

# INTEGRATE COLLECTIVE CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT ON SKIPCHAINS AND ON CROSS PLATFORM MOBILE APPLICATION

RESPONSIBLE

PROF. BRYAN FORD

DEDIS/EPFL

CLAUDIO LOUREIRO

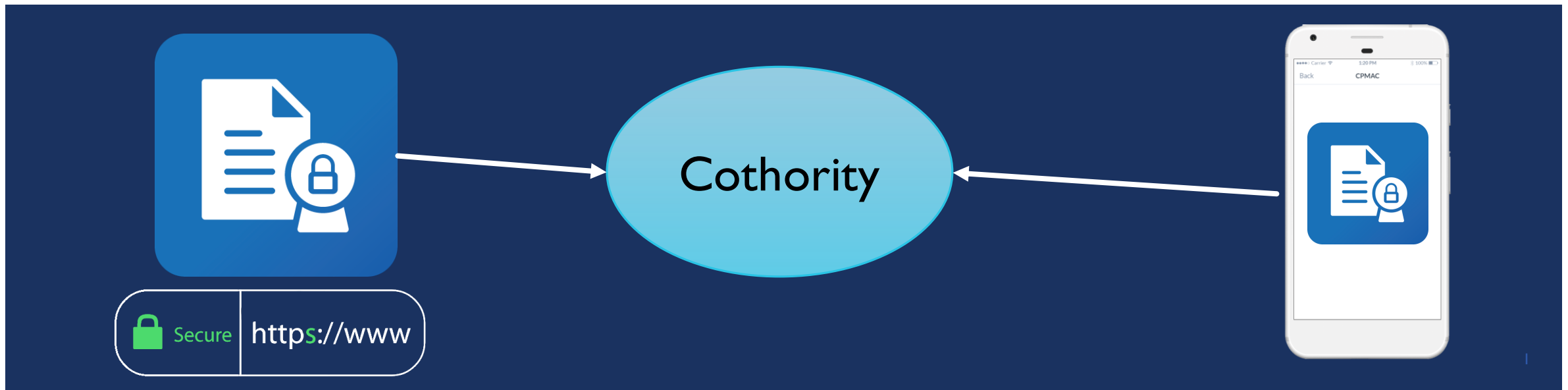
MASTER SEMESTER PROJECT

DECENTRALIZED AND DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS LAB

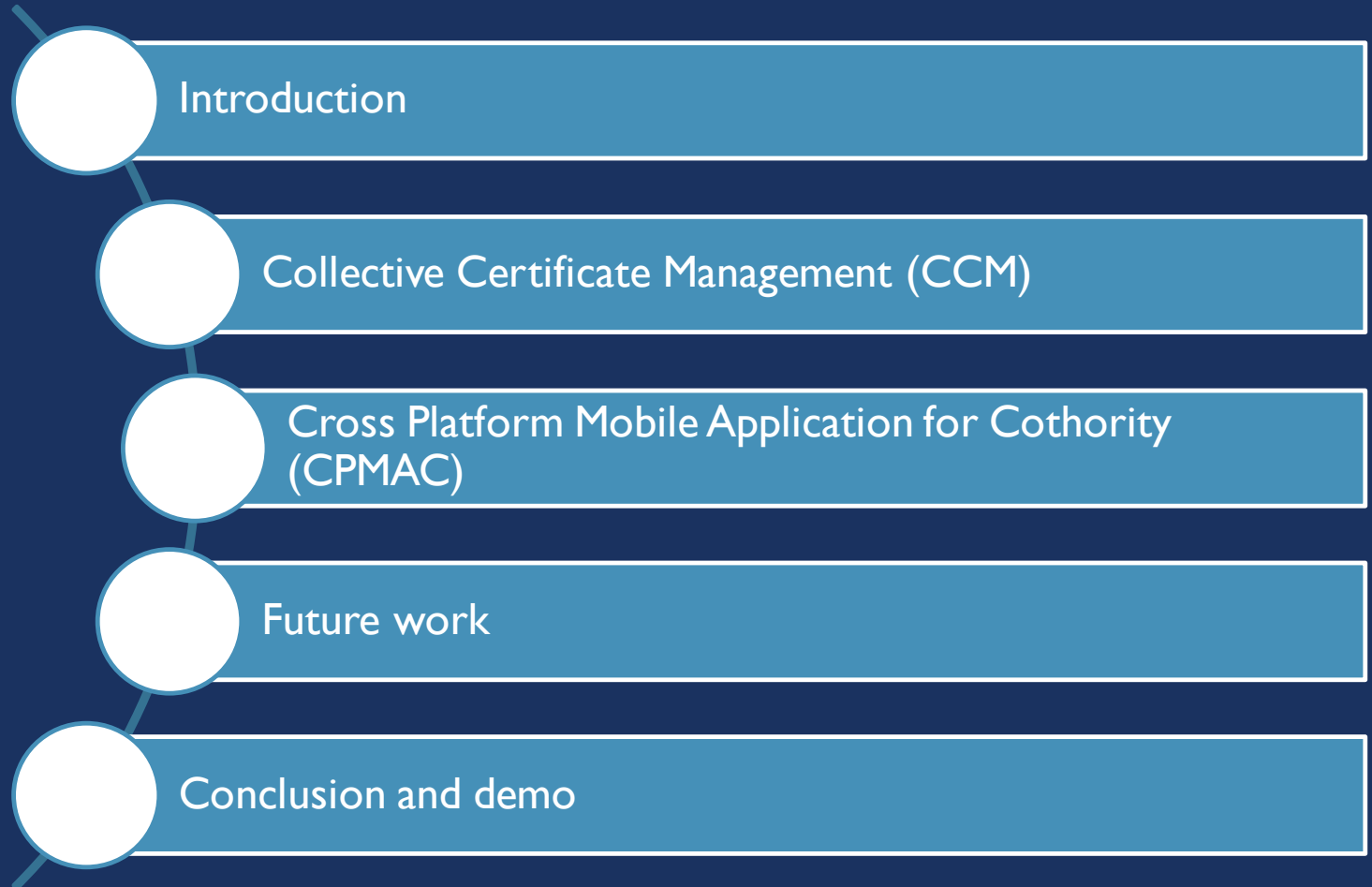
SUPERVISOR

LINUS GASSER

DEDIS/EPFL



# SUMMARY



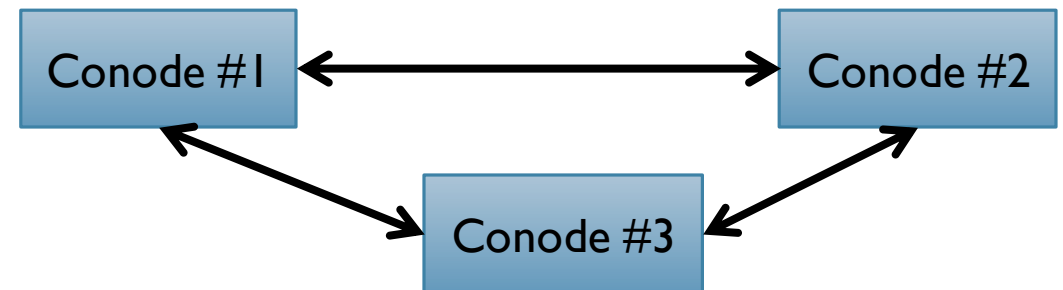
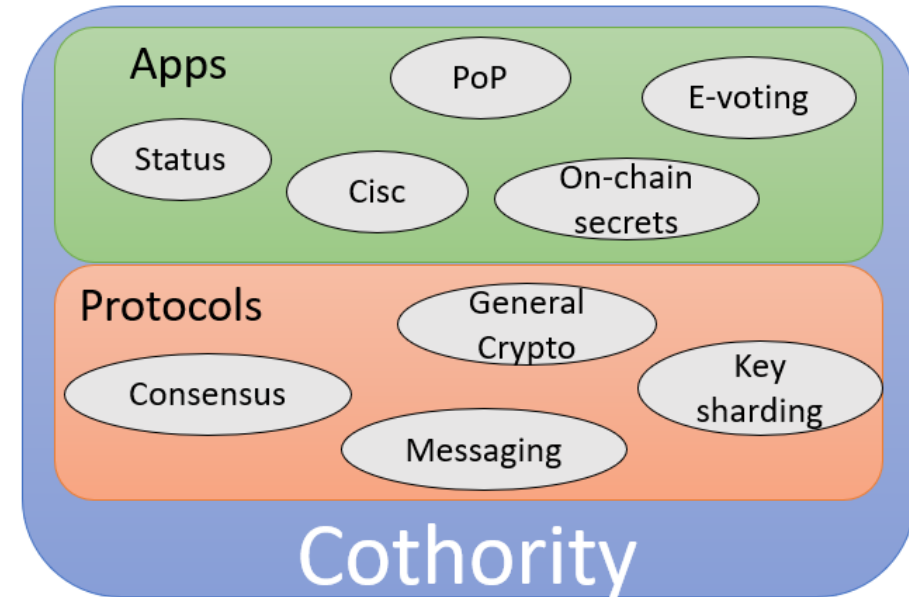
# INTRODUCTION

## Introduction

- Background
- Problem statement
- Solutions and motivations

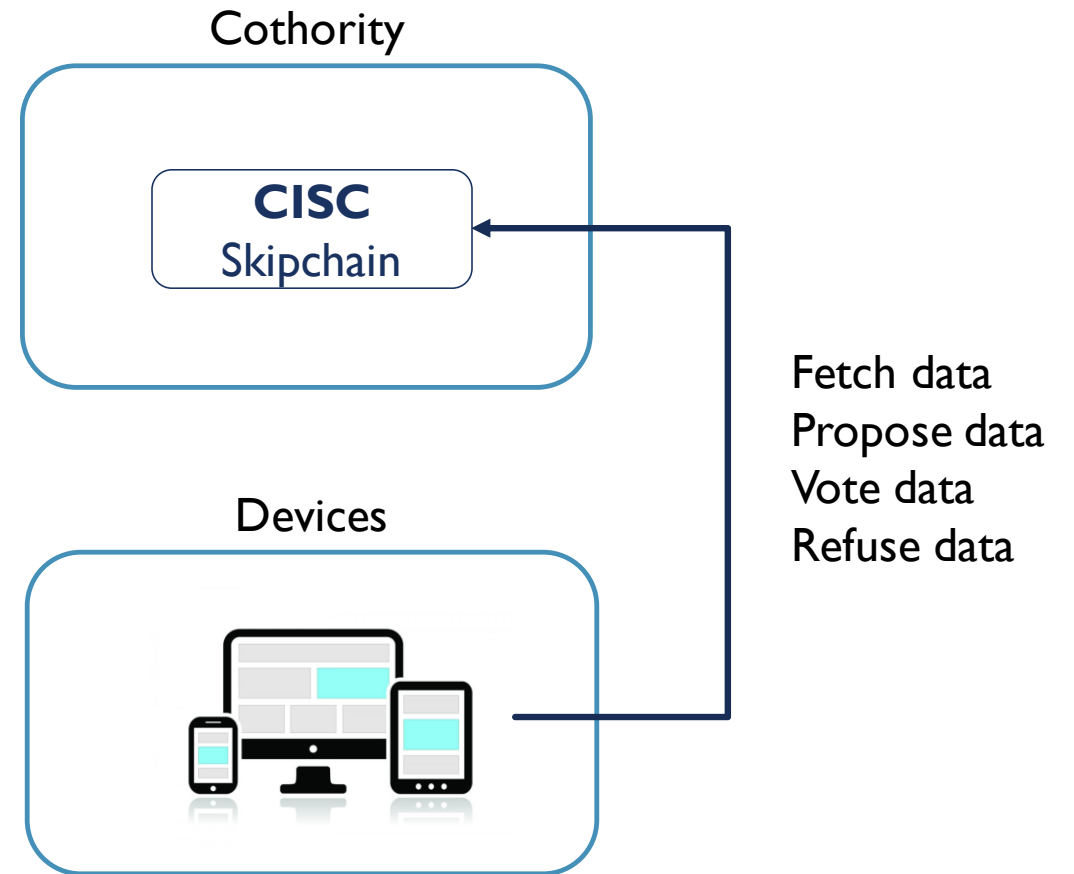
# BACKGROUND - COTHORITY

- Cothority framework
  - Protocols between conodes
  - Apps (PoP, Cisc...)
  - Services, (CoSi, Status,...)

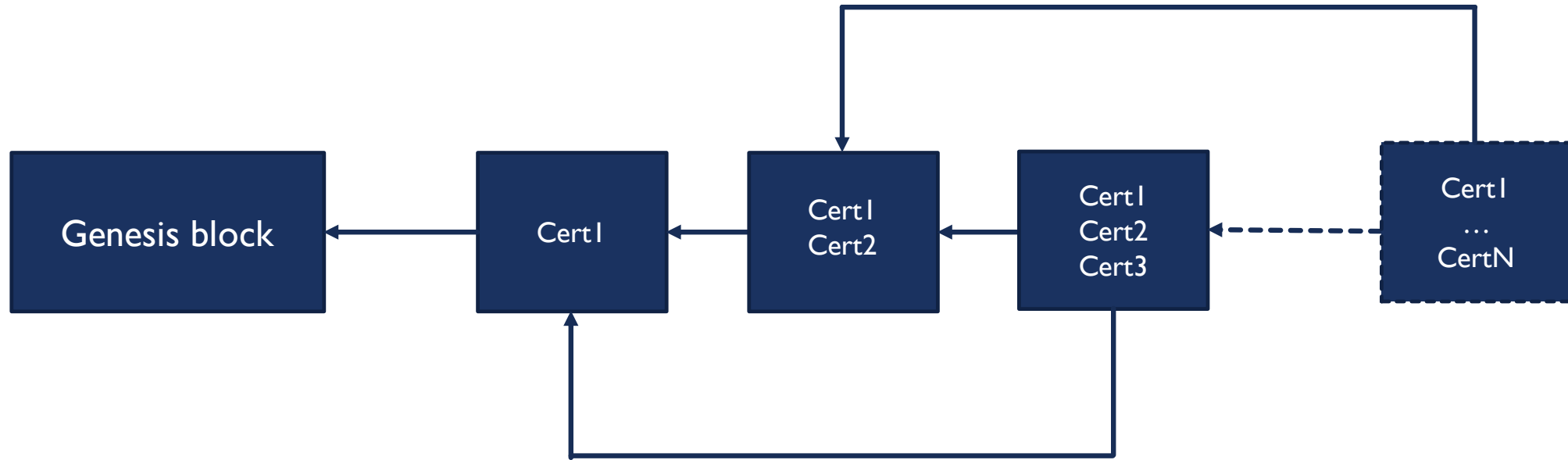


# BACKGROUND - CISC

- Application providing a simple way to store data
- Storing based on blockchain principle (Skipchains)
- System of cryptographic vote
  - New data needs to be accepted by a threshold of devices
  - Proposal list for data to be voted on
  - If accepted a new block is added to the Skipchain
- Data storage
  - Key/value pairs
  - SSH public keys
  - Webpages
  - **Certificates**



# BACKGROUND - SKIPCHAIN



Skipchain structure

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

## ■ Problem

- Certification Authority can validate or give fake certificates (even intentionally)
  - WoSign incident in 2015 [1]
  - Trustwave incident in 2012 [1]

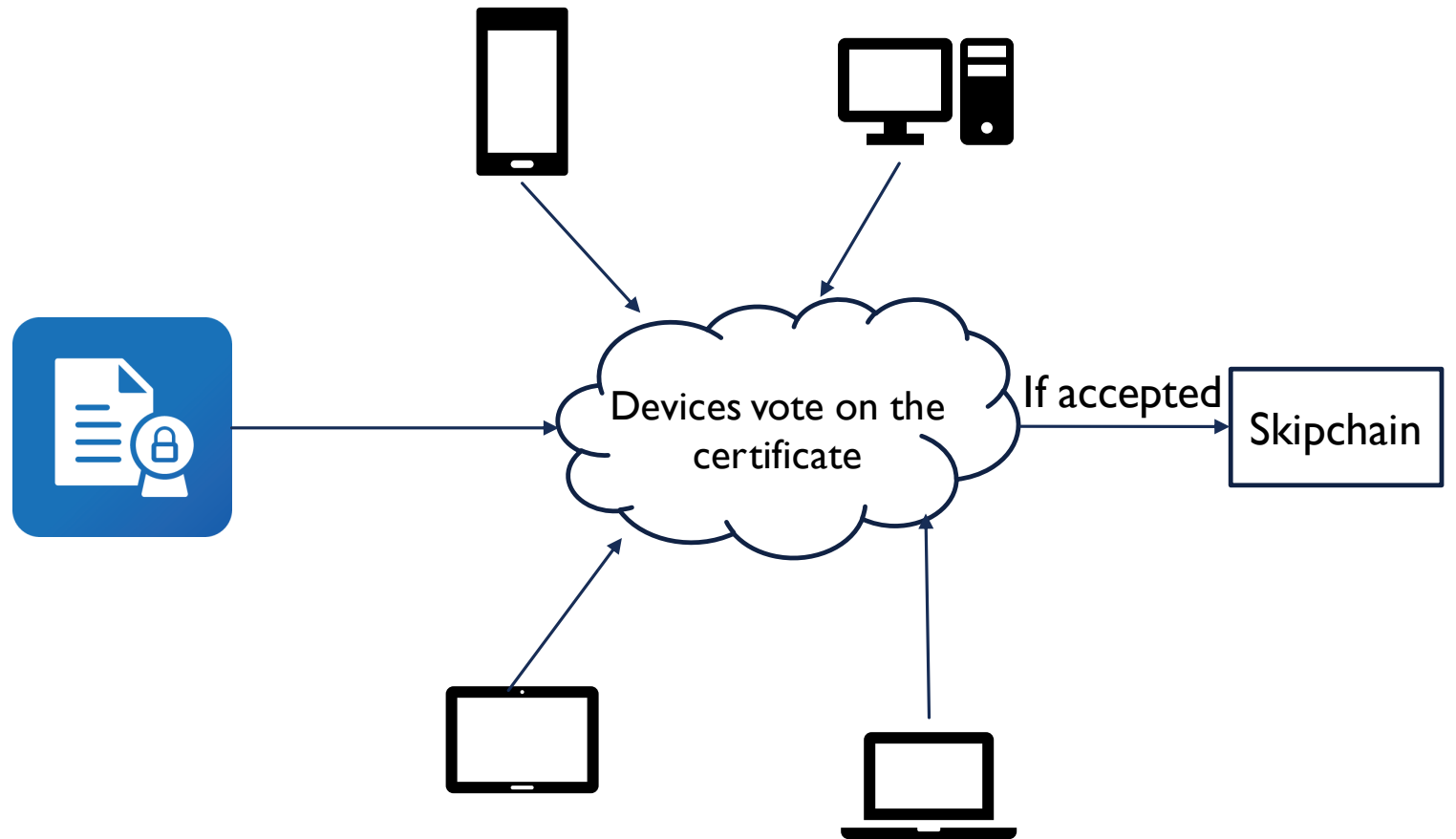
## ■ Consequences

- Impersonation of web server
- Man-in-the-middle : spying communications or stealing valuable information

[1] <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/info-notes/certificate-authorities-the-weak-link-of-internet-security>

# SOLUTION

- Using our Skipchains to store and vote on certificates
  - Multiple entities decide together if certificates are considered valid
  - Accepted certificates are stored in the Skipchain
  - Any modification on the certificate should be collectively approved





# MOTIVATIONS AND GOALS

- Integration of Collective certificate management on Skipchains (Command Line Interface)
  - Previous implementation not supported by multiple Skipchains
  - Commands robustness improved
- Integration of this functionality on the Cross Platform Mobile Application (CPMAC)
  - Command line interface is not a user-friendly interface
  - Offers a better visualization and interaction with the certificates stored

# COLLECTIVE CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT

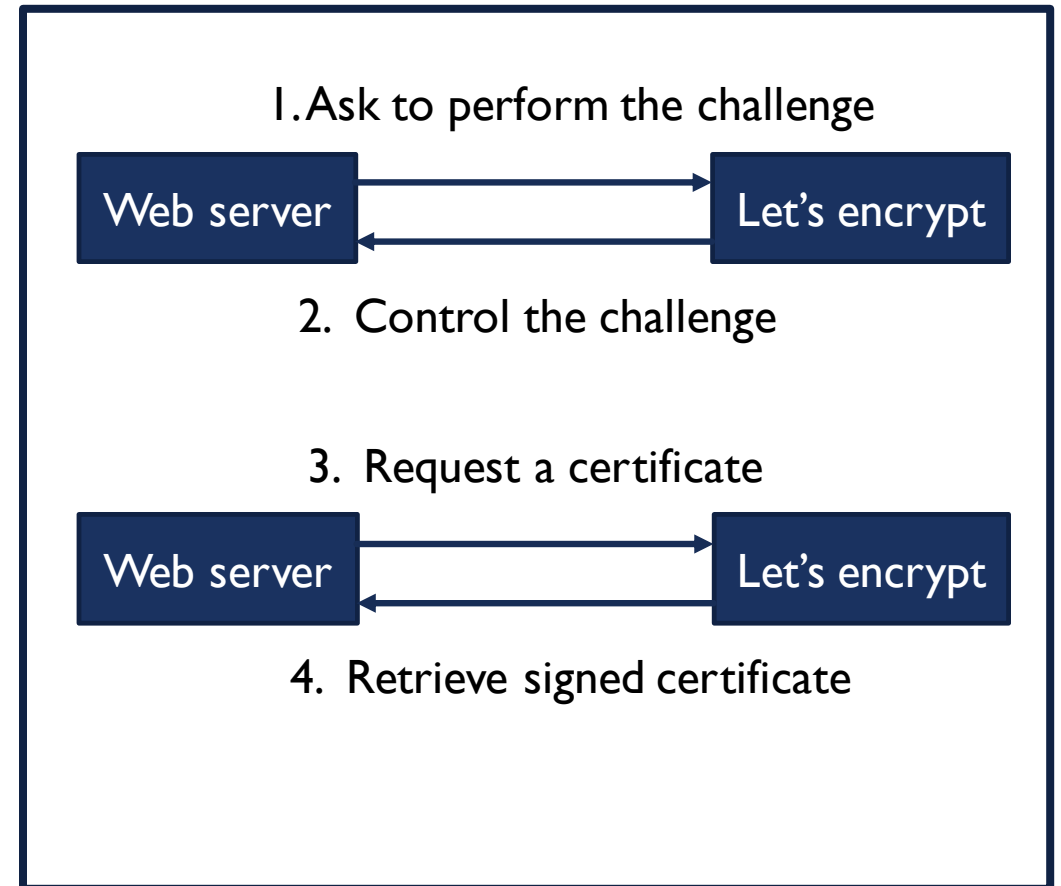


## Collective Certificate management

- Overview
- Improvement and changes

# OVERVIEW

- Cisc commands (CLI)
  - **Request** : Request a certificate from Let's Encrypt and add it to the Skipchain if the proposition is accepted
  - **Add** : Add an existing certificate to the list proposal
  - **List** : Display the stored certificates
  - **Retrieve** : Retrieve the physical certificate
  - **Renew** : Renew the certificate
  - **Revoke** : Revoke a certificate by deleting it from the Skipchain if the proposition is accepted



Request procedure

# IMPROVEMENTS AND CHANGES

- Skipchain ID has to be given together with the commands if multiple Skipchains available
- Improved robustness and clarity of the Cisc certificate commands
  - Code cleaning
  - Paths to directories have to be given more often (avoiding storing private keys in public folder) and to control where the core data is stored in the device
  - When listing certificates more information is shown
  - Renew certificate automatically replaces the old certificate (locally and in the Skipchain)

# ROBUSTNESS IMPROVEMENT

- **Before** Cisc request takes only the domain as argument (keys and certificates are stored locally in the current folder)
- **Problem** private keys could be stored accidentally public folder
- **After** Cisc request takes as arguments
  - Requested domains (cothority.net)
  - Certificate path (cert)
  - Public folder (www)



CROSS PLATFORM  
MOBILE APPLICATION  
FOR COTHORITY  
(CPMAC)

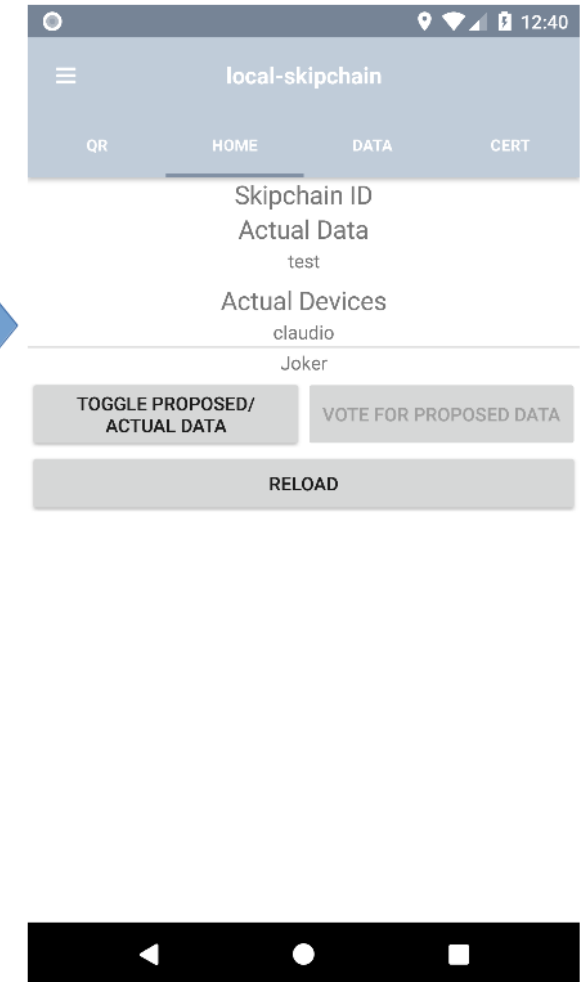
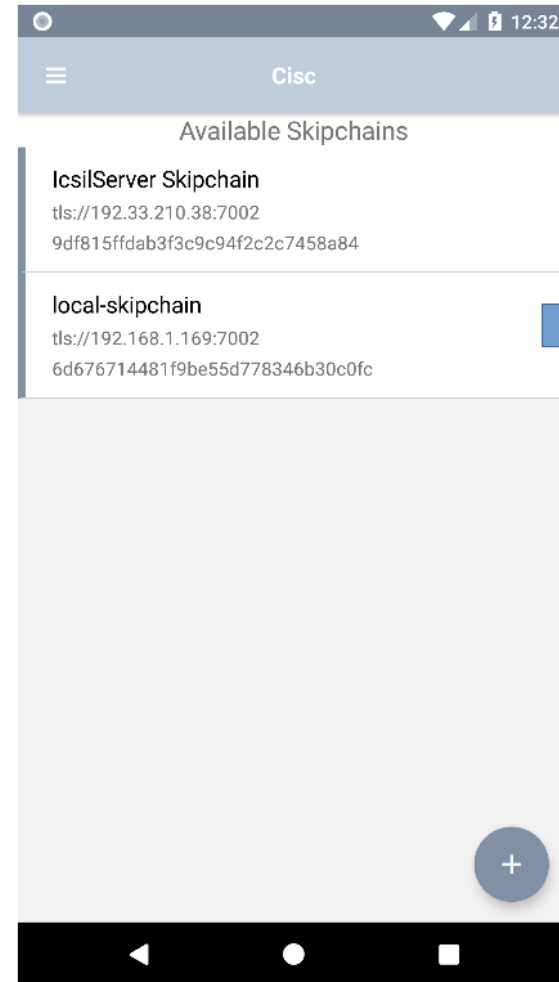


## Cross Platform Mobile Application for Cothority

- General Improvements
- Integration of Collective Certificate Management

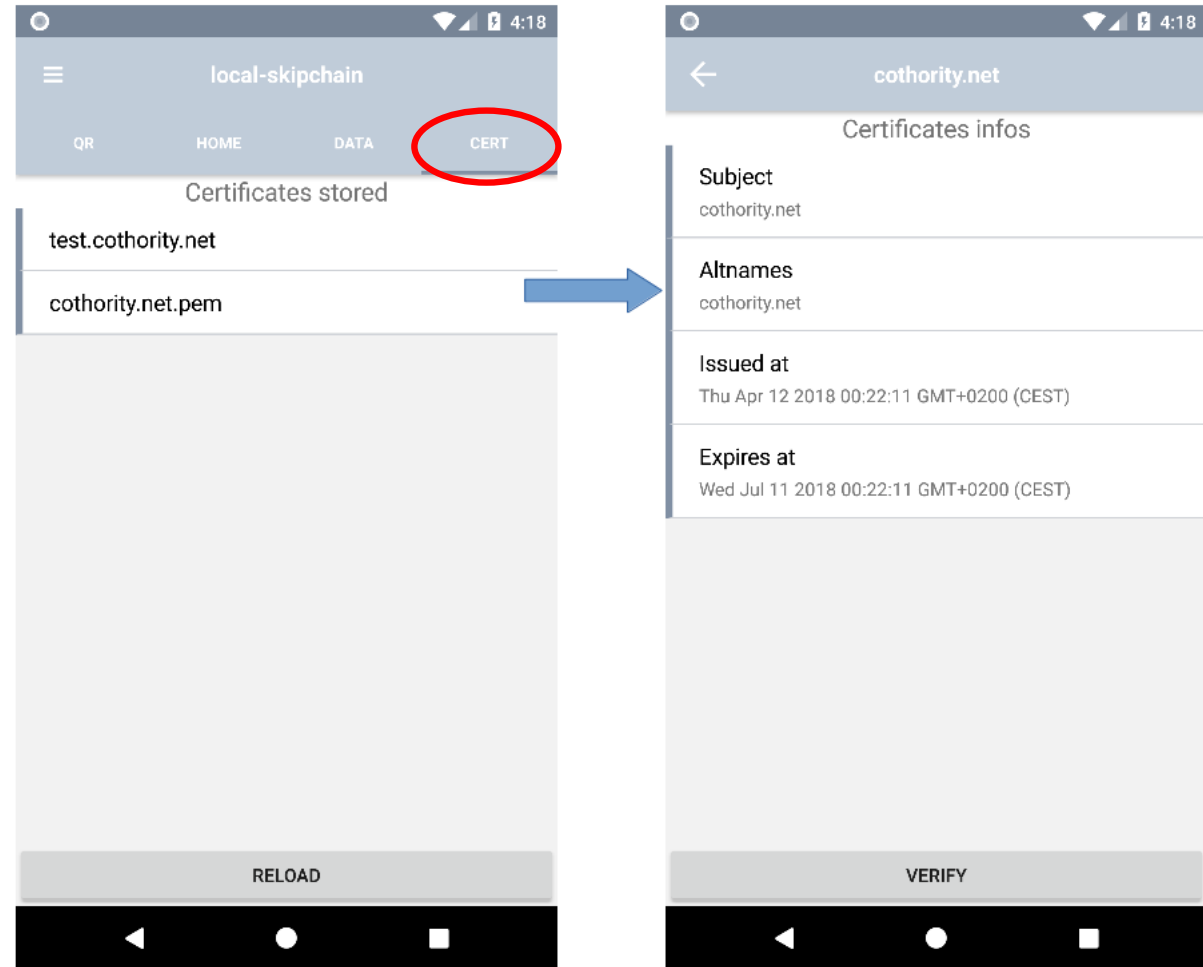
# GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Multiple Skipchains compatibility
  - All the Skipchains listed in the Cisc home page
  - Add button to join an existing Skipchain
- Settings update
  - User name is no longer bound to a Skipchain



# INTEGRATION OF COLLECTIVE CERTIFICATE MANAGEMENT

- Cert tab added
- Lists stored certificates with their names
- Clicking on a certificate shows additional information
- Possibility to verify the clicked certificate
  - Check the validity
  - Check it was signed by its parent
  - Check certificate issuer name matches the parent's subject name





# FUTURE WORK



Future work

# FUTURE WORK

## Collective Certificate Management

- Automated voting and renew system

## CPMAC

- At the moment a certificate can only be requested with the command line interface Cisc user

## Other features

- Adding a plugin to the browser to verify if the certificate is on the Skipchain

# CONCLUSION AND DEMO



Conclusion and Demo

# CONCLUSION AND DEMO

Multiple attacks have occurred against CA's decentralized protocols could be the solution



Creation of certificate management in the CLI (including adding it to the Skipchain)



CLI is not user-friendly, a front-end application is needed



Integration of this feature in a mobile application offers a nice user friendliness