Introduction

ITC 3093 Principles of Computer Security

Based on Cryptography and Network Security by William Stallings and Lecture slides by Lawrie Brown

Security

The art of war teaches us to rely

not on the likelihood of the enemy's not coming,

but on our own readiness to receive him;

not on the chance of his not attacking,

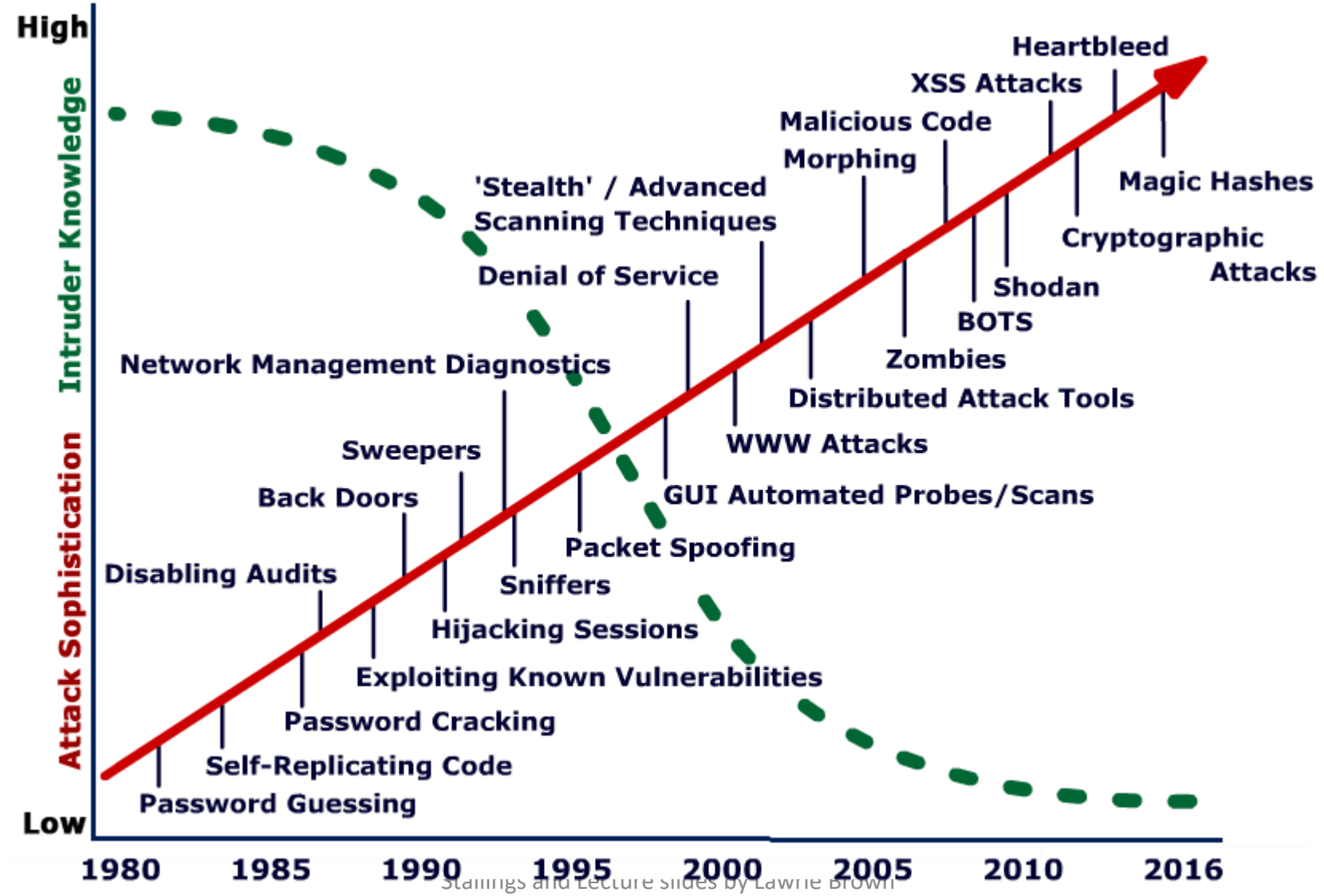
but rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable.

—The Art of War, Sun Tzu

Computer Security

- the protection afforded to an automated information system in order to attain the applicable objectives of preserving the integrity, availability and confidentiality of information system resources (includes hardware, software, firmware, information/data, and telecommunications)

Attack Tools Over Time



Computer Security Challenges

1. not simple
2. must consider potential attacks
3. procedures used counter-intuitive
4. involve algorithms and secret info
5. must decide where to deploy mechanisms
6. battle of wits between attacker / admin
7. not perceived on benefit until fails
8. requires regular monitoring
9. too often an after-thought
10. regarded as impediment to using system

Key Security Concepts

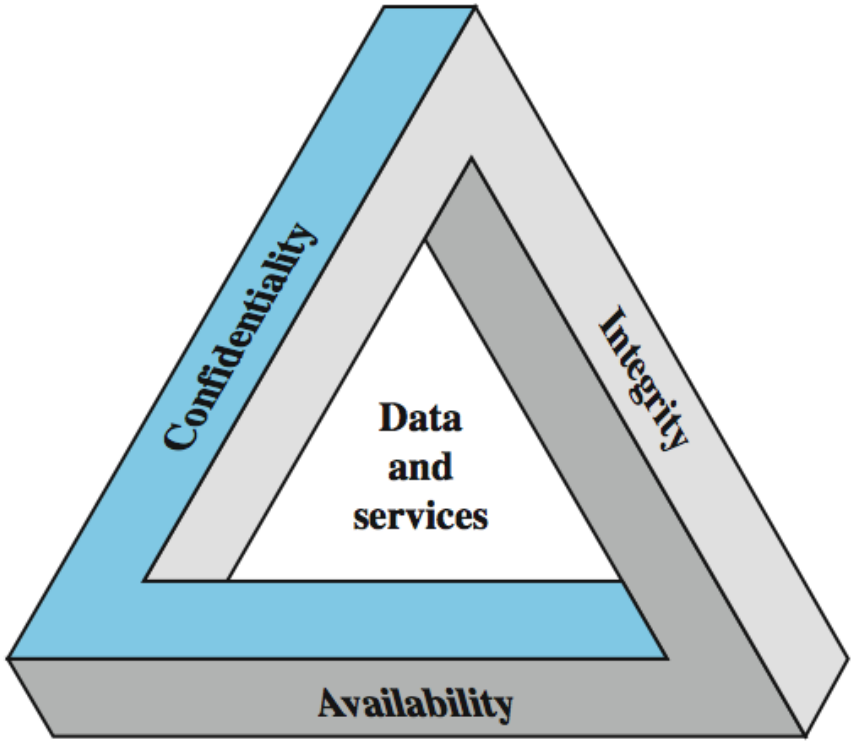


Figure 1.1 The Security Requirements Triad

- **Confidentiality**
  - Preserving authorized restrictions on information access and disclosure, including means for protecting personal privacy and proprietary information.
- **Integrity**
  - Guarding against information modifications or destruction, including ensuring information non-repudiation and authenticity.
- **Availability**
  - Ensuring timely and reliable access to and use of information

Examples of Security Requirements

- confidentiality – student grades
- integrity – patient information
- availability – authentication service

Levels of Impact

- Can define 3 levels of impact from a security breach
  - Low
  - Moderate
  - High

Aspects of Security

- **Security Attack**
  - Any action that compromises the security of information
- **Security Mechanism**
  - A process / device that is designed to detect, prevent or recover from a security attack.
- **Security Service**
  - A service intended to counter security attacks, typically by implementing one or more mechanisms.

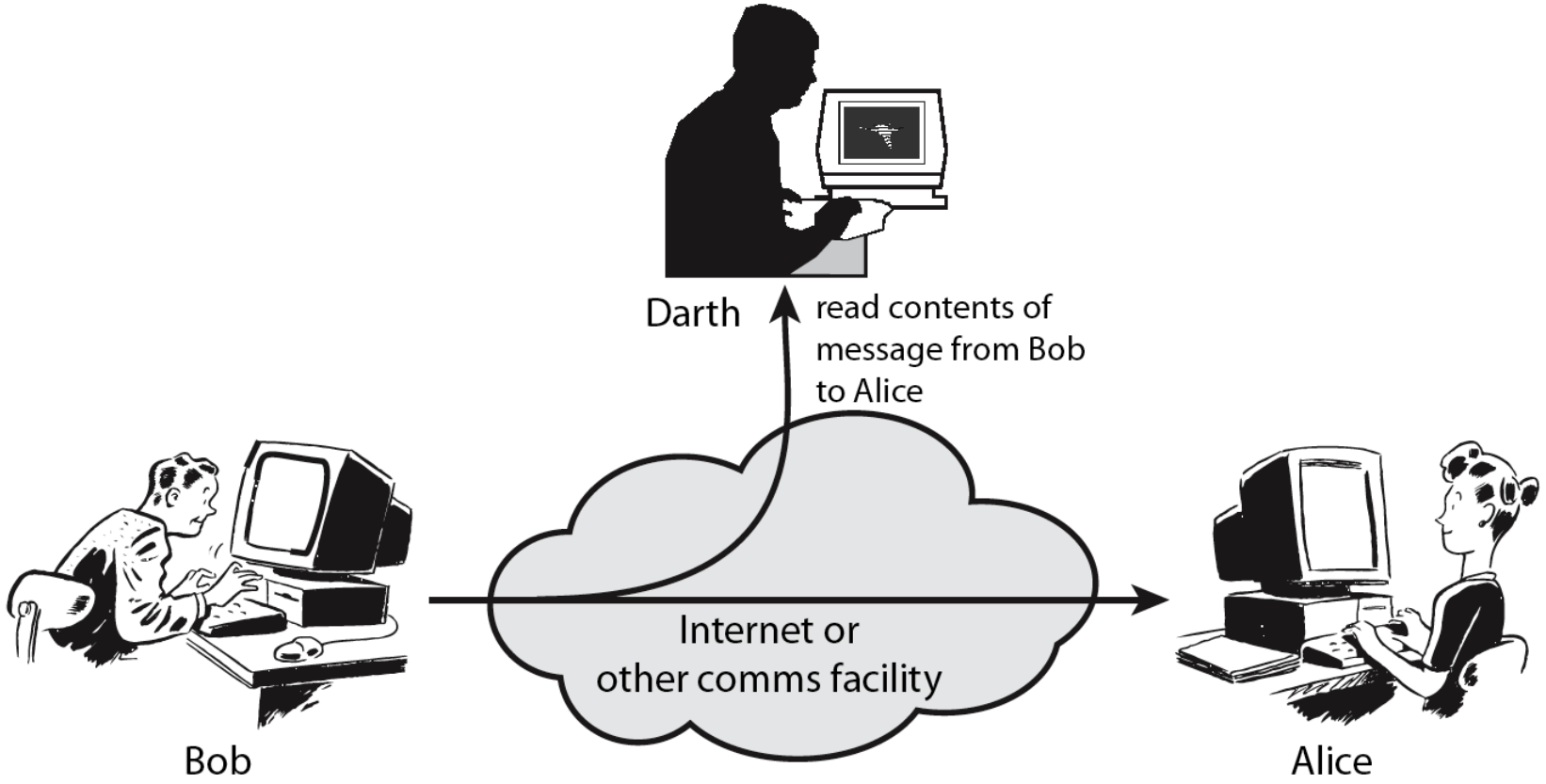
Threats & Attacks

- Note that the terms *threat* and *attack* used nearly interchangeably
  - **threat** – a potential for violation of security
  - **attack** – an assault on system security, a deliberate attempt to evade security services

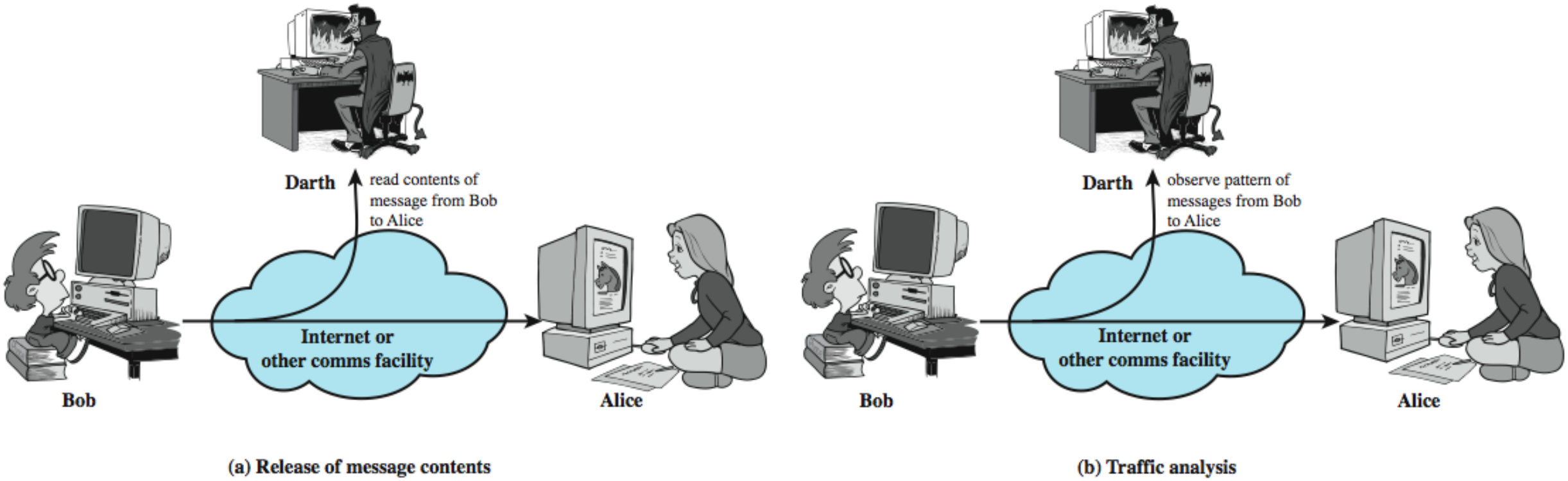
Table 1.1 Threats and Attacks (RFC 2828)

Threat A potential for violation of security, which exists when there is a circumstance, capability, action, or event that could breach security and cause harm. That is, a threat is a possible danger that might exploit a vulnerability.
Attack An assault on system security that derives from an intelligent threat; that is, an intelligent act that is a deliberate attempt (especially in the sense of a method or technique) to evade security services and violate the security policy of a system.

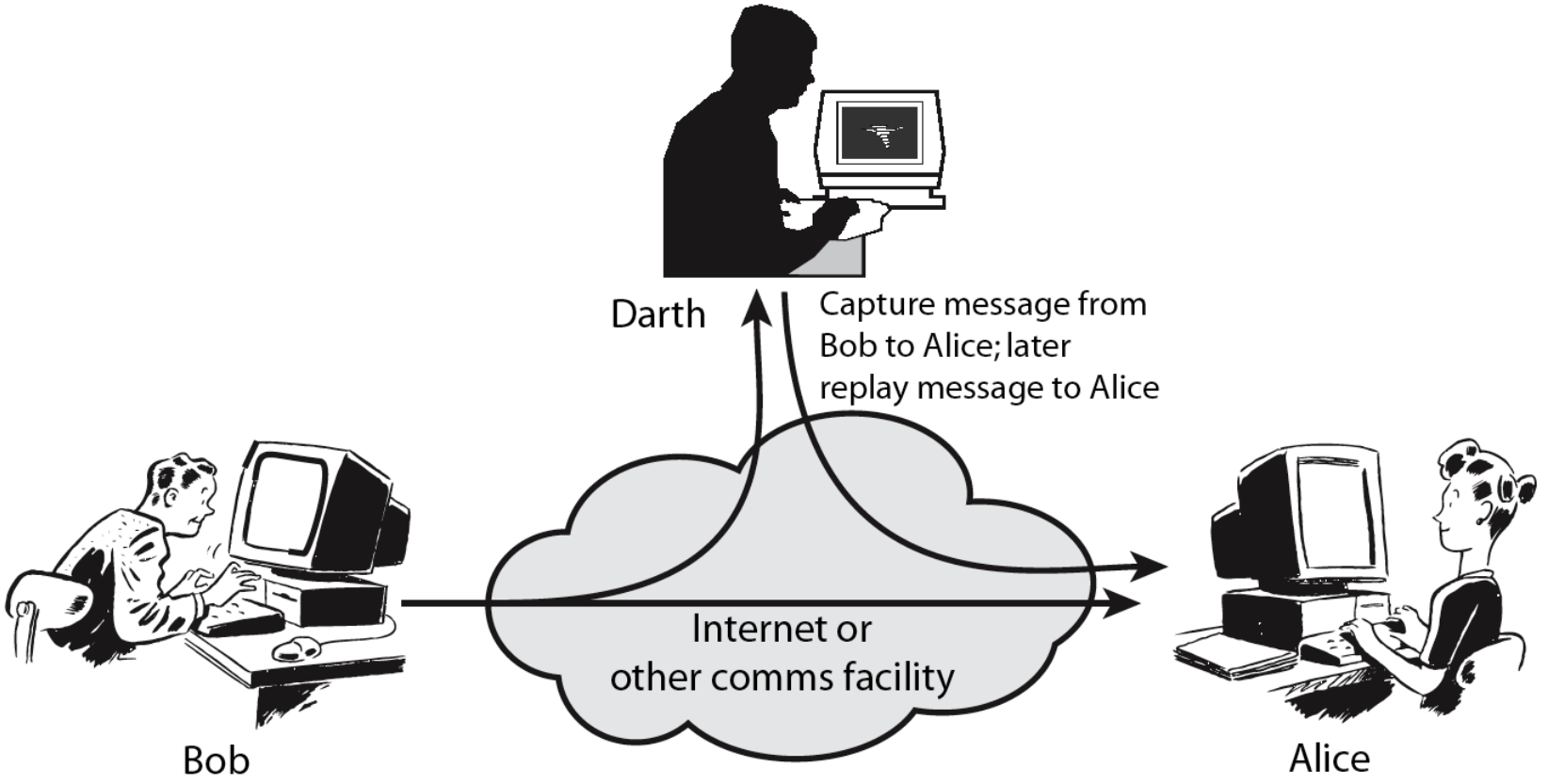
Passive Attacks



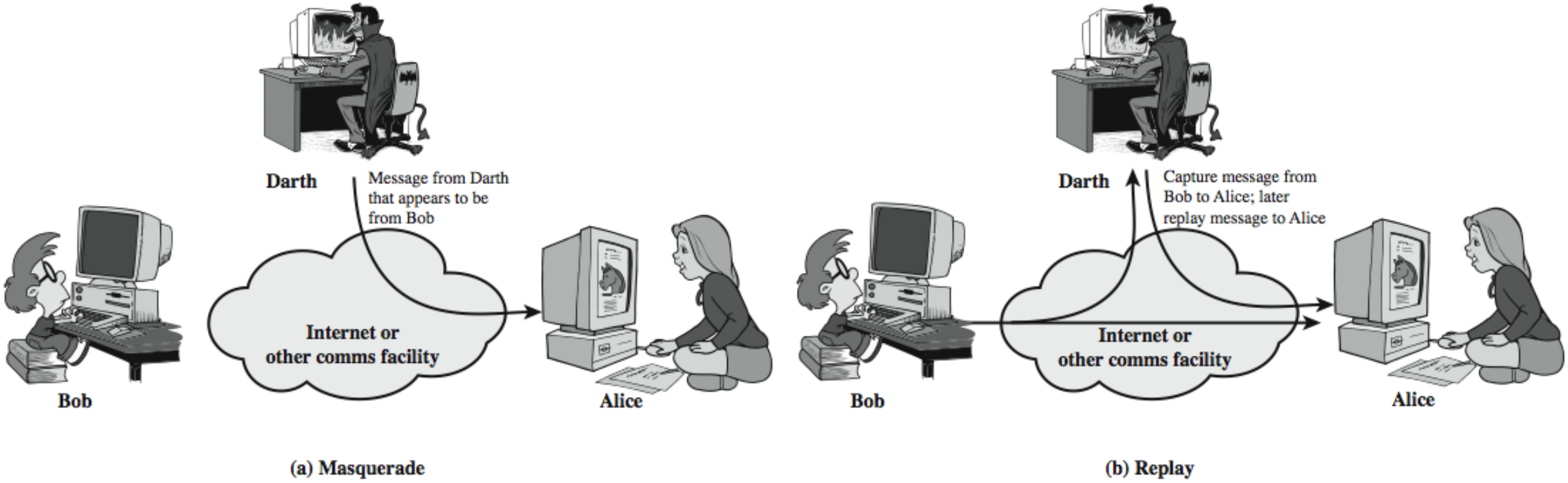
Passive Attacks



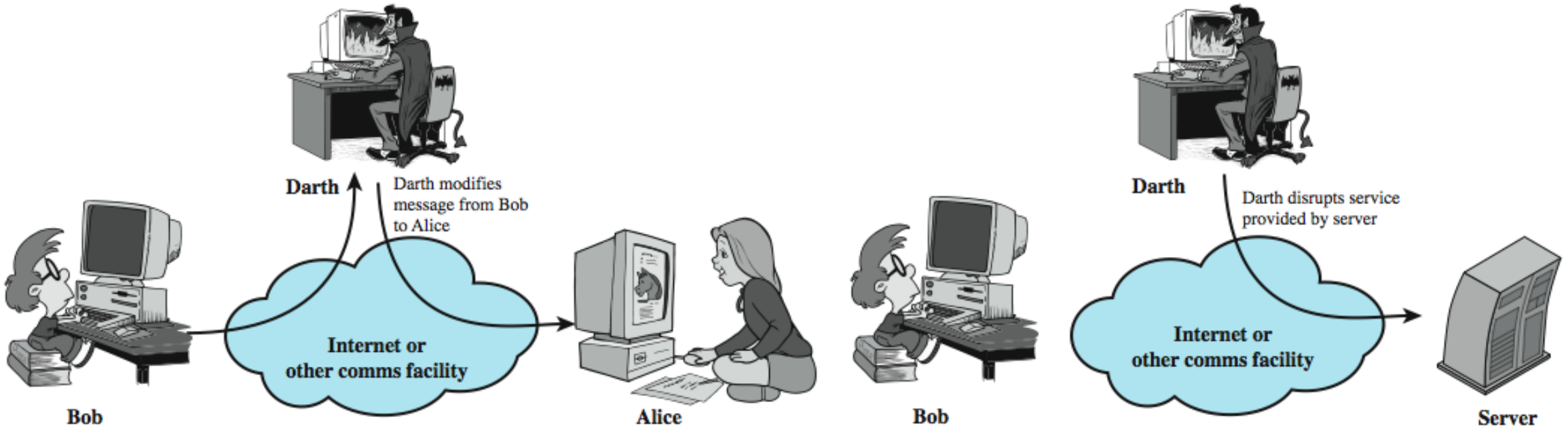
Active Attacks



Active Attacks



Active Attacks



(c) Modification of messages

(d) Denial of service

Security Service

- enhance security of data processing systems and information transfers of an organization
- intended to counter security attacks
- using one or more security mechanisms
- often replicates functions normally associated with physical documents
  - which, for example, have signatures, dates; need protection from disclosure, tampering, or destruction; be notarized or witnessed; be recorded or licensed

Security Services

- X.800:
  - “a service provided by a protocol layer of communicating open systems, which ensures adequate security of the systems or of data transfers”

- RFC 2828:
  - “a processing or communication service provided by a system to give a specific kind of protection to system resources”

Security Services (X.800)

- **Authentication**
  - assurance that communicating entity is the one claimed;
  - have both peer-entity & data origin authentication
- **Access Control**
  - prevention of the unauthorized use of a resource
- **Data Confidentiality**
  - protection of data from unauthorized disclosure
- **Data Integrity**
  - assurance that data received is as sent by an authorized entity
- **Non-Repudiation**
  - protection against denial by one of the parties in a communication
- **Availability**
  - resource accessible/usable

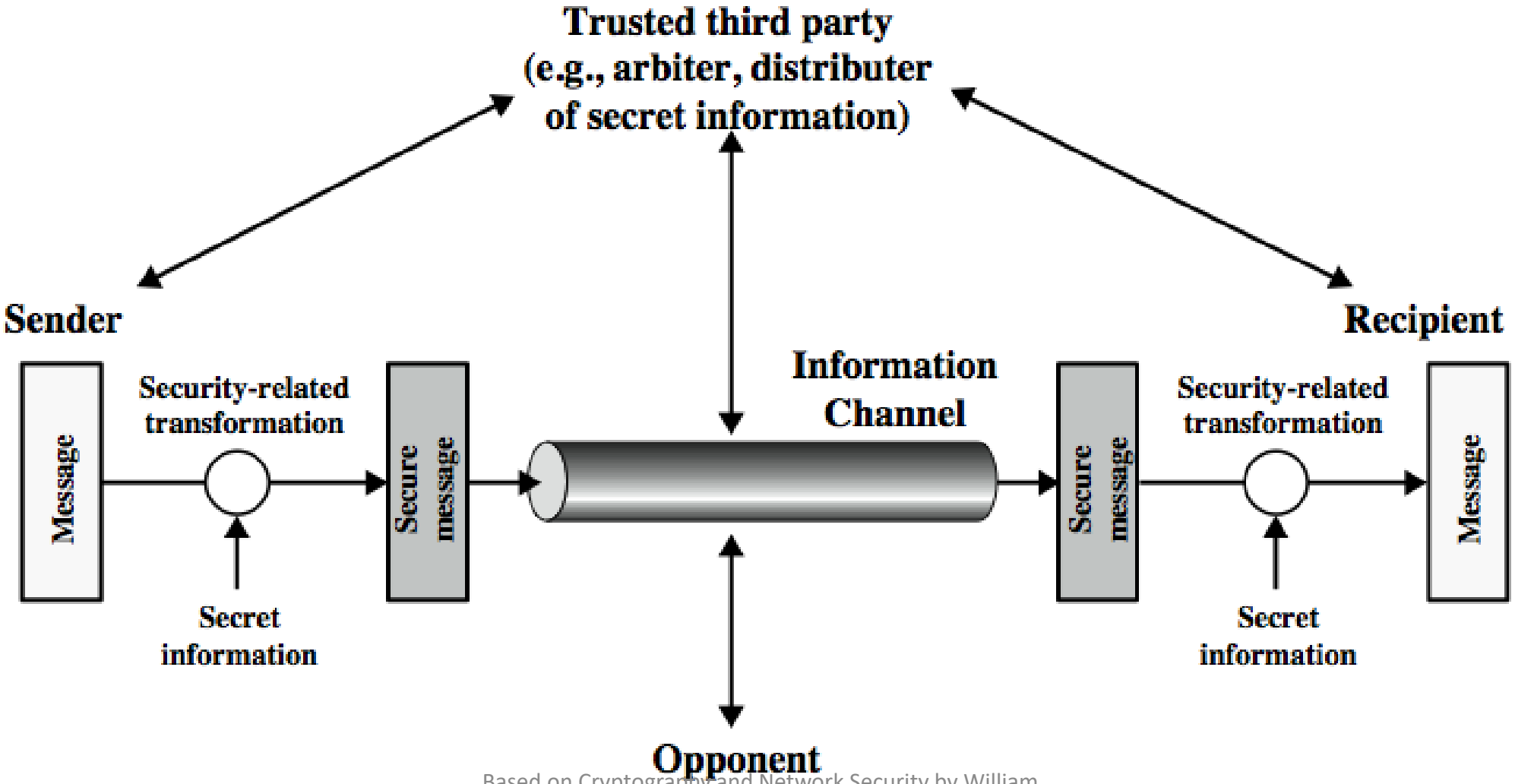
Security Mechanism

- feature designed to detect, prevent, or recover from a security attack
- no single mechanism that will support all services required
- however one particular element underlies many of the security mechanisms in use:
  - **cryptographic techniques**
- hence our focus on this topic

Security Mechanisms (X.800)

- specific security mechanisms:
  - encipherment, digital signatures, access controls, data integrity, authentication exchange, traffic padding, routing control, notarization
- pervasive security mechanisms:
  - trusted functionality, security labels, event detection, security audit trails, security recovery

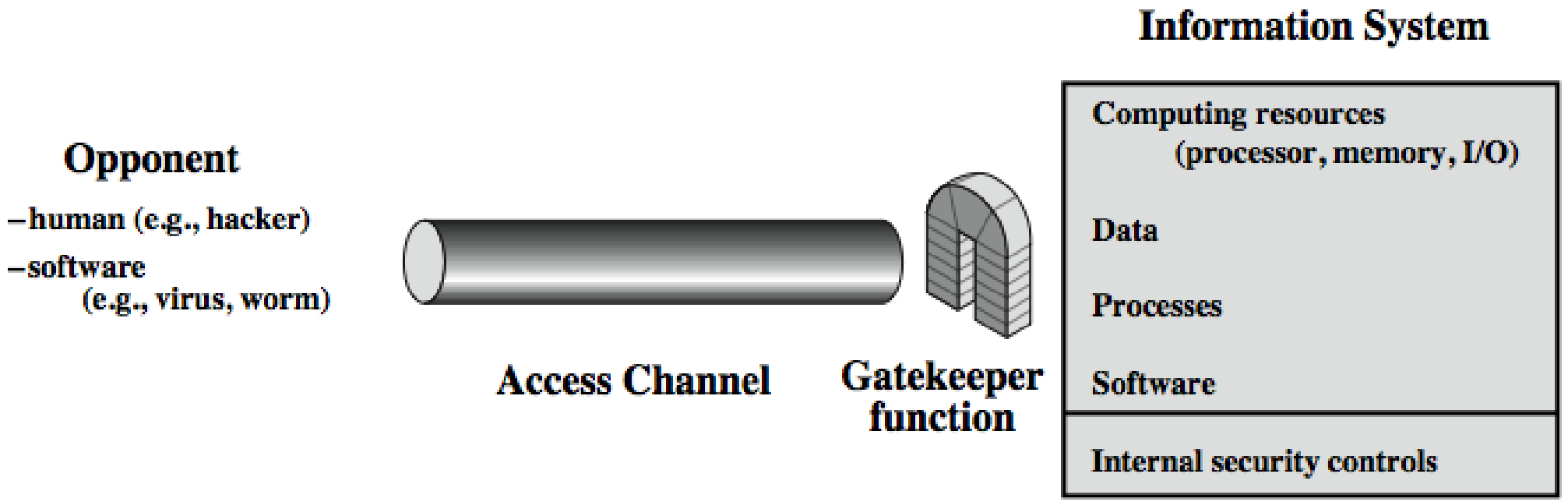
Model for Network Security



Model for Network Security

- using this model requires us to:
  1. design a suitable algorithm for the security transformation
  2. generate the secret information (keys) used by the algorithm
  3. develop methods to distribute and share the secret information
  4. specify a protocol enabling the principals to use the transformation and secret information for a security service

Model for Network Access Security



Model for Network Access Security

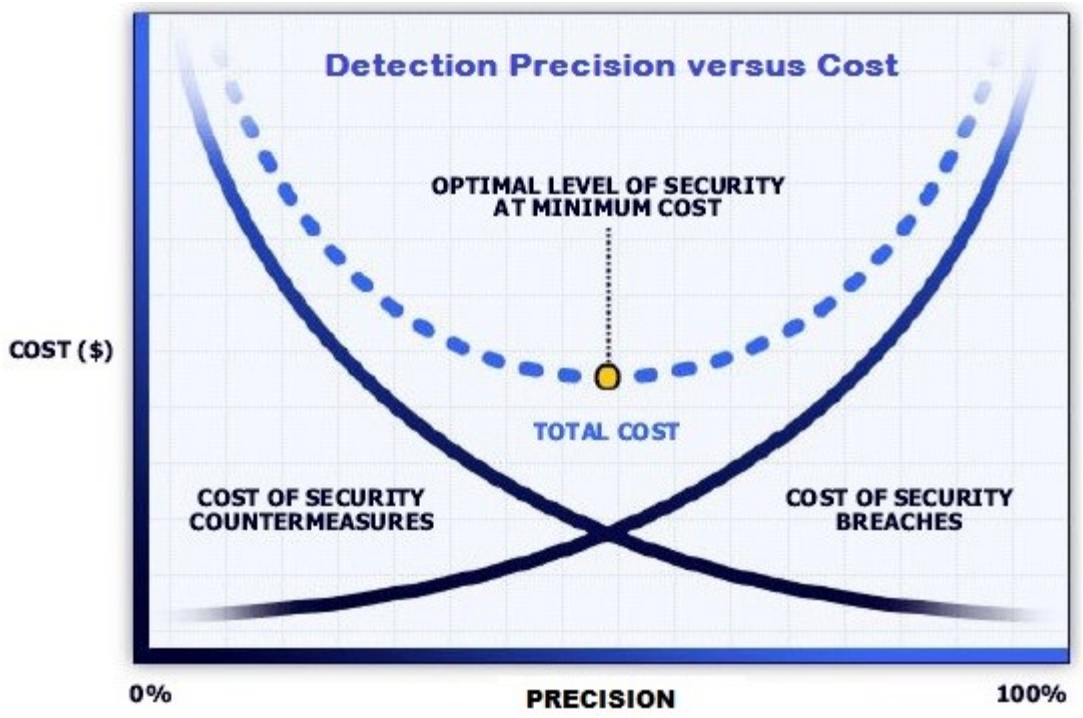
- using this model requires us to:
  1. select appropriate gatekeeper functions to identify users
  2. implement security controls to ensure only authorised users access designated information or resources

Methods of Defence

- Main weapon: Cryptography
  - Confidentiality (encryption)
  - Message authentication
  - Signatures and certificates
- Software controls
  - access limitations in a data base or operating system
- Hardware controls
  - Smartcards
- Policies
  - Frequent changes of passwords
- Physical controls

Absolute Protection vs. Cost

- Security comes with costs and risks, but we always live somewhere in between



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Standards Organizations

- National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST)
- Internet Society (ISOC)
- International Telecommunication Union Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)

OSI Security Architecture

- ITU-T X.800 “Security Architecture for OSI”
- defines a systematic way of defining and providing security requirements
- for us it provides a useful, if abstract, overview of concepts we will study
- https://www.itu.int/rec/T-REC-X.800-199103-I

Roadmap

- Cryptographic algorithms
  - symmetric ciphers
  - asymmetric encryption
  - hash functions
- Mutual Trust
- Computer Security
- ~~Network Security~~

Course Details

- LMS:
  - https://lms.tech.sjp.ac.lk/course/view.php?id=32
- Course Assessment:
  - End Semester Examination – 60%
  - Practical/Tutorials – 20%
  - Mid-semester Quiz – 20%