

Email Privacy: Gaps and IETF Opportunities(?)

D. Crocker

Brandenburg InternetWorking

23 July 2014

Considerations for future work

- **Suddenly very active space**
 - ❖ 35+ projects for email
 - ❖ 100+ projects for "messaging" and VOIP
- **Current projects not targeting IETF process**
 - ❖ But eventually, some will
- **How will we be able to (eventually) help?**
 - ❖ Let's start discussions, to anticipate this
 - ❖ Get email and security folk on a common page
 - ❖ Opportunities, frameworks, vocabulary, components
 - ❖ Beyond "*TLS Everywhere*"™

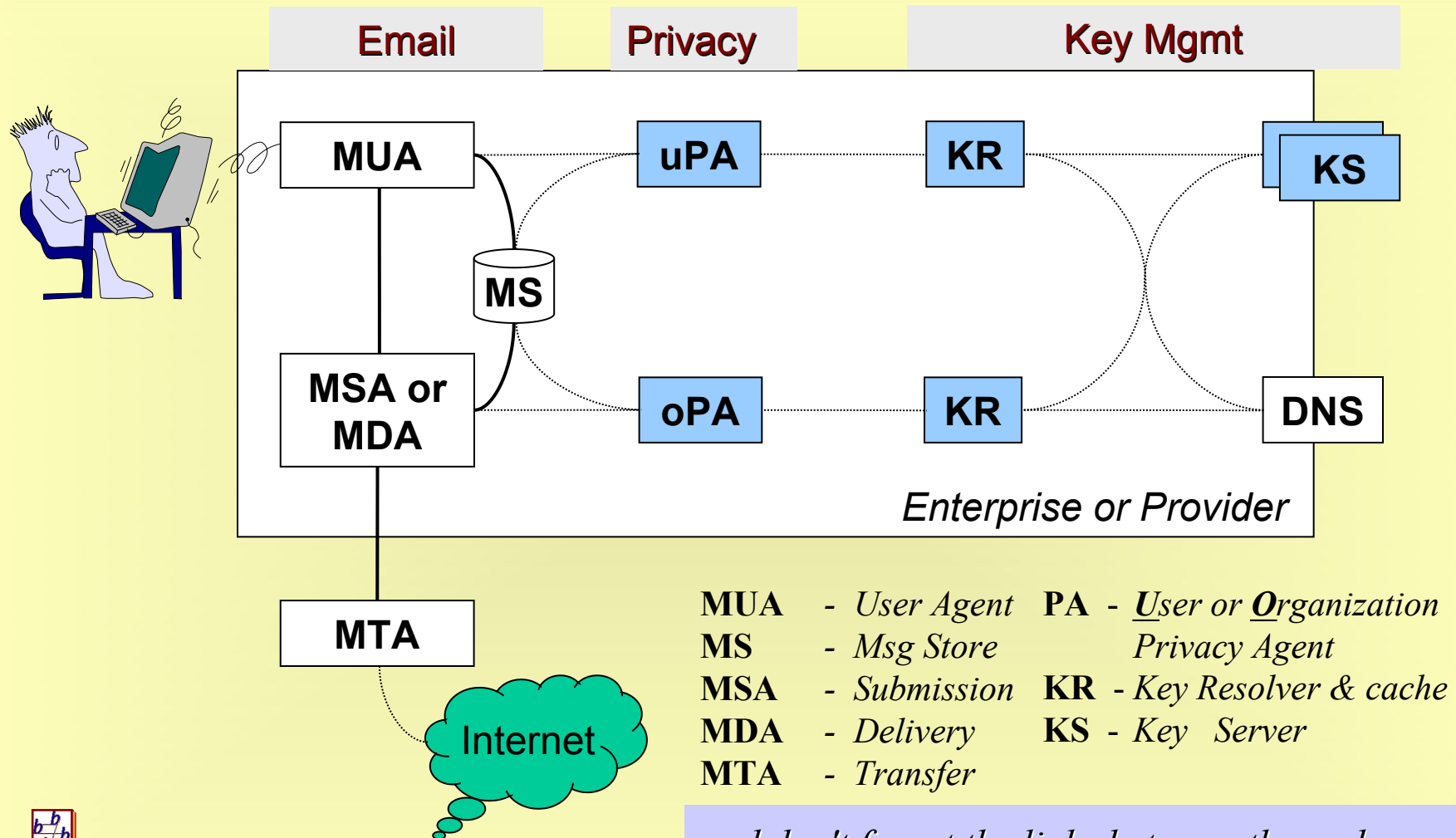


Basic Email Message Components

- **Envelope** (*rcpt to, mail from*)
 - ❖ Difficult to deliver if dest address not in the clear...
- **Header**
 - ❖ User (*to:, from:, cc:, date:, subject:...*)
 - ❖ Ops (*received:, return-path:...*)
- **Content** (*body*)
 - ❖ Attachments
 - ❖ Structure



Basic Email Privacy Components



and don't forget the links between the nodes...

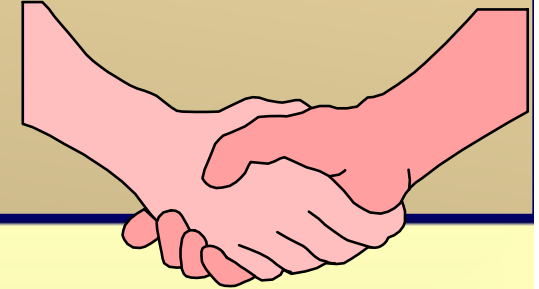


Starting the Discussion...

- **A brainstorming effort**
- **Priming the pump**
- **Get your juices flowing**
- **A few (good) ideas**
 - ❖ So, ok, what are *your* suggestions...?



Key Management



- **Assignment**
 - ❖ Probably mostly (human) usability issue; so... not for IETF?
 - ❖ New object -- more than a key and less than a (trust) certificate
 - Has identity-related attributes, eg., enhanced vcard & *not* X.509
- **Discovery**
 - ❖ DNS-based key lookup, eg., `mailbox._at.example.com...?`
 - ❖ TOFU?
- **Validation**
 - ❖ Multiple, independent sources?
 - ❖ Certificate transparency? (Where/how?)
- **Availability**
- **Revocation**
- **Rollover**



Key Management

- **Mobility/Multi-platform/Distributed ops**
 - ❖ Access to keys from multiple platforms/venues
 - ❖ Access when disconnected
 - ❖ "Keybook" (like address book)
 - Standard format, for replication/exchange
 - Standard for access to remote keybook
 - Distinct 'personal keys' protable copy, with private keys
- **DNS Privacy**



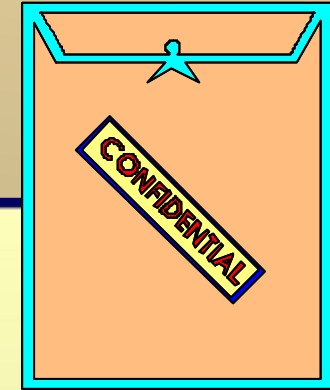
Email Processing



- **Compose**
 - Mostly usability?
- **Address**
 - Integrate keybook and DNS key lookup
- **Submit**
 - Per-component *and* whole-message encryption
 - Message packaging to support combined PGP & S/MIME recipients
- **Transmit**
- **Deliver**
- **Access**
 - Retain per-component encryption -- any imap changes?
- **Disposition**
 - File, reply, forward



Message Packaging



➤ Onion packaging?

- ❖ Limit info in the clear during transit
- ❖ Public SMTP Envelope, to get to MDA
- ❖ Private, encrypted envelope, based on BSMTP (RFC 2442)

➤ Header

- ❖ Public, for ops handling fields
- ❖ Private, encrypted for user-user information,

➤ Content

- ❖ Per-attachment encryption, for efficient access to IMAP server



Perhaps do SMTP as...

Envelope *Public source/dest hosts* (`proxy@dest.example.com`)

Header *Public handling information* (`Received:`, `Return-Path:`)

Body *multipart/encrypted + application/batch-SMTP*

Whole
message

Envelope `RCPT TO: user@dest.example.com, MAIL FROM: .`

Header `To, From, CC, ...`

Body *multipart/mixed + multipart/encrypted*

How to
encrypt
separately?

Each
attachment
encrypted
separately

