What is post-quantum crypto and why should we care?

Tanja Lange

Eindhoven University of Technology

SAC – Post-quantum cryptography

U.S. National Academy of Sciences report

Quantum Computing: Progress and Prospects (2019)

Don't panic. "Key Finding 1: Given the current state of quantum computing and recent rates of progress, it is highly unexpected that a quantum computer that can compromise RSA 2048 or comparable discrete logarithm-based public key cryptosystems will be built within the next decade."

U.S. National Academy of Sciences report

Quantum Computing: Progress and Prospects (2019)

Don't panic. "Key Finding 1: Given the current state of quantum computing and recent rates of progress, it is highly unexpected that a quantum computer that can compromise RSA 2048 or comparable discrete logarithm-based public key cryptosystems will be built within the next decade."

Panic. "Key Finding 10: Even if a quantum computer that can decrypt current cryptographic ciphers is more than a decade off, the hazard of such a machine is high enough—and the time frame for transitioning to a new security protocol is sufficiently long and uncertain—that prioritization of the development, standardization, and deployment of post-quantum cryptography is critical for minimizing the chance of a potential security and privacy disaster."

High urgency for long-term confidentiality

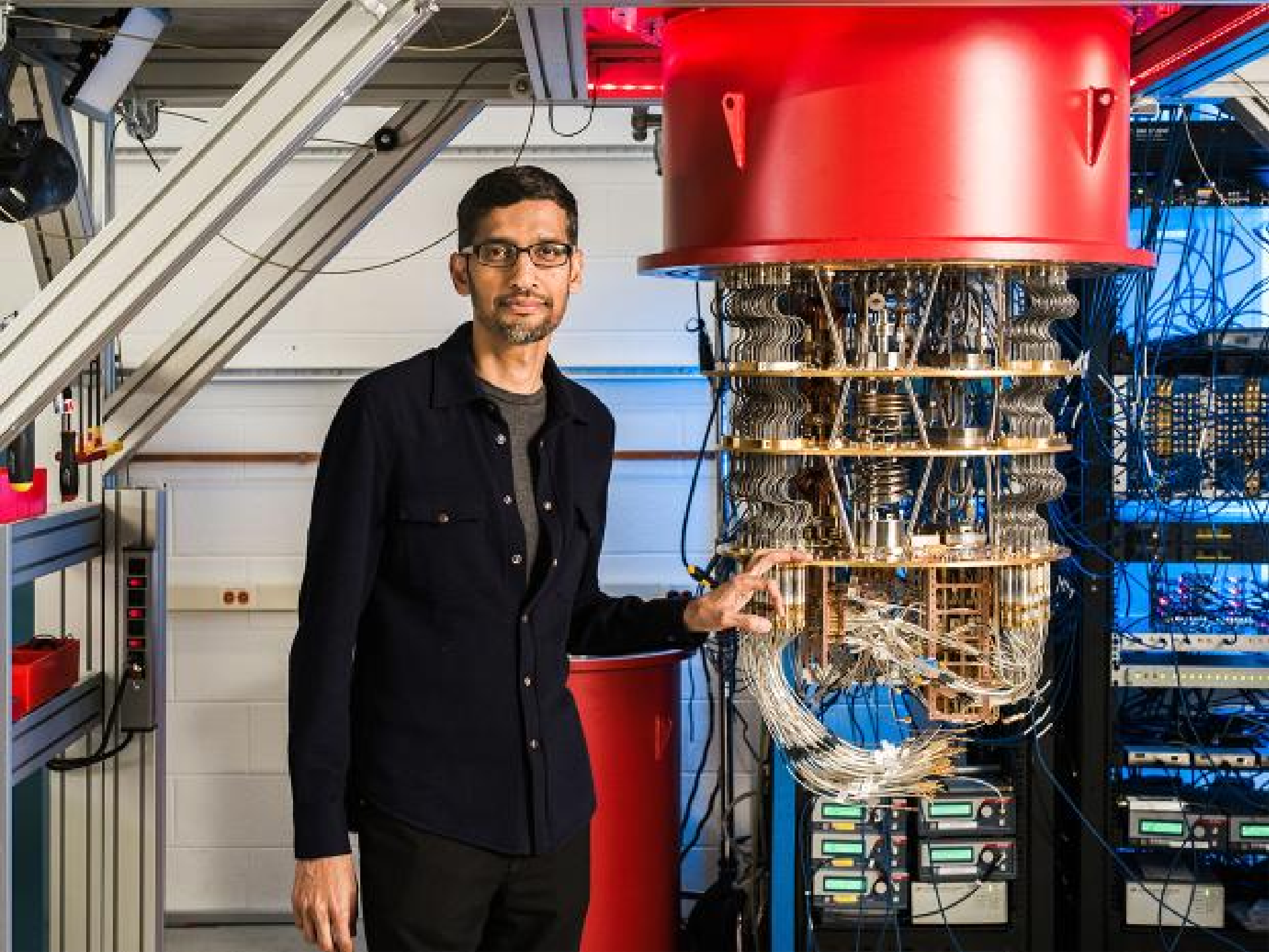
- Today's encrypted communication is being stored by attackers and will be decrypted years later with quantum computers. Danger for human-rights workers, medical records, journalists, security research, legal proceedings, state secrets, ...

- Signature schemes can be replaced once a quantum computer is built – but there will be no public announcement

High urgency for long-term confidentiality

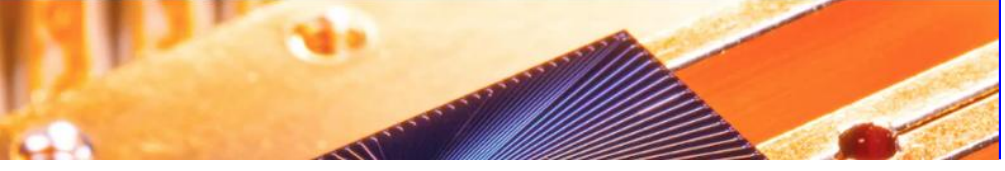
- Today's encrypted communication is being stored by attackers and will be decrypted years later with quantum computers. Danger for human-rights workers, medical records, journalists, security research, legal proceedings, state secrets, ...

- Signature schemes can be replaced once a quantum computer is built – but there will be no public announcement ... and an important function of signatures is to protect system upgrades.
- Protect your upgrades *now* with post-quantum signatures.



Premium

Quantum computing could end encryption within five years, says Google boss



Mr Pichai said a combination of artificial intelligence and quantum would "help us tackle some of the biggest problems we see", but said it was important encryption evolved to match this.

"In a five to ten year time frame, quantum computing will break encryption as we know it today."

This is because current encryption methods, by which information such as texts or passwords is turned into code to make it unreadable, rely upon the fact that classic computers would take billions of years to decipher that code.

Quantum computers, with their ability to be

Commonly used systems

Sender
"Alice"

Untrustworthy network
"Eve"

Receiver
"Bob"

Cryptography with symmetric keys
AES-128. **AES-192**. **AES-256**. **AES-GCM**. **ChaCha20**. **HMAC-SHA-256**. **Poly1305**. **SHA-2**. **SHA-3**. **Salsa20**.

Cryptography with public keys
BN-254. **Curve25519**. **DH**. **DSA**. **ECDH**. **ECDSA**. **EdDSA**. **NIST P-256**. **NIST P-384**. **NIST P-521**. **RSA encrypt**. **RSA sign**. **secp256k1**.

Commonly used systems

Sender
"Alice"

Untrustworthy network
"Eve" with quantum computer

Receiver
"Bob"

Cryptography with symmetric keys
AES-128. **AES-192**. **AES-256**. **AES-GCM**. **ChaCha20**. **HMAC-SHA-256**. **Poly1305**. **SHA-2**. **SHA-3**. **Salsa20**.

Cryptography with public keys
BN-254. **Curve25519**. **DH**. **DSA**. **ECDH**. **ECDSA**. **EdDSA**. **NIST P-256**. **NIST P-384**. **NIST P-521**. **RSA encrypt**. **RSA sign**. **secp256k1**.

Post-quantum cryptography

Cryptography under the assumption that the attacker has a quantum computer.

Post-quantum cryptography

Cryptography under the assumption that the attacker has a quantum computer.

Categories of mathematical problems for post-quantum public-key crypto:

- Code-based encryption and signatures.
- Hash-based signatures.
- Isogeny-based encryption.
- Lattice-based encryption and signatures.
- Multivariate-quadratic encryption and signatures.

This list is based on the best known attacks (as always).

These are categories of mathematical problems;
individual systems may be totally insecure
if the problem is not used correctly.