

INRIA Paris-Rocquencourt – 30 May 2013  
application for CR2 in Prosecco team

# Formally Verified Privacy-Preserving Distributed Applications

Cătălin Hrițcu



*Today's computer systems are insecure*

***Formal methods*** will play a crucial role in building significantly more secure systems

# Formal methods, broadly

- language design
- rigorous semantics
- specification
- verification
- type systems
- proof assistants
- runtime monitoring
- code generation
- code transformation
- automatic testing
- ...

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*clearly specifying security goals  
+ techniques for achieving these goals  
(e.g. static analysis or dynamic enforcement)  
+ showing that goals were achieved*

*all these tools are potentially useful*

*choose the set of tools that  
best solves the problem at hand  
(cost vs benefit analysis)*

# Contributions

## 1. PhD @ Saarland University: Security protocols

- Expressive type systems – the first one for zero-knowledge proofs [CCS 2008, CSF 2009, TOSCA 2011, PhD thesis]
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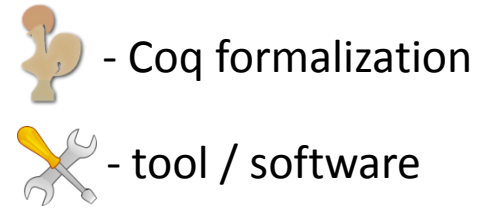
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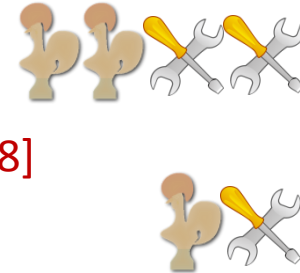
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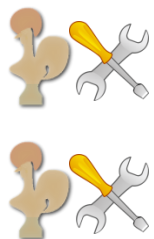
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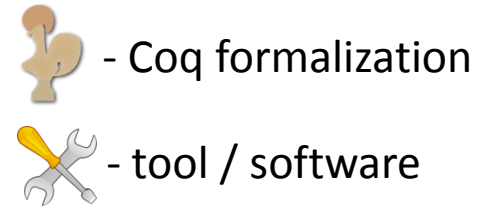


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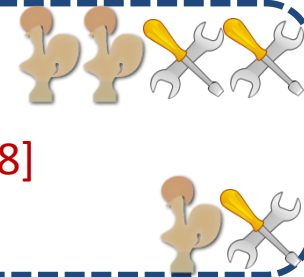


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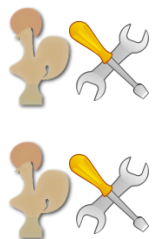
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# Privacy in the age of “cloud computing”

- **lack of online privacy is one of the biggest problems of our time**
  - technology is causing the problem
  - solution not simple and not solely technologic
    - also social, legal, economic, behavioral, philosophical

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- **“cloud computing” is making this worse**
  - in order to obtain service, users have to entrust private information to 3<sup>rd</sup> party service providers that gather the data of millions of users
  - what could possibly go wrong?

---

# Sony suffers second data breach with theft of 25m more user details

Hacker attack on security of Sony Online Entertainment network preceded PlayStation Network breach but was only discovered on Monday, electronics company says



Sony has suffered a second enormous data breach with nearly 25m customers' details from its SOE network stolen. Photograph: Nick Rowe/Getty Images

Sony suffers theft of 25m

Hacker attack on se preceded PlayStatio Monday, electronics



Sony has suffered a second from its SOE network stolen. Photograph: Nick Rowe/Getty Images

SOCIÉTÉ

## GIGANTESQUE AFFAIRE D'ESPIONNAGE À BERCY



La ministre de l'Economie Christine Lagarde et le ministre du Budget François Baroin. Leur ministère a été la cible d'une attaque informatique.

© Charles Platiau / Reuters

Tweeter



**Info Match. Pendant plusieurs semaines, plus de 150 ordinateurs du Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances ont été infiltrés par des «hackers». De nombreux documents liés au G20 ont été piratés.**



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NEWS

## Ghostshell takes credit for extensive hack of government, private websites

The hacktivist group Team Ghostshell cites ProjectWhiteFox in release of information on 1.6 million accounts, including from DHS and FBI

» 1 Comment



By Antone Gonsalves

December 11, 2012 — CSO — The hacktivist group Team Ghostshell took credit Monday for the release of 1.6 million accounts and records stolen from government and private organizations covering aerospace, law enforcement, the military, the defense industry and banking.

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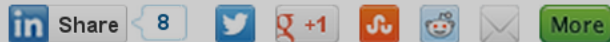
zero-knowledge proofs could help users reveal less information to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

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# Applications of zero-knowledge proofs have skyrocketed in recent years

anonymous authentication

privacy-preserving  
digital identity management

e-cash

electronic voting

electronic auctions

security despite  
compromise

privacy-friendly  
smart metering

anonymous trust  
and reputation

decentralized  
social networks

risk assurance  
for hedge funds

anonymous credentials

biometric authentication

anonymous electronic ticketing  
for public transportation

# Achieving privacy with zero-knowledge

Alice proves to online store that she is over 18, without revealing her age



**protecting  
personal information**

+



**digital credentials  
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**privacy-preserving  
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**vote privacy  
coercion resistance**  
[CSF 2008]

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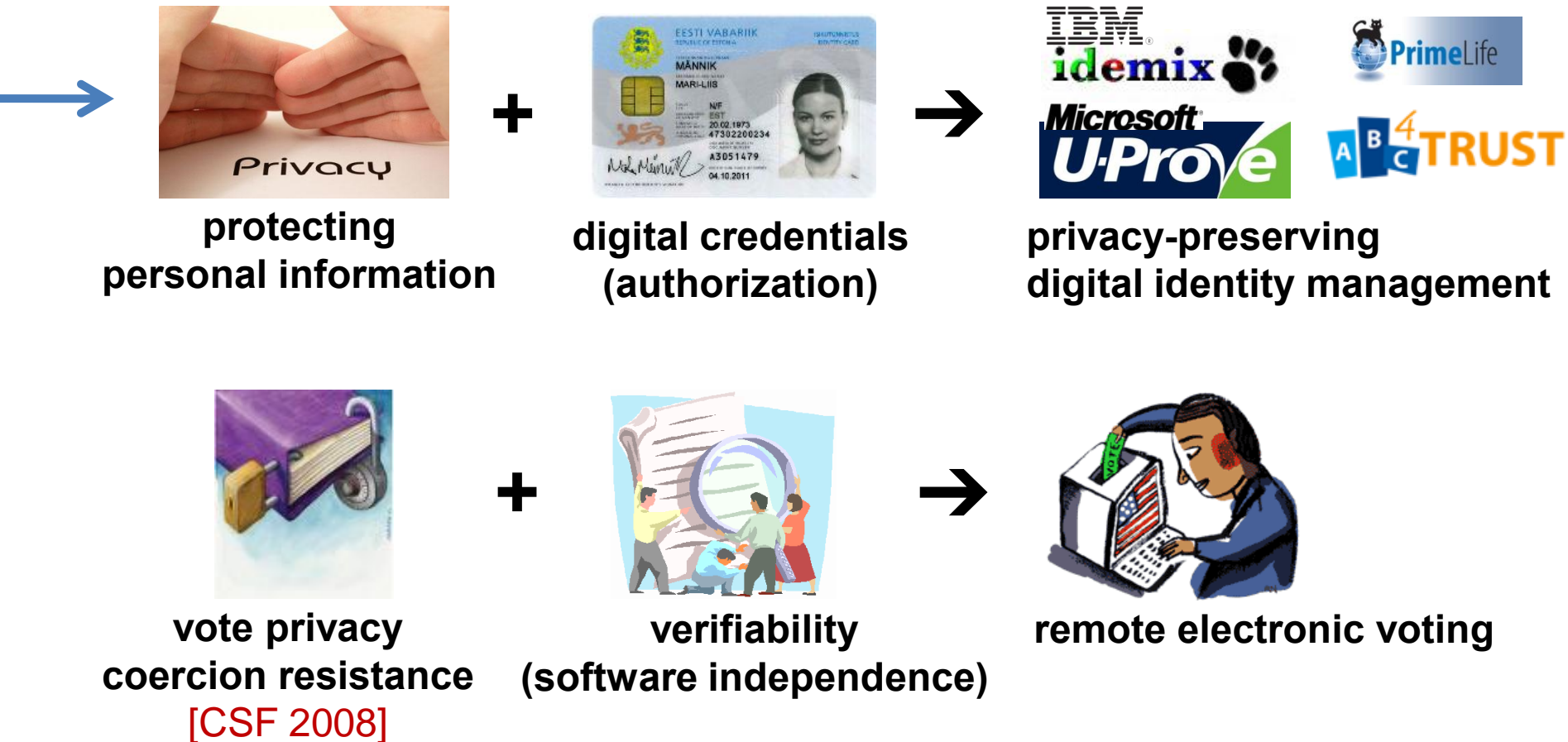
**verifiability  
(software independence)**



**remote electronic voting**

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# Zero-knowledge proofs, by example

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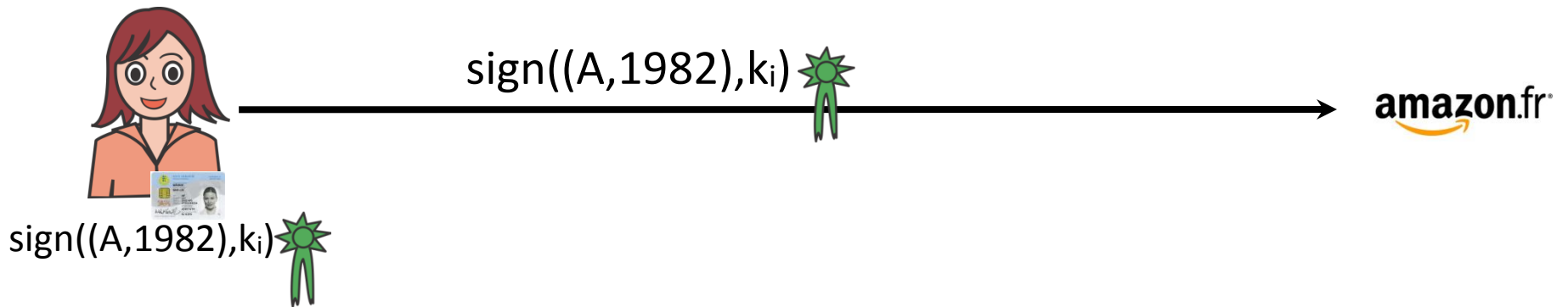
$\text{sign}((A, 1982), k_i)$



amazon.fr

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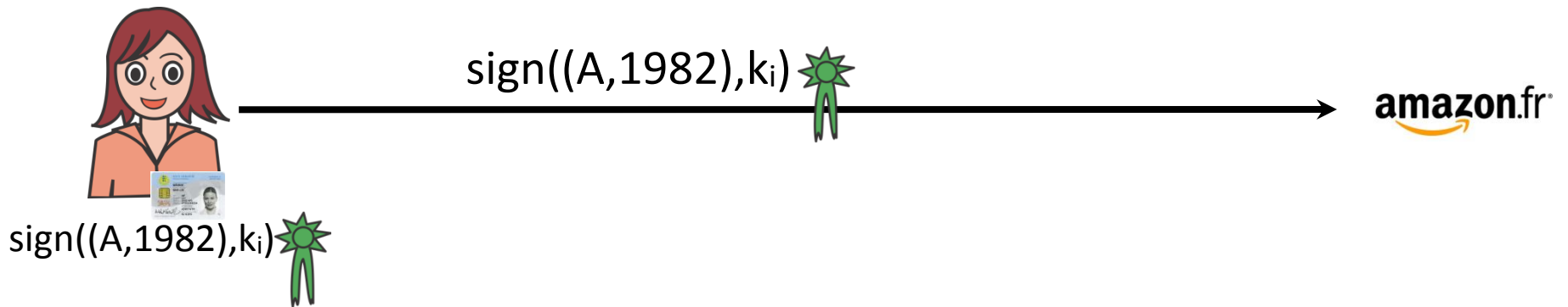
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Prover



$zk_{age}(1982, \text{sign}((A, 1982), k_i); A, 2013, \text{vk}(k_i))$

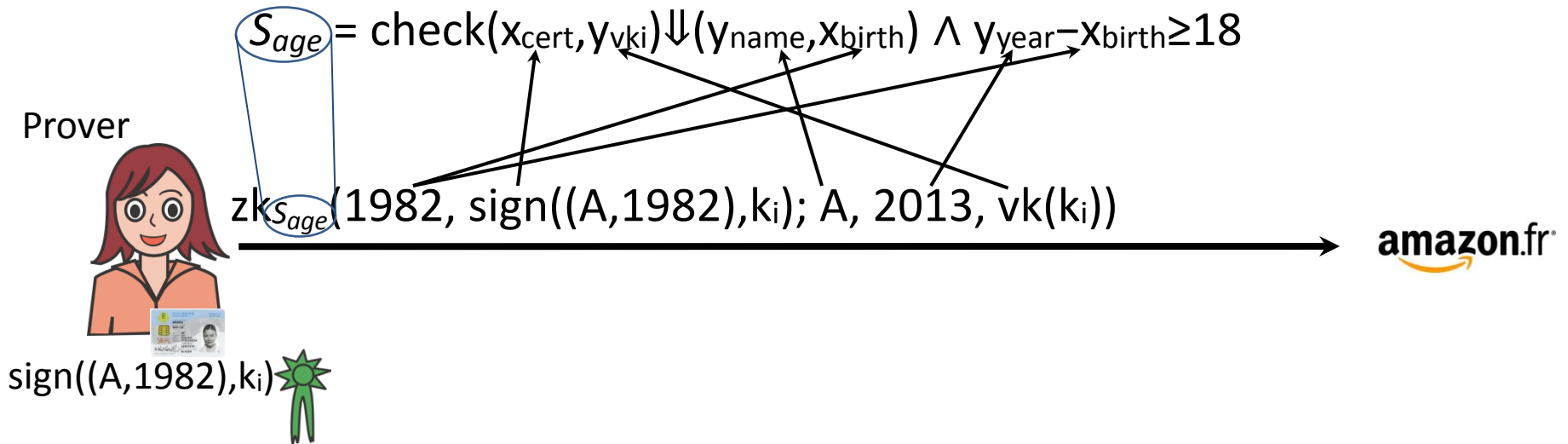
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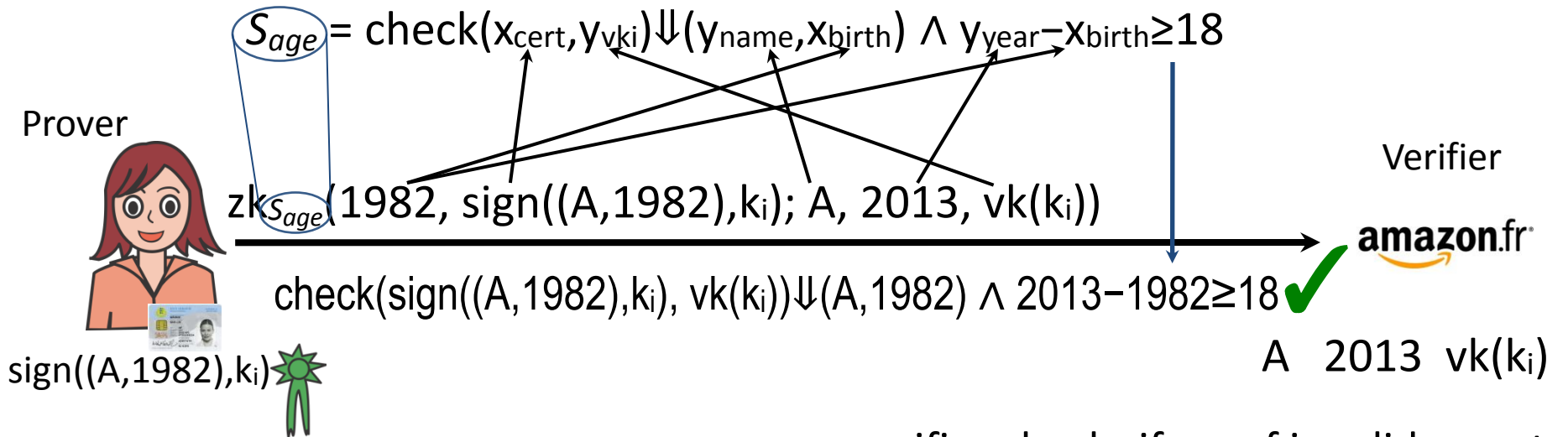
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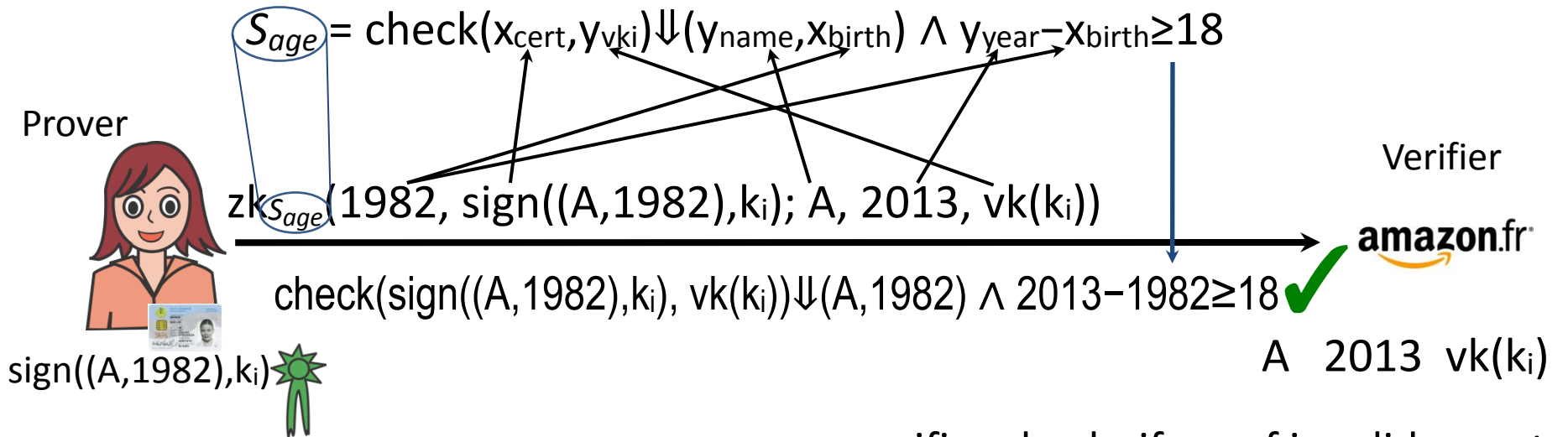
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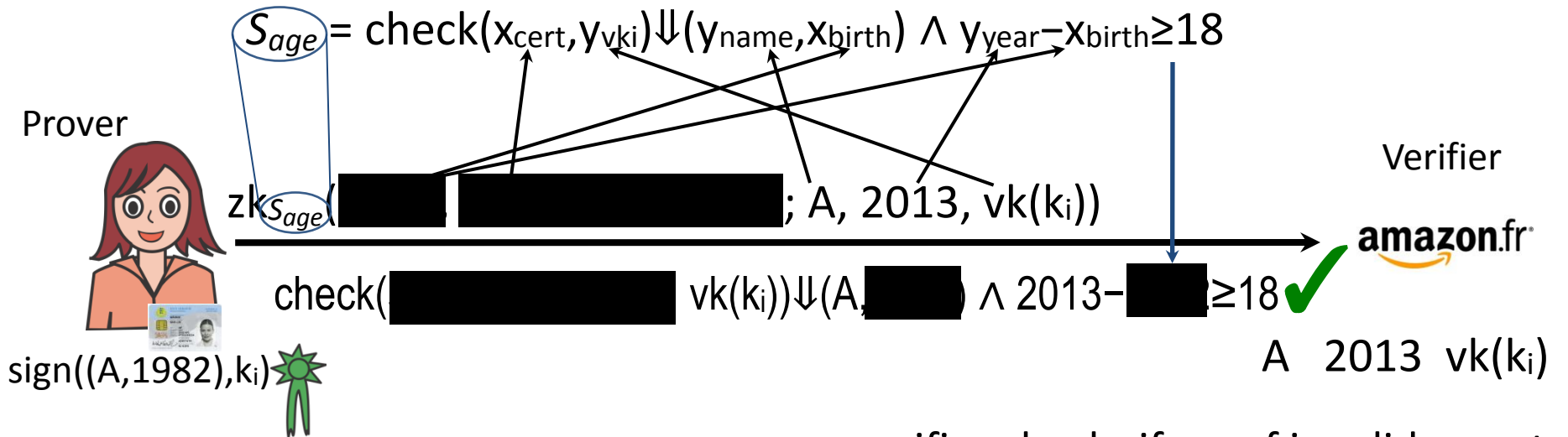
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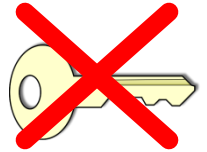
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- **Zk-proofs don't depend on crypto keys**

- previous type systems rely on assigning types to keys

- ***solution: assign types to each zk-statement***

- refinement type “ $T_{Sage} = \{y_{name}:Un, \dots \mid \exists x_{birth}. \text{Send}(y_{name}, x_{birth})\}$ ”
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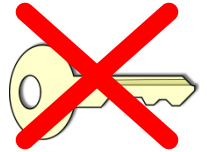
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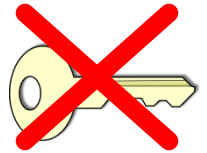
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- **Participants can be dynamically compromised**

- inferred types conditioned on participants' honesty

- **solution: union types**  $\{Private \mid \neg Bad(A)\} \vee \{Un \mid Bad(A)\}$   
**+ logical subtyping**


- automatically strengthened protocols [CSF 2009]



Alice

Malice

# Type-checking zero-knowledge

- first type systems to analyze zk-protocols  
[CCS 2008, TOSCA 2011, PhD thesis]
- same ideas for protocol models ( $\pi$ )  
& simple implementations ( $\lambda$ )
- formalized, implemented, experimented 
  - type-checkers **used independently in other projects**

# Why isn't this enough?

- many real zk-applications are **beyond current state of the art** in automatic protocol analysis; my previous type systems:
  - largest example:
    - simplified DAA ~250 lines of  $\lambda$ -calculus (RCF)
  - only authorization (robust safety), not “privacy”
  - only non-interactive zero-knowledge
  - crypto assumed perfect (symbolic model)

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**2 ways to approach this; capitalize previous experience (mine + Prosecco)**

# Short term objectives (1/2)

## 1. reimplement applications in OCaml/F# and use new, very expressive type-checker

- combine the strengths of existing type systems
  - F5: non-interactive zero-knowledge [TOSCA 2011, PhD thesis]
  - F7: computational guarantees (Prosecco)
  - F\*: relational properties (Prosecco)
- *challenge*: devise this super expressive type system
- *challenge*: interactive zero-knowledge proofs
  - fixed interaction pattern (e.g. to  $\Sigma$ -protocols)

# Short term objectives (2/2)

## 2. generate code from verified abstract models

- extend CryptoVerif (Prosecco) to zero-knowledge proofs
  - add indistinguishability axioms (e.g. zero-knowledge property)
  - *challenges*: existentials (Skolemize?), guarded rewriting
- code generator targeting mainstream language like C
  - experience: Expi2Java [NFM 2012], CryptoVerif2OCaml (Prosecco)
  - zero-knowledge implementation is statement dependent
    - use existing cryptographic compiler – e.g. ZKCrypt (IMDEA)
  - *challenge*: security of translation wrt. formal semantics of C

# More speculative ideas

- tools aiding **design** of privacy-preserving applications
  - **automated synthesis** from high-level specifications
  - **privacy-enhancing transformations**
- studying **other general privacy-enhancing techniques**
  - secure multi-party computation
  - (fully) homomorphic encryption

# Cătălin Hrițcu

- Publications:



**best conferences in security**

- *conferences (8)*: IEEE S&P, ACM CCS, 2 x IEEE CSF, ACM ICFP, ...
- *journals (2)*; *textbook (1)*; *workshops (6)*; *under review (2)*

- Software: >67.6k lines of code



- 13.2k OCaml/F#, 9.1k Haskell, 16k Java, 20.1k Breeze, 5.3k  $\pi$ -calculus, 3.9k  $\lambda$ -calculus (RCF)



- Machine-checked formalizations: >57k lines of Coq

- MSc + PhD Fellowships from Microsoft Research & MPI (IMPRS)



- Günter Hotz Medal for “outstanding CS graduates” @ Saarland Univ.
- Best course award: “Practical Aspects of Security” (TA+guest lecturer)

- Advised **3 MSc** + 2 BSc theses; 4 of them on my own **resulted in 3 conference publications**