

# Cross Device Flows

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Date: 31 March 2023

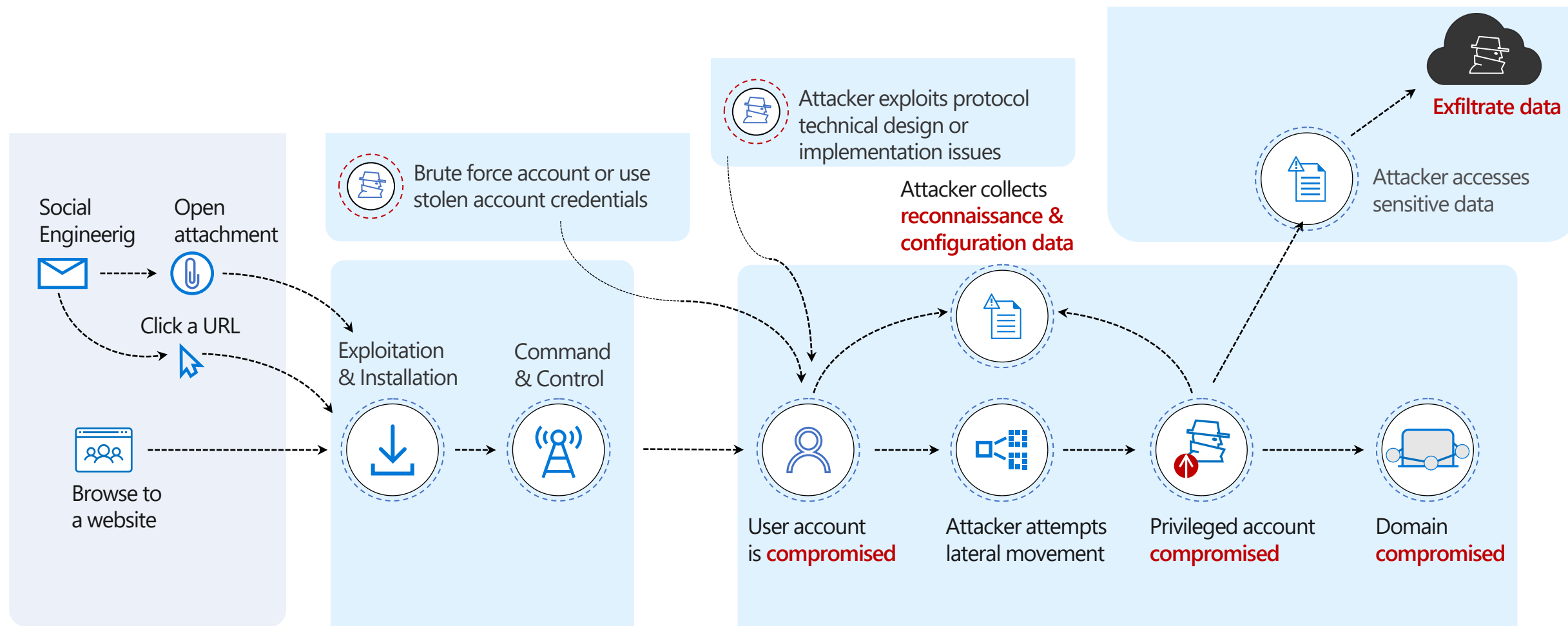


# Agenda

- Why are we here?
- Where are we?
- Where do we go next?

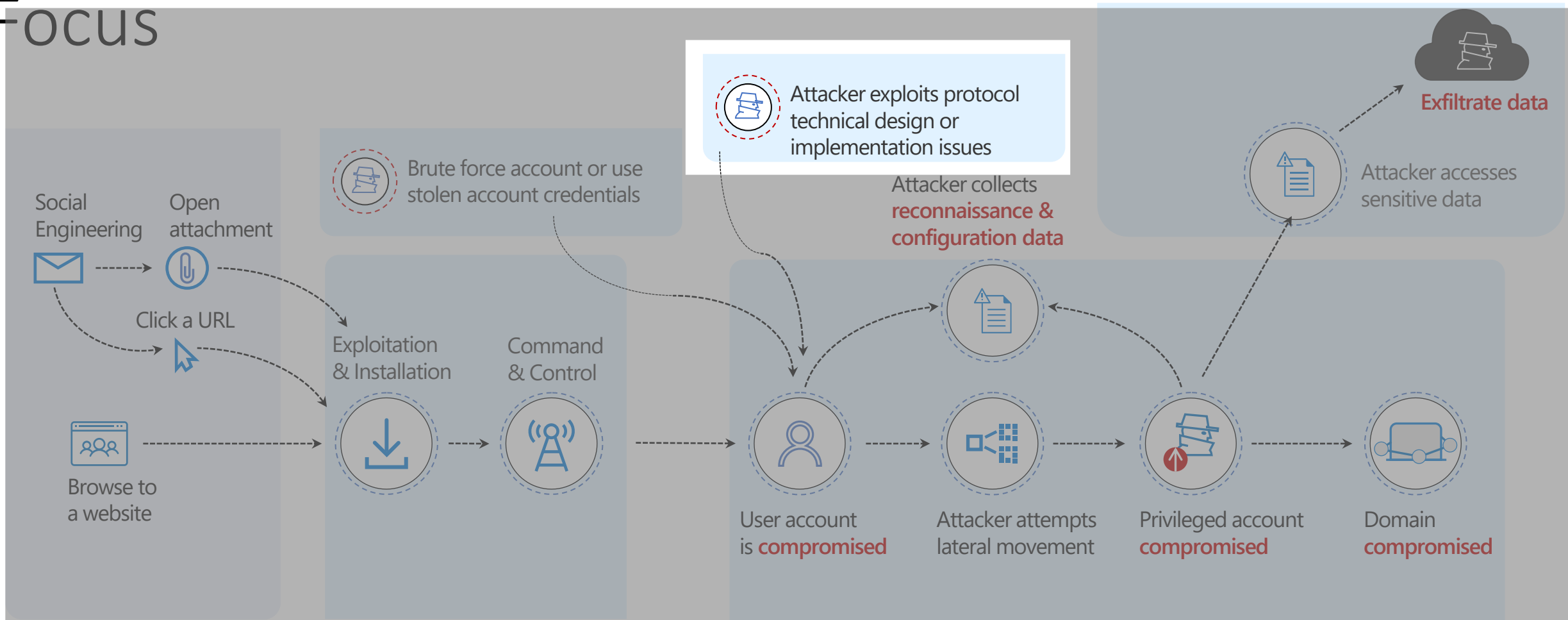
Why are we here?

# Anatomy of an attack

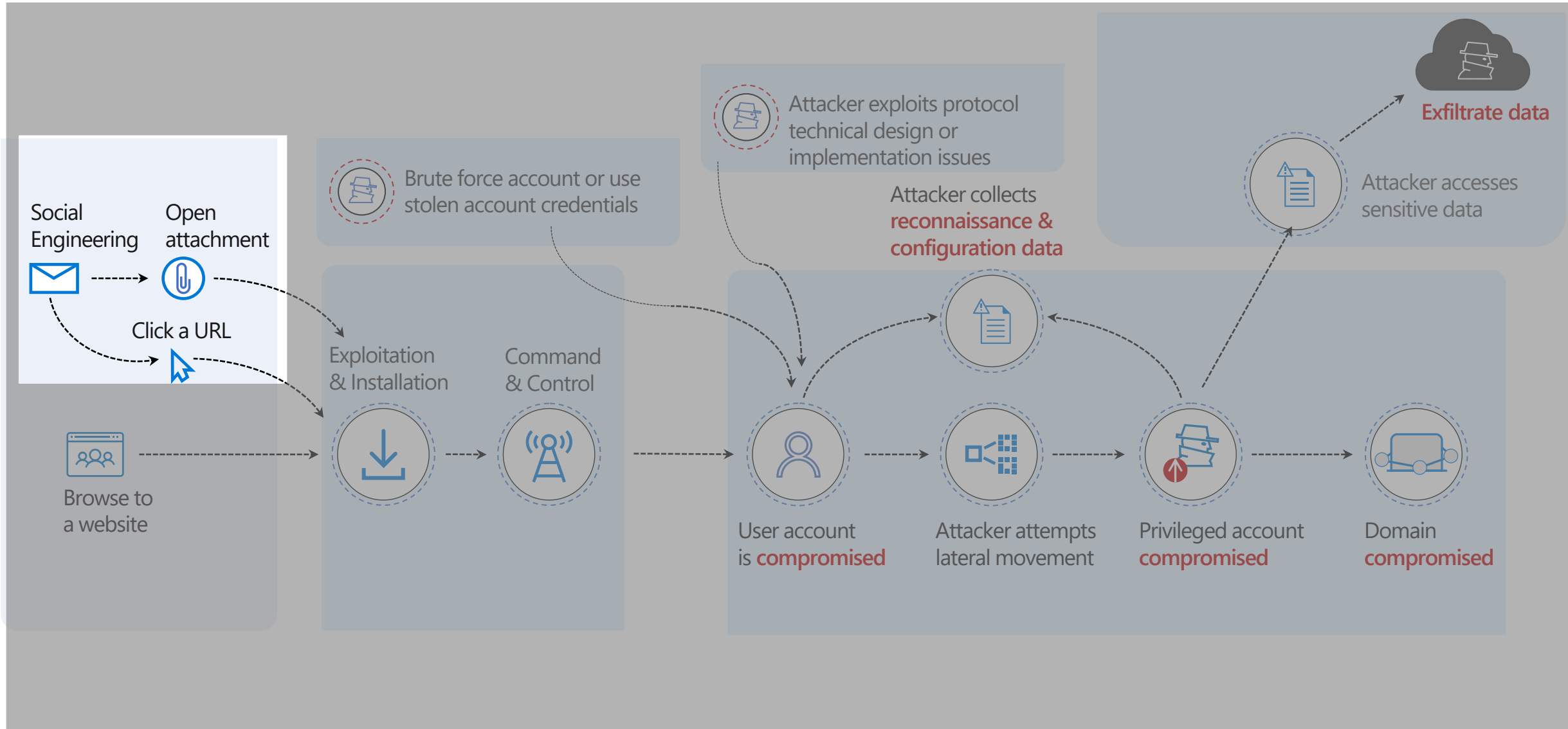


# Where Protocol Analysts and Standards Experts

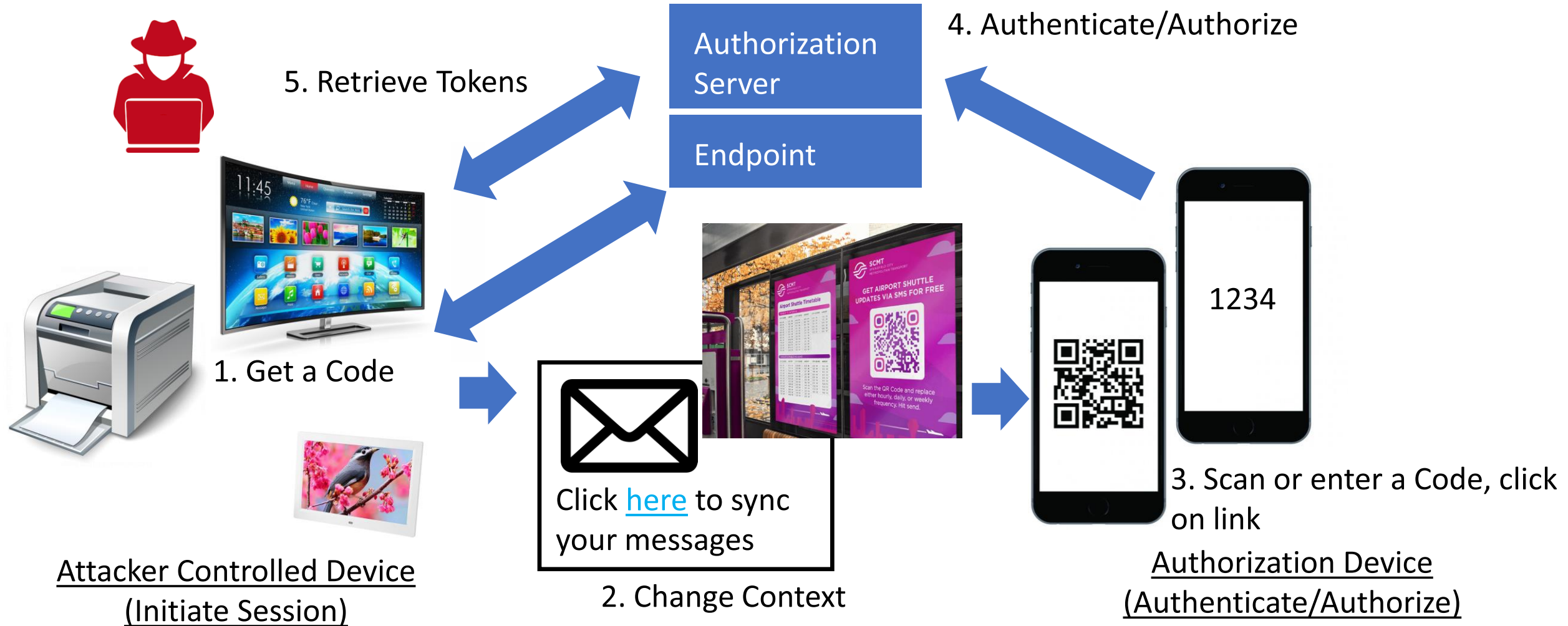
## Focus



# Mind the Gap – Where Attackers (often) Enter



# Cross-Device Flow Social Engineering Exploit



## Attack Pattern Summary: Exploit the Unauthenticated Channel

1. Initiate the session, retrieve code (QR code, user code)
2. Use social engineering to change context and persuade user to authorize session (illicit consent grant)
3. Bypasses multi-factor authentication (don't need to harvest credentials)

# Designed for Homo Securitatus, used by Homo Sapiens



## **Homo Securitatus**

1. A security expert
2. Knows how the protocol should work
3. Detects a social engineering attempt
4. Is laser focused on current context
5. Foolproof mitigation for cross device flows

**But is a rare species....**

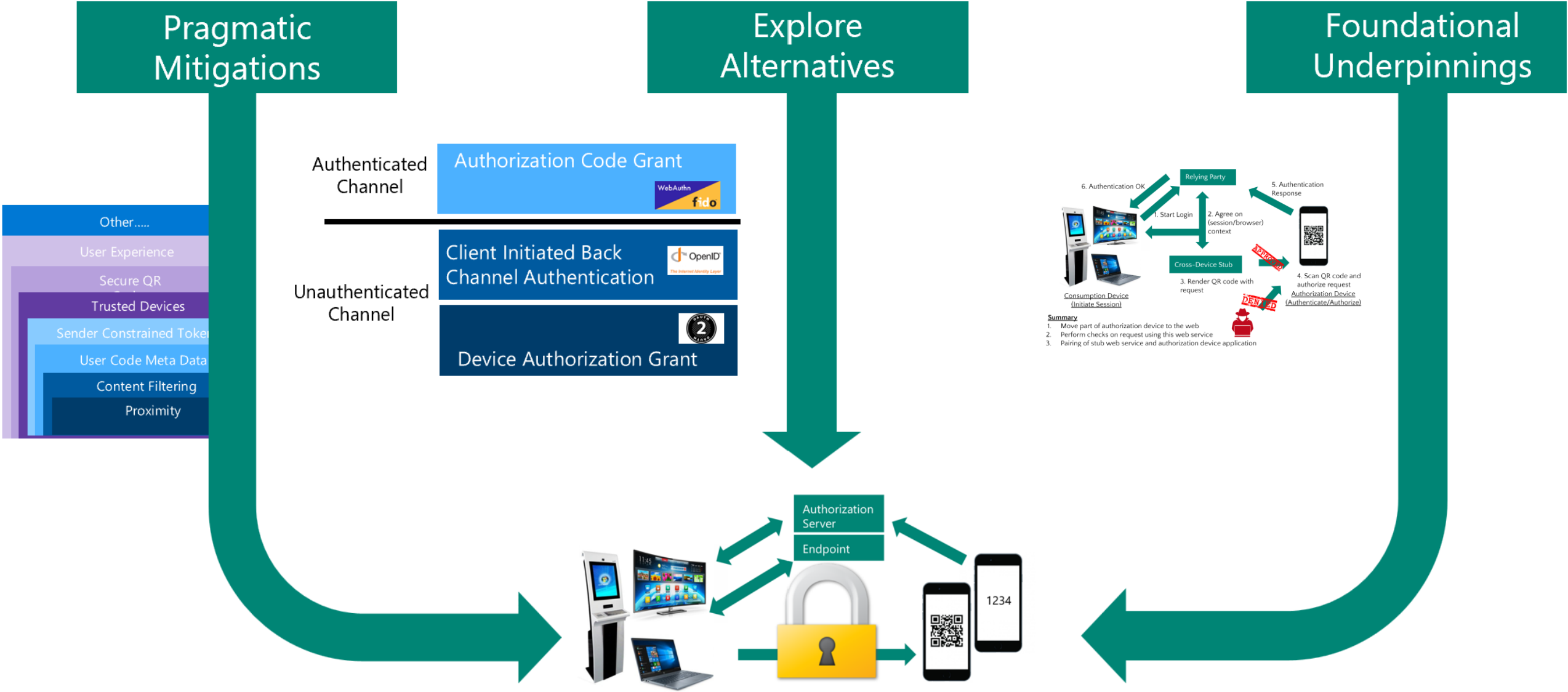


## **Homo Sapiens**

1. "Expertise elsewhere" - not a security expert
2. Busy and in a rush, needs to get things done
3. Worries about breaking things
4. Wants to help

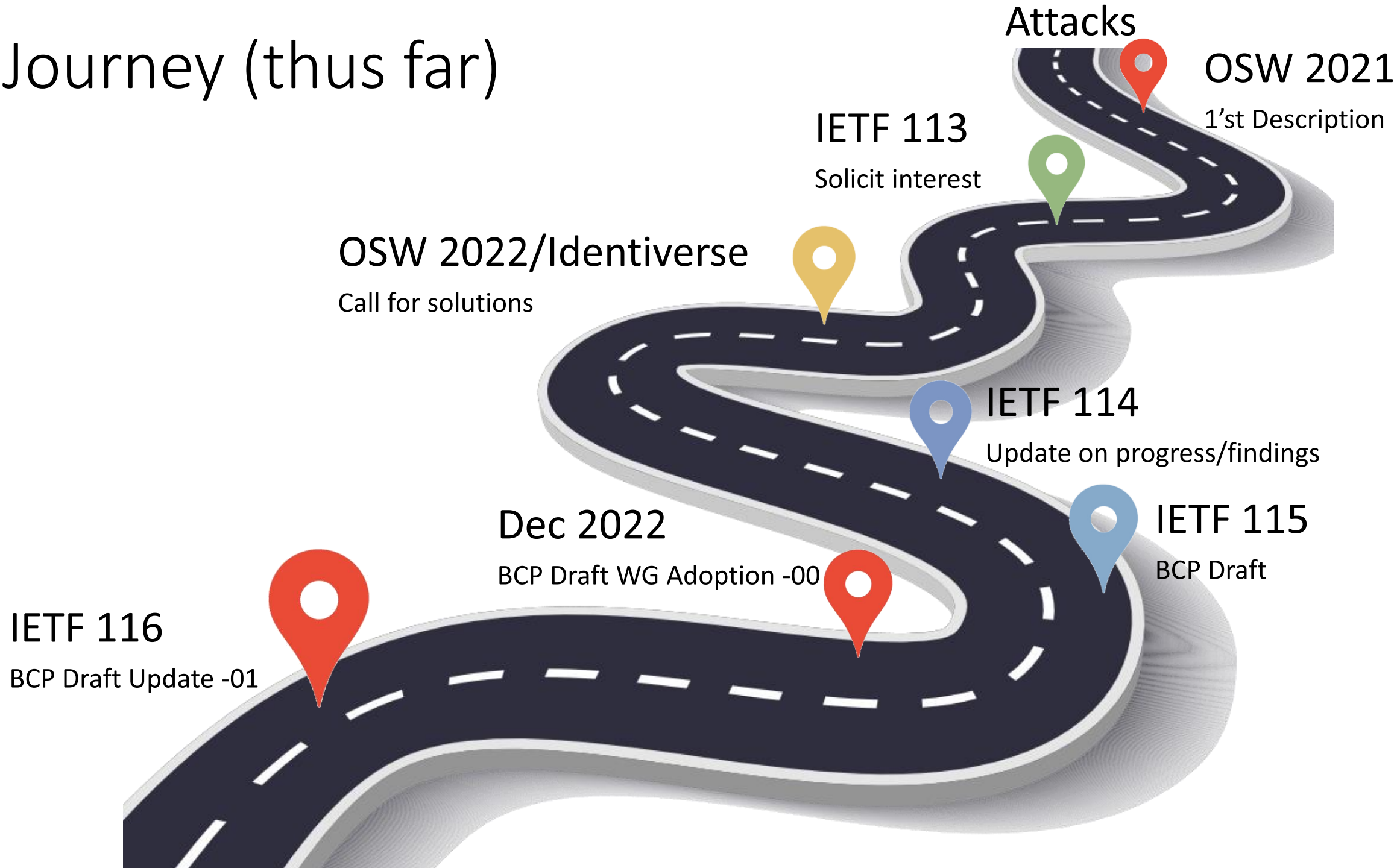
**Needs to make fewer decision,  
Needs help to make better decisions  
Needs protection even if a bad decision is made**

# Mitigation Framework



Where are we?

# The Journey (thus far)



# Cross-Device Flows: Security Best Current Practice

[draft-ietf-oauth-cross-device-security-01 - Cross-Device Flows: Security Best Current Practice](#)

draft-ietf-oauth-cross-device-security-01

Web Authorization Protocol

Internet-Draft

Intended status: Best Current Practice

Expires: 14 September 2023

P. Kasselmann

Microsoft

D. Fett

yes.com

F. Skokan

Okta

13 March 2023

Cross-Device Flows: Security Best Current Practice

draft-ietf-oauth-cross-device-security-01

# What's New: Distinguish protocol patterns

2. Cross Device Flow Concepts . . . . .	5
2.1. User Transferred Pattern . . . . .	6
2.2. Client Transferred Pattern . . . . .	7
2.3. Hybrid Pattern . . . . .	8

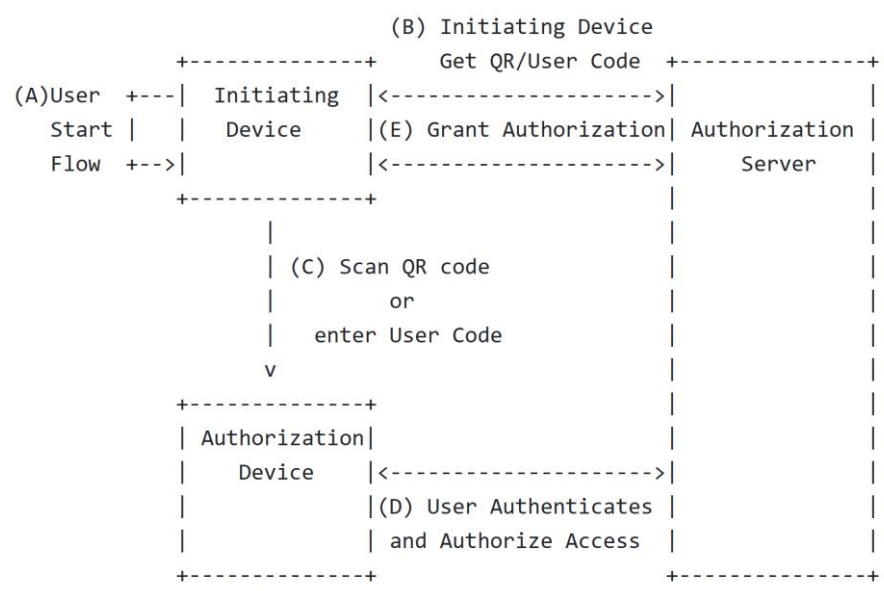


Figure 1: Cross Device Flows (User Transferred)

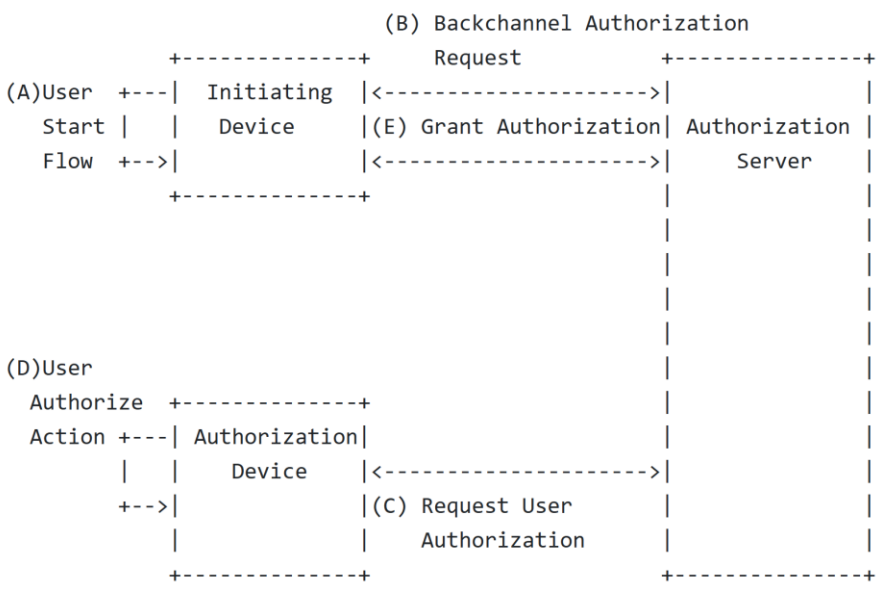


Figure 2: Cross Device Flows (Client Transferred)

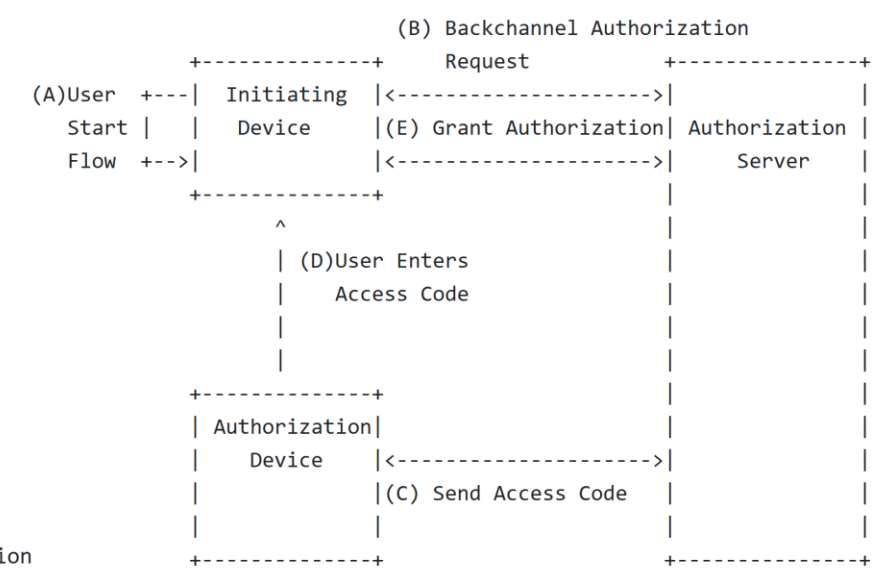


Figure 3: Cross Device Flows (Hybrid)

# What's New: Additional Scenarios

- 2.4.7. Example A7: Transfer a session (Hybrid) . . . . . 10
- 2.4.8. Example A8: Access a productivity application  
(Hybrid) . . . . . 11

Classified according to protocol pattern

# What's New: Exploits for each pattern

3. Cross-Device Flow Exploits . . . . . 11

3.1. User Transferred Pattern . . . . . 11

3.2. Client Transferred Pattern . . . . . 13

3.3. Hybrid Pattern . . . . . 15

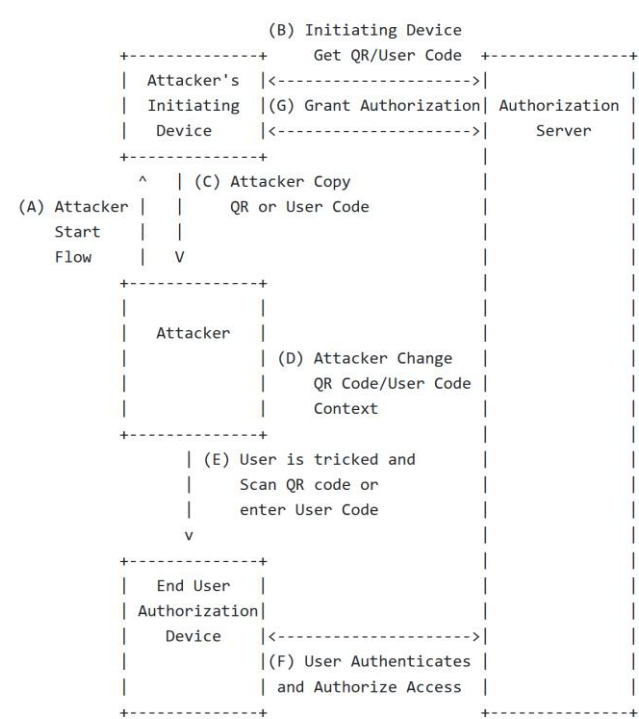


Figure 4: Attacker Initiated Cross Device Flow Exploit (User Transferred Pattern)

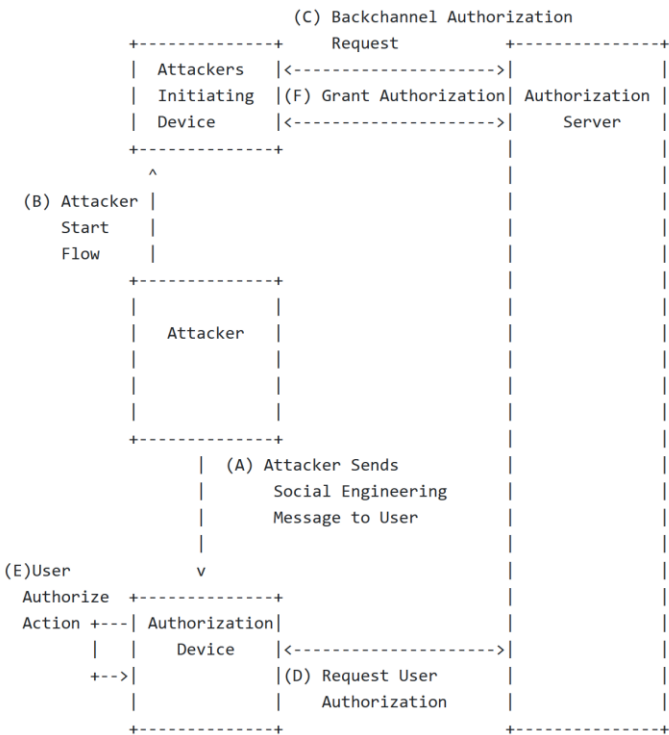


Figure 5: Attacker Initiated Cross Device Flow Exploit (Client Transferred Pattern)

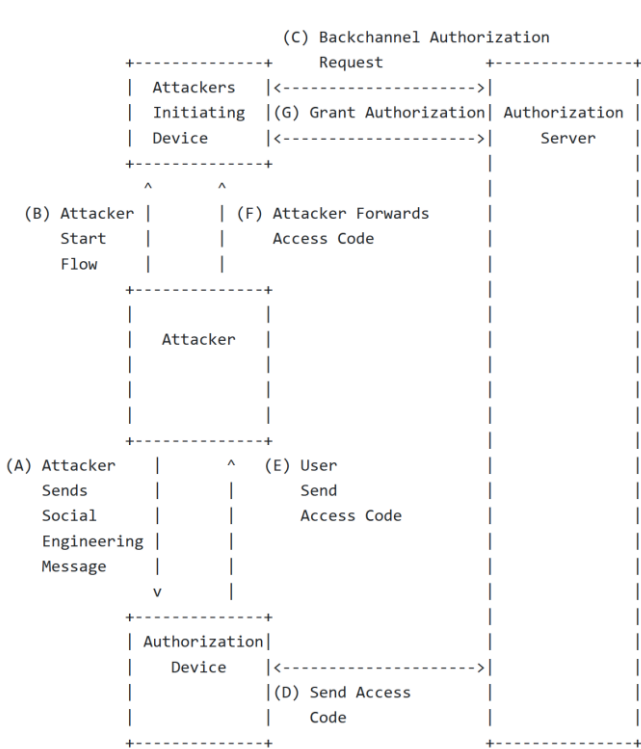


Figure 6: Attacker Initiated Cross Device Flow Exploit (Hybrid Pattern)

# What's New: Additional Exploits

- 3.11. Example B7: Illicit session transfer (Hybrid Pattern) . . 19
- 3.12. Example B8: Account takeover (User Transferred  
Pattern) . . . . . 20

Classified according to protocol pattern

# What's New:

## Mitigation Limitations

**Limitations:** Proximity mechanisms raises the bar for an attack. However, depending on how the proximity check is performed, an attacker may be able to circumvent the protection: The attacker can use a VPN to simulate a shared network or spoof a GNSS position. For example, the attacker can try to request the location of the end-user's authorization device through browser APIs and then simulate the same location on his initiating device using standard debugging features available on many platforms.



**Limitations:** Starting with and authenticated does not prevent the attacks described in [Example B5: Illicit Network Join](#) and [Example B7: Illicit Session Transfer](#) and it is recommended that additional mitigations described in this document is used if the cross-device flows are used in scenarios such as [Example A5: Add a device to a network](#) and [Example A7: Transfer a session](#).

Mitigation	Prevent	Disrupt	Recover
Establish Proximity	X	X	
Short Lived/Timebound Codes		X	
One-Time or Limited Use Codes		X	
Unique Codes		X	
Content Filtering		X	
Detect and remediate			X
Trusted Devices	X		
Trusted Networks	X		
Limited Scopes			X
Short Lived Tokens			X
Rate Limits	X	X	
Sender Constrained Tokens			X
User Experience	X		
Authenticated flow	X		

Table 1: Practical Mitigation Summary

Where do we go Next?

# Seen in other places....

## Secure Ranging and Proximity

- IEEE 802.15.4 Ultra Wide Band (UWB)
- [Designed to be resistant to relay type attacks](#)
- Developing new use cases in [FiRa Consortium](#)



## OpenID for Verifiable Presentations over BLE


- Too early to reference or consider in the BCP?

Workgroup:	OpenID Connect				
Internet-Draft:	openid-for-verifiable-presentations-offline-1_0-00				
Published:	15 November 2022				
Intended Status:	Standards Track				
Authors:	K. Yasuda	T. Lodderstedt	K. Nakamura	Sasikumar	Ramesh
	<i>Microsoft</i>	<i>yes.com</i>	<i>Panasonic</i>	<i>MOSIP</i>	<i>MOSIP</i>

## OpenID for Verifiable Presentations over BLE

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# Open Issues

- ☐  **Editorial update to Limitations section for Authenticated Flows**

#44 opened 36 minutes ago by PieterKas

- ☐  **Add references to secure ranging / attested proximate location**

#43 opened 2 days ago by PieterKas

- ☐  **Coin a phrase for the type of attack**

#42 opened last week by PieterKas


- ☐  **Decide on capitalization of "initiating device" and "authorization device"**

#41 opened last week by aaronpk


- ☐  **Add clarification that authentication may be required prior to authorization for the client initiated pattern.**

#39 opened 2 weeks ago by PieterKas

# PRs

- ☐  **fixed typos and grammar edits ✓**

#40 opened last week by aaronpk

- ☐  **Minor suggestions (typo fixes etc.)**

#38 opened 2 weeks ago by kmzs

# Coin a Phrase to Describe the Attack

- Illicit Consent Grant Attack?
  - Describes outcome, not the mechanism
- Attacker-in-the-Middle Attack?
  - Describe attacker capability, but both too broad and too narrow
- Authorization Context Manipulation Attack?
  - Describes the mechanism
- Authorization Context Manipulation Exploit?
  - Describe mechanism, hints that protocol functions as expected.
- Other?

# Formal Analysis by University of Stuttgart

Research Team:

**Pedram Hosseyni**



**Tim Würtele**



**Klaas Pruiksma**



**Clara Waldmann**

Focused on Device Authorization Grant

Expecting results towards the end of summer

A scenic landscape photograph featuring Mount Fuji in the background, its snow-capped peak rising above a layer of blue haze. The foreground is framed by the delicate, pinkish-white branches of cherry blossoms, which are in full bloom. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall composition is peaceful and evokes a sense of spring in Japan.

# Questions?