



# AUTO-ISAC

## The SMEP Attack

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XC-CE/ECS1

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Öffentlich C-SC0



# The SMEP Attack

## RSA

Public key

$$e, n = pq$$

Private key

$$d$$

with  $x^{(e \cdot d)} \bmod n = x$

Signing of  $m$

$$s = m^d \bmod n$$

Verification of  $s$

$$m = ? = s^e \bmod n$$

Encryption of  $m$

$$c = m^e \bmod n$$

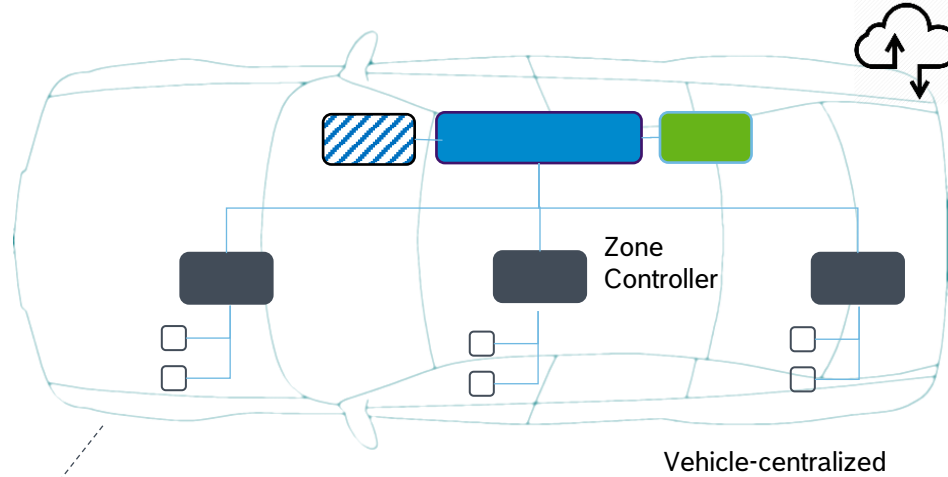
Decryption of  $c$

$$m = c^d \bmod n$$

Promise: its not getting worse 🙄

# The SMEP Attack

## EE Architecture, Gateways or Zone Controllers and Switches

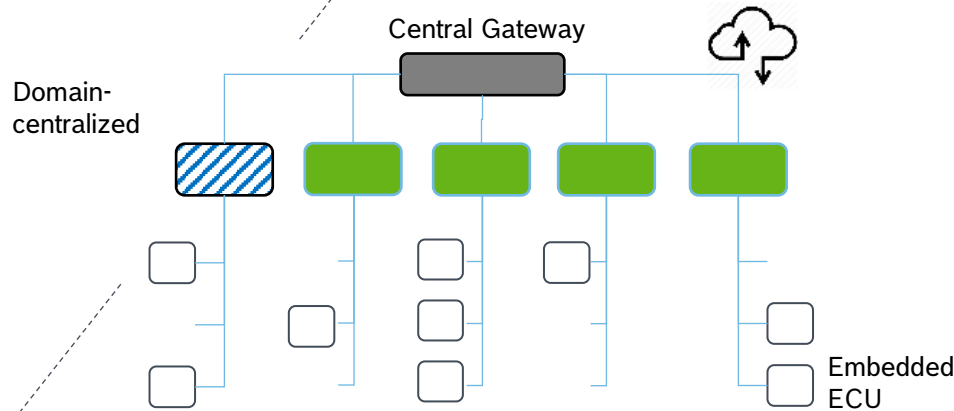


- In-vehicle network (IVN) connected by
  - Central Gateway
  - Zone Controllers & Vehicle Computers

Central Gateway



Zone Controller



Automotive Switch



2Mbit Packet Memory + 4K MAC Addresses	Dual-Core ARM R52 (Lockstep)
512 Entry TCAM (Ingress & Egress)	eHSM
802.1Qat SR Aware Switching Engine	
L3 Static Routing	AVB / TSN
802.1AS 2020 & IEEE 1588 PTP	
802.1AE MACsec	
2x 100/ 1000B-T1	2x 10/ 100-T1(S)
10/100- T1(S)	RGMII/ xMII
100-T1 100-TX	2.5G SerDes
2x Mux	
RGMII/ xMII	10G SerDes
	10G SerDes or PCIe

# The SMEP Attack

## Supplier Mgmt: Switch Evaluation

- As part of pre-development: analyze and evaluate switch vendors
- Set of topics that we discuss with vendor
- Discussions done with several switch vendors

A		B	C	
1	ID	Type	Question	Answer
2	1	Heading	<b>General</b>	
3			Details on product timeline and security features for these products? Are there differences w.r.t. security controls available in the products?	
4	2	Question	Please provide a functional block diagram showing the internal stages (TCAM filtering, MACsec module, ...).	
5	3	Question	Does the switch contain any backdoors, supplier mgmt interfaces, or similar?	
6	4	Question	Does the switch contains an HSM? Please provide details on the capabilities of the HSM.	
7	5	Question	How many keys can the HSM store?	
8	6	Question	How is the integrity and confidentiality of stored keys ensured?	
9	7	Question	Are OTP bits available for keys?	
10	8	Question	Can the HSM handle certificates? Which? How many?	
11	9	Question	Which crypto accelerators does the HSM include?	
12	10	Question	How are keys injected? (for secure boot, update, interface authentication, MACsec, ...)	
13	11	Question	Can we add custom SW implementations to the HSM firmware?	
14	12	Question	What types of random number generators does the HSM contain? What certifications do the RNGs have?	
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# The SMEP Attack

## Disclaimer

- The following slides contain Realtek proprietary information
- We have responsibly disclosed the following vulnerability to Realtek and suggested improvements
- Realtek fixed the protocol and published according updates to the switch firmware
- Realtek approved these slides and this talk at AUTO-ISAC

We appreciate Realtek's collaboration and the very serious and constructive handling of this topic!

# Security

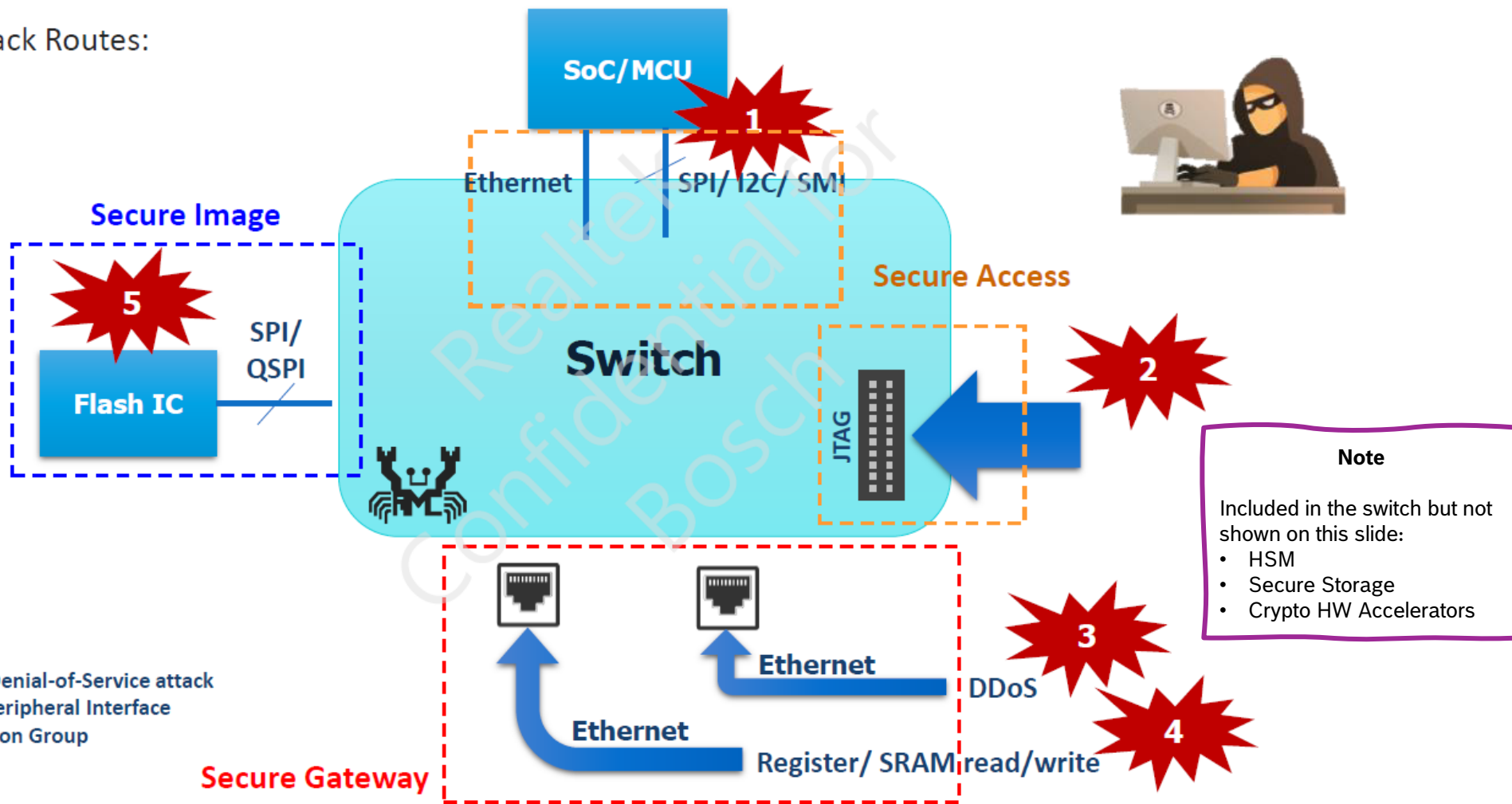
23<sup>rd</sup> March. 2022





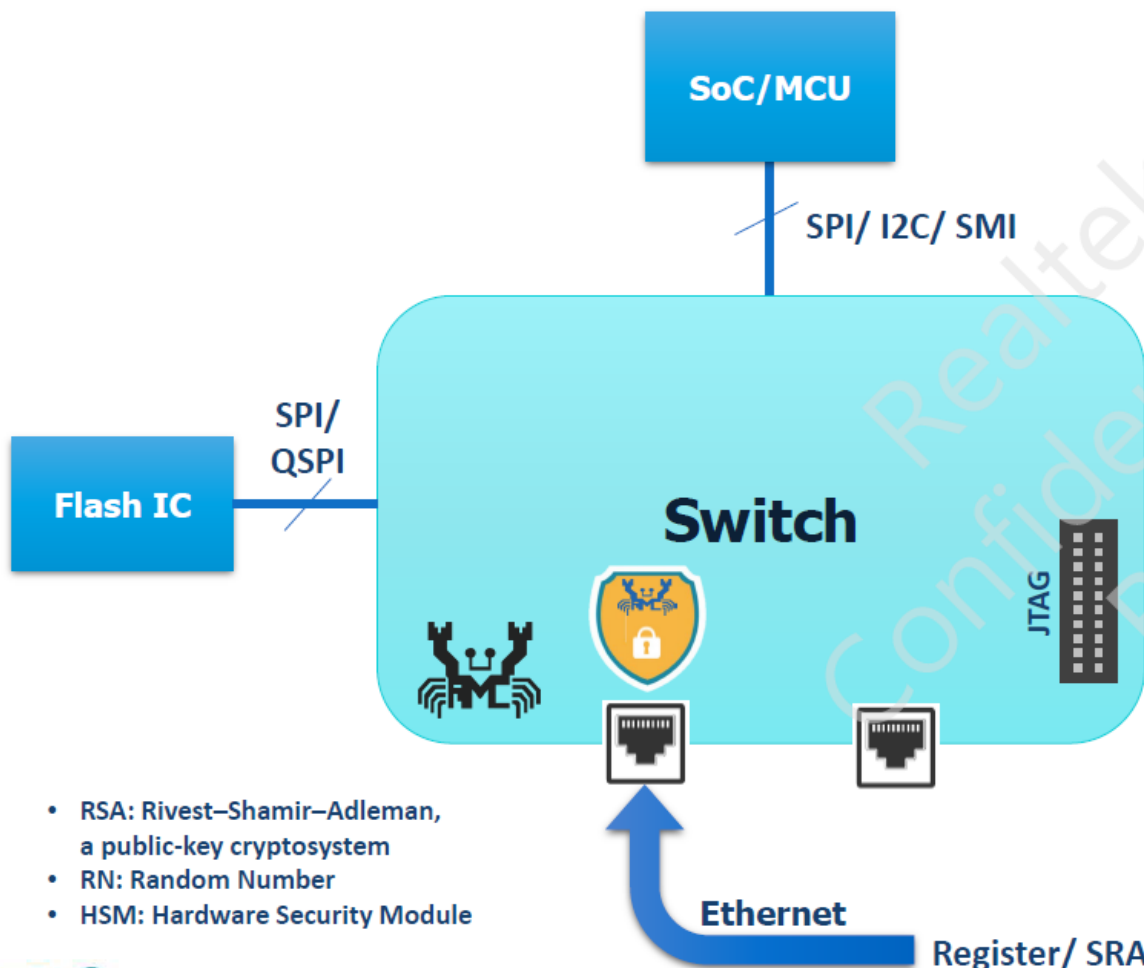
# Security Consideration

## ■ Possible Attack Routes:



- DDoS: Distributed Denial-of-Service attack
- QSPI: Quad Serial Peripheral Interface
- JTAG: Joint Test Action Group

# CASE\_IV: Attack from Ethernet...

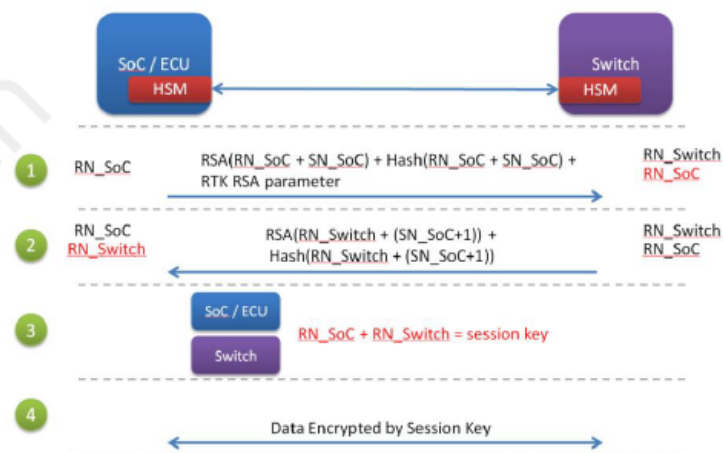


- RSA: Rivest–Shamir–Adleman, a public-key cryptosystem
- RN: Random Number
- HSM: Hardware Security Module

## Realtek LOCK function & Secure Access



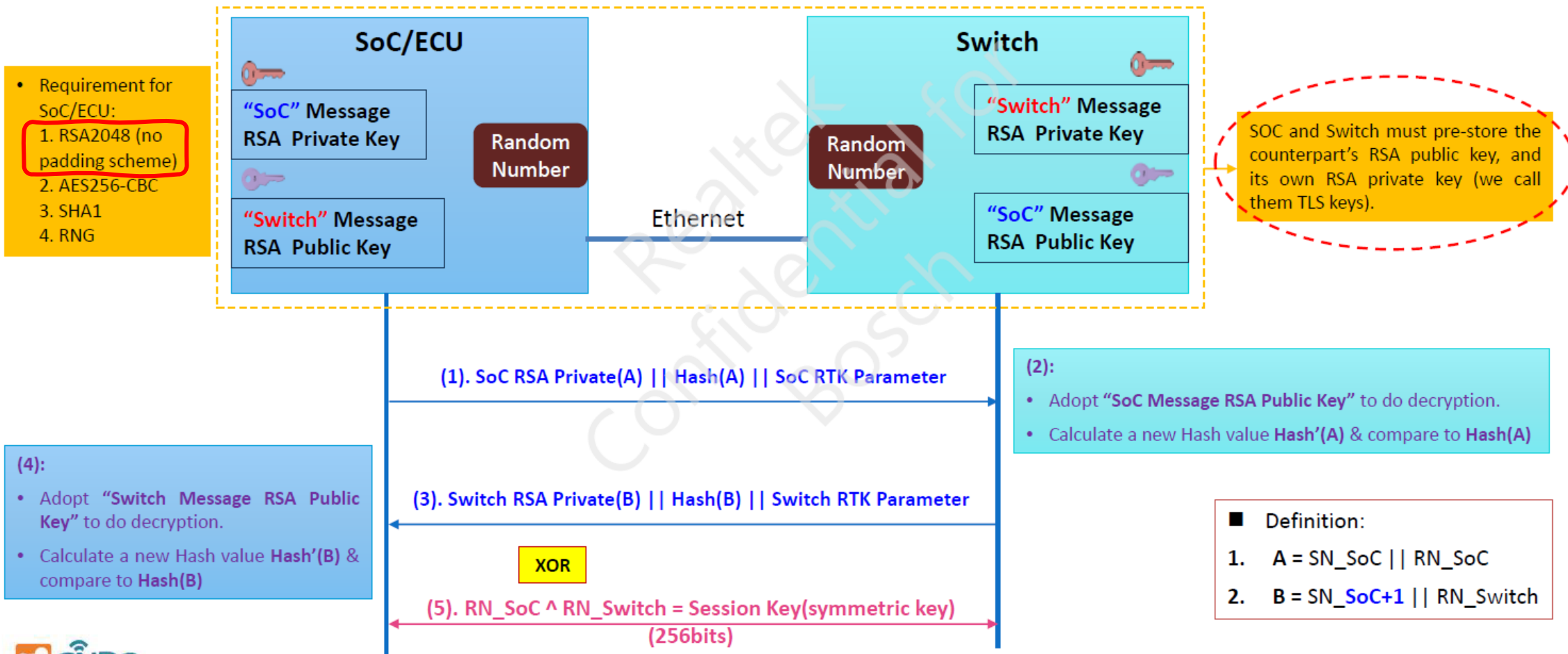
1. SRAM/Register access via Ethernet: Disabled by OTP
2. Secure Access: Using AES key to encrypt message.





# Secure Access: Session Key & Secure Message

- Generate "Session Key" and adopt it to do "Data Encryption(secure message)".



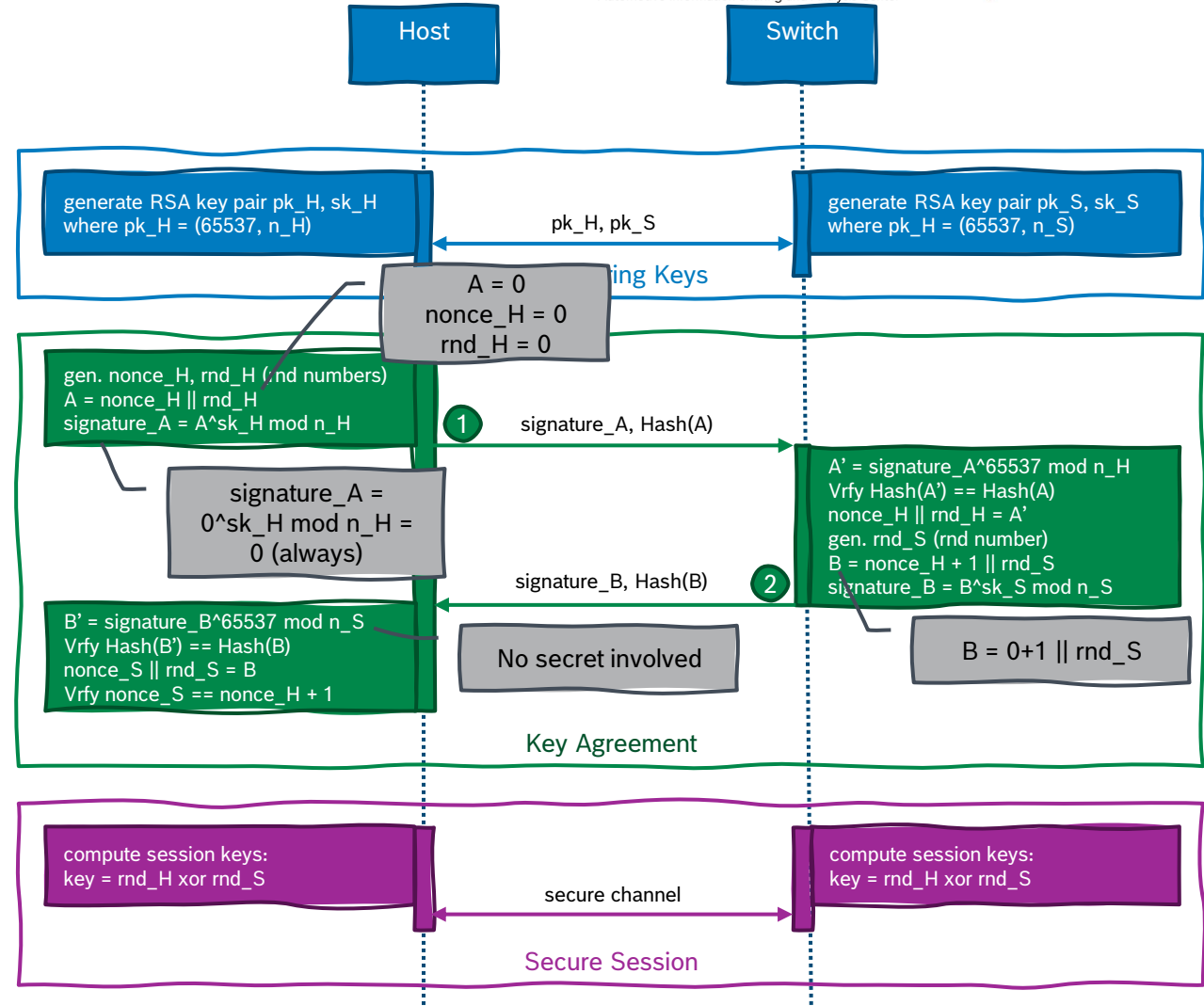
# The SMEP Attack

## ■ The key agreement

1. The host generates a challenge (nonce\_H) as well as his randomness for the session key (rnd\_H) and “signs” it (or encrypts it?)
2. The switch verifies the “signature”, computes the response (nonce\_H + 1), his randomness for the session key (rnd\_S) and “signs” it

## ■ The actual attack

- Attacker chooses  $A = \text{nonce\_H} \parallel \text{rnd\_H} = 0$
- signature\_A is then always 0
- Switch will verify signature and accepts the challenge = 0
- Attacker can “verify”/“decrypt” the signature and learns rnd\_S
- Attacker can compute  $\text{key} = 0 \text{ xor } \text{rnd\_S}$



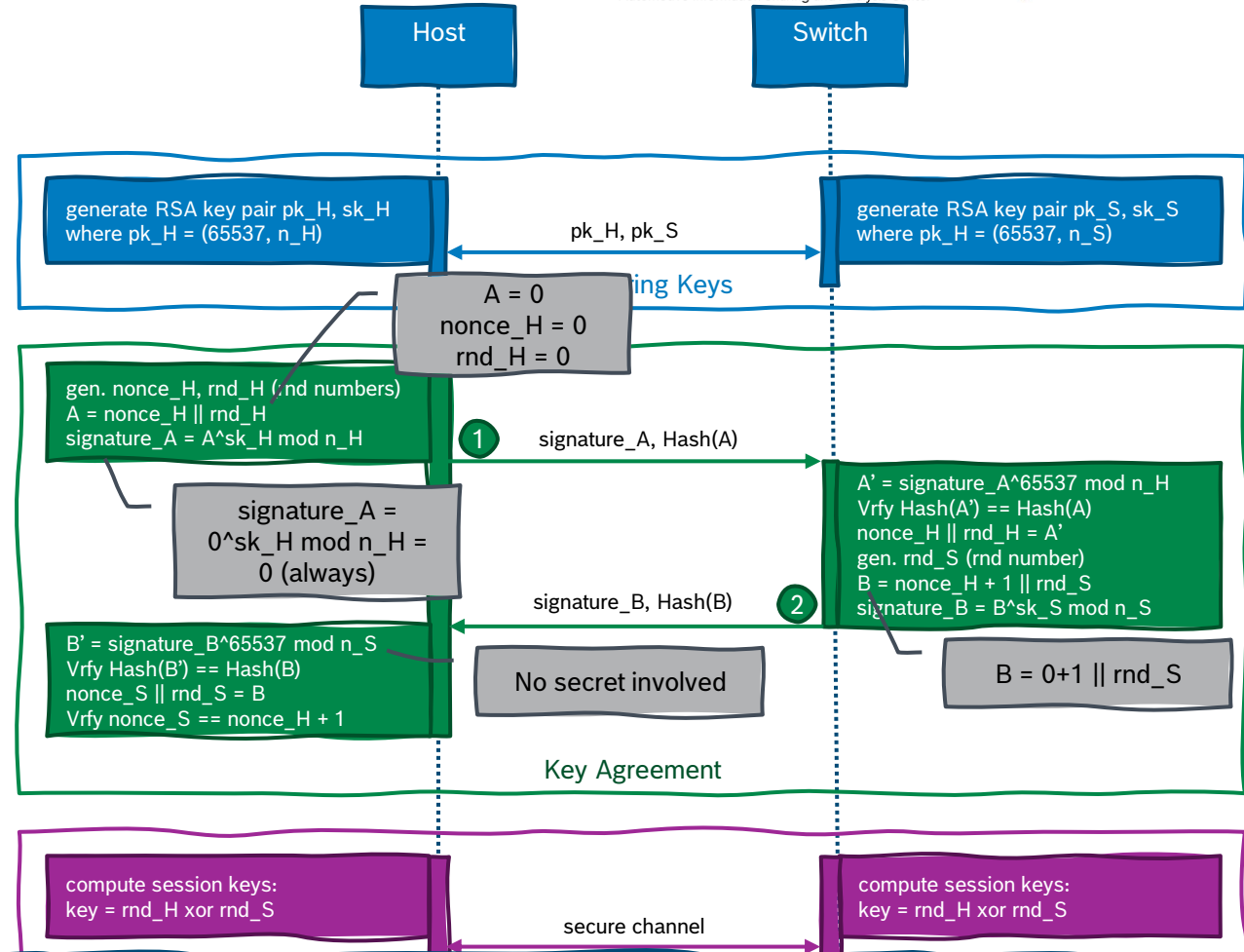
# The SMEP Attack

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## ■ The actual attack

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- signature\_A is then always 0
- Switch will verify signature and accepts the challenge = 0
- Attacker can “verify”/“decrypt” the signature and learns rnd\_S



Actually, the shown attack is only one possibility to break this protocol – can you find more?

# The SMEP Attack

## Extracting the public key

- Side note: how hard is it to learn the public key?
  - Realtek stated the public key cannot be exported from the switch's memory
- However, we can use the switch as an oracle for this:
  1. Guess public exponent  $e = 65537$
  2. Use the switch' implementation to generate  $k$  many message / signature pairs  $(m_i, s_i)$
  3. Compute
$$\gcd(m_1 - s_1^e, m_2 - s_2^e, \dots, m_k - s_k^e) = 1 \text{ or } n_S$$

I promised no more math – so you have to trust me here 😊

gcd = greatest common divisor

# The SMEP Attack

## Joint Development: SMEPv2

- Three parts of SMEP

- Pre-sharing keys

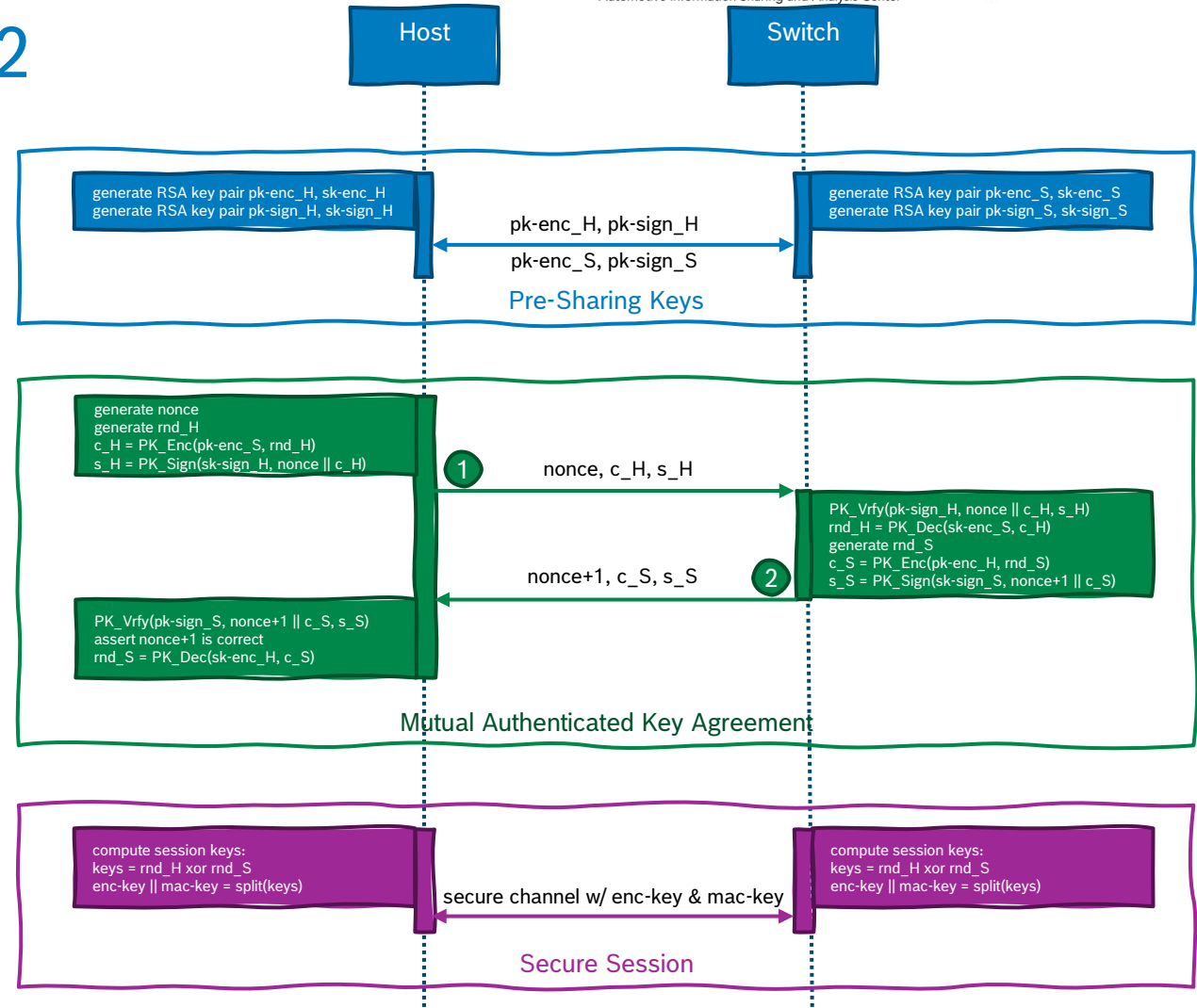
- Both host and switch generate two RSA 3072-bit key pairs, one for encryption, one for signing
- These keys are pre-shared in a trusted environment

- Mutual authenticated key agreement

- The host initiates the SMEP run by generating a random *nonce* and random number *rnd\_H*. The random number *rnd\_H* forms the host's contribution to the session key. For transmission, it therefore has to be confidential and is encrypted under the switch's public key *pk-enc\_S* (resulting in the ciphertext *c\_H*). To assert the authenticity of this random number, the ciphertext is then signed with the host's private signing key *sk-sign\_H* (resulting in the signature *s\_H*). Eventually, the host sends *nonce*, *c\_H*, and *s\_H* to the switch (1).
- The switch verifies the signature *s\_H* using the host's public signature key *pk-sign\_H*, and decrypts the random *rnd\_H* using its own private decryption key *sk-enc\_S*. The switch then generates a random number *rnd\_S* that forms its contribution to the session key. As the host, the switch encrypts *rnd\_S* with the help of *pk-enc\_H* to the ciphertext *c\_S* and signs it with his private signature key *sk-sign\_S* to get the signature *s\_S*. Finally, the switch responds with *nonce+1*, *c\_S*, and *s\_S* to the host's initial message (2).
- The host finally verifies the signature *s\_S* with the switch's public signature key *pk-sign\_S* and checks that the received *nonce+1* is correct (i.e., corresponds to his initial chosen *nonce+1*). Afterwards, the host decrypts the switch's random number *rnd\_S* from the ciphertext *c\_S* using his private decryption key *sk-enc\_H*.

- Secure channel / session

- Both parties can now derive the session keys from the xor sum of the two random numbers *rnd\_H* and *rnd\_S*.



# The SMEP Attack

## SMEPv2: Mutual Authentication

### Three parts of SMEP

#### 1. Pre-sharing keys

- Both host and switch generate two RSA 3072-bit key pairs, one for encryption, one for signing
- These keys are pre-shared in a trusted environment

#### 2. Mutual authenticated key agreement

- The host initiates the SMEPv2 by generating a random number  $rnd\_H$ . The host then encrypts  $rnd\_H$  under the switch's public key  $pk\_enc\_S$  and signs it with its private signature key  $sk\_sign\_H$  to get the ciphertext  $c\_H$  and signature  $s\_H$ . The host then sends the message  $\{c\_H, s\_H\}$  to the switch.

After signature and nonce+1 verification, the host has **authenticated the switch**

- The switch verifies the signature  $s\_H$  using the host's public signature key  $pk\_sign\_H$ , and decrypts the random  $rnd\_H$  using its own private decryption key  $sk\_enc\_S$ . The switch then generates a random number  $rnd\_S$  that forms its contribution to the session key. As the host, the switch encrypts  $rnd\_S$  with the help of  $pk\_enc\_H$  to the ciphertext  $c\_S$  and signs it with its private signature key  $sk\_sign\_S$  to get the signature  $s\_S$ . Finally, the switch responds with  $\{c\_S, s\_S\}$  to the host's initial message.

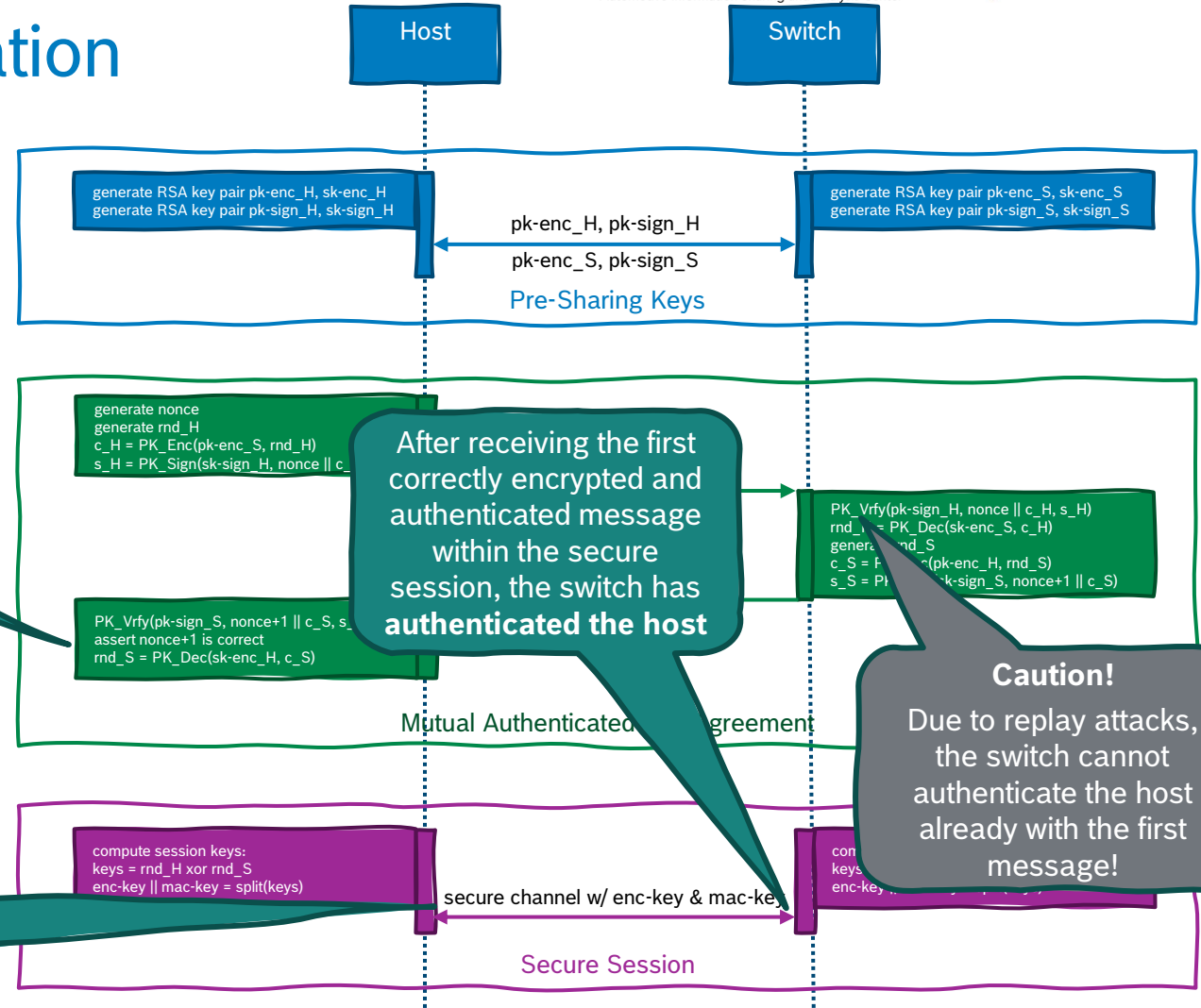
After receiving the first correctly encrypted and authenticated message within the secure session, the switch has **authenticated the host**

- The host finally verifies the signature  $s\_S$  using the switch's public signature key  $pk\_sign\_S$  and decrypts the random  $rnd\_S$  using its own private decryption key  $sk\_enc\_H$ . The host then sends the message  $\{c\_S, s\_S\}$  to the switch.

The session keys are **confidential and authentic** and thus protect the established channel.

#### 3. Secure channel / session

- Both parties can now communicate securely over the channel using the session keys.



### Caution!

Due to replay attacks, the switch cannot authenticate the host already with the first message!



# The SMEP Attack

## SMEPv2: Formal Verification

- Verifpal (see <https://verifpal.com/>) model of the protocol
- Formally verifies the claimed security goals:
  - Confidentiality of  $rnd\_H$
  - Confidentiality of  $rnd\_S$
  - Authentication of host towards switch
  - Authentication of switch towards host
- Note:
  - Verifpal is currently beta software and not formally verified itself
  - This is not a mathematical proof
  - Due to modeling constraints, the switch does not send  $nonce+1$ , but  $hash(nonce)$ , which is semantically the same – however, due to efficiency reasons,  $nonce+1$  should be implemented

```

attacker[active]

// Parties
principal Host[]
principal Switch[]

// Pre Shared Public Host Keys
principal Host[
  generates priv_host_enc
  pub_host_enc = G^priv_host_enc
  generates priv_host_sign
  pub_host_sign = G^priv_host_sign
]
Host -> Switch: [pub_host_enc], [pub_host_sign]

// Pre Shared Public Switch Keys
principal Switch[
  generates priv_switch_enc
  pub_switch_enc = G^priv_switch_enc
  generates priv_switch_sign
  pub_switch_sign = G^priv_switch_sign
]
Switch -> Host: [pub_switch_enc], [pub_switch_sign]

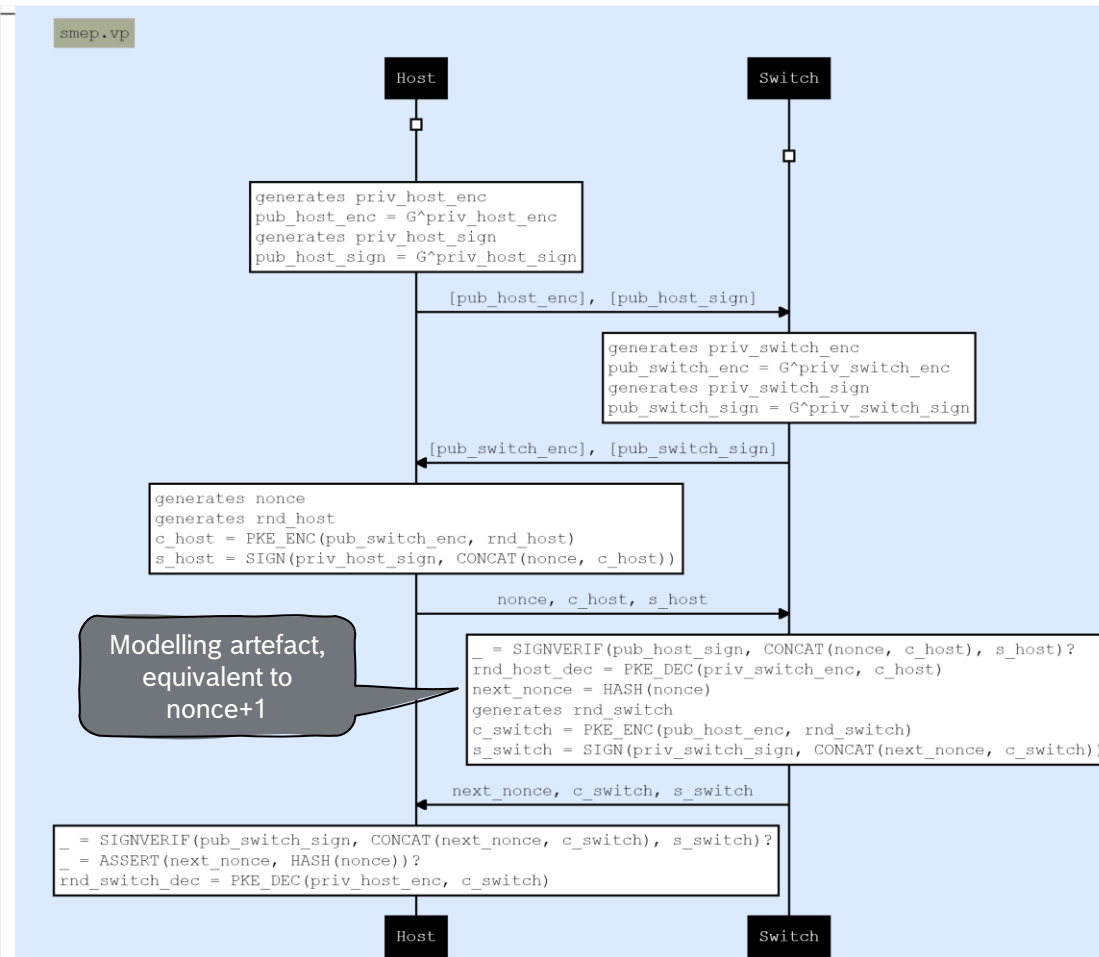
// Start Key Agreement
principal Host[
  generates nonce
  generates rnd_host
  c_host = PKE_ENC(pub_switch_enc, rnd_host)
  s_host = SIGN(priv_host_sign, CONCAT(nonce, c_host))
]
Host -> Switch: nonce, c_host, s_host

principal Switch[
  _ = SIGNVERIF(pub_host_sign, CONCAT(nonce, c_host), s_host)?
  rnd_host_dec = PKE_DEC(priv_switch_enc, c_host)

  next_nonce = HASH(nonce)
  generates rnd_switch
  c_switch = PKE_ENC(pub_host_enc, rnd_switch)
  s_switch = SIGN(priv_switch_sign, CONCAT(next_nonce, c_switch))
]
Switch -> Host: next_nonce, c_switch, s_switch

principal Host[
  _ = SIGNVERIF(pub_switch_sign, CONCAT(next_nonce, c_switch), s_switch)?
  _ = ASSERT(next_nonce, HASH(nonce))?
  rnd_switch_dec = PKE_DEC(priv_host_enc, c_switch)
]

queries[
  confidentiality? rnd_switch
  confidentiality? rnd_host
  authentication? Host -> Switch: s_host
  authentication? Switch -> Host: s_switch
]
    
```



# Wrap up

## Questions? Feedback?



“Secure, or not secure,  
that is the question”

—freely adapted from Hamlet

### Note

- Lesson learned: do not use textbook RSA, but properly padded versions of RSA (RSAES-OAEP, RSASSA-PSS, ...)
- Open Alliance TC19 is specifying a switch management framework, including secure access. Once this is available, this is hopefully the right solution to be used.