



# Scaling transparency ecosystems

## Lessons learned from CT



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How to draw an owl

1.



1. Draw some circles

2.



2. Draw the rest of the fucking owl



# Agenda

- 01 Introduction: CT
- 02 From one log to multiple logs
- 03 From one operator to multiple operators
- 04 Verification
- 05 Coordination overhead

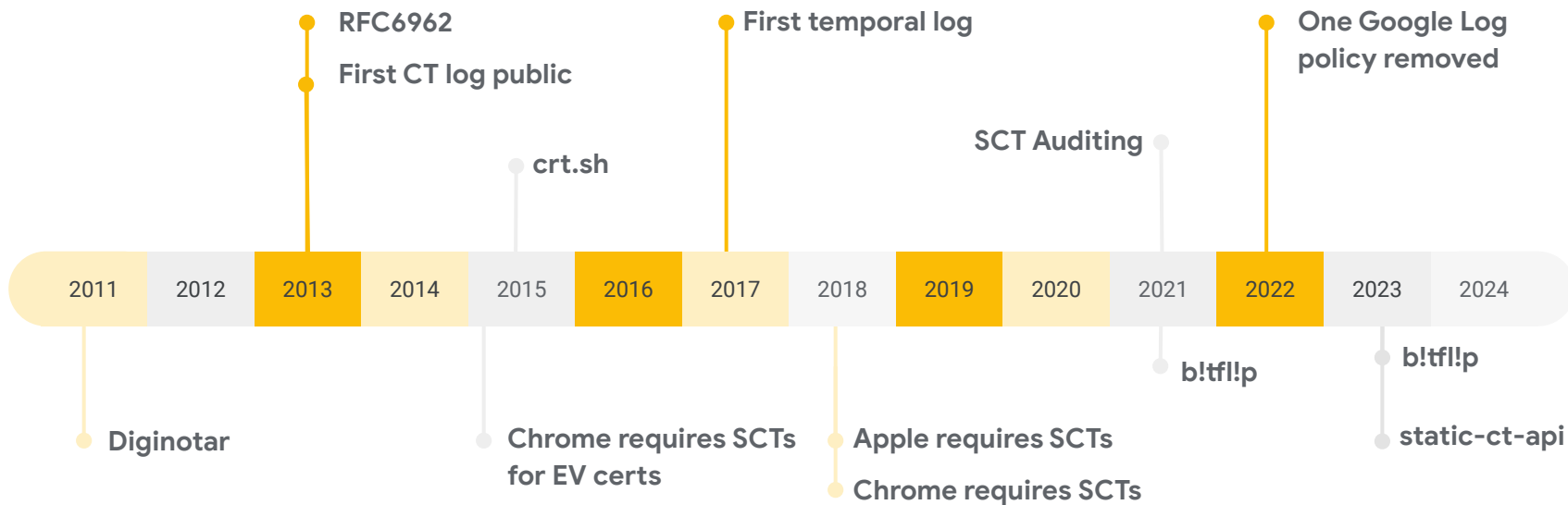


01

# Introduction: CT



# Evolution of CT





What happens if *the* log fails?



What happens if *the* log fails?

oops.



What happens if **a** log fails?

nothing





02

# From one log to multiple logs



# Why logs fail?

## Integrity loss

Bitflips

An entry is never included in the log

## Availability

Can't write to the log

Can't read from the log

## Scalability

Logs grow fast

Make sure you don't run out of disk!

## Compromise?

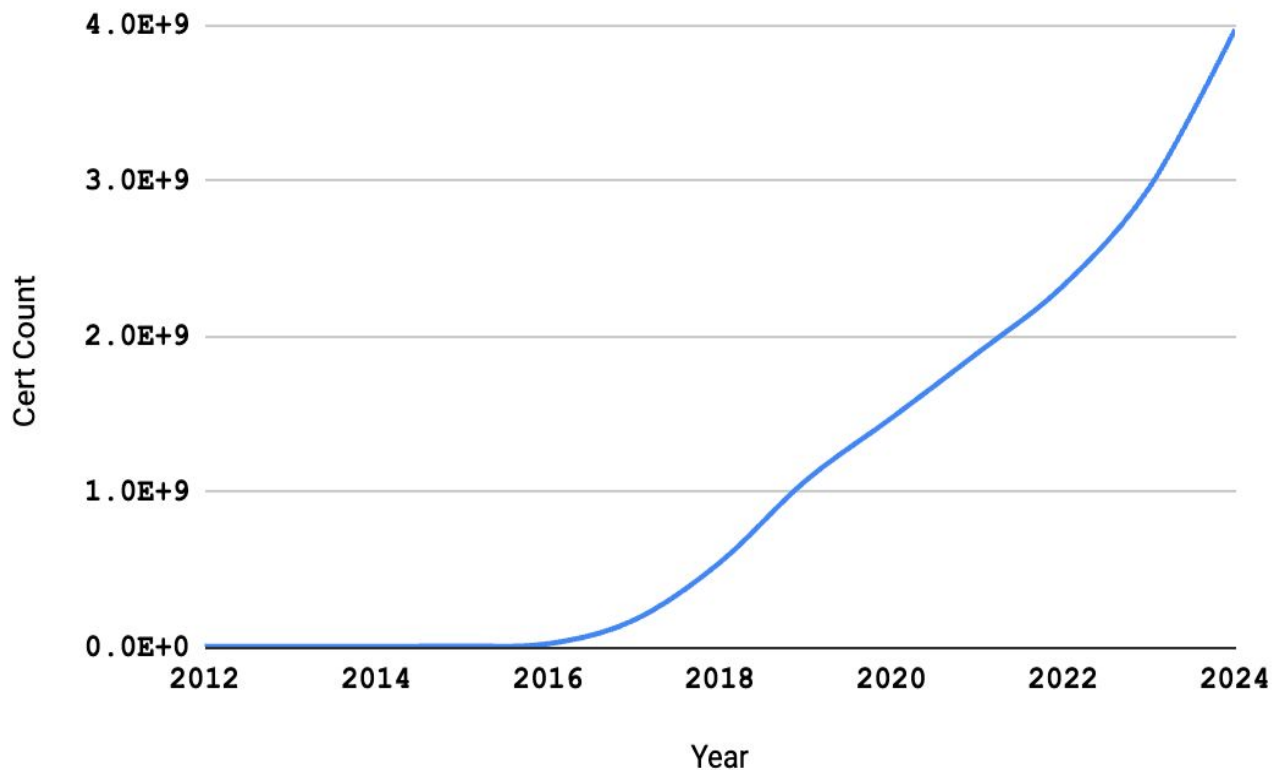
Unwanted data

Split view

...



# Number of certificates expiring every year\*





# How to configure clients with multiple logs?



# How to configure clients with multiple logs?

Push a log list with your binary!



# How to configure clients with multiple logs?

Wait, how often do you update your binary?



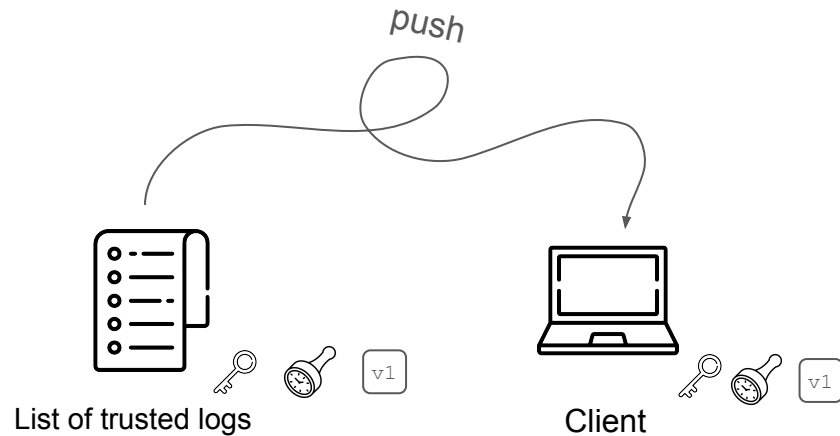
# How to configure clients with multiple logs?

→ Dynamic push mechanism

🔑 Signing

🕒 Timestamping:  
When do you start trusting a log?  
When do you stop trusting a log?  
How do you communicate this?

📦 v1 How do you update your schema?





What happens if your entire *company* is compromised?







What happens if *one entire* company is compromised?





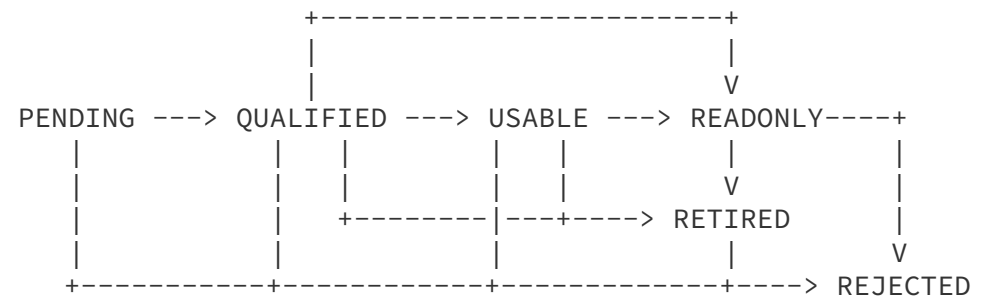
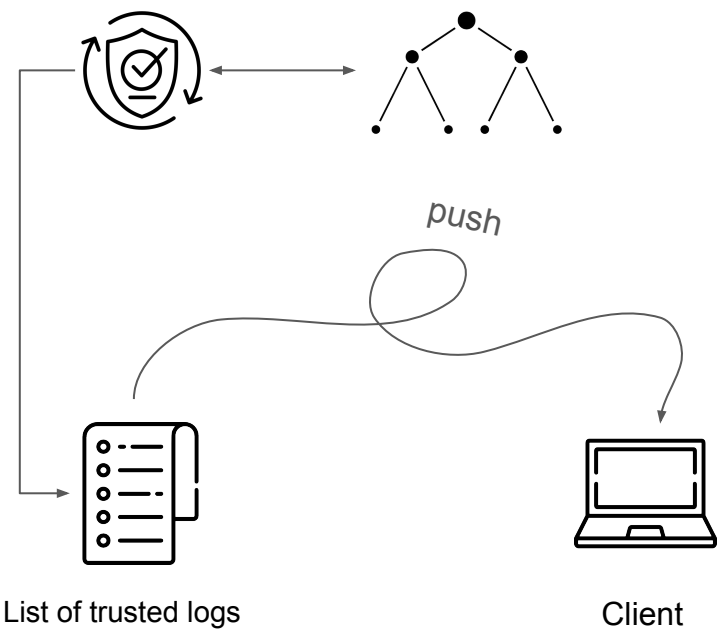
03

# Multiple operators



# What logs should you trust, and when?

Compliance monitoring





## Chrome's policy

SCTs from **two+** log operators,  
with **one+** still trusted.



Running a log can be **hard**

Big responsibility

Append only, publicly writable, publicly visible, signed

System and human resources commitment

Business opportunity

Critical for the internet

We are taking steps to make it easier



# Thank you

**SECTIGO**<sup>®</sup>

digicert<sup>®</sup>

  
**CLOUDFLARE**<sup>®</sup>

 **Let's Encrypt**

 亞洲誠信<sup>®</sup>  
**TRUSTAsia**

**Google**



04

# Verification



# CT doesn't help when **you don't look for misissuance**

CT



## Only site owners can ID misissuance

- Nearly infinite site owners must opt-in
- Competes with cognitive burden of securing a site (e.g. CSP)
- No turn-key and free options

## Centralize and automate detection

- Scaling *people* is *really* hard
- Avoid opt-in models
- Ensure end-to-end value





# CT doesn't help when **you don't/can't act on alerts**

CT



## How to detect mis-issuances?

### Big orgs

- difficult to route
- false positives
- may be ignored

### Small orgs

- how do I investigate?
- How do I report?

**Be extremely clear about what happens when violations are detected**

No SCTs



05

# Coordination overhead



# CT ecosystem in 2024

many

g00.gl  
xyz.com  
abc.co.uk

## Domain owners

Google, BBC,  
usa.gov

plenty



## CAs

Google, Let's  
Encrypt, DigiCert

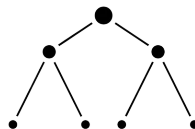
2+



## User Agents

Apple platforms  
Chrome  
Chromium browsers  
Android libraries  
(More soon!)

6+



## Log operators

Cloudflare  
Let's Encrypt  
Google  
Sectigo  
TrustAsia  
Digicert

12+

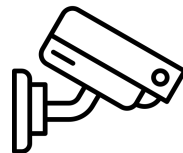


## Log monitors

Censys  
Cloudflare  
crt.sh  
Digicert  
Entrust  
Facebook  
Keytos  
Hardenize  
Sslmate  
Stellastra  
Report-uri  
Merklemap

...

3+



## Log verifiers

Cloudflare,  
SSLMate  
Sectigo  
Google



Chrome Certificate Transparency x +

googlechrome.github.io/CertificateTransparency/ct\_policy.html

## Certificate Transparency in Chrome

**Policies**

- [Chrome CT Policy](#)
- [Chrome CT Log Policy](#)

**Reference Material**

- [Lifecycle of a CT Log](#)
- [Information for site operators](#)
- [Information for enterprises](#)
- [List of recognized CT Logs](#)

[contributing](#) | [license](#)

### Chrome Certificate Transparency Policy

Please direct any questions about this Policy to the CT Policy forum: [ct-policy@chromium.org](mailto:ct-policy@chromium.org)

When a website's TLS certificate is validated in modern versions of Chrome, it is evaluated for compliance against the Chrome CT Policy, except in rare circumstances where **certain enterprise policies** are set by an administrator. Certificates that are accompanied by SCTs that satisfy this Policy are said to be *CT Compliant*.

CT Compliance is achieved by a certificate and set of accompanying SCTs meeting a set of technical requirements enforced by the Chrome browser during certificate validation, which are defined in this Policy. The issuance of certificates that are not CT compliant is **not** considered mis-issuance or a violation of Chrome's root program; such certificates will simply fail to validate in CT-enforcing versions of Chrome.

#### CT Log States

CT Compliance in Chrome is determined by evaluating SCTs from CT Logs and ensuring that these Logs are in the correct state(s) at time of check. The set of possible states a CT Log can be in is:

- Pending,
- Qualified,
- Usable,
- ReadOnly,
- Retired, and
- Rejected

In order to assist with understanding the requirements for CT compliance in Chrome, the definition of these states, the

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## Apple's Certificate Transparency policy

Find out how to comply with Apple's Certificate Transparency policy.

Publicly trusted Transport Layer Security (TLS) server authentication certificates must meet Apple's Certificate Transparency (CT) policy to be evaluated as trusted on Apple platforms.

Certificates that fail to comply with our policy will result in a failed TLS connection, which can break an app's connection to internet services or Safari's ability to seamlessly connect.

### Policy requirements

Apple's policy requires at least two Signed Certificate Timestamps (SCT) issued from a CT log – once-approved<sup>1</sup> or currently approved<sup>2</sup> at the time of check – and either:

- At least two SCTs from currently approved CT logs with one SCT presented via TLS extension or OCSP Stapling; or
- At least one embedded SCT from a currently approved log and at least the number of SCTs from once-

Removing (Rejecting) Expired x +

groups.google.com/a/chromium.org/g/ct-policy/c/FOynoSJggQM

Guest

Groups

Certificate Transparency Policy

Conversations

About

Conversations Search conversations with...

Removing (Rejecting) Expired CT Log Shards 477 views

Joe DeBlasio Aug 9, 2024, 7:53:04 PM

to Certificate Transparency Policy

The following CT log shards are now outside of their certificate expiry range and will be removed from Chrome:

- DigiCert Sphinx2024h1 (<https://sphinx.ct.digicert.com/2024h1>)
- DigiCert Wyvern2024h1 (<https://wyvern.ct.digicert.com/2024h1>)
- Let's Encrypt Oak2024h1 (<https://oak.ct.letsencrypt.org/2024h1>)
- Sectigo Mammoth2024h1 (<https://mammoth2024h1.ct.sectigo.com>)
- Sectigo Mammoth2024h1b (<https://mammoth2024h1b.ct.sectigo.com>)
- Sectigo Sabre2024h1 (<https://sabre2024h1.ct.sectigo.com>)

These logs will transition to the **Rejected** state, which means they will be removed entirely from the log list shipped to Chrome. SCTs from these Rejected logs - past, present, or future - will no longer count towards a certificate's CT compliance, regardless of how the SCTs are delivered.

CT-enforcing versions of Chrome will receive this update in the next few days, and the change affects the log list hard-coded into the Chrome binary starting in the next update.

**What does this mean for site operators**

These logs transitioning to Rejected should require no action by site operators, since all certificates relying on SCTs issued by these logs should now be expired. This is true whether sites are delivering SCTs via OCSP, TLS extension, or embedded in the certificate itself.

**What does this mean for CAs**

There should be no impact to CAs from Rejecting these logs. If a CA still has any of these logs configured for production certificate logging purposes, they should be removed and the CA should ensure that they are logging certificates to a policy-satisfying set of Usable CT logs.

**What does this mean for Log Operators**

Once CT logs transition to Rejected, Chrome no longer requires that they continue operation. Log operators for these logs should check with other CT-enforcing user agents to ensure that there are no issues with ceasing operation of these CT logs (if they are still operational).

Privacy · Terms



All of this is **slow**...  
...so we have to focus on what matters.

