

# Standardization of Attested TLS Protocols

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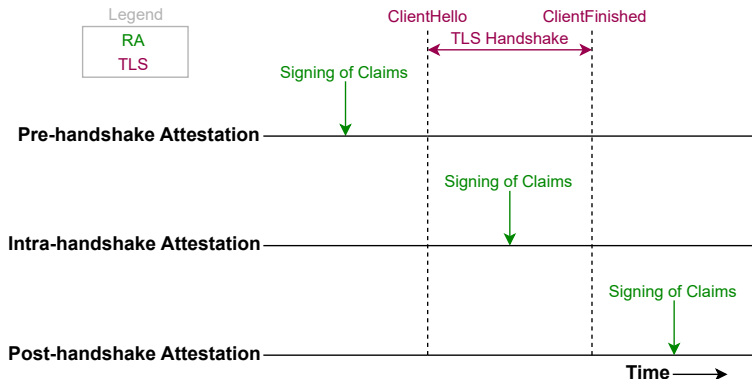
December 12, 2025

# Outline

- 1 System Model and Goals
- 2 Results and Discussion
- 3 Backup

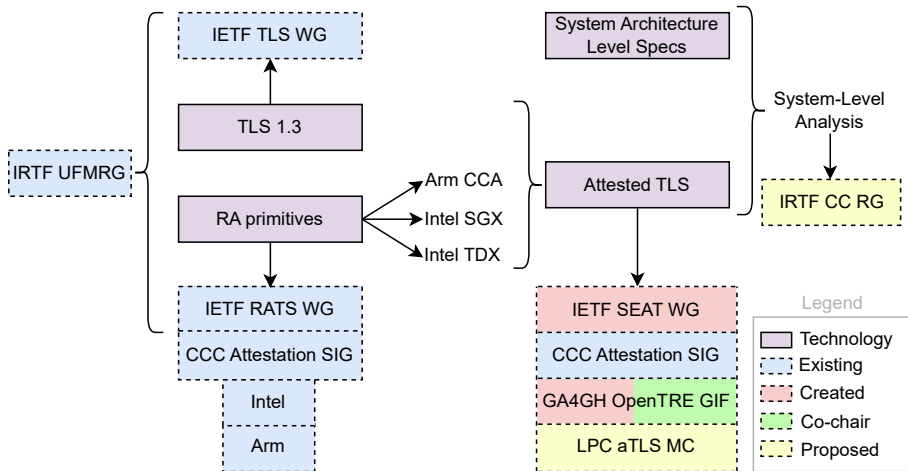
# Quick Reminder from LPC'24

- [Link](#) to LPC'24 presentation

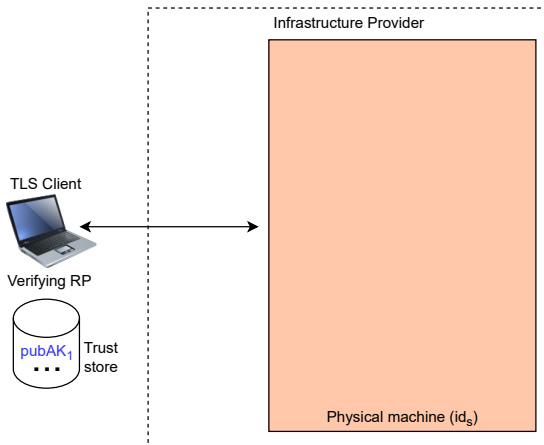


- Pre-handshake: Intel's RA-TLS/Interoperable RA-TLS (IRA-TLS)
- Intra-handshake: draft-fossati-tls-attestation (TLS-a)
- Post-handshake: draft-fossati-seat-expat

# Big Picture

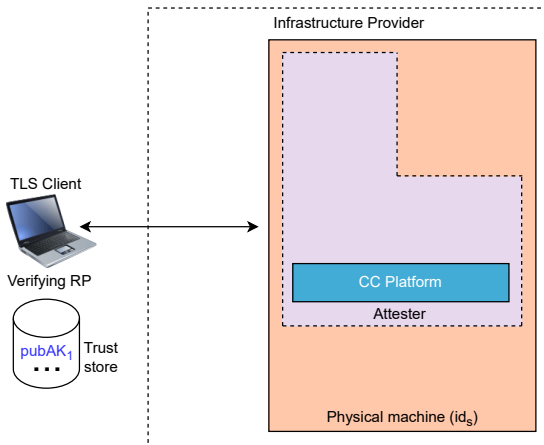


# System Model (TLS Server as RATS Attester)



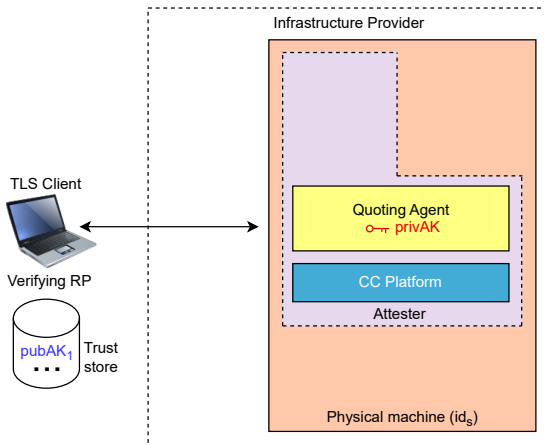
- AK = Attestation Key

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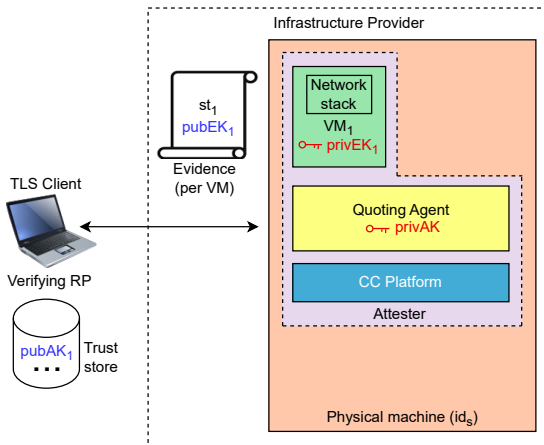
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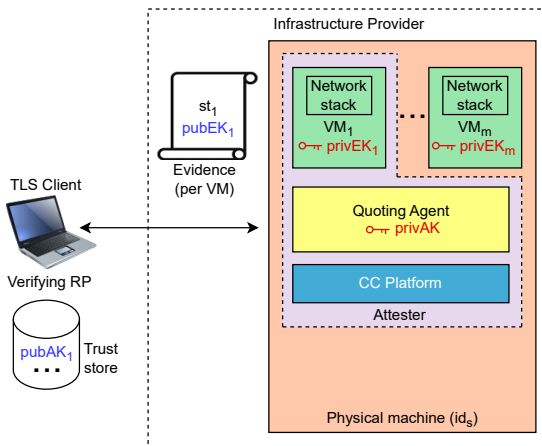
# System Model (TLS Server as RATS Attester)



- AK = Attestation Key
- EK = Ephemeral Key

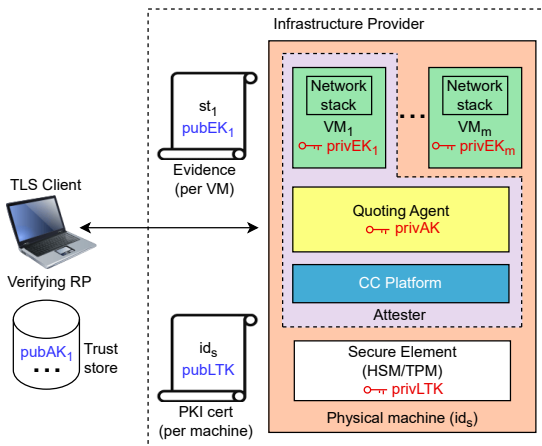


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# System Model (TLS Server as RATS Attester)



- AK = Attestation Key
- EK = Ephemeral Key
- LTK = Long-Term Key

# Informal Security Goals

- Remote Attestation
  - G-RA1: Integrity of Evidence
  - G-RA2: Freshness of Evidence
    - Binding Evidence to a specific RA interaction
    - Recentness of Evidence generation
  - G-RA3: Establishment of connection with **privAK** known to adversary
  - G-RA4: Establishment of connection with **privEK** known to adversary

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- Standard TLS properties
  - G-TLS1: Establishment of connection with `client_write_key` known to adversary
  - G-TLS2: Server authentication

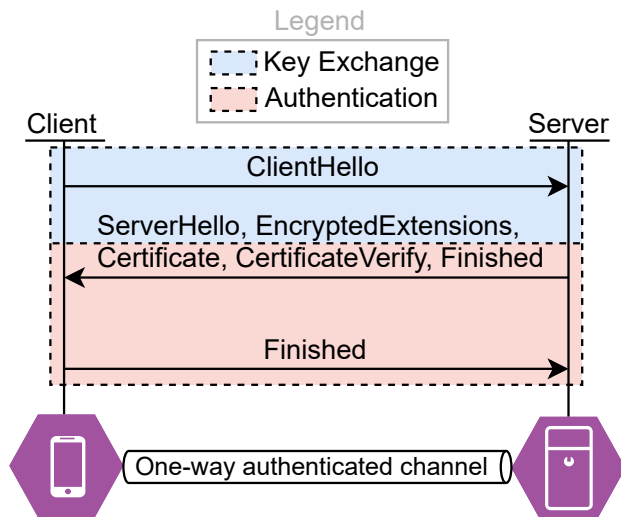
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- Composition goals
  - G-C1: Evidence is generated by the same server that is authenticated
    - Correlating Evidence to a specific TLS connection:  $g^{xy}$ , `htsc`, `atsc`
  - G-C2: Agreement of all Remote Attestation and TLS parameters

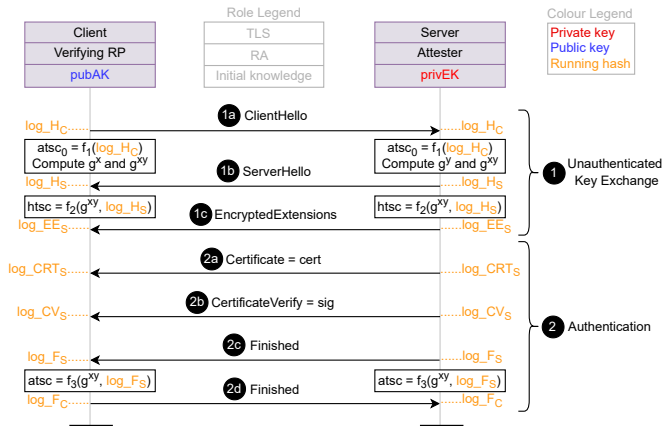
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- Discussion: Any other (verifiable) security goals?

# Standard TLS 1.3



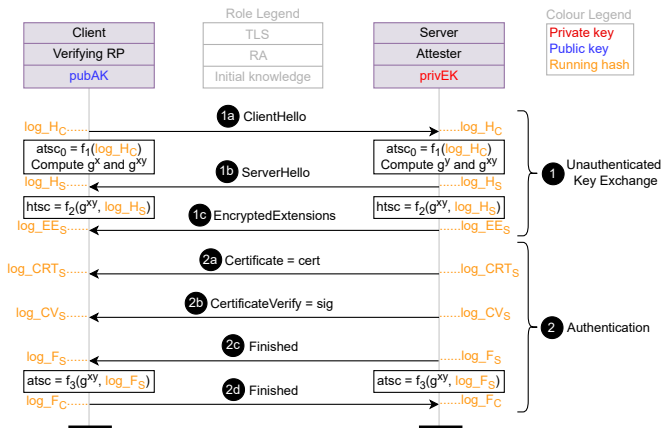
# Strong Binding vs. Relay of Evidence (Abstracted)



- Discussion:** Correlating Evidence to htsc vs. atsc
  - Running hash  $\implies$  atsc transitively includes all contributions in htsc
  - atsc provides stronger binding and avoids relay attacks.



# Strong Binding vs. Relay of Evidence (Abstracted)



- $htsc$ : used for encryption of clientFinished message (2d).
  - **Irrelevant** for security goals
- $atasc$ : used for encryption of application data (client's secret, e.g., decryption key)
  - **Relevant** for security goals

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# Results for Pre- and Intra-handshake Attestation<sup>1</sup>

- Pre-handshake attestation: Interoperable RA-TLS (IRA-TLS)
- Intra-handshake attestation: draft-fossati-tls-attestation (TLS-a)

Security goal	IRA-TLS	TLS-a
<b>G-RA1:</b> Integrity of Evidence	✓	✓
<b>G-RA2:</b> Freshness of Evidence	✗	✓
<b>G-RA3:</b> Protection of Attestation Keys	✓	✓
<b>G-RA4:</b> Protection of Ephemeral Keys	✓	✓
<b>G-TLS1:</b> Protection of Client's Write Key	✓	✓
<b>G-TLS2.1:</b> Server Authentication	✗	✗
<b>G-TLS2.2:</b> Server Authentication	✗	✗
<b>G-C1a:</b> Correlation of Evidence to gxy	✗	✗
<b>G-C1b:</b> Correlation of Evidence to htsc	✗	✗
<b>G-C1c:</b> Correlation of Evidence to atsc	✗	✗
<b>G-C2:</b> Agreement of all parameters	✗	✗

✓ = satisfied; ✗ = not satisfied.

<sup>1</sup>Details in <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/slides-124-ufmrg-formal-analysis-of-attested-tls-protocols>

# Results for Proposed Solutions in Intra-handshake Attestation

- Sol.1: Modify CertificateVerify message
- Sol.2: Two CertificateVerify messages
- Sol.3: New signature algorithm
- Sol.4: New Attestation message
- Sol.5: Modify CertificateVerify message + define new exporter

Security goal	Sol.1	Sol.2	Sol.3	Sol.4	Sol.5
<b>G-RA1:</b> Integrity of Evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-RA2:</b> Freshness of Evidence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-RA3:</b> Protection of Attestation Keys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-RA4:</b> Protection of Ephemeral Keys	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-TLS1:</b> Protection of Client's Write Key	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-TLS2.1:</b> Server Authentication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-TLS2.2:</b> Server Authentication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>G-C1a:</b> Correlation of Evidence to gxy	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
<b>G-C1b:</b> Correlation of Evidence to htsc	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
<b>G-C1c:</b> Correlation of Evidence to atsc	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>G-C2:</b> Agreement of all parameters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

# Summary

- **Pre-** and **intra**-handshake attestation (draft-fossati-tls-attestation) are not suitable choices for standardization.

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- Pre- and intra-handshake attestation (draft-fossati-tls-attestation) are not suitable choices for standardization.
- Key insights from formal analysis
  - Need infrastructure identity to prevent diversion attacks
  - Need cryptographic binding of RA and TLS to prevent relay attacks
  - Need VM identity to prevent replication attacks
  - One of the most challenging protocols of the IETF: formal analysis is critical to the success.

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- Part of formal analysis accepted at AsiaCCS
- WiP: post-handshake attestation, i.e., draft-fossati-seat-expat
  - Formal analysis in ProVerif
  - Implementation in Rustls (Peg Jones)
  - Implementation in BoringSSL (Pavel Nikonorov)
- Questions for discussion:
  - Any other (verifiable) security goals?
  - htsc vs. atsc?
  - Any other solution?

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- **Pre-** and **intra**-handshake attestation (draft-fossati-tls-attestation) are not suitable choices for standardization.
- Key insights from formal analysis
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  - Need cryptographic binding of RA and TLS to prevent **relay attacks**
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  - One of the **most challenging** protocols of the IETF: **formal analysis** is critical to the success.
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  - htsc vs. atsc?
  - Any other solution?
- BoF today at 15:45 <https://lpc.events/event/19/contributions/2299/>



## Links to Resources

- Wiki page
- Formal proof of insecurity of pre- and intra-handshake attestation
- Post-handshake attestation draft
- Attestation in Arm CCA and Intel TDX
- Security considerations of remote attestation
- IETF SEAT WG
- Technical Concepts
- Validation of TLS 1.3 Key Schedule
- General Approach
- Weekly meetings

# ACK

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- Yaron Sheffer (Intuit)
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- Henk Birkholz (Fraunhofer SIT)
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- Paul Wouters (Aiven)
- Dennis Jackson (Mozilla)
- Peg Jones (Flashbots)

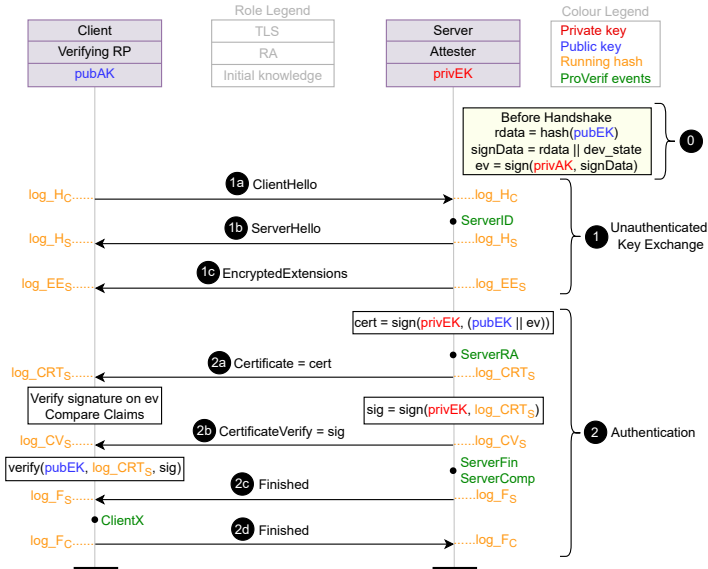
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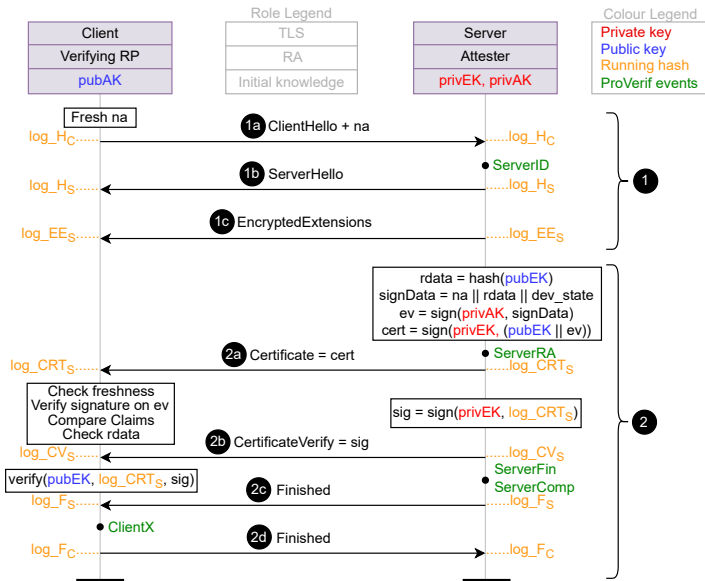
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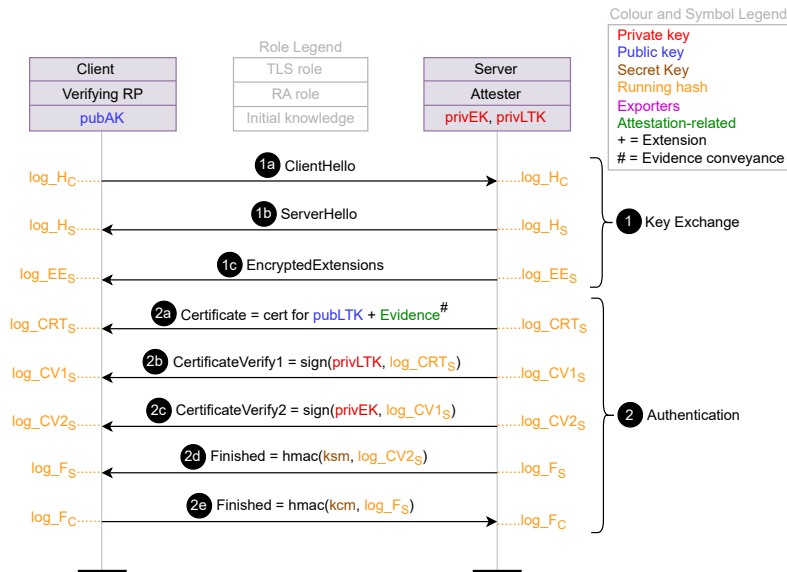
# IRA-TLS



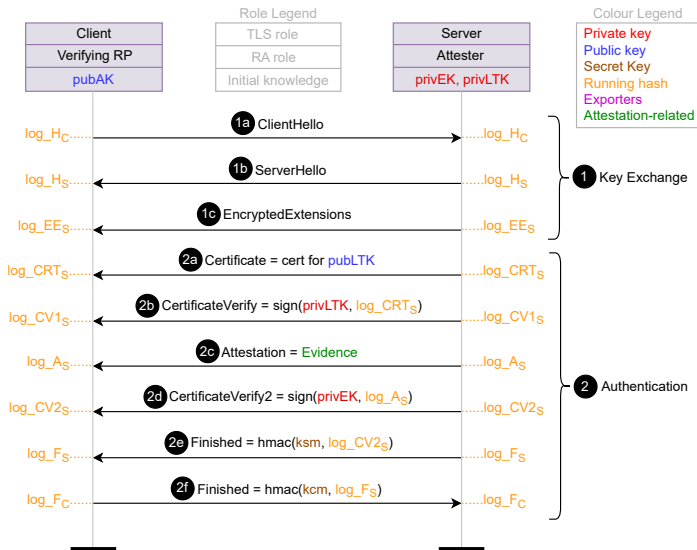
# TLS-a



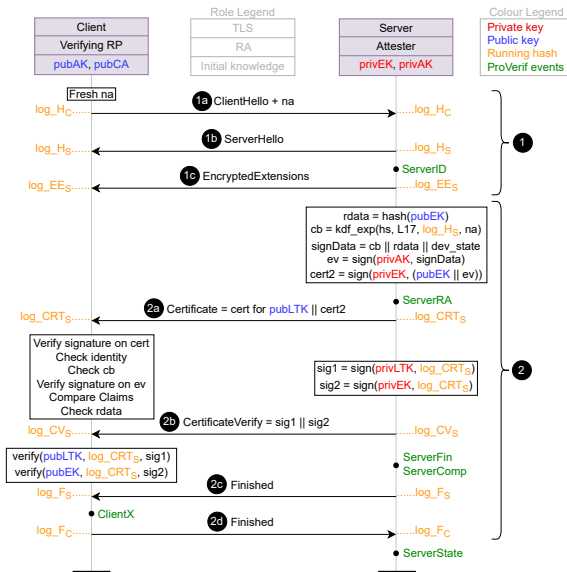
# Sol. 2: Two CertificateVerify Messages



# Sol. 4: New Attestation Message

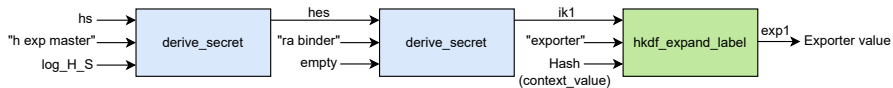


# Sol. 5: Cryptographic Binding

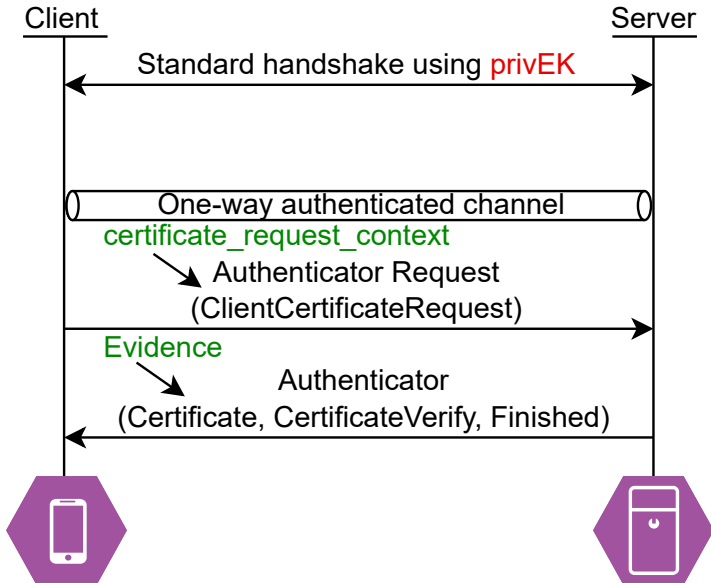




## Sol. 5 (cont.): Cryptographic Binding



# Proposal for Post-handshake Attestation (RFC 9261)



# Post-handshake Flow

1. Authenticator Request
  - Unique *certificate\_request\_context* within connection
2. Evidence based on this context and *Exported Keying Material (EKM)*
3. Authenticator
  - Certificate message extended with Evidence
  - CertificateVerify as in RFC 9261
  - Finished as in RFC 9261
4. Validation: additionally appraise Evidence

