$  and  $K_{fkc}$  for the Finished message are derived from PSK,  $g^{xy}$  and TH; and so are the session keys

# TLS 1.3 session resumption (1)

Client

Server

ClientHello

+ key\_share\*

+ signature\_algorithms\*

+ supported\_groups\*

+ server\_name\*

+ certificate\_authorities\* ----->

ServerHello

+ key\_share\*

{EncryptedExtensions}

{CertificateRequest\*}

{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

[ApplicationData\*]

Server packages the session state into an encrypted data called **session ticket** and sends it to the client

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{Certificate\*}

{CertificateVerify\*}

{Finished}

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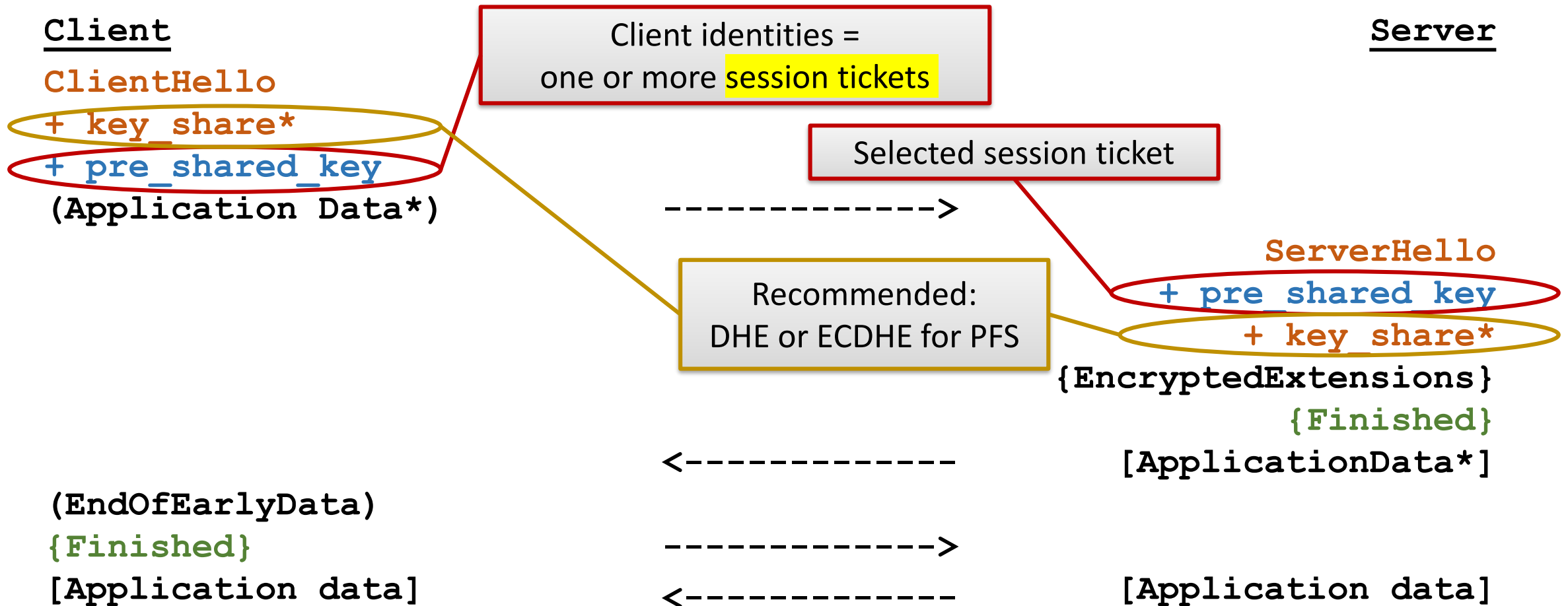
[NewSessionTicket]

[Application data]

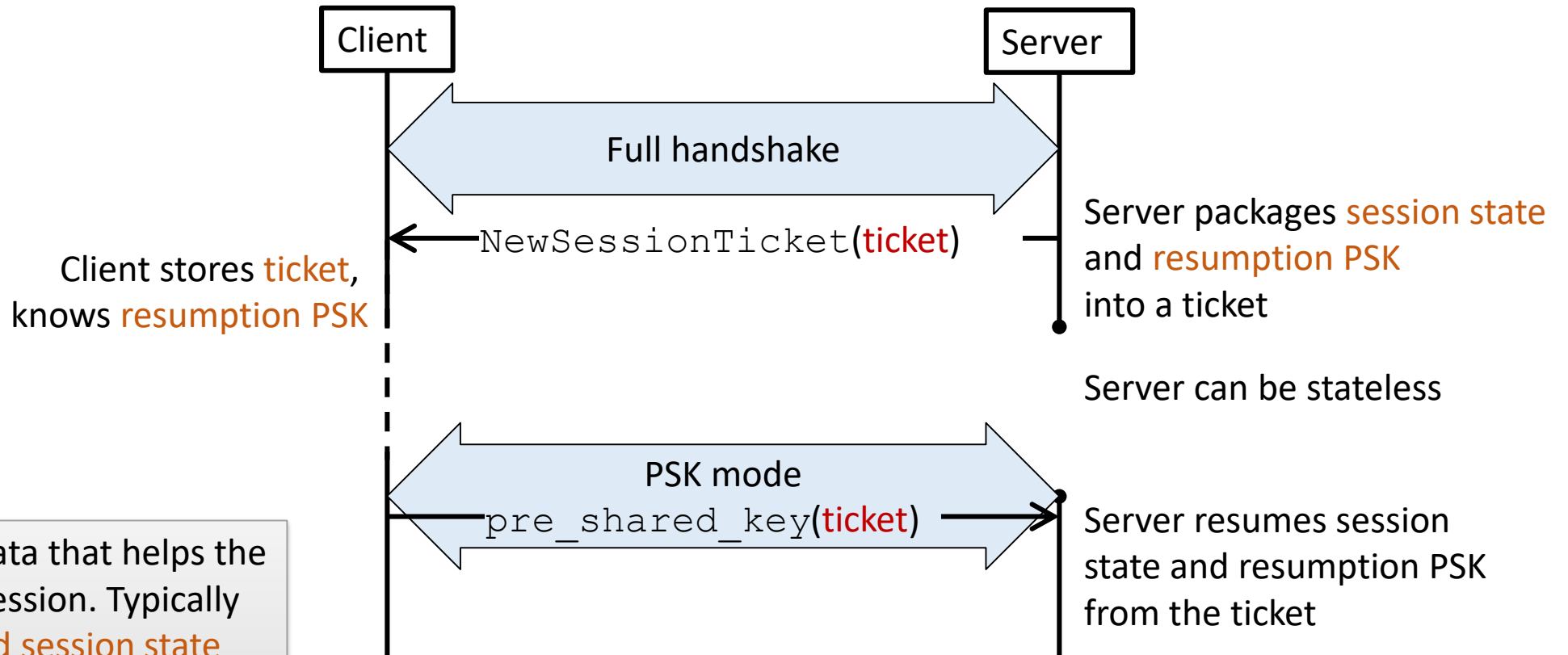
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[Application data]

# TLS 1.3 session resumption (2)



# TLS 1.3 session resumption timeline



**Ticket** = opaque data that helps the server recall the session. Typically contains **encrypted session state** and **resumption PSK**. Only the server itself can decrypt the tickets that has created

# TLS 1.3 session resumption uses

- TLS 1.3 session resumption = PSK mode handshake with ticket as client identity and resumption key as the PSK
  - Currently the main purpose of the PSK mode
- When useful?
  - Server does not want to store the TLS sessions over idle periods
  - If client is authenticated with smartcard, avoids repeated user action
  - Mobile clients keep changing their IP address and need frequent reconnection
  - Resume the session with a different server instance in the cloud

# Key derivation

Inputs to key derivation:

1. PSK (external PSK or resumption PSK)
  2. DHE/ECDHE secret
  3. Transcript of handshake messages, up to the point where the key is derived
- } one or both, as available

Keys:

- client\_early\_traffic\_secret → used to derive AEAD keys for early data in 0-RTT (...)
- client/server\_handshake\_traffic\_secret → used to derive AEAD keys for handshake messages {...} and Finished HMAC keys
- client/server\_application\_traffic\_secret\_N → used to derive AEAD encryption keys for post-handshake application data and messages [...]
- resumption\_master\_secret and ticket\_nonce → derive resumption PSK
- exporter\_master\_secret → used to create keys for the application layer

# TLS 1.3 session resumption and identity

Client

Server

ClientHello

+ key\_share\*

+ pre\_shared\_key

(Application Data\*)

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ServerHello

+ pre\_shared\_key

+ key\_share\*

{EncryptedExtensions}

{Finished}

[ApplicationData\*]

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(EndOfEarlyData)

{Finished}

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[NewSessionTicket]

[Application data]

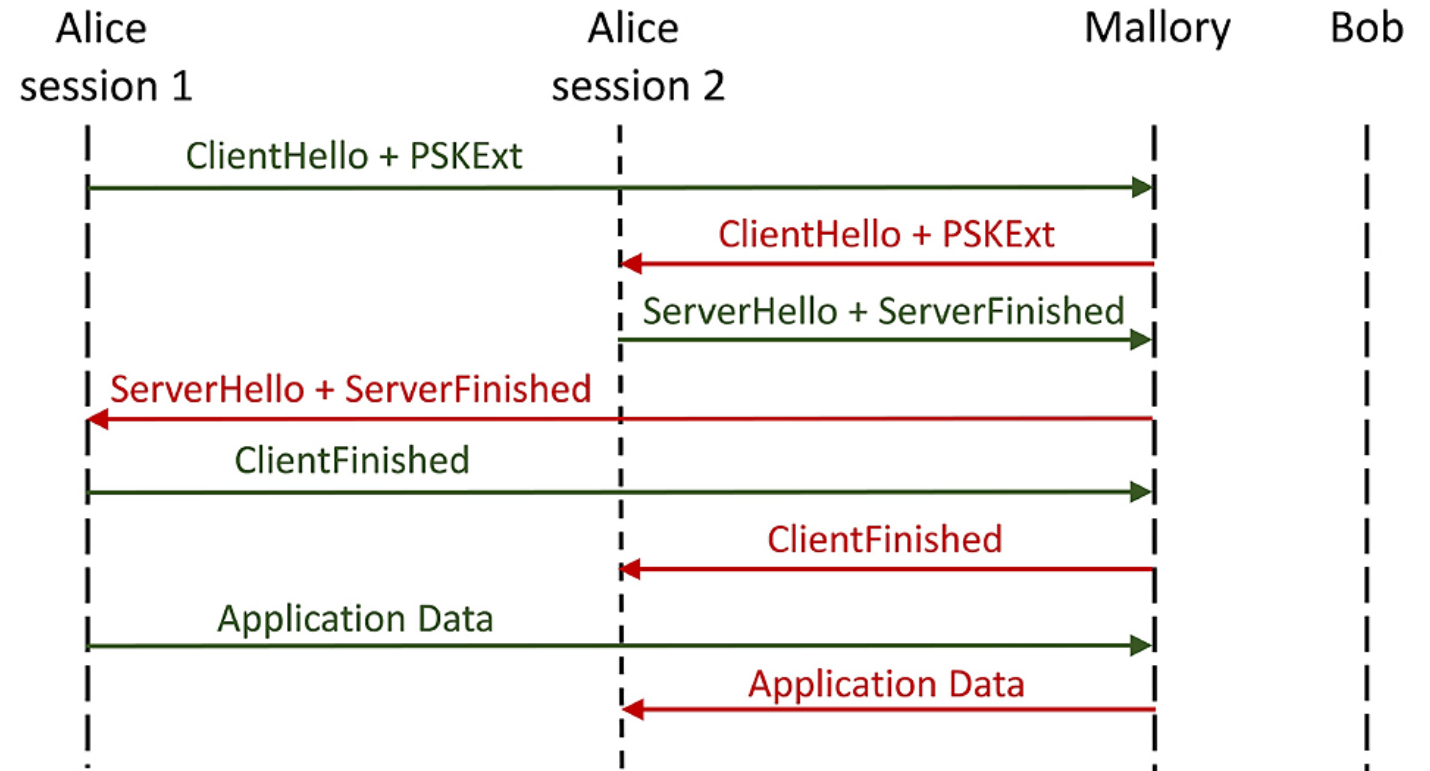
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[Application data]

Server can refresh the ticket for PFS  
and for protecting client identity

# “Selfie attack”

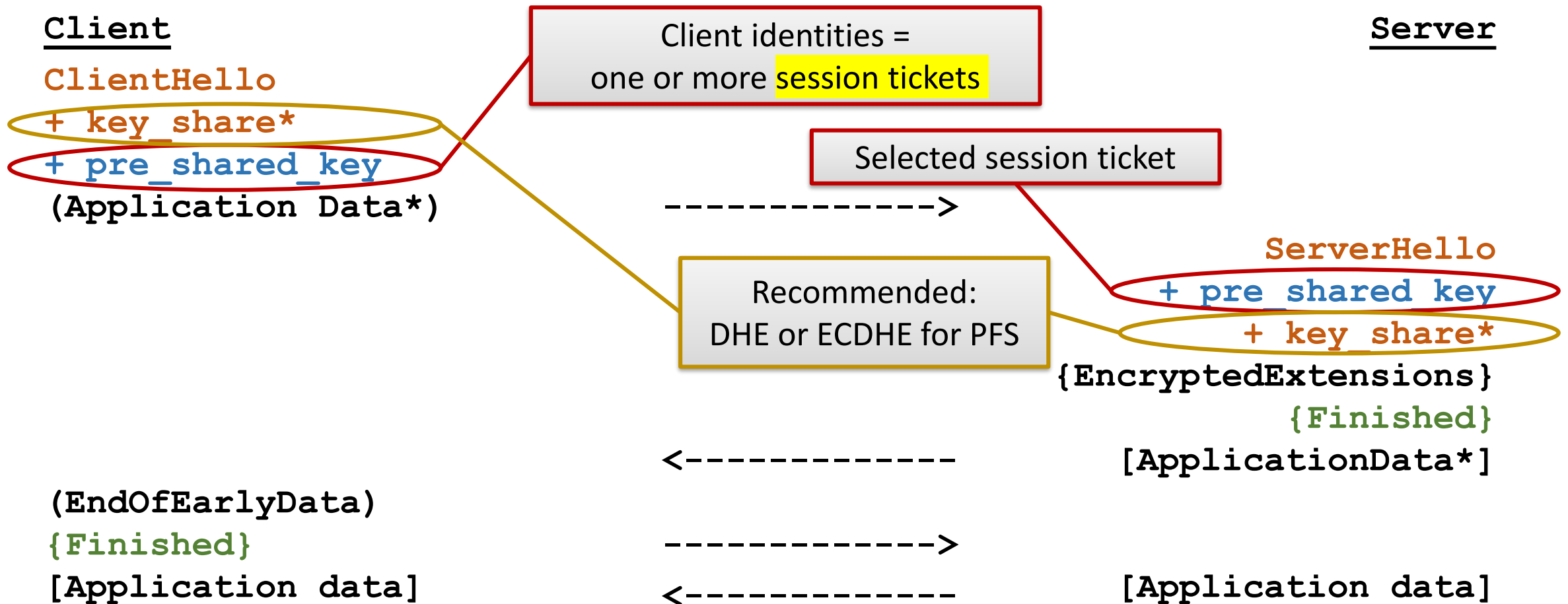
- **Reflection attack** against external (out-of-band) PSK
  - Trick the client to connect to itself
  - Assumes the same entity can be both client and server
- PSK used mistakenly as a group key for two parties
  - Group key only authenticates the group, not the individual
- Solution: Use different PSK for each direction
  - For each PSK, Alice is either the client or server, never both for the same PSK



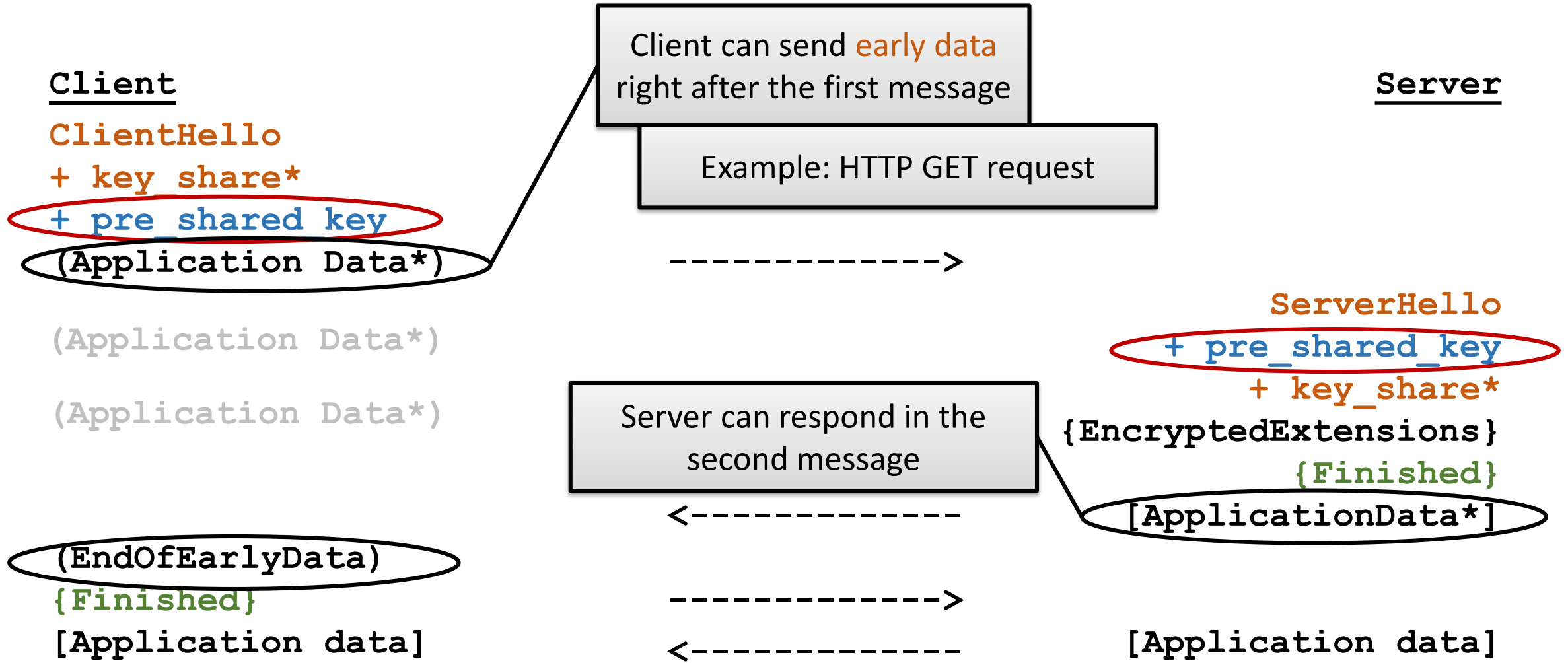
[Nir Drucker & Shay Gueron, Selfie: reflections on TLS 1.3 with PSK, 2019]

# Network Security: TLS 1.3 0-RTT handshake

# TLS 1.3 session resumption



# 0-RTT handshake



# Key derivation

Inputs to key derivation:

1. PSK (external PSK or resumption PSK)
  2. DHE/ECDHE secret
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- resumption\_master\_secret and ticket\_nonce → derive resumption PSK
- exporter\_master\_secret → used to create keys for the application layer

# 0-RTT handshake

- With session resumption or PSK, client can send application data (early data) right after ClientHello
  - Lower latency for web browsing and APIs. However, TCP handshake in the underlying transport layer still takes one RTT
- **Serious security limitations:**
  - Early data is vulnerable to replay attacks (no fresh server nonce yet)
  - No PFS for the early data
- Ok for **idempotent requests** (mainly HTTP GET) that do not require long-term secrecy
- **Application must explicitly enable 0-RTT**
  - TLS layer cannot decide when the lower security of 0-RTT is acceptable

# Network Security:

## RSA handshake (TLS 1.2 and earlier)

# Public-key encryption of session key

- Public-key encryption of the session key:

1.  $A \rightarrow B$ :  $A, B, PK_A$

2.  $B \rightarrow A$ :  $A, B, E_A(SK)$

$PK_A$  = A's public key

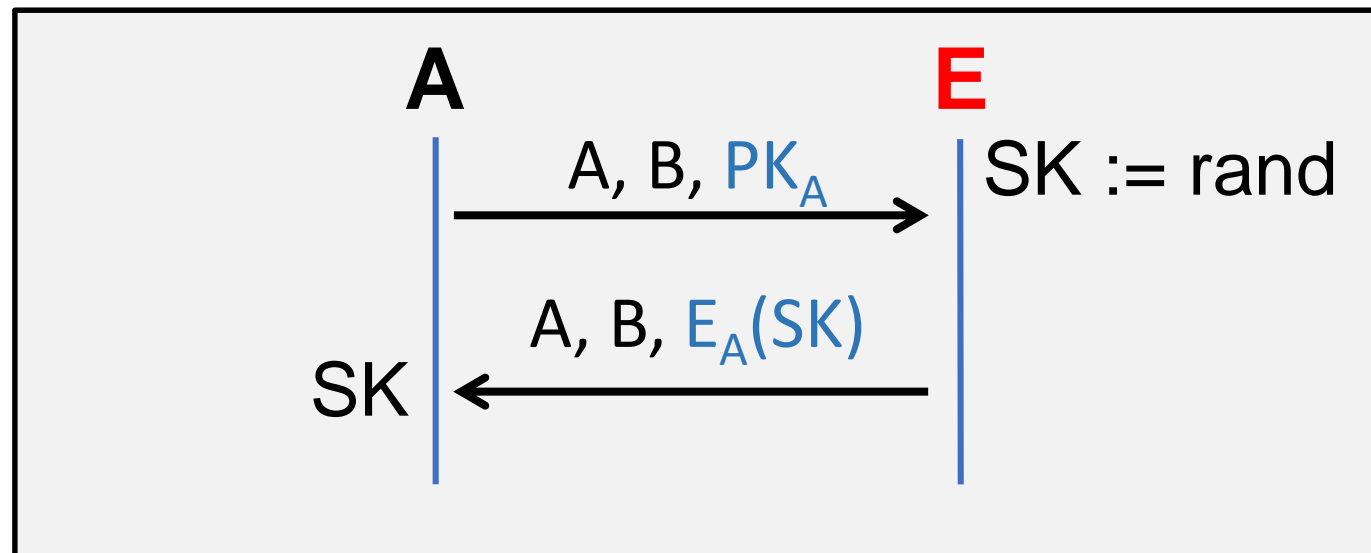
$SK$  = session key

$E_A(...)$  = encryption with A's public key

Note:  
The protocol  
is not secure  
like this. Please  
read further.

# Impersonation and MitM attacks

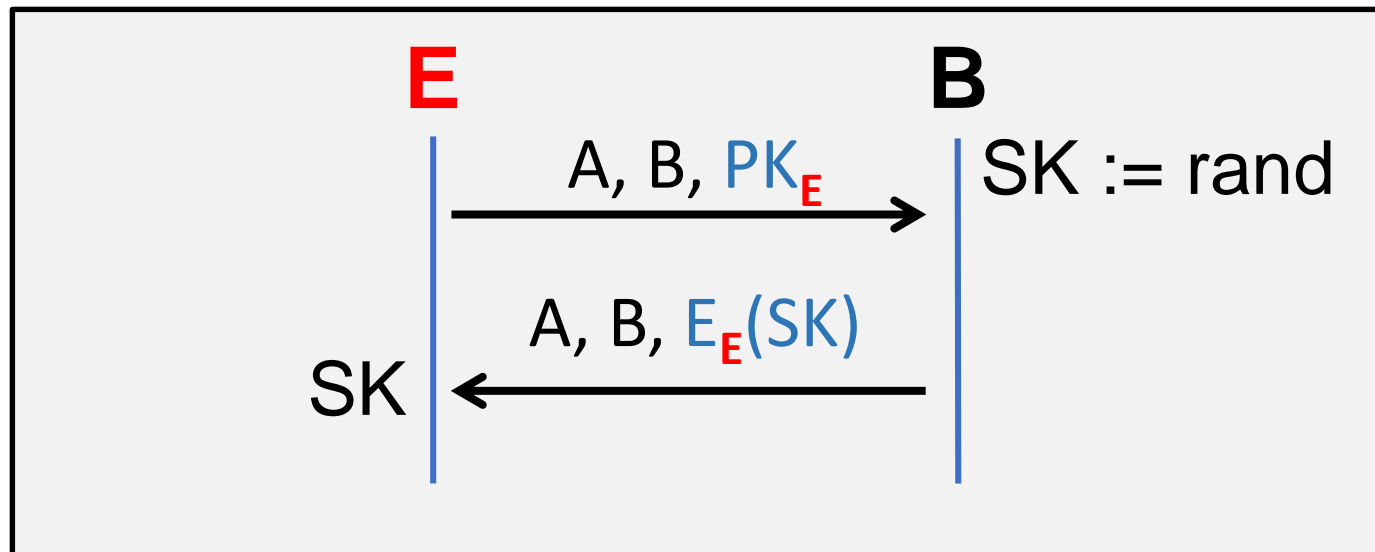
- Unauthenticated key exchange with public-key encryption suffers from the same **impersonation** and **man-in-the-middle** attacks as DH



- A has a shared secret, but with whom?

# Impersonation and MitM attacks

- Impersonating A is similarly possible because B does not know whether the public key really belongs to A:



- B has a shared secret, but with whom?

# Authenticated key exchange

## ■ Authenticated key exchange with public-key encryption:

1.  $A \rightarrow B$ :  $A, B, N_A, \text{Cert}_A$
  2.  $B \rightarrow A$ :  $A, B, N_B, E_A(KM), S_B(\text{"Msg2", } A, B, N_A, N_B, E_A(KM)), \text{Cert}_B, \text{MAC}_{SK}(A, B, \text{"Responder done."})$
  3.  $A \rightarrow B$ :  $A, B, \text{MAC}_{SK}(A, B, \text{"Initiator done."})$
- $SK = h(N_A, N_B, KM)$

Somewhat  
realistic  
protocol  
(compare with  
TLS\_RSA)

Why nonces and not  $SK = KM$ ?

$KM$  = random key material (random bits) generated by B

$\text{Cert}_A, E_A(\dots)$  = A's certificate and public-key encryption to A

$\text{Cert}_B, S_B(\dots)$  = B's certificate and signature

$\text{MAC}_{SK}(\dots)$  = MAC with the session key

# TLS\_RSA handshake

Client

Server

**ClientHello**

1. Parameter negotiation

2. Server certificate

**ServerHello**

**Certificate\***

**CertificateRequest\***

**ServerHelloDone**

**Certificate\***

**ClientKeyExchange**

**CertificateVerify\***

**ChangeCipherSpec**

**Finished**

3. RSA encryption of key material

4. Client authentication with  
signature (typically omitted)

5. Key confirmation

**ChangeCipherSpec**

**Finished**

[Application data]

[Application data]

6. Protected session data

# TLS\_RSA handshake

1. C  $\rightarrow$  S: Versions,  $N_C$ , SessionId, CipherSuites
2. S  $\rightarrow$  C: Version,  $N_S$ , SessionId, CipherSuite  
 $Cert_S$ , [ Root CAs ]
3. C  $\rightarrow$  S: [  $Cert_C$  ]  
 $E_S(\text{pre\_master\_secret})$ ,  
[  $Sign_C(\text{all previous messages including})$  ]  
ChangeCipherSpec  
 $MAC_{SK}(\text{"client finished", all previous messages})$
4. S  $\rightarrow$  C: ChangeCipherSpec  
 $MAC_{SK}(\text{"server finished", all previous messages})$

$E_S$  = RSA encryption (PKCS #1 v1.5) with S's public key from  $Cert_S$

$\text{pre\_master\_secret}$  = random byte string chosen by C

$\text{master\_secret} = h(\text{pre\_master\_secret}, \text{"master secret"}, N_C, N_S)$

# TLS\_RSA handshake

1. C → S: Versions,  $N_C$ , SessionId, CipherSuites
2. S → C: Version,  $N_S$ , SessionId, CipherSuite  
 $Cert_S$ , [ Root CAs ]
3. C → S: [  $Cert_C$  ]  
 $E_S(\text{pre\_master\_secret})$ ,  
[  $Sign_C(\text{all previous messages including})$  ]  
ChangeCipherSpec  
 $MAC_{SK}$  ("client finished", all previous messages)
4. S → C: ChangeCipherSpec  
 $MAC_{SK}$  ("server finished", all previous messages)

## Which security properties?

- Secret, fresh session key
- Mutual or one-way authentication
- Entity authentication, key confirmation
- Perfect forward secrecy (PFS)
- Contributory key exchange
- Downgrading protection
- Identity protection
- Non-repudiation
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$E_S$  = RSA encryption (PKCS #1 v1.5) with S's public key from  $Cert_S$

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$\text{master\_secret} = h(\text{pre\_master\_secret}, \text{"master secret"}, N_C, N_S)$