



*July 23, 2002*

# Health Care PKI Working Group: HealthTC & M-Bridge

Center for Telecommunications and Advanced Technology

# Agenda

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- Overview of HealthTC Communications Model
- Discussion of M-Bridge Operations and Requirements

# HealthTC (nee HealthKey)

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- HealthTC (TC=Trust Communities)
  - Members of the HealthKey Collaborative
    - Foundation for Health Care Quality
    - Massachusetts Health Data Consortium (MHDC)
    - Minnesota Health Data Institute (MHDI)
    - North Carolina Health Information and Communications Alliance (NCHICA)
    - Utah Health Information Network (UHIN)
    - Community Health Information Technology Alliance of Seattle, WA (CHITA)
  - Goals:
    - “Making advances in interoperability among PKI implementations in each state”
    - “Promoting the concurrent adoption of appropriate privacy practices”

# HealthTC Interoperations Concept

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- The generic players:
  - Health care providers: local to states
  - Service providers (e.g., claims service providers, eligibility service providers): national
- Current business communications infrastructure
  - Single-provider, single-dialup solution
- Target business communications infrastructure
  - Validate certificates in digitally signed email, using enterprise-level policies
  - VPNs between participants
    - Non-IPsec; direct, as-needed, point-to-point VPNs, based on X.509v3 certificates, enabled by M-Bridge technology [OpenBridge]
- How is trust represented?
  - Brute force: via bi-lateral cross-certificates
  - More scalable: bridge membership (but is transitive trust acceptable?)

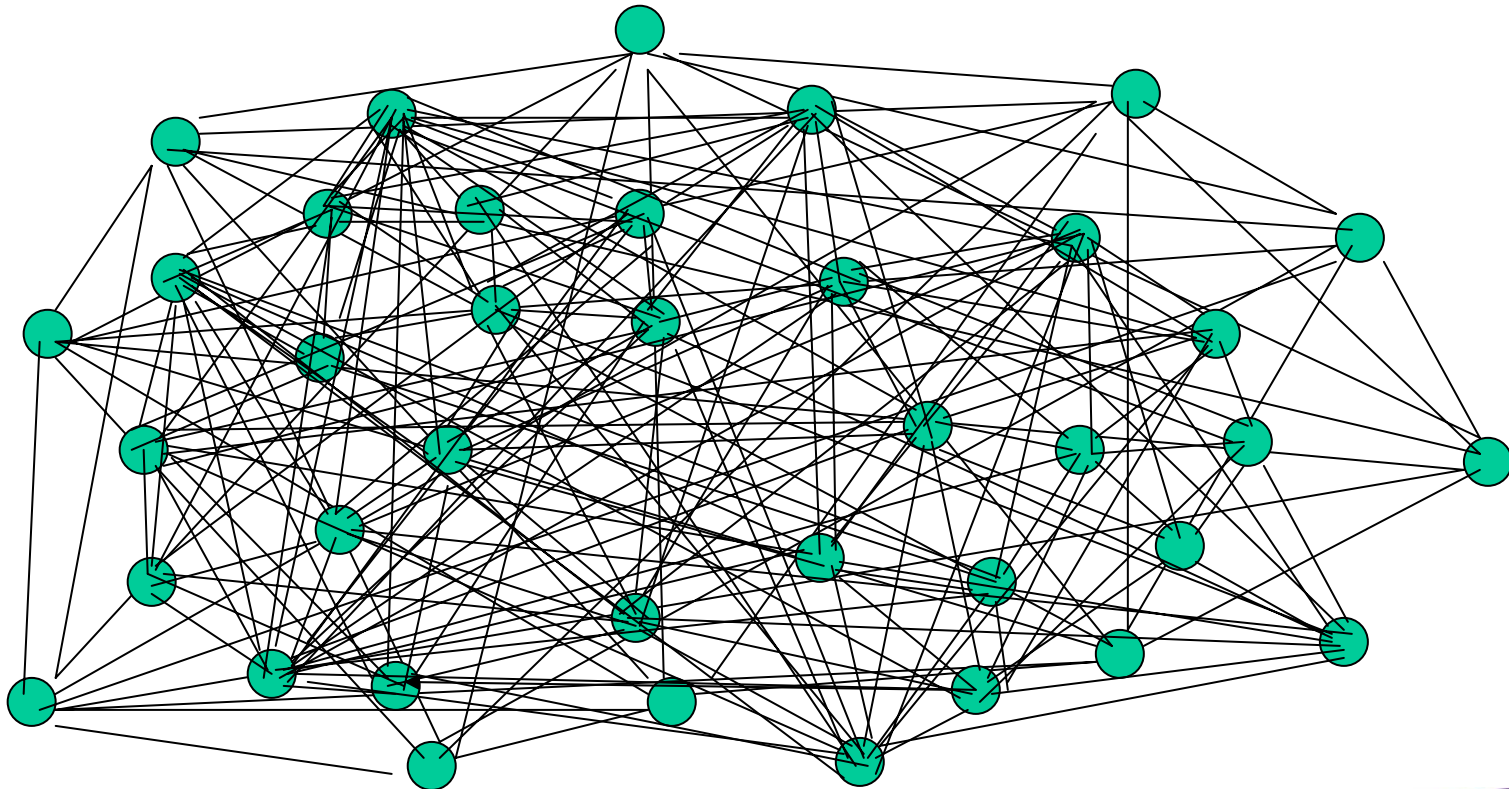
# Cross-Domain Validation

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3 PKI = 3 cross-certificates

**10 PKI = 45 cross-certificates**

**100 PKI = 4950 cross-certificates**





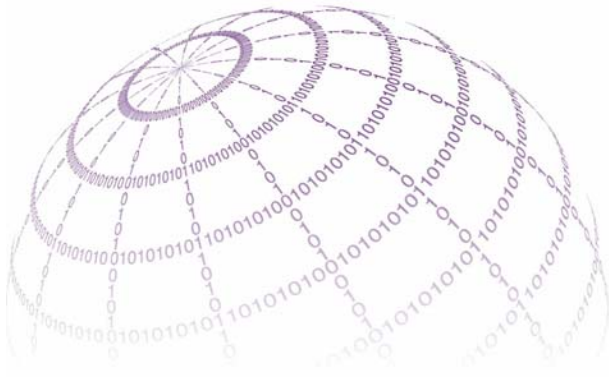
*June 21, 2002*

# *Mitretek Systems M-Bridge*

*Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Validation and  
Interoperability Tool and Service*



Center for Telecommunications and Advanced Technology



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# *M-Bridge Overview*

# M-Bridge is a Certificate Validation Tool That Provides....

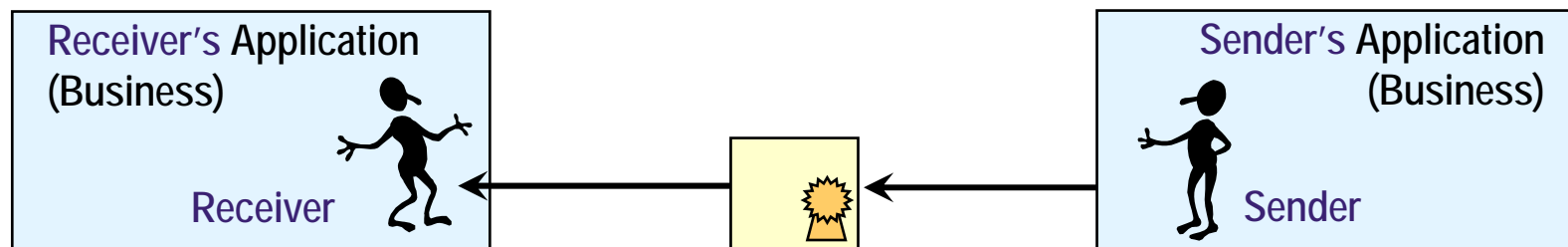
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- Simplified PKI enabling—no end-user desktop software to maintain
- Real-time validation across disparate Certificate Authority (CA) domains, different PKI trust models, and validation protocols
- A flexible architecture of four independent components, which can be implemented individually or together to meet a variety of requirements



# It's A Matter of Trust

- A digitally signed message is sent to from **Sender** to **Receiver**
- **Receiver** now must ask whether the digital certificate may be trusted to verify the identity of the **Sender**
  - **Sender's** certificate is not revoked
  - CA that issued **Sender's** certificate is trusted
    - CA signature is really from the correct CA
    - CA policies for identity proofing are acceptable
    - CA is within acceptable trust scope for **Receiver**

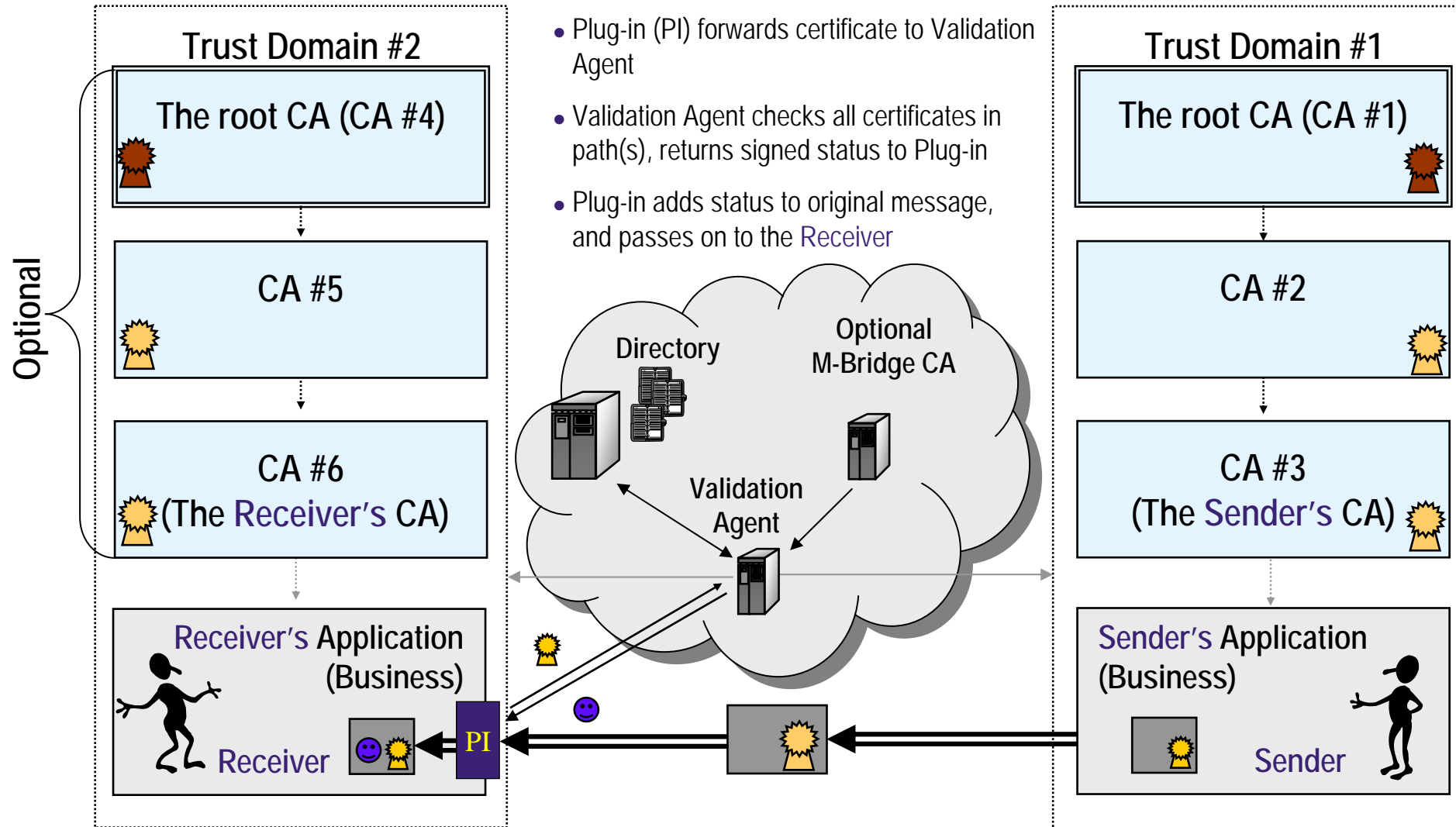


# Cross-Domain Validation Via the M-Bridge

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- Certificate validation
  - Status of all certificates between the **Sender** and **Receiver** is determined (valid, invalid)
  - Status is returned to **Receiver**
- Trust path validation
  - **Receiver** must trust the path of CA's established during certificate validation
  - Trust is based on determination whether the policies of **Sender's** domain (e.g., certificate issuance policies, security policies) meet **Receiver's** requirements

# Certificate Validation



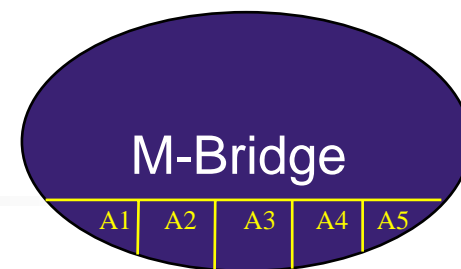
# Trust Path Validation

## Association Concept

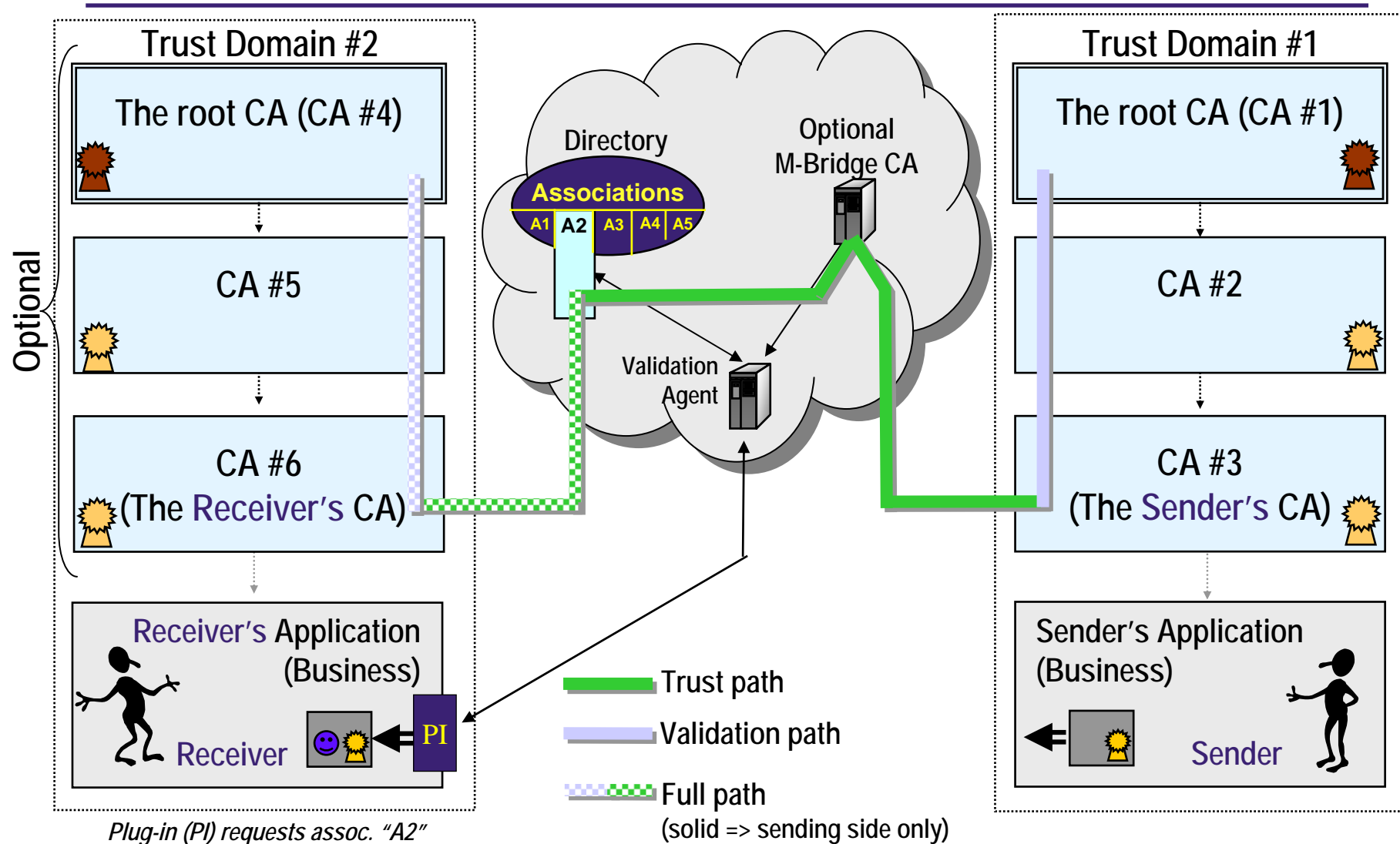
- An association is a group of CAs with similar purposes and policies
  - One association might be for law-enforcement officials only, and have strict scope rules allowing only CAs that issue to strongly authenticated law enforcement officials
  - Another association might be as generic as “the public,” and have minimal requirements for CAs; existing primarily for interoperability
  - Each association has an “association policy manager” to determine which CAs to include
- Associations may support “transitive trust,” but by default do not
  - Generally, CAs must directly qualify for membership
  - If an association wants to allow cross-certificate based trust transfer, this is also supported

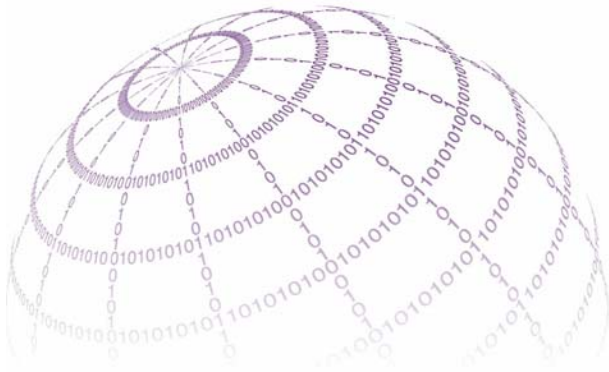
## Association Benefits

- The **Receiver** selects association(s) with policies suited to their trust requirements, or may create new ones
- This removes the requirement for each **Receiver** (or application) to maintain a trust list or individual CAs
- Provides flexibility and application control over transitive trust



# M-Bridge Associations and Paths

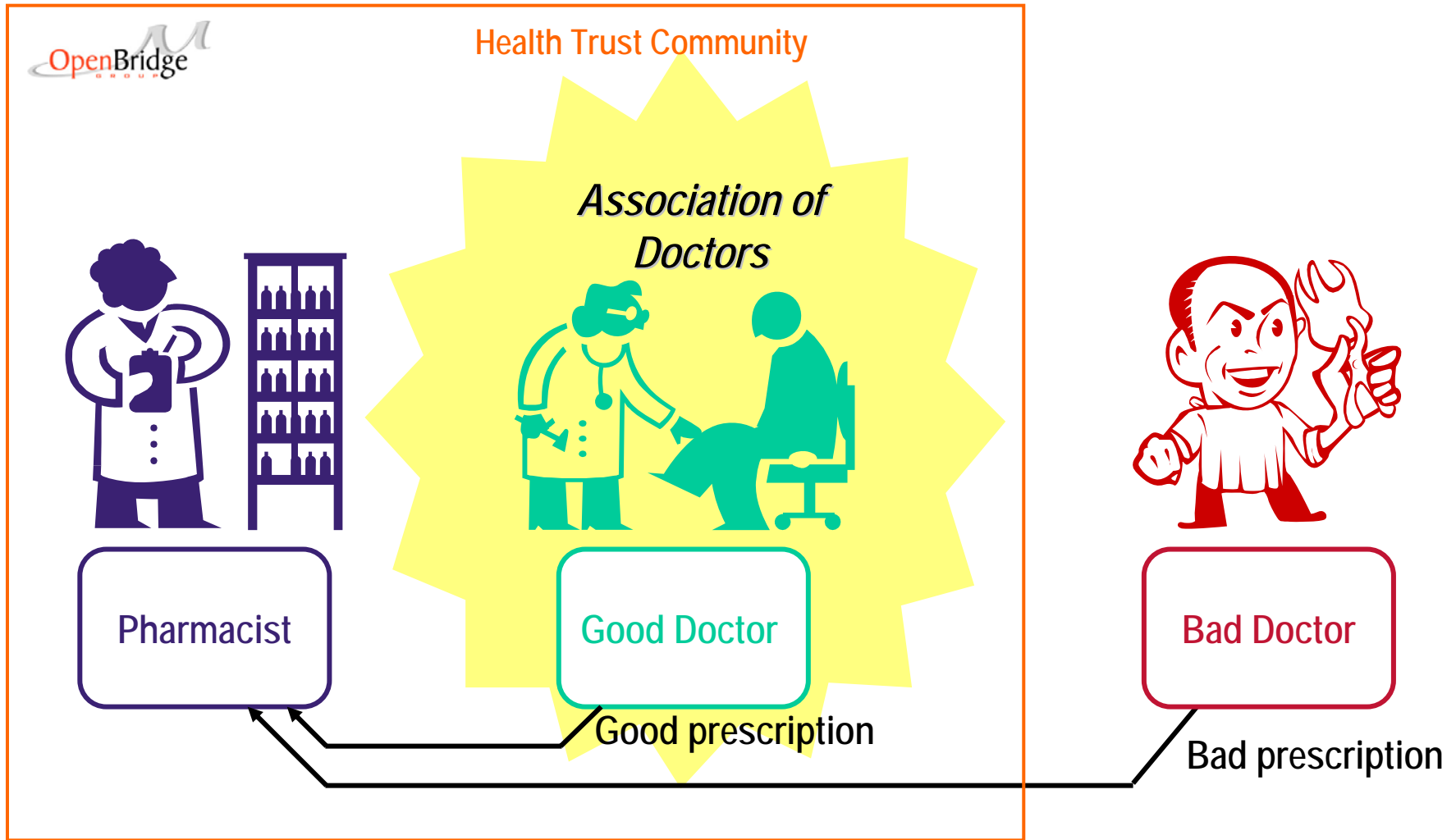




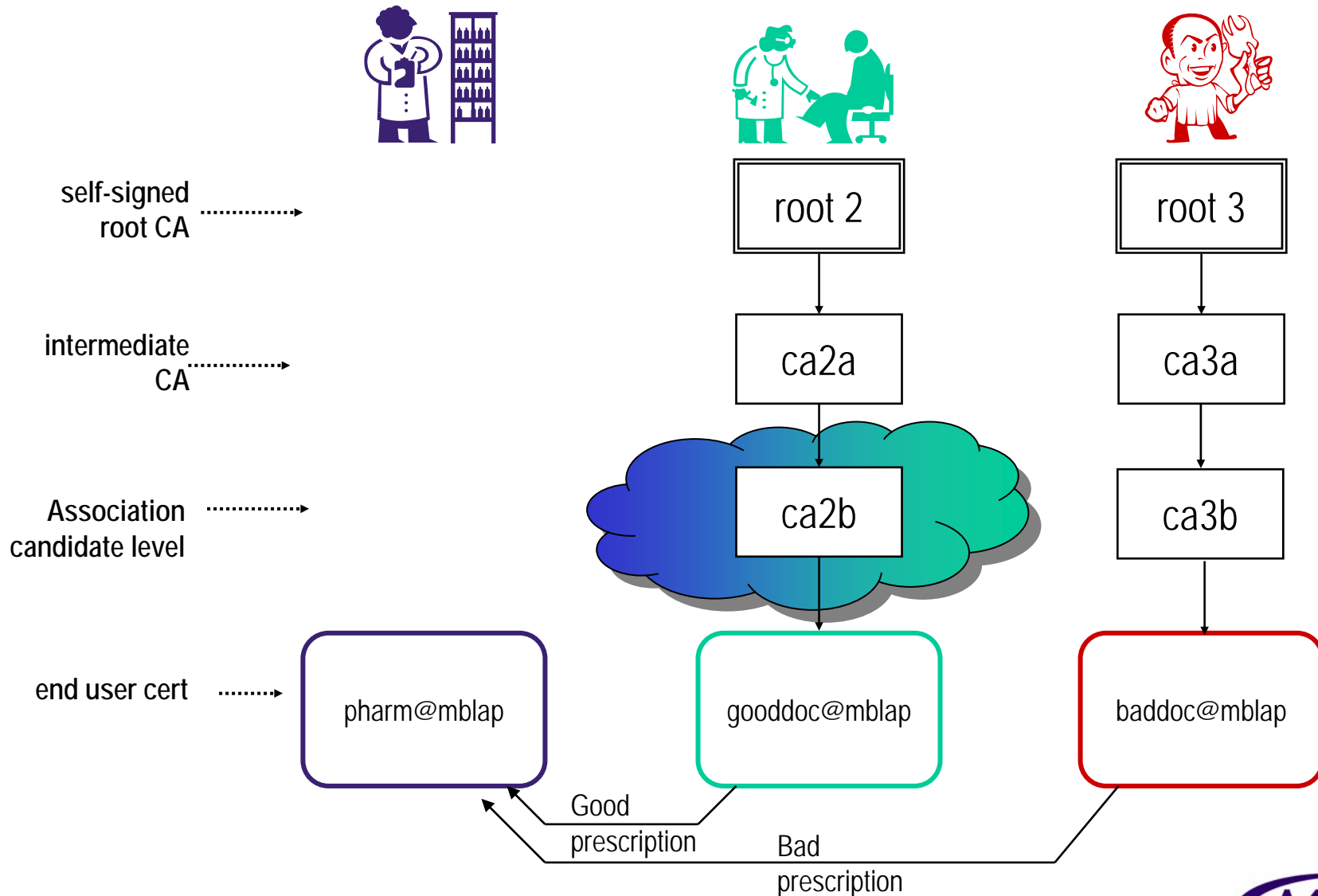
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# *M-Bridge Demonstration Scenario*

# Demonstration Certificate Structure

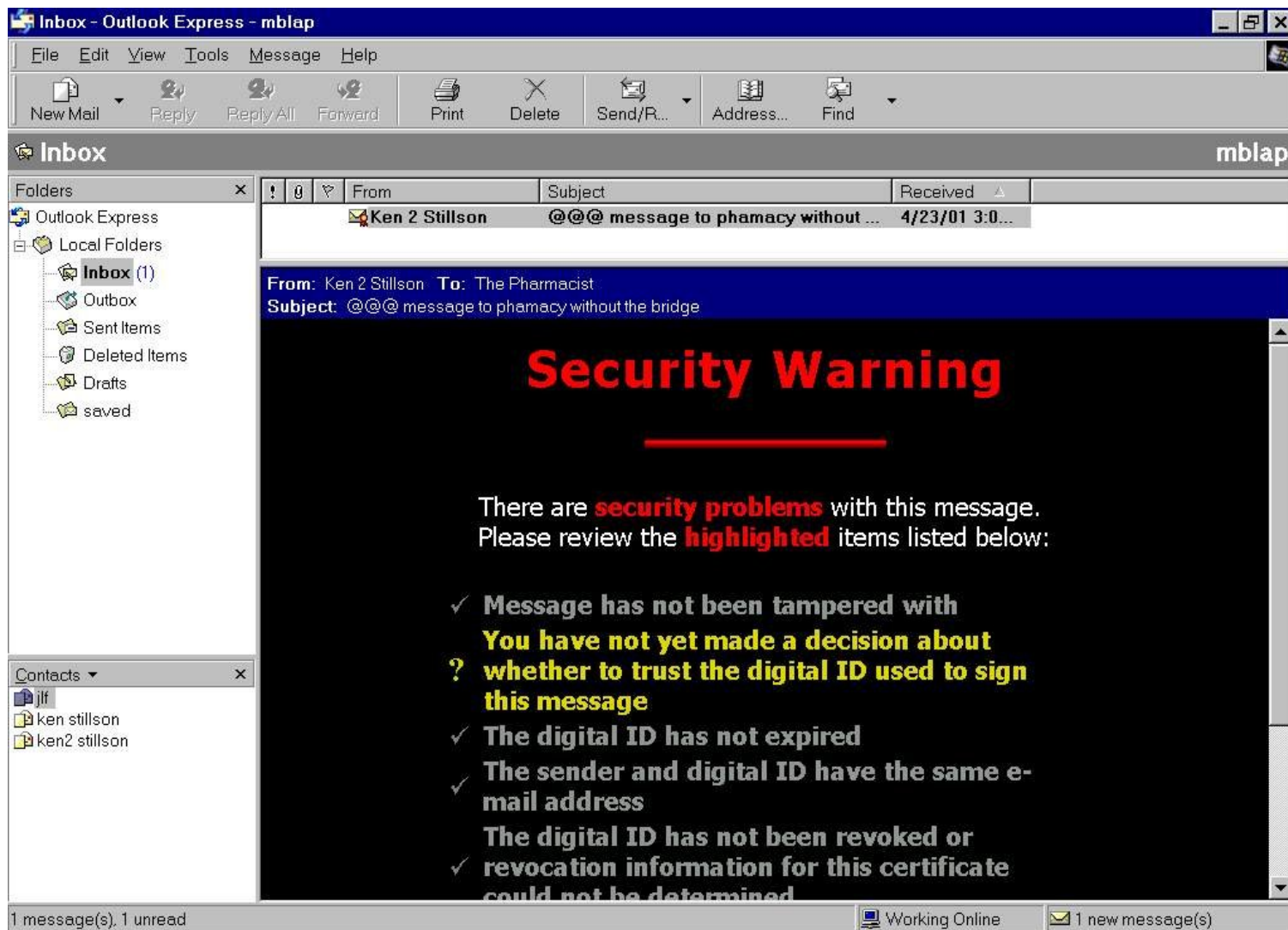


# Demonstration Certificate Structure





# Demonstration: Without the Bridge



# Demonstration: From the Good Doctor

The screenshot shows the Outlook Express interface. The main window displays an email from Ken 2 Stillson with the subject "good doc test" received on 4/23/01 at 2:55 PM. The email content includes a summary of certificate status, a prescription note, and detailed certificate validation information.

**From:** Ken 2 Stillson **To:** The Pharmacist  
**Subject:** good doc test

Summary of cert 1 status: Validated

this is the perscription...  
 - Good Doc

Details of cert 1 status:

<b>Simple Answer</b>	Validated
<b>Detailed Answer</b>	Fully Validated -- full dual-sided validation performed

**Sender To Bridge**

Cert Position	Cert Status	Validation Type	Node
1	Valid	CAM response	/C=US/ST=Virginia/O=Mitretek Systems/OU=Bridge Service - TESTING/CN=Bridge TESTING user user2b2 (issued by ca2b)/Email=ken2@mblap.mbridge.org
			/C=US/ST=Virginia/O=Mitretek Systems/OU=Bridge Service -

1 message(s), 0 unread Working Online

# Demonstration: From the Bad Doctor

The screenshot shows the Outlook Express interface. The main window displays an email from 'Ken 3 Laptop' with the subject 'bad doc perscription'. The email content includes a summary of a failed certificate status and a message that says 'this is a perscription (that should be ignored) - Bad Doc'. Below the message, there is a 'Details of cert 1 status:' section with a table showing a 'Simple Answer' of 'Failed' and a 'Detailed Answer' describing a path issue. The status bar at the bottom indicates '2 message(s), 0 unread' and 'Working Online'.

From	Subject	Received
Ken 2 Stillson	good doc test	4/23/01 2:55 PM
Ken 3 Laptop	bad doc perscription	4/23/01 2:57 PM

**From:** Ken 3 Laptop **To:** ken@mblap.mbridge.org  
**Subject:** bad doc perscription

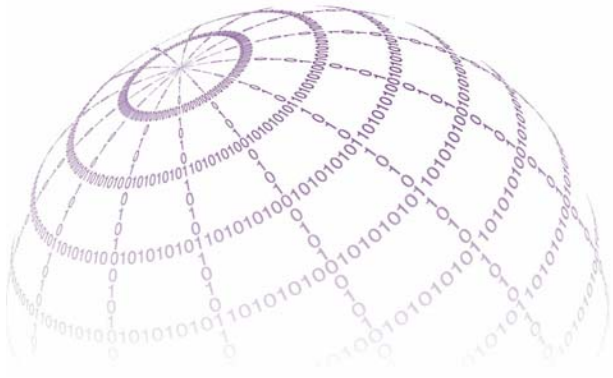
Summary of cert 1 status: Failed // c=US,st=Virginia,o=Mitretek Systems,ou=Bridge Service - TESTING,cn=Bridge TESTING user user3a1 (issued by ca3a),emailAddr=ken@mblap.mbridge.org // serialNumber 1 (digitalSignature nonRepudiation keyEncipherment)

this is a perscription (that should be ignored)  
 - Bad Doc

Details of cert 1 status:

<b>Simple Answer</b>	Failed
<b>Detailed Answer</b>	13: No Path -- a path could not be established from user cert to bridge within given request filter (association, etc)

**Sender To Bridge**

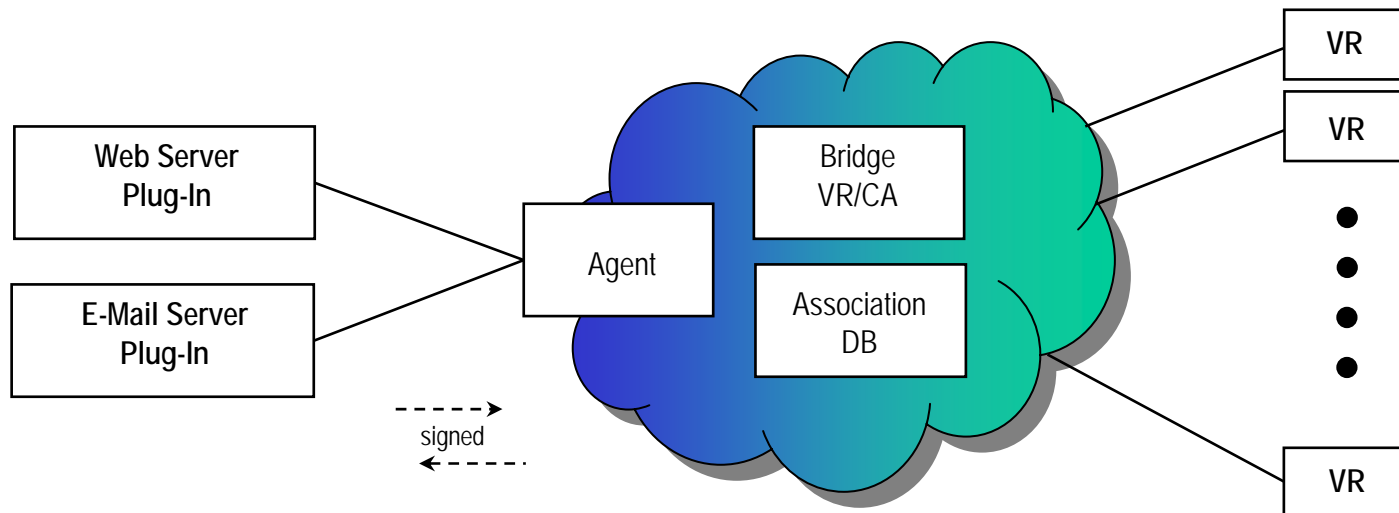


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# *M-Bridge System Design and Implementation*

- *Plug-in Requirements*
- *Supported Validation Protocols*
- *Certificate Profiles*
- *CA Association Registration Requirements*

# Overview and Requirements



## M- Bridge Supplies

- Web server plug-in
- E-mail server plug-in
- Plug-in signing certificates
- ASN.1 protocol specifications for communications with Agent
- All operations inside cloud
- All communications with VR/CAs for verification services. Protocols supported:
  - CRLs
  - OCSP
  - CAM

## User Supplies

- Sendmail server
- Web server
- Final determination/ approval of Association memberships
- Issuance of end-user certificates (by CA/VRs)

# Plug-in System and Protocol Requirements

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- E-mail server and Web server plug-ins (“thin clients”) share libraries
  - E-mail client neutral; no software changes at desktop; no policy rules management or storage at desktop
  - Small software changes at e-mail server: procmail on (or before) server redirects incoming e-mail through e-mail server plug-in (written in Perl; exportable crypto)
- Web server plug-ins
  - Apache module by VisionShare
  - Custom-VPN certificate verifier by VisionShare
  - (Could write ISAPI module)
- Edited plug-in configuration file on servers -- for: association(s) list; customer private key path; agent IP address and port (for load balancing); agent public key path

# Certificate Validation Protocols

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- The M-Bridge performs Internet-based real-time validation of certificate status
- CAs must provide some form of online validation service; standards currently supported by M-Bridge are:
  - OCSP -- with certificate AIA field containing the URL of the CA OCSP responder
  - CRL:
    - Certificate CDP (CRL Distribution Point) field containing the RFC2255 [LDAP] URI for the on-line CRL
    - Static CDP  
(CA informs bridge of this URI out-of-band; same URI for all certificates from this issuer)
  - CAM -- native  
(CA informs bridge out-of-band of CAM responder IP)
  - “Defer to DAVE”

# Certificate Profile and Cryptographic Requirements

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- The M-Bridge does not require a particular certificate profile (just general X509v3)
  - Individual associations within the M-Bridge may optionally require particular profile
- The M-Bridge does not require a specific X.500 directory structure or cross-chaining; any LDAP-available CRL may be accessed when CRL-based validation is in use
  - LDAP referrals: typically not needed since target directory known *a priori*
- M-Bridge may sign OCSP requests



# Certificate Profile and Cryptographic Requirements (Concluded)

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- For its own functions, the M-Bridge utilizes these certificate fields:
  - Issuer: to establish next link in validation path
  - AIA extension, if OCSP is to be used
  - Serial number, if CRL is to be used
  - Possibly CDP, if CRL is to be used
  - Subject, if CAM to be used
  - No other fields are processed at this time by the M-Bridge
- The M-Bridge does perform cryptographic certificate verification
  - OpenSSL is currently used; all algorithms supported by OpenSSL are understood
  - Additional algorithms may be supported as needed

# CA Association Registration

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- The **Sender's** CA must be registered in one (or more) of the associations accepted by the **Receiver**
- Registration of a CA into an association is managed by the association policy manager
  - The requirements for registration with an association are set during the creation of the association
- Associations may advertise themselves via the service provider, to be available for selection by other relying parties and potential **Sender's** CA's

# CA Association Registration Information Requirements

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- Once admitted to an association, a CA must provide the following information to the M-Bridge:
  - Each certificate on the CA validation path, from the accepted CA up to its self-signed root CA
  - RFC2255 URI's for on-line retrieval of those certificates
  - Instructions for on-line status checking for each of those certificates
    - No instructions needed if AIA or CDP certificate fields filled
    - Otherwise, must specify RFC2255 URI's or CAM CA IP address(es)

# CA Association Procedures

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- If the association policies require full trust path validation, the CA being added to the association must also cross-certify with the M-Bridge
- M-Bridge cross-certificates (optional) are valid only within the scope of the enclosing association