TLS and Post-Quantum Cryptography: Securing Communications Today and Tomorrow

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intel

XIPHERA

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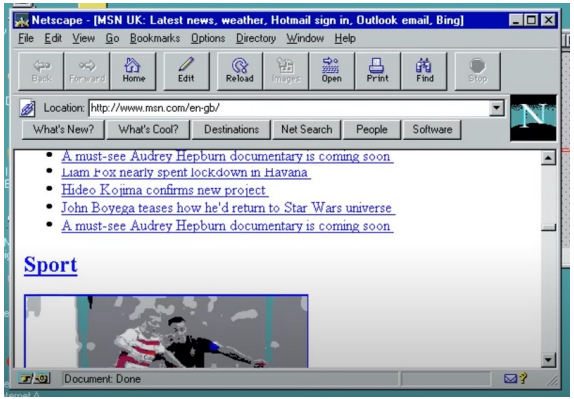
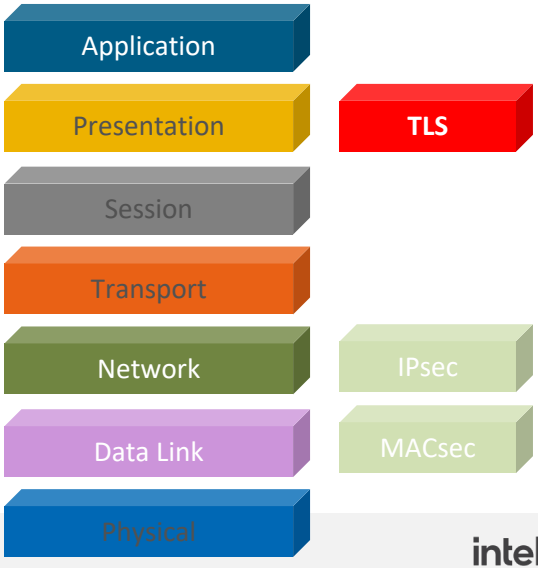
So what is TLS?

Transport Layer Security (**TLS**) is a cryptographic protocol designed to provide communications security over a computer network. The protocol is widely used in applications such as email, instant messaging, and voice over IP, but its use in securing HTTPS remains the most publicly visible.



- v1.3 is the latest (defined in 2018)
- Provides confidentiality, integrity and authenticity



How does it work?

- Client – Server protocol
  - Client requests a secure connection from the server
- Two layers: TLS Record and TLS Handshake. The former defines the message structures, the latter defines how client and server establish a secure session
- Handshake
  - Cipher selection
  - Server authentication (client authentication is also supported)
    - Typically done with digital certificates – PKI
  - Session key exchange – symmetric crypto
- Record
  - Application data records protected for confidentiality and integrity/authenticity
  - Nowadays most typically uses AES-GCM (but also other ciphers supported)

TLS Use Cases – acceleration with FPGA

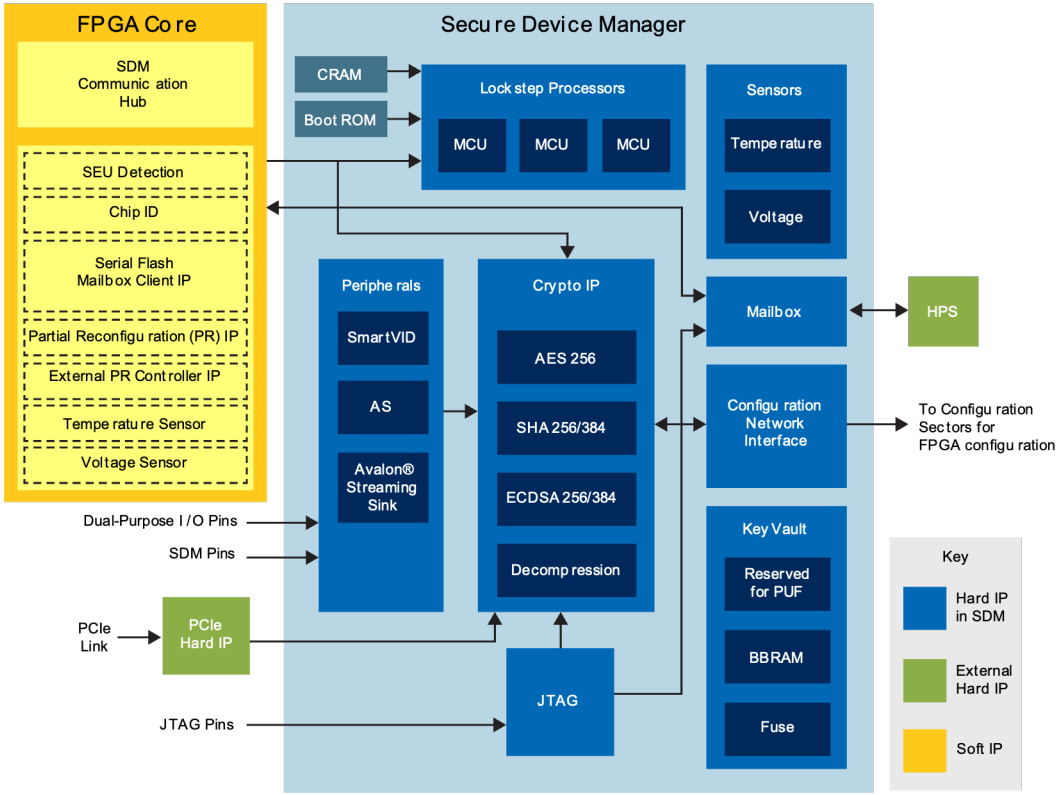
- NVMe™ over Fabrics (NVMe-oF™) : TCP or RoCE
  - Using a transport protocol over a network to connect remote NVMe devices, contrary to regular NVMe where physical NVMe devices are connected to a PCIe bus either directly or over a PCIe switch to a PCIe bus.
  - FPGA used to accelerate the TCP stack, with TLS on top
- Protecting streaming content
  - Content Service Provided (CSP)
  - Medical
  - Banking
  - Government
  - FPGA accelerates TLS encrypt function (server side)
- High speed Wireline Packet Sniffer
  - End point example

TLS and Intel FPGA ?

Intel has a wide range of FPGAs suitable for TLS implementations

Intel® Agilex™ 7 FPGAs	Intel® Agilex™ 5 FPGAs
F-Series / I-Series / M-Series	E-Series / D-Series
573k – 4M	50k – 656k
485 Mb (32 GB HBM2e option)	69 Mb
Variable-Precision DSP Blocks	Enhanced DSP with AI Tensor Blocks
25,584	3,680
Quad-Core Arm Cortex-A53	Dual-Core Arm Cortex-A76 Dual-Core Arm Cortex-A55
116 Gbps XCVRs	28 Gbps XCVRs
PCIe 4.0/5.0, CXL	PCIe 4.0
DDR4/5, LPDDR5, QDR IV	DDR4/5, LPDDR4/5, QDR IV
768	444
120	32
37.5x34mm	15x15mm

Intel FPGA : Securing your IP and your Data



Agilex FPGAs help secure your design and data from the ground up

Protect your IP

Secure Device Manager in all family members

Secure key vault for TLS

How Does Post-Quantum Cryptography Affect the TLS Protocol?

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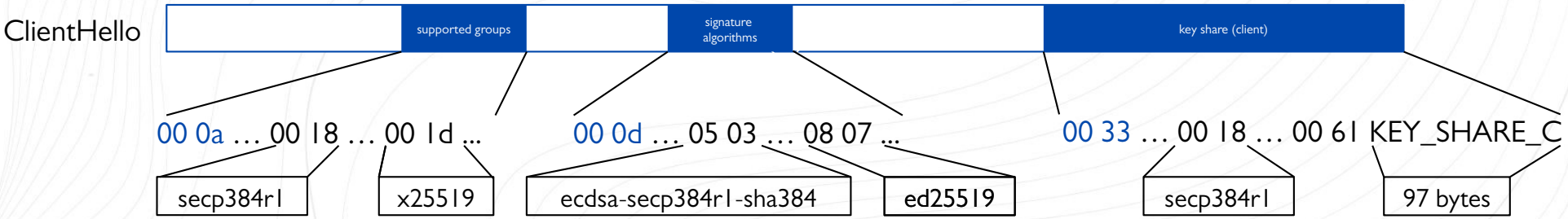
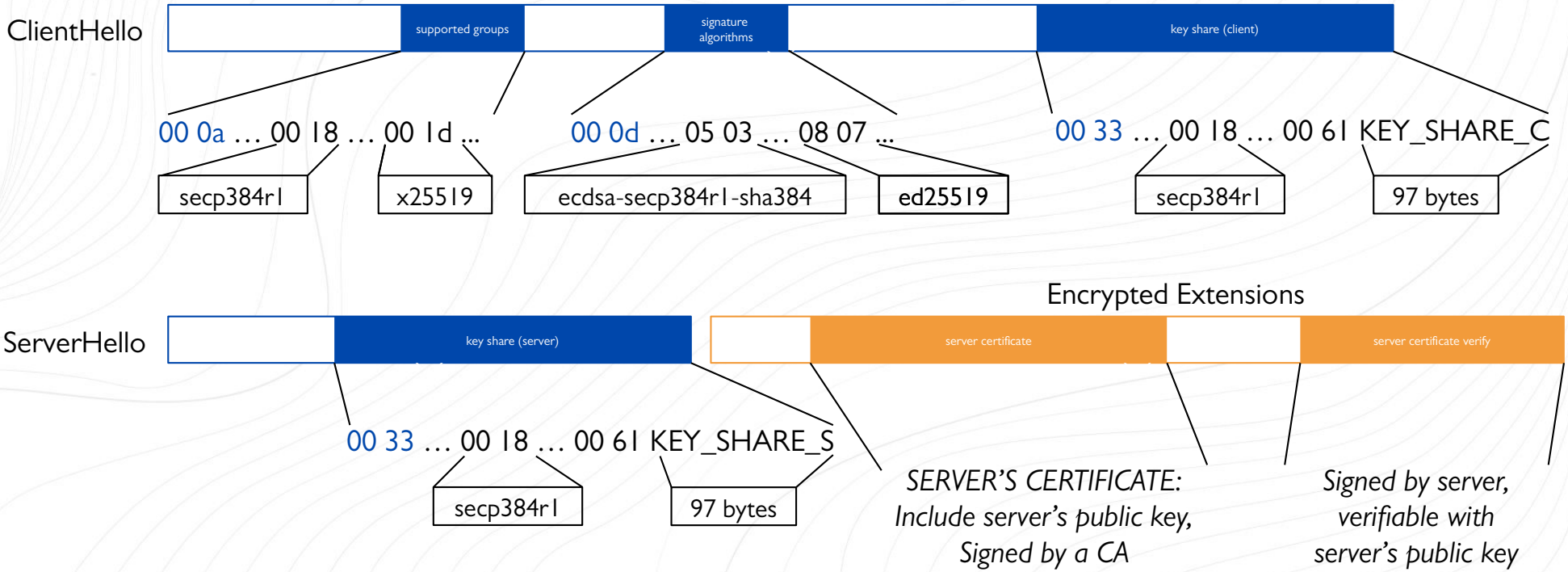
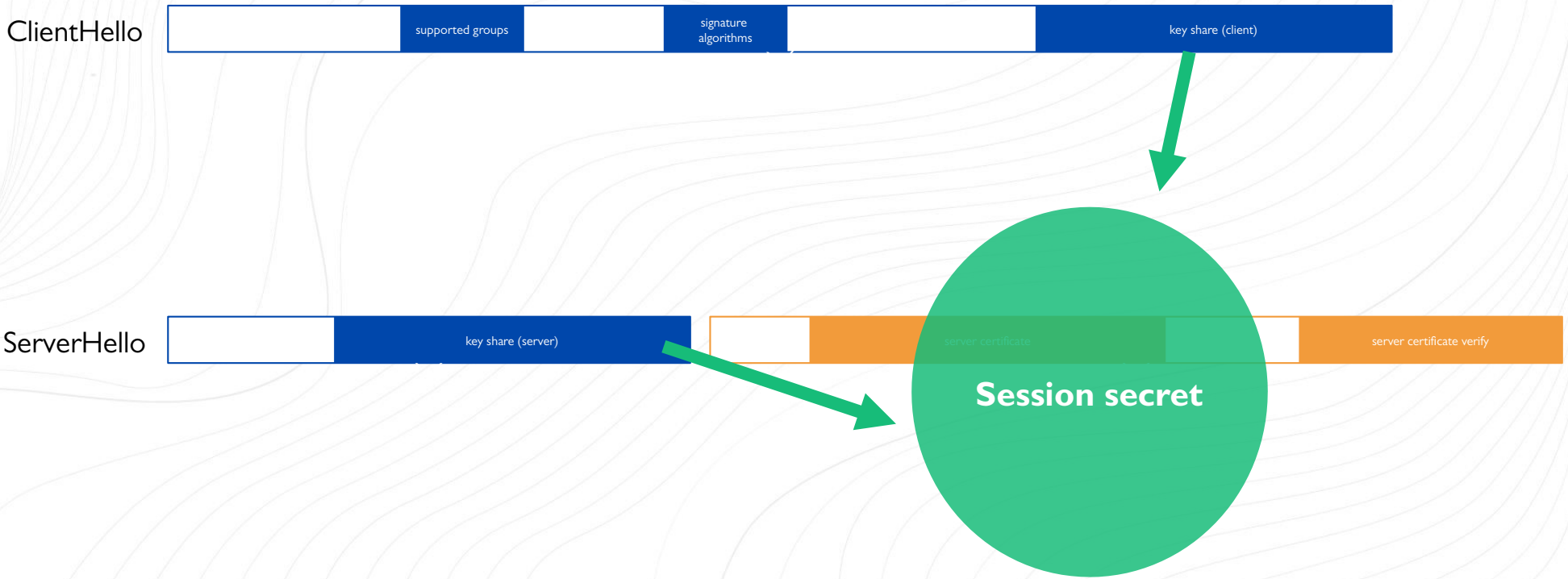
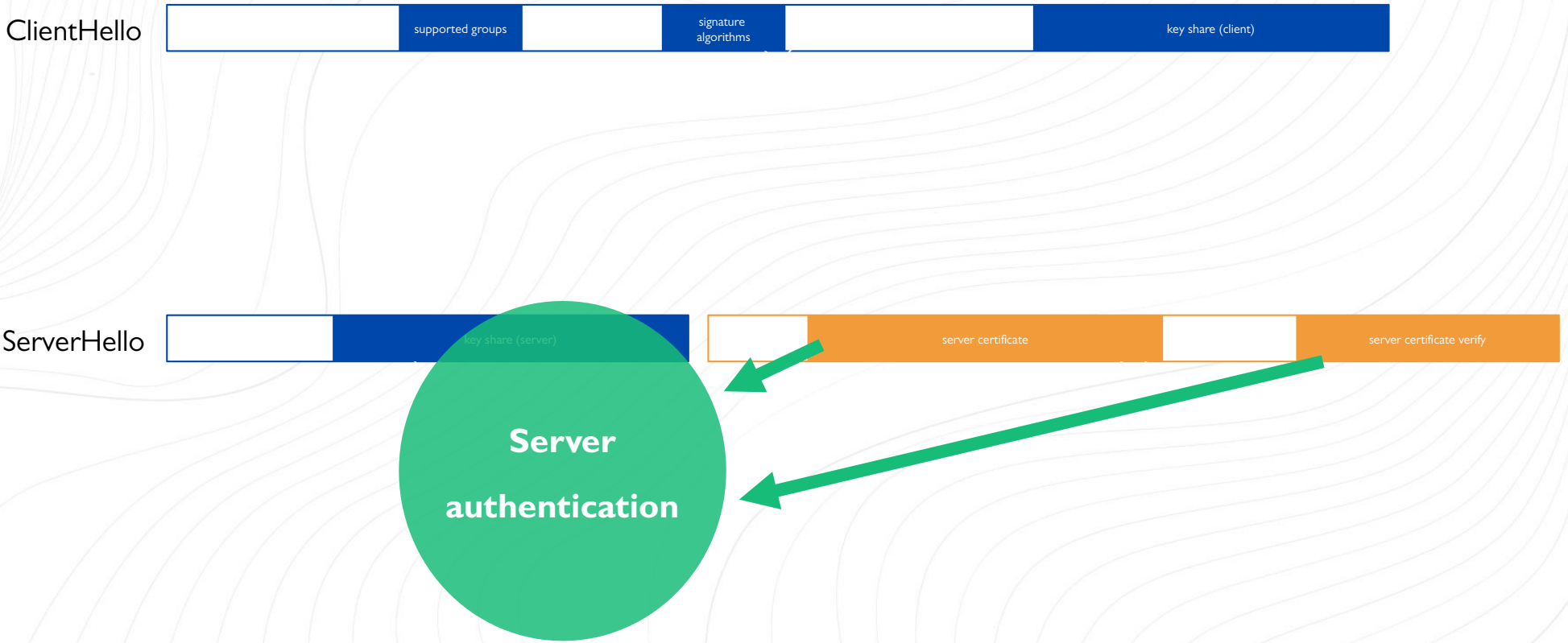
TLS 1.3 Handshake



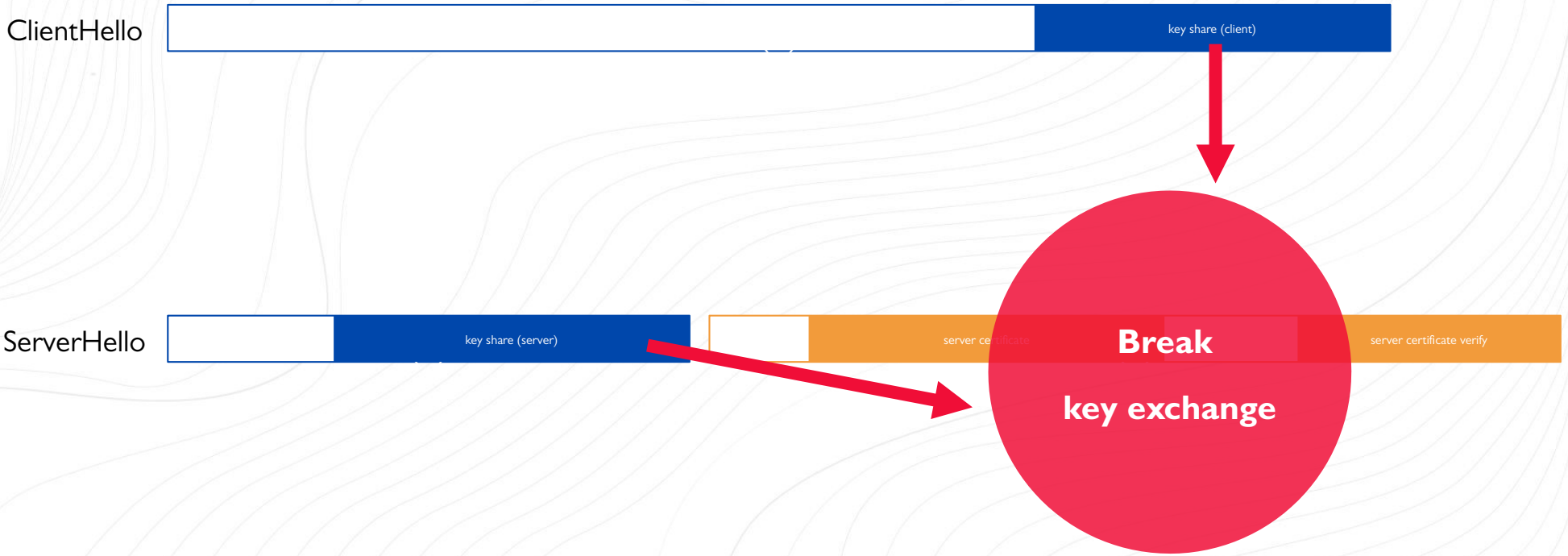
TLS 1.3 Handshake

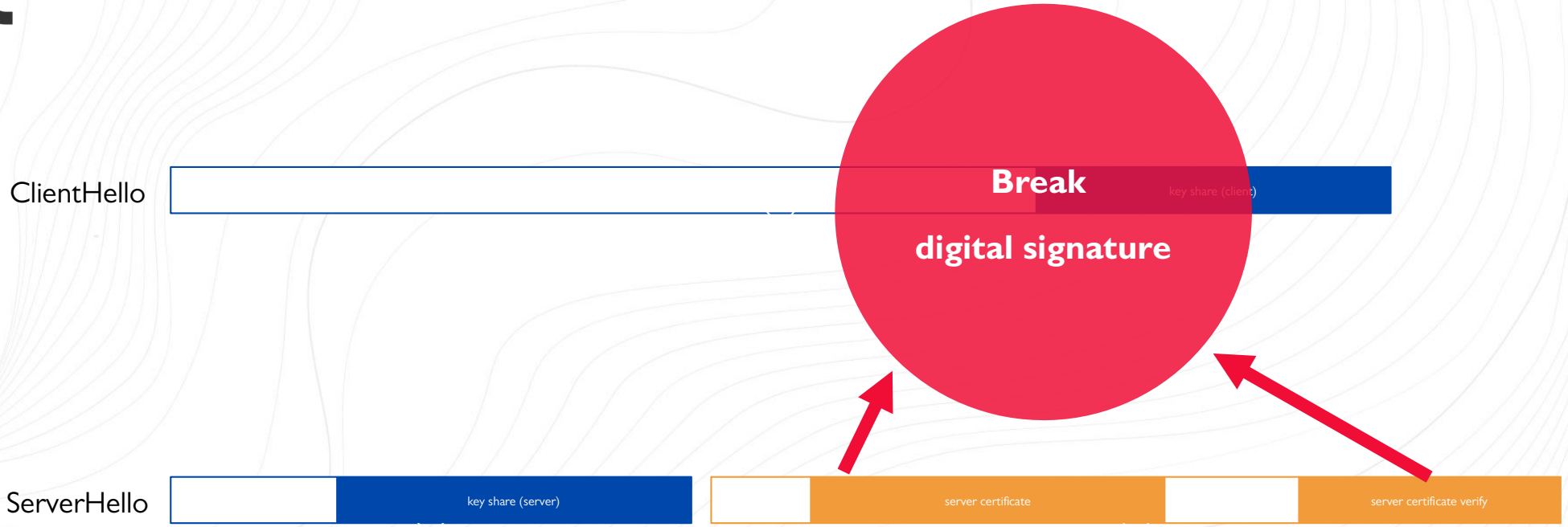



ClientHello
supported groups
signature algorithms
key share (client)
ServerHello
key share (server)
server certificate
server certificate verify
Session secret


ClientHello
supported groups
signature algorithms
key share (client)
ServerHello
key share (server)
server certificate
server certificate verify
Server authentication

Quantum Targets


ClientHello
key share (client)
ServerHello
key share (server)
server certificate verify
Break
key exchange

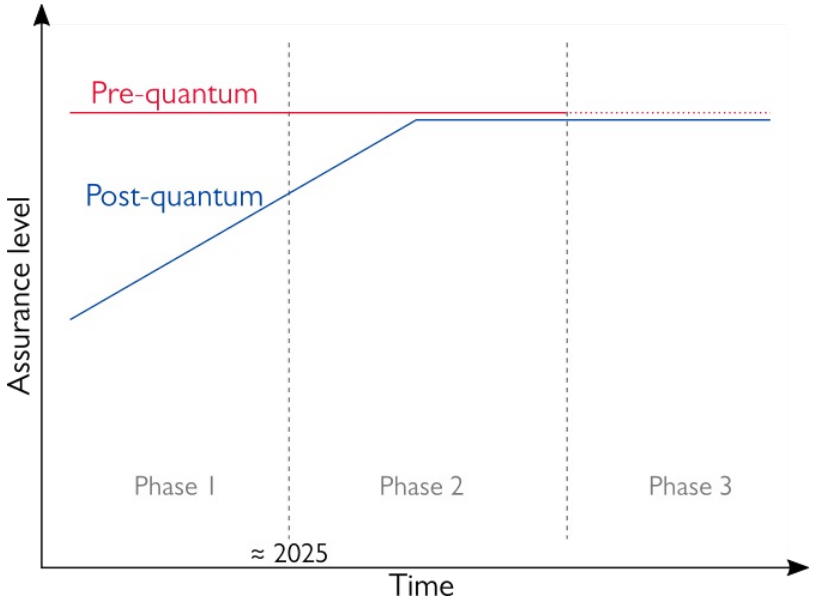

ClientHello
key share (client)
Break
digital signature
ServerHello
key share (server)
server certificate
server certificate verify

The Imminent Quantum Threat

- Quantum computers of cryptographic significance do not (probably) exist today!
  - **Record today, break tomorrow**
- TLS *authentication cannot* be broken retroactively
- TLS *key exchange can* be broken retroactively
  - But, each session must be attacked separately!
- **Key exchange must be protected today** if the communication must remain confidential for decades

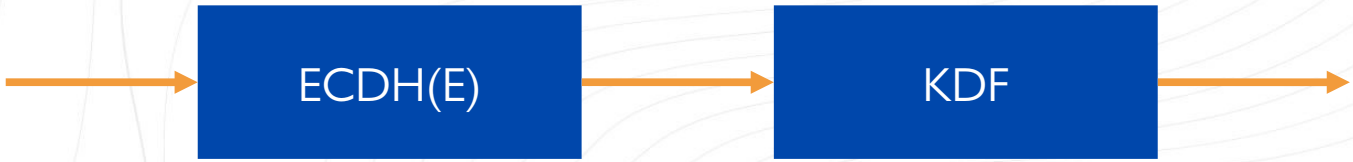
Why Hybrid Systems?

- We cannot fully trust that the new PQC schemes are secure
  - **Example:** NIST finalist Rainbow and Round 4 candidate SIKE were broken!
- Many recommend using a hybrid system
  - ANSSI (France) recommends it at least until 2030
- Elliptic curves will not go away for a long time!

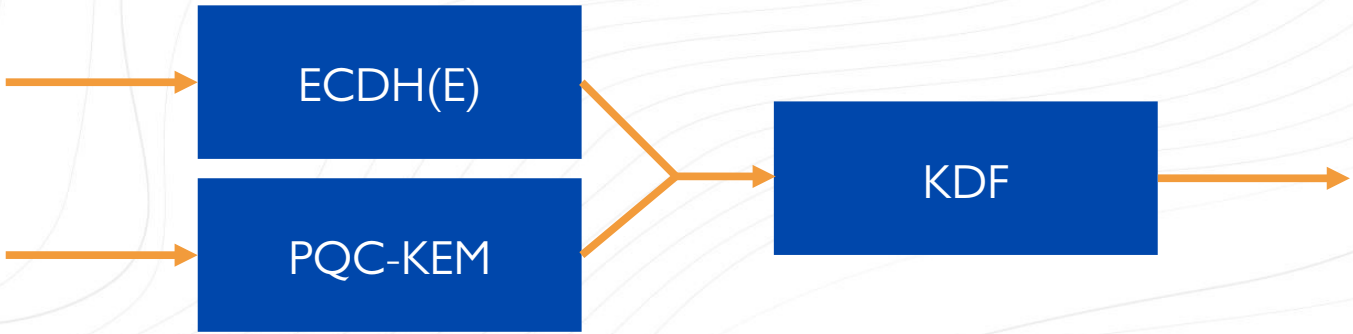


Source: ANSSI (2022)

Hybrid Key Exchange



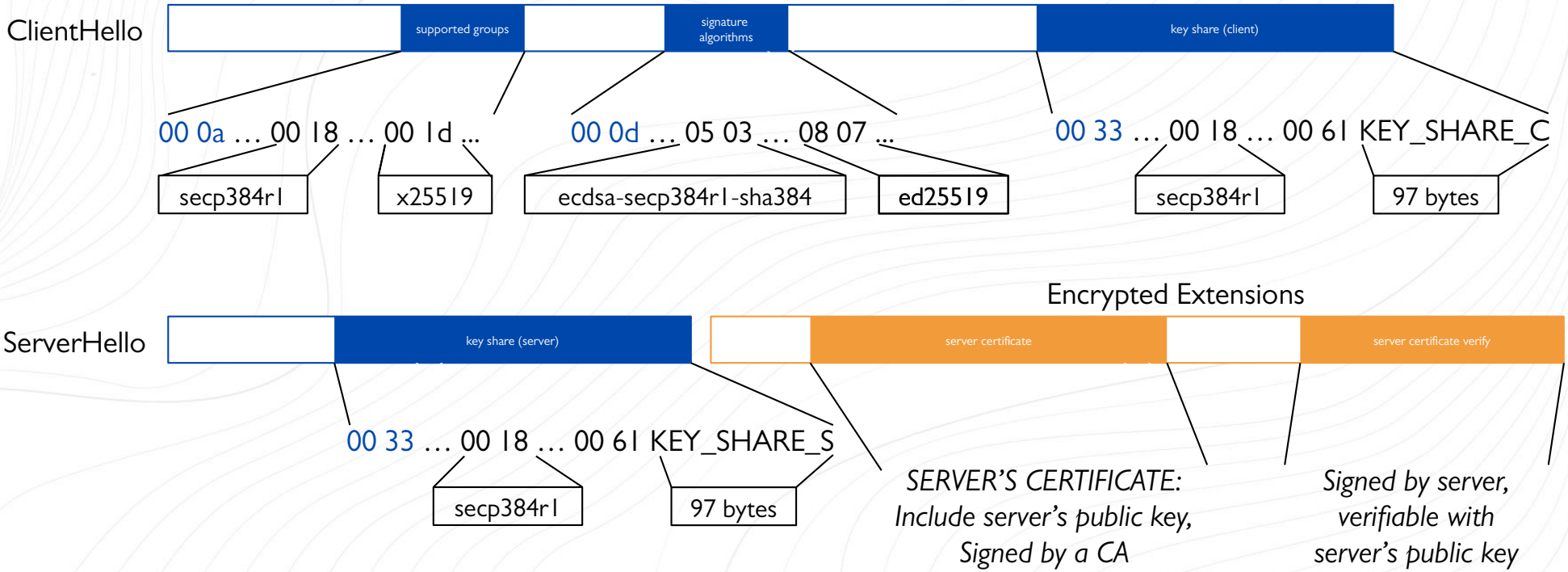
Hybrid Key Exchange



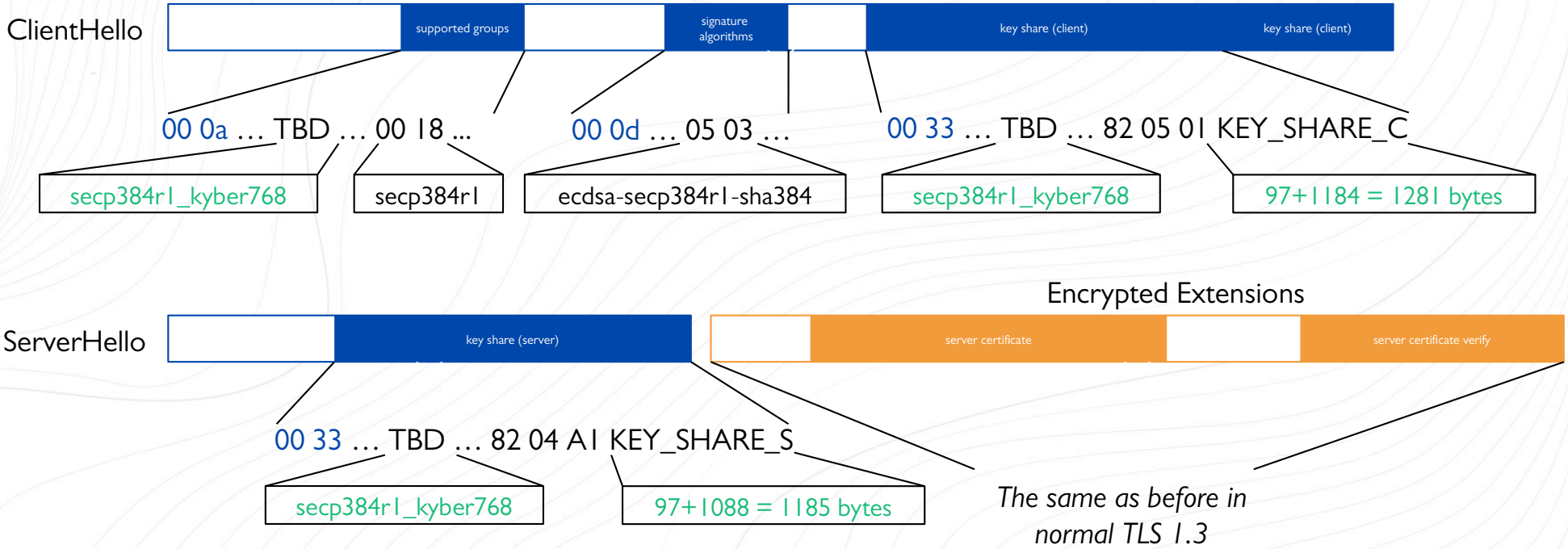
PQ-TLS Proposal

- An internet draft proposes a way to use **hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3**
- Rather than having two separate “group” and “key share” fields in Client/ServerHello, there is only one; For example,
  - “group”: secp384r1_kyber768
  - “key share”: Concatenation of secp384r1 key share and kyber768 key share
  - Concatenation of secp384r1 and kyber768 key shares fed into TLS KDF
- The internet draft suggest four hybrid groups, targeted for various use cases

TLS 1.3 Handshake



PQ-TLS 1.3 Handshake



Xiphera's TLS and PQC Offering

Transport Layer Security

- Product family extensions announced **today (June 1, 2023)**
- IP cores for both server and client sides
- Implements the whole TLS 1.3
  - Including TLS handshake and session key management
  - Fast performance and high security
- Learn more: xiphera.com/tls.php

xQlave® – Post-Quantum Cryptography

- Product family of efficient implementations of PQC algorithms
- Currently offering
  - CRYSTALS-Kyber (KEM)
  - CRYSTALS-Dilithium (digital signature)
- Learn more: xiphera.com/pqc.php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PEACE OF MIND IN A DANGEROUS WORLD
Cryptography Under the Hood will continue in September!
More info coming soon.
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References

- IETF: *Hybrid key exchange in TLS 1.3* (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-tls-hybrid-design/06/)