### Formal Analysis of Electronic Exams

<u>Jannik Dreier</u><sup>1</sup>, Rosario Giustolisi<sup>2</sup>, Ali Kassem<sup>3</sup>, Pascal Lafourcade<sup>4</sup>, Gabriele Lenzini<sup>2</sup> and Peter Y. A. Ryan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Information Security, ETH Zurich
<sup>2</sup>SnT/University of Luxembourg
<sup>3</sup>Université Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, VERIMAG
<sup>4</sup>University d'Auvergne, LIMOS

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Information technology for the assessment of knowledge and skills.

### Educational assessment











## E-exam: Players and Organization

### Three Roles:



Examination Authority



Examiner



# E-exam: Players and Organization

#### Three Roles:



#### Four Phases:

#### 1. Registration 2. Examination 3. Marking 4. Notification









- Candidate cheating
- Bribed, corrupted or unfair examiners
- Dishonest/untrusted exam authority
- Outside attackers

▶ ...

Most existing e-exam systems assume trusted authorities and focus on student cheating:

Exam centers

Software solutions, e.g. ProctorU





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Yet also the **other threats** are real:

- Atlanta Public Schools cheating scandal (2009)
- UK student visa tests fraud (2014)





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 $\Rightarrow$  need for better protocols and systems (cf. case studies)





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So what about **dishonest authorities** or **hackers** attacking the system?

- $\Rightarrow$  need for better protocols and systems (cf. case studies)
- $\Rightarrow$  precise formal definitions of required properties







#### Introduction

#### Model and Properties

Authentication Properties Privacy Properties

#### **Case Studies**

Huszti & Pethő's Protocol Remark! Protocol

#### Conclusion

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- Processes in the applied π-calculus [?]
- Annotated using events
- Authentication properties as correspondence between events
- Privacy properties as observational equivalence between instances
- Automatic verification using ProVerif [?]













1. Registration



















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# Answer Origin Authentication

All collected answers originate from registered candidates, and only one answer per candidate is accepted.

Definition:



# Form Authorship

Answers are collected as submitted, i.e. without modification.

Definition:



# Form Authenticity

Answers are marked as collected.

#### Definition:



# Mark Authenticity

The candidate is notified with the mark associated to his answer.

Definition:

3.



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# Question Indistinguishability

No premature information about the questions is leaked.

Definition:

Observational equivalence of two instances up to the end of registration phase:



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Observational equivalence of two instances up to the end of registration phase:



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates.

## Anonymous Marking

An examiner cannot link an answer to a candidate.

Definition:

Up to the end of marking phase:



## Anonymous Marking

An examiner cannot link an answer to a candidate.

Definition:

Up to the end of marking phase:



Can be considered with or without dishonest examiners and authorities.

### Anonymous Examiner

A candidate cannot know which examiner graded his copy. **Definition:** 



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates.

Marks are private.

Definition:



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates, examiners and authorities.

# Mark Anonymity

Marks can be published, but may not be linked to candidates. **Definition:** 



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates, examiners and authorities. Implied by Mark Privacy.

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# Application: Huszti & Pethő's Protocol

- "A Secure Electronic Exam System" [?] using
  - ElGamal Encryption
  - ► a Reusable Anonymous Return Channel (RARC) [?] for anonymous communication
  - a network of servers providing a timed-release service using Shamir's Secret Sharing:
    A subset of servers can combine their shares to de-anonymize
    a candidate after the exam

Goal: ensure

authentication and privacy

in presence of dishonest

- candidates
- examiners
- exam authorities

### Results

#### Formal Verification with ProVerif [?]:

Property	Result	Time
Answer Origin Authentication	×	< 1 s
Form Authorship	×	< 1 s
Form Authenticity	×	< 1 s
Mark Authenticity	×	< 1 s
Question Indistinguishability	×	< 1 s
Anonymous Marking	×	8 m 46 s
Anonymous Examiner	×	9 m 8 s
Mark Privacy	×	39 m 8 s
Mark Anonymity	×	1h 15 m 58 s

Given its security definition, the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{RARC}}$ 

- provides anonymity, but not necessarily secrecy
- does not necessarily provide integrity or authentication
- is only secure against passive attackers

Corrupted parties or active attackers can **break secrecy and anonymity**, as the following attack shows.

**Input** (A to RARC, destination B):

 $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ 

Input (A to RARC, destination B):  $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ Output (RARC to B):

 $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature; \{MSG\}_{PK_B}$ 

Input (A to RARC, destination B):  $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ Output (RARC to B):

 $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature; \{MSG\}_{PK_B}$ 

**Return** (B to RARC, destination A):

 $\{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature$ 

Input (A to RARC, destination B):  $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ Output (RARC to B):

 ${ID_A, PK_A}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature; {MSG}_{PK_B}$ Return (B to RARC, destination A):  ${ID_B, PK_B}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; {MSG}_{PK_{RARC}}; {ID_A, PK_A}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature$ 

#### Attack

Input (AD to RARC, destination AD):  $\{ID_{AD}, PK_{AD}\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_{AD}, PK_{AD}\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ 

Input (A to RARC, destination B):  $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ Output (RARC to B):

 $\{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature; \{MSG\}_{PK_B}$ Return (B to RARC, destination A):

 $\{ID_B, PK_B\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_A, PK_A\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature$ 

#### Attack

**Input** (AD to RARC, destination AD):

 $\{ID_{AD}, PK_{AD}\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK; \{MSG\}_{PK_{RARC}}; \{ID_{AD}, PK_{AD}\}_{PK_{RARC}} + PoK$ Output (RARC to AD):

 $\{ID_{AD}, PK_{AD}\}_{PK_{RARC}} + Signature; \{MSG\}_{PK_{AD}}$ 

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# Application: Remark! Protocol

A recent protocol [?] using

- ElGamal encryption
- an exponentiation mixnet [?] to create pseudonyms based on the parties' public keys
  - $\Rightarrow$  allows to encrypt and sign anonymously
- a public append-only bulletin board
- Goal: ensure
  - authentication and integrity
  - privacy
  - verifiability

in presence of dishonest

- candidates
- examiners
- exam authorities

### Results

Formal Verification with ProVerif:

Property	Result	Time
Answer Origin Authentication	$\checkmark$	< 1 s
Form Authorship	$\checkmark$	< 1 s
Form Authenticity	$\checkmark^1$	< 1 s
Mark Authenticity	$\checkmark$	< 1 s
Question Indistinguishability	$\checkmark$	< 1 s
Anonymous Marking	$\checkmark$	2 s
Anonymous Examiner	$\checkmark$	1 s
Mark Privacy	$\checkmark$	3 m 32 s
Mark Anonymity	$\checkmark$	_2

<sup>1</sup>after fix <sup>2</sup>implied by Mark Privacy

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# Conclusion

- E-exams are used and vulnerable to attacks
- Cryptographic protocols exist, but lack formal verification
- First formal framework for analysis of e-exams:
  - Formal model in the **applied**  $\pi$ -calculus
  - Definitions for central authentication, integrity and privacy properties
- Automated verification in ProVerif of two case studies:
  - Huszti & Pethő's protocol: Fails on all properties due to severe flaws in protocol design
  - Remark! protocol: Ensures all properties after one fix
- Future work: verifiability and accountability, analyzing implementations

### Questions?

#### jannik.dreier@inf.ethz.ch

#### Definition

(E-exam protocol). An e-exam protocol is a tuple

$$(C, E, Q, A_1, \ldots, A_l, \tilde{n}_p),$$

where

- C is the process executed by the candidates,
- E is the process executed by the examiners,
- ▶ *Q* is the process executed by the question commitee,
- ► A<sub>i</sub>'s are the processes executed by the authorities, and
- $\tilde{n}_p$  is the set of private channel names.

# Model Definition cont'd

#### Definition

(E-exam instance). An e-exam instance is a closed process

$$EP = \nu \tilde{n} (C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|\dots|C\sigma_{id_j}\sigma_{a_j}|E\sigma_{id_1'}\sigma_{m_1}|\dots|E\sigma_{id_k'}\sigma_{m_k}|$$
$$Q\sigma_q|A_1\sigma_{dist}|\dots|A_l),$$

#### where

- ñ is the set of all restricted names, which includes the set of the protocol's private channels;
- Cσ<sub>idi</sub>σ<sub>ai</sub>'s are the processes run by the candidates, the substitutions σ<sub>idi</sub> and σ<sub>ai</sub> specify the identity and the answers of the i<sup>th</sup> candidate respectively;
- Eσ<sub>id'i</sub>σ<sub>mi</sub>'s are the processes run by the examiners, the substitution σ<sub>id'</sub> specifies the i<sup>th</sup> examiner's identity, and σ<sub>mi</sub> specifies for each possible question/answer pair the corresponding mark;

## Model Definition cont'd

#### Definition

(E-exam instance). An e-exam instance is a closed process

$$EP = \nu \tilde{n} (C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|\dots|C\sigma_{id_j}\sigma_{a_j}|E\sigma_{id_1'}\sigma_{m_1}|\dots|E\sigma_{id_k'}\sigma_{m_k}|$$
$$Q\sigma_q|A_1\sigma_{dist}|\dots|A_l),$$

#### where

- Q is the process run by the question committee, the substitution σ<sub>q</sub> specifies the exam questions;
- the A<sub>i</sub>'s are the processes run by the exam authorities, the substitution σ<sub>dist</sub> determines which answers will be submitted to which examiners for grading.

Without loss of generality, we assume that  $A_1$  is in charge of distributing the copies to the examiners.

### Definition (Answer Origin Authentication)

An e-exam protocol ensures Answer Origin Authentication if, for every e-exam process EP, each occurrence of the event **collected**(**id**\_**c**, **ques**, **ans**) is **preceded** by a distinct occurrence of the event **reg**(**id**\_**c**) on every execution trace.

### Definition (Form Authorship)

An e-exam protocol ensures Form Authorship if, for every e-exam process EP, each occurrence of the event **collected**(*id*\_c, *ques*, *ans*) is **preceded** by a distinct occurrence of the event **submitted**(*id*\_c, *ques*, *ans*) on every execution trace.

### Definition (Form Authenticity)

An e-exam protocol ensures Form Authenticity if, for every e-exam process EP, each occurrence of the event marked(ques, ans, mark, id\_form, id\_e) is preceded by a distinct occurrence of the events distrib(id\_c, ques, ans, id\_form, id\_e) and collected(id\_c, ques, ans) on every execution trace.

### Definition (Mark Authenticity)

An e-exam protocol ensures Mark Authenticity if, for every e-exam process EP, each occurrence of the event **notified**(id\_c, mark) is **preceded** by a distinct occurrence of the events **marked**(**ques**, **ans**, **mark**, **id\_form**, **id\_e**) and **distrib**(**id\_c**, **ques**, **ans**, **id\_form**, **id\_e**) on every execution trace.

### Definition (Question Indistinguishability)

An e-exam protocol ensures Question Indistinguishability if for any e-exam process EP that ends with the registration phase, any questions q<sub>1</sub> and q<sub>2</sub>, we have that:  $EP_{\{id_Q\}}[Q\sigma_{q_1}]|_{reg} \approx_I EP_{\{id_Q\}}[Q\sigma_{q_2}]|_{reg}.$ 

### Definition (Anonymous Marking)

An e-exam protocol ensures Anonymous Marking if for any e-exam process EP that ends with the marking phase, any two candidates  $id_1$  and  $id_2$ , and any two answers  $a_1$  and  $a_2$ , we have that:  $EP_{\{id_1,id_2\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_2}]|_{mark}\approx_I EP_{\{id_1,id_2\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_2}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_1}]|_{mark}.$ 

### Definition (Anonymous Examiner)

An e-exam protocol ensures Anonymous Examiner if for any e-exam process EP, any two candidates  $id_1$ ,  $id_2$ , any two examiners  $id'_1$ ,  $id'_2$ , and any two marks  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$ , we have that:  $EP_{\{id_1,id_2,id'_1,id'_2,id_{A_1}\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_2}|E\sigma_{id'_1}\sigma_{m_1}|E\sigma_{id'_2}\sigma_{m_2}|A_1\sigma_{dist_1}] \approx_l EP_{\{id_1,id_2,id'_1,id'_2,id_{A_1}\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_2}|E\sigma_{id'_1}\sigma_{m_2}|E\sigma_{id'_2}\sigma_{m_1}|A_1\sigma_{dist_2}]$ where  $\sigma_{dist_1}$  attributes the exam form of candidate  $id_1$  to examiner  $id'_1$  and the exam form of candidate  $id_2$  to examiner  $id'_2$ , and  $\sigma_{dist_2}$ attributes the exam form of candidate  $id_1$  to examiner  $id'_2$  and the exam form of candidate  $id_2$  to examiner  $id'_1$ .

### Definition (Mark Privacy)

An e-exam protocol ensures Mark Privacy if for any e-exam process EP, any marks  $m_1$ ,  $m_2$ , we have that:  $EP_{\{id'\}}[E\sigma_{id'}\sigma_{m_1}] \approx_I EP_{\{id'\}}[E\sigma_{id'}\sigma_{m_2}].$ 

### Definition (Mark Anonymity)

An e-exam protocol ensures Mark Anonymity if for any e-exam process EP, any candidates  $id_1$ ,  $id_2$ , any examiner  $id'_1$ , any answers  $a_1$ ,  $a_2$  and a distribution  $\sigma_{dist}$  that assigns the answers of both candidates to the examiner, and two substitutions  $\sigma_{m_a}$  and  $\sigma_{m_b}$ which are identical, except that  $\sigma_{m_a}$  attributes the mark  $m_1$  to the answer  $a_1$  and  $m_2$  to  $a_2$ , whereas  $\sigma_{m_b}$  attributes  $m_2$  to the answer  $a_1$  and  $m_1$  to  $a_2$ , we have that:

$$\begin{split} & EP_{\{id_1,id_2,id'_1,id_{A_1}\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_2}|E\sigma_{id'_1}\sigma_{m_a}|A_1\sigma_{dist}] \approx_I \\ & EP_{\{id_1,id_2,id'_1,id_{A_1}\}}[C\sigma_{id_1}\sigma_{a_1}|C\sigma_{id_2}\sigma_{a_2}|E\sigma_{id'_1}\sigma_{m_b}|A_1\sigma_{dist}] \end{split}$$

## Remark! Equational Theory

checkpseudo(pseudo pub(pk(k), rce))pseudo priv(k, exp(rce))) = truedecrypt(encrypt(m, pk(k), r), k) = mdecrypt(encrypt(m, pseudo pub(pk(k),rce), r), pseudo priv(k, exp(rce))) = mgetmess(sign(m, k)) = mchecksign(sign(m, k), pk(k)) = mchecksign(sign(m, pseudo priv(k, exp(rce)), pseudo pub(pk(k), rce)) = m

### Remark! Protocol

Assumption: The protocol assumes a list of eligible examiners and their public keys  $PK_E$ , and a list of eligible candidates and their public keys  $PK_C$ .

#### **Examiner Registration**

1- NET calculates 
$$\overline{r}_e = \prod_{i=1}^k r_{e_i}$$
,  $\overline{PK}_E = PK_E^{\overline{r}_e}$  and  $h_e = g^{\overline{r}_e}$   
2- NET publishes  $sign((\overline{PK}_E, h_e), SK_{NET})$   
3- E checks if  $\overline{PK}_E = h_e^{SK_E}$ 

#### **Candidate Registration**

4- NET calculates 
$$\overline{r}_c = \prod_{i=1}^k r_{c_i}$$
,  $\overline{PK}_C = PK_C^{\overline{r}_c}$  and  $h_c = g^{\overline{r}_c}$   
5- NET publishes  $sign((\overline{PK}_C, h_c), SK_{NET})$   
6- C checks if  $\overline{PK}_C = h_c^{SK_C}$ 

#### Examination

7- 
$$EA \rightarrow C$$
 : { $sign(question, SK_{EA})$ } <sub>$\overline{PK_{C}}$</sub>   
8-  $C \rightarrow EA$  : //  $C_{a} =$  { $question, answer, \overline{PK_{C}}$ }  
{ $C_{a}, sign(C_{a}, \overline{SK_{C}, h_{c}})$ } <sub>$PK_{EA}$</sub>   
9-  $EA \rightarrow C$  : { $C_{a}, sign(C_{a}, SK_{EA})$ } <sub>$\overline{PK_{C}}$</sub> 

### Marking 10- $EA \rightarrow E : \{C_a, sign(C_a, SK_{EA})\}_{\overline{PK_E}}$ 11- $E \rightarrow EA : // M_a = (sign(C_a, SK_{EA}), mark)$ $\{sign(M_a, \overline{SK_E}, h_e)\}_{PK_{EA}}$ Notification

12- 
$$EA \rightarrow C : \{M_a, sign(M_a, SK_E, h_e)\}_{\overline{PK}_C}$$
  
13-  $NET \rightarrow EA : \{\overline{r}_c, sign(\overline{r}_c, SK_N)\}_{PK_{EA}}$ 

## Huszti Equational Theory

decrypt(encrypt(m, pk(k), r), k) = mgetmess(sign(m, k)) = mchecksign(sign(m, k), pk(k)) = mexp(exp(g, x), y) = exp(exp(g, y), x)checkproof(xproof(p, p1, g, exp(g, e), e),p, p1, g, exp(g, e)) = true $zkpsec(zkp\_proof(exp(b, e), e), exp(b, e)) = true$ 

## Huszti's Protocol

#### Setup

 $\begin{array}{l} 1 \ - \ EA \ \text{publishes} \ g \ \text{and} \ h = g^s \\ 2 \ - \ Committee \ \rightarrow_{priv} \ EA : \\ \{question, \{question\}_{SSK_{committee}}, time_{x1}\}_{PK_{MIX}} \end{array}$ 

#### **Candidate Registration**

- 3 *EA* checks *C*'s eligibility, and calculates  $\tilde{p} = (PK_C)^s$
- 4  $EA \rightarrow NET : \{\tilde{p}, g_C\}$ 5- NET calculates  $p' = \tilde{p}^{\Gamma}$ , and  $r = g_C^{\Gamma}$ , and stores time<sub>nt</sub>
- $6 NET \rightarrow C : \{p', r\}_{r}$
- 7 C calculates  $p = r^{SK_C}$
- 8  $EA \longleftrightarrow C : ZKP_{eq}((p, p'), (g, h)) //C$ 's pseudonym: (r, p, p')

### Huszti's Protocol

#### **Examiner Registration**

9 - EA checks E's eligibility, and calculates  $\tilde{q} = (PK_F)^s$ 10 -  $EA \rightarrow E : \{\tilde{q}, g_F\}$ 11 - E calculates  $q' = \tilde{q}^{\alpha}$ ,  $t = g_{E}^{\alpha}$ , and  $q = t^{SK_{E}}$ 12 -  $EA \leftrightarrow E : ZKP_{ea}((q,q'),(g,h))$  13 -  $E \rightarrow EA : \{t,q,q',h\}$ 14 - *EA* checks  $q^s = q'$ 15 -  $E \leftrightarrow EA : ZKP_{sec}(SK_F)$ 16 - EA stores  $\{ID_F, PK_F\}_{PK_{MIX}}, h$ Examination 17 -  $C \rightarrow EA$ : {r, p, p', h} 18 - EA checks  $p^s = p'$ 19 -  $C \leftrightarrow EA : ZKP_{sec}(SK_C)$ 20 -  $EA \rightarrow C$ : {question, {question}<sub>SSK committee</sub>, time<sub>x1</sub>}<sub>PKMIX</sub>

21 - 
$$C \rightarrow EA$$
: { $r, p, \{answer\}_{PK_{MIX}}, time_{x2}\}$ 

22 -  $EA \rightarrow C$ :  $Hash(r, p, p', h, trans_C, question, time_{x1}, time_{x2}$ {answer}<sub>PKMIX</sub>)

## Huszti's Protocol

Marking 23 -  $EA \rightarrow E$ : {answer}<sub>PK<sub>MIX</sub></sub> // Note that EA stored { $ID_E, PK_E$ }<sub>PK<sub>MIX</sub>, h) 24 -  $E \rightarrow EA$ : { $mark, Hash(mark, answer), [Hash(mark, answer)]^{SK_E}, verzkp, t, q$ } 25 -  $E \leftrightarrow EA$ :  $ZKP_{eq}(Hash(mark, answer), [Hash(mark, answer)]^{SK_E}), (t, q))$ Notification 26 -  $EA \rightarrow NET : \{p'\} //Note that r = g^{\Gamma}, p = PK^{\Gamma}, p' = g^{\Gamma s}$ </sub>

26 -  $EA \rightarrow NET$  : {p'} //Note that  $r = g_C^{\Gamma}$ ,  $p = PK_C^{\Gamma}$ ,  $p' = g_C^{\Gamma s}$ 27 - NET calculates  $p' = \tilde{p}^{\Gamma}$ 28 -  $NET \rightarrow EA$  : { $p', \tilde{p}$ } 29 - EA publishes mark, Hash(mark, answer), [Hash(mark, answer)]^{SK\_E}, verzkp