

Integrating post-quantum cryptography into real-world protocols

Douglas Stebila



<https://www.douglas.stebila.ca/research/presentations/>

SAC2022

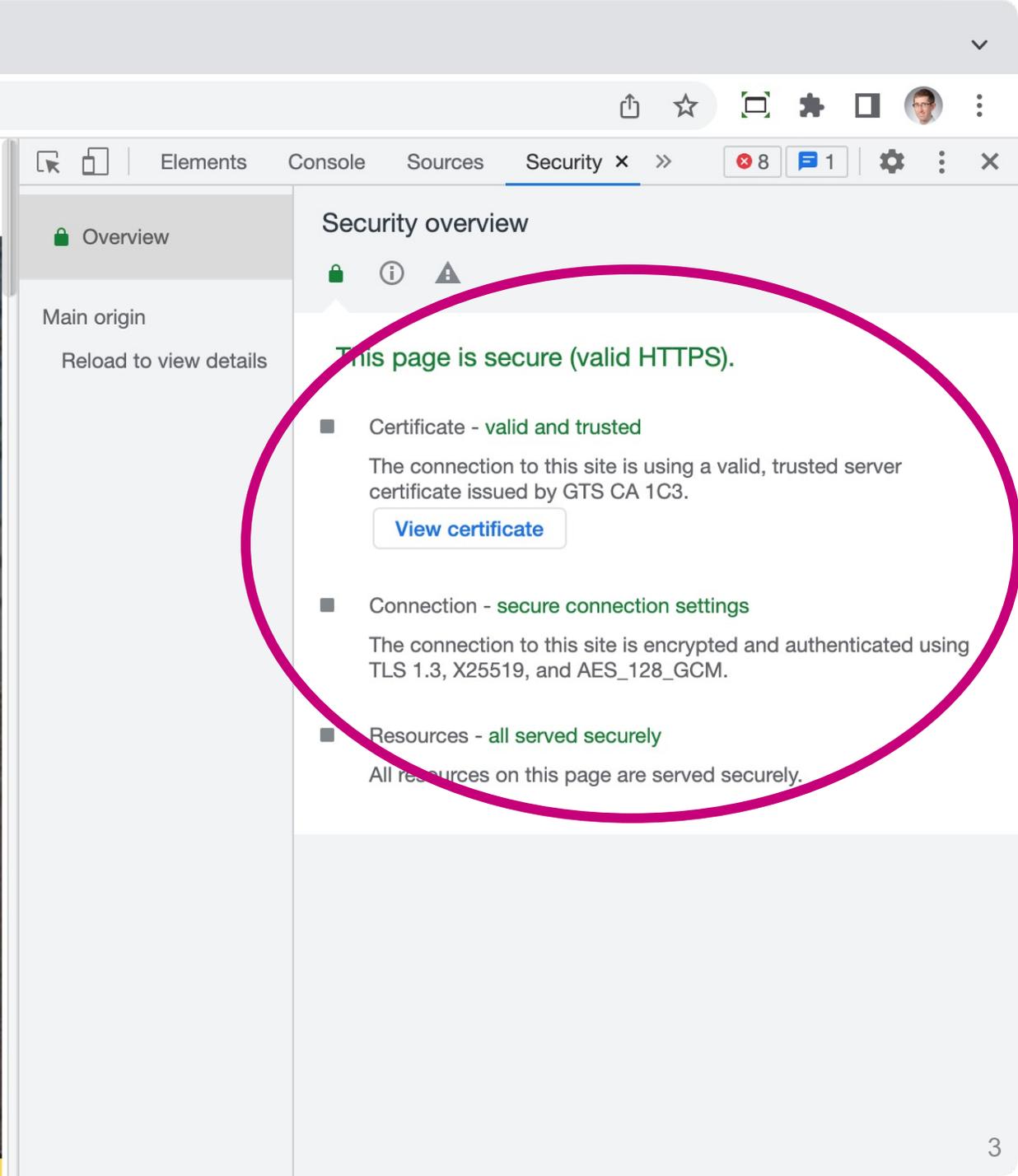
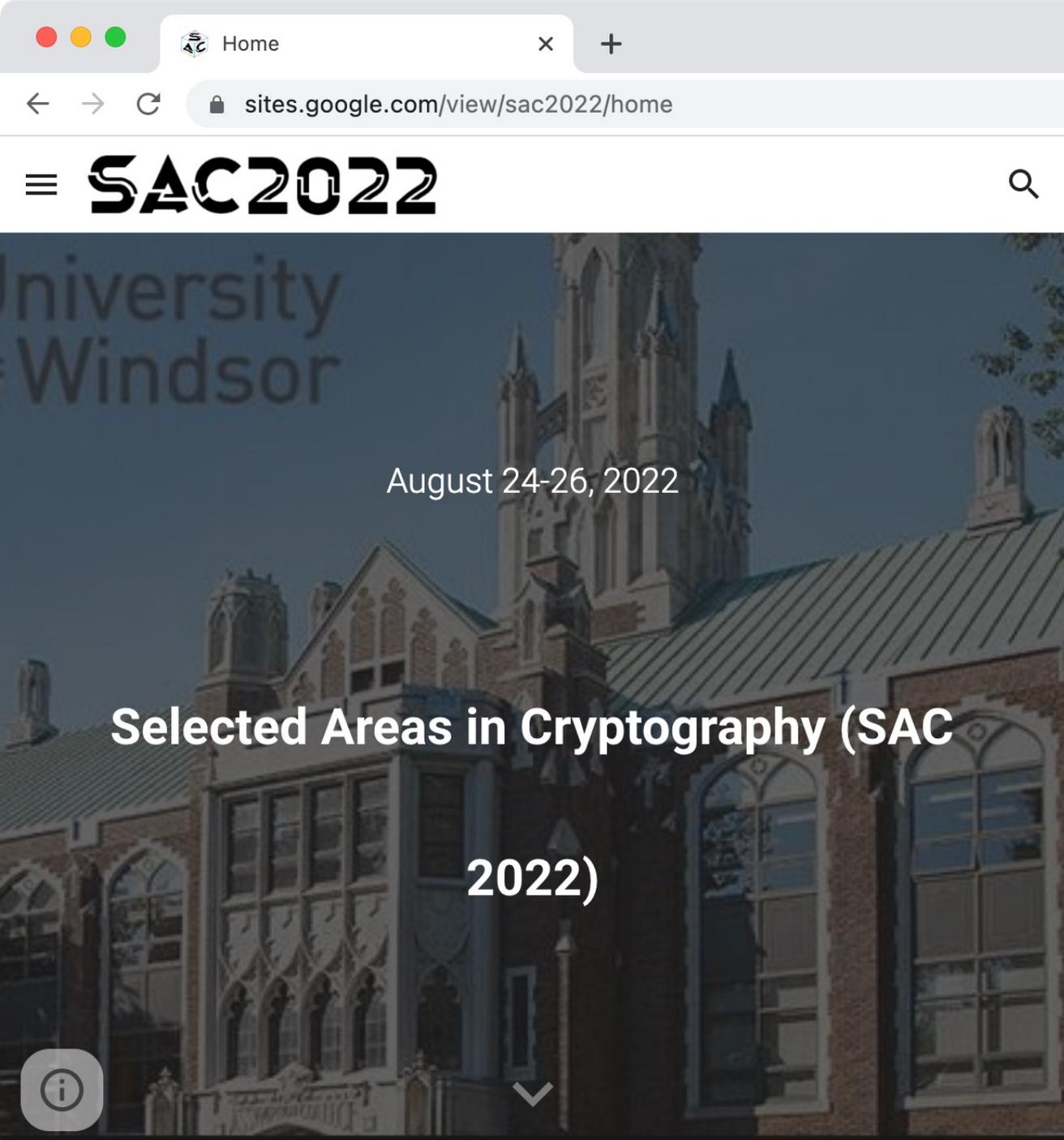


University
of Windsor

August 24-26, 2022

Selected Areas in Cryptography (SAC 2022)

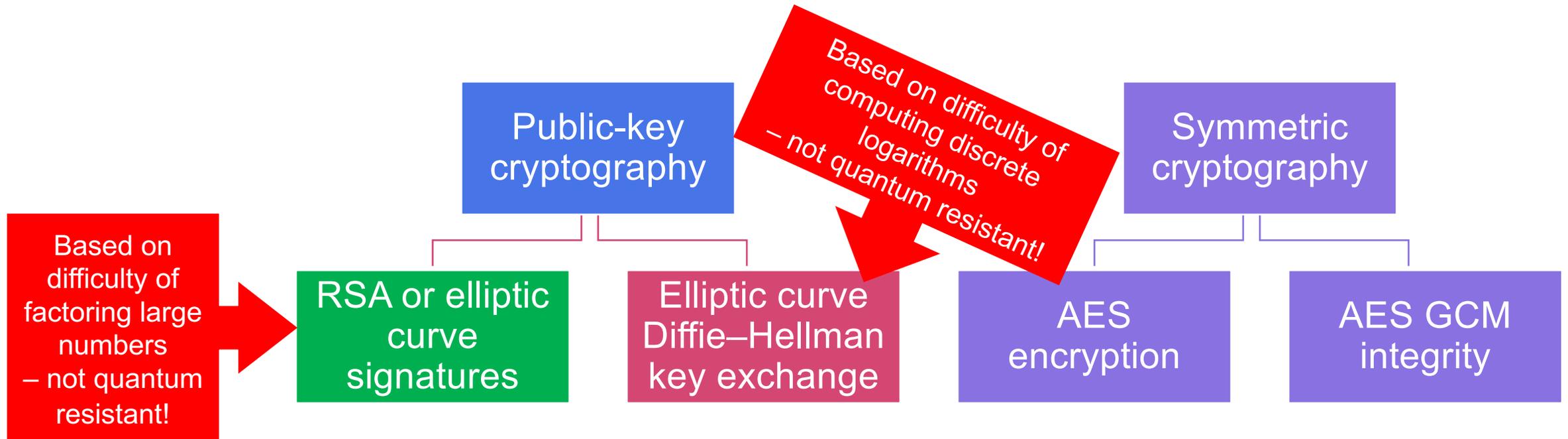




Cryptographic building blocks

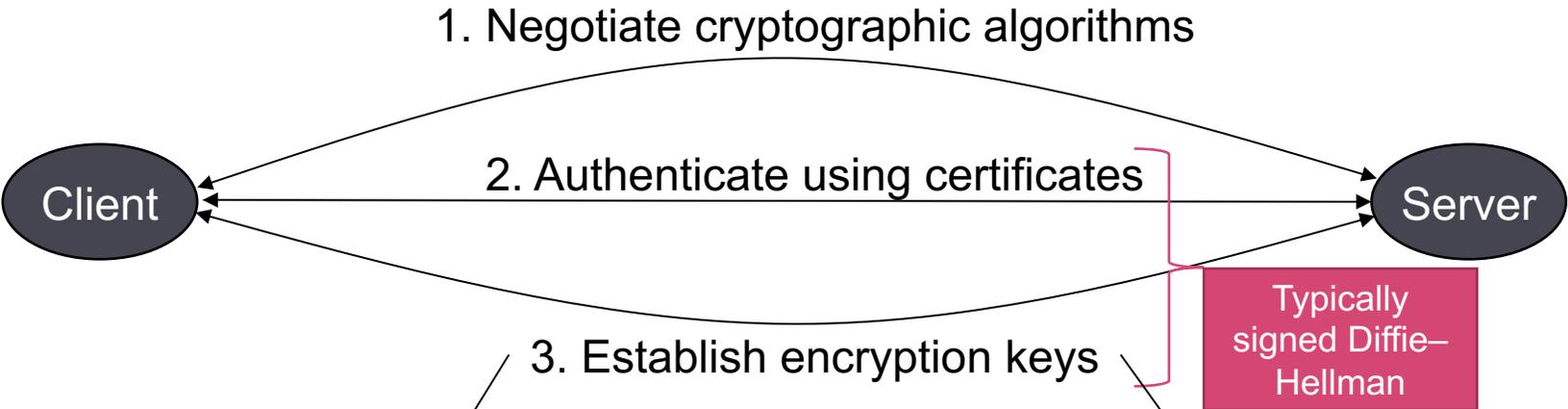
Connection - **secure connection settings**

The connection to this site is encrypted and authenticated using TLS 1.3, **X25519**, and **AES_256_GCM**.

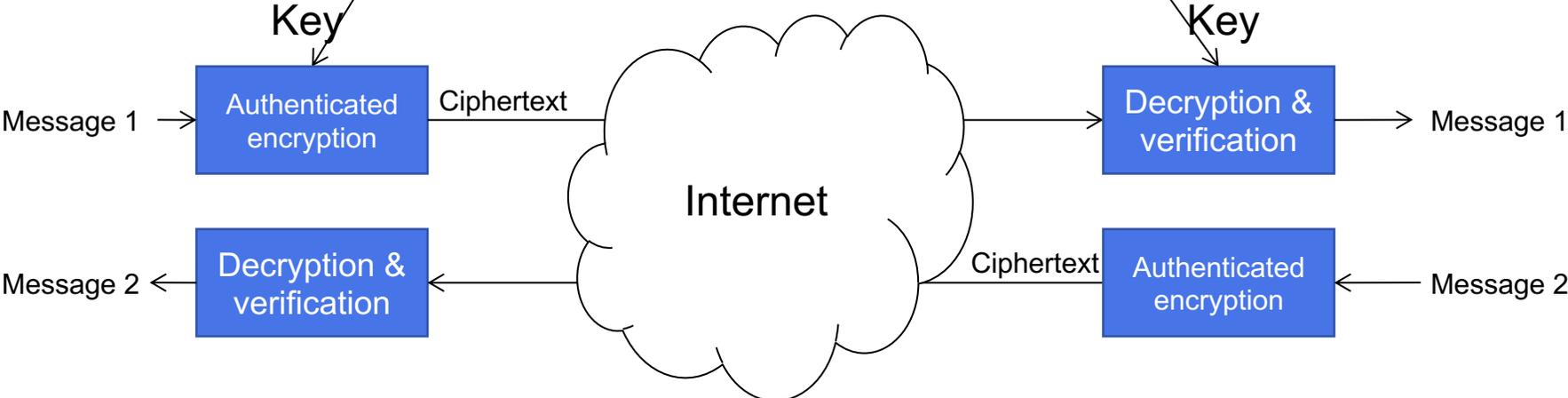


SSL/TLS Protocol

HANDSHAKE



RECORD LAYER



Four TLS 1.3 modes



Signed Diffie–Hellman,
server-only authentication



Signed Diffie–Hellman,
mutual authentication



Pre-shared key (PSK)

Already
PQ!



Pre-shared key with ephemeral Diffie–Hellman
(PSK-ECDHE)

Three dimensions of “post-quantum TLS”



What is “post-quantum TLS”?

Pre-shared key (PSK) mode	Post-quantum key exchange	Classical+PQ key exchange	Post-quantum signatures	Classical+PQ signatures	Alternative protocol designs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Already supported!• Still has the key distribution problem• No PQ forward secrecy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easiest to implement• Easy backwards compatibility• Needed soonest: harvest now & decrypt later with quantum computer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Hybrid”• Easy to implement• Possibly in demand during pre-FIPS-certification period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the web: requires coordination with certificate authorities• Less urgently needed: can’t retroactively break channel authentication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Hybrid” or “Composite”• May not make sense in the context of a negotiated protocol like TLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harder to implement; may require state machine or architecture changes

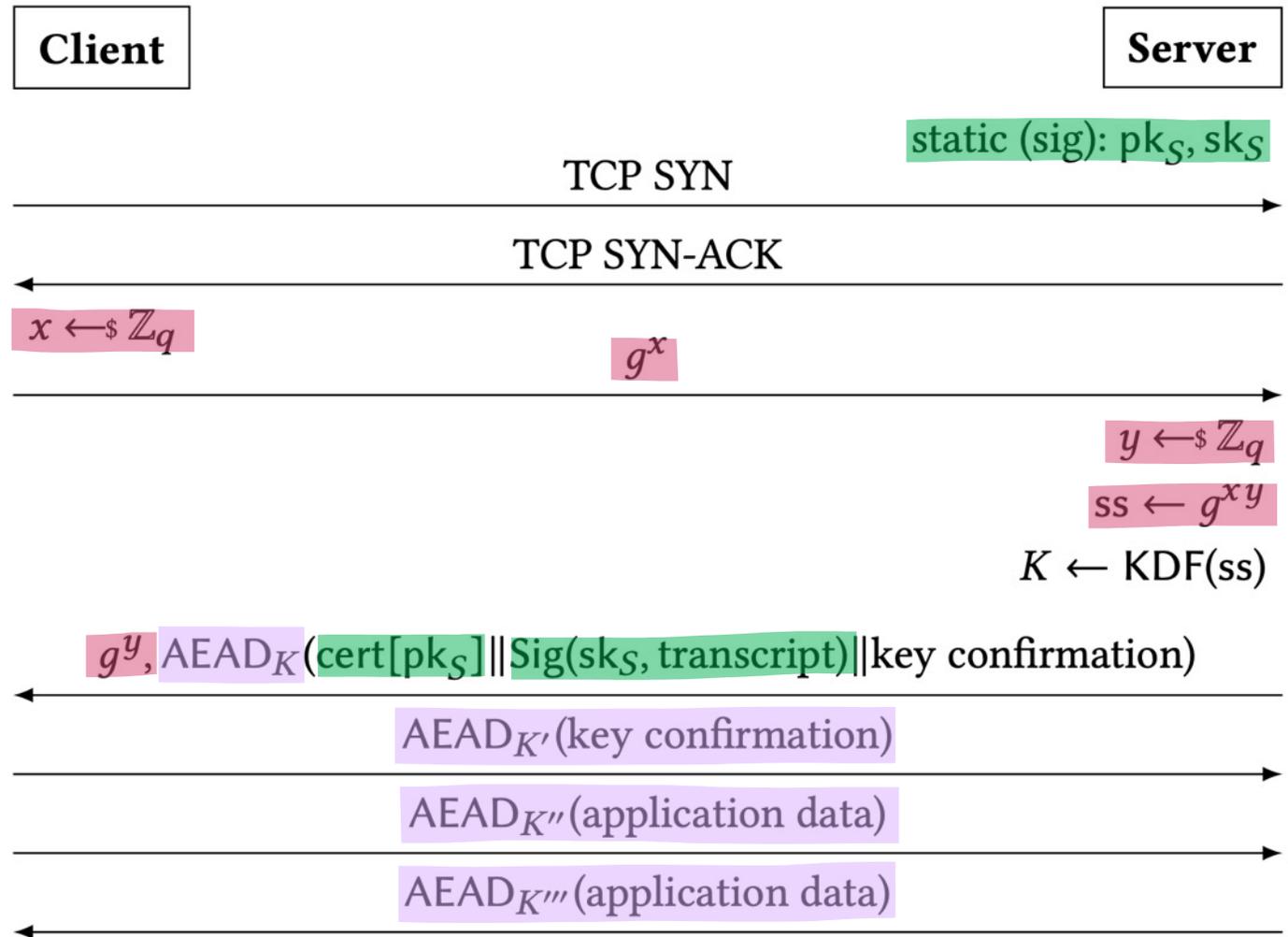
TLS 1.3 handshake

Diffie-Hellman key exchange

Digital signature

Signed Diffie–Hellman

Authenticated encryption



Long standing confidence in quantum-resistance



Pick ≤ 2

Fast computation

Small communication

Outline

Part 1: Existing protocol designs

- Classical + PQ key exchange
- Classical + PQ signatures
- Performance

Part 2: Alternative protocol designs

- KEMTLS

Classical + PQ key exchange

Douglas Stebila, Scott Fluhrer, Shay Gueron

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design-03>

Why use two (or more) algorithms?

1. Reduce risk from break of one algorithm

2. Ease transition with improved backwards compatibility

3. Standards compliance during transition

Why use two (or more) algorithms?

1. Reduce risk from break of one algorithm

- Enable early adopters to get post-quantum security without abandoning security of existing algorithms
- Retain security as long as at least one algorithm is not broken
- Uncertainty re: long-term security of existing cryptographic assumptions
- Uncertainty re: newer cryptographic assumptions

2. Ease transition with improved backwards compatibility

3. Standards compliance during transition

Why use two (or more) algorithms?

1. Reduce risk from break of one algorithm

2. Ease transition with improved backwards compatibility

- Design backwards-compatible data structures with old algorithms that can be recognized by systems that haven't been upgraded, but new implementations will use new algorithms
- May not be necessary for negotiated protocols like TLS

3. Standards compliance during transition

Why use two (or more) algorithms?

1. Reduce risk from break of one algorithm

2. Ease transition with improved backwards compatibility

3. Standards compliance during transition

- Early adopters may want to use post-quantum before standards-compliant (FIPS-)certified implementations are available
- Possible to combine (in a certified way) keying material from FIPS-certified (non-PQ) implementation with non-certified keying material

Terminology

- “Hybrid”
- “Composite”
- “Dual algorithms”
- “Robust combiner” [HKNRR05]

IETF draft: Hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3

Goals

Define data structures for negotiation, communication, and shared secret calculation for hybrid key exchange

Non-goals

- Hybrid/composite certificates or digital signatures
- Selecting which post-quantum algorithms to use in TLS

Mechanism

Main idea:

Each desired combination of traditional + post-quantum algorithm will be a new (opaque) key exchange “group”

- **Negotiation:** new named groups for each desired combination will need to be standardized
- **Key shares:** concatenate key shares for each constituent algorithm
- **Shared secret calculation:** concatenate shared secrets for each constituent algorithm and use as input to key schedule

IETF draft: Hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3

Current status

- May 2022: Working group last call
- In progress: Minor revisions from WGLC
- Then: Park until NIST Round 3 concludes and CFRG has reviewed algorithms

Securely combining keying material

Is it okay to use concatenation?

$$ss = k_1 || k_2$$

$$ss = H(k_1 || k_2)$$

Note concatenation is the primary hybrid method approved by NIST.

- Assume at least one of k_1 or k_2 is indistinguishable from random.
- If H is a random oracle, then ss is indistinguishable from random.
- If k_1 and k_2 are fixed length and H is a dual PRF in either half of its input, then ss is indistinguishable from random.

Classical + PQ signatures

LAMPS working group

- “Limited Additional Mechanisms for PKIX and S/MIME”
 - PKIX: Public key infrastructure a.k.a. X.509 certificates
 - S/MIME: Secure email (encrypted/signed)
- LAMPS charter now includes milestones related to PQ
 - PQ algorithms in PKIX/X.509 and S/MIME
 - Hybrid key establishment
 - Dual signatures

IETF drafts: pq-composite-keys, -sigs

Led by Mike Ounsworth from Entrust
and Massimiliano Pala from CableLabs

(I'm not involved – just including here FYI)

IETF drafts: pq-composite-keys, -sigs

Main question

How to represent algorithm identifiers and keys

Option #1: Generic composite

Single algorithm id representing “composite”, then an additional field containing list of algorithms

- Good for prototyping
- Allow for high degree of agility
- Allows ≥ 2 algorithms

Option #2: Explicit composite

New algorithm id for each combination of algorithms

- Less new processing logic
- Lower degree of agility

Composite AND versus Composite OR

In an asynchronous setting:

How is a credential with two public keys/signatures meant to be used?

- Must both algorithms be used? (Composite AND)
- Is either algorithm okay? (Composite OR)
 - Must take countermeasures to avoid stripping/separating context
 - Risks of ambiguity

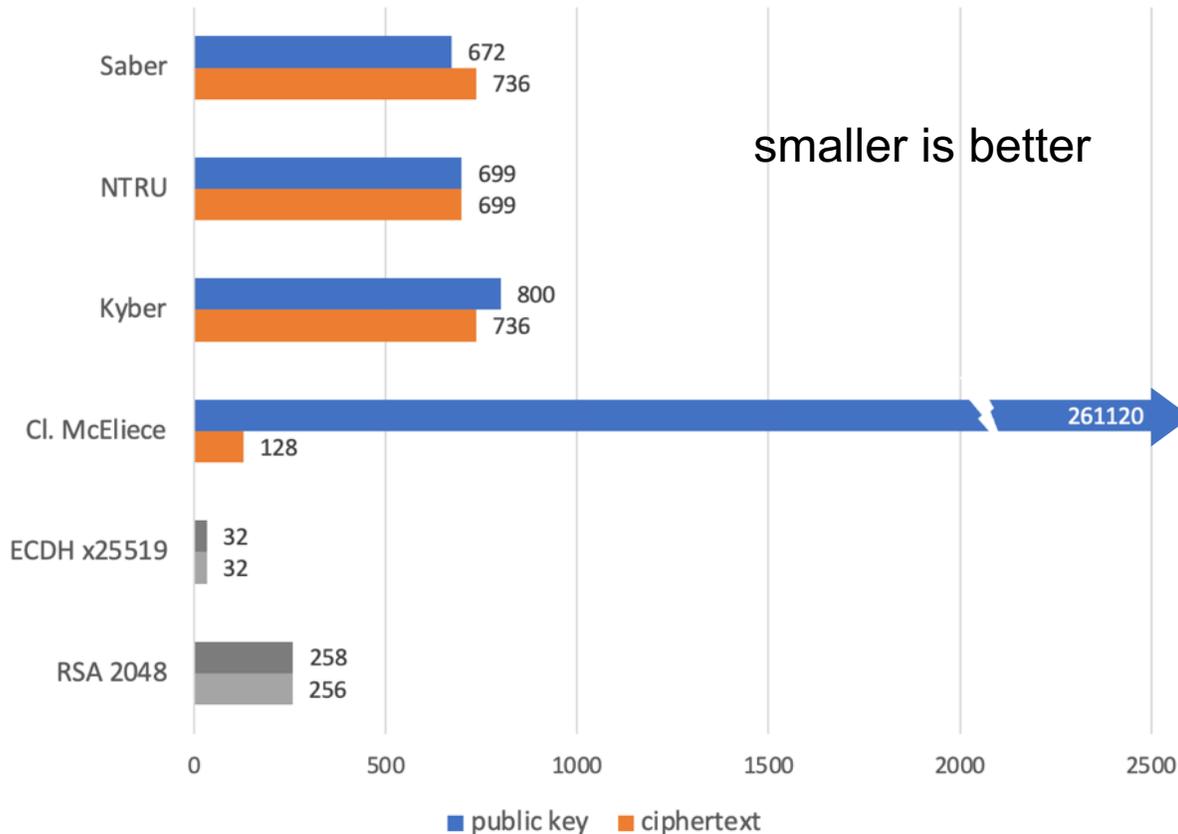
TLS performance

Open Quantum Safe benchmarking. <https://openquantumsafe.org/benchmarking/>

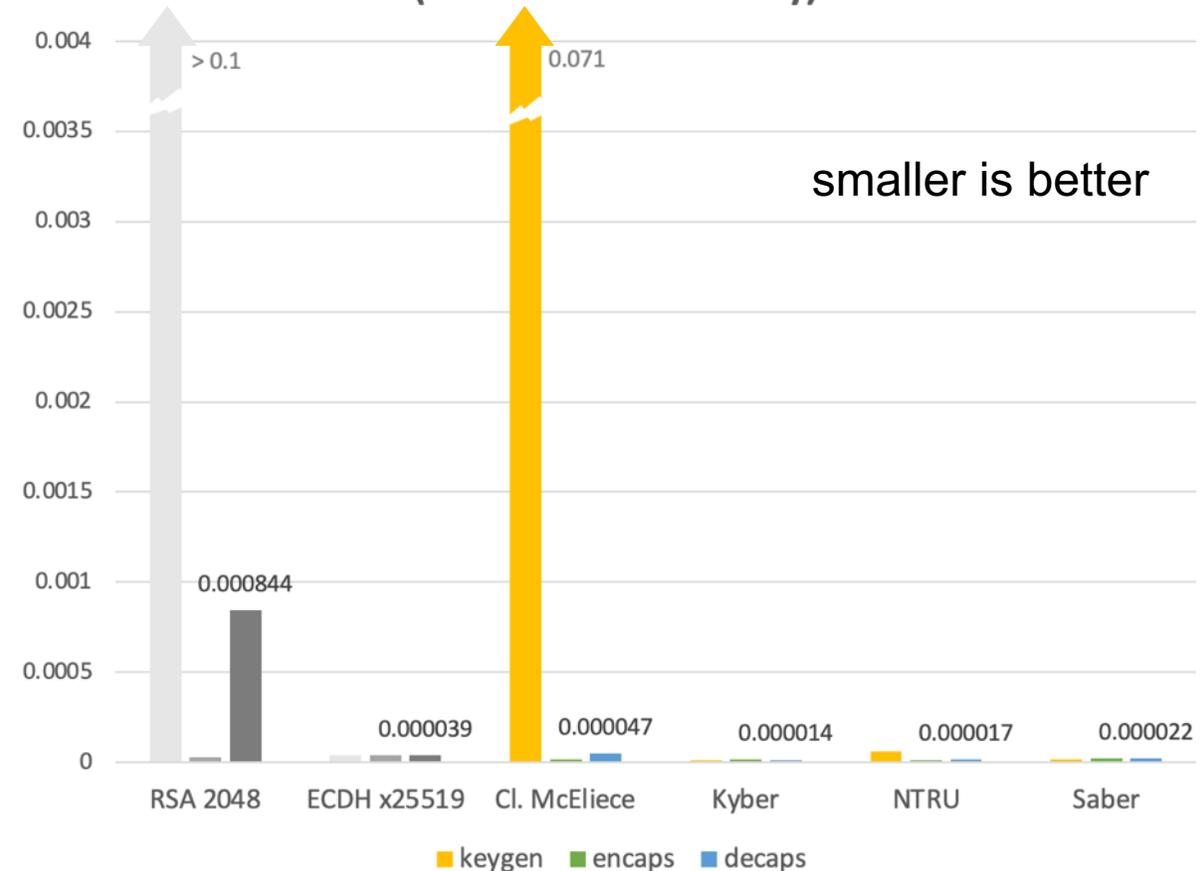
Christian Paquin, [Douglas Stebila](https://eprint.iacr.org/2019/1447), Goutam Tamvada.
PQCrypto 2020. <https://eprint.iacr.org/2019/1447>

Base performance – Round 3 KEM Finalists

Public key and ciphertext sizes (bytes)
(level 1 - 128-bit security)

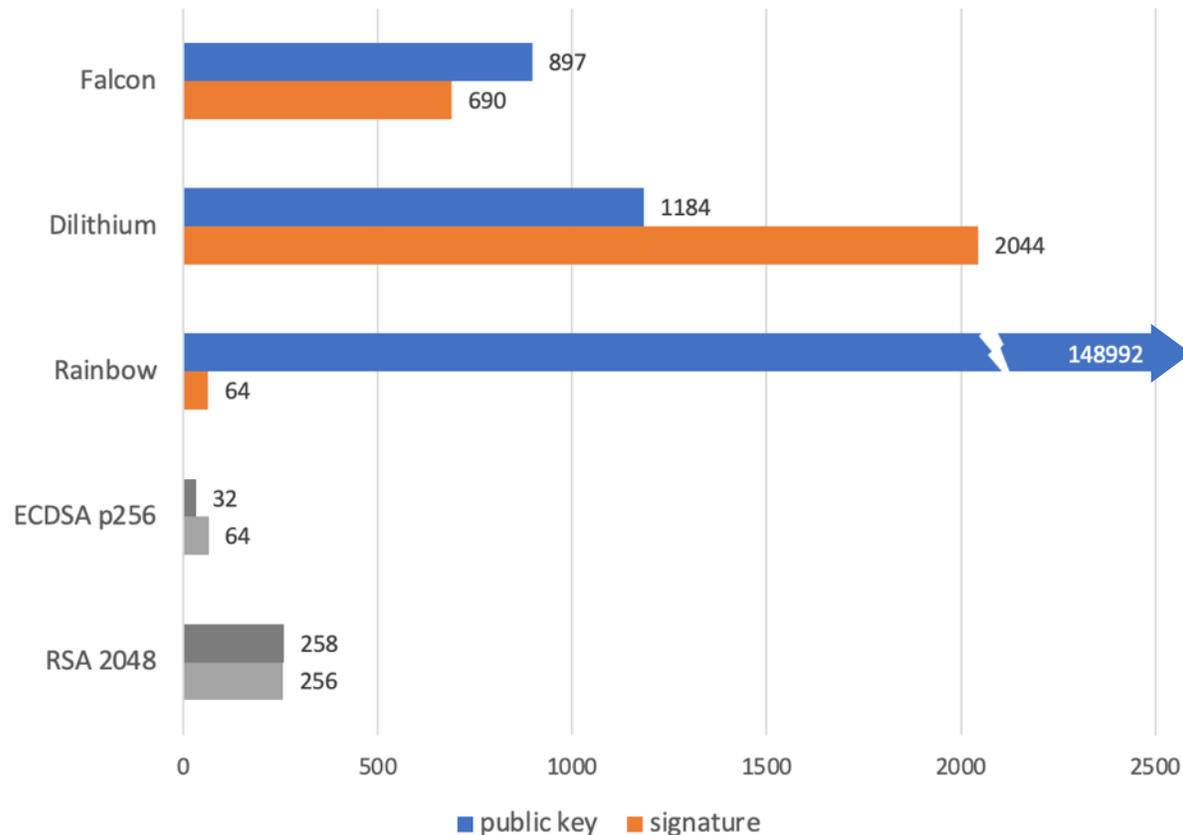


Runtimes (seconds)
(level 1 - 128 bit security)

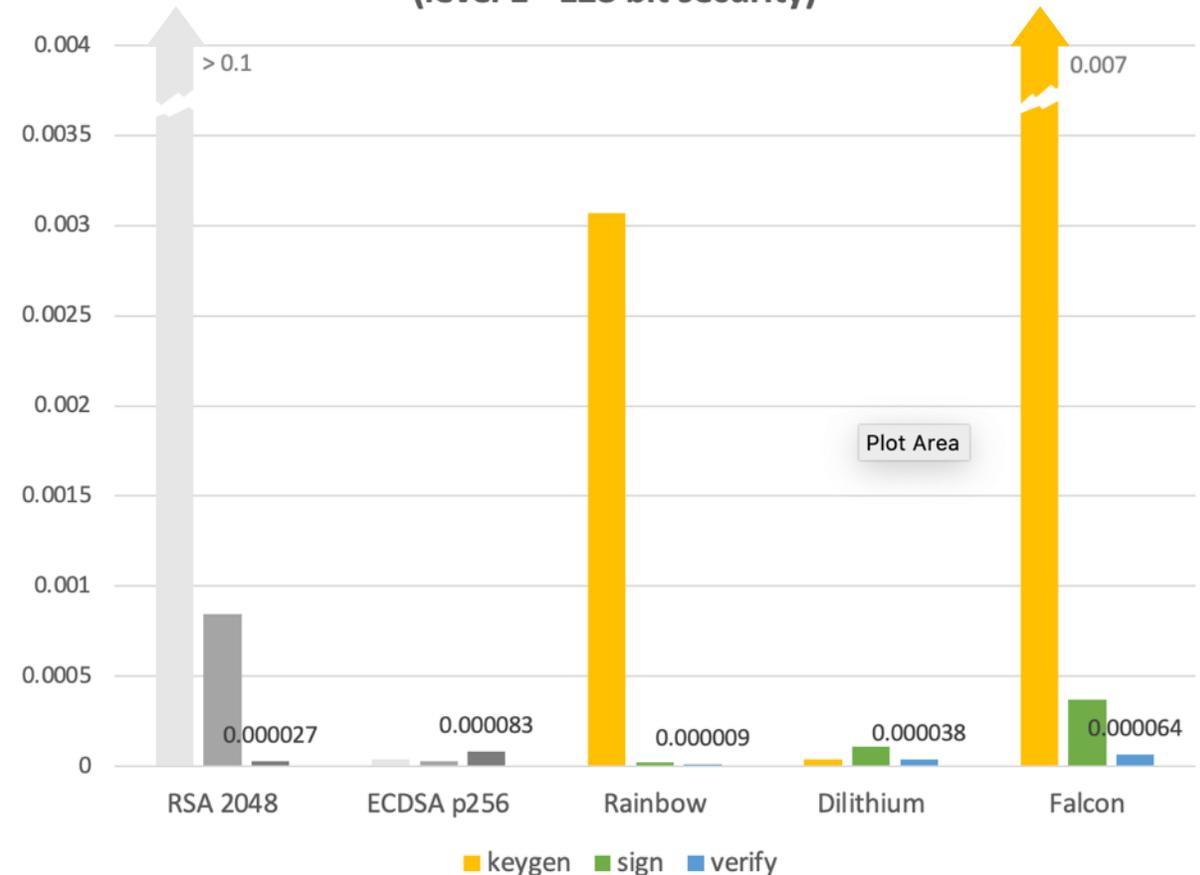


Base performance – Round 3 Signature Finalists

Public key and signature sizes (bytes)
(level 1 - 128-bit security)

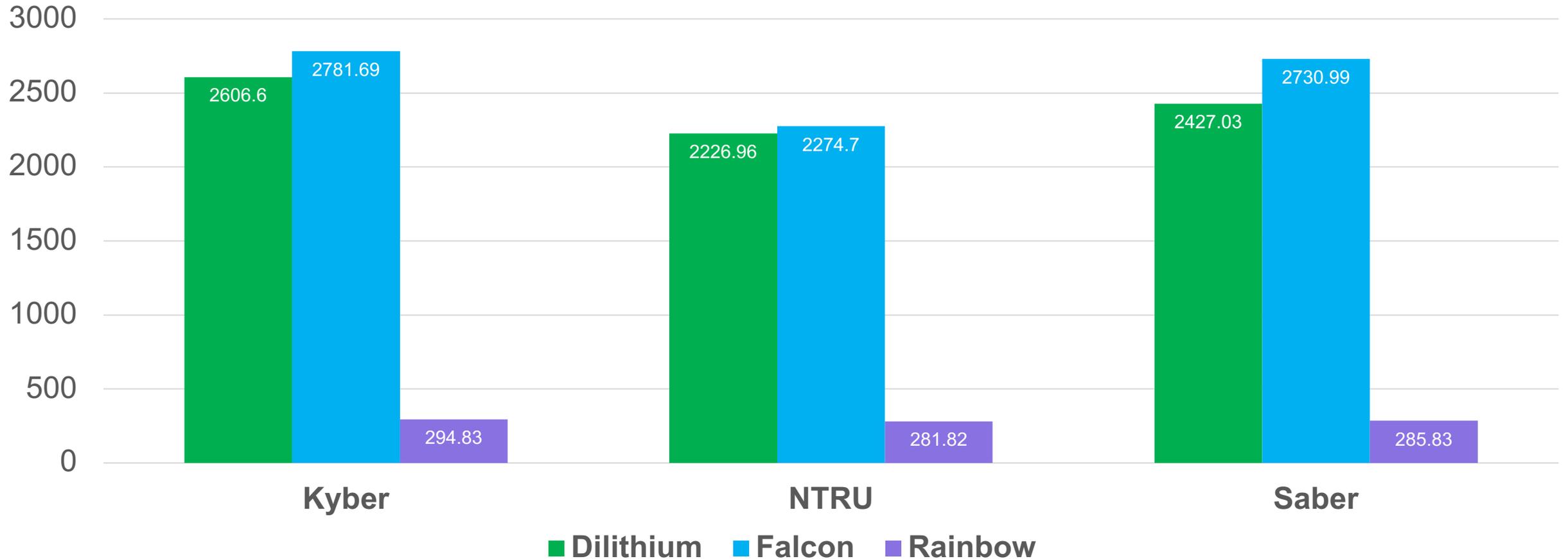


Runtimes (seconds)
(level 1 - 128 bit security)



TLS performance – ideal conditions

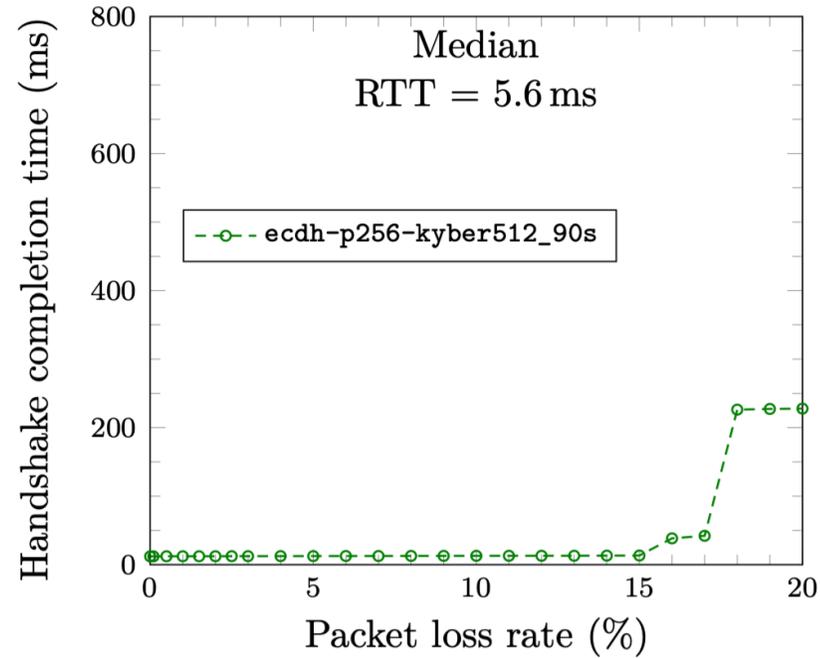
Handshakes per second (higher is better)



TLS performance

Higher
latency &
packet loss

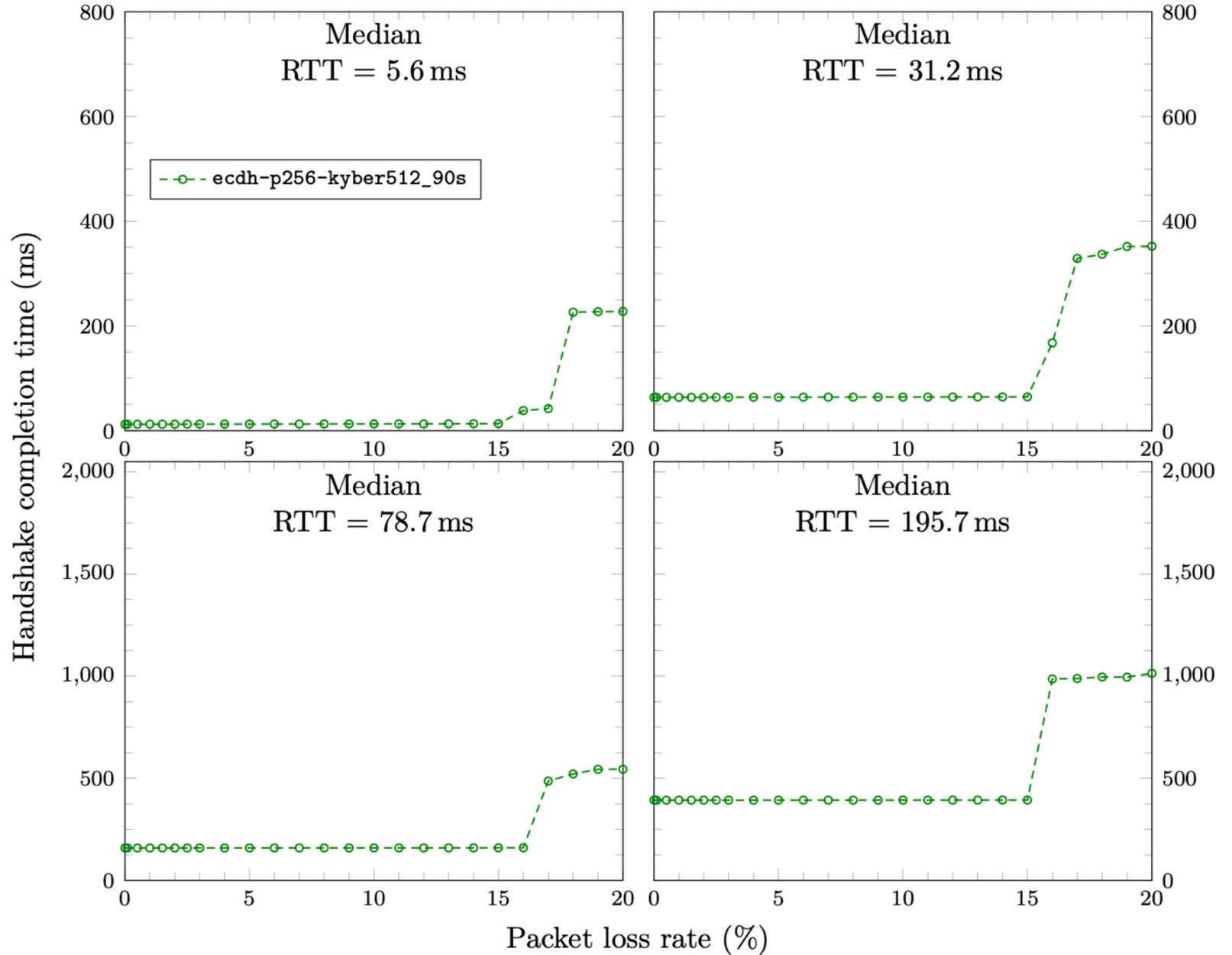
50th percentile



TLS performance

Higher latency & packet loss

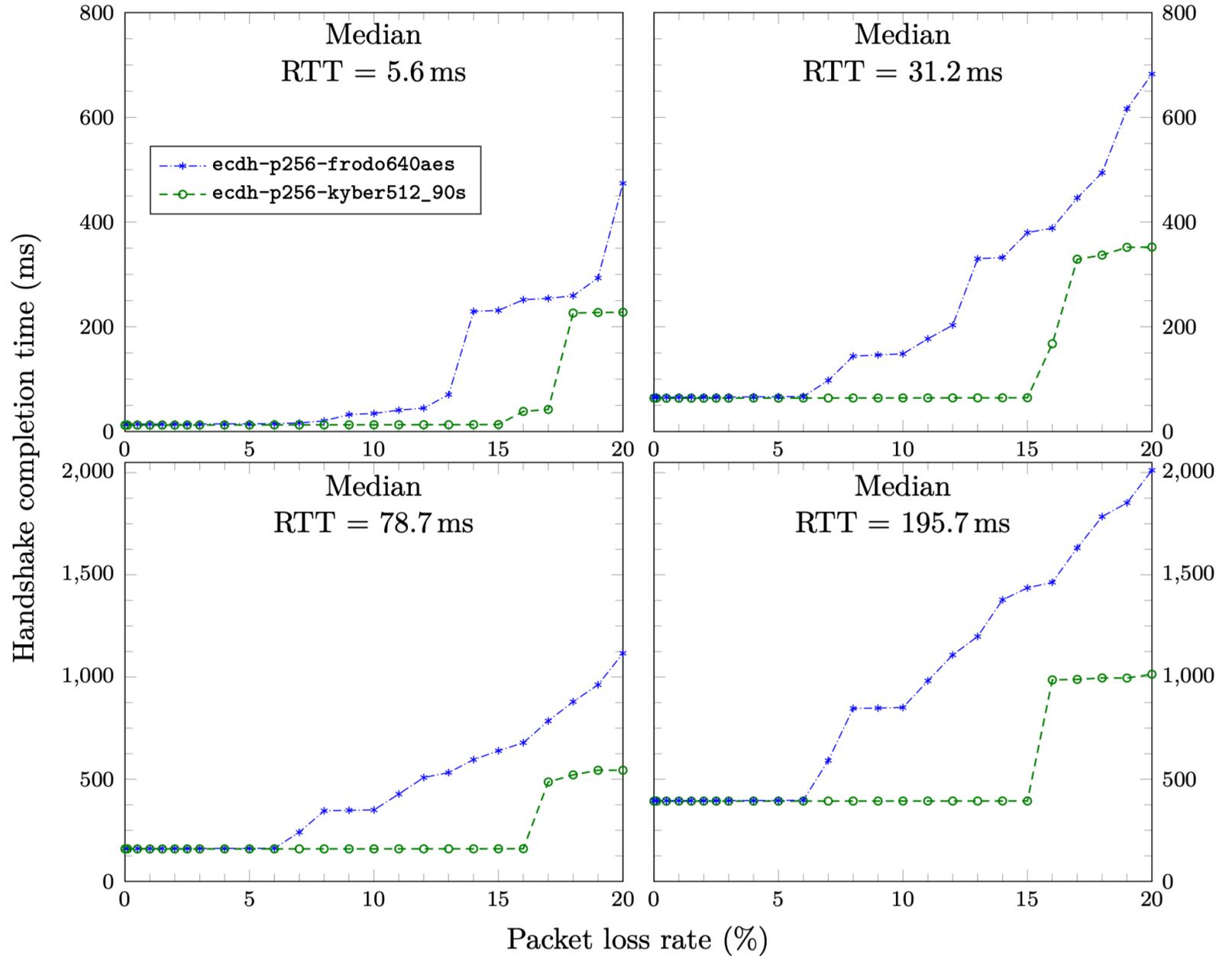
50th percentile



TLS performance

Higher latency & packet loss

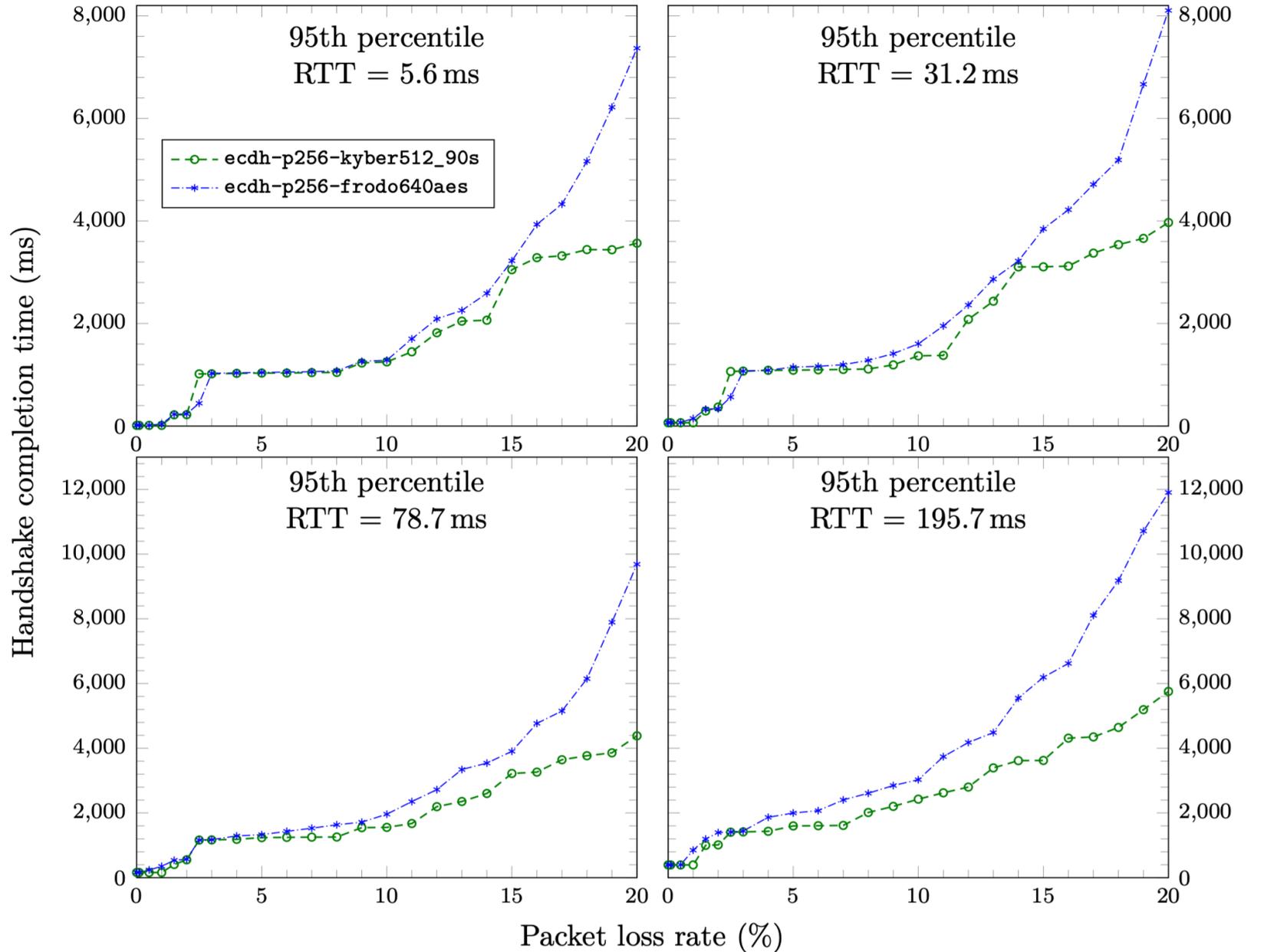
50th percentile



TLS performance

Higher latency & packet loss

95th percentile



TLS performance



On **fast, reliable network links**, the cost of public key cryptography dominates the median TLS establishment time, but does not substantially affect the 95th percentile establishment time



On **unreliable network links** (packet loss rates $\geq 3\%$), communication sizes come to govern handshake completion time

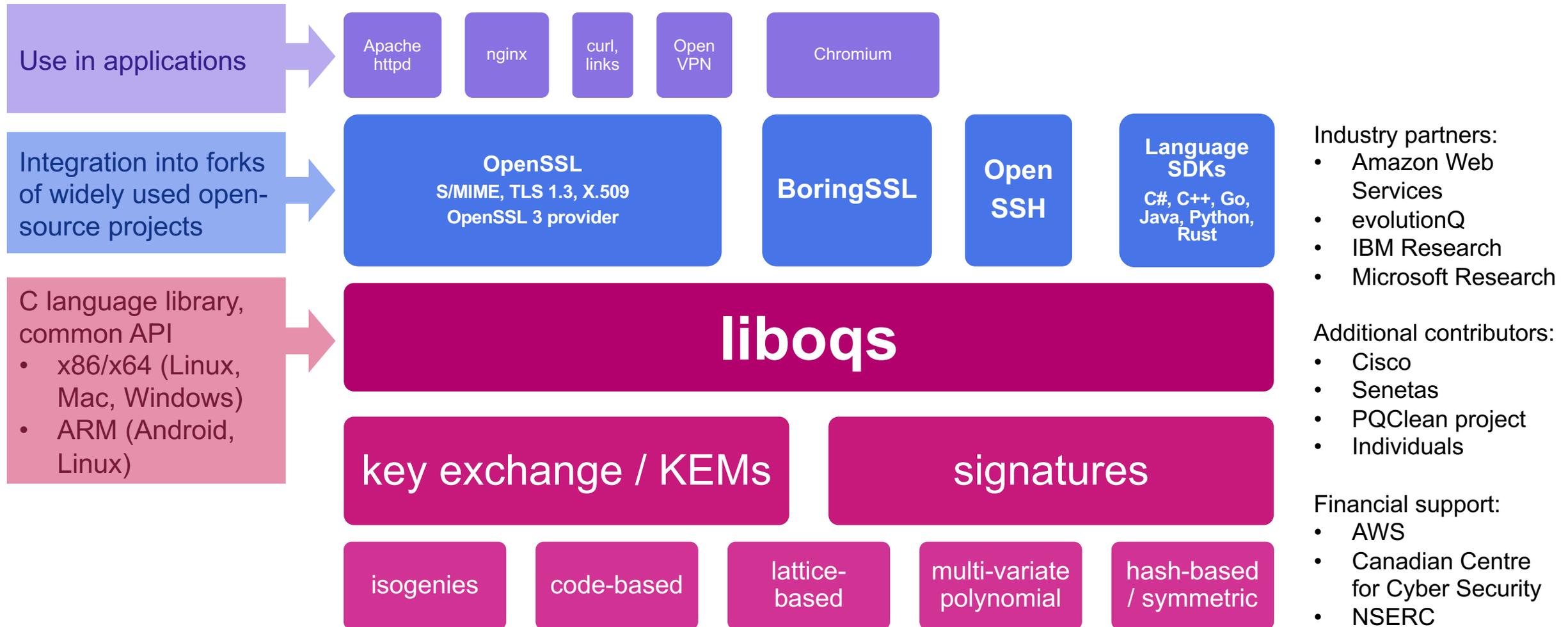


As application data sizes grow, the relative cost of TLS handshake establishment diminishes compared to application data transmission

OPEN QUANTUM SAFE

*software for prototyping
quantum-resistant cryptography*

Open Quantum Safe Project



liboqs

- C library with common API for post-quantum signature schemes and key encapsulation mechanisms
- MIT License
- Builds on Windows, macOS, Linux; x86_64, ARM v8
- Includes all Round 3 finalists and alternate candidates
 - (except GeMSS)

TLS 1.3 implementations

	OQS-OpenSSL 1.1.1	OQS-OpenSSL 3 provider	OQS- BoringSSL
PQ key exchange in TLS 1.3	✓	✓	✓
Classical + PQ key exchange in TLS 1.3	✓	✓	✓
PQ certificates and signature authentication in TLS 1.3	✓	✗	✓
Classical + PQ certificates and signature authentication in TLS 1.3	✓	✗	✗

Using draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design for hybrid key exchange

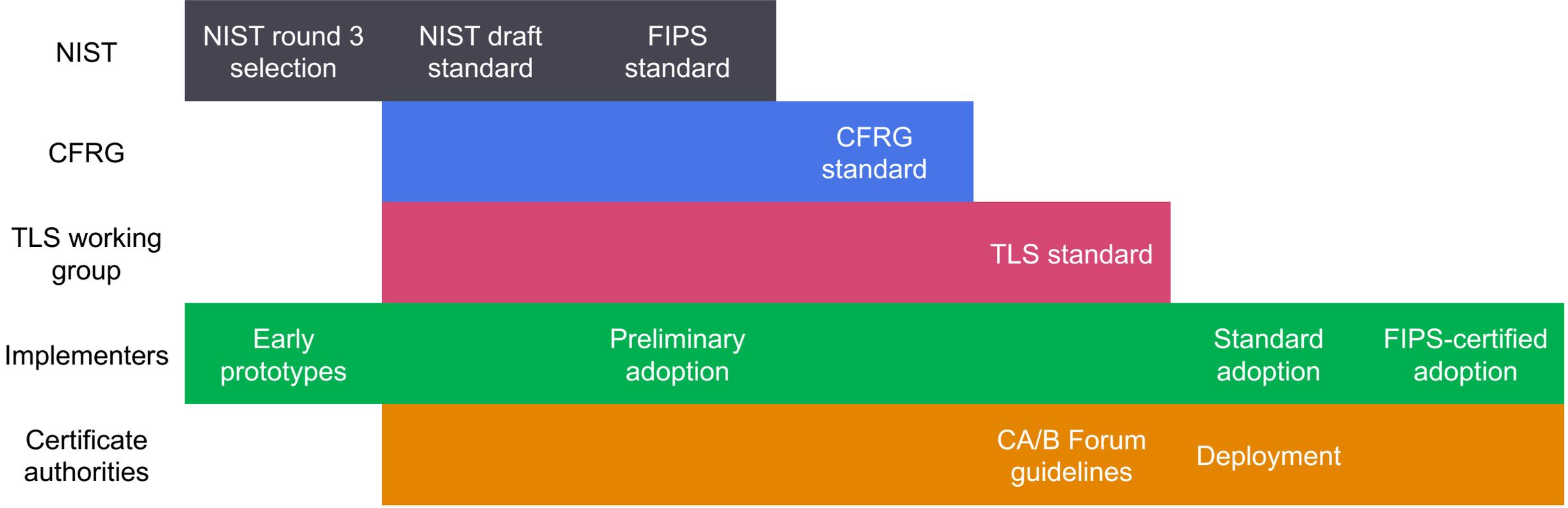
Interoperability test server running at <https://test.openquantumsafe.org>

<https://openquantumsafe.org/applications/tls/>

Applications

- Demonstrator application integrations into:
 - Apache
 - nginx
 - haproxy
 - curl
 - Chromium
 - Wireshark
- In most cases required few/no modifications to work with updated OpenSSL
- Runnable Docker images available for download

Paths to standardization and adoption



Integrating post-quantum cryptography into real-world protocols, part 1

Douglas Stebila



<https://www.douglas.stebila.ca/research/presentations/>

What is post-quantum TLS?

- PSK mode
- PQ key exchange
- Classical + PQ key exchange
- PQ signatures
- Classical + PQ signatures
- Alternative protocol designs (KEMTLS)

Hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design-03>

Composite certificates

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ounsworth-pq-composite-keys-02>
<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-ounsworth-pq-composite-sigs-07>

Performance

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2019/1447>
<https://openquantumsafe.org/benchmarking/>

Open Quantum Safe project

<https://openquantumsafe.org> • <https://github.com/open-quantum-safe/>