

Bob



Alice



# Python and Crypto: Ring Signatures

Prof Bill Buchanan OBE, The Cyber Academy

<http://asecuritysite.com>

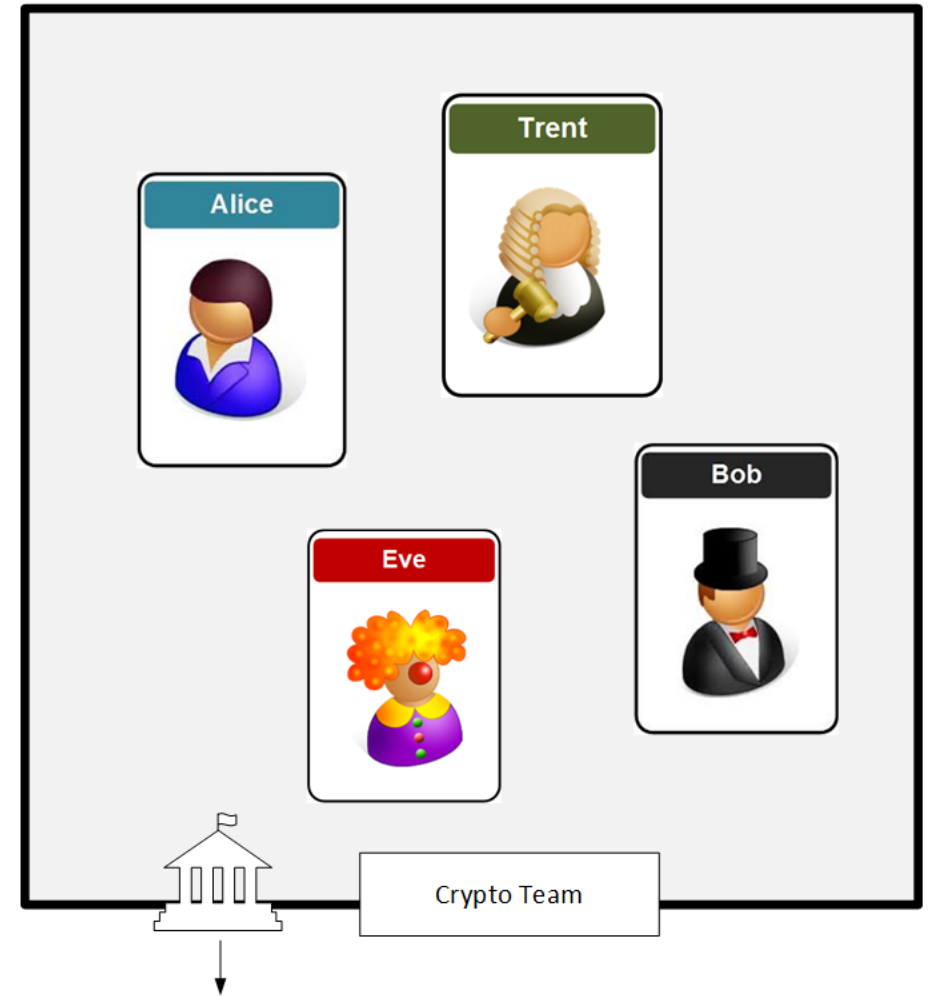
Eve



**CYBER**  
**ACADEMY**

# Ring Signatures

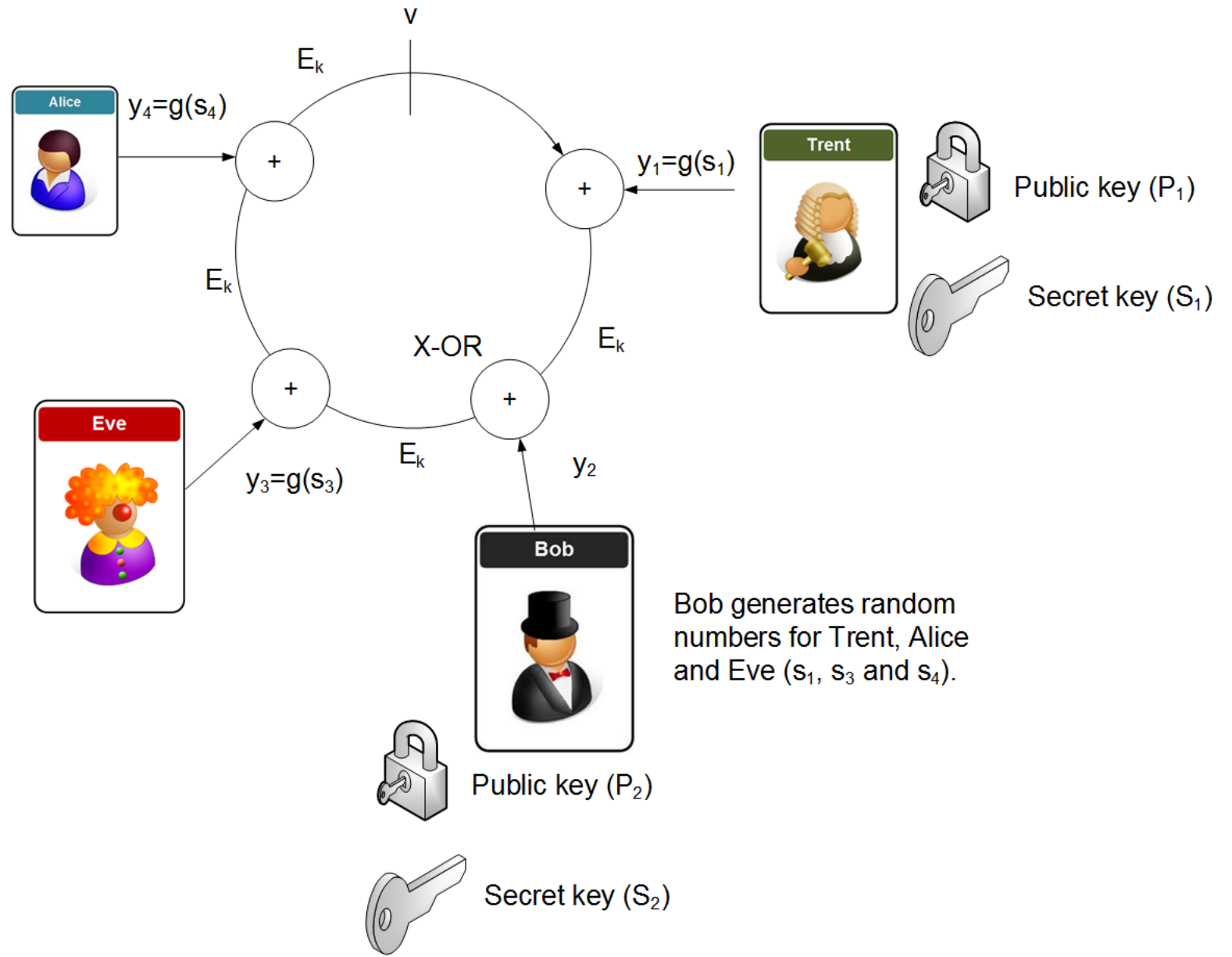
I know one of you  
leaked the information.  
But which of you was  
it?



**We have a secret.**

**Signed,  
*A member of the crypto team***

# Generating Signature



# Generating Signature

Original seed generated:  $u$

$$E_k = \text{Hash}(\text{Message})$$

$$v = E_k(u)$$

$$v = E_k(s_1^{P_1} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Trent } (s_1)$$

$$v = E_k(s_3^{P_3} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Eve } (s_3)$$

$$v = E_k(s_4^{P_4} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Alice } (s_4)$$

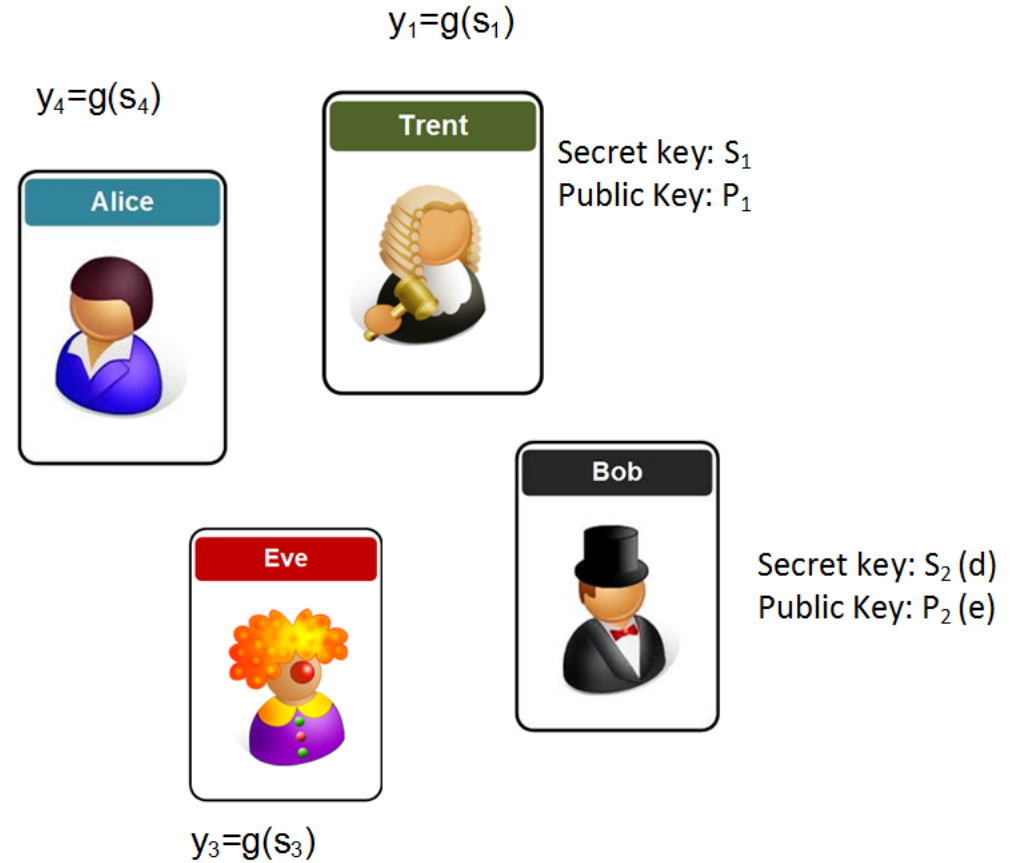
Bob now adds:

$$v = E_k(u \oplus v)^d$$

All the operations are conducted with  $(\text{mod } N_i)$



Bob sends:  $\{\text{Message}, v, P_1, P_2 \dots P_r, s_1, s_2, \dots s_r\}$



# Verifying The Signature

Original seed generated:  $u$

$$E_k = \text{Hash}(\text{Message})$$

$$v = E_k(u)$$

$$v = E_k(s_1^{p1} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Trent } (s_1)$$

$$v = E_k(s_3^{p3} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Trent } (s_3)$$

$$v = E_k(s_4^{p4} \oplus v) \quad \text{Fake secret key for Trent } (s_4)$$

Bob now adds:

$$v = E_k(u \oplus v)^d$$

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$$v = E_k\{(u \oplus v)^d\}^e \rightarrow u$$

# Verifying The Signature

Original seed generated:  $u$

$E_k = \text{Hash}(\text{Message})$

$v = E_k(u)$

$v = E_k(s_1^{p_1} \oplus v)$  — Fake secret key for Trent ( $s_1$ )

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Bob now adds:

$v = E_k(u \oplus v)^d$

All the operations are conducted with (mod  $N_i$ )



```
def sign(self, m, z):
    self.permut(m)
    s = [None] * self.n
    u = random.randint(0, self.q)
    c = v = self.E(u)
    for i in (range(z+1, self.n) + range(z)):
        s[i] = random.randint(0, self.q)
        e = self.g(s[i], self.k[i].e, self.k[i].n)
        v = self.E(v^e)
        if (i+1) % self.n == 0:
            c = v
    s[z] = self.g(v^u, self.k[z].d, self.k[z].n)
    return [c] + s
```

```
def verify(self, m, X):
    self.permut(m)
    def _f(i):
        return self.g(X[i+1], self.k[i].e, self.k[i].n)
    y = map(_f, range(len(X)-1))
    def _g(x, i):
        return self.E(x^y[i])
    r = reduce(_g, range(self.n), X[0])
    return r == X[0]
```

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$v = E_k\{(u \oplus v)^{d_i}\}^e \rightarrow u$

# So what?

The major problem with the Bitcoin network, is that the amount of a transaction and the sender and receive of the funds are not private, and someone who knows someone's address can trace their transactions. This is the case because the blockchain needs to check that the sender has enough funds to pay the recipient. Thus many cryptocurrencies are looking for ways of anonymising the transaction.

1e26246ccef516bb04bac8132930f467c4eddf85a912eb43e9f6e933b6a8fe61

2018-07-31 10:23:46

1NxVsp3dGNimjLQG1bRmMPKgUgGyYK5GoJ



12SbZEmTni3LYM1bBaWx1hZ2yvTE48JnMx  
13GLqMQBriETNwLfrSEuQzz5pqrVgaF54J

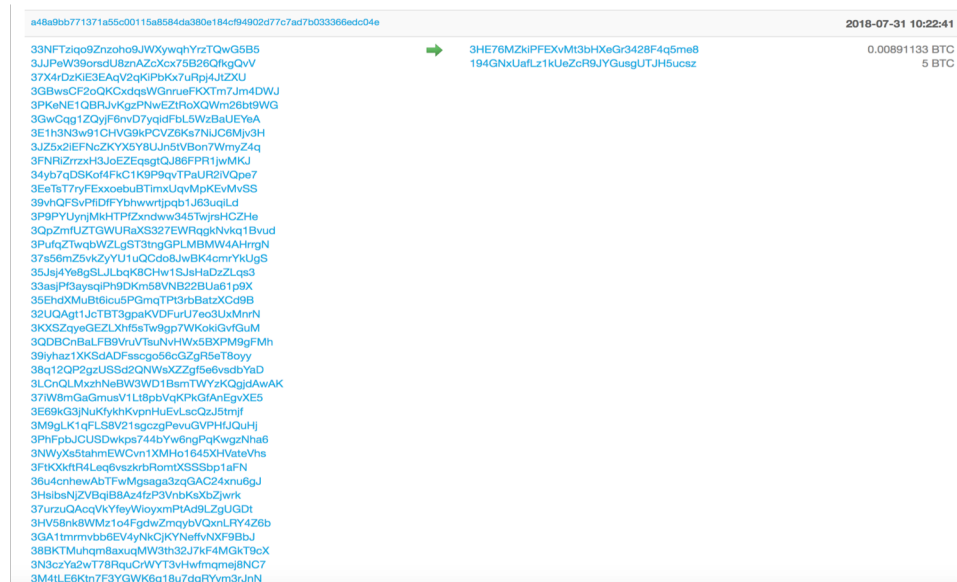
0.0086816 BTC  
88.7701361 BTC

88.7788177 BTC



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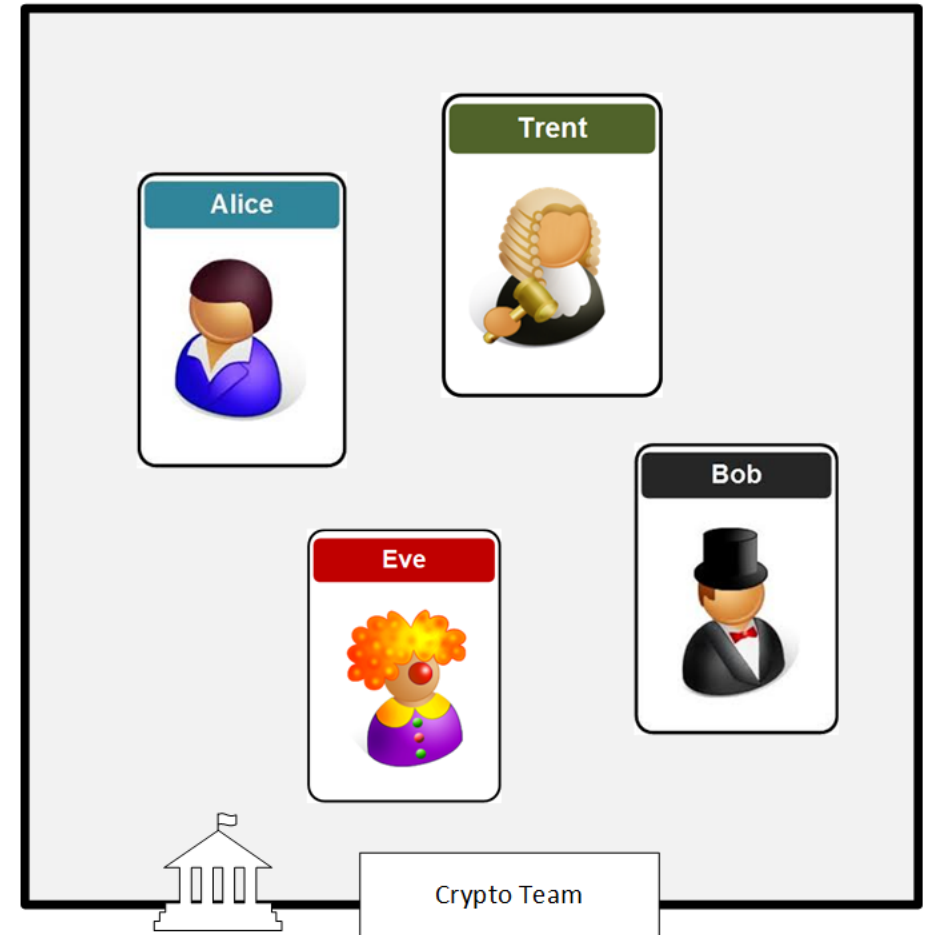
# So what?



- The method proposed by Rivest et al uses RSA is not efficient for modern systems.
- Thus Greg Maxwell's defined an elliptic curve methods as a new way of creating the ring signature: the Borromean ring signature [[paper](#)].
- The cryptocurrency Monero adopted the method for anonymising transactions.
- Since migrated to a new method: Multi-layered Linkable Spontaneous Anonymous Group signature. This method hides the transaction amount and the identity of the payer and recipient [[paper](#)]. It is now known as RingCT (Ring Confidential Transactions), and was rolled-out in January 2017 and mandatory for all transactions from September 2017.

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