

Generic Anonymity Wrapper for Messaging Protocols

Lea Thiemt

FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Paul Rösler

FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg

Alexander Bienstock

J.P. Morgan AI Research and J.P.
Morgan AlgoCRYPT CoE

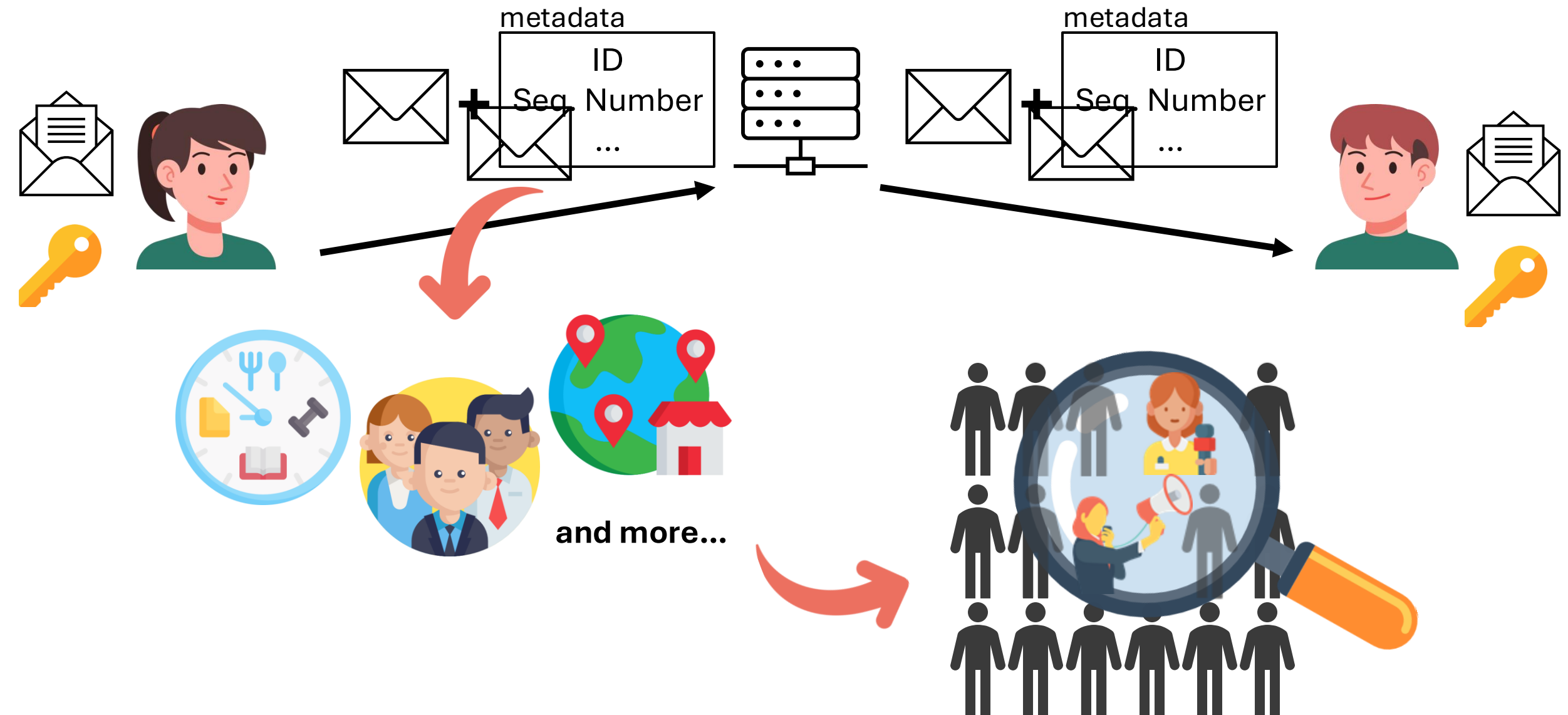
Rolfe Schmidt

Signal Messenger

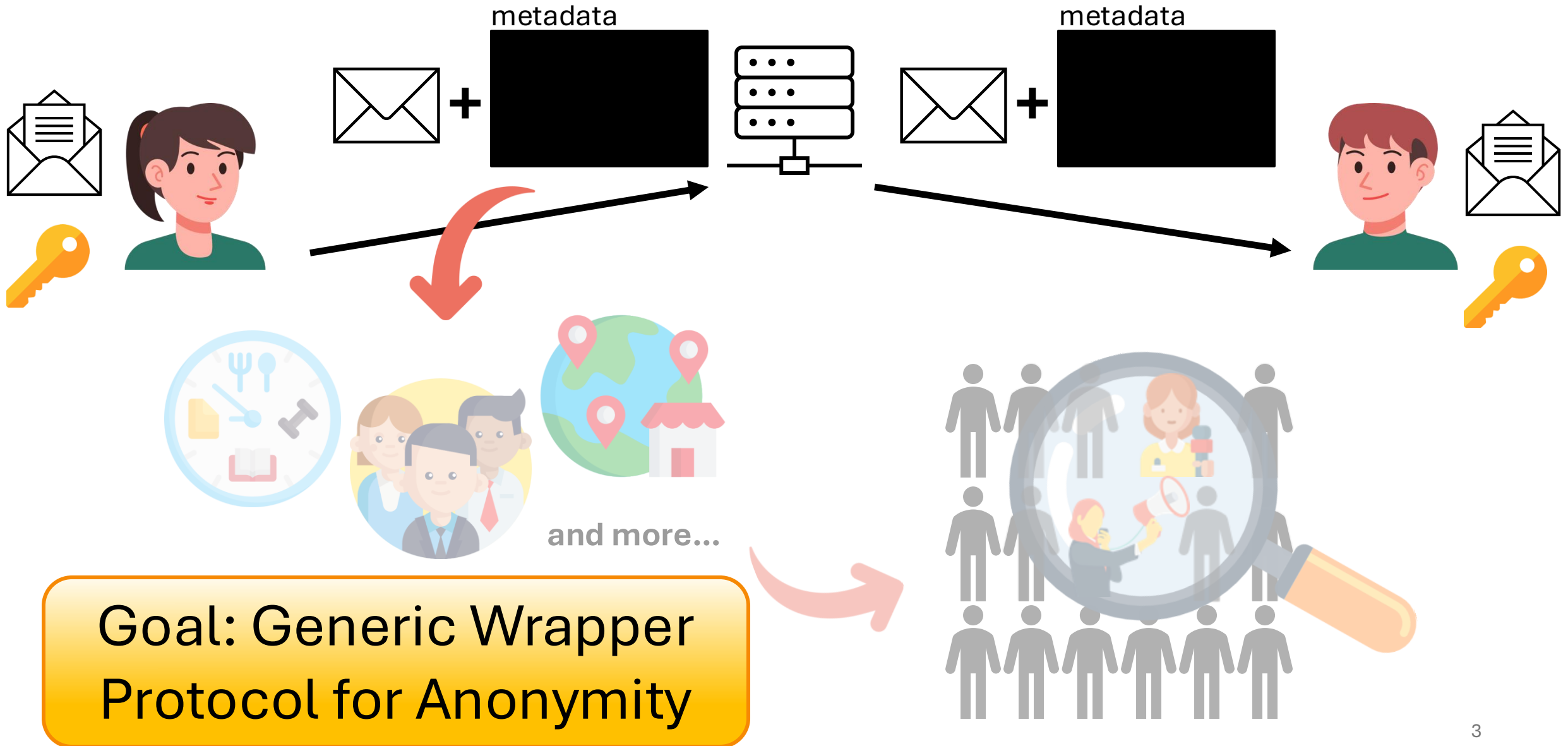
Yevgeniy Dodis

New York University

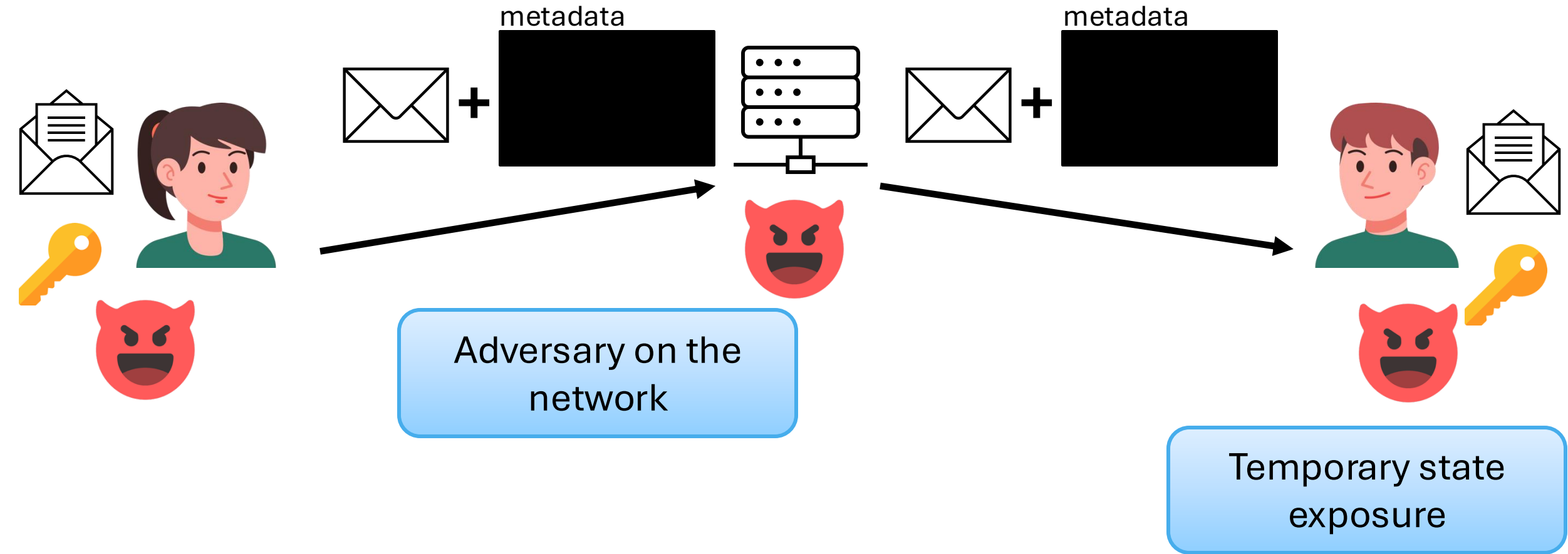
Metadata in Messaging Protocols



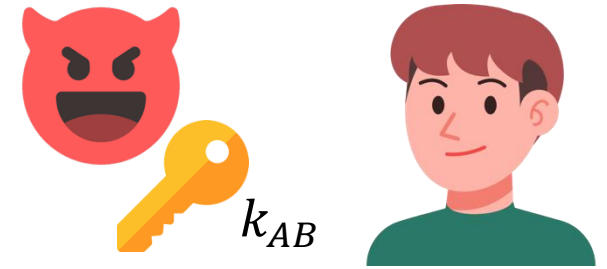
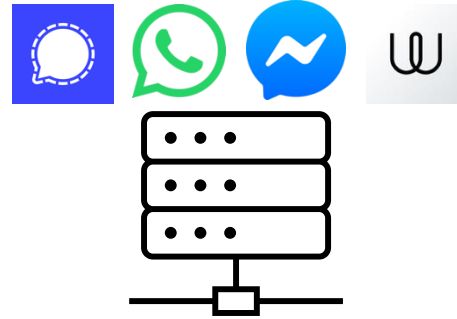
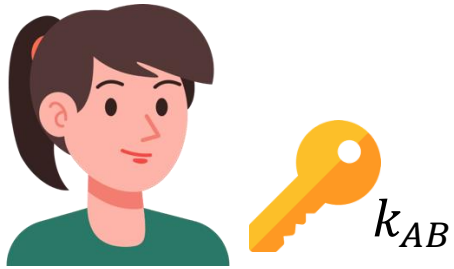
Metadata in Messaging Protocols



Threat Model



Secure communication



$$c_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_{AB}}(m_1)$$



c_1



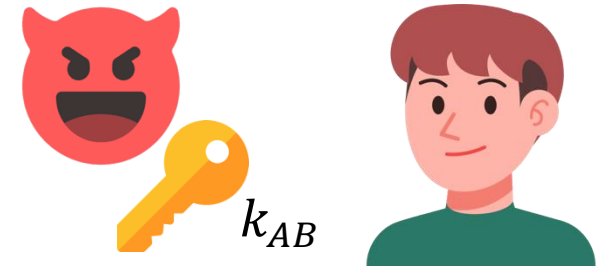
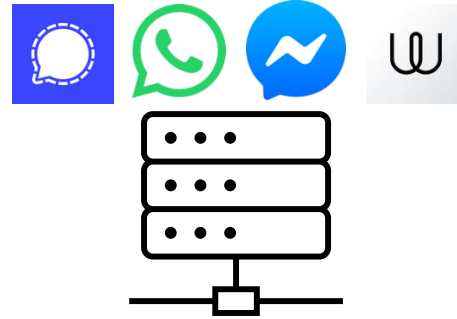
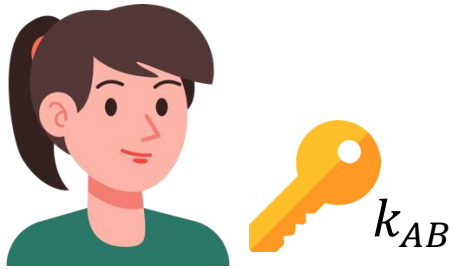
c_2



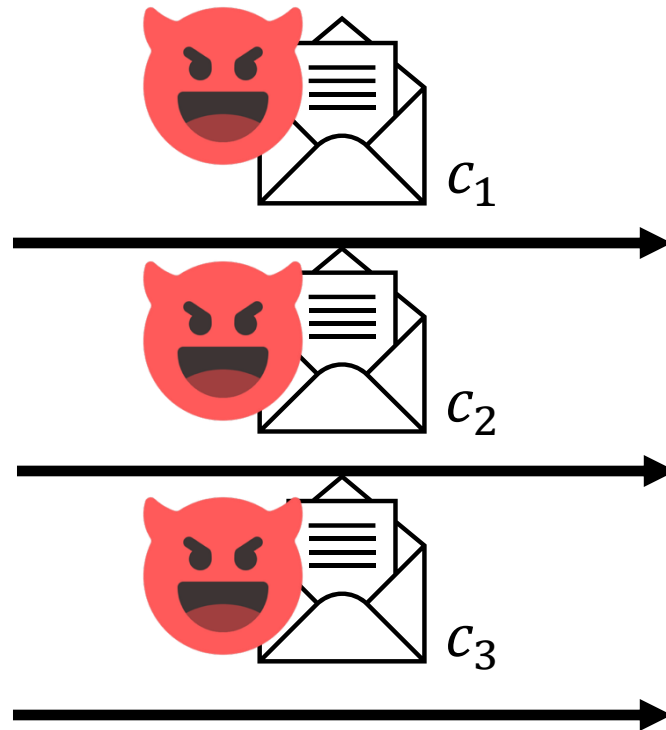
c_3

$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_{AB}}(c_1)$$

Secure communication

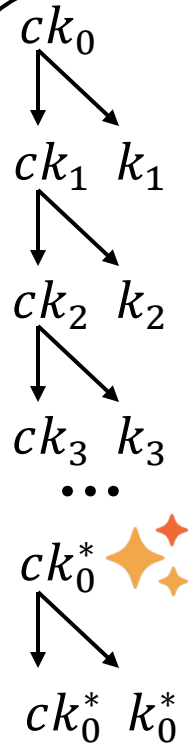
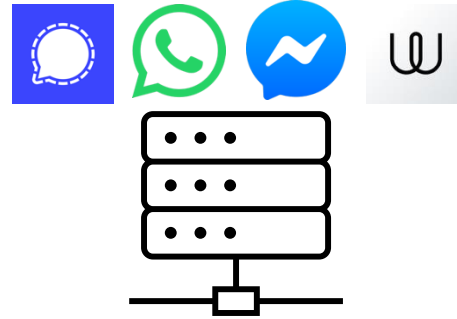


$$c_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_{AB}}(m_1)$$



$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_{AB}}(c_1)$$

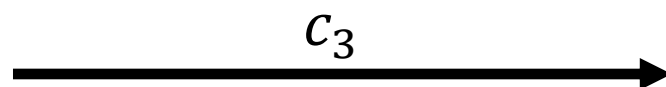
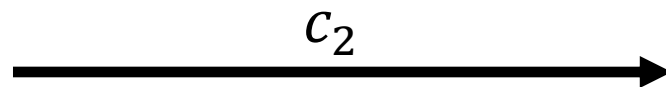
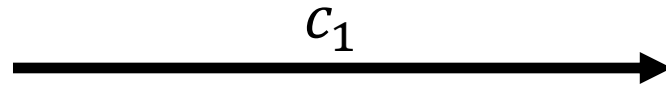
Secure communication



$$c_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

$$c_2 = \text{aenc}_{k_2}(m_2)$$

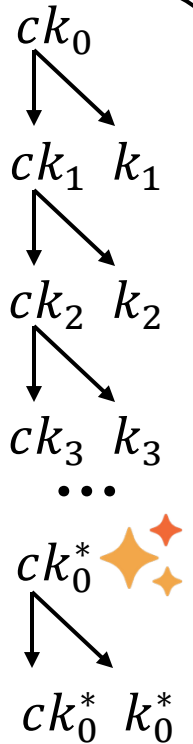
$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$



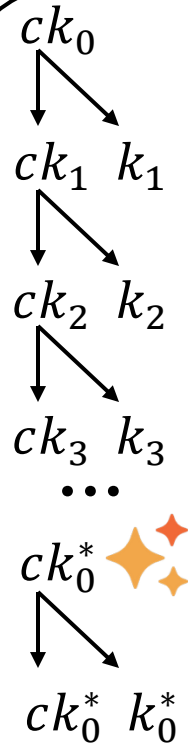
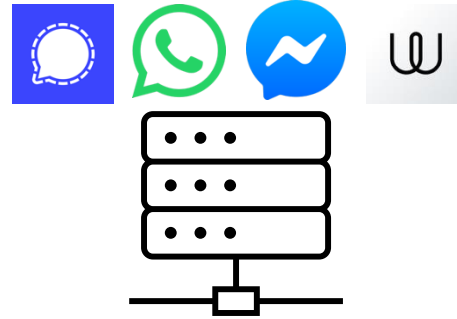
$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_1}(c_1)$$

$$m_2 = \text{adec}_{k_2}(c_2)$$

$$m_3 = \text{adec}_{k_3}(c_3)$$



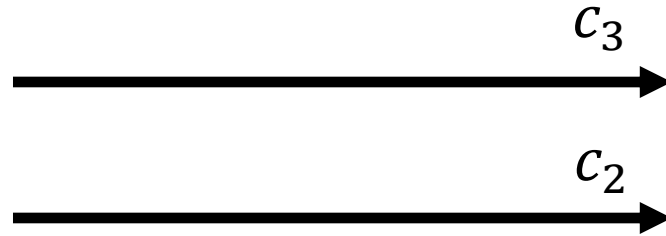
Secure communication



$$c_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

$$c_2 = \text{aenc}_{k_2}(m_2)$$

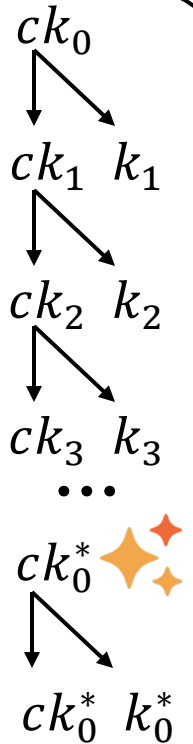
$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$



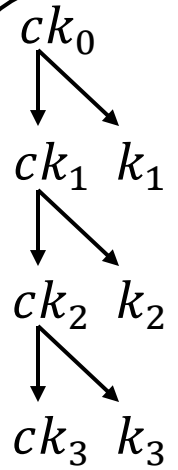
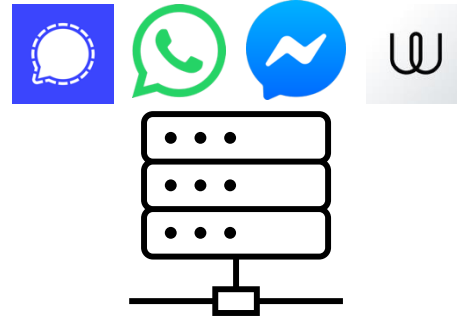
$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_1}(c_1)$$

$$m_2 = \text{adec}_{k_2}(c_2)$$

$$m_3 = \text{adec}_{k_3}(c_3)$$



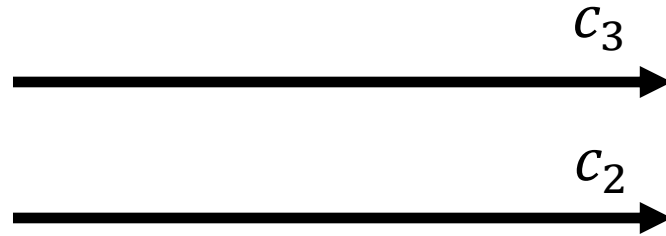
Secure communication



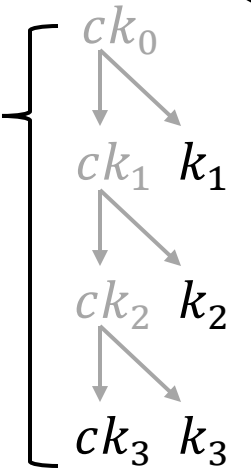
$$c_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

$$c_2 = \text{aenc}_{k_2}(m_2)$$

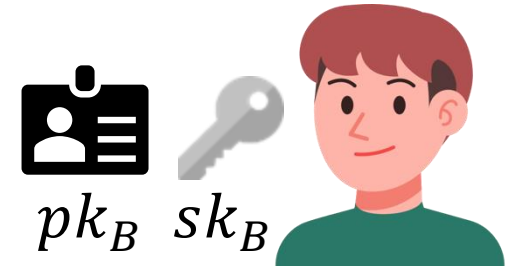
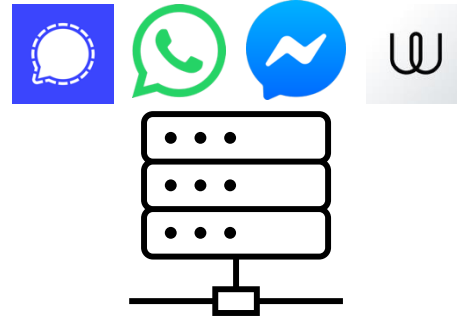
$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$



keep skipped keys
for immediate
decryption



Double Ratchet: Metadata



ck_0
↓ ↓
 ck_1 k_1
↓ ↓
 ck_2 k_2
↓ ↓
 ck_3 k_3
...

$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$

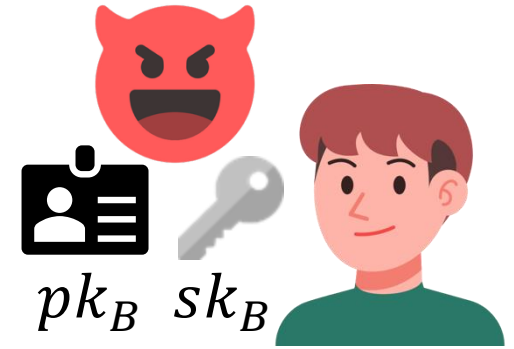
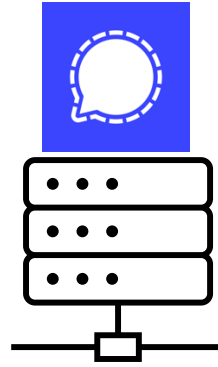
c_3 +

index=3,
 pk_A

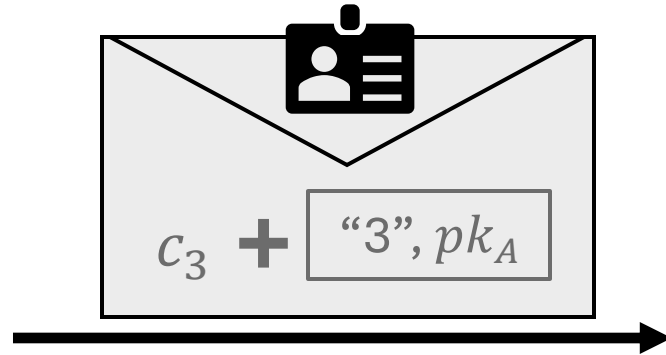
index	key
1	k_1
2	k_2
3	k_3
...	...



Hiding Metadata: Sealed Sender



$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$




$$\rightarrow c_3 + \boxed{\text{"3", } pk_A}$$

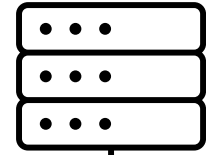
index	key
1	k_1
2	k_2
3	k_3
...	...



Hiding Metadata: Sealed Sender



$$c_3 = \text{aenc}_{k_3}(m_3)$$



$c_3 + \boxed{\text{"3", } pk_A}$

No anonymity
guarantees after
compromise

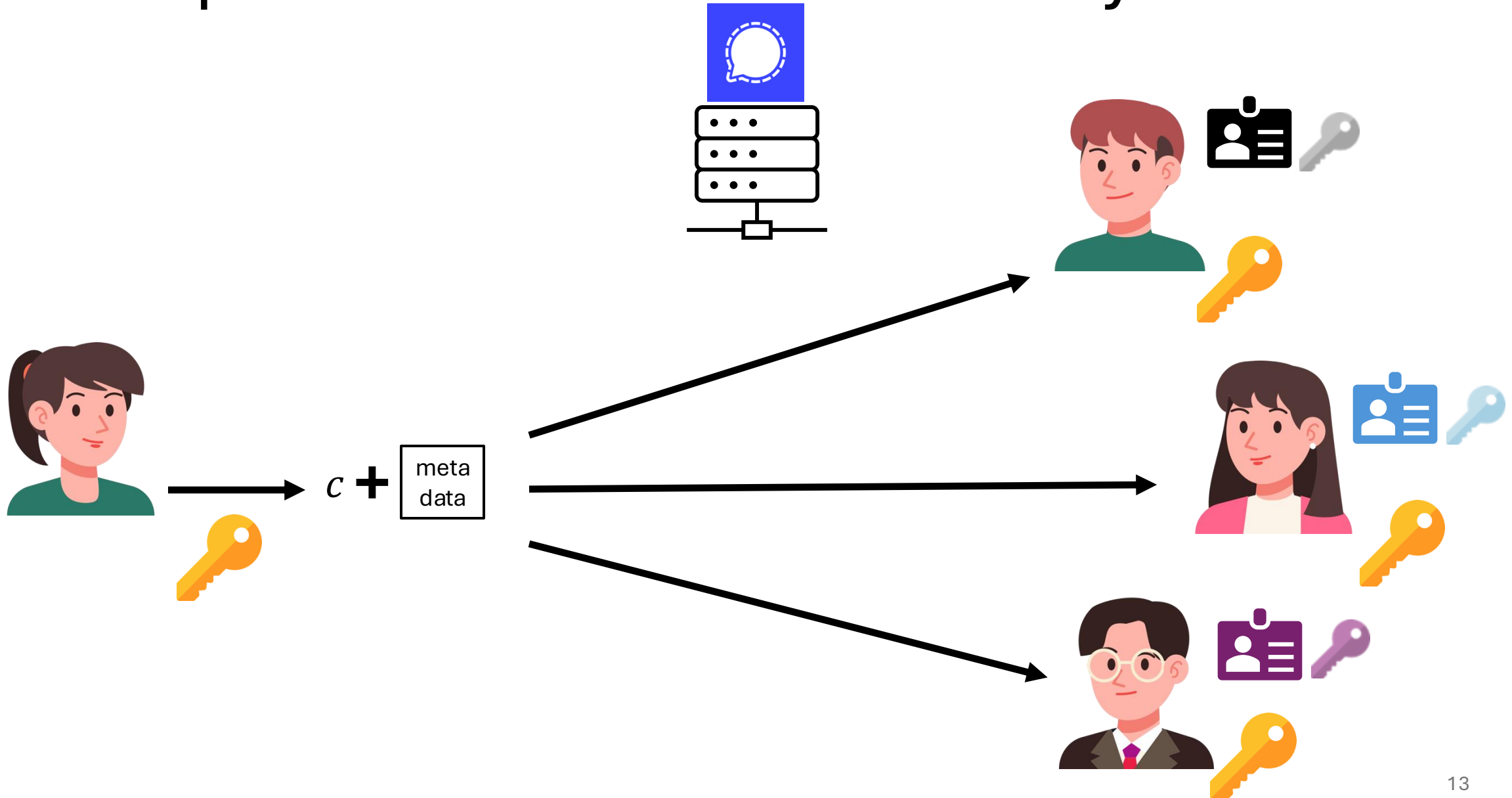


$\rightarrow c_3 + \boxed{\text{"3", } pk_A}$

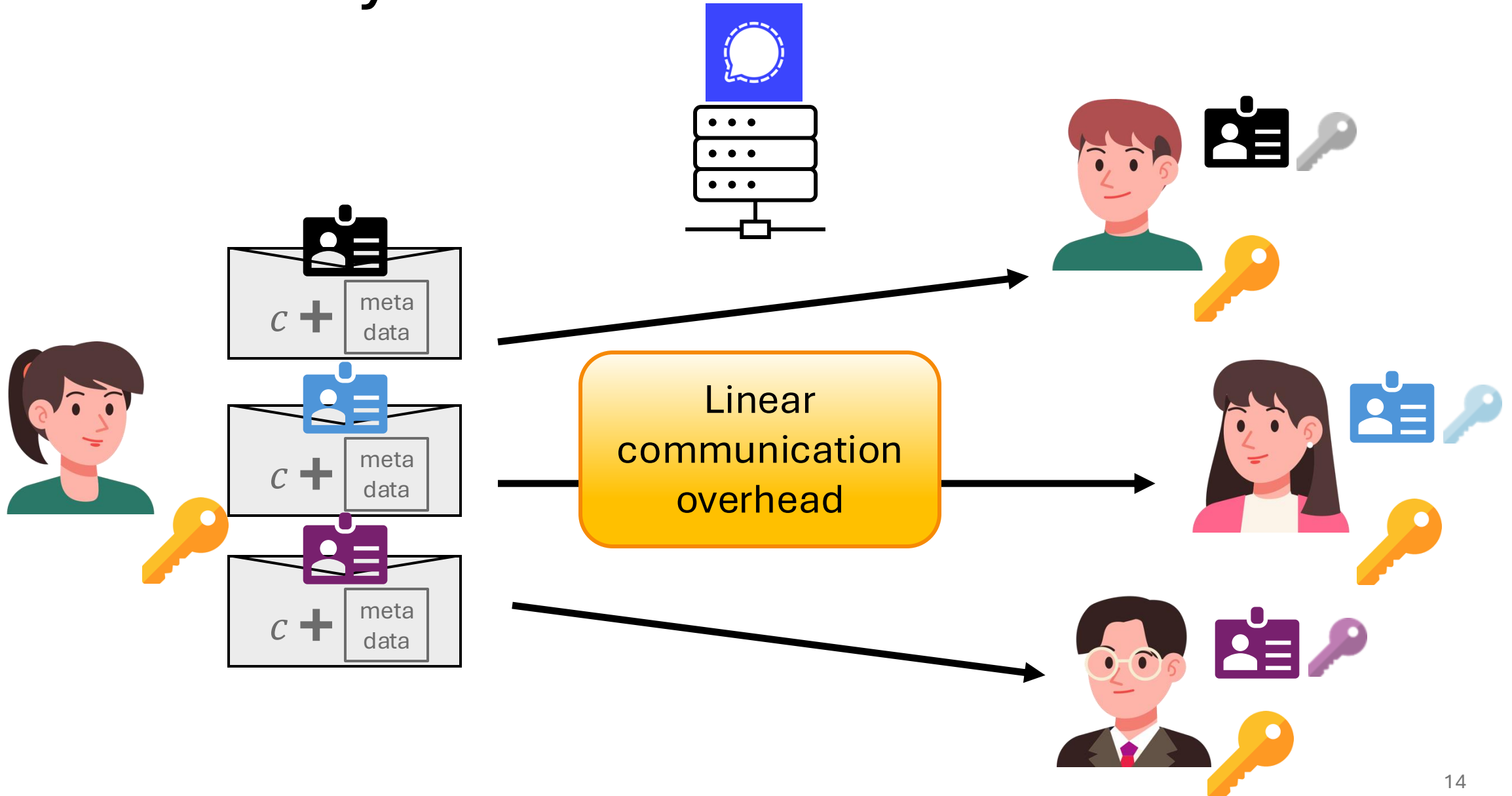
index	key
1	k_1
2	k_2
3	k_3
...	...



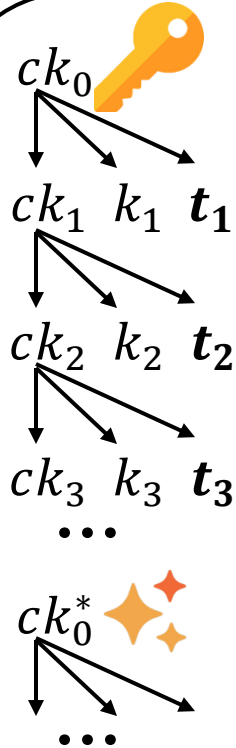
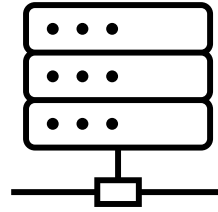
Group Communication: Sender Keys



Sender Keys + Sealed Sender



Anonymity Wrapper



Instead of Sender Keys
+ Sealed Sender

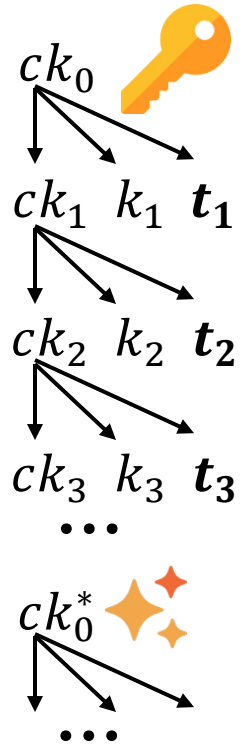
$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

Or as a generic
wrapper:

$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(c_1 + \text{meta data})$$

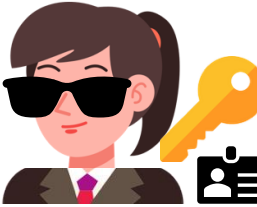
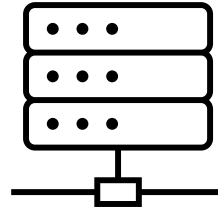
c'_1, t_1

tag	key
t_1	k_1
t_2	k_2
t_3	k_3
...	...



$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_1}(c_1)$$

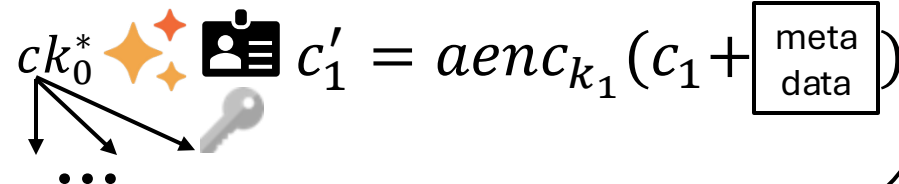
Anonymity Wrapper: Sender Authentication



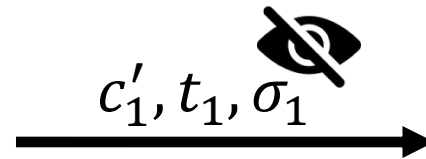
Instead of Sender Keys
+ Sealed Sender

$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

Or as a generic
wrapper:



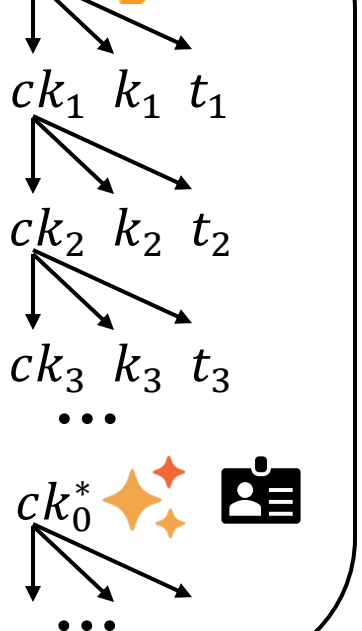
$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(c_1 + \text{meta data})$$



tag	key
t_1	k_1
t_2	k_2
t_3	k_3
...	...

$\sigma_1?$  

$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_1}(c_1)$$



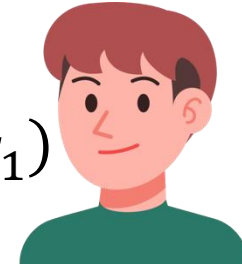
Anonymity Wrapper: Performance



$$c'_1 = aenc_{k_1}(c_1 + \text{meta data})$$

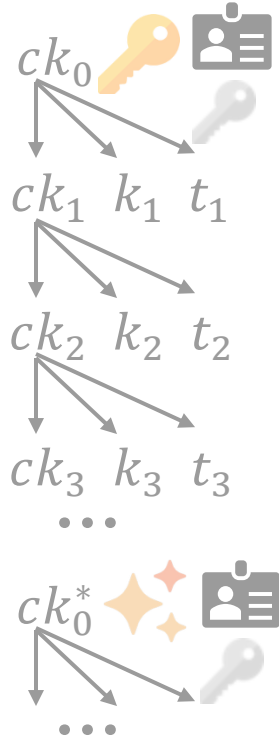
$$\xrightarrow{c'_1, t_1, \sigma_1}$$

$$m_1 = adec_{k_1}(c_1)$$



Encryption (Decryption) (μs)

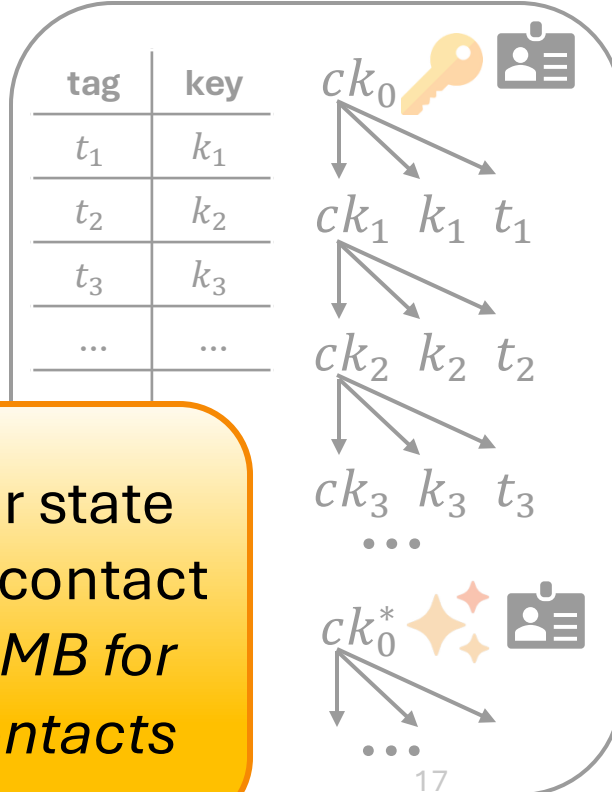
Group Size	2	5	10	100	1000
AW					
SS+SK					



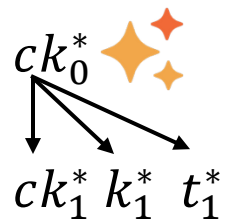
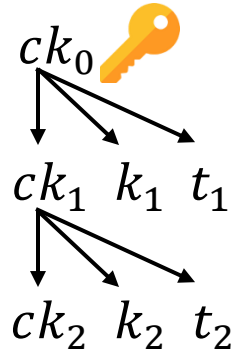
Sender state
+ 192 bytes

	Ciphertext size (bytes)
AW	
SS+SK	

Receiver state
+ 600KB/contact
i.e., 600MB for 1000 contacts



Receiver State: Out-of-Order Delivery



c_1, t_1

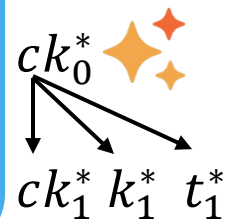
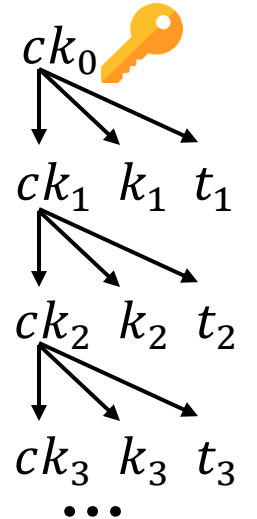
c_2, t_2

No message index to
advance key chain!

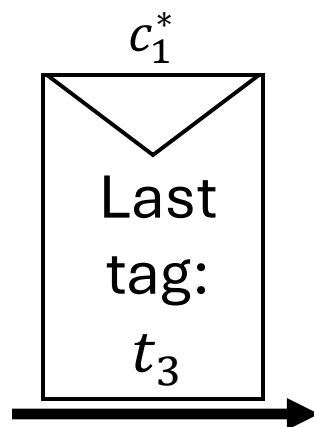
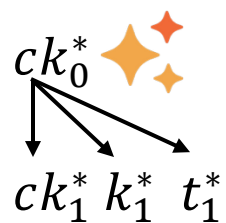
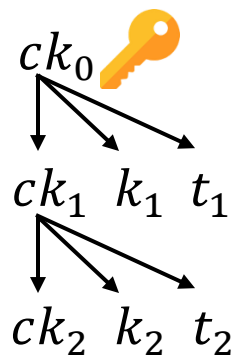
tag	key
t_1	k_1
t_2	k_2
t_3	k_3
t_4	k_4
...	...

t_2 not in receiver state
→ Continue key chain?
→ Discard...?
→ Pre-compute keys 😊

State size: Receiver stores
2000 future pre-computed
keys for each session
+ up to 2000 skipped keys

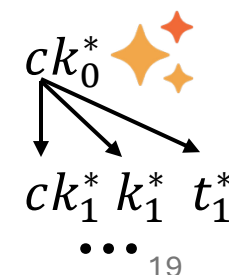
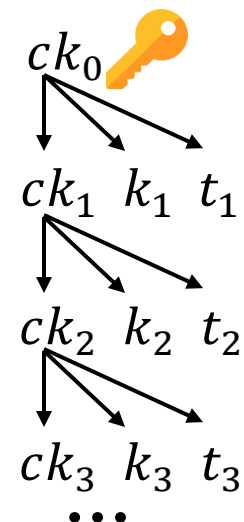


Receiver State: Pre-computed Keys

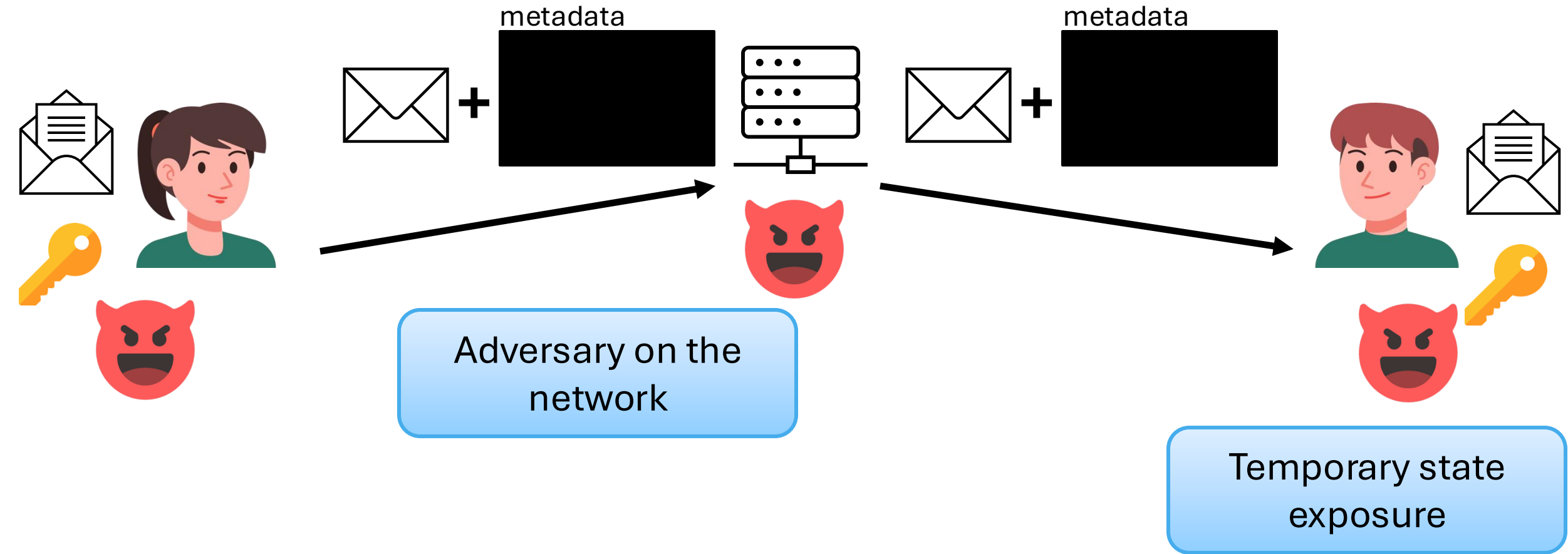


tag	key
t_2	k_2
t_3	k_3
...	...
t_{2003}	t_{2003}

← unnecessary



Threat Model



Goal: Generic Wrapper
Protocol for Anonymity

Metadata in Receiver State



- State exposure should not reveal past communication

But this state is too large, how can we improve?

tag	key
...	...

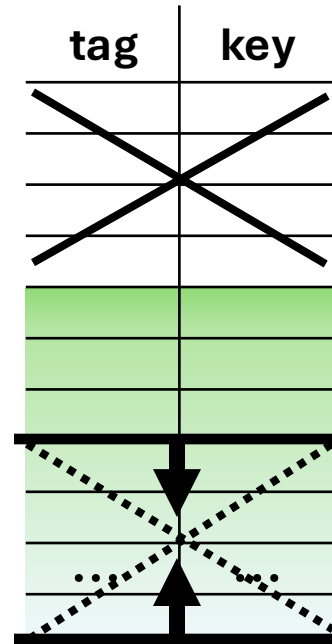
- Only store key derivation order (*no indices*)
- Constant size (may insert dummies)

Improving Size of Receiver State



- Up to 1/3 of receiver state are dummies
- Most pre-computed keys only needed for worst case

Storage size:
38KB/contact
3.8MB/1000 contacts



Don't store dummies

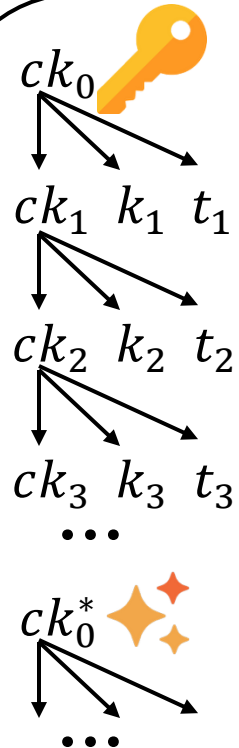
Store only
“*whether tag is receivable*”
(Counting Bloom Filter)

Conclusion



Encryption (Decryption) (μs)					
Group Size	2	5	10	100	1000
AW	21 (32)				
SS+SK	131 (61)	283 (61)	343 (61)	1,116 (61)	6,052 (61)

	Message size (bytes)
AW	155
SS+SK	440 + 68 * group_size



Instead of Sender Keys
+ Sealed Sender

$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(m_1)$$

Or as a generic
wrapper:

$$c'_1 = \text{aenc}_{k_1}(c_1 + \boxed{\text{meta data}})$$

c'_1, t_1

- Signal considers
deploying this
protocol

tag	key
t_1	k_1
t_2	k_2
t_3	k_3
...	...

$$m_1 = \text{adec}_{k_1}(c_1)$$

