

# Security Through Obscurity

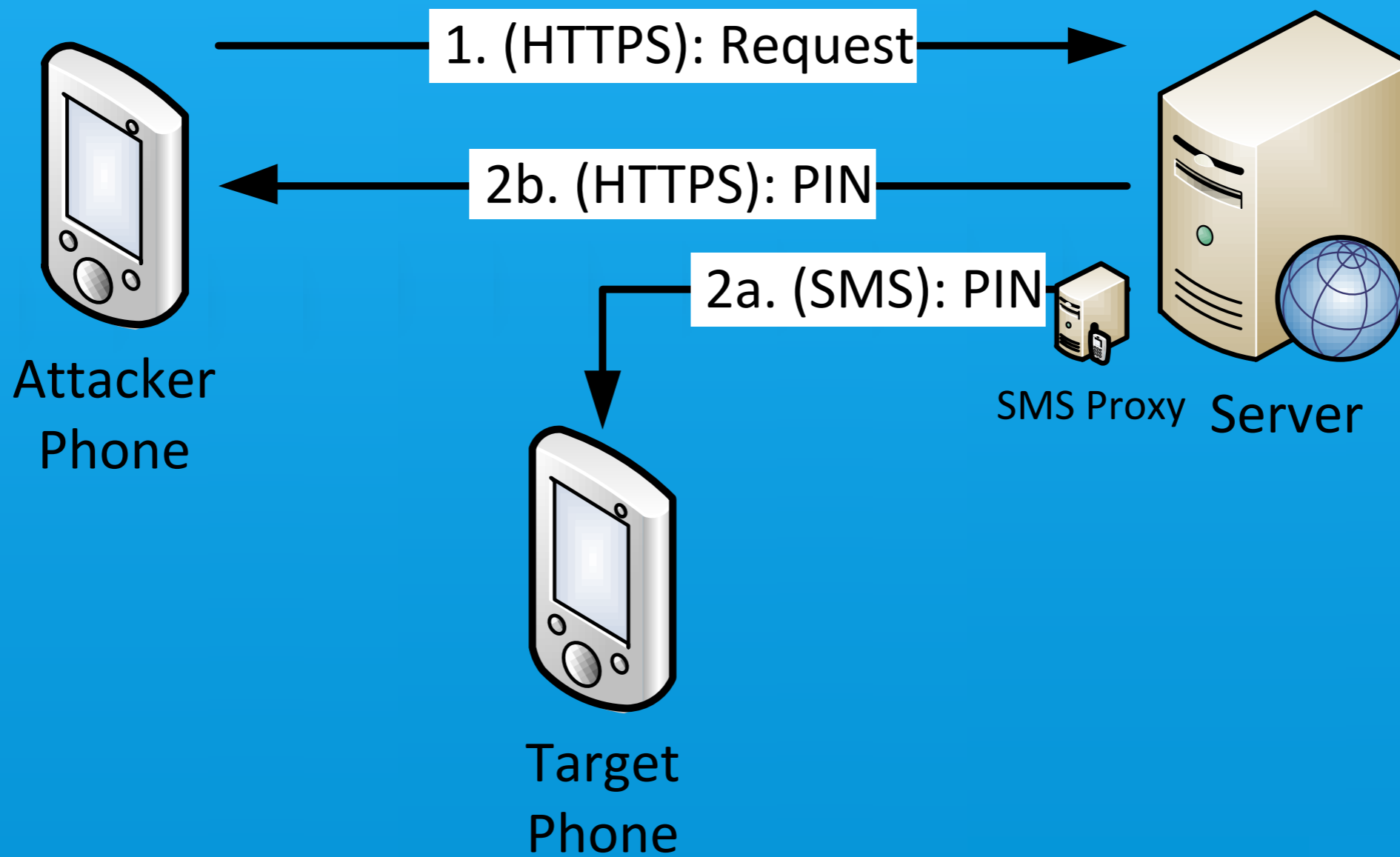
... powered by HTTPS!

Peter Frühwirt, SBA Research  
Sebastian Schrittwieser, FH St. Pölten

**redacted version**



**Live-Demo on  
Wowtalk**



**SSL != protection against protocol analysis**

**SSL interception enables  
man-in-the-middle attacks  
for protocol analysis purposes**

**transport layer encryption cannot  
replace good protocol design!**

**Certificates?**

```

    if ((err = ReadyHash(&SSLHashSHA1, &hashCtx)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &clientRandom)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &serverRandom)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &signedParams)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.update(&hashCtx, &signedParams)) != 0)
        goto fail;
    if ((err = SSLHashSHA1.final(&hashCtx, &hashOut)) != 0)
        goto fail;

    err = sslRawVerify(ctx,
                      ctx->peerPubKey,
                      dataToSign,
                      dataToSignLen,
                      signature,
                      signatureLen);
    /* plaintext */
    /* plaintext length */

    if(err) {
        sslErrorLog("SSLDecodeSignedServerKeyExchange: sslRawVerify "
                   "returned %d\n", (int)err);
        goto fail;
    }

fail:
    SSLFreeBuffer(&signedHashes);
    SSLFreeBuffer(&hashCtx);
    return err;
}

```







**Quizduell**



1. Clash of Clans  
Games

+ Free ▾



2. Top Eleven - Be  
a football...  
Games

+ Free ▾



3. Candy Crush  
Saga  
Games

+ Free ▾



4. Empire: Four  
Kingdoms  
Games

+ Free ▾



5. Hay Day  
Games

+ Free ▾



6. Farm Heroes  
Saga  
Games

+ Free ▾



7. LOVOO - Fancy,  
Chat, Flirt &...  
Social Networking

+ Free ▾



8. Quizduell  
Games

+ Free ▾

extremely popular in Germany

Hier klicken **Blick ins Buch!**



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[Hier reinlesen und suchen](#)

## Quizduell [Taschenbuch]

Quizduell (Autor)

★★★★☆ (6 Kundenrezensionen)

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extremely popular in Germany

Let's play a round of Quizduell ;)

**Curiosity**

**November 2012 - May 2013**

**326 layers**

**69 billion small cubes**



**4 million players**

**3,000,000,000 coins for a  
diamond chisel**

**Bonus points for clearing the entire screen!**

Parameter for multiplier  
is set by the server!

[...]

&backgroundColor=blue

&backgroundText=Curiosity

&bonusMultiplier=~~10~~ 10000000

&hardwareID=<UDID>&

[...]

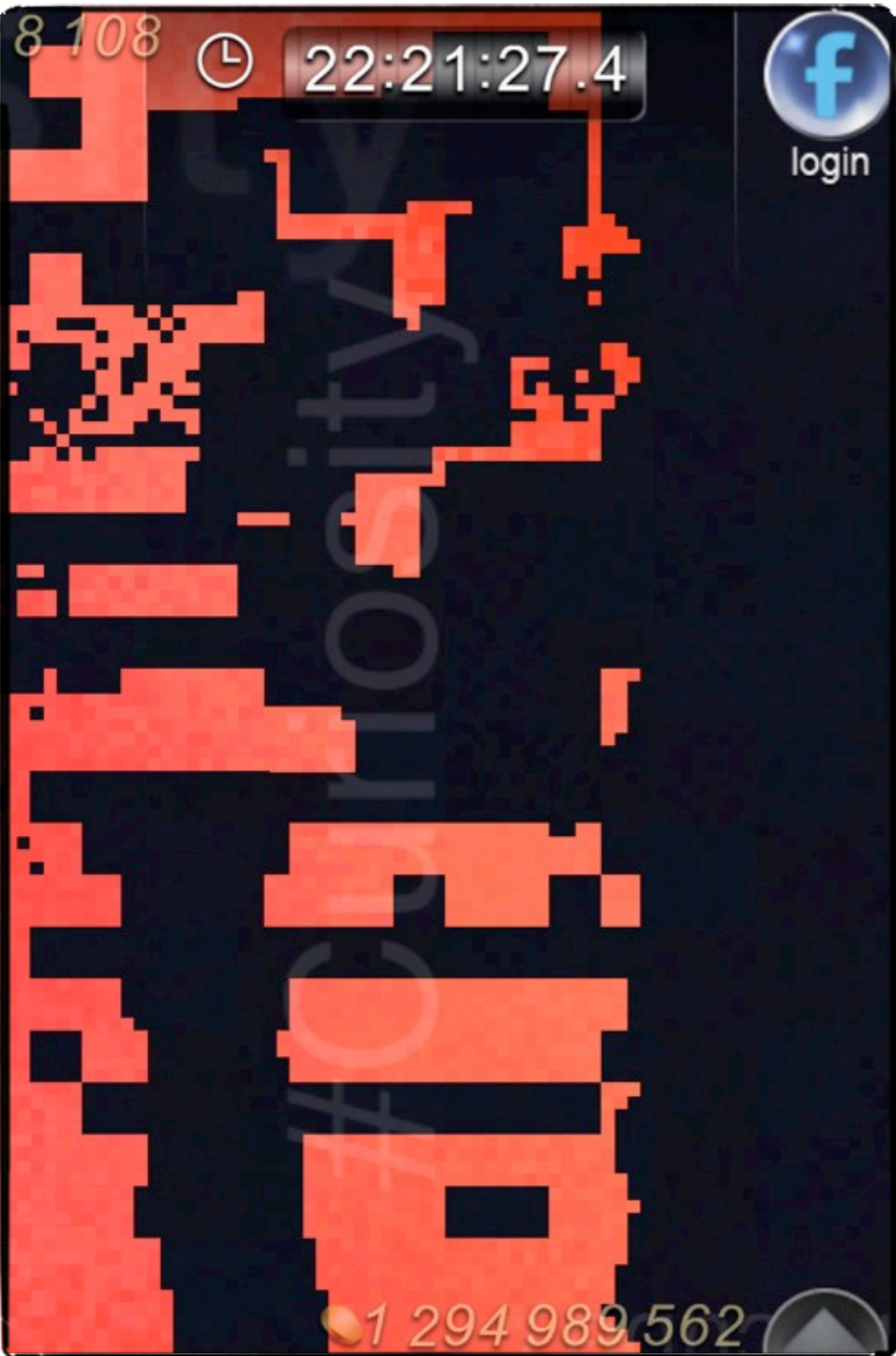
8 108



22:21:27.4



login



1 294 989 562



iPhone Apps



**PhotoSwap**  
Social Networking

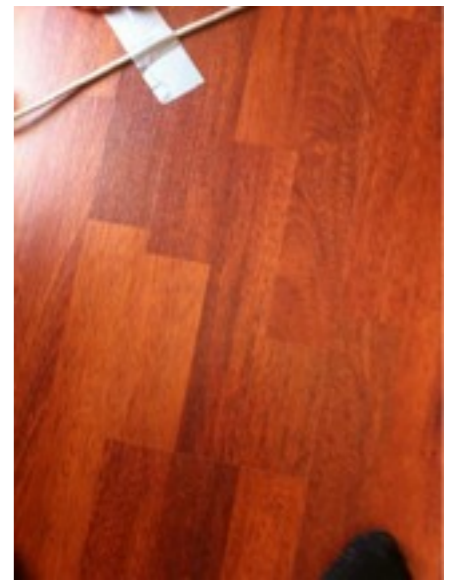
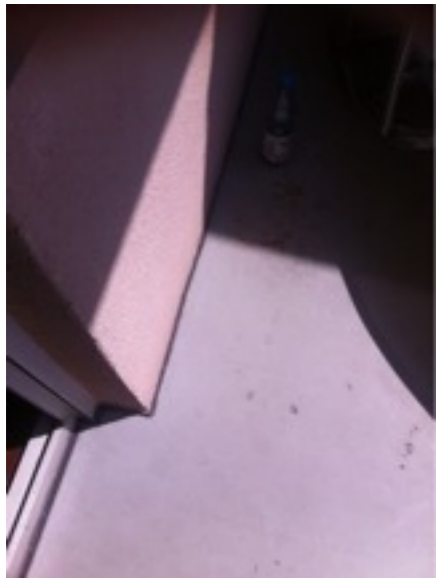


**Photo-swap**  
Entertainment



**SuperSwap**  
Social Networking

# Photoswap



<http://www.server.com/images/12345.jpg>

<http://www.server.com/images/12347.jpg>

<http://www.server.com/images/12349.jpg>

<http://www.server.com/images/12351.jpg>

<http://www.server.com/images/12353.jpg>



```
for i in {1..12345}; do  
wget -k http://www.server.com/images/$i.jpg;  
done
```

**Demo**

**Countermeasures?**

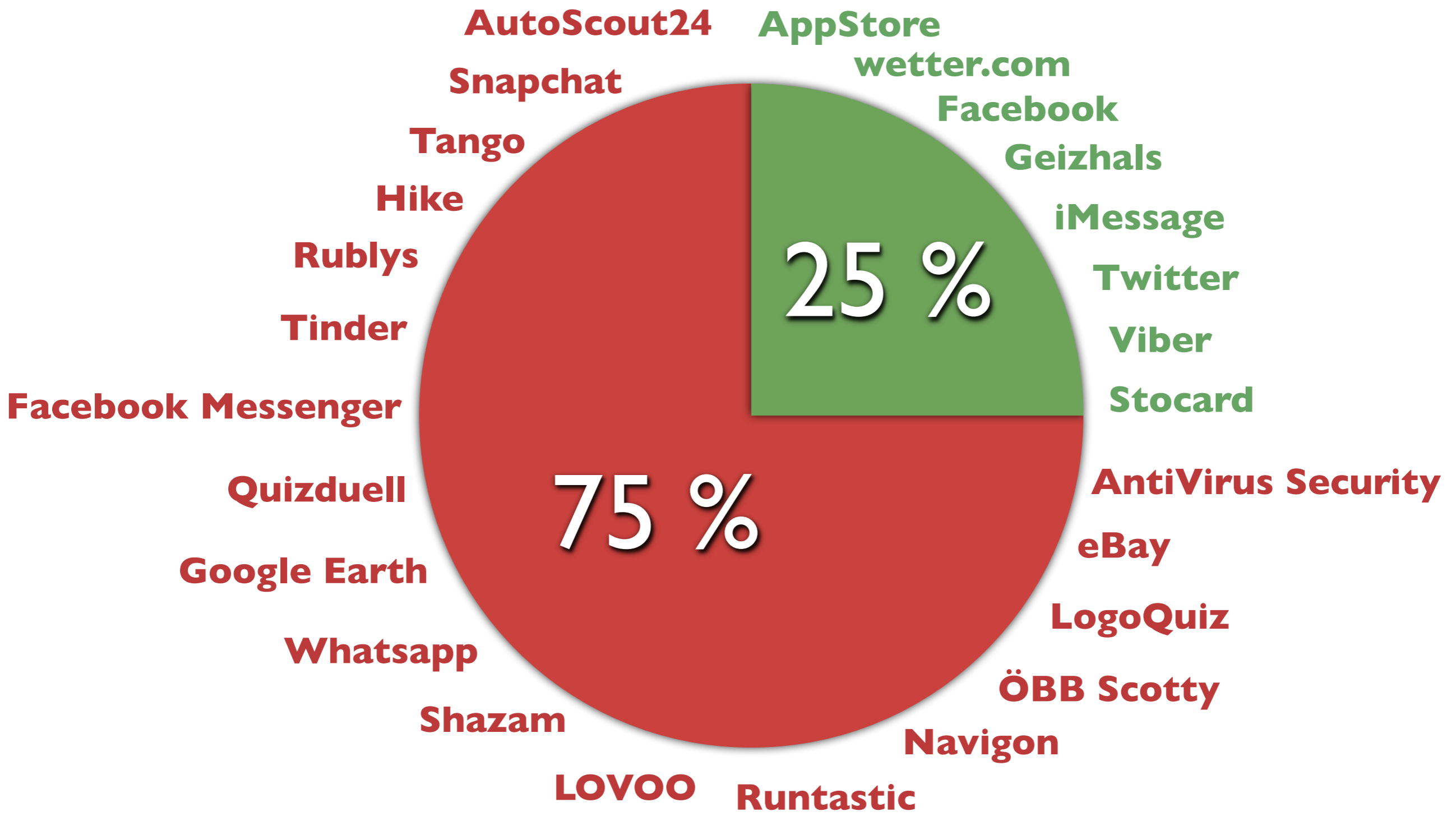
# **Certificate Pinning**

Verification if particular certificate is used

**Increased security**

**Reduced costs**

**Less flexibility**



- certificate pinning
- no certificate pinning

**Deutsche Bank**

**Westpack  
Banking**

**Erste Bank**

**BNI Internet  
Banking**

**Sparkasse**

**Union Bank**

**UBS Mobile  
Banking**

**Alpha Bank**

**Commerzbank**

**Postbank**

**E-Banking apps?**

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Bank**

**BPN Paribas**

**Eniteo DZ  
Bank**

**Bank Republic**

**Volksbank**

**Bank Austria**

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**ING Diba**

**Raiffeisenbanken**

**never ever trust the client  
(even if it's your own client)!**

(the 80's called and want their advice back)

server-side validation of every client request



# **secure side channel**

establish a trusted second channel

# Conclusions

- ▶ Many smartphone applications implement insecure protocols
- ▶ These protocols are hidden behind transport encryption, which does not prevent protocol analysis
- ▶ Don't rely on *Security through Obscurity*

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