

Reconsideration of public key fingerprints

Suga Yuji



Internet Initiative Japan

Fingerprint of an X.509 PKC

- **A short sequence of bytes used to authenticate a public key.**
- **Created by applying a cryptographic hash function to a public key.**
 - **Commonly used today are based on (MD5 or) SHA-1.**

Human inspection

- **Get a fingerprint via non-Internet channel.**
 - **Such as newspaper, official gazette.**



Human inspection

- **Get a fingerprint via non-Internet channel.**
 - Such as newspaper, official gazette.
- **Download an X.509 cert via the Internet.**
 - Usually self-signed CA certificate.



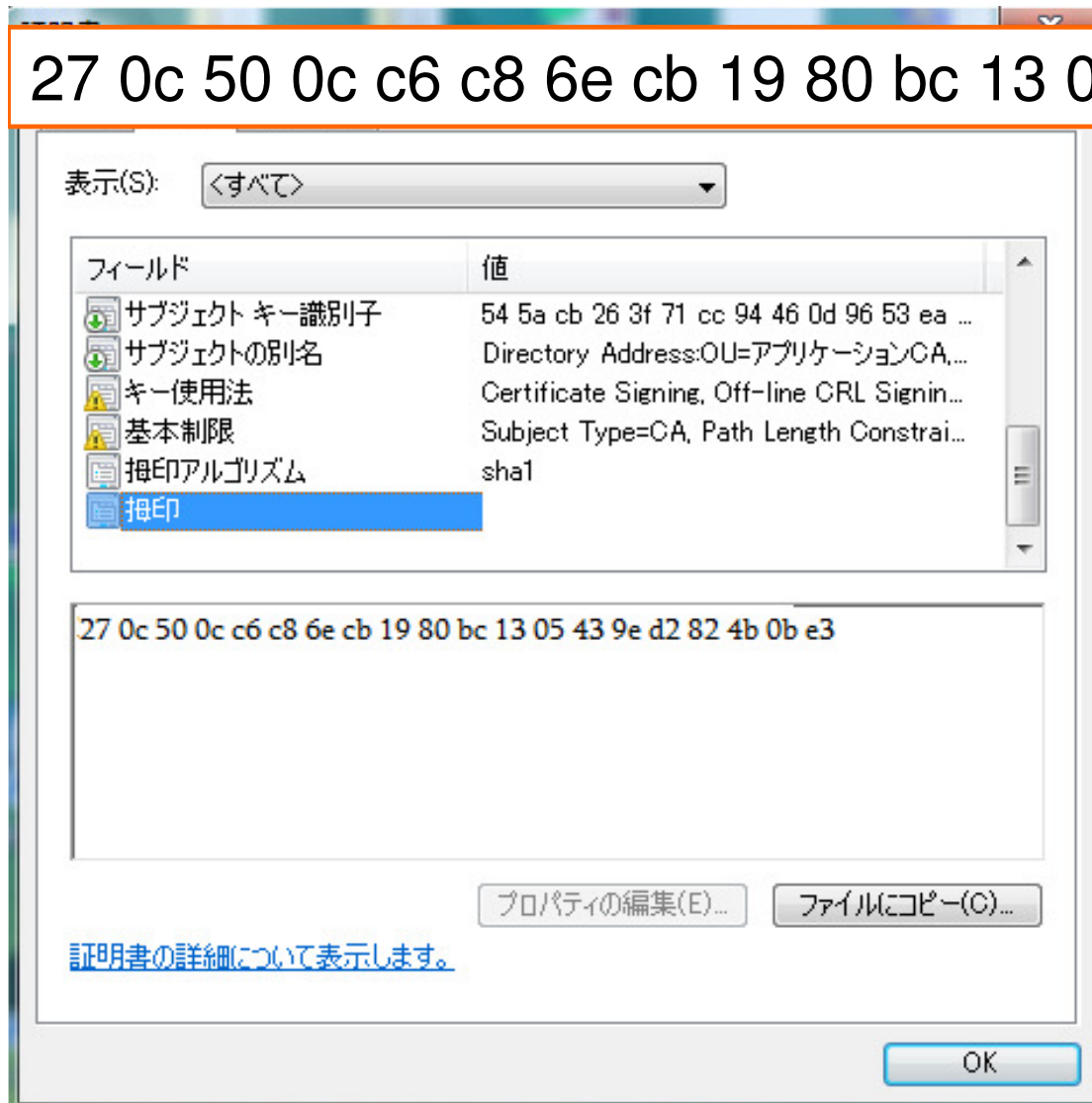
Human inspection

- **Get a fingerprint via non-Internet channel.**
 - Such as newspaper, official gazette.
- **Download an X.509 cert via the Internet.**
 - Usually self-signed CA certificate.
- **Check these fingerprints.**



Let's try !!

27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3



[証明書の詳細について表示します。](#)

What's wrong ?

- **It is difficult for us to check it :**
 - **Case-sensitive problem**
 - **Different from separation of blocks**
 - **(Vertically problem)**
- **Trigger human errors...**

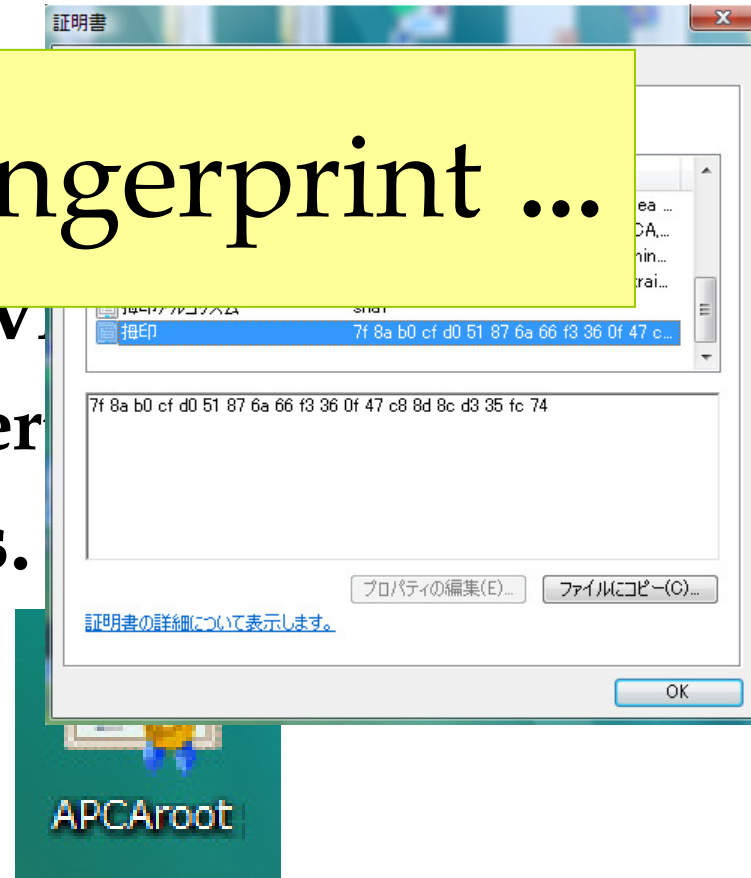
Human inspection

- **Get a fingerprint via non-Internet channel.**
 - Such as newspaper, official gazette.
- **Download an X.509 cert via the Internet.**
 - Usually self-signed CA certificate.
- **Check these fingerprints.**



Human inspection

- Only display a fingerprint ...
- Download an X.509 cert v1
 - Usually self-signed CA cert
- Check these fingerprints.



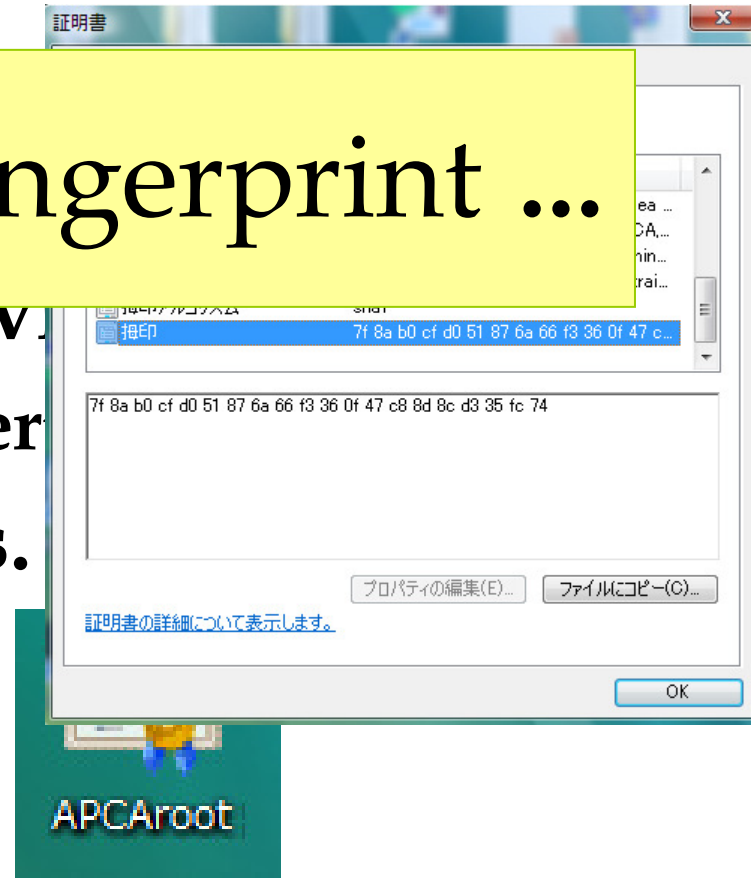
We can do ~~interaction~~ Human ~~inspection~~

- Only display a fingerprint ...
- Download an X.509 cert v1
 - Usually self-signed CA cert
- Check these fingerprints.



?

==



My proposal is simple

- Users can do something
 - Passive mode
 - Basically check something.
 - Not only (boring) hex strings.
 - Active mode
 - Interactive to PCs.

Example: Music scores

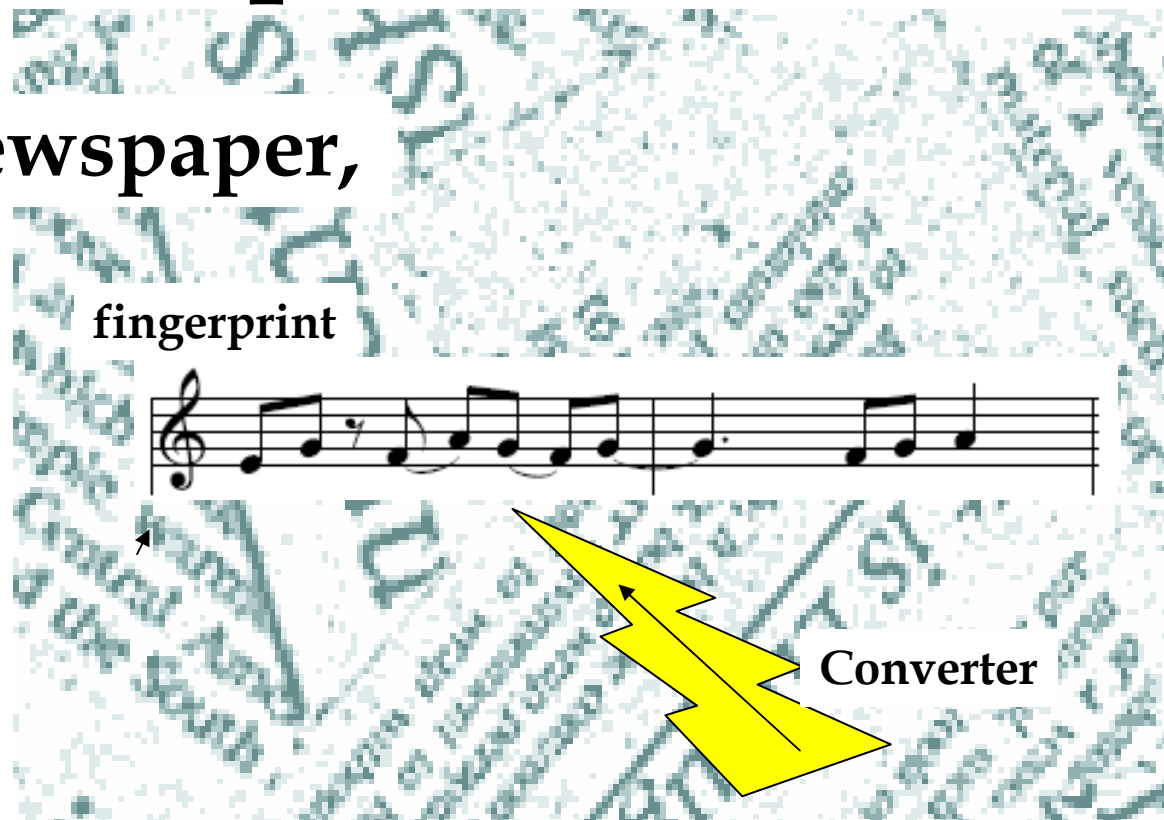
- In a newspaper,

fingerprint



Example: Music scores

- In a newspaper,



27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3



APCAroot

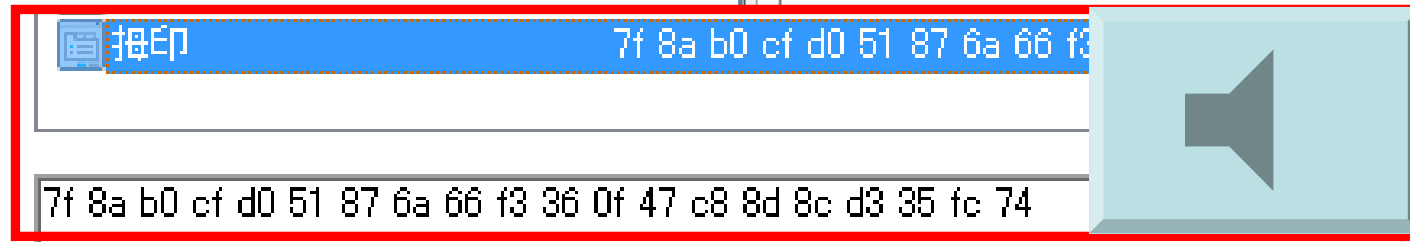
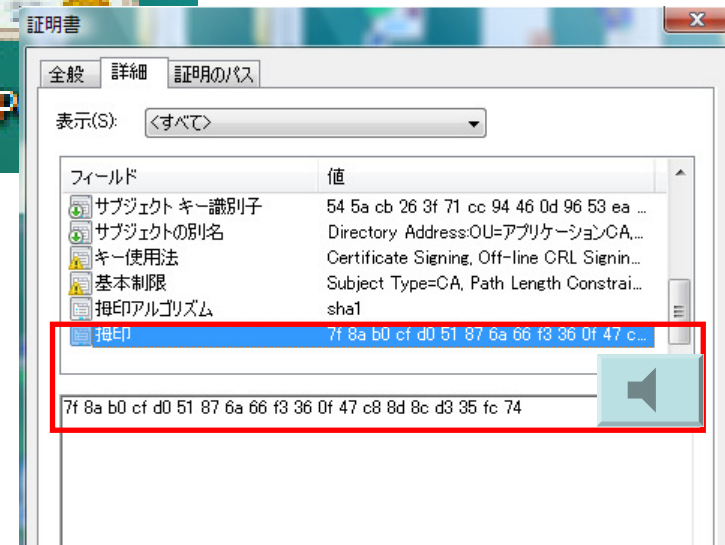
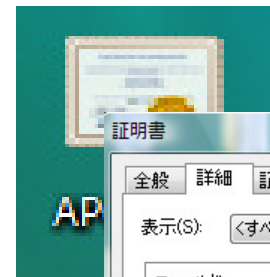
Example: Music scores

- Check these fingerprints.



?

=



Example: Music scores

- Check these fingerprints.

The image is a composite graphic. On the left, a conductor in a black suit holds a baton, standing behind a musical score. To the right of the conductor is a large red question mark above two horizontal red lines. Further right is a screenshot of a Japanese certificate window titled '証明書' (Certificate) with tabs for '全般' (General), '詳細' (Details), and '証明のパス' (Certificate Path). Below the certificate is a network packet capture window showing a packet with a blue header and a grey body. The header contains the text '押印' (Seal) and a hexadecimal string '7f 8a b0 cf d0 51 87 6a 66 f3'. The body contains a longer hexadecimal string: '7f 8a b0 cf d0 51 87 6a 66 f3 36 0f 47 c8 8d 8c d3 35 fc 74'. A large speaker icon is overlaid on the bottom right of the network packet capture window. A yellow rectangular box is positioned over the bottom half of the image, containing the text 'Passive mode: Only listening'.

Passive mode: Only listening

Example: Music scores

- Check these fingerprints.

Active mode: Signing
(PCs have a microphone and check user's song)

フィールド	値
サブジェクト キー識別子	54 5a cb 26 3f 71 cc 94 46 0d 96 53 ea ...
サブジェクトの別名	Directory Address:OU=アプリケーションCA,...
キー使用法	Certificate Signing, Off-line CRL Signin...
基本制限	...

押印 7f 8a b0 cf d0 51 87 6a 66 f3

7f 8a b0 cf d0 51 87 6a 66 f3 36 0f 47 c8 8d 8c d3 35 fc 74

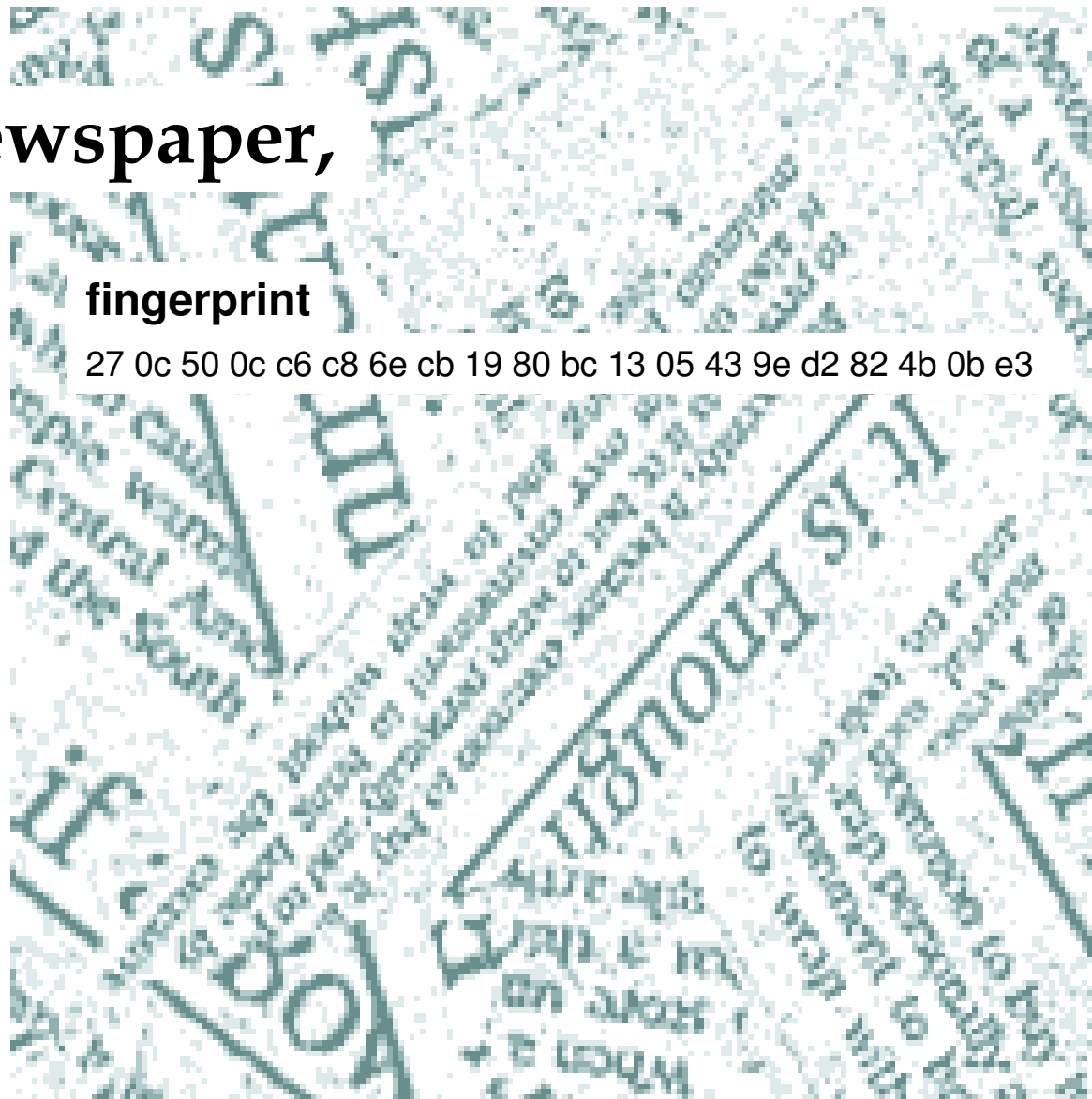
Is it more complicated ?

Simple example: Input fingerprint

- In a newspaper,

fingerprint

27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3



Simple example: Input fingerprint

- In a newspaper,

fingerprint

27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3

Active mode: Inputting

(PCs make us input a fingerprint)

27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3



APCARoot

Is it a boring task ?

We need something incentive

Active mode: Inputting

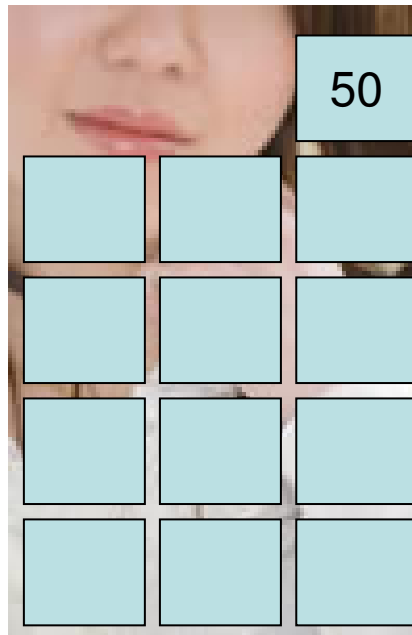
(PCs make us input a fingerprint)

27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3

We need something incentive

Active mode: Inputting

(PCs make us input a fingerprint)



27 0c 50 0c c6 c8 6e cb 19 80 bc 13 05 43 9e d2 82 4b 0b e3