



Post Quantum Cryptography in the DNS

Elmer Lastdrager | Lecture Leiden University

19 November 2025





SIDN

... is the registry and operator of the Netherlands' **.nl** country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

... is a not-for-profit private organization with a public role based in **Arnhem**, the Netherlands.

... aims to increase society's confidence in the Internet.



.nl = the Netherlands

18M inhabitants

6.0M domain names

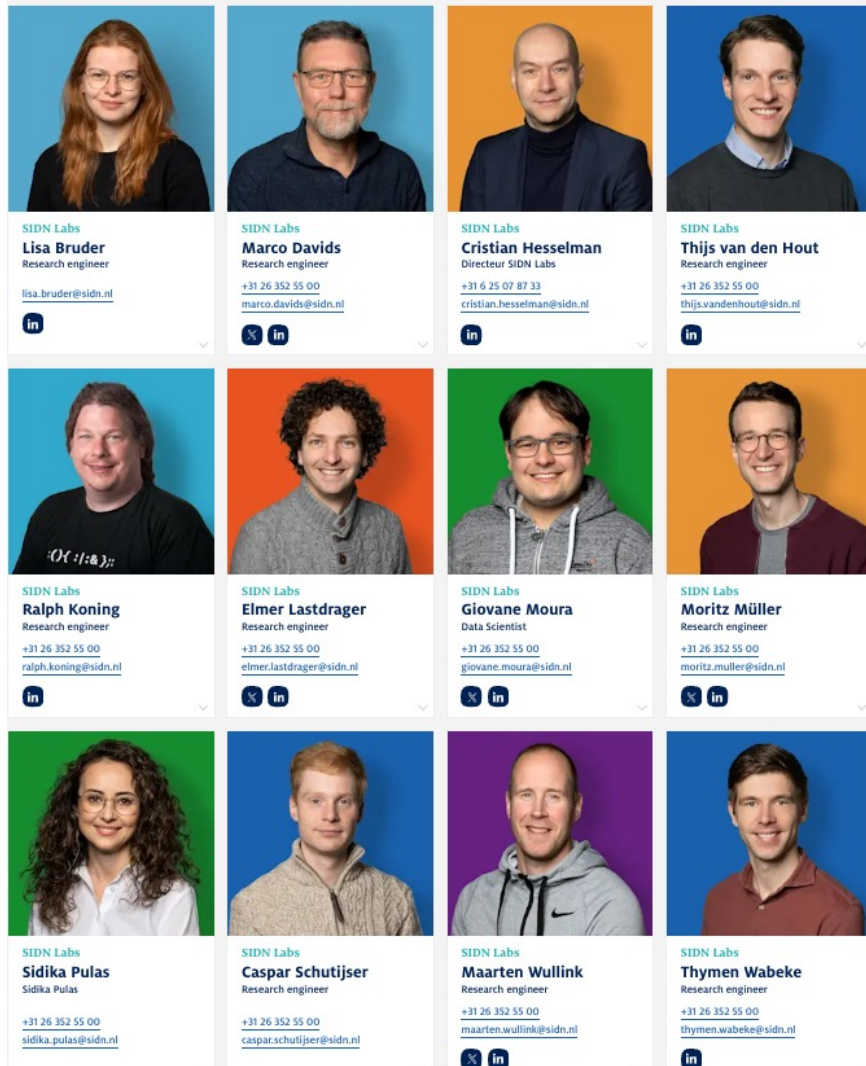
3.7M DNSSEC-signed

5.3B DNS queries/day

8.6B NTP queries/day



SIDN Labs



Technical experts, divers in seniority and nationality

Help SIDN teams, write open-source software, analyze large amounts of data, conduct experiments, write articles, collaborate with universities

M.Sc students help us advance specific areas



Post Quantum Cryptography in the DNS





DNS

The Domain Name System translates human-friendly domain names into IP addresses, forming the backbone of internet navigation.



DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Extensions add cryptographic signatures to DNS data, protecting against spoofing and ensuring data integrity.



Post-Quantum Cryptography

Advanced cryptographic algorithms designed to resist attacks from quantum computers, ensuring future-proof security for internet communications.



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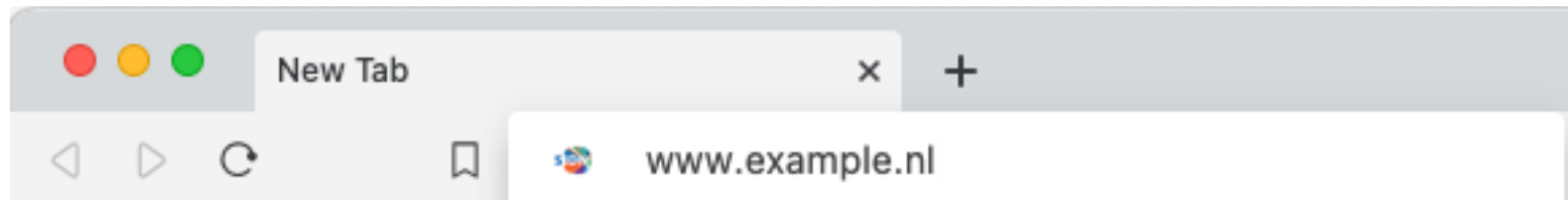
DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Extensions add cryptographic signatures to DNS data, protecting against spoofing and ensuring data integrity.



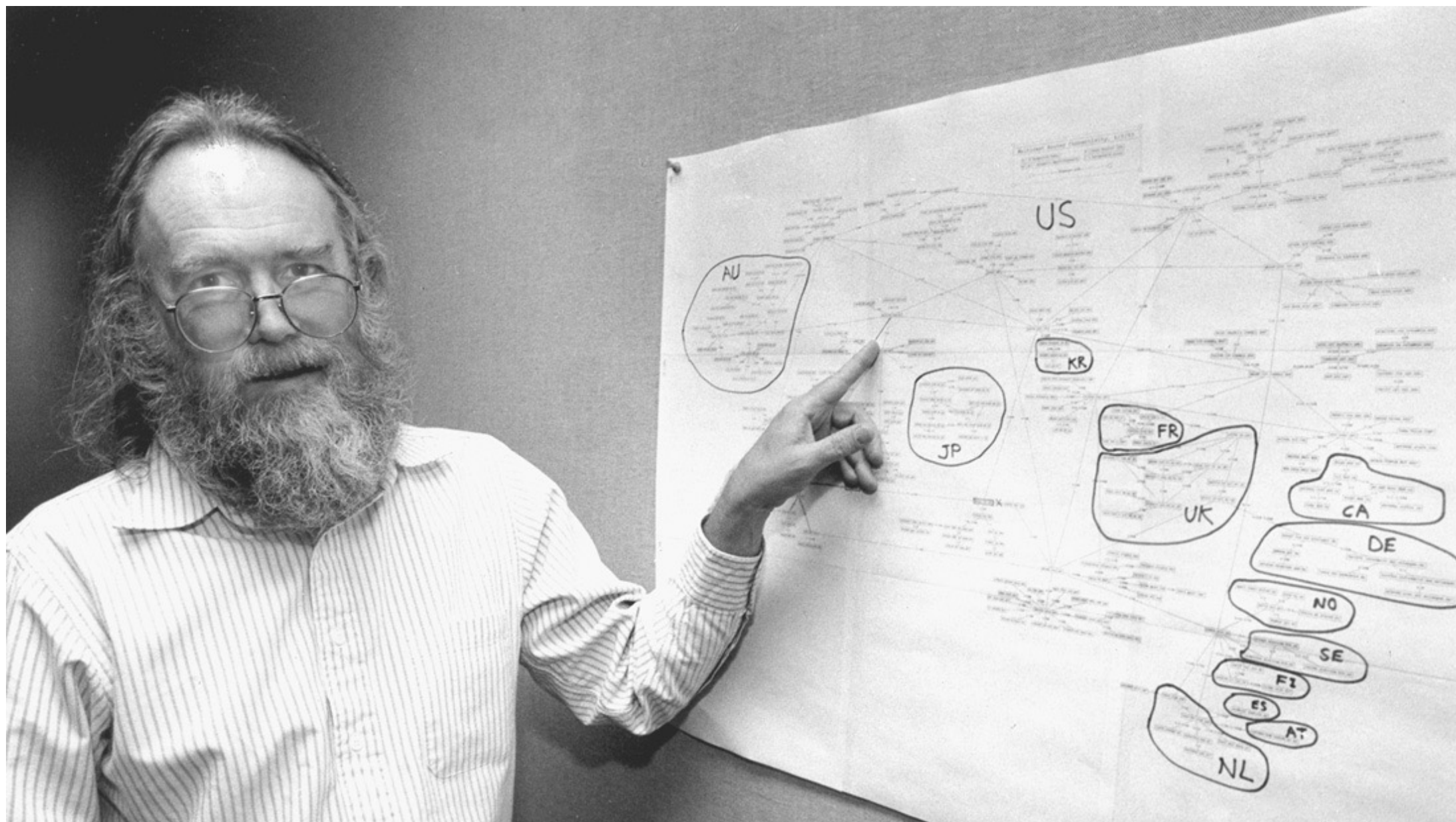
Post-Quantum Cryptography

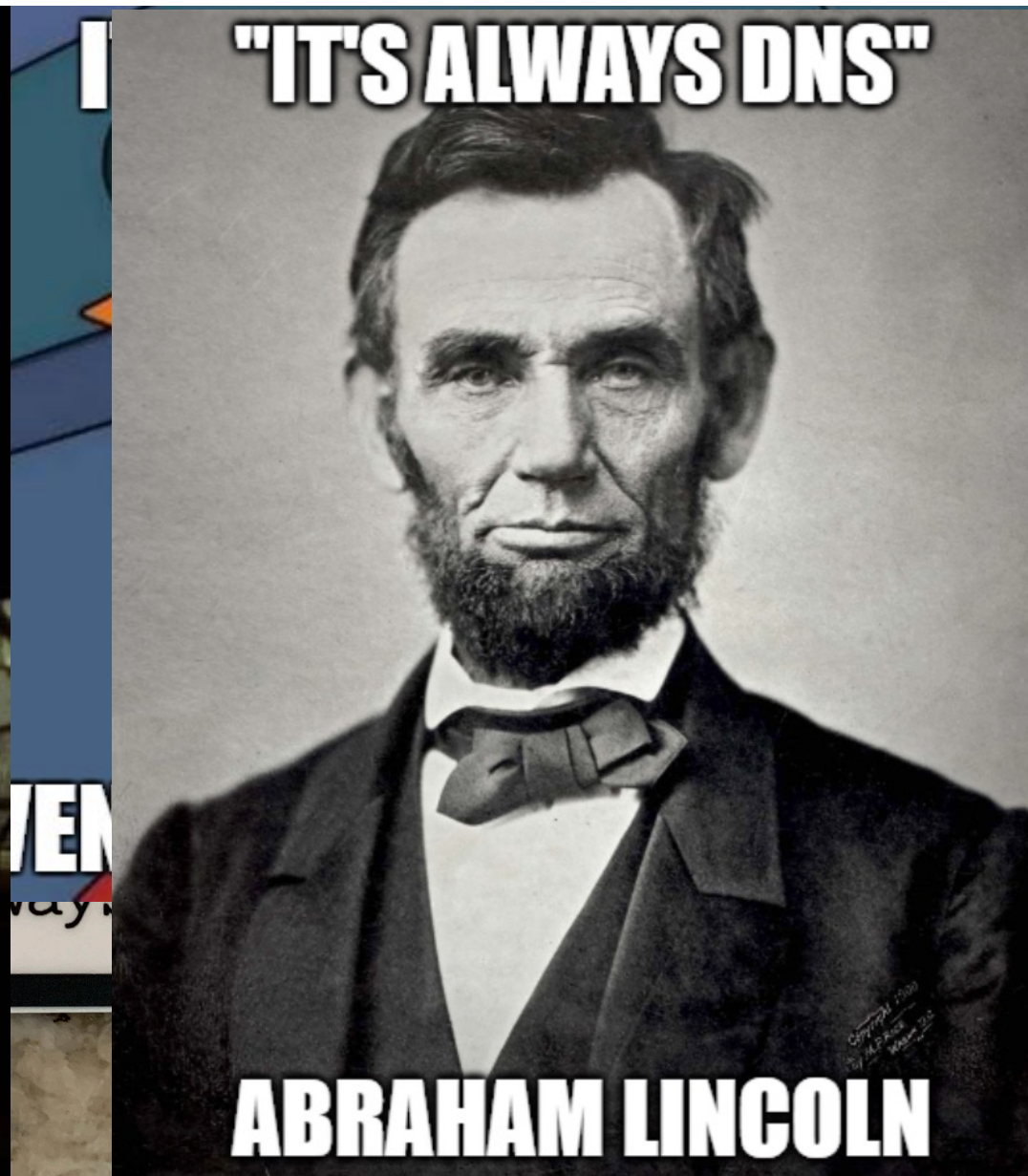
Advanced cryptographic algorithms designed to resist attacks from quantum computers, ensuring future-proof security for internet communications.



2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35







aws.amazon.com

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aws

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Summary of the Amazon DynamoDB Service Disruption in the Northern Virginia (US-EAST-1) Region

We wanted to provide you with some additional information about the service disruption that occurred in the N. Virginia (us-east-1) Region on October 19 and 20, 2025. While the event started at 11:48 PM PDT on October 19 and ended at 2:20 PM PDT on October 20, there were three distinct periods of impact to customer applications. First, between 11:48 PM on October 19 and 2:40 AM on October 20, Amazon DynamoDB experienced increased API error rates in the N. Virginia (us-east-1) Region. Second, between 5:30 AM and 2:09 PM on October 20, Network Load Balancer (NLB) experienced increased connection errors for some load balancers in the N. Virginia (us-east-1) Region. This was caused by health check failures in the NLB fleet, which resulted in increased connection errors on some NLBs. Third, between 2:25 AM and 10:36 AM on October 20, new EC2 instance launches failed and, while instance launches began to succeed from 10:37 AM, some newly launched instances experienced connectivity issues which were resolved by 1:50 PM.

DynamoDB

Between 11:48 PM PDT on October 19 and 2:40 AM PDT on October 20, customers experienced increased Amazon DynamoDB API error rates in the N. Virginia (us-east-1) Region. During this period, customers and other AWS services with dependencies on DynamoDB were unable to establish connections to the service. The incident was triggered by a latent defect within the service's automated DNS management system that caused endpoint resolution failures for DynamoDB.



aws.amazon.com

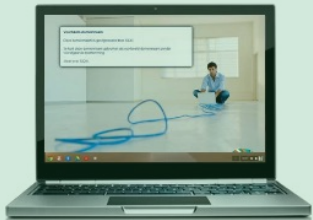
Search dns 1 of 39 Done

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Many of the largest AWS services rely extensively on DNS to provide seamless scale, fault isolation and recovery, low latency, and locality. Services like DynamoDB maintain hundreds of thousands of DNS records to operate a very large heterogeneous fleet of load balancers in each Region. Automation is crucial to ensuring that these DNS records are updated frequently to add additional capacity as it becomes available, to correctly handle hardware failures, and to efficiently distribute traffic to optimize customers' experience. This automation has been designed for resilience, allowing the service to recover from a wide variety of operational issues. In addition to providing a public regional endpoint, this automation maintains additional DNS endpoints for several dynamic DynamoDB variants including a FIPS compliant endpoint, an IPv6 endpoint, and account-specific endpoints. The root cause of this issue was a latent race condition in the DynamoDB DNS management system that resulted in an incorrect empty DNS record for the service's regional endpoint (**dynamodb.us-east-1.amazonaws.com**) that the automation failed to repair. To explain this event, we need to share some details about the DynamoDB DNS management architecture. The system is split across two independent components for availability reasons. The first component, the DNS Planner, monitors the health and capacity of the load balancers and periodically creates a new DNS plan for each of the service's endpoints consisting of a set of load balancers and weights. We produce a single regional DNS plan, as this greatly simplifies capacity management and failure mitigation when capacity is shared across multiple endpoints, as is the case with the recently launched IPv6 endpoint and the public regional endpoint. A second component, the DNS Enactor, which is designed to have minimal dependencies to allow for system recovery in any scenario, enacts DNS plans by applying the required changes in the Amazon Route53 service. For resiliency, the DNS Enactor operates redundantly and fully independently in three different Availability Zones (AZs). Each of these independent instances of the DNS Enactor looks for new plans and attempts to update Route53 by replacing the current plan with a new plan using a Route53 transaction, assuring that each endpoint is updated with a consistent plan even when multiple DNS Enactors attempt to update it concurrently. The race condition involves an unlikely interaction between two of the DNS Enactors. Under normal operations, a DNS Enactor picks up the latest plan and begins working on the service endpoints to apply this plan. This process typically completes rapidly and does an effective job of keeping DNS state freshly updated. Before it begins to apply a new plan, the DNS Enactor makes a one-time check that its plan is newer than the previously applied plan. As the Enactor makes its way through the list of endpoints, it is possible to encounter delays as it attempts a transaction and is blocked by another DNS Enactor updating the same endpoint. In these cases, the DNS Enactor will retry each endpoint until the plan is successfully applied to all endpoints.

User



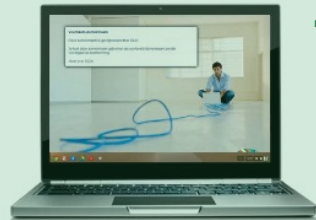
Resolver



Authoritative name servers



User



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Resolver

???



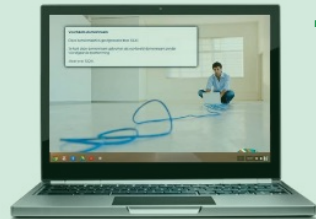
Authoritative name servers



User

Resolver

Authoritative name servers



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Don't know,
ask .nl (...)



.



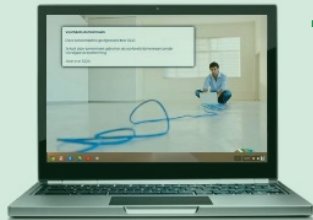
nl



example.nl



User



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Resolver



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Don't know,
ask example.nl

Authoritative name servers



.



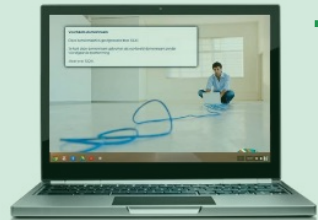
nl



example.nl



User



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Resolver



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

The address is
2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35

Authoritative name servers



.



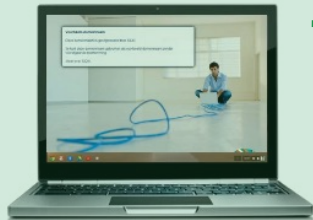
nl



example.nl



User



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

The address is
2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35

Resolver



Authoritative name servers



.

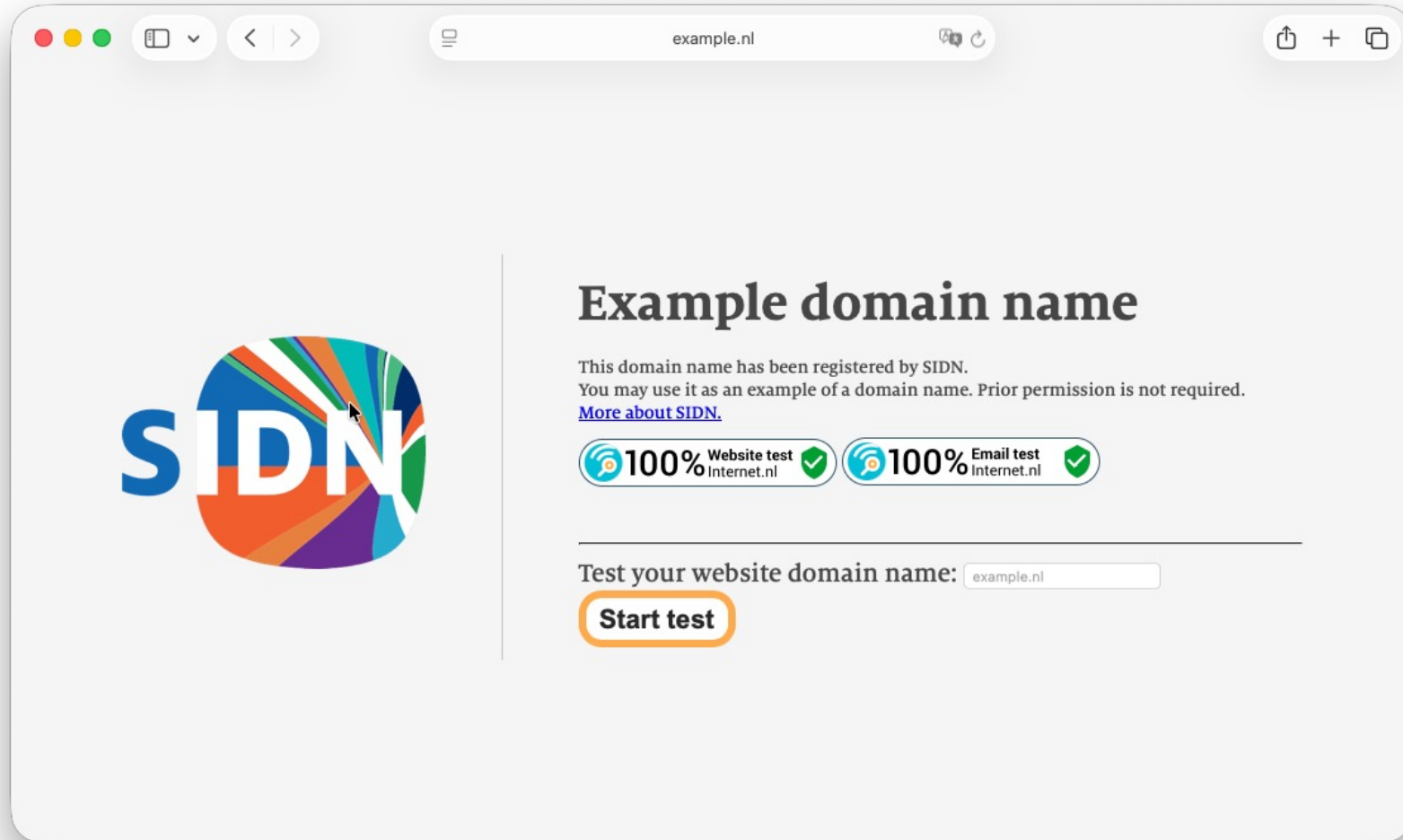


nl

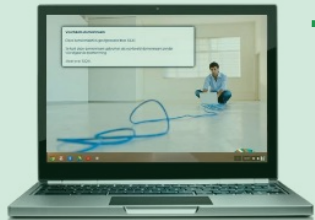


example.nl





User



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Resolver



Don't know,
ask .nl (...)

name servers

Where can I find
www.example.nl ?



.nl



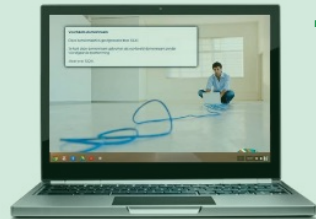
example.nl



User

Resolver

Authoritative name servers



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?



Where can I find
www.example.nl ?

Don't know,
ask example.nl



nl

example.nl



Command line example (1)

We ask for
AAAA
record

```
$ dig +nodnssec www.example.nl AAAA  
@k.root-servers.net
```

```
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns1.dns.nl.
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns3.dns.nl.
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns4.dns.nl.
```

TTL ADDITIONAL SECTION:

```
ns1.dns.nl. 172800 IN A 194.0.28.53
```

```
ns1.dns.nl. 172800 IN AAAA  
2001:678:2c:0:194:0:28:53
```

```
ns3.dns.nl. 172800 IN A 194.0.28.53
```

Results are
NS records

Glue
records

```
ns3.dns.nl. 172800 IN AAAA  
2001:678:20::24
```

```
ns4.dns.nl. 172800 IN A  
185.159.199.200
```

```
ns4.dns.nl. 172800 IN AAAA  
2620:10a:80ac::200
```

```
;; Query time: 7 msec
```

```
;; SERVER:
```

```
2001:7fd::1#53(k.root-  
servers.net) (UDP)
```

```
;; WHEN: Tue Nov 11 09:49:01  
CET 2025
```

```
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 221
```



Command line example (2)

```
$ dig +nodnssec www.example.nl AAAA @ns1.dns.nl
```

```
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
```

```
example.nl. 3600 IN NS ex1.sidnlabs.nl.
```

```
example.nl. 3600 IN NS ex2.sidnlabs.nl.
```

```
example.nl. 3600 IN NS anytest1.sidnlabs.nl.
```

```
;; Query time: 31 msec
```

```
;; SERVER: 2001:678:2c:0:194:0:28:53#53(ns1.dns.nl) (UDP)
```

```
;; WHEN: Tue Nov 11 09:53:26 CET 2025
```

```
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 111
```

How do we know
the IP address of
this name server?



Command line example (3)

```
$ dig +nodnssec www.example.nl AAAA @anytest1.sidnlabs.nl
```

```
www.example.nl. 3600 IN AAAA 2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35
```

```
;; Query time: 4 msec
```

```
;; SERVER: 2001:678:8::53#53(anytest1.sidnlabs.nl.) (UDP)
```

```
;; WHEN: Tue Nov 11 10:49:39 CET 2025
```

```
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 99
```



utun10

dns

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
4	0.786990	94.198.158.3	10.20.7.40	DNS	83	Standard query 0x4903 AAAA example.nl OPT
5	0.788696	10.20.7.40	94.198.158.3	DNS	99	Standard query response 0x4903 AAAA example.nl AAAA 2...
6	0.834830	94.198.158.3	10.20.7.40	DNS	84	Standard query 0xa03d AAAA sidnlabs.nl OPT
7	0.842772	10.20.7.40	94.198.158.3	DNS	100	Standard query response 0xa03d AAAA sidnlabs.nl AAAA ...
8	0.887276	94.198.158.3	10.20.7.40	DNS	81	Standard query 0x1d23 AAAA pkic.org OPT
9	0.895848	10.20.7.40	94.198.158.3	DNS	153	Standard query response 0x1d23 AAAA pkic.org AAAA 260...

..... = Reply code: No error (0)

Questions: 1
 Answer RRs: 1
 Authority RRs: 0
 Additional RRs: 1

Queries
 > example.nl: type AAAA, class IN

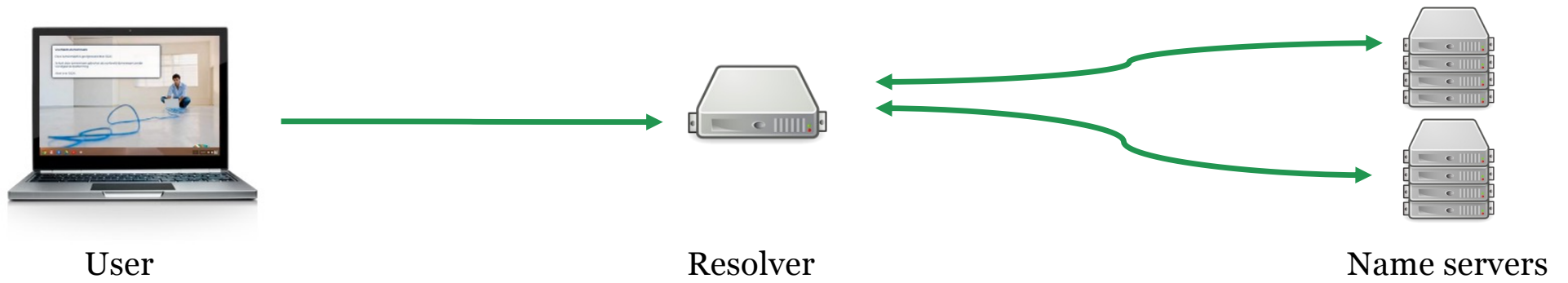
Answers
 > example.nl: type AAAA, class IN, addr 2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35
 Name: example.nl
 Type: AAAA (IPv6 Address) (28)
 Class: IN (0x0001)
 Time to live: 3367
 Data length: 16
 AAAA Address: 2a00:d78:0:712:94:198:159:35

Additional records

0040	00 01 00 00 0d 27 00 10	2a 00 0d 78 00 00 07 12	'..*..x....
0050	00 94 01 98 01 59 00 35	00 00 29 04 d0 00 00 00	Y.5 ..).....

Response Length (dns.resp.len), 2 bytes

Packets: 44 · Displayed: 6 (13.6%) · Dropped: 0 (0.0%) · Profile: Default



DoH, DoT, DoQ, DNScript



DNSSEC



DNS

The Domain Name System translates human-friendly domain names into IP addresses, forming the backbone of internet navigation.



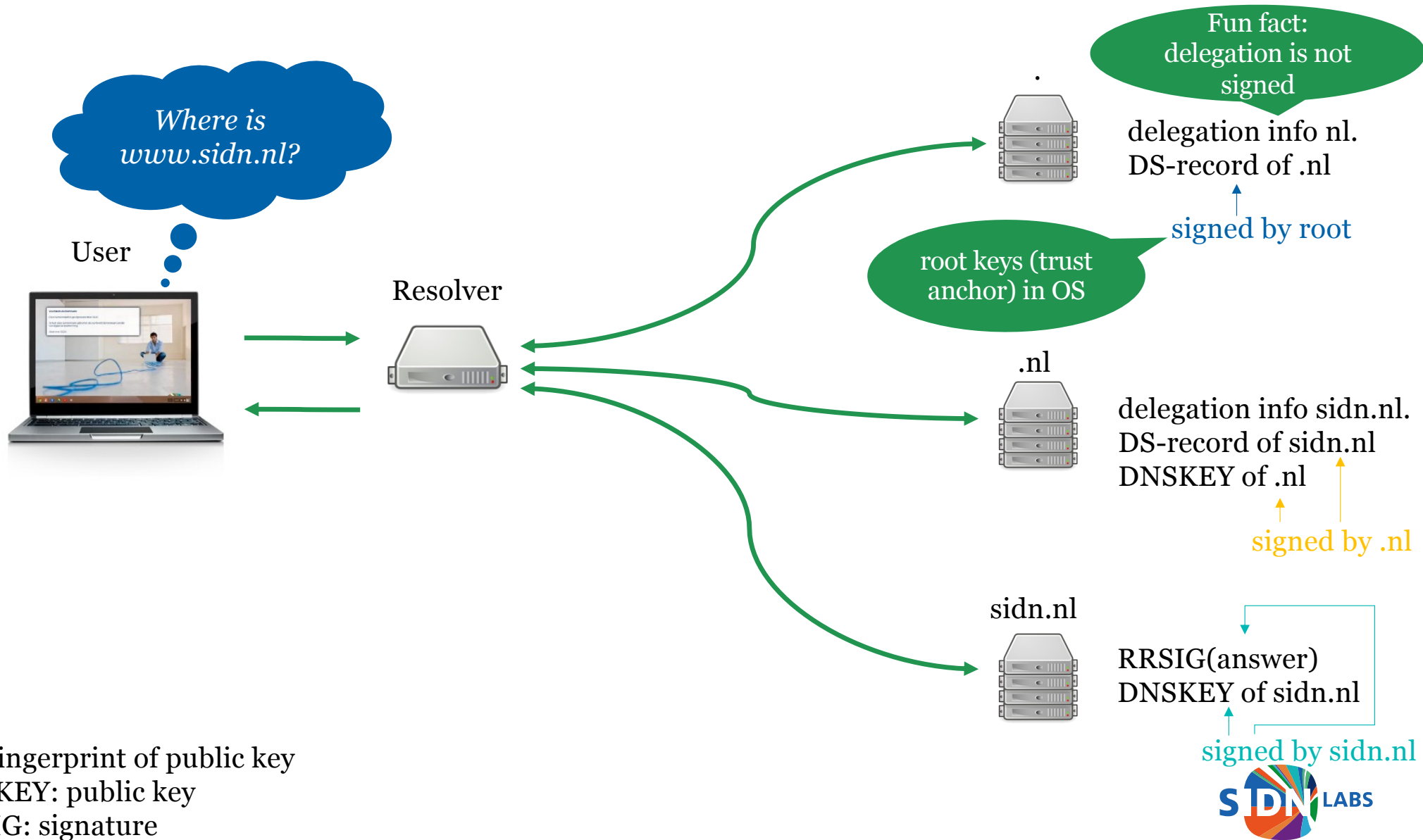
DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Extensions add cryptographic signatures to DNS data, protecting against spoofing and ensuring data integrity.



Post-Quantum Cryptography

Advanced cryptographic algorithms designed to resist attacks from quantum computers, ensuring future-proof security for internet communications.



Command line example DNSSEC

```
$ dig +dnssec +nocrypto nl NS @k.root-servers.net
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns1.dns.nl.
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns3.dns.nl.
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns4.dns.nl.
```

```
nl. 86400 IN DS 17153 13 2 ([omitted] )
```

```
nl. 86400 IN RRSIG DS 8 1 86400 (
```

```
20251124050000 20251111040000 61809 .
```

```
[omitted] )
```

```
[.....]
```

delegation is not
signed at this level

Command line example DNSSEC (2)

```
$ dig +dnssec +nocrypto nl NS @ns1.dns.nl
```

```
nl. 172800 IN NS ns1.dns.nl.
```

```
[...]
```

```
nl. 172800 IN RRSIG NS 13 1 172800 (20251120235718  
20251106230727 12711 nl. [omitted] )
```

delegation is
signed here

```
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
```

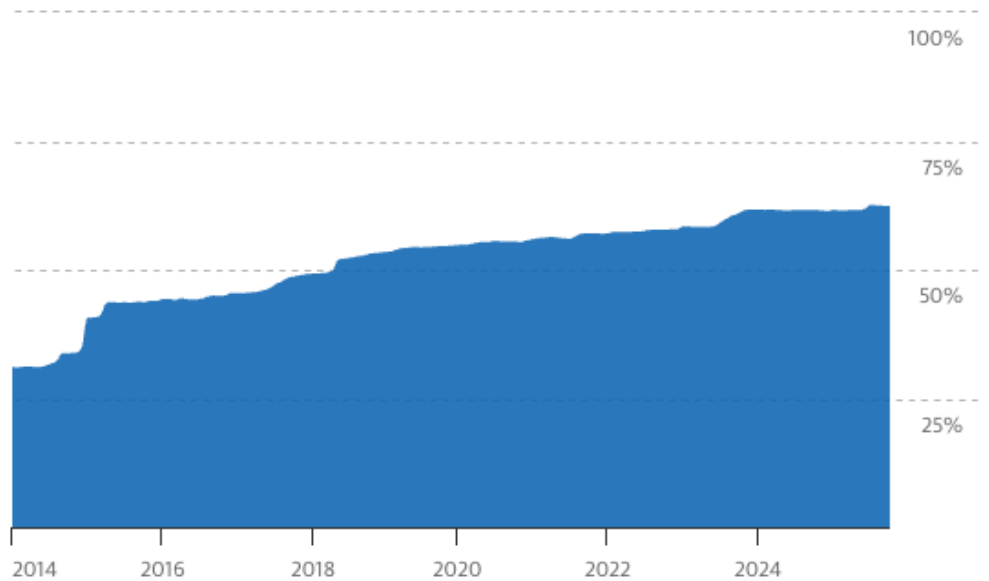
```
ns1.dns.nl. 3600 IN A 194.0.28.53
```

```
ns1.dns.nl. 3600 IN RRSIG A 13 3 3600 (20251120083310  
20251106050725 12711 nl. [omitted] )
```

also records are
signed

DNSSEC for .nl

Domain names with DNSSEC



~62%

Queries from validating resolvers



~60%

Source: <https://stats.sidnlabs.nl/en>

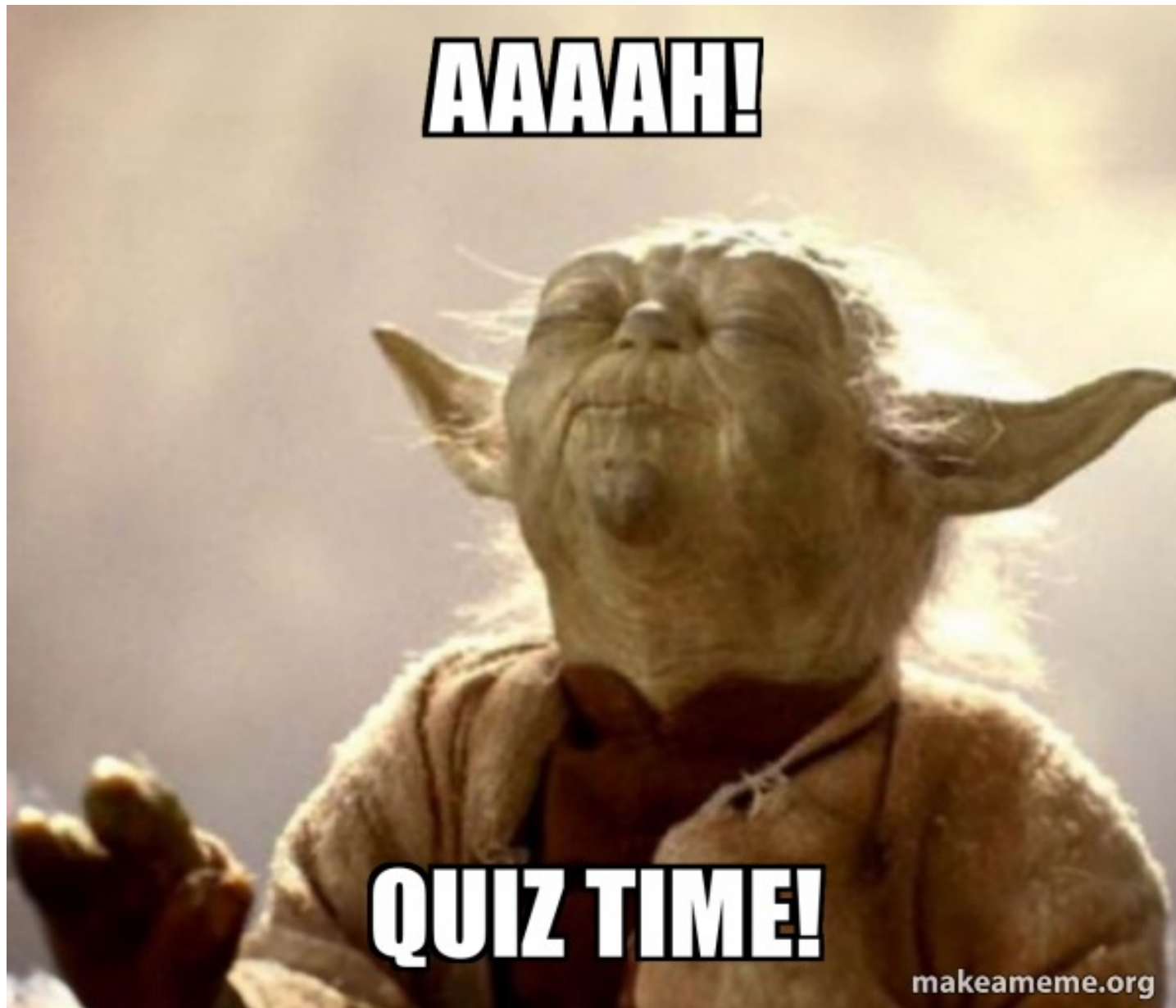




Jürgen Henn – 11foot8.com









DNS

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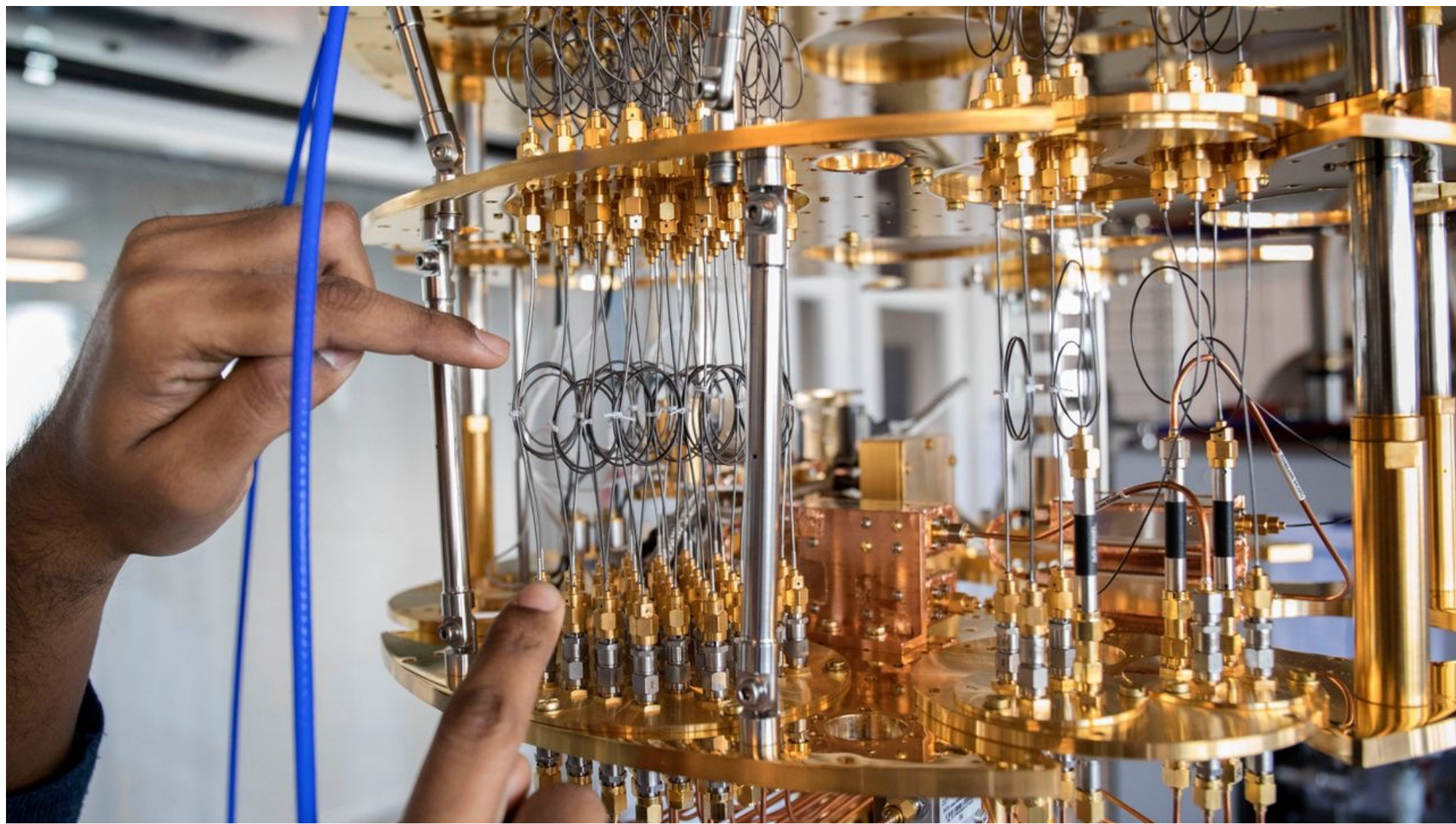
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Advanced cryptographic algorithms designed to resist attacks from quantum computers, ensuring future-proof security for internet communications.



Polynomial-Time Algorithms for Prime Factorization and Discrete Logarithms on a Quantum Computer*

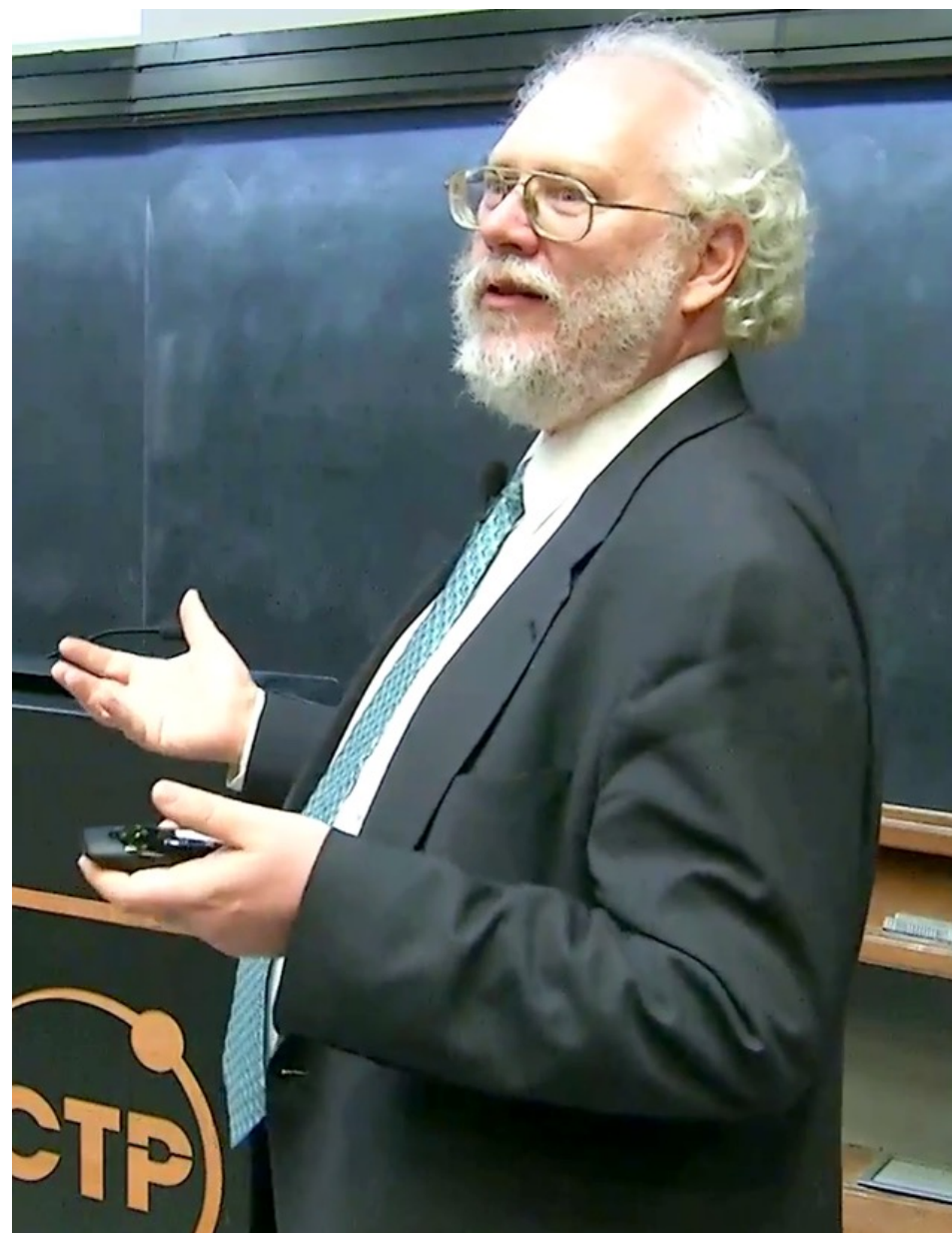
Peter W. Shor[†]

Abstract

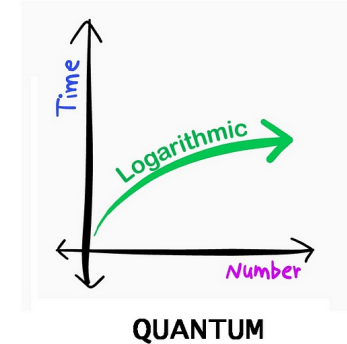
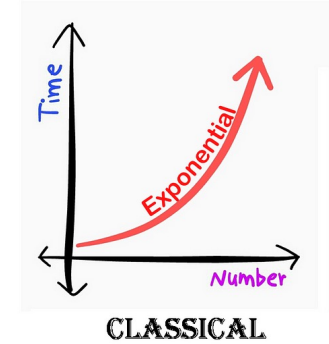
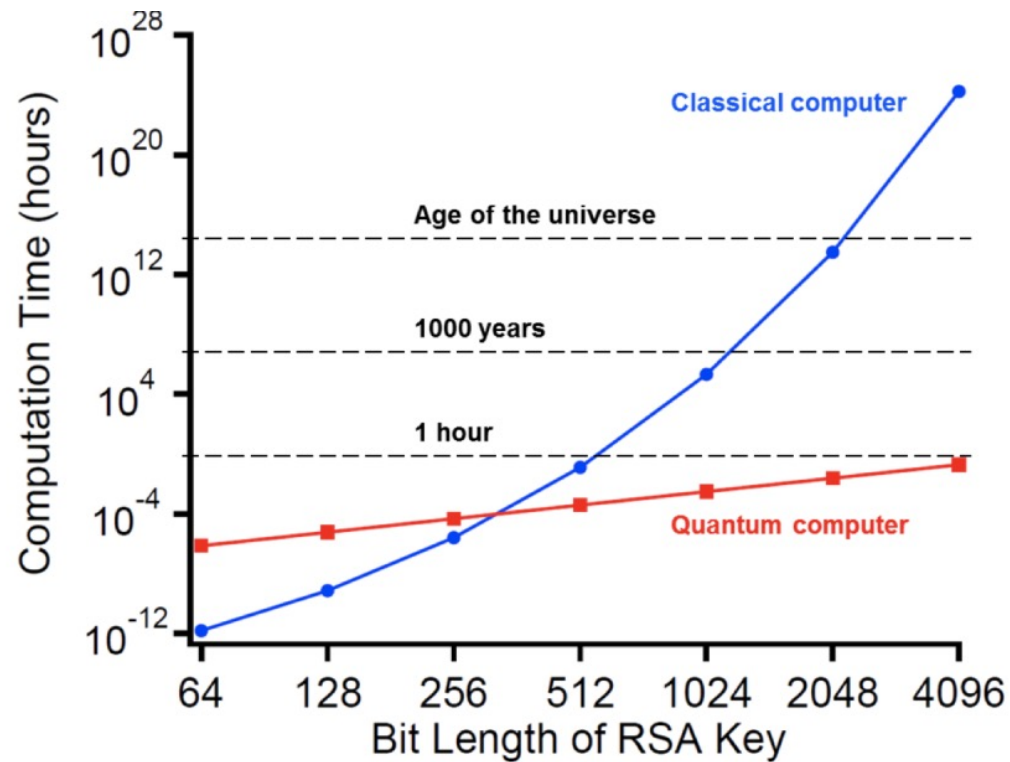
A digital computer is generally believed to be an efficient universal computing device; that is, it is believed able to simulate any physical computing device with an increase in computation time by at most a polynomial factor. This may not be true when quantum mechanics is taken into consideration. This paper considers factoring integers and finding discrete logarithms, two problems which are generally thought to be hard on a classical computer and which have been used as the basis of several proposed cryptosystems. Efficient randomized algorithms are given for these two problems on a hypothetical quantum computer. These algorithms take a number of steps polynomial in the input size, e.g., the number of digits of the integer to be factored.

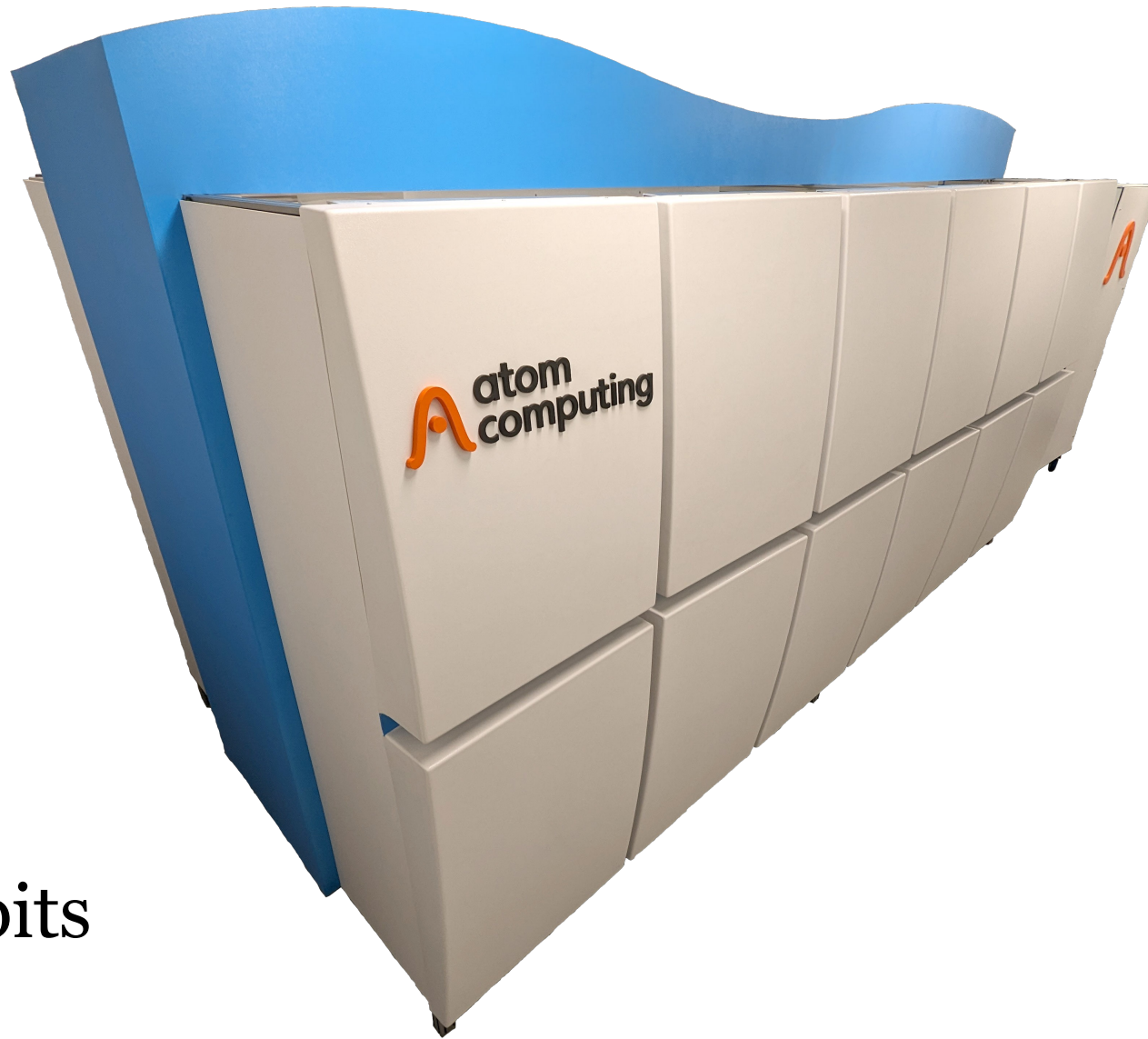
Keywords: algorithmic number theory, prime factorization, discrete logarithms, Church's thesis, quantum computers, foundations of quantum mechanics, spin systems, Fourier transforms

AMS subject classifications: 81P10, 11Y05, 68Q10, 03D10



Quantum computers and cryptographic keys





1180 qubits

Algorithm	Key size	Security	Logical qubits	Physical qubits	Time to break
RSA	1024 bits	80 bits	2.290	~ 2.560.000 bits	3.5 uur
RSA	2048 bits	112 bits	4.338	~ 6.200.000 bits	29 uur
RSA	4096 bits	128 bits	8.434	~ 14.700.000 bits	10 dagen
ECC	256 bits	128 bits	2.330	~ 3.210.000 bits	11 uur

Source: National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2018. Quantum Computing: Progress and Prospects. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.
<https://doi.org/10.17226/25196>. Tabel 4.1



State of the post-quantum Internet in 2025

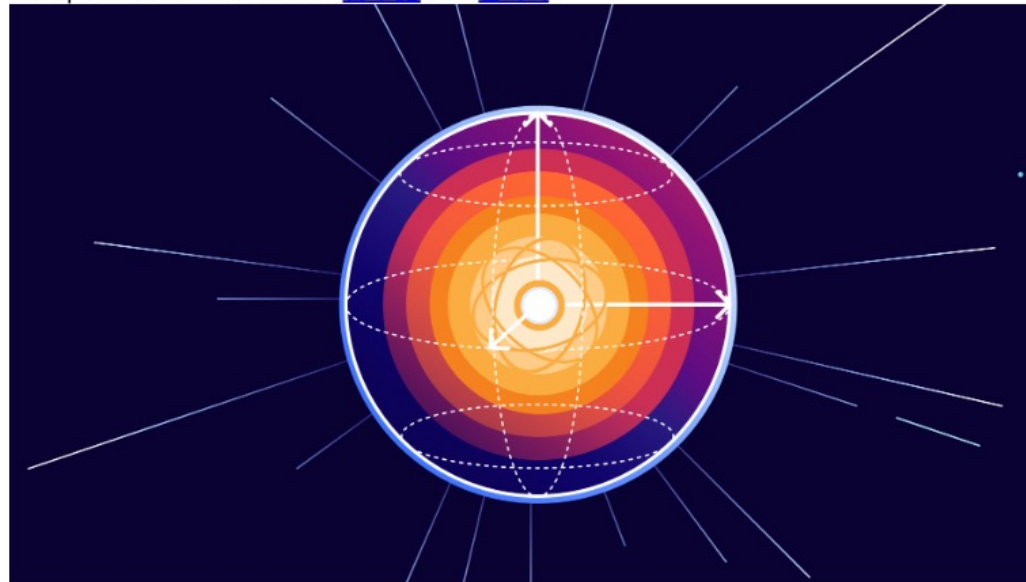
2025-10-28



Bas Westerbaan

41 min read

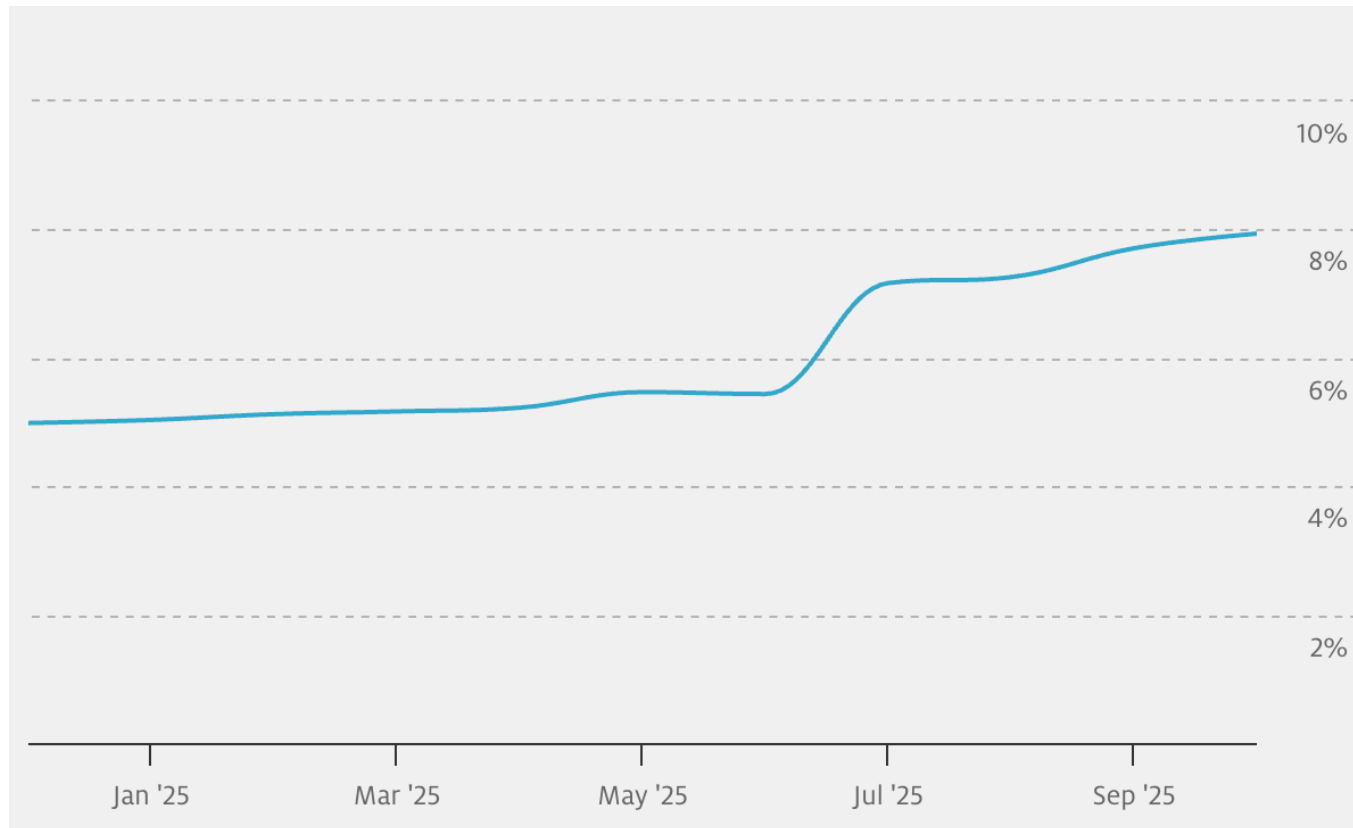
This post is also available in [日本語](#) and [한국어](#).



This week, the last week of October 2025, we reached a major milestone for Internet security: the majority of human-initiated traffic with Cloudflare is [using](#) post-quantum encryption mitigating the [threat](#) of [harvest-now/decrypt-later](#).



.nl websites **HTTPS** secured with PQC algorithm



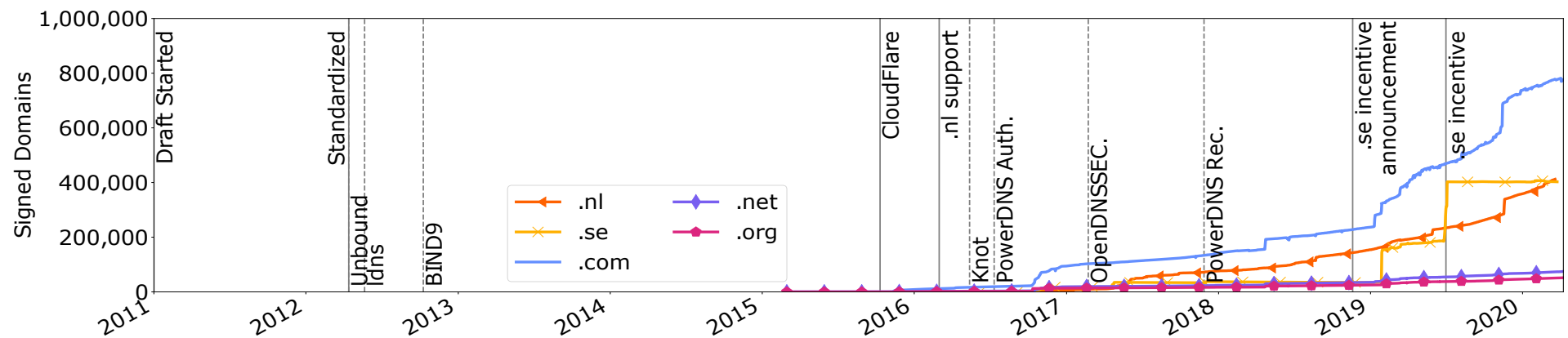
<https://stats.sidnlabs.nl/en/web.html#websites%20secured%20with%20pqc%20algorithm>







Time to deploy new algorithm in DNSSEC, +- 10 years



Timeline showing deployment of ECDSA256
from 'Making DNSSEC Future Proof' by Moritz Müller.

Post-quantum Algorithms Testing and Analysis for the DNS



Hardware
support
(AVX2)

Proof of
nonexistence

4 algorithms

3 zone files



Algorithm	Public key size	Signature size
RSA-1280	162*	160
ECDSA-P256	64	64
Falcon-512	897	666
MAYO-2 (R1)	5488	180

all numbers are in bytes

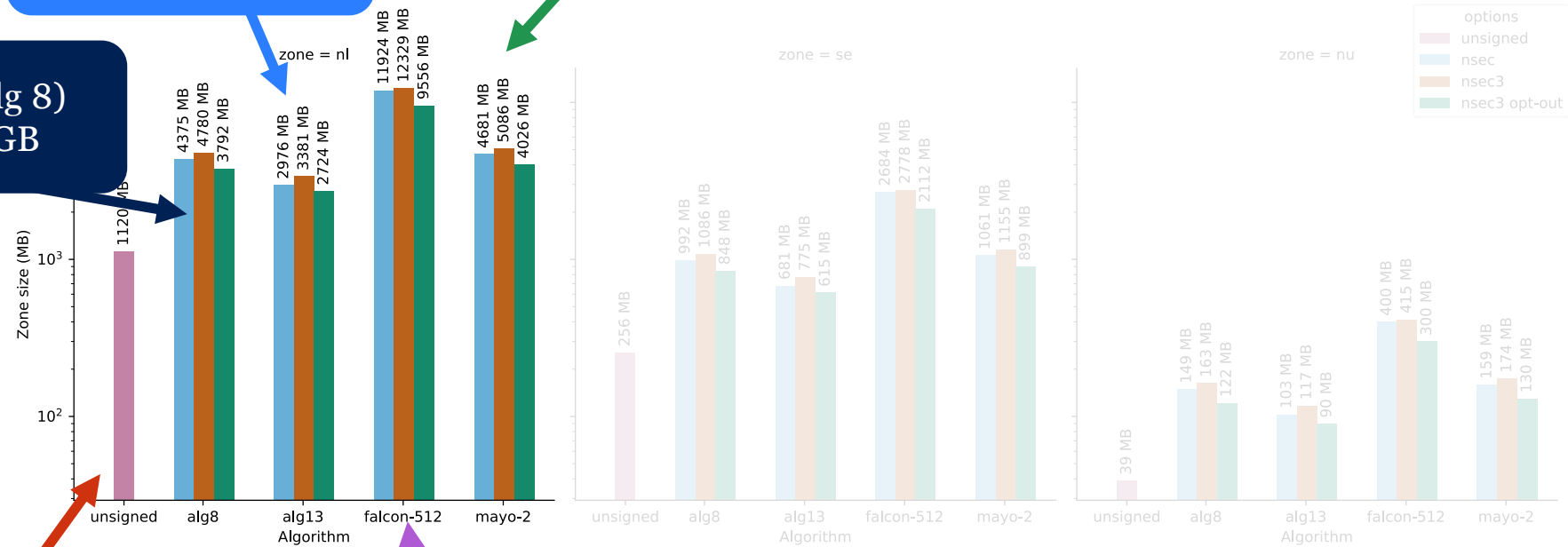


Zone sizes

ECC (alg 13)
~3 GB

Mayo ~5 GB

RSA (alg 8)
~4.5 GB

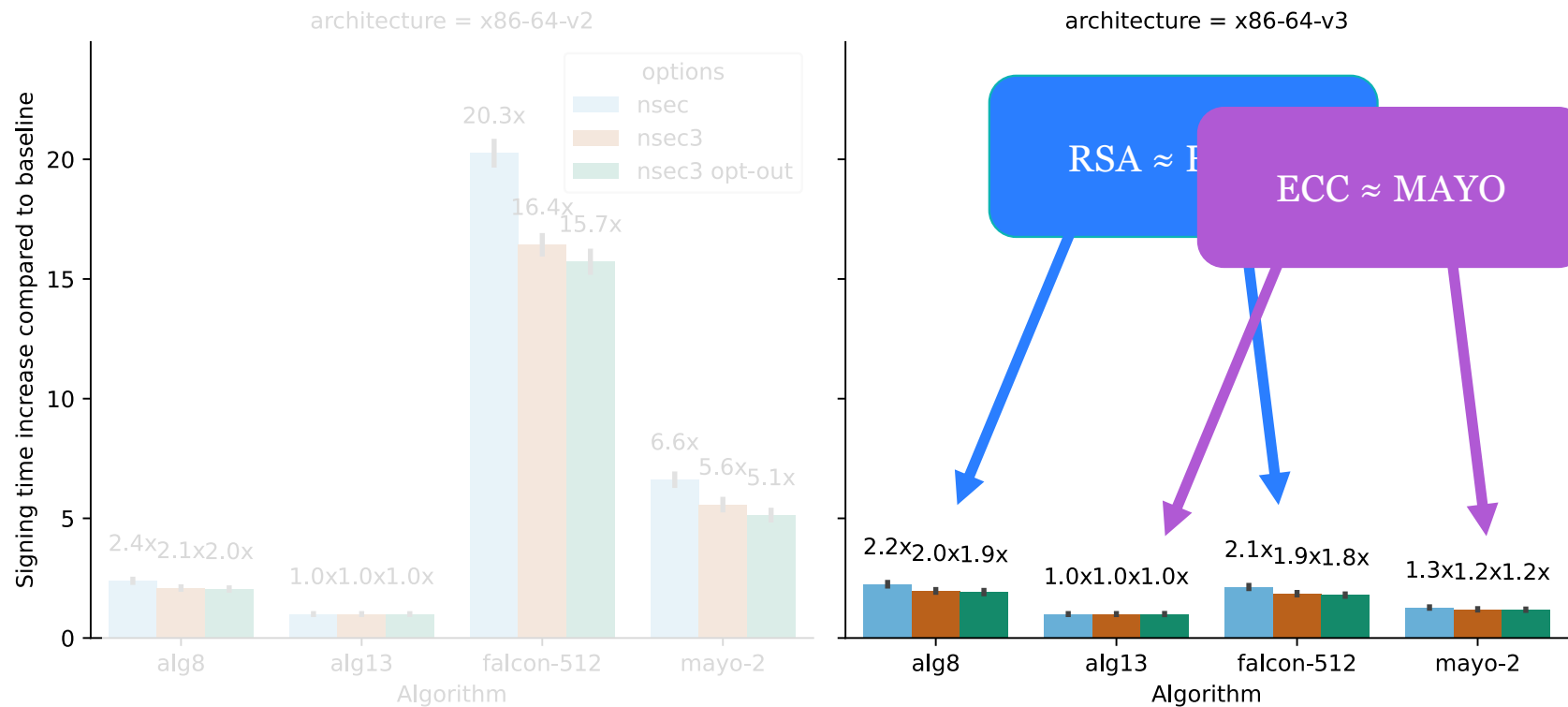


Unsigned ~1 GB

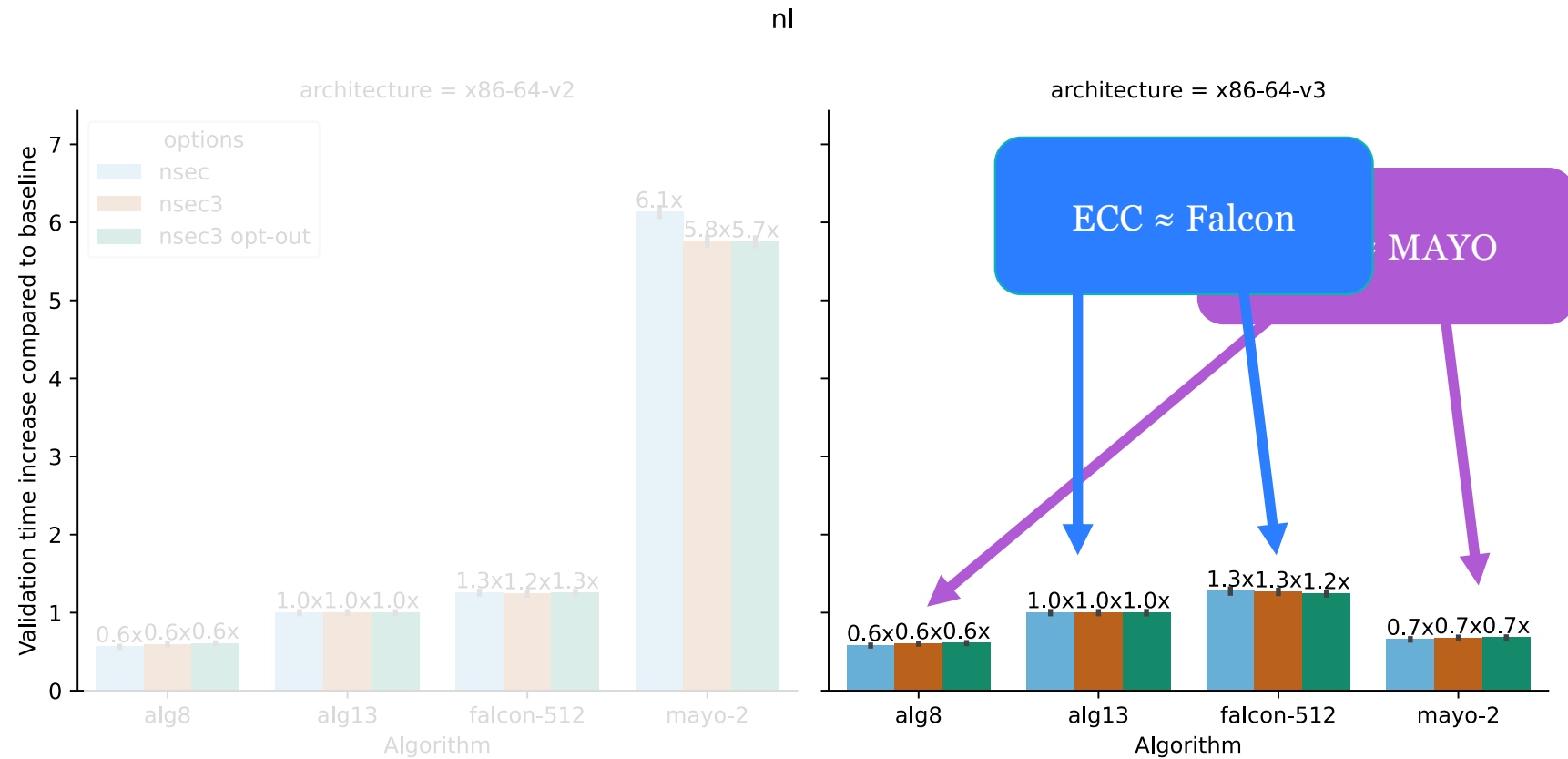
Falcon ~12 GB

Signing time of entire .nl zone

nl



Validating the entire .nl zone



CAN WE FIX IT ?

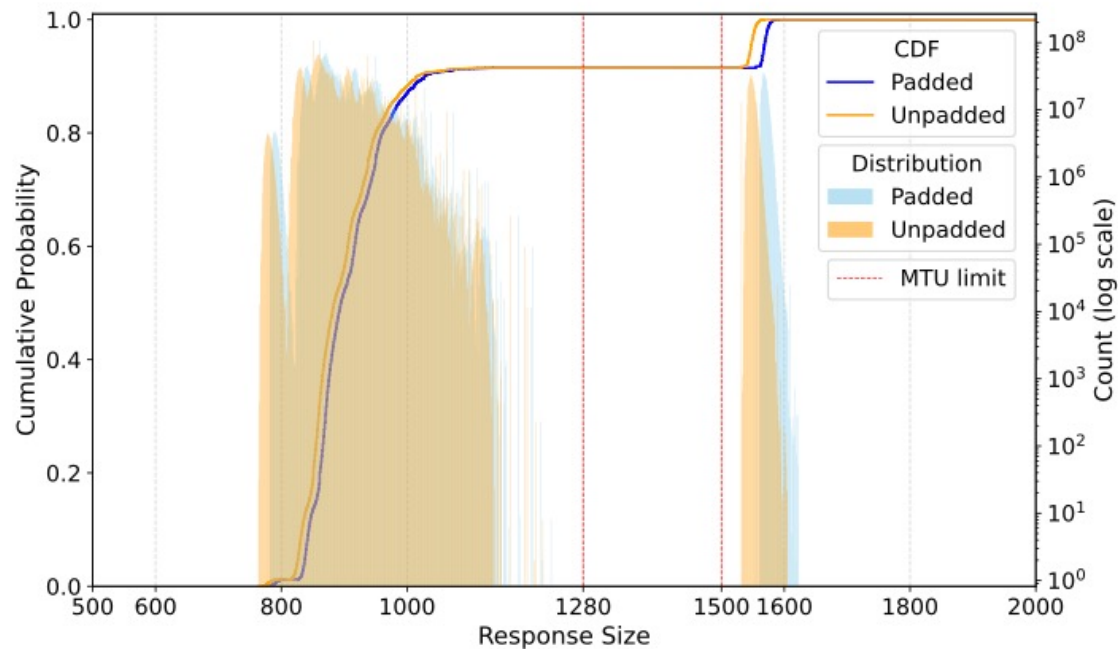
YES WE CAN!!

WHAT'S

NEXT?



Falcon for .nl: padded or unpadded



Fabrizio et al, *PQC for DNSSEC: a format size analysis on Falcon signatures*

In: ANRW 2025.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3744200.3744767>

Response size	Response code	Response behavior
<77*	REFUSED (5)*	empty response*
764–1,229	NOERROR (0)	the requested records
1,532–1,622	NOERROR (0)	1 signed NSEC3 record
2,269–2,420	NXDOMAIN (3)	2 signed NSEC3 records
3,075–3,767	NXDOMAIN (3)	3 signed NSEC3 records

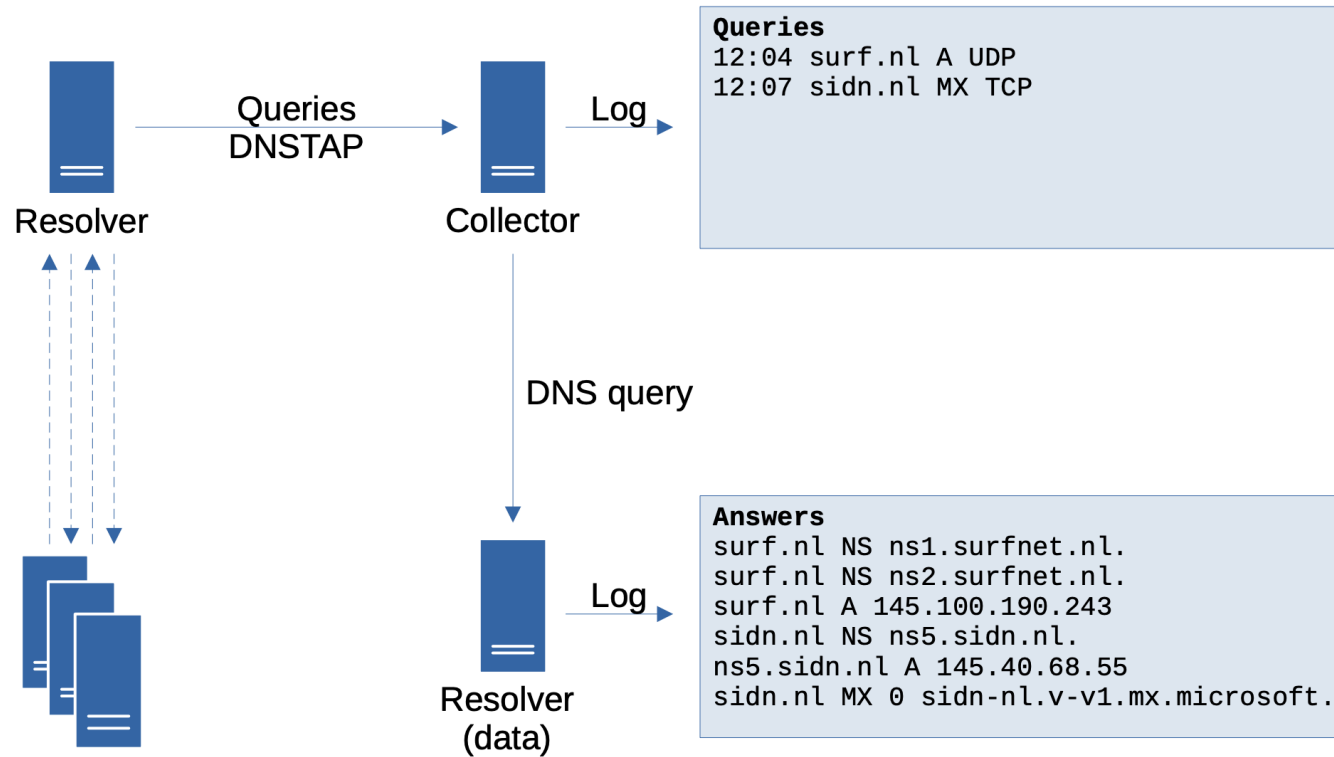
*Not shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Table 2: DNS response sizes clearly map to certain response behaviors

Impact of more TCP on authoritative nameservers



Measuring impact on resolvers



Add more algorithms to our testbed



About QR-UOV

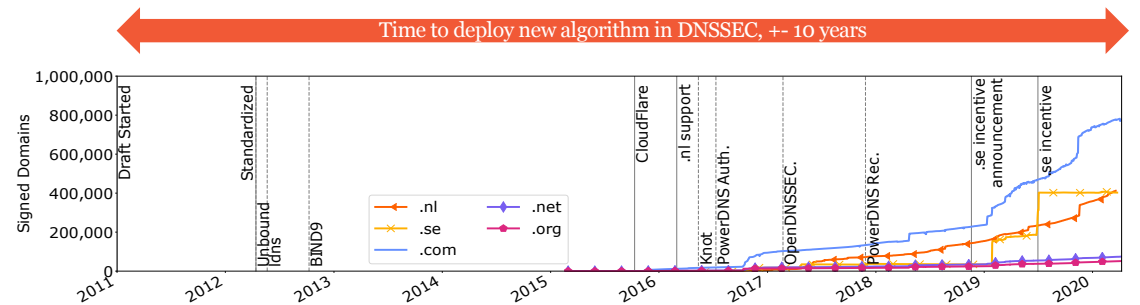
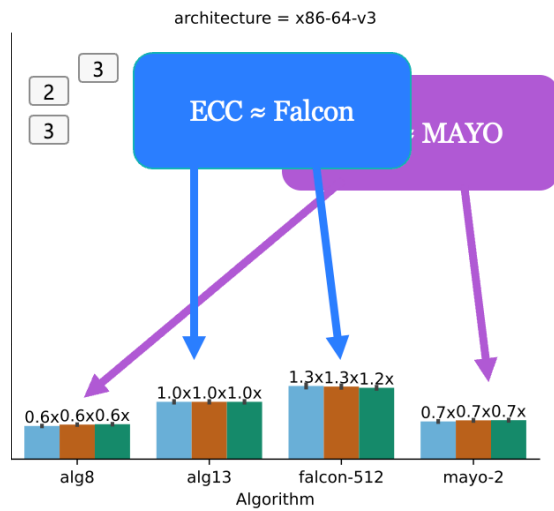
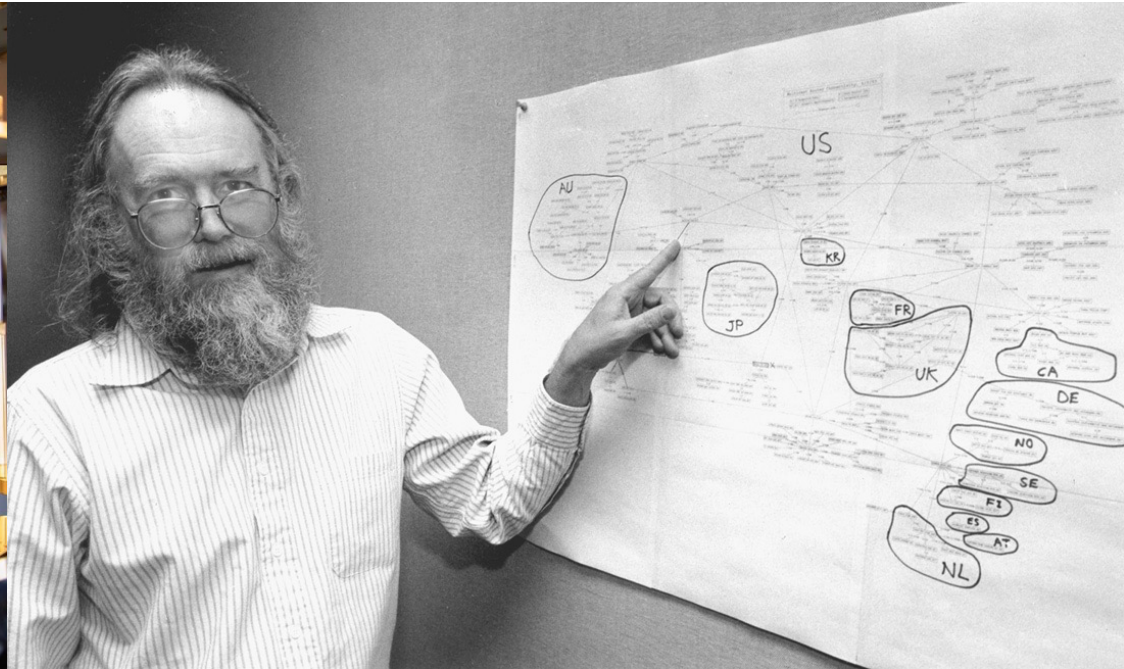
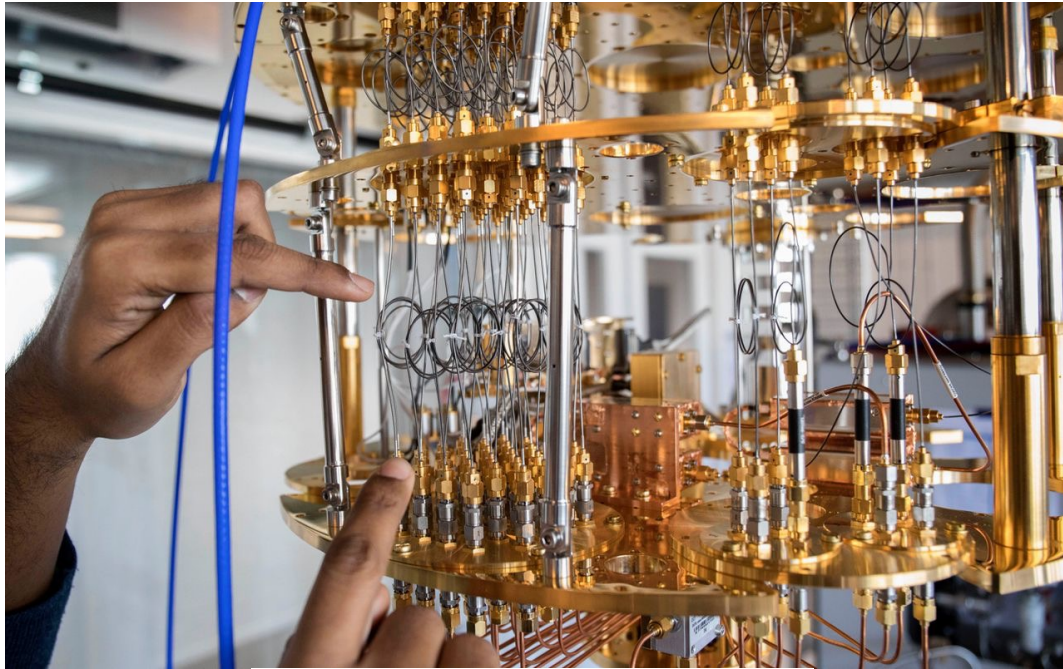
The QR-UOV is an efficient signature scheme for the UOV scheme by using a polynomial quotient ring. The polynomial multiplication is embedded in a special matrix for fast processing.

🔗 MTL

MTL Reference Library Implementation based on [draft-harvey-cfrg-mtl-mode-00](#)

Dependencies

- libcrypto from openssl version 3.1.0 or newer (or substitute crypto operations to other functions)
- liboqs version 0.7.2 or newer (for the examples). To include the liboqs library as a dependency, change the `-loqs` to `-l:path/liboqs.a` in the examples/Makefile.am.
- Applications using the MTL Reference Library should also link with the C math library.



Thank you for your attention!



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example.nl-unbound-dump.pcap							
Apply a display filter ... <%%/>							
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info	
1	0.000000	192.203.230.10	94.198.158.36	DNS	1125	Standard query response 0x2989 NS <Root> NS a.root-servers.ne	
2	0.011235	170.247.170.2	94.198.158.36	DNS	584	Standard query response 0x87bd A nl NS ns1.dns.nl NS ns3.dns.	
3	0.027024	185.159.199.200	94.198.158.36	DNS	281	Standard query response 0x1de5 A example.nl NS ex1.sidnlabs.n	
4	0.035317	2001:678:2c:0:194:...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	425	Standard query response 0xa342 A sidnlabs.nl NS ns1.sidnlabs.	
5	0.036317	194.0.28.53	94.198.158.36	DNS	405	Standard query response 0x6110 A sidnlabs.nl NS ns1.sidnlabs.	
6	0.036672	194.0.25.24	94.198.158.36	DNS	405	Standard query response 0x7b6f A sidnlabs.nl NS ns1.sidnlabs.	
7	0.038421	185.159.199.200	94.198.158.36	DNS	405	Standard query response 0x57ea A sidnlabs.nl NS ns5.sidn.nl N	
8	0.038582	2620:10a:80ac::200	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	425	Standard query response 0x403b A sidnlabs.nl NS ns1.sidnlabs.	
9	0.039333	94.198.159.8	94.198.158.36	DNS	195	Standard query response 0x53f0 A ex2.sidnlabs.nl A 147.75.205	
10	0.040034	94.198.159.8	94.198.158.36	DNS	200	Standard query response 0x122f A anytest1.sidnlabs.nl A 194.0	
11	0.043454	194.0.28.11	94.198.158.36	DNS	195	Standard query response 0x84b3 A ex2.sidnlabs.nl A 147.75.205	
12	0.043891	2001:678:2c:0:194:...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	215	Standard query response 0x9369 A ex1.sidnlabs.nl A 94.198.159	
13	0.045468	2604:1380:4601:5c0...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	220	Standard query response 0xade4 A anytest1.sidnlabs.nl A 194.0	
14	0.046670	194.0.28.11	94.198.158.36	DNS	195	Standard query response 0x65ad A ex1.sidnlabs.nl A 94.198.159	
15	0.047101	2001:678:2c:0:194:...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	227	Standard query response 0xbe8b AAAA ex2.sidnlabs.nl AAAA 2604	
16	0.047458	194.0.5.53	94.198.158.36	DNS	193	Standard query response 0x69a5 A www.example.nl A 94.198.159.	
17	0.049864	94.198.159.8	94.198.158.36	DNS	205	Standard query response 0xdc5d AAAA www.example.nl AAAA 2a00:	
18	0.052824	2604:1380:4601:5c0...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	227	Standard query response 0x32bb AAAA ex1.sidnlabs.nl AAAA 2a00	
19	0.053097	2001:678:2c:0:194:...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	232	Standard query response 0xd90c AAAA anytest1.sidnlabs.nl AAAA	
20	0.054381	2001:7fe::53	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	1189	Standard query response 0x6f6d DNSKEY <Root> DNSKEY DNSKEY DN	
21	0.061480	2001:500:1::53	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	763	Standard query response 0xb605 No such name A _ta-4f66-9728 N	
22	0.069406	2001:678:2c:0:194:...	2a00:d78:0:714:800...	DNS	337	Standard query response 0x567f DNSKEY nl DNSKEY DNSKEY RRSIG	
23	0.074444	94.198.159.8	94.198.158.36	DNS	253	Standard query response 0x47e4 DNSKEY example.nl DNSKEY RRSIG	