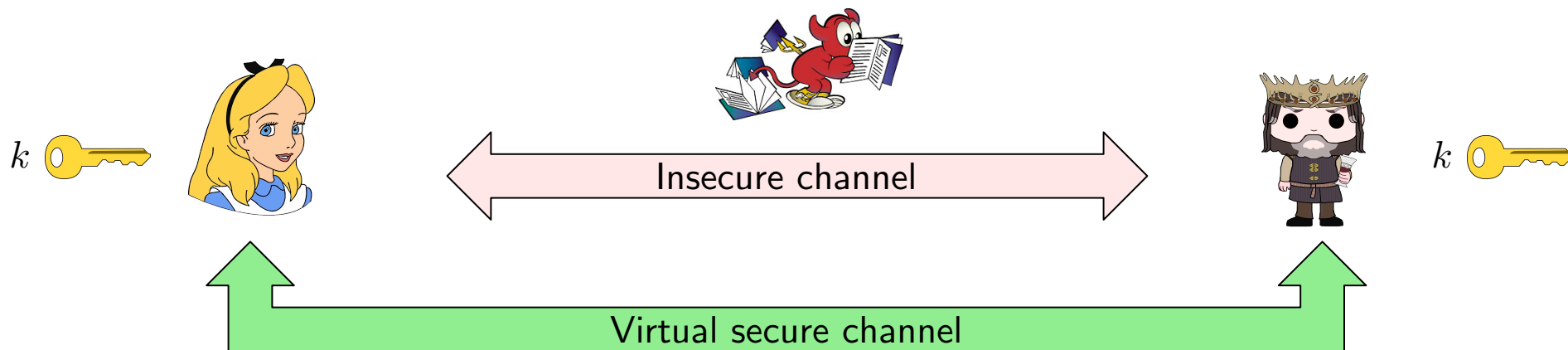


Key Distribution

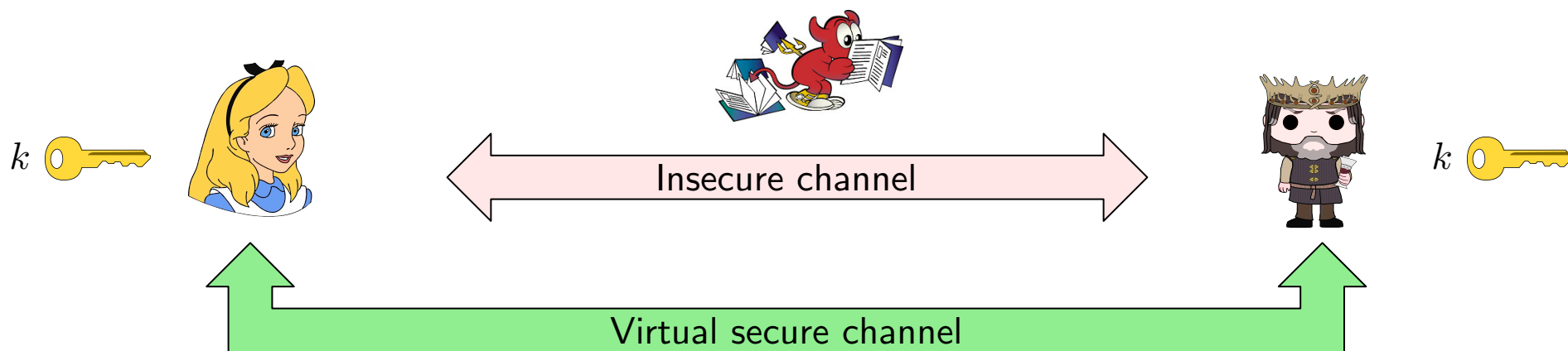


We have seen how Alice and Bob can use private-key cryptography to establish a secure communication channel over an insecure one

To do this they need to share a secret key k

How?

Key Distribution



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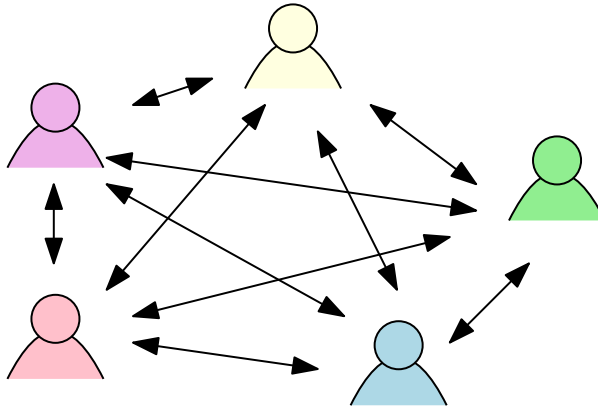
How?

- Alice and Bob can meet in person
- Alice and Bob can use a **trusted** courier

This can be difficult (or even impossible) to do, depending on the situation



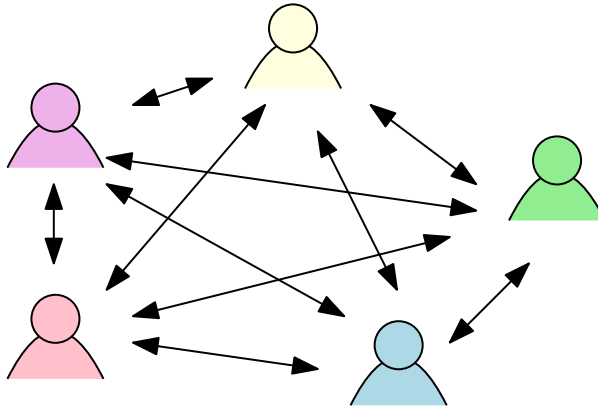
Key Management



Imagine a big company with N employees

- Any pair of employee might need to communicate (at some point)
- We want to ensure that the communication is confidential

Key Management



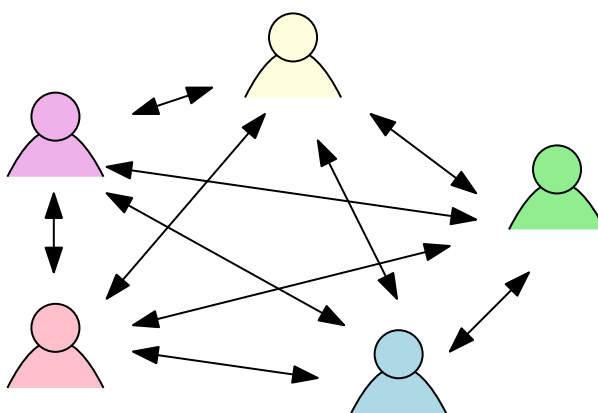
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A possible solution:

- Each pair of users u, v generate their own secret key $k_{u,v}$

Key Management



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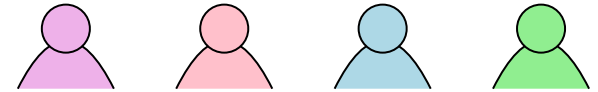
A possible solution:

- Each pair of users u, v generate their own secret key $k_{u,v}$
- There are $\Theta(N^2)$ keys in total
- If a new user joins the company, $\Theta(N)$ new keys are needed, and they need to be shared privately with each other user

Not great...

A Partial Solution: Key-Distribution Centers (“offline solution”)

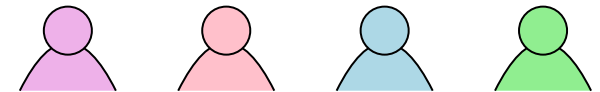
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Suppose that all the entities trust some central authority
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- The (server set-up by the) system administrator can act as a **key-distribution center** (KDC)

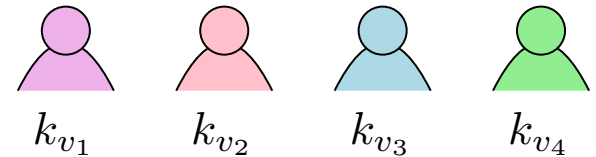


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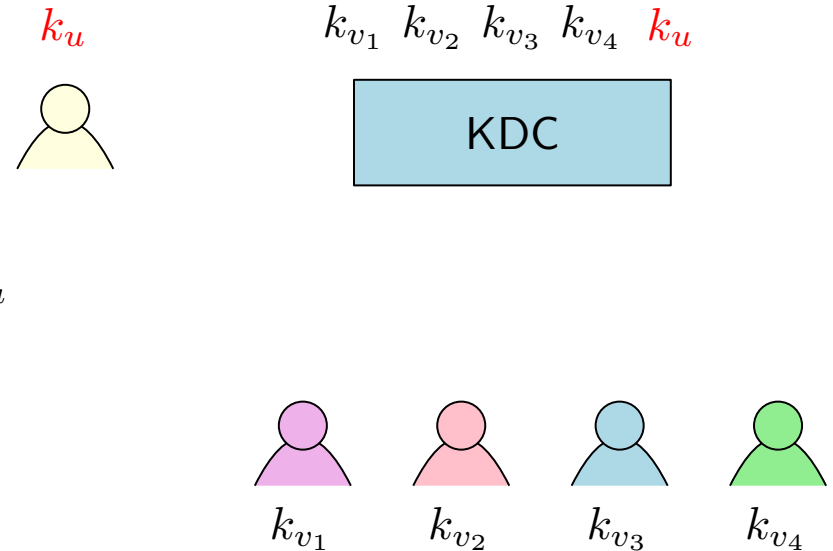
k_{v_1} k_{v_2} k_{v_3} k_{v_4}



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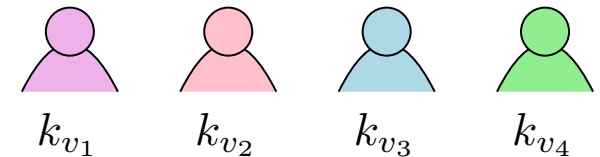
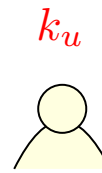
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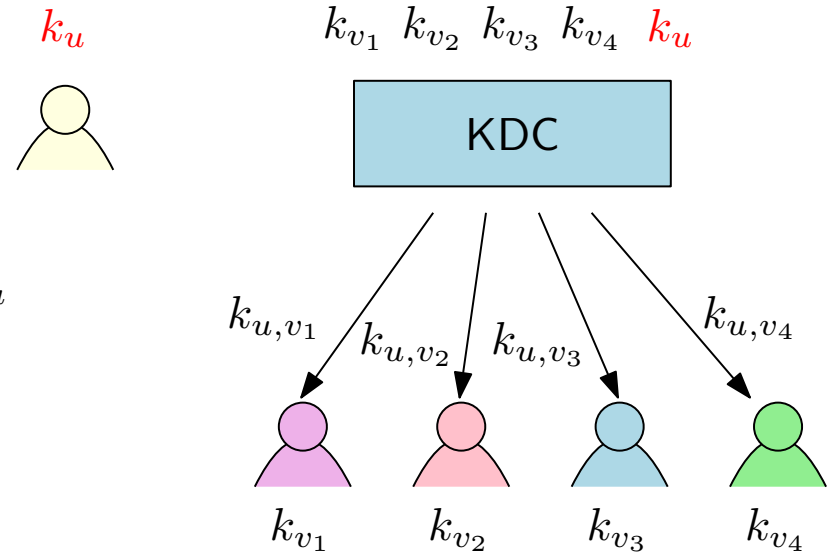
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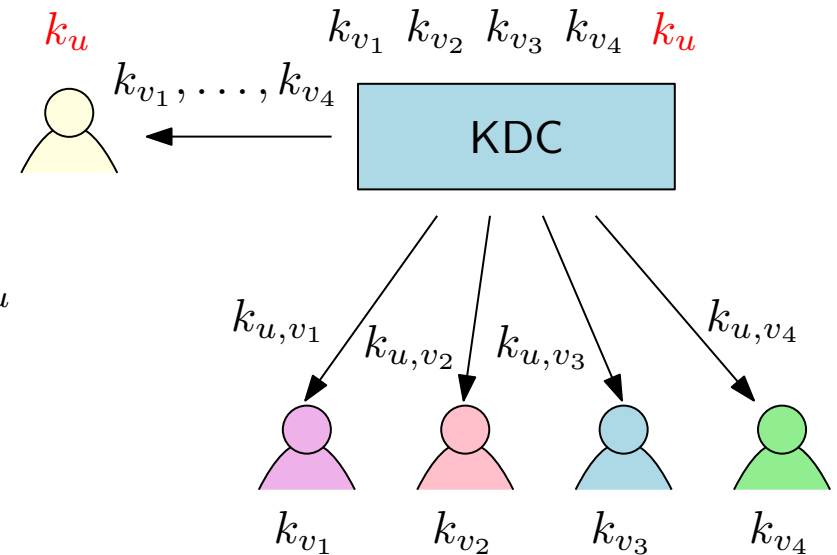
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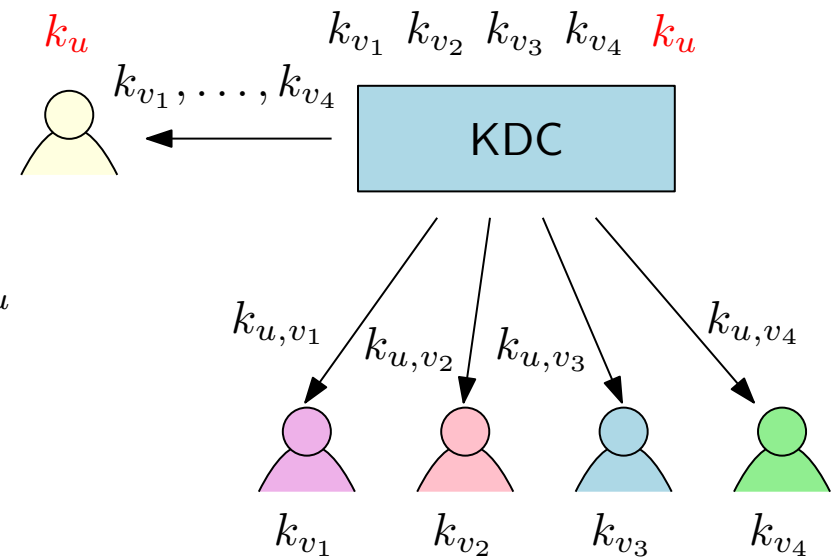
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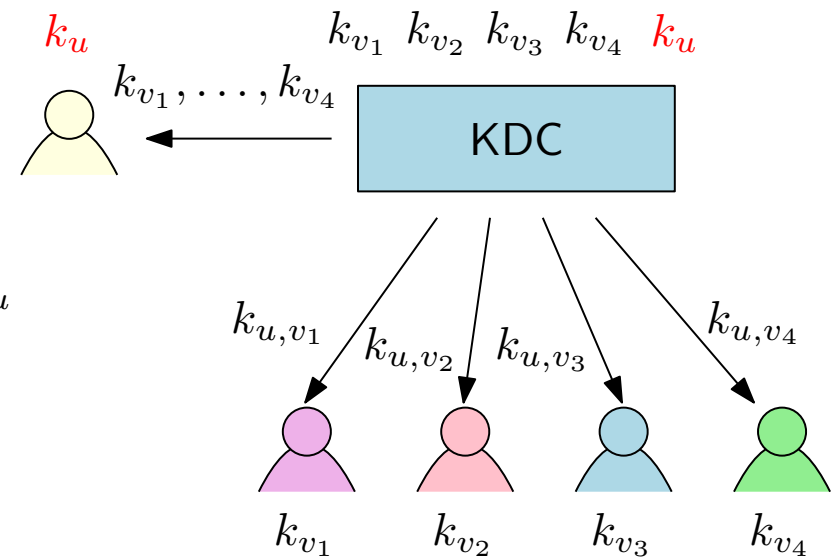


Pro: The new user u does not need to privately meet all other N employees to generate a shared key

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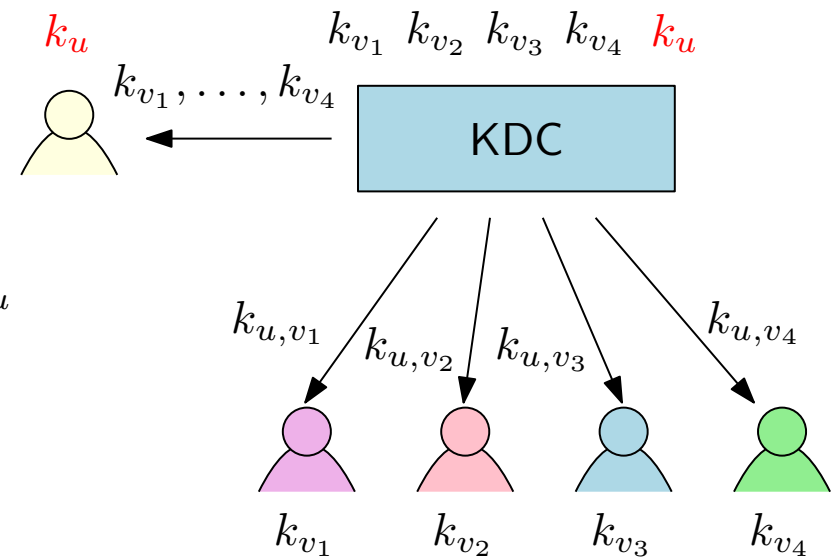
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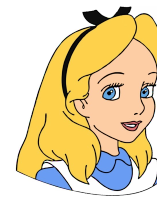
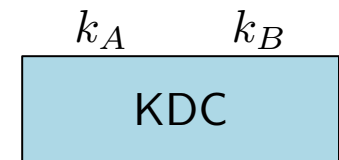
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Con: Still $\Theta(N^2)$ keys overall

A Partial Solution: Key-Distribution Centers (“online solution”)

We can reduce the number of keys to $\Theta(N)$ using the KDC in a “online” fashion

- Each user v shares a key k_v which the KDC
- Users do not share keys among themselves



k_A



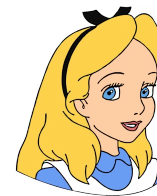
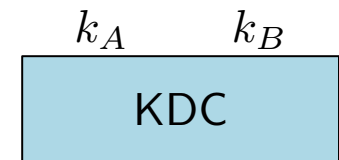
k_B

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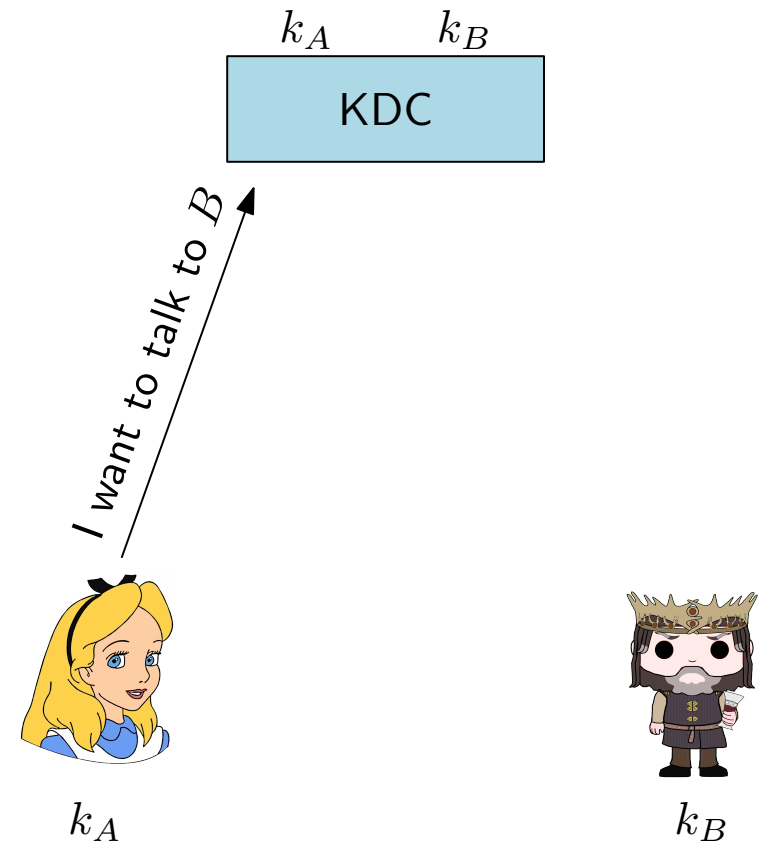
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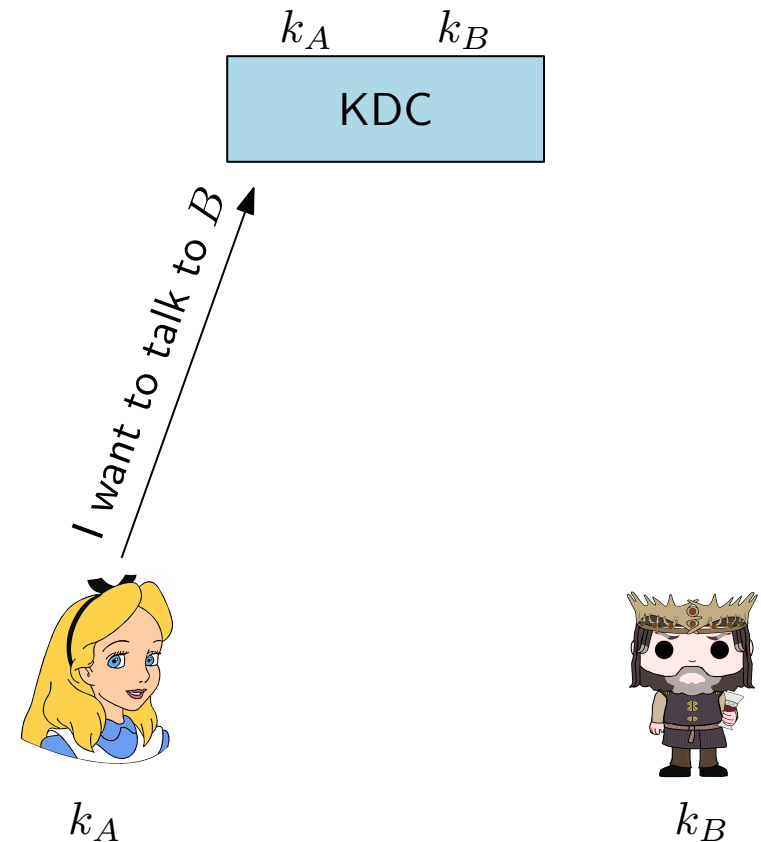
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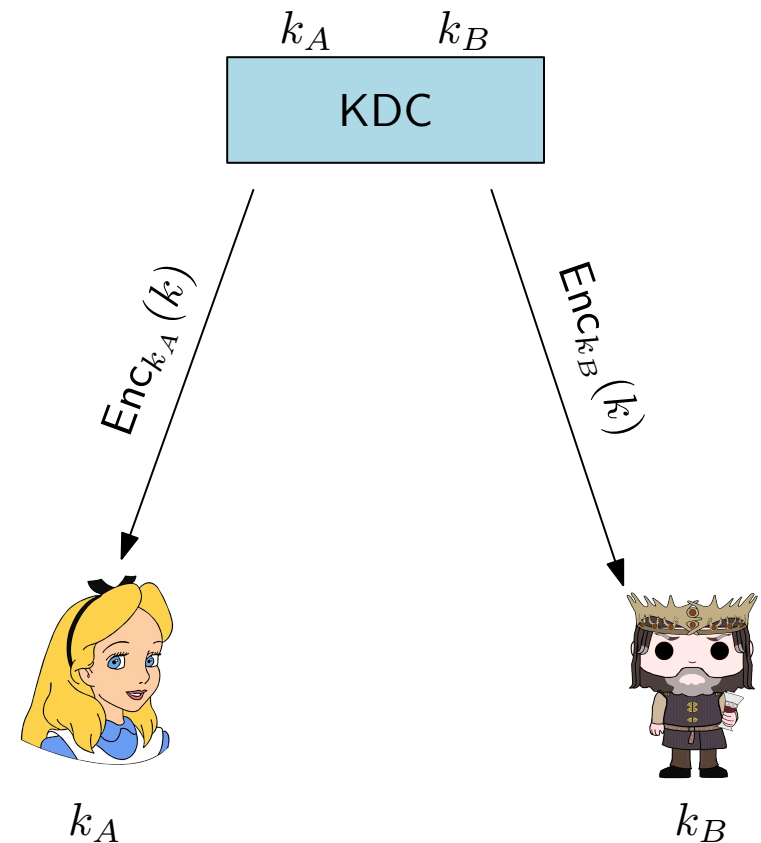
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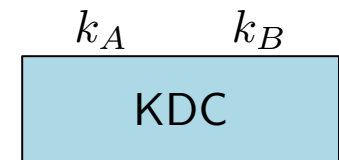
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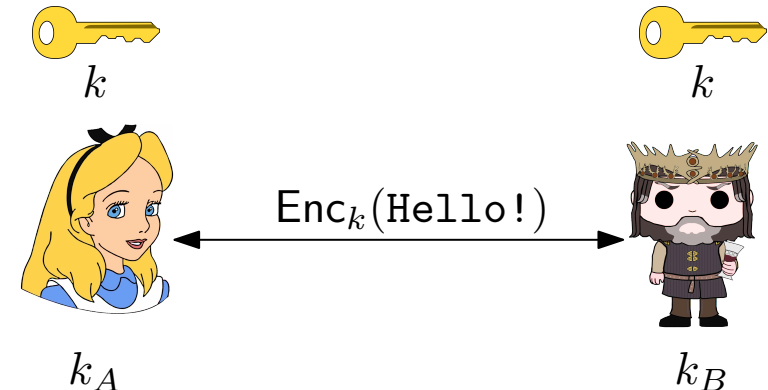
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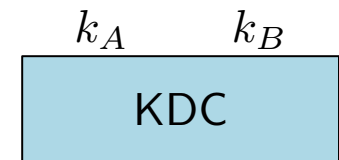
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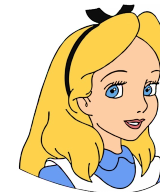
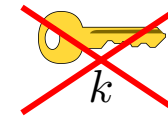
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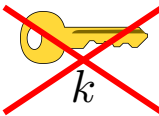


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- At the end of the communication session, A and B destroy k



k_A

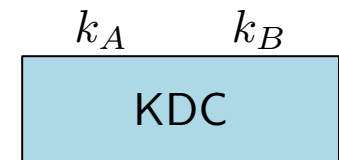


k_B

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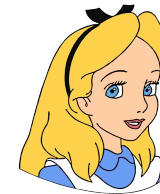
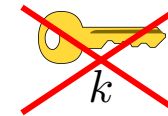
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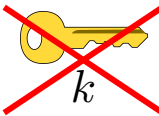


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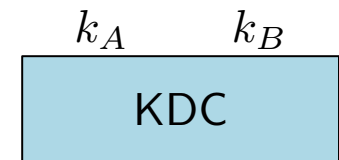
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Con: Relies on the KDC being online (KDC can be replicated at the cost of more complexity)

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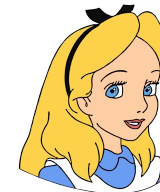
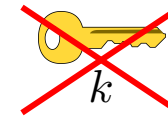
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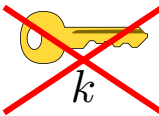


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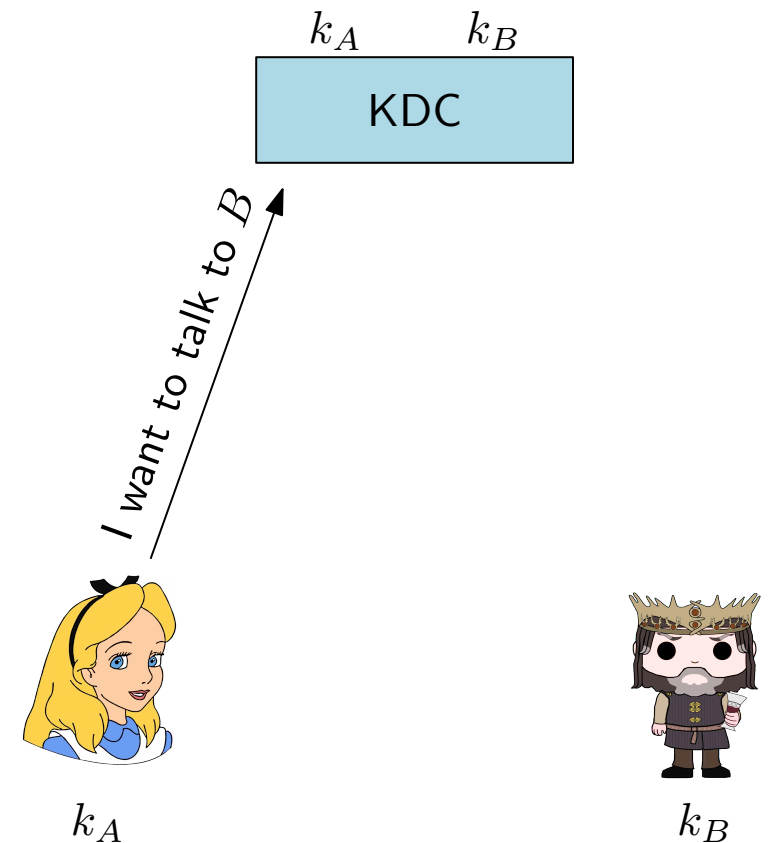
Con: Relies on the KDC being online (KDC can be replicated at the cost of more complexity)

Con: A data breach on the KDC compromises all communications

A Partial Solution: Key-Distribution Centers, an optimization

In practice, a slightly different approach is used

When A contacts the KDC and asks to talk to B ...

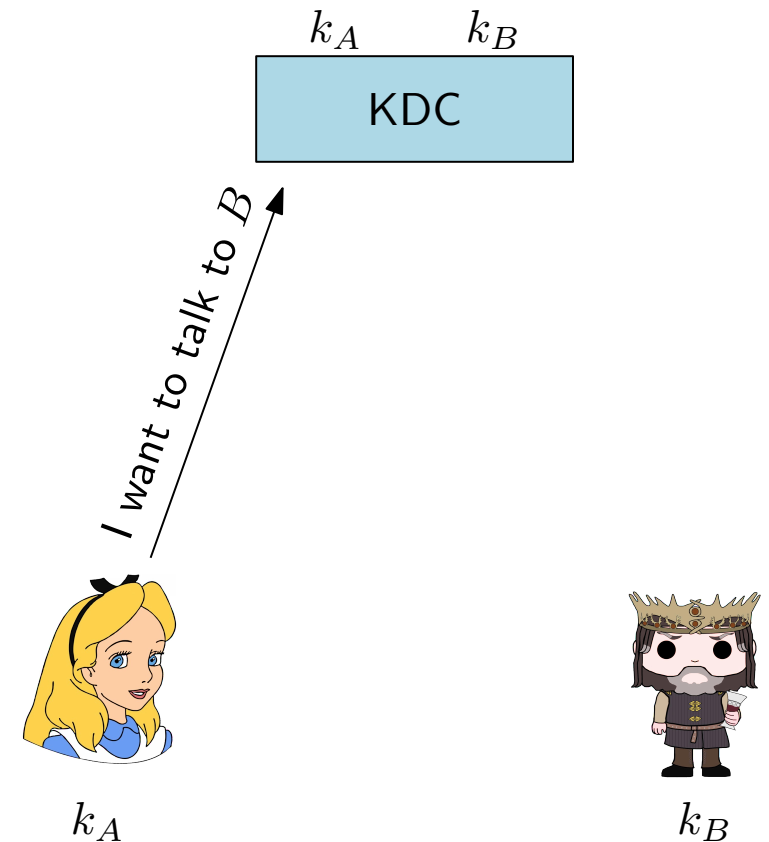


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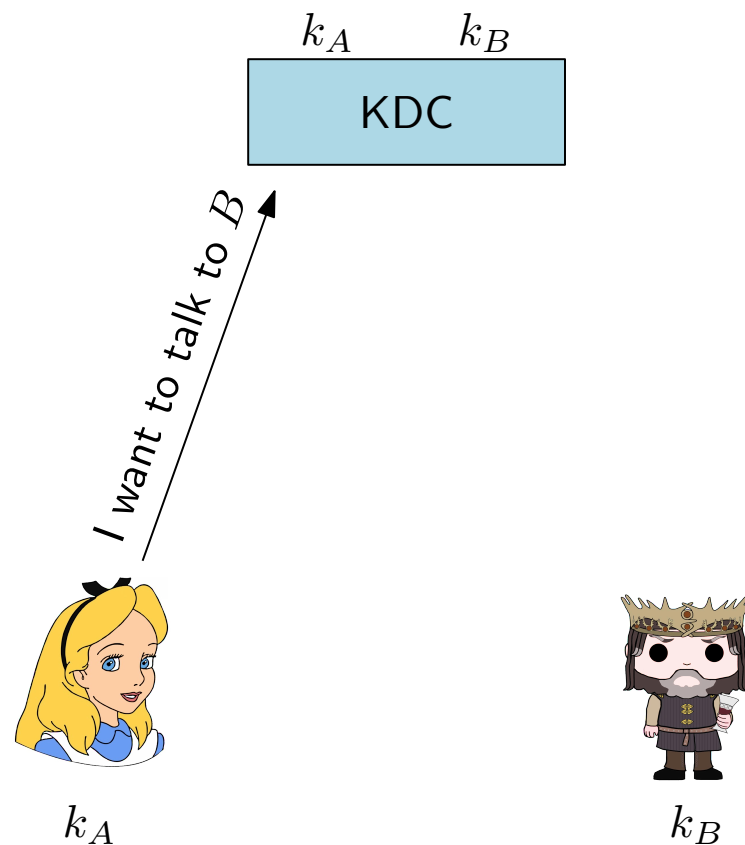


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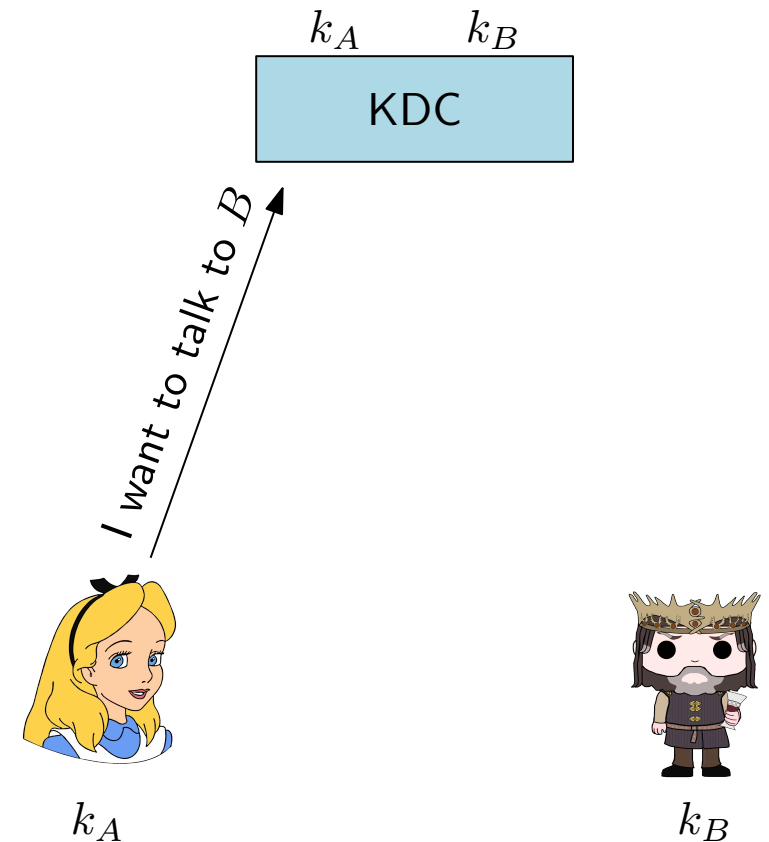


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This is called a **ticket**.

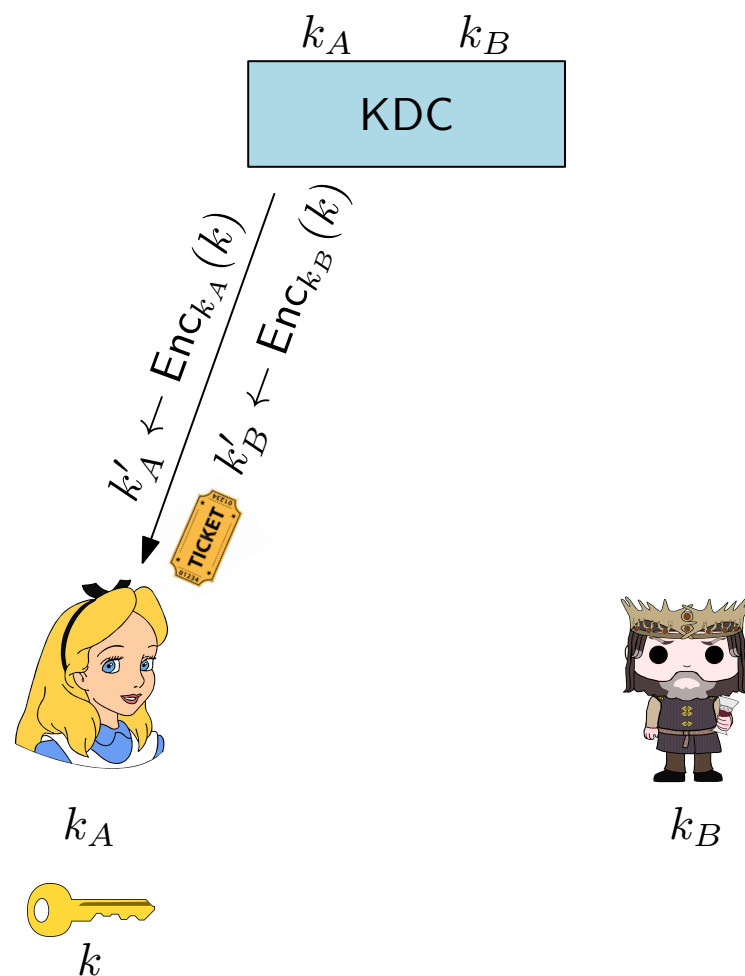


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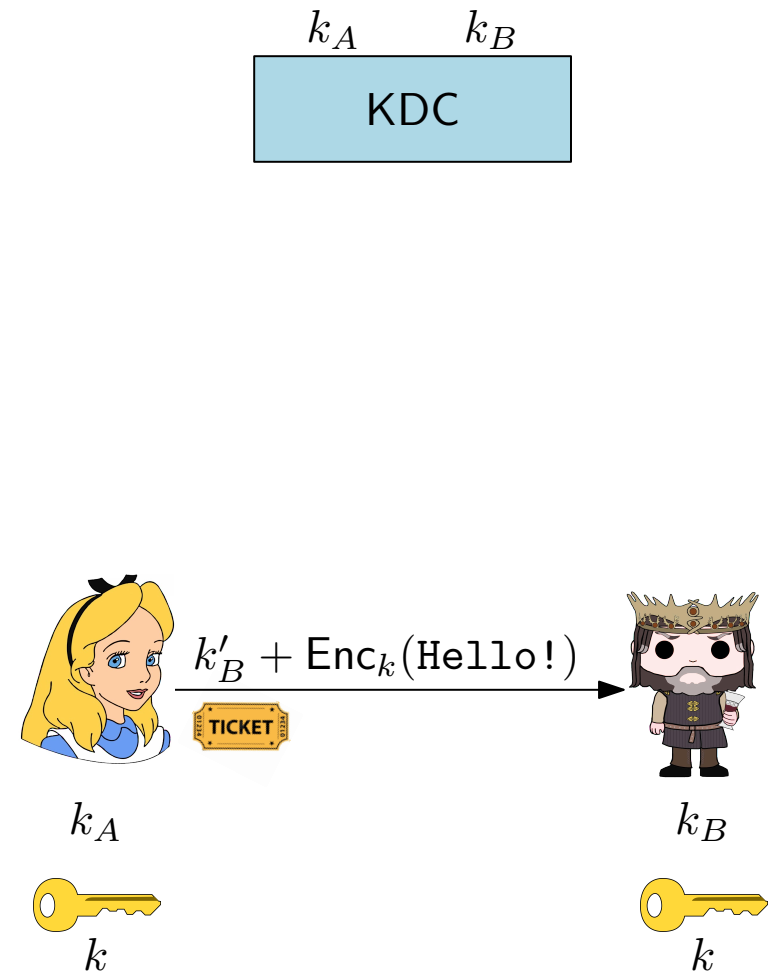


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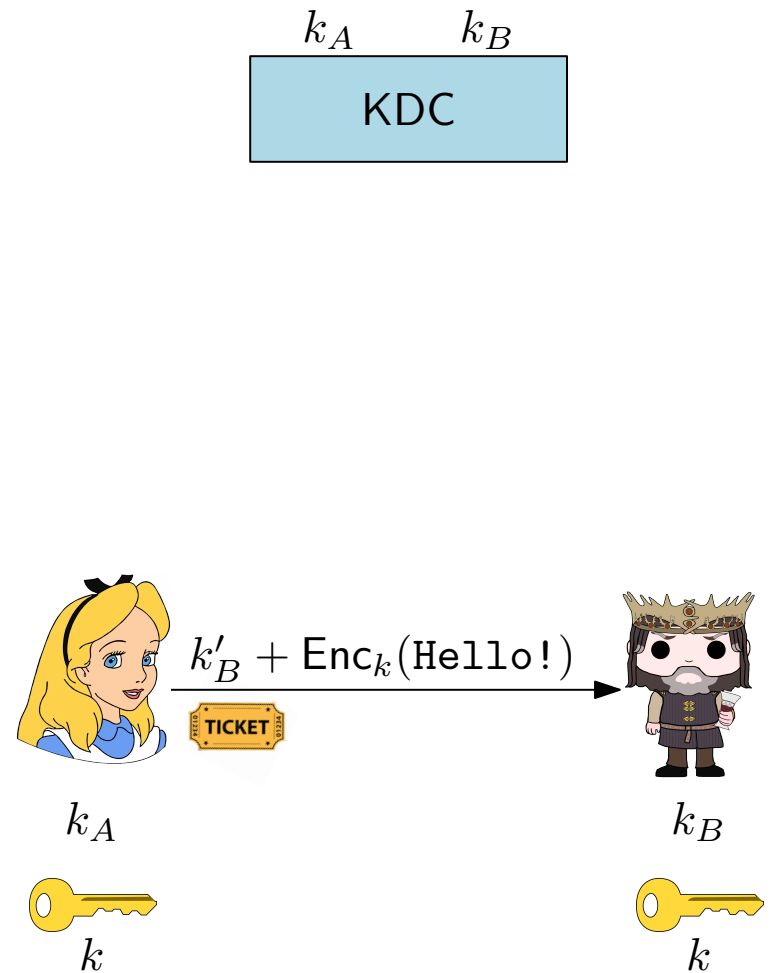
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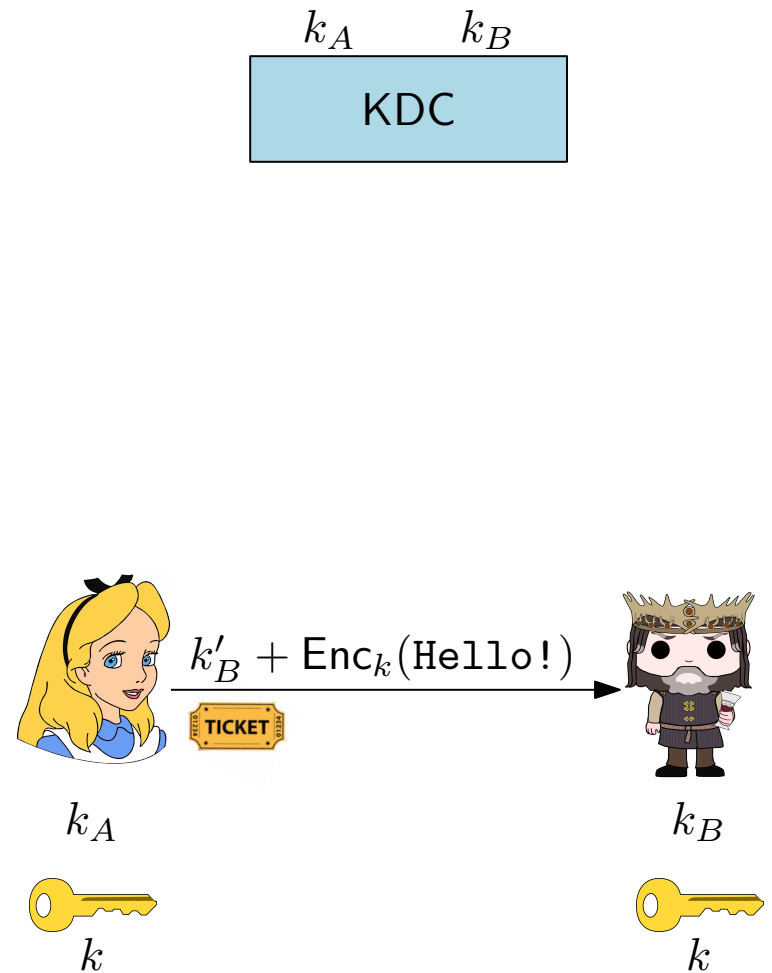
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The ticket can contain a timestamp, after which it *expires*



A Partial Solution: Key-Distribution Centers, an optimization

In practice, a slightly different approach is used

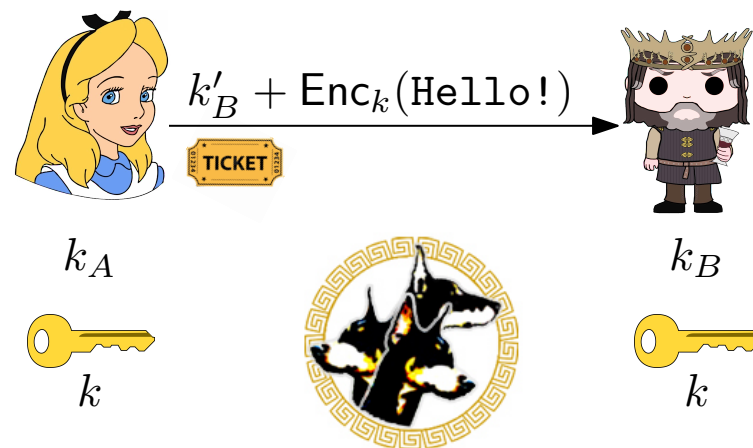
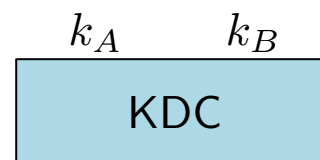
When A contacts the KDC and asks to talk to B ...

- The KDC generates a session key k
- The KDC encrypts k with k_A to obtain $k'_A \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{k_A}(k)$
- The KDC encrypts k with k_B to obtain $k'_B \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{k_B}(k)$. This is called a **ticket**.
- The KDC sends **both** k'_A and the ticket to A
- A initiates the communication by sending the ticket to B

Alternatively, the ticket can be retained by A to initiate the communication with B at a later point in time

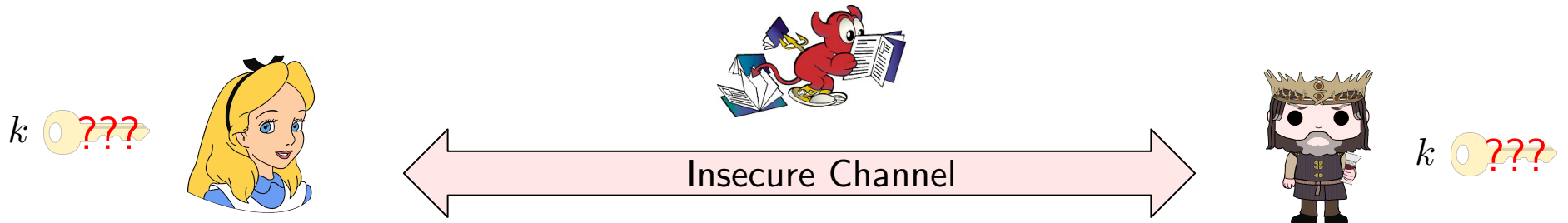
The ticket can contain a timestamp, after which it *expires*

This approach is used, e.g., in the Kerberos protocol.



Open systems

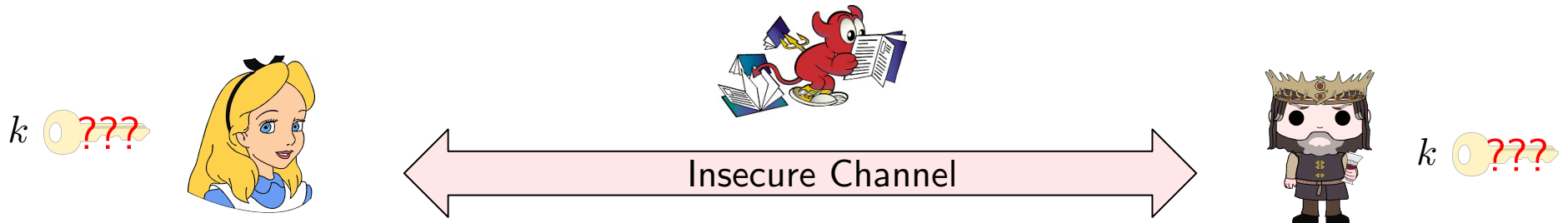
Alice e Bob want to communicate securely over an insecure channel



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This happens all the time

- Sending an instant-message to someone for the first time
- Visiting a new website

**How do we handle
this case?**

Key Exchange

Classical private-key cryptography does not offer a satisfactory solution to these problems

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Idea:

- Some problem exhibit asymmetry
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Classical private-key cryptography does not offer a satisfactory solution to these problems

Idea:

- Some problem exhibit asymmetry
- Easy to compute, hard to invert (Candidate examples?)
- Use asymmetry in a clever way, to enable two parties to agree on a secret key over an insecure channel



Key Exchange: Informal Security Definition

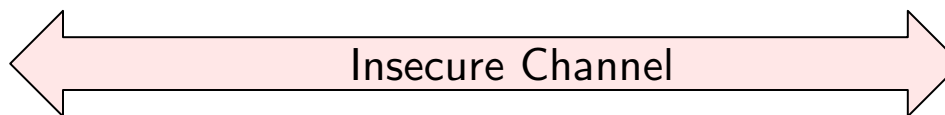
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Key Exchange: Informal Security Definition

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Idea:

- Alice and Bob talk over the insecure channel following some (randomized) **key exchange protocol** (using a common shared input 1^n representing the security parameter in unary)

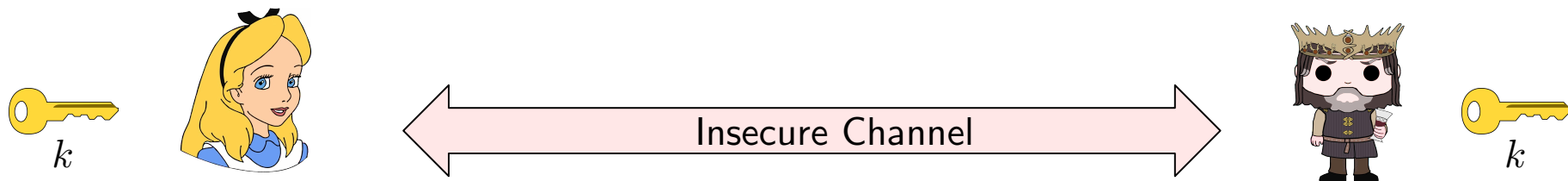


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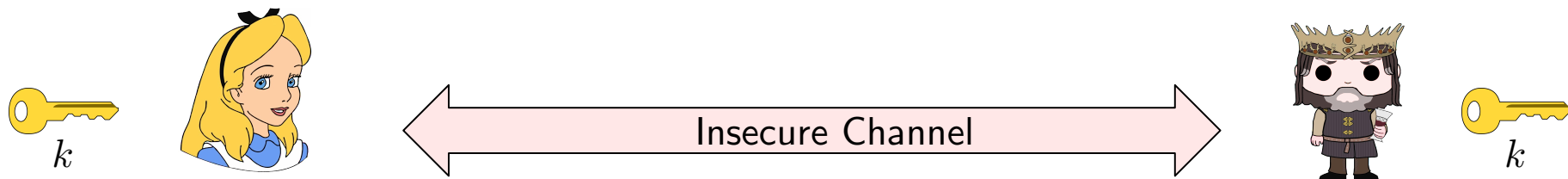
- At the end of the protocol, both Alice and Bob know some shared key k

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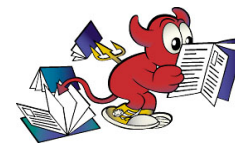
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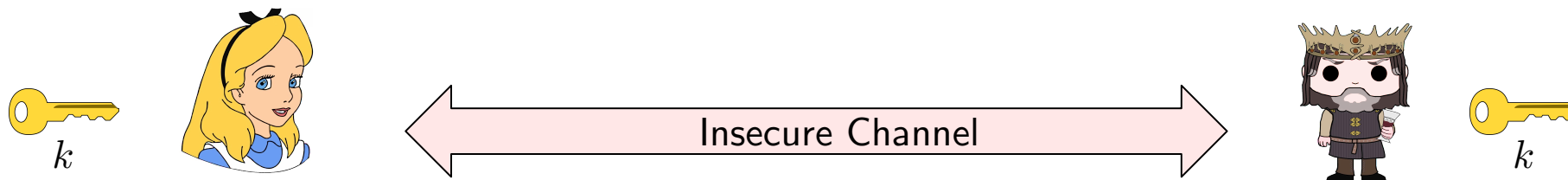


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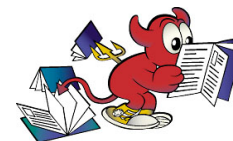
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Security goal (informal): even after observing the transcript, the shared key k should be indistinguishable from a uniform key (to any polynomial-time adversary)

The Key Exchange Experiment

Fix a key exchange protocol Π and an attacker $\mathcal{A}$

We define the **key-exchange experiment** $\text{KE}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}(n)$ as follows:

- The honest parties run Π using n as the security parameter.
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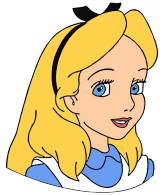
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The outcome of the experiment is defined to be 1 if $b' = b$ and 0 otherwise

The Key Exchange Experiment



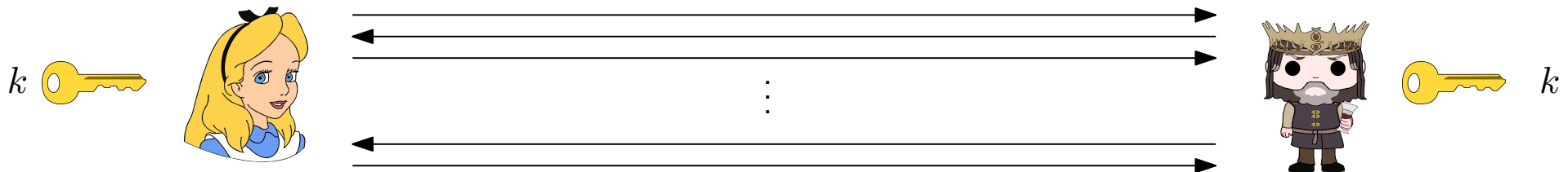
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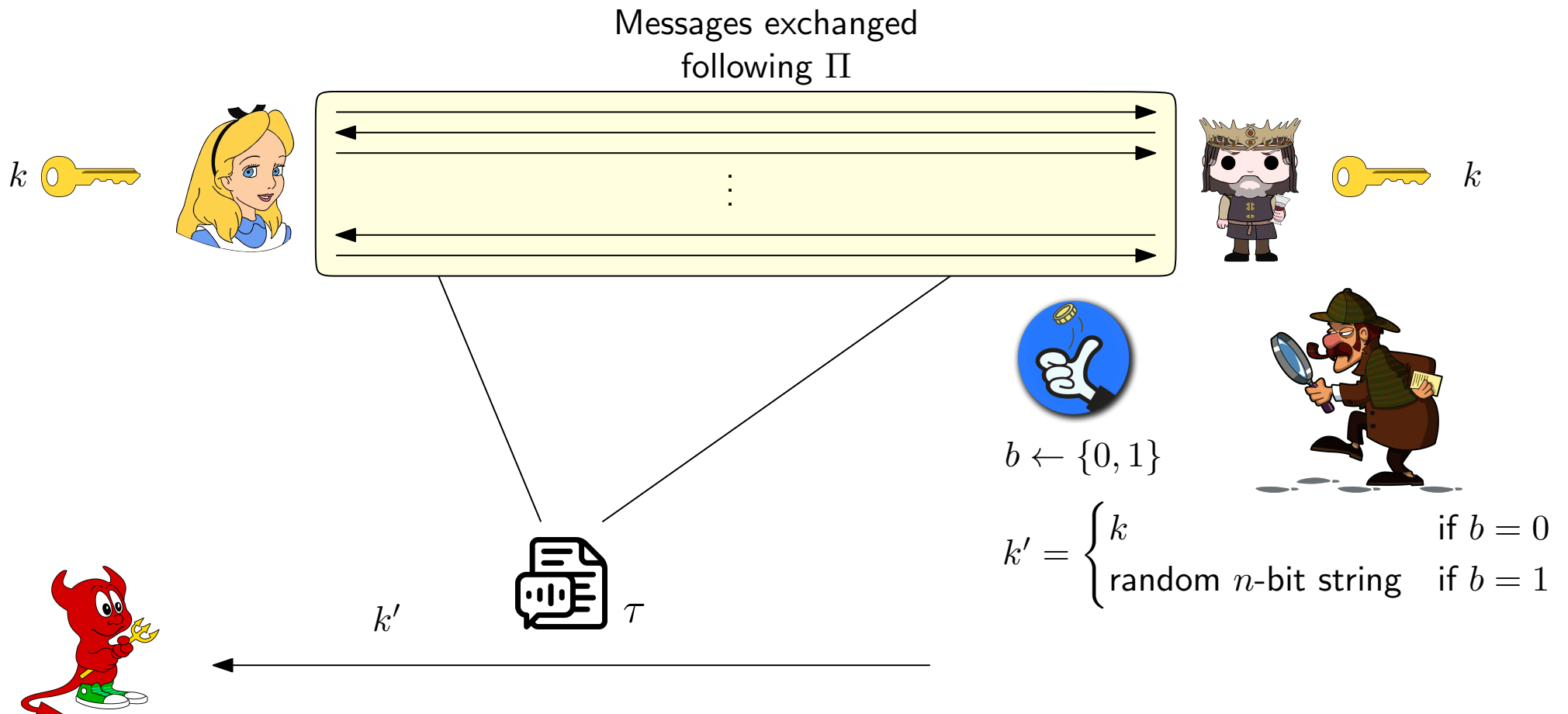


$$b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$$

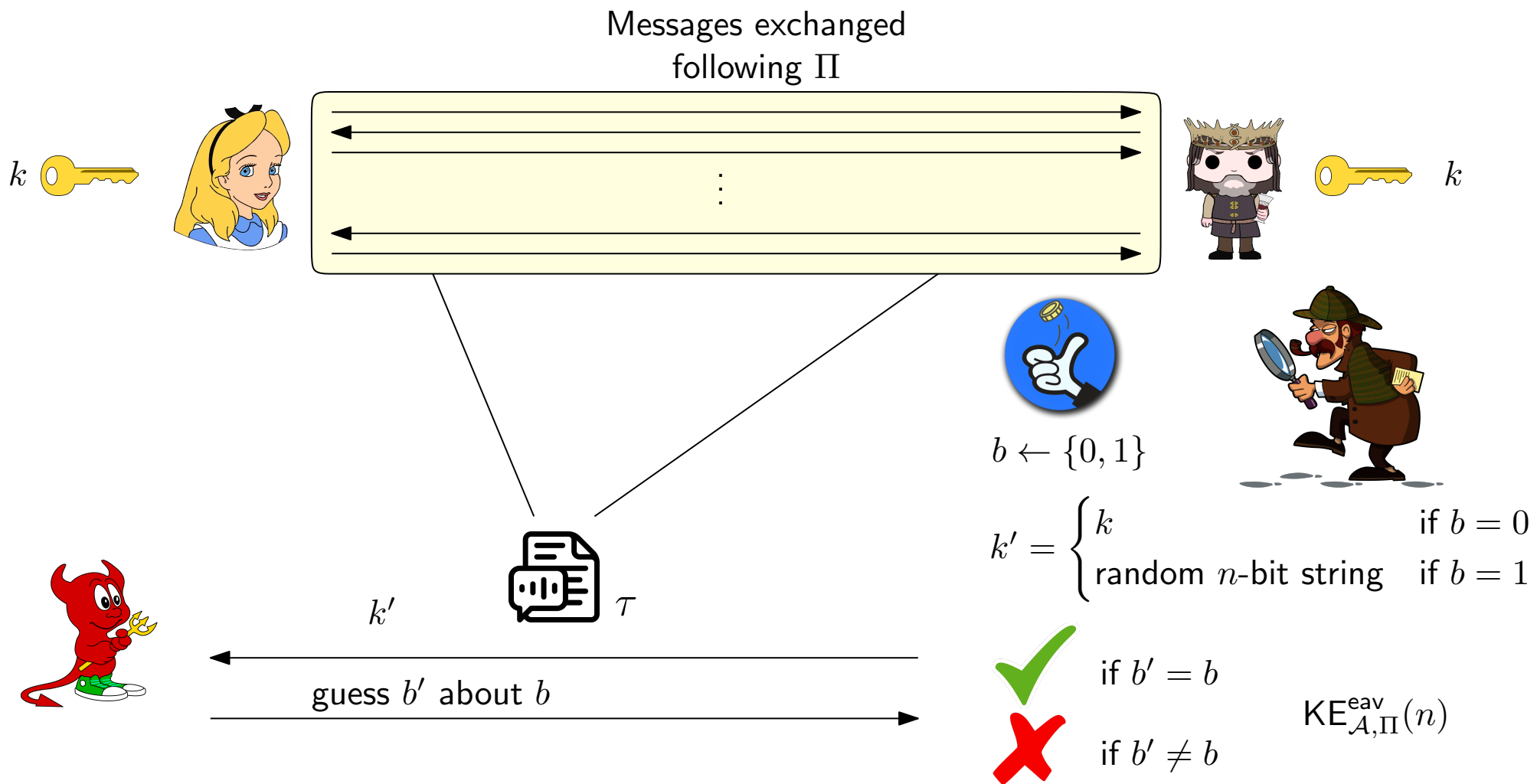
$$k' = \begin{cases} k & \text{if } b = 0 \\ \text{random } n\text{-bit string} & \text{if } b = 1 \end{cases}$$



The Key Exchange Experiment



The Key Exchange Experiment



Key Exchange: Formal Security Definition

Definition: A key-exchange protocol Π is **secure in the presence of an eavesdropper** if for all probabilistic polynomial-time adversaries $\mathcal{A}$ there is a negligible function ε such that

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Notice that being unable to compute k from the transcript τ is not a strong enough security guarantee

- The requirement we impose is **stronger**. Namely k must look just like a random string.
- This is necessary since we are going to use k for private-key cryptography.