

IETF 91

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# OAuth SPOP

## (Symmetric Proof of Possession for Code)

[draft-ietf-oauth-spop-02](#)

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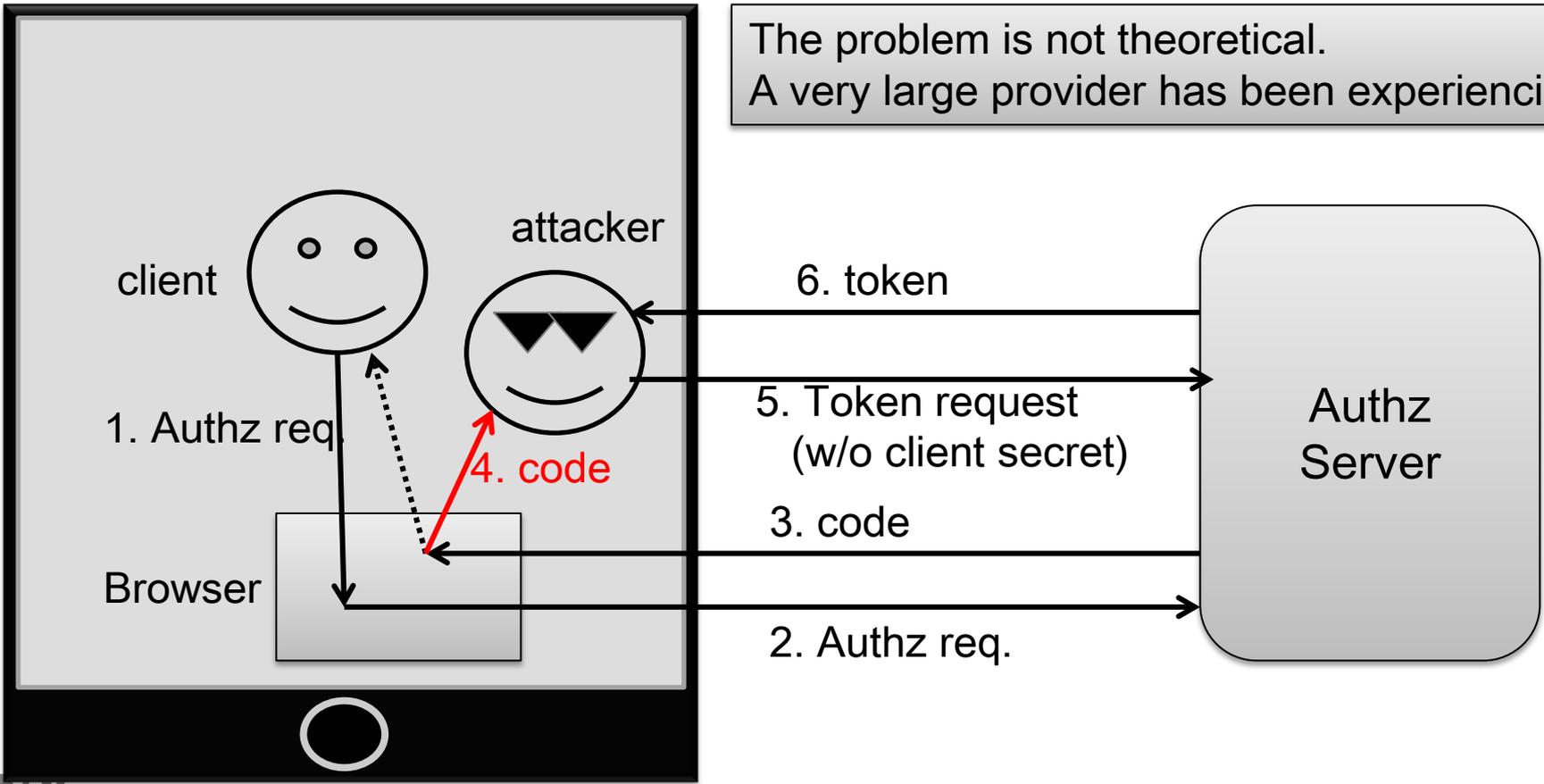
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Ping Identity

# Problem Statement 1

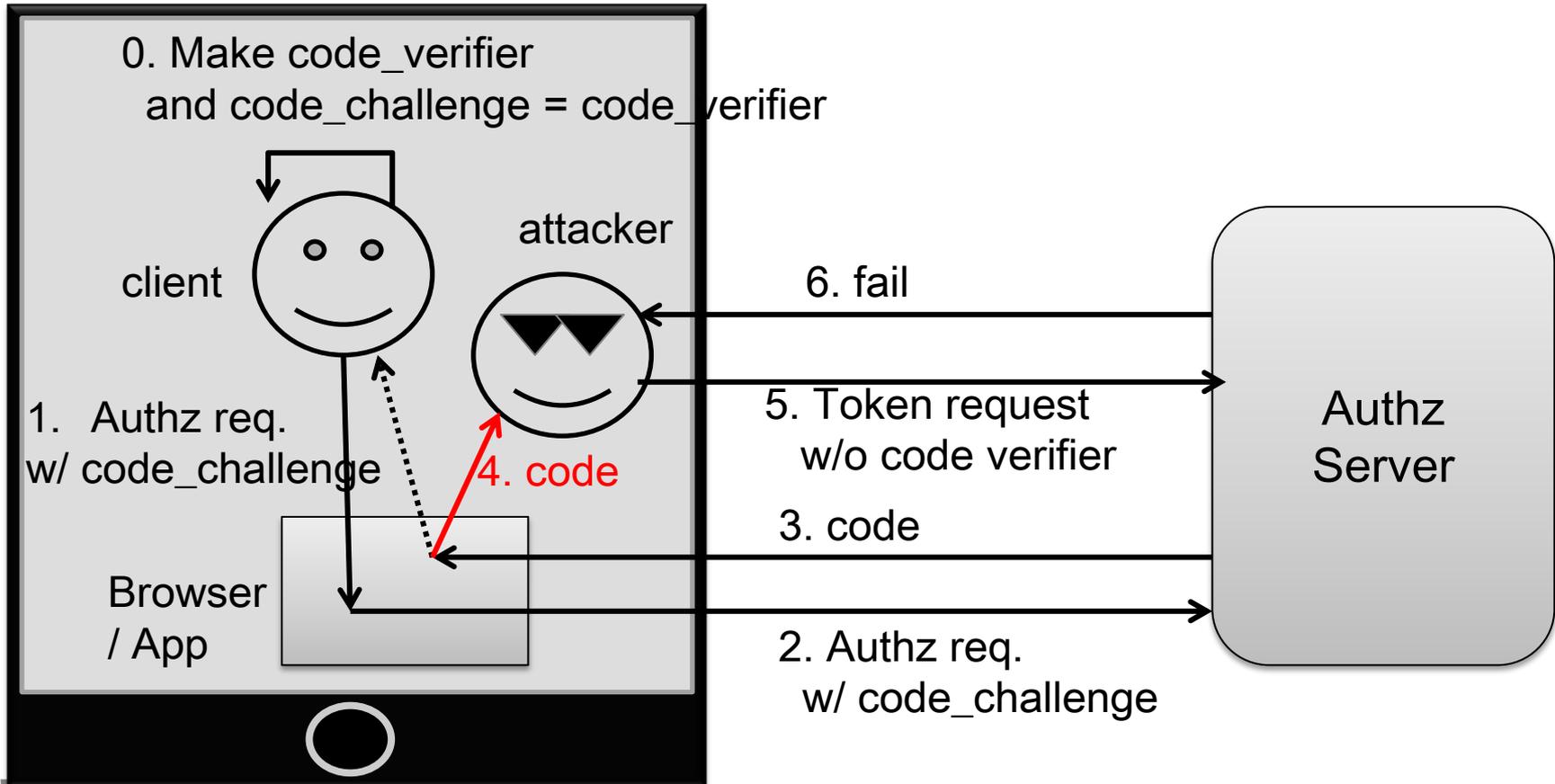
- Code interception attack (against public clients)
  - A malicious client gets the code instead of the client via registering the same scheme as the client, etc.

The problem is not theoretical.  
A very large provider has been experiencing it.



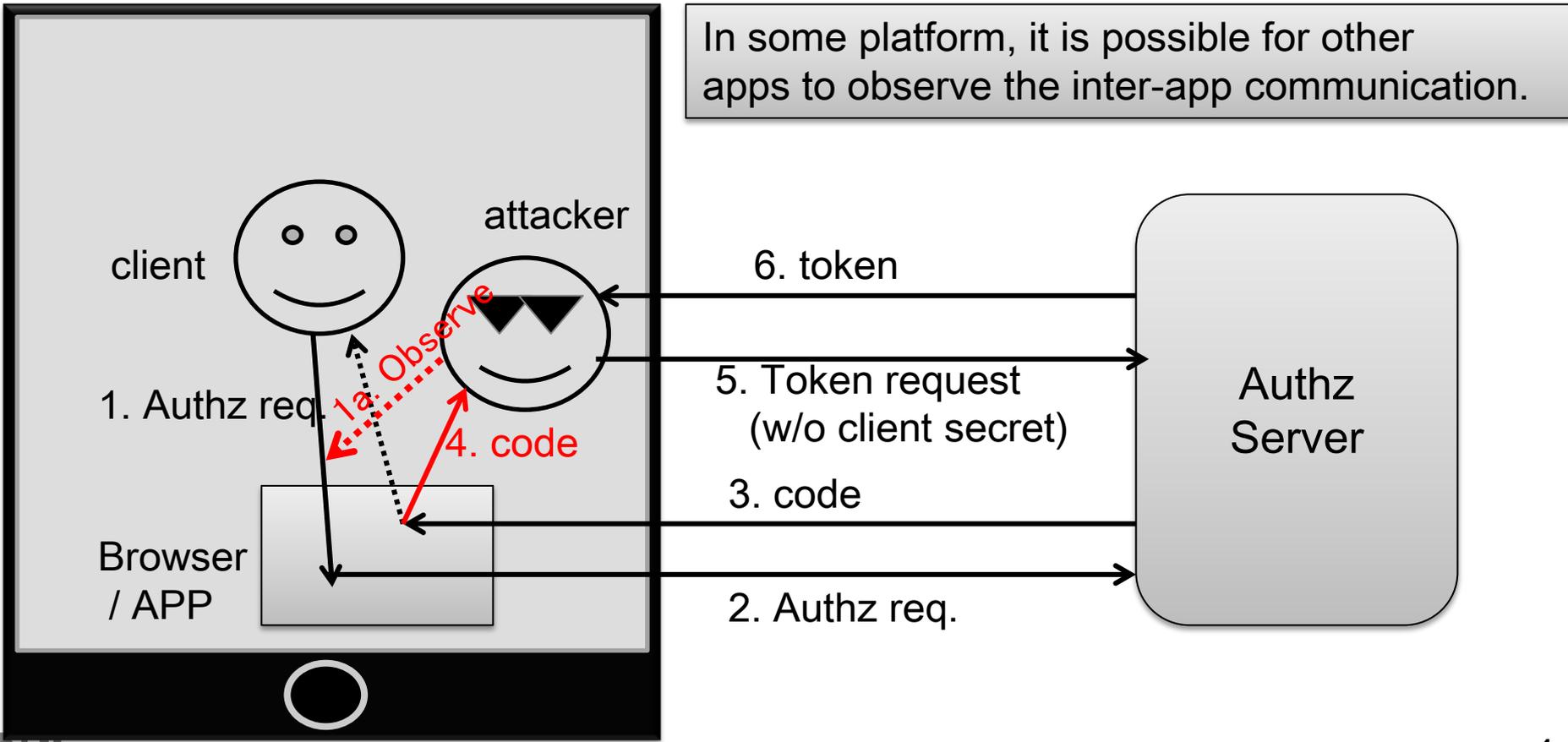
# Solution 1

- Have the client create a one-time-credential and send it with the Authz req.
  - Based on the assumption that attacker cannot observe the request.



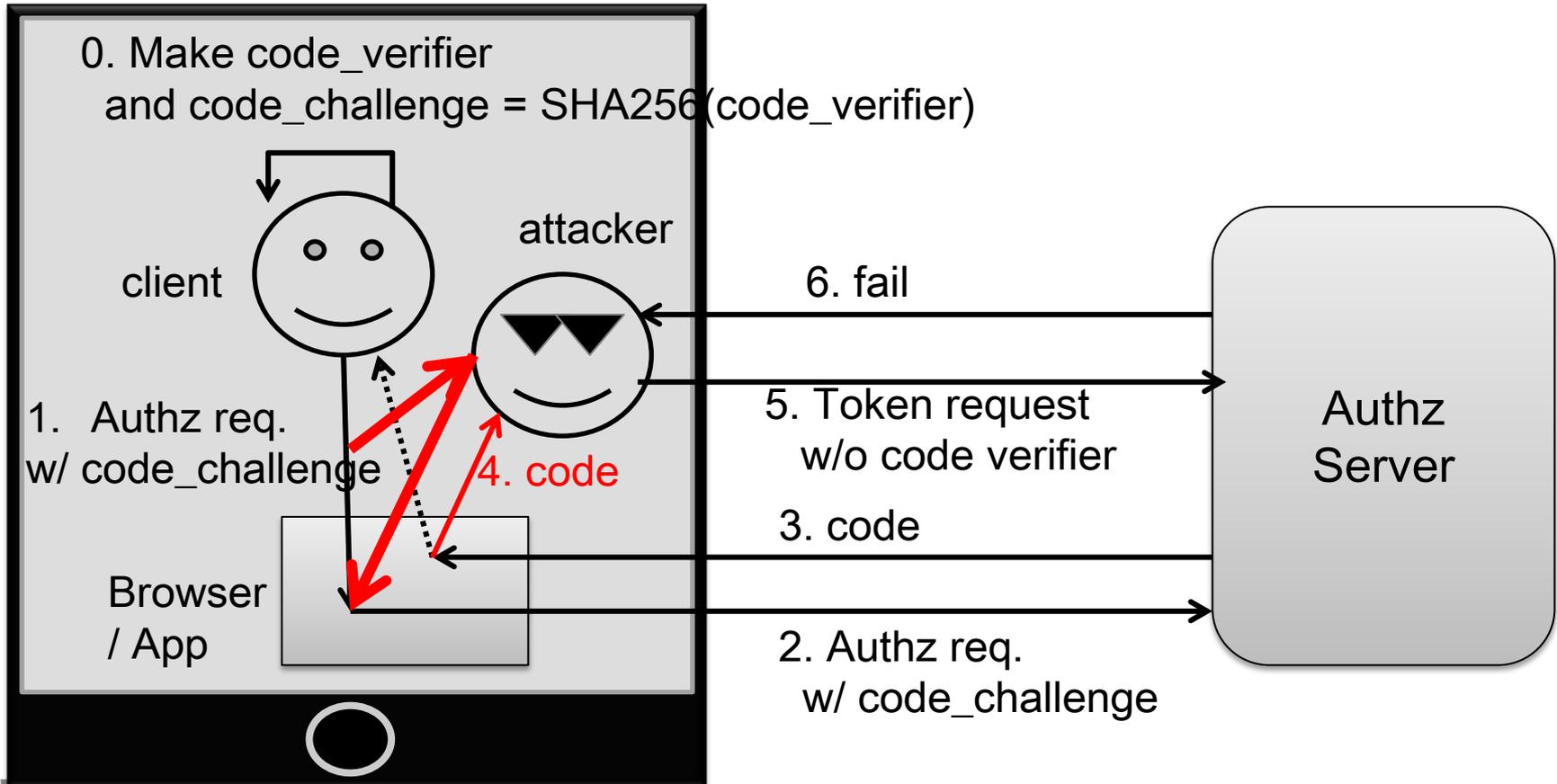
# Problem Statement 2

- Code interception attack (against public clients) + **Authz req Observation**
  - In addition to the code interception, he can actually see the AuthZ request, so it can see the **code\_challenge**.



# Solution 2

- Have the client create a one-time-credential and send it with the Authz req.
  - Based on the assumption that attacker cannot observe the request.



# Current Proposal

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## ■ Server MUST:

- plain
- S256 (sha256)

## ■ MAY support:

- none – plain OAuth
  - for compatibility with existing clients

# FAQ

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- Why does it not use asymmetric crypto?
  - Discovery of key and crypto algs, protocols, etc. .
  - Complexity.
- Why not only support SHA256?
  - Some client has no access to crypto libraries OR hard for them to use.
  - Clients can select based on the risk profile of the OS.
    - Simplifies the code.
  - (Graceful fallback and backward compatibility)
- Why not re-use the client secret field?
  - It is not the transient client secret. It is a secret for code, so semantically, it is different and we should not overload the field.

# Draft is available as:

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■ <https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-oauth-spop-02>

■ WG LAST CALL

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Versions: ([draft-sakimura-oauth-tcse](#)) [00](#) [01](#)  
[02](#)

OAuth Working Group  
Internet-Draft  
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## Symmetric Proof of Possession for the OAuth Authorization Code Grant draft-ietf-oauth-spop-02

### Abstract

The OAuth 2.0 public client utilizing Authorization Code Grant ([RFC 6749](#) - 4.1) is susceptible to the code interception attack. This specification describes a mechanism that acts as a control against this threat.

### Status of this Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

# Todo: define error responses.

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## ■ Error response to authorization request

- Returns `invalid_request` with additional error param `spop_error` with the following values:

- `S256_unsupported`
- `none_unsupported`
- `invalid_code_challenge`

clients MUST NOT accept the downgrade request through this as it may be a downgrade attack by a MITM.

## ■ Error response to token request

- Returns `invalid_request` with additional error param `spop_error` with the following values:

- `invalid_code_verifier`
- `verifier_challenge_mismatch`

## ■ Authorization server should return more descriptive information on

- `error_description`
- `error_uri`

# ToDo: text clarifications

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- It should make it clear that it is trying to mitigate the communication that is not protected by TLS: the inter-app communication.
- It should make it clear that for the “request”, it is not about MITM but the “observer” that it is trying to protect.
- It should make it clear that it is about transient secret for “code”, that it is authenticating the “code”.