



International Civil Aviation Organization

**ATN Seminar and Third ATN Transition Task Force Meeting**

Singapore, 26-30 March 2001

---

**Agenda Item 5: New ATN Features**

**AERONAUTICAL DATA LINK SECURITY**

(Presented by Tom McParland, USA)

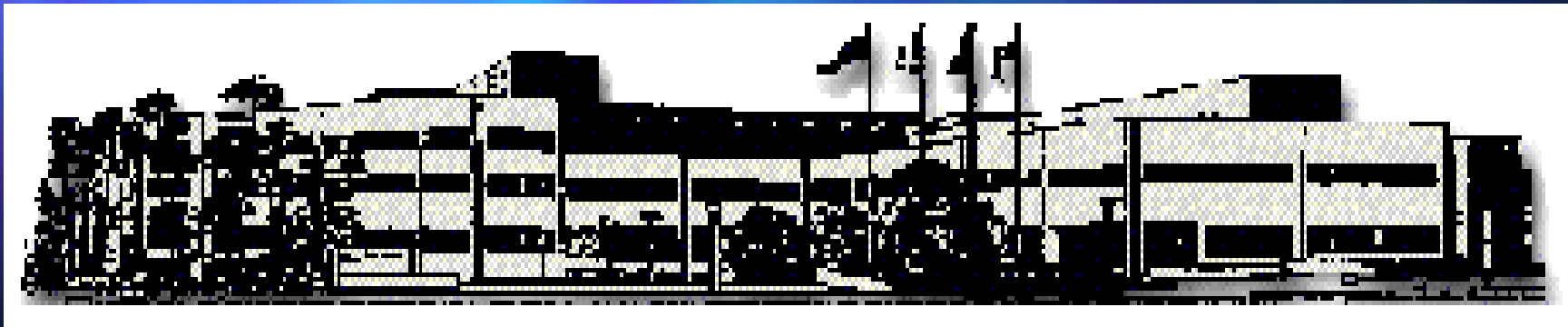


# Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

~ ATN Seminar – Security~

Singapore

*March 2001*



*Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) William J. Hughes Technical Center (WJHTC)*

**FAA/ACT-350**  
**ATN Technical Lead**



# Aeronautical Data Link Security

*Tom McParland*  
*(US FAA)*



# Presentation Overview

- Current Status for Data Link Security
  - ICAO ATN Standardization
- Requirements for ATN Security
- Security Mechanisms
  - Basic Mechanisms (Building Blocks)
    - Symmetric Encipherment
    - Asymmetric Encipherment
    - Hash Functions





# Presentation Overview

- Extended Mechanisms (Cryptographic Schemes)
  - Digital Signatures
    - Public Key Certificates
  - Key Agreement
    - Diffie-Hellman
  - Keyed Message Authentication Codes



# Presentation Overview

- Security in ATN Systems
  - ATN End Systems
  - ATN Intermediate Systems
  - AMHS Systems
- Some Policy Issues



# ICAO Standardization of ATN Security



- Technical Specification (Updates to ICAO Doc 9705) of ATN Security accepted at ATN Panel Working Group of the Whole Meeting, Berlin, Germany, August, 2000
- Minor Changes under CCB control to be submitted by end of March for publication by ICAO
- Associated Draft Guidance Material presented at ATNP Working Group Meeting, Hawaii, February-March, 2001
- Final due to ICAO in June 2001
- Security Sub-Group tasked to extend ATN security to support Confidentiality and to define options for Certificate Delivery Service





# Requirements for ATN Security

- ATN END SYSTEMS
  - ATN end systems shall authenticate the identity of peer end systems.
  - ATN end systems shall authenticate the source of application messages.
  - ATN end systems shall ensure the integrity of application messages.





# Requirements for ATN Security

- ATN INTERMEDIATE SYSTEMS
  - ATN ground and air-ground boundary intermediate systems shall authenticate the identity of peer boundary intermediate systems.
  - ATN ground and air-ground boundary intermediate systems shall authenticate the source of routing information.
  - ATN ground and air-ground boundary intermediate systems shall ensure the integrity of routing information.

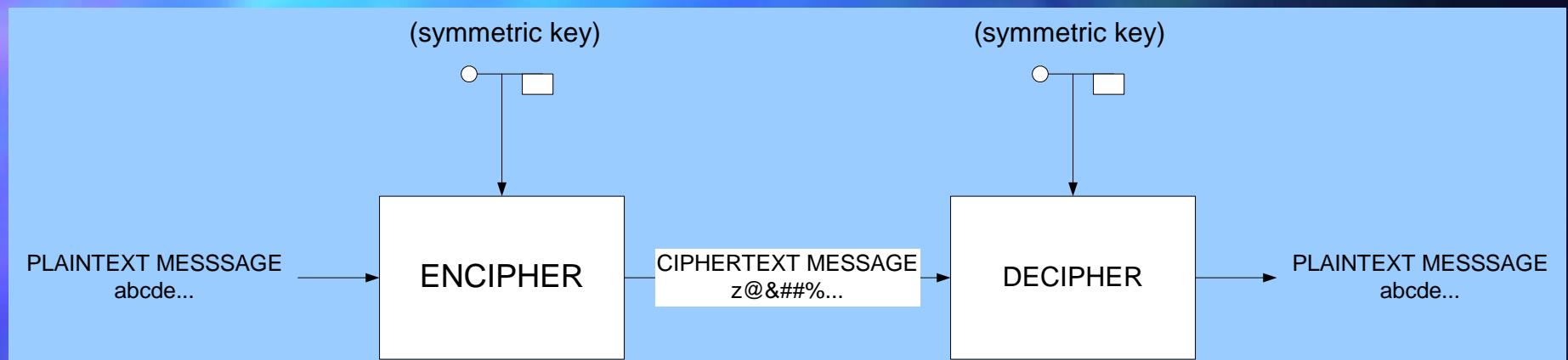


# Cryptographic Building Blocks

- Symmetric Encipherment
- Asymmetric Encipherment
  - Encipher under Public Key
  - Encipher under Private Key
- Hash Functions



# Symmetric Encipherment



- Conceptually simple, same secret key used for enciphering and deciphering
- Efficient in terms of computational requirements and key size and works well for small group of authorized parties
- Used to build Encryption and Authentication Exchange Schemes





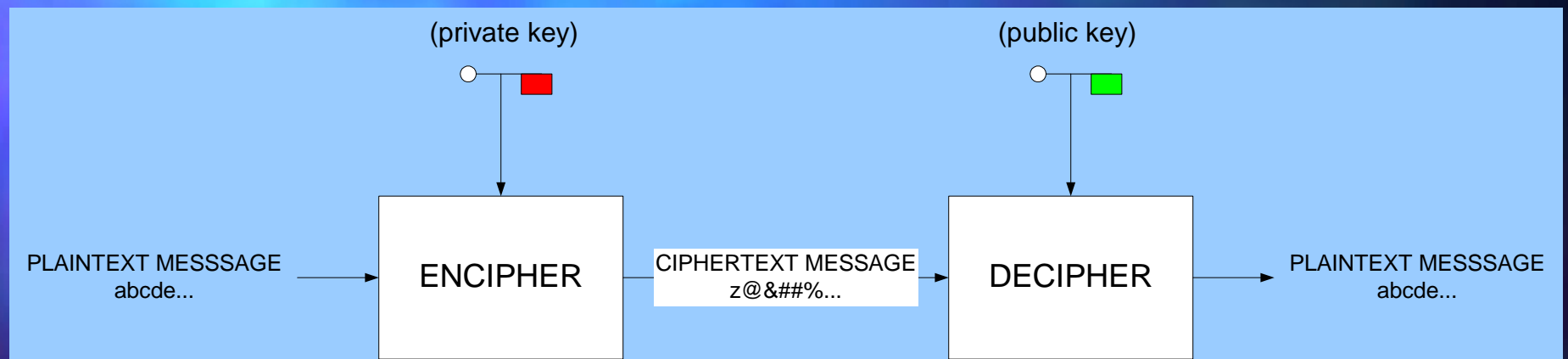
# Asymmetric Encipherment (encipher under public key)



- Only the private key need be kept secret.
- The public key can be freely distributed - *almost*
- Used to build Encryption Schemes



# Asymmetric Encipherment (encipher under private key)



- Used to build Authentication Exchange Schemes



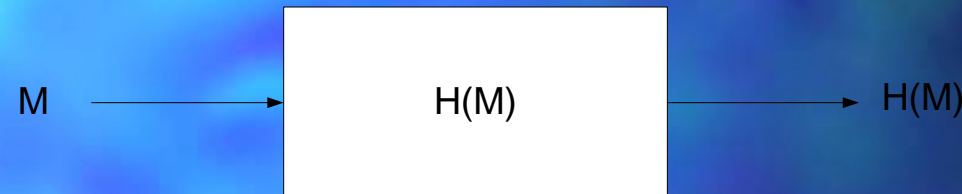
# asis for Asymmetric Encipherment

- Integer factorization problem - 1977
  - RSA Encryption and Digital Signatures widely used
  - 1024 bit keys
- Discrete logarithm problem - 1976
  - Diffie-Hellman Key Agreement, Digital Signature Algorithm (DSA)
  - 1024 bit keys
- Elliptic curve discrete logarithm problem - 1985
  - ECDSA and EC Diffie-Hellman
  - 160 bit keys





# Hash Functions



- A cryptographic hash function is a mapping from an arbitrary long input  $M$  to a short (fixed-length) output value  $H(M)$
- Like error correction code but with “collision resistance” and “pre-image resistance” which permit detection of deliberate modification
- Used to build Integrity Schemes



# Summary

## Cryptographic Building Blocks

Symmetric  
Encipherment

- Authentication Exchange
- Encryption

Asymmetric  
Encipherment  
(under public key)

- Encryption

Asymmetric  
Encipherment  
(under private key)

- Authentication Exchange

Hash  
Functions

- Integrity



# Cryptographic Schemes

- Authentication Exchange Techniques
- Digital Signatures
  - Public Key Certificates
- Key Agreement
- Message Authentication Codes



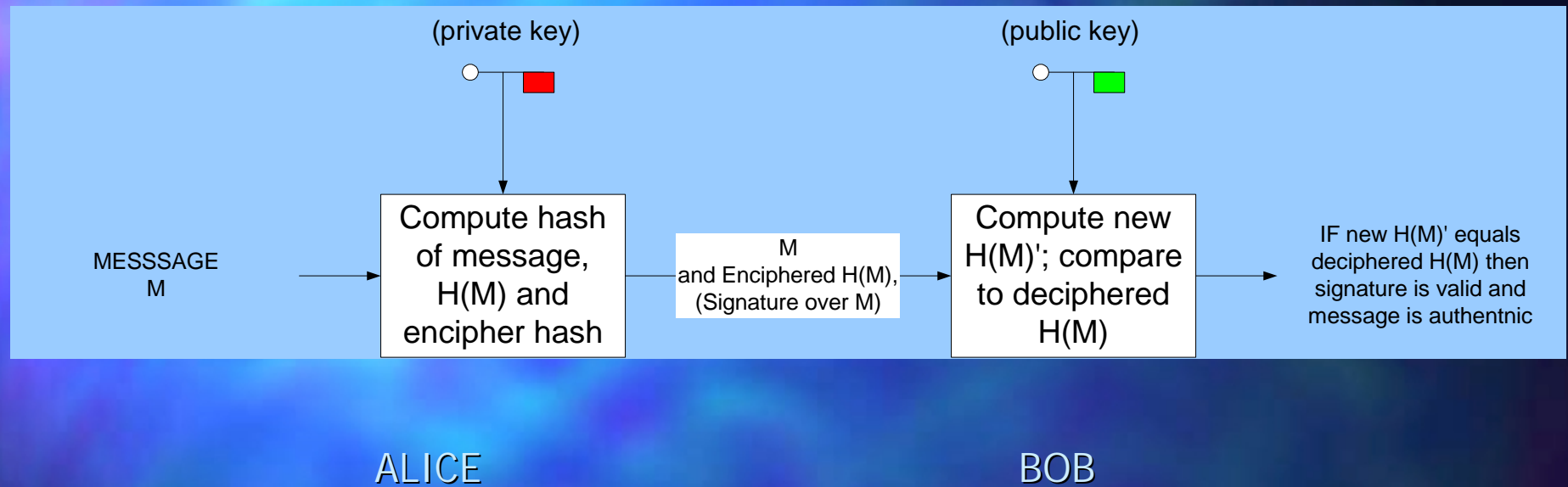


# Public Key Authentication

- Using public key techniques, authentication can be accomplished by having the claimant demonstrate possession of her private key.



# Asymmetric Authentication by Digital Signature



- Claimant (ALICE) demonstrates possession of private key.
- Relying party (BOB) verifies by decrypting using ALICE's public key
- In principle works, but in practice is subject to masquerade



## Authentication Exchange Masquerade

- Problem: in a public-key scheme, Bob needs a genuine copy of Alice's public key.
- Otherwise an attacker can substitute a fake key as Alice's public key and use this to masquerade as Alice.





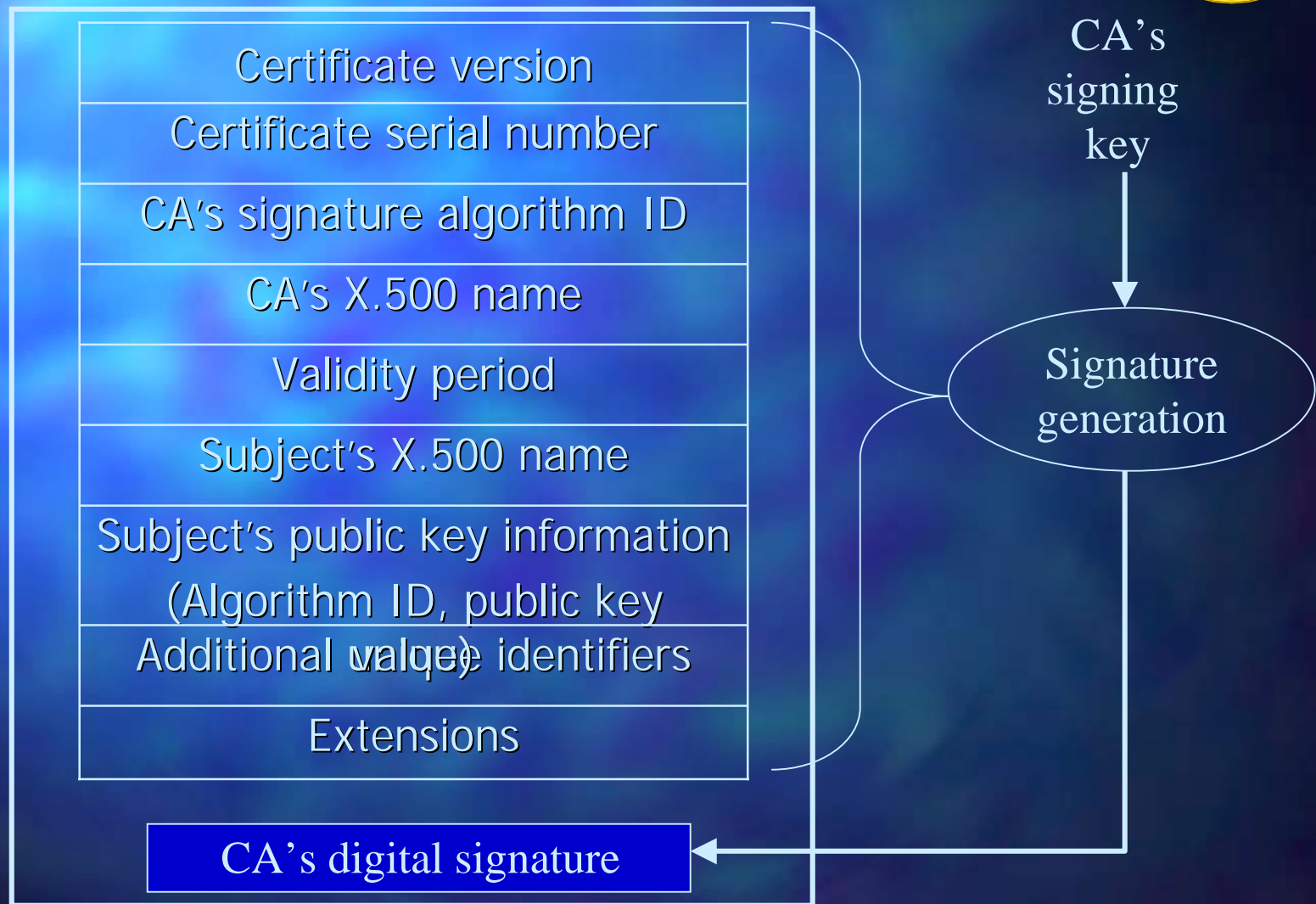
## Solution: get Alice's key in a Public Key Certificate

A trusted third party termed a Certificate Authority (CA) binds Alice and her public key.

- Alice goes to the CA with her public key.
- CA issues a certificate to Alice containing her identity, her public key, and the CA's signature on her identity and public key.
- Bob obtains the CA's public key.
- Bob verifies the CA's signature on Alice's certificate and retrieves her public key. In this way Bob knows that he has an authentic copy of Alice's public key
- *Consider analog of driver's license or passport*

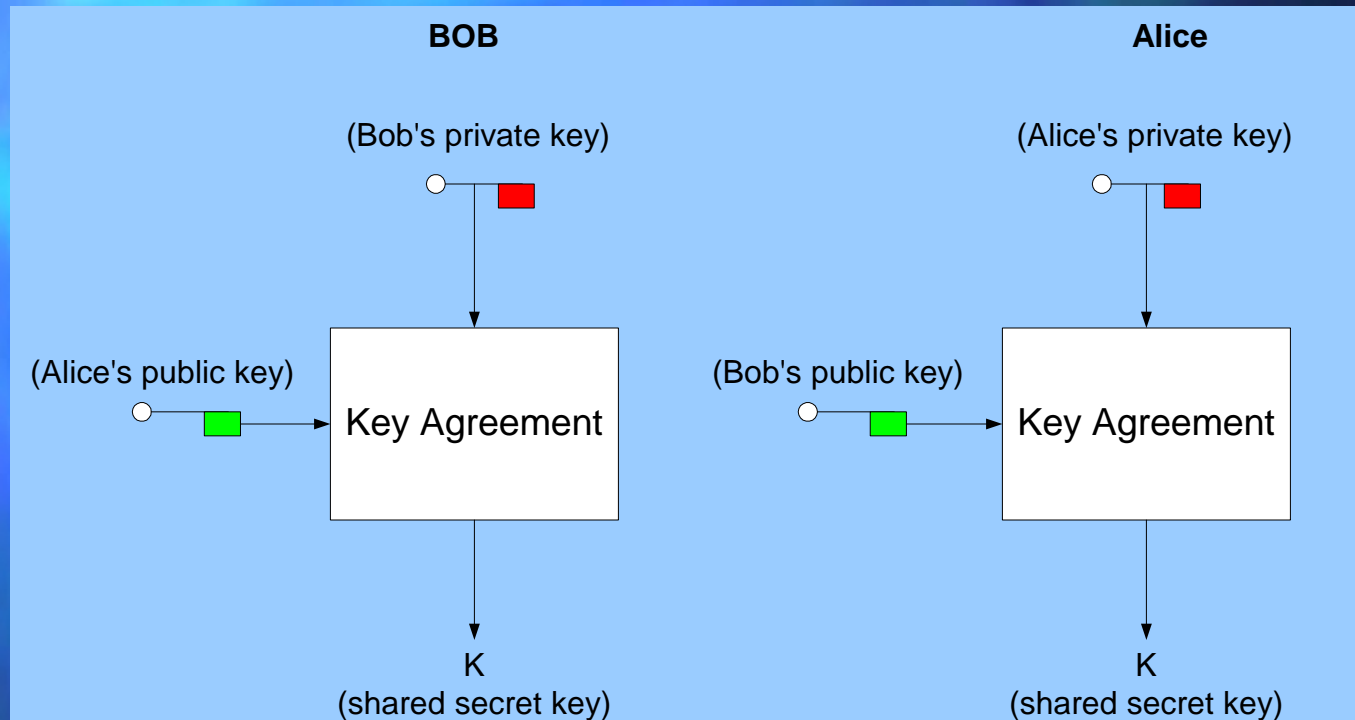


# X.509 Public Key Certificates





# Derivation of a Shared Secret Key by Key Agreement

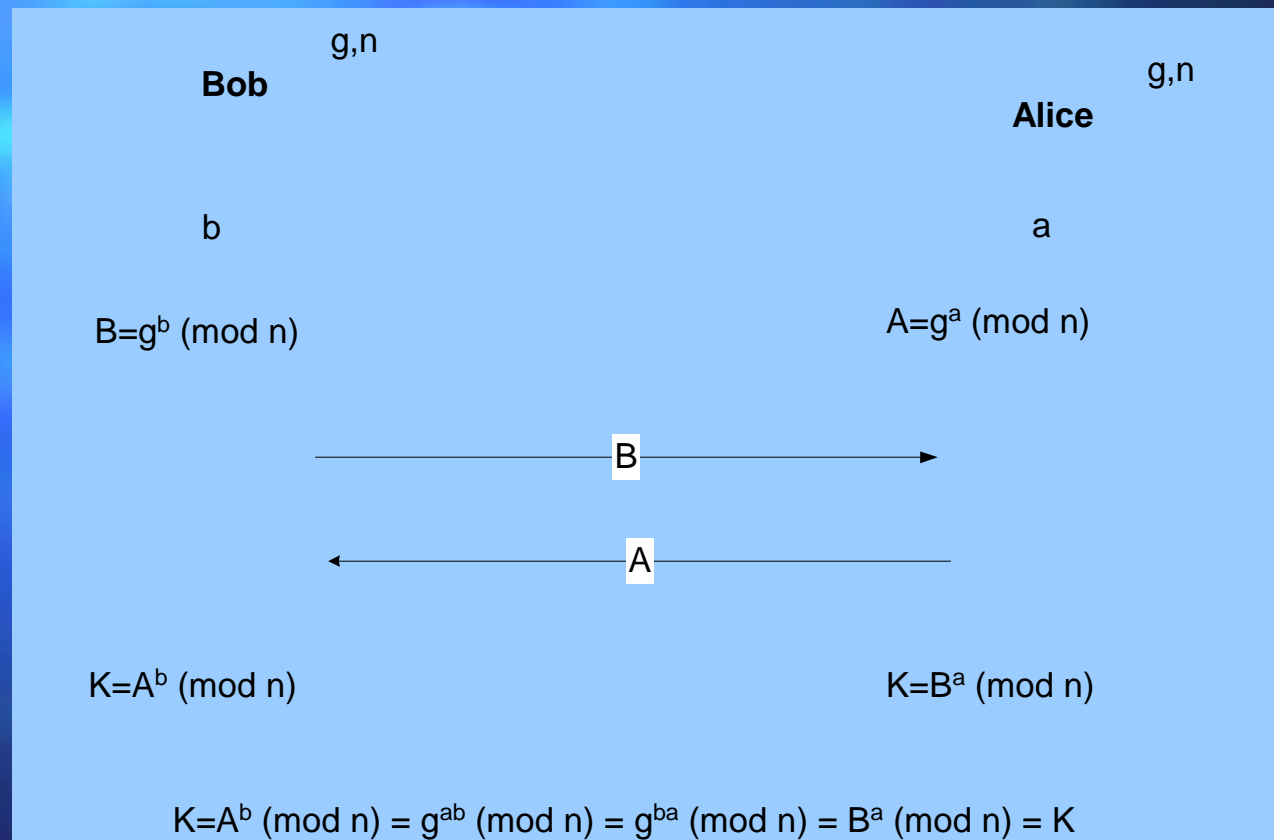


- Key Agreement permits two entities (BOB and ALICE) to arrive at a shared secret key using each other's public key.
- They can then use more efficient symmetric cryptographic schemes.



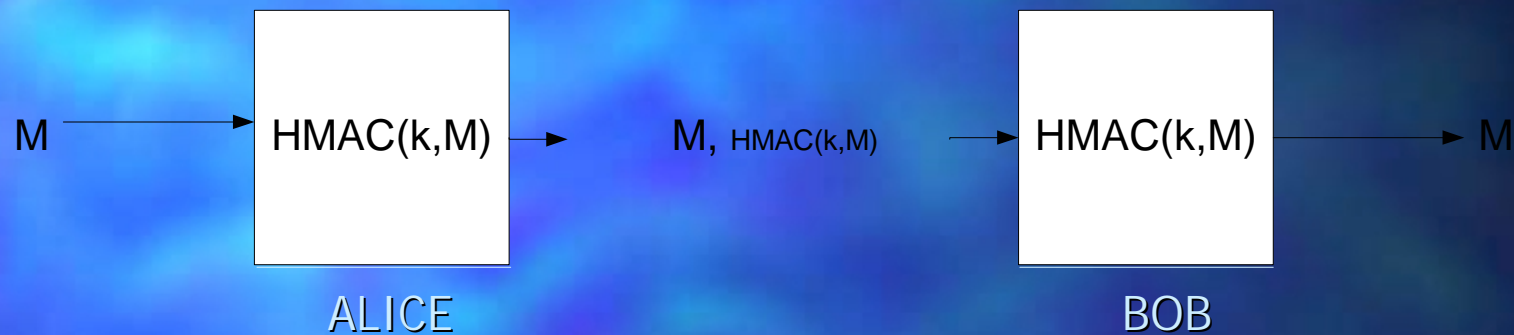


# Diffie-Hellman Key Agreement





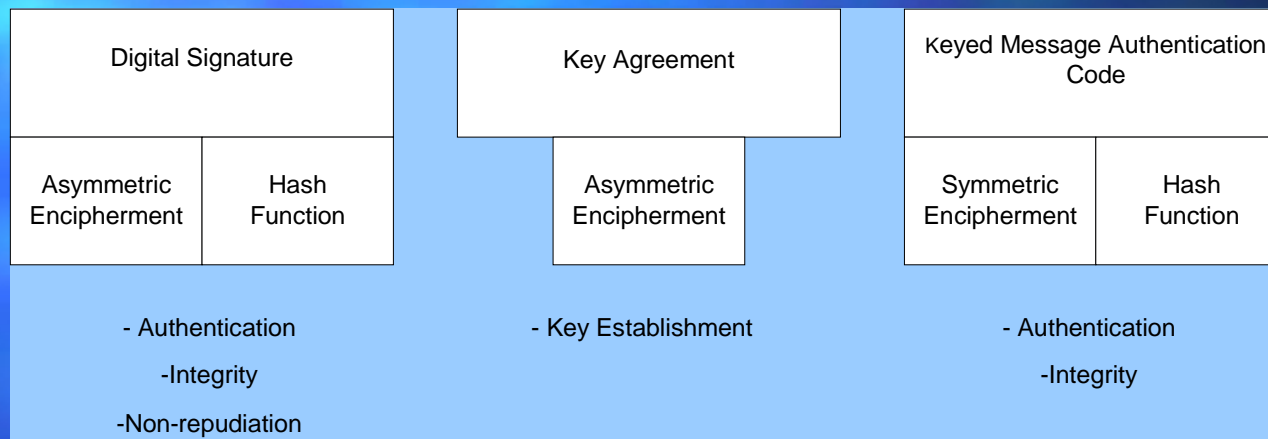
# Symmetric Authentication using Keyed Message Authentication Code (HMAC)



- Alice and Bob agree in advance to a secret key ( $k$ ), or arrive at shared secret key ( $k$ ) using Key Agreement
- Alice sends message with HMAC tag computed using a shared ( $k$ )
- Bob verifies received HMAC tag and knows it is from Alice because only Alice is in possession of or could have generated ( $k$ ) used in the HMAC



# Summary Cryptographic Schemes





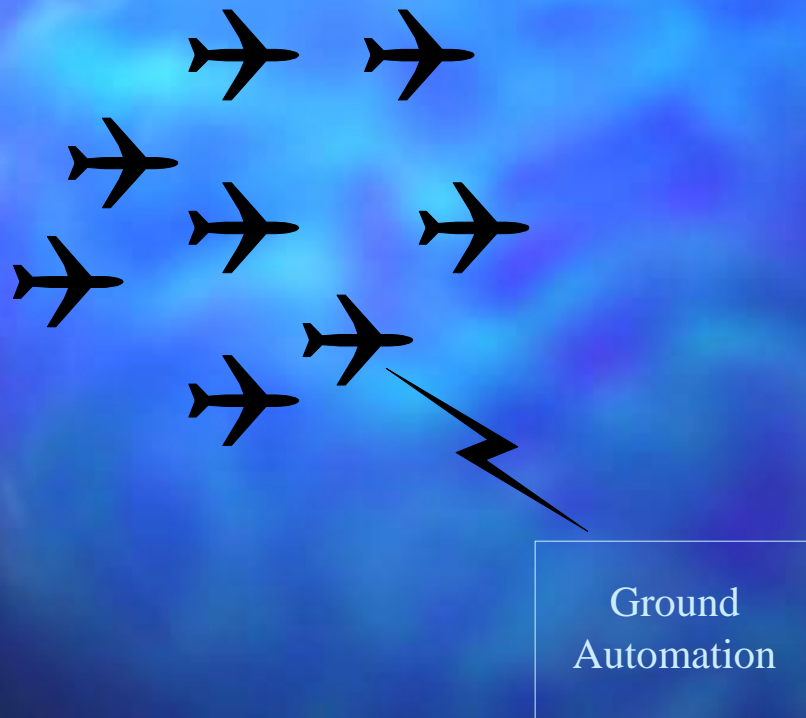


## ATN Cryptographic Schemes

- The ATN Digital Signature Scheme uses the Elliptic Curve Digital Signal Algorithm with the Secure Hash Algorithm 1 (SHA-1) for the hash function.
- The ATN Key Agreement Scheme uses the Elliptic Curve variant of the Diffie-Hellman Key Agreement method
- The ATN Keyed Message Authentication Code Scheme uses the HMAC technique with SHA-1 for the hash function.



# Data Link Security Problem

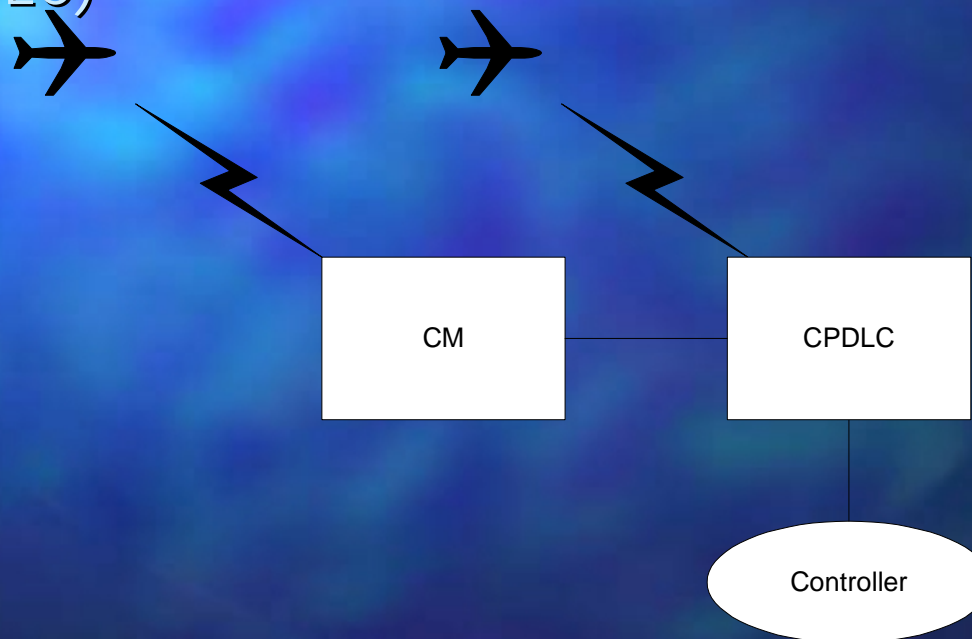


- Thousands of aircraft need to communicate securely with ground automation systems over air-ground sub-networks that are bandwidth limited.



# CM and CPDLC Operation

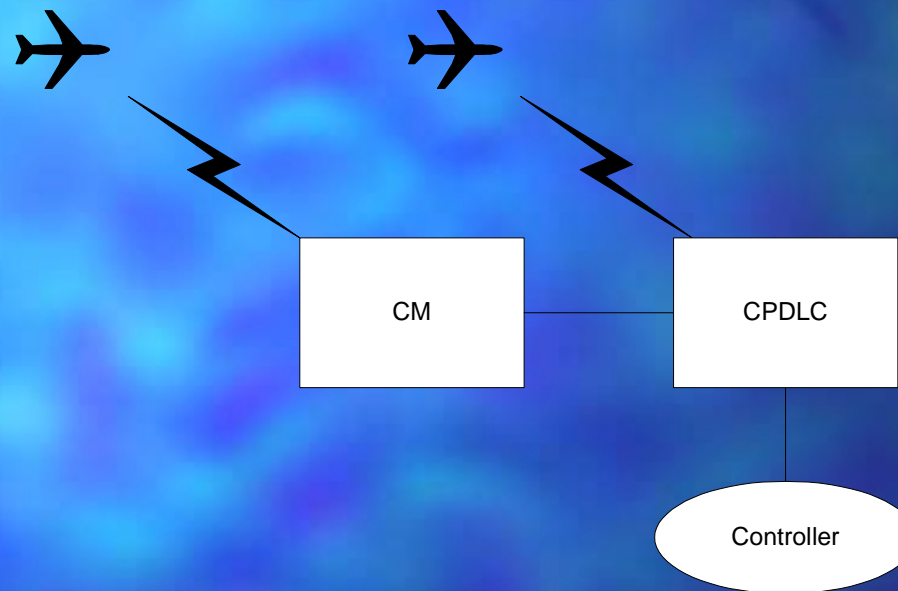
- Data Link (for air traffic) involves two applications:
  - Context Management (CM)
  - Controller Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC)







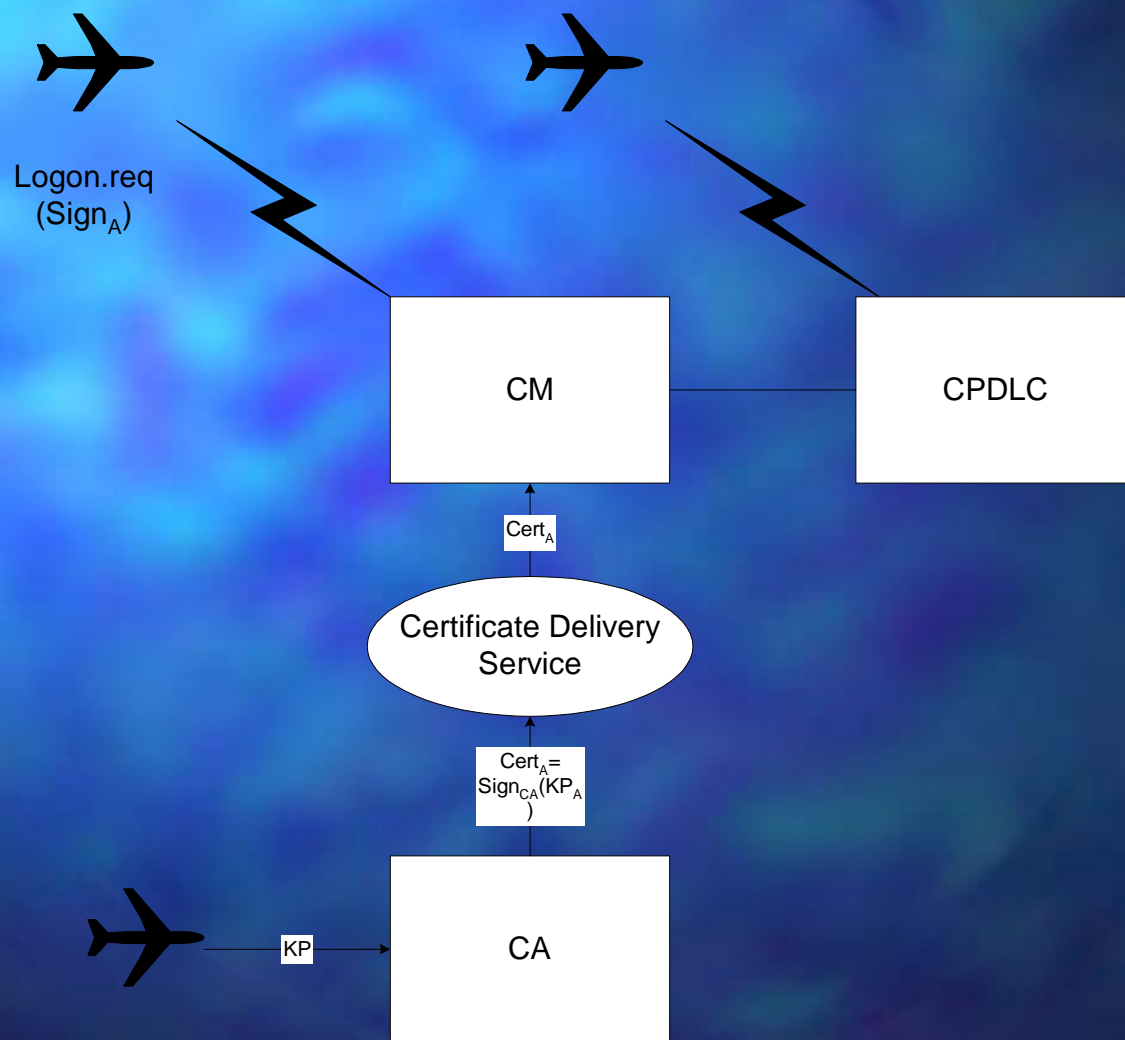
# Digital Signature for CM



- Ground CM can authenticate the Logon message provided CM has the public key of the aircraft.
- There are two challenges:
  - Getting the key
  - Ensuring it is authentic

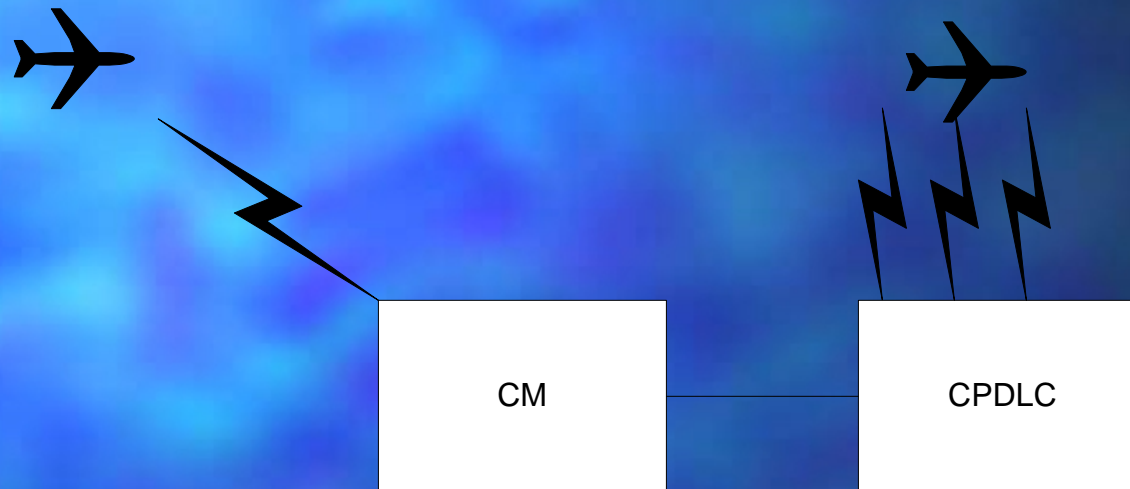


# X.509 Certificates





## Data Origin Authentication of CPDLC Messages

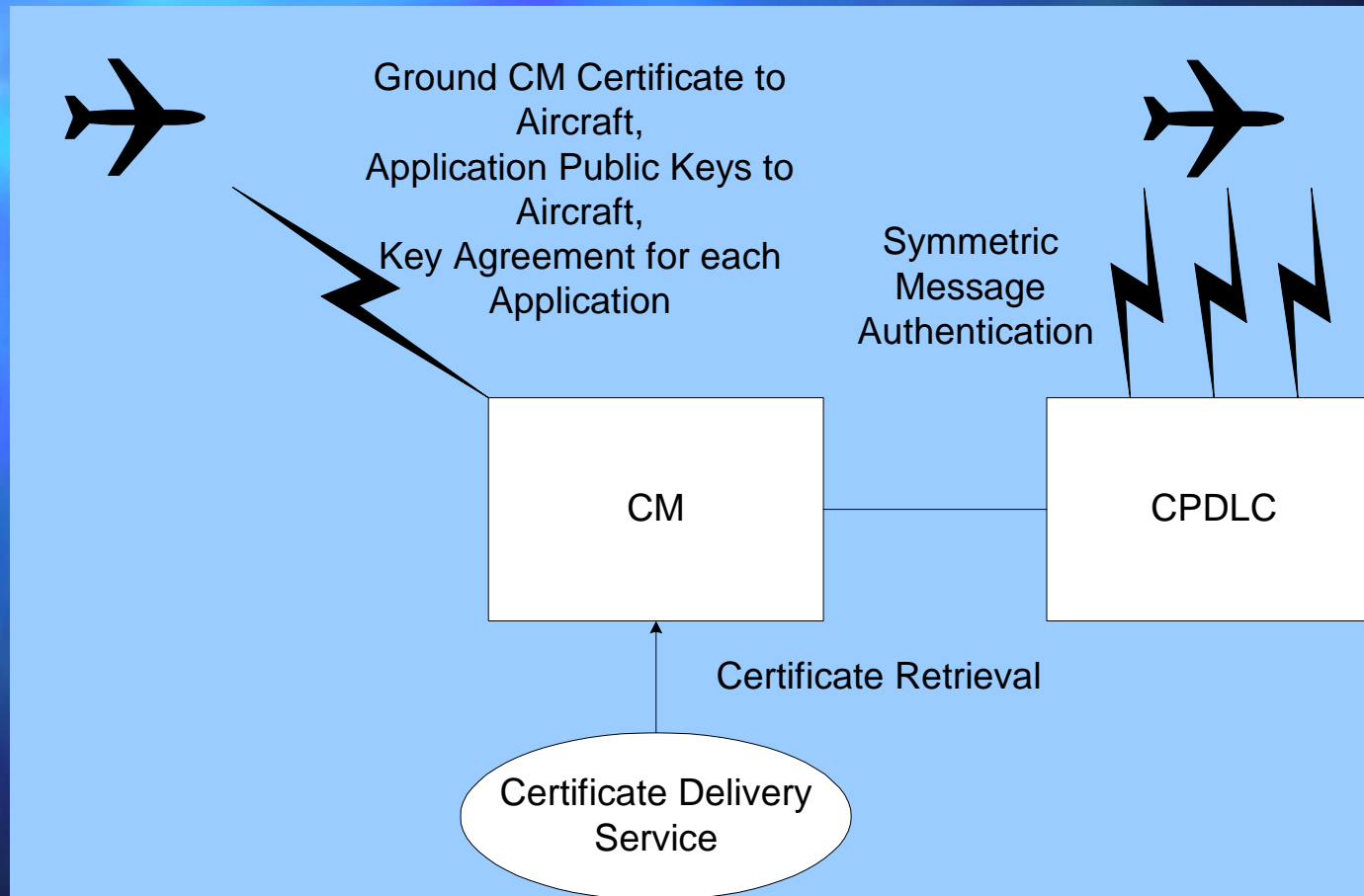


- There are numerous application messages exchanged
- Digitally signing each message incurs too much overhead.



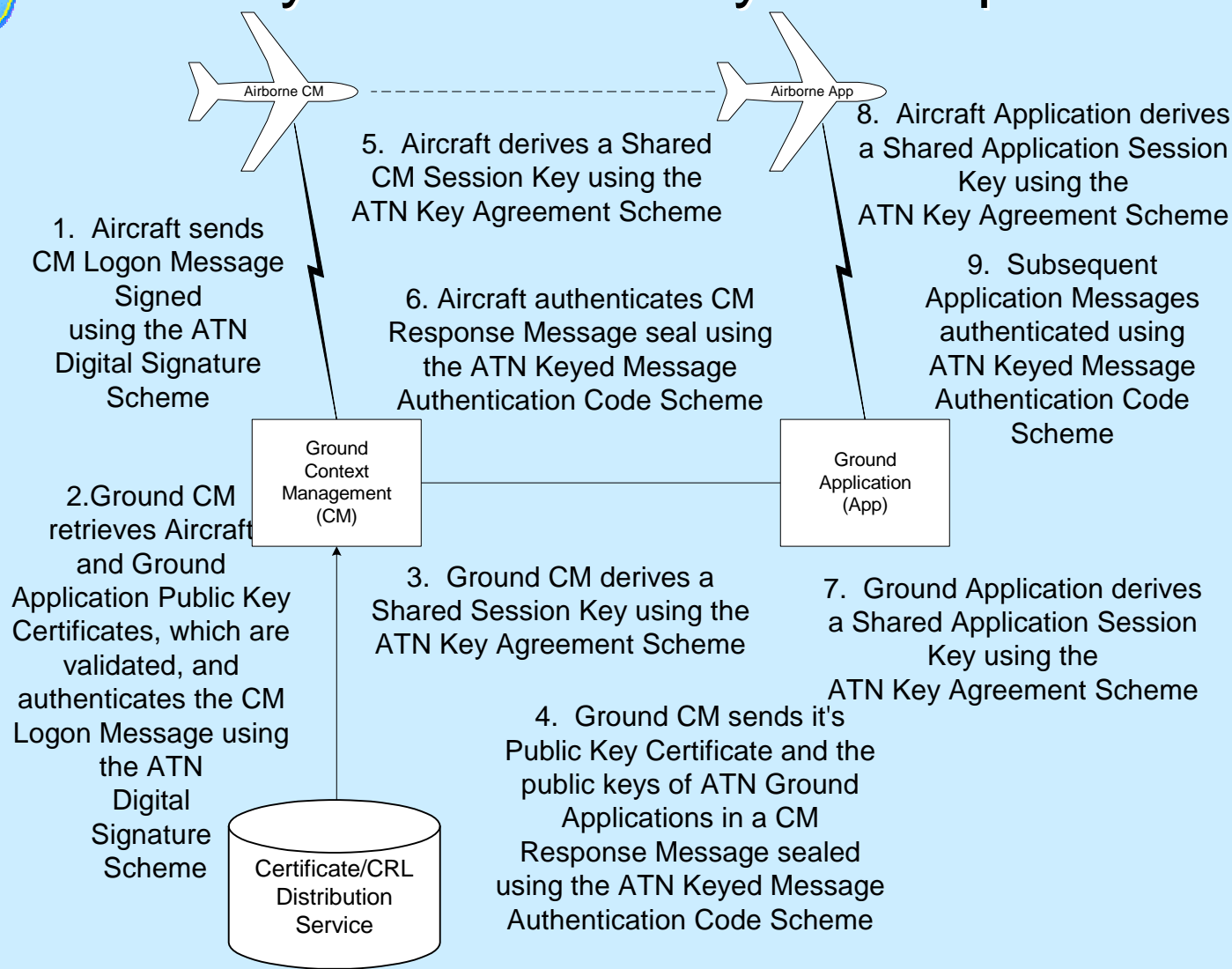


# Key Agreement - Keyed Message Authentication



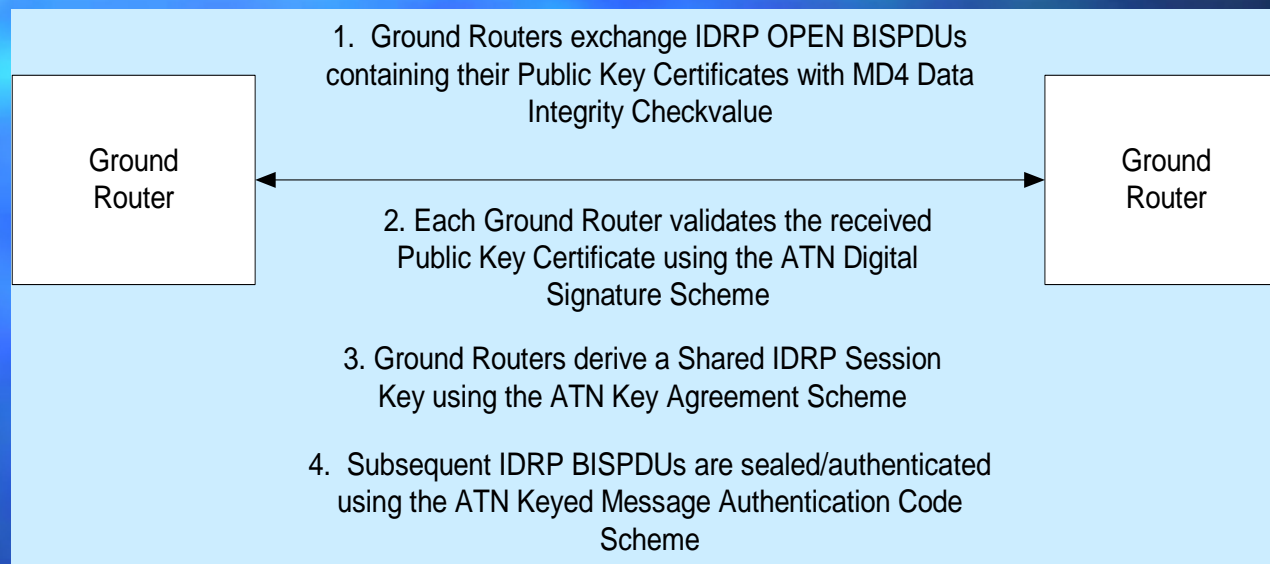


# Summary of ATN End System Operation





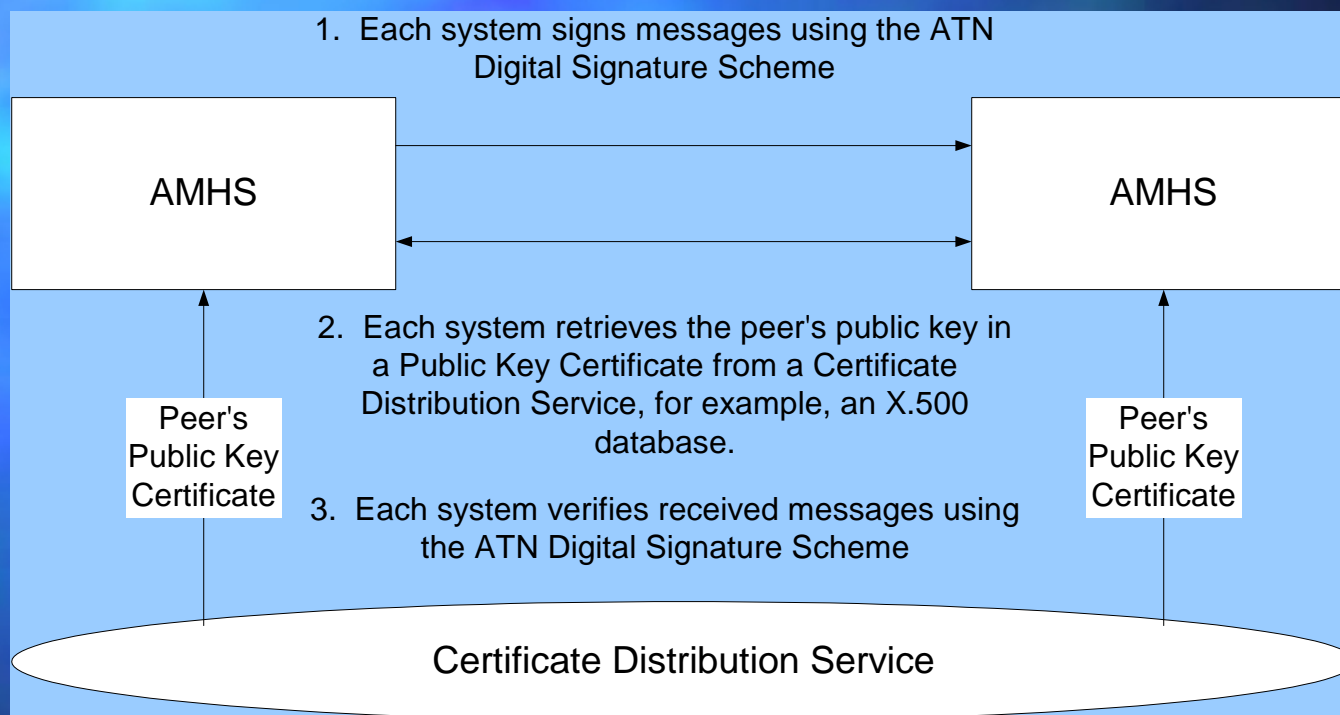
# Ground-Ground Intermediate System Operation







# ATN MESSAGE HANDLING SYSTEM Operation





# Some Policy Issues for ATN Security

- When to implement security - sunset date(s)
- Establishment of Bilateral Agreements
  - for Certificate Distribution Service
  - for CA Cross Certification