

10 Years' Key challenges in LINE's Cyber Security and Privacy

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LINE Corporation



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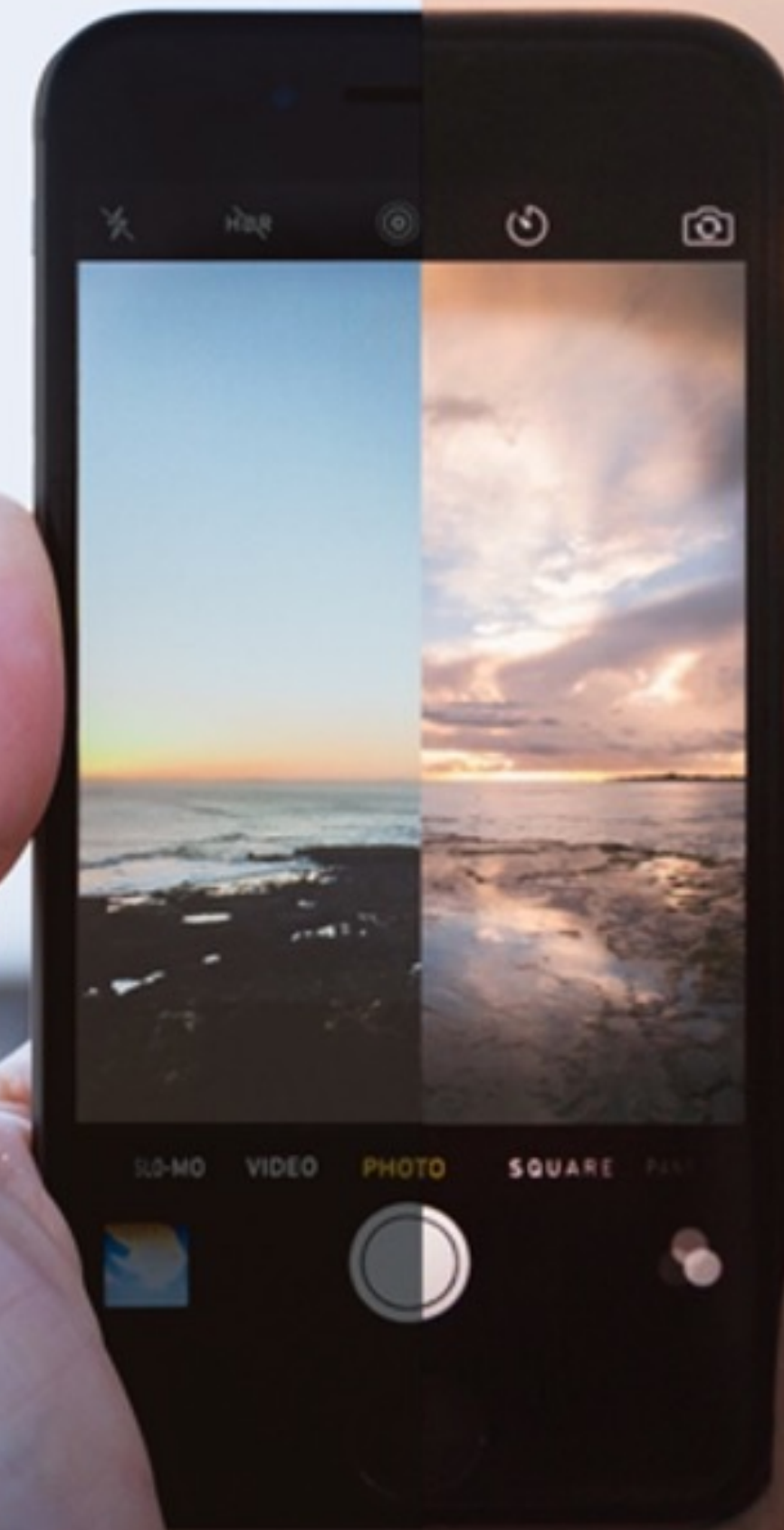
R&R

- Trust & Safety, Security Consulting
- External communication regarding cyber security
- CISO board / security team management
- LINE global security governance
- Asia & Pacific security team lead
- FIDO Board member , ..

OUR MISSION

CLOSING THE DISTANCE

Based in Japan, LINE Corporation is dedicated to the mission of "Closing the Distance," bringing together information, services and people. The LINE messaging app launched in June 2011 and since then has grown into a diverse, global ecosystem that includes AI technology, fintech and more. In March 2021, LINE completed its business integration with the Z Holdings Group, one of Japan's largest internet-related companies.



LINE

DYNAMIC USER BASE



GLOBAL

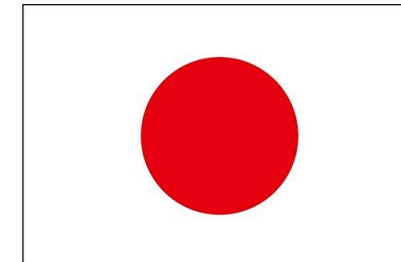


MAU (Monthly Active Users)

189M

(MAU/population*)

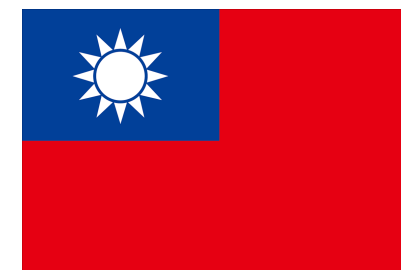
JAPAN



89M

(≒70%)

TAIWAN



21M

(≒90%)

THAILAND



52M

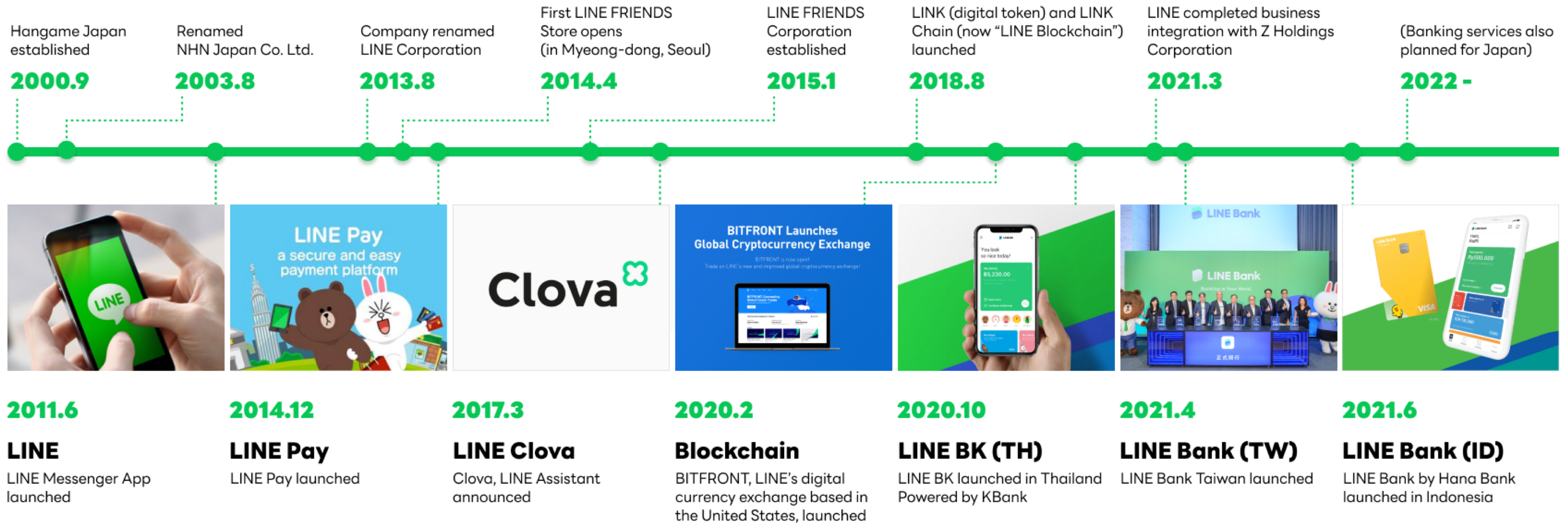
(≒74%)

(*) each data of population is referred from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

<https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/area>

LINE

HISTORY OF LINE



LINE

Life on LINE

A platform to support users' lives 24/7

7:00



LINE NEWS LINE TODAY

Getting up and checking the news

12:00



Demae-can LINE MAN

Getting pizza delivered for lunch

14:00



LINE Official Account

Get coupon notifications from your favorite brands when you visit a store

17:00



LINE Pay

Shopping for groceries

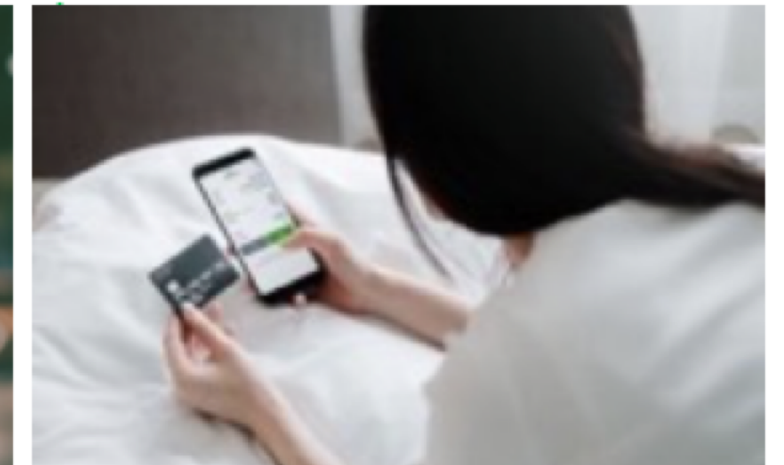
20:00



LINE MUSIC LINE TV

Finishing work and listening to music on the way home

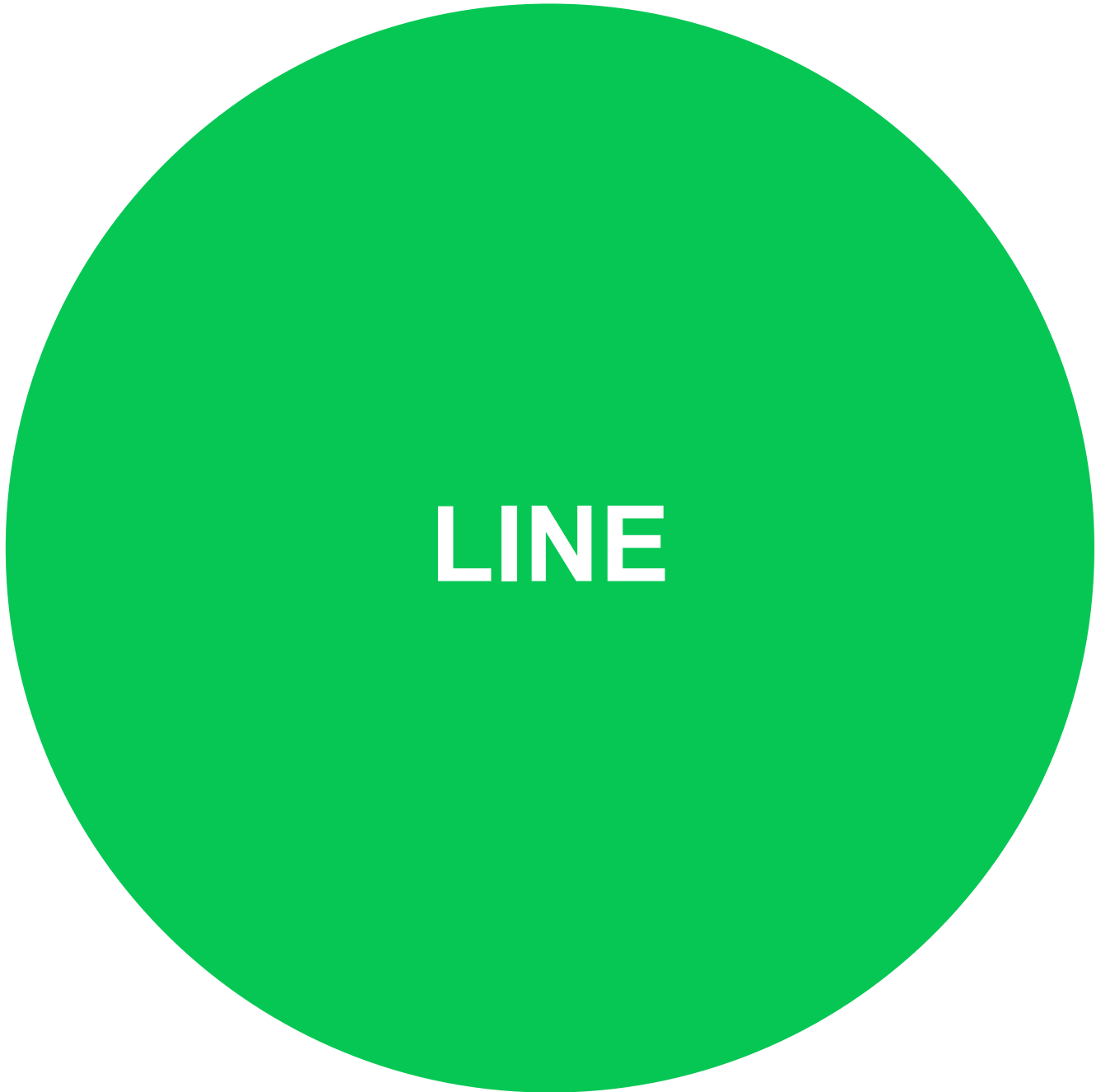
22:00



LINE SHOPPING

Buying new shoes before heading to bed

LINE



*“We shouldn’t ask our customers to make a tradeoff between privacy and security. We need to offer them the best of both.”
- Tim Cook, Apple*

LINE

LINE's 10-year's key challenges by

Technology

Process

Culture

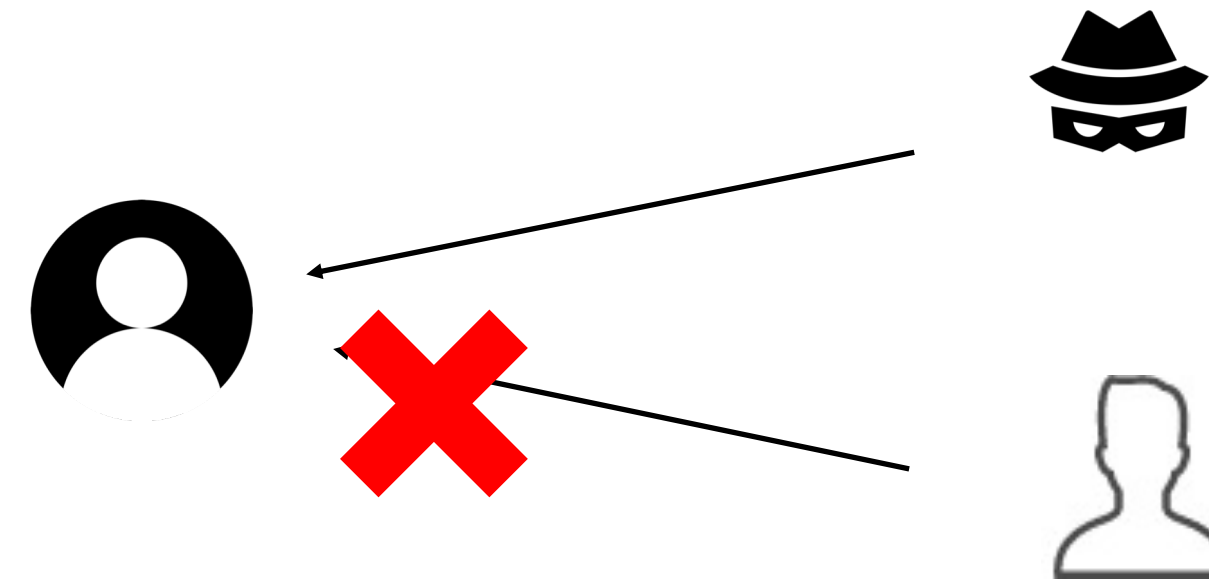
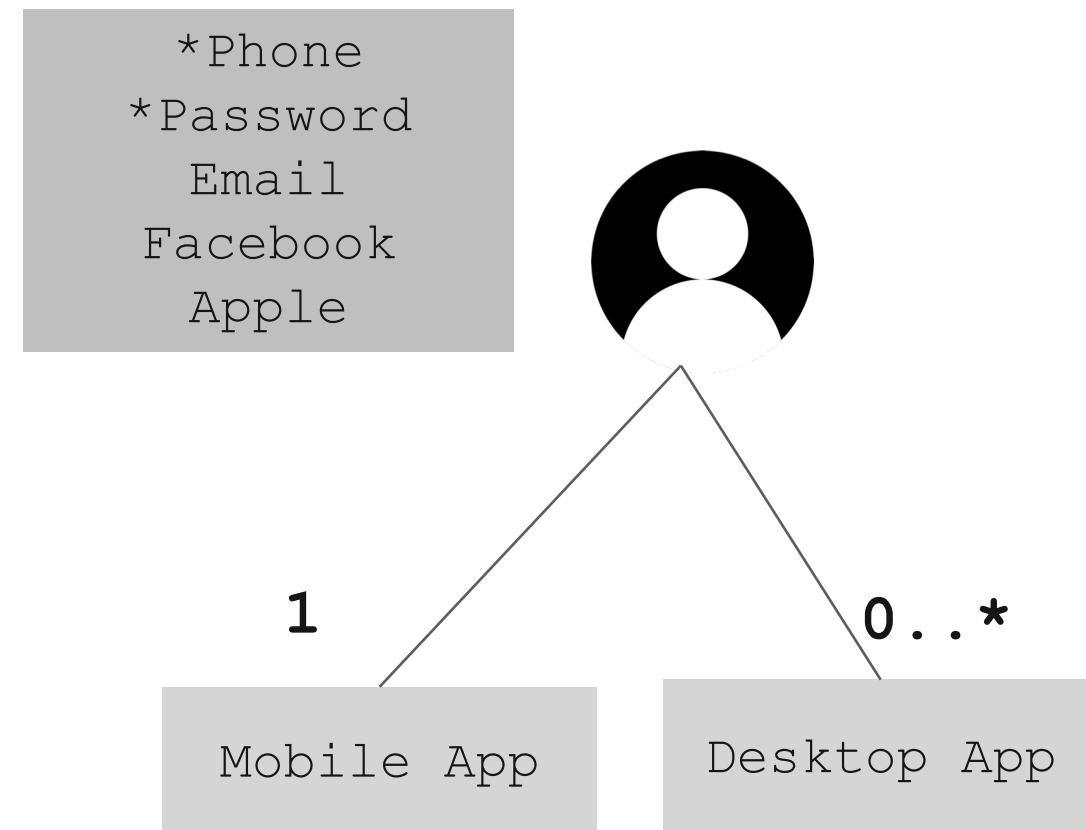
LINE

Technology

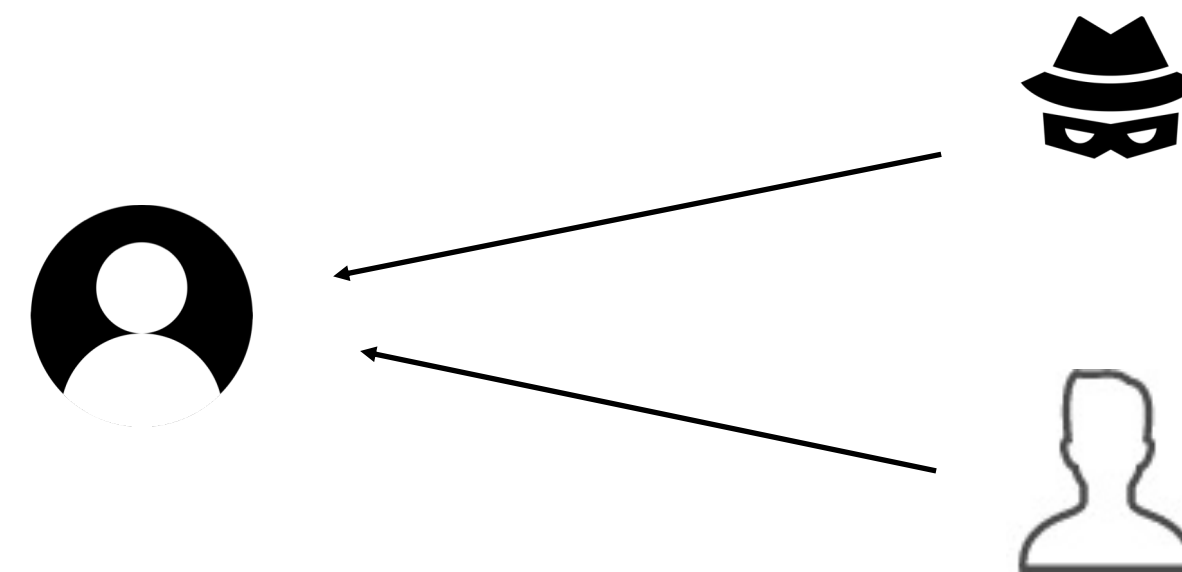
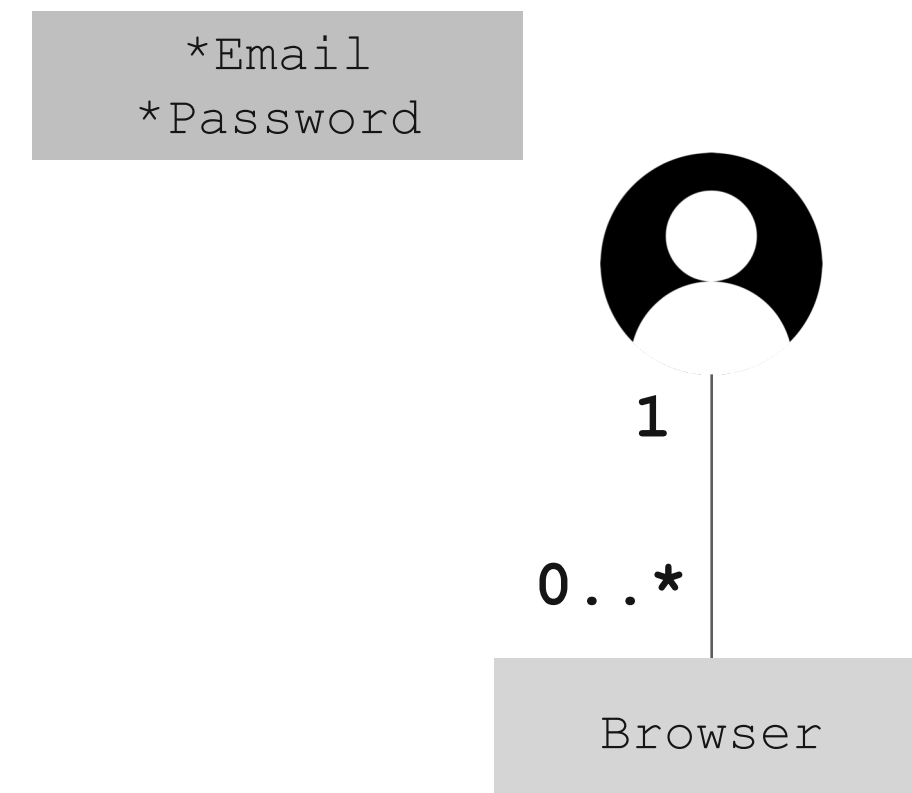
~ Pursue the value of technology, understand fragility, and eliminate threats ~

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model

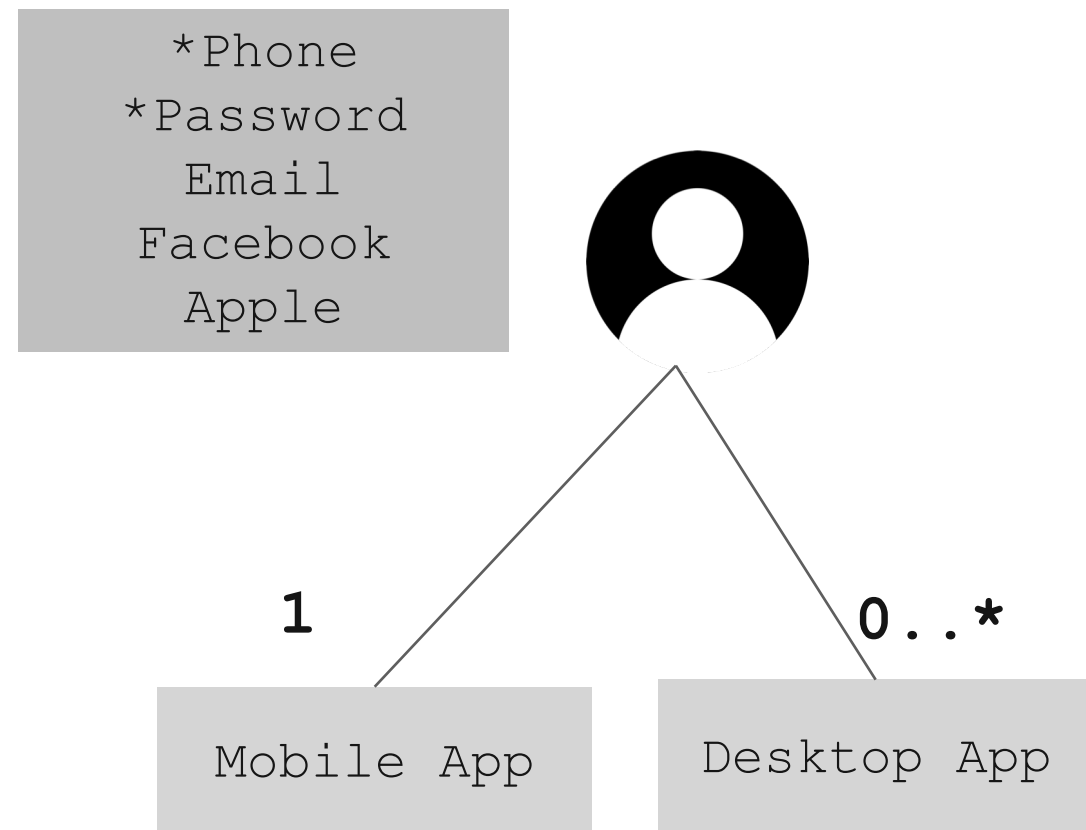


Typical Account Model in Web

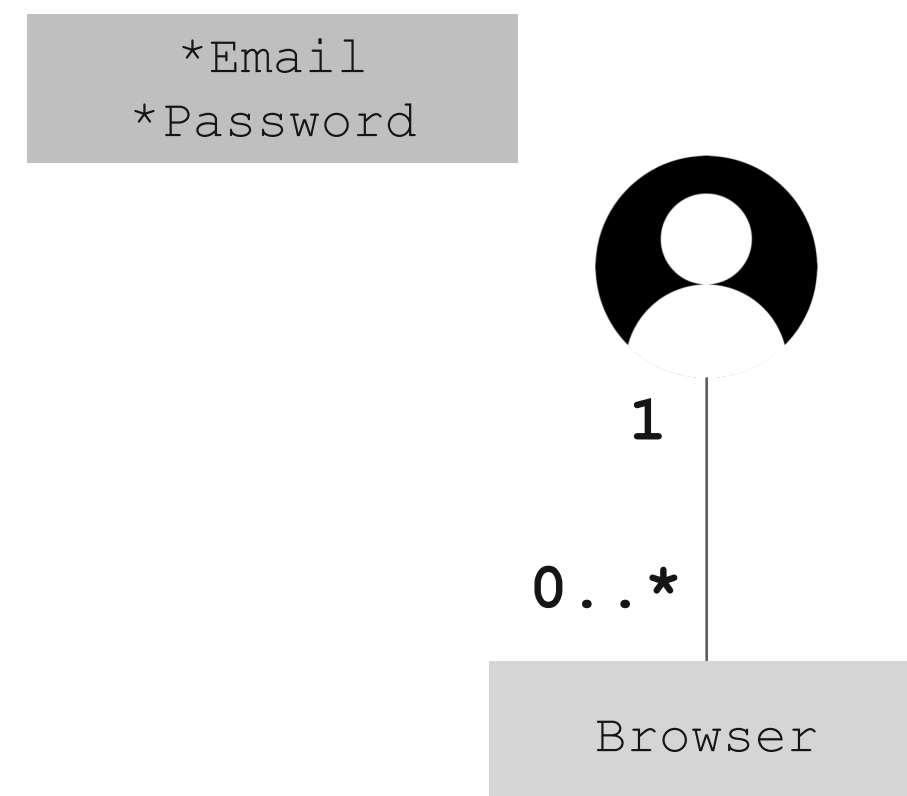


1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



Typical Account Model in Web



LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS



Attack Methods

PW list + New phone number

LINEのアカウントが乗っ取られた！絶対に知っておきたい対処法と予防策

2014年06月12日 15時04分 公開 [村上万純, ITmedia]

印刷 579 Share 70

「突然LINEにログインできなくなった！」「友だちに身に覚えのないメッセージを送っていた！」などの経験はないだろうか。もしくは、周りにそのような経験を持っていないだろうか。スマートフォンユーザーなら利用するのが当たり前のLINEアプリだが、実はLINEのアカウントは第三者から乗っ取られる可能性がある。

こういった場合にアカウントを乗っ取られるのか、乗っ取られるとどうなるのか、その後の対処方法はどうか、予防策は何かなど、気になる点を順に確認していきたい。事前に対策を打って乗っ取りの可能性を限りなくゼロに近づけることができる。安心してLINEを使うためにも、改めてセキュリティ回りを見直してみよう。

アカウントを乗っ取られると、どうなる？

第三者にアカウントを乗っ取られると、送ったはずのないメッセージがLINE上の「友だち」に送られる、読んでいないメッセージに既読が付くなど、いわゆる「なりすまし」が行われる。また、自分のスマホでLINEアプリが使えなかったり、第三者のPCからメッセージを盗み見されたりということもある。URL付きのスパムメッセージなどいかにも怪しいものが送られることもあるが、スタンプなど気軽にメッセージをやり取りできるLINEは、相手のアカウントが乗っ取ら



<https://www.itmedia.co.jp/mobile/articles/1406/12/news081.html>

NEWS 2014年06月24日 00時35分 JST | 更新 2014年06月24日 00時41分 JST

LINE乗っ取りの手口とは？「コンビニでWebMoneyのカード買って」

携帯電話用の無料通信アプリ「LINE（ライン）」で、何かがアカウントを乗っ取り、本人が知らない間に知人に金券を要求するという被害が相次いでいる。

The Huffington Post



携帯電話用の無料通信アプリ「LINE（ライン）」で、何かがアカウントを乗っ取り、本人が知らない間に知人に金券を要求するという被害が相次いでいる。登録しているメールアドレスとパスワードを不正に入手しているものとみられ、運営元のLINE株式会社ではパスワードの変更を呼びかけている。

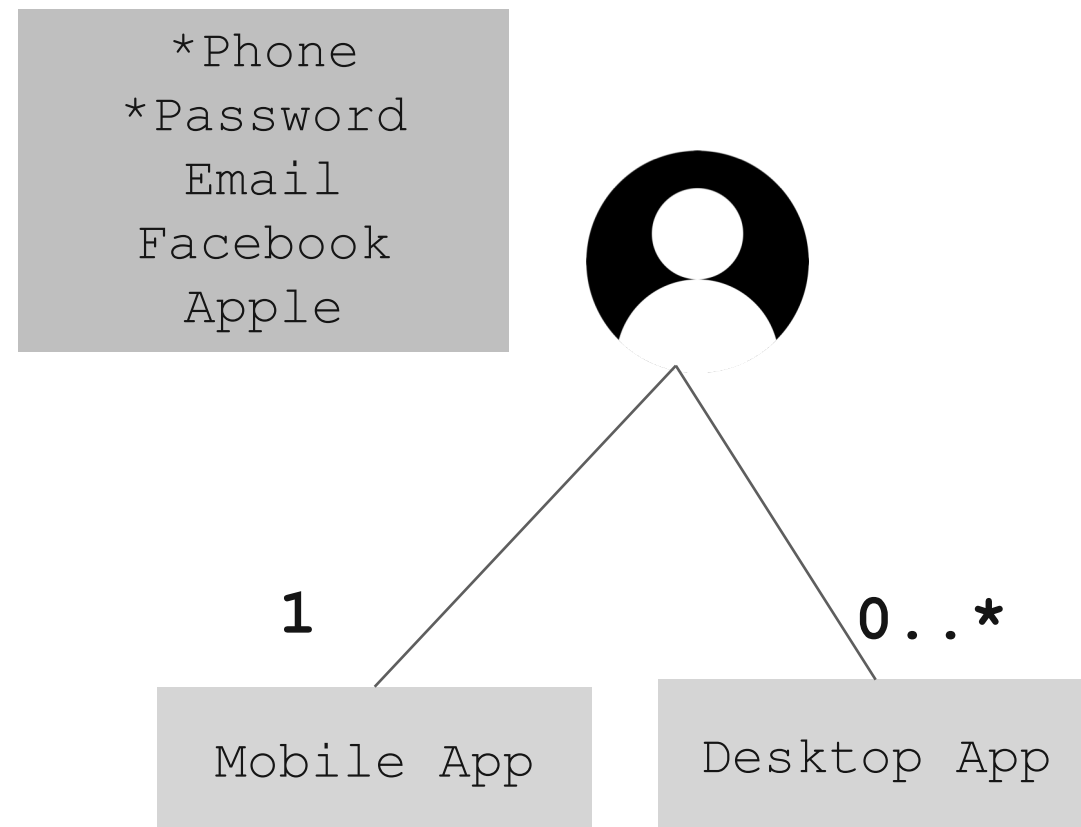
乗っ取りアカウントからのメッセージを受け取った人の証言によると、6月14日と22日に知人2人からほぼ同じメッセージ届いた。「何をしていますか？忙しいですか？手伝ってもらっていいですか？」というメッセージが届き、そこに返事をする「近くのコンビニエンスストアでWebMoneyのプリペイドカードを買うのを手伝ってもらえますか？」と要求されたという。

https://www.huffingtonpost.jp/2014/06/23/line-hacking_n_5524153.html

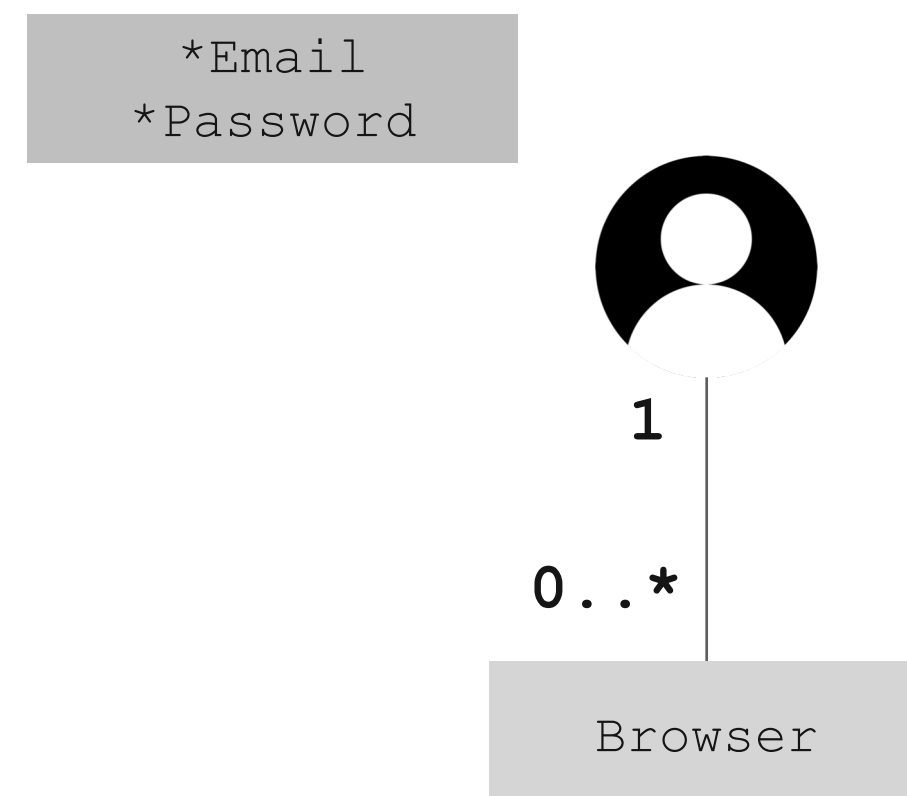
Account Take Over Problem

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



Typical Account Model in Web



LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS

2014 **NEW** + 4-digit PIN



Attack Methods

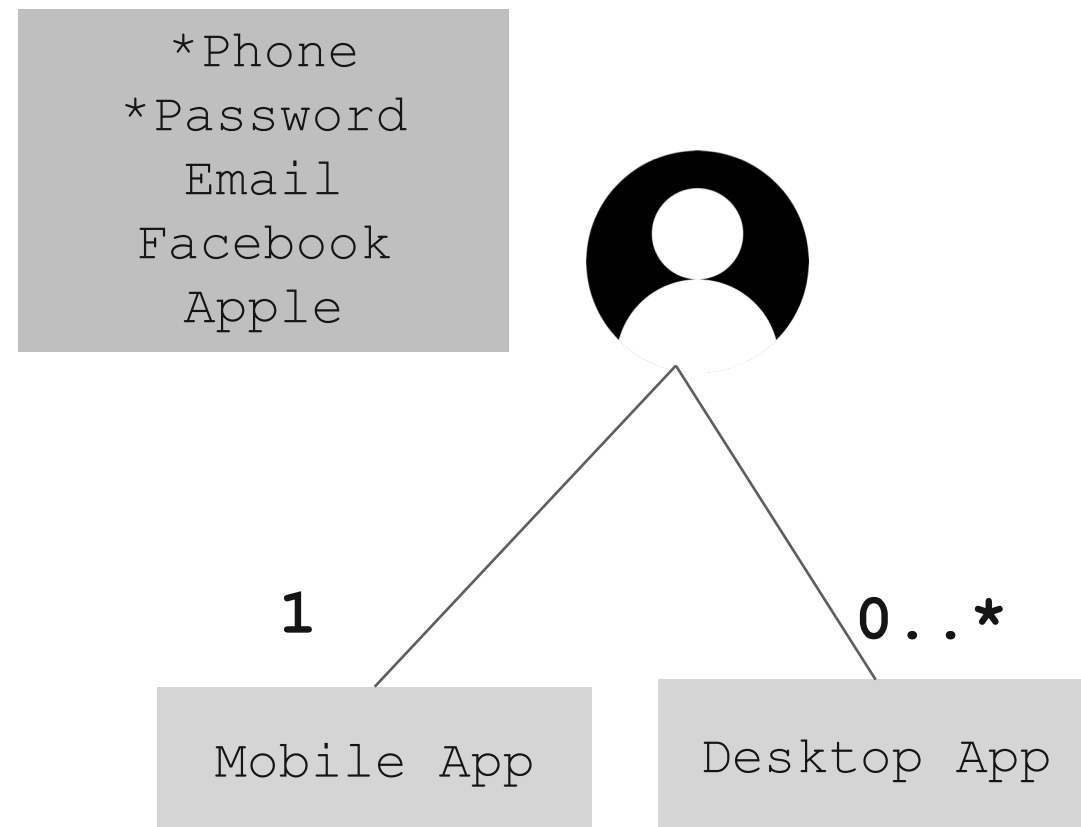
~~PW list~~ + New phone number



(*) above screen was available only during 2014-2016, and deprecated now

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS
2014	NEW + <u>4-digit PIN</u>

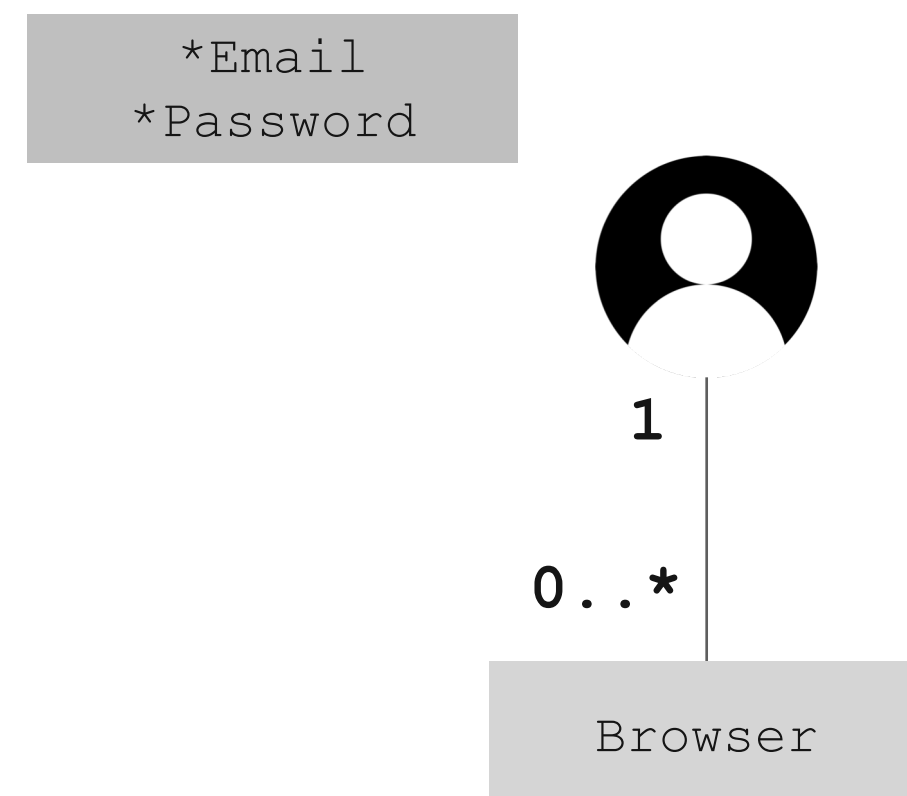


Attack Methods

~~PW list~~ + ~~New phone number~~

PW list + **GuesSED PIN**
+ New phone number

Typical Account Model in Web

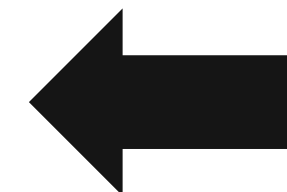


email = tim6342@xxxx.com
PIN = 6342

PW = "abcd0515"
PIN = 0515



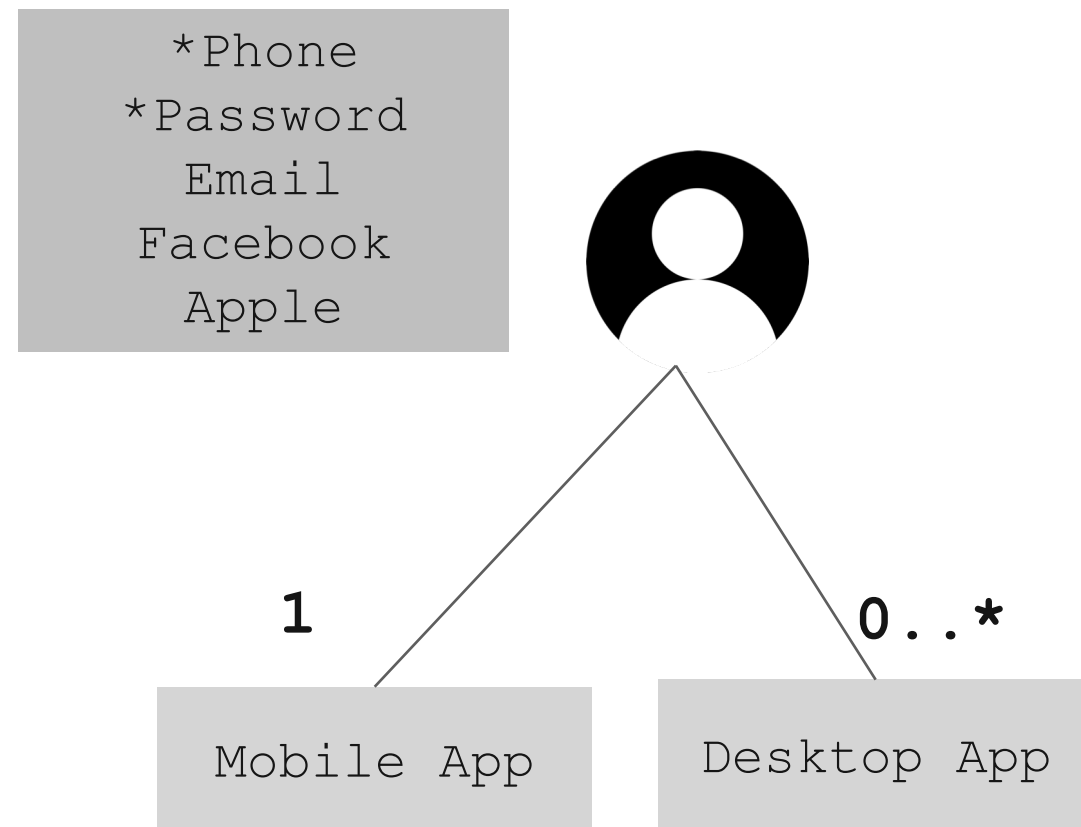
Easily Taken Over



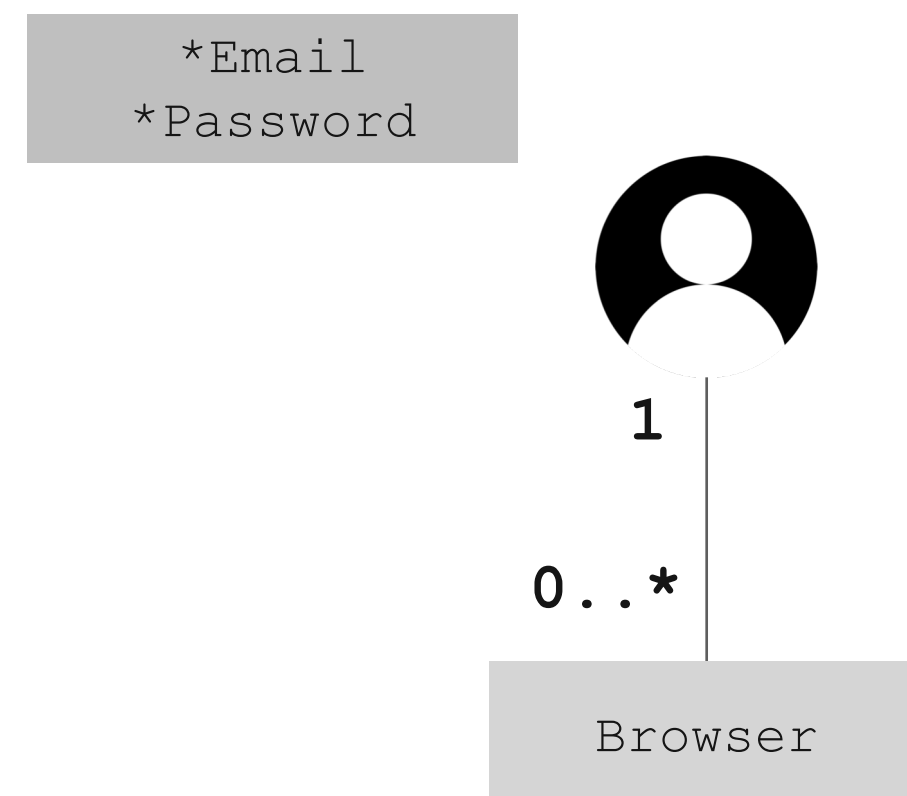
Email, PW, **PIN**

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



Typical Account Model in Web



LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device	Attack Methods
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS	PW list + New phone number
2014	+ 4-digit PIN	PW list + Gussed PIN + New phone number

2016 **NEW** New Migration Rule

“LINE checks if the user has the previous device / previous phone number when migrating to new device with new phone number”

Setting > Account migration > “ON” (available for 36 hours)

設定

- 個人情報
- アカウント
- プライバシー管理
- アカウント引き継ぎ**
- 年齢確認
- Keep

アカウント引き継ぎ

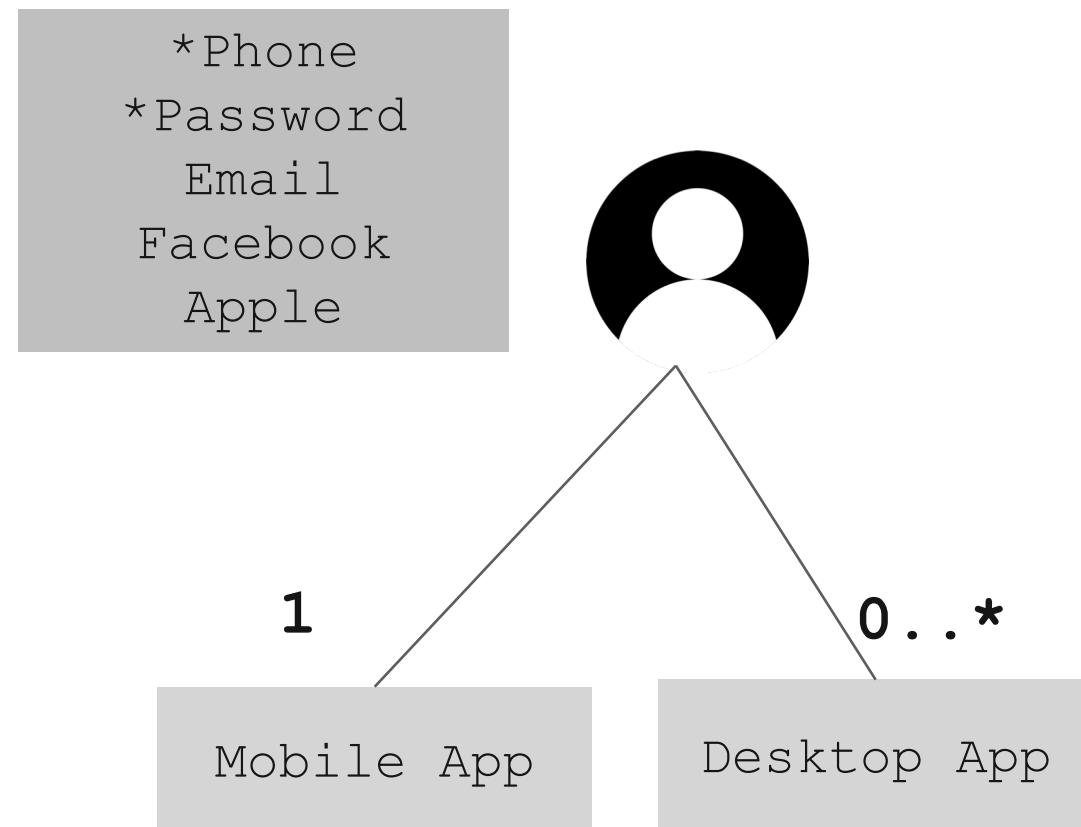
アカウントを引き継ぐ

残り時間: 35:59:57

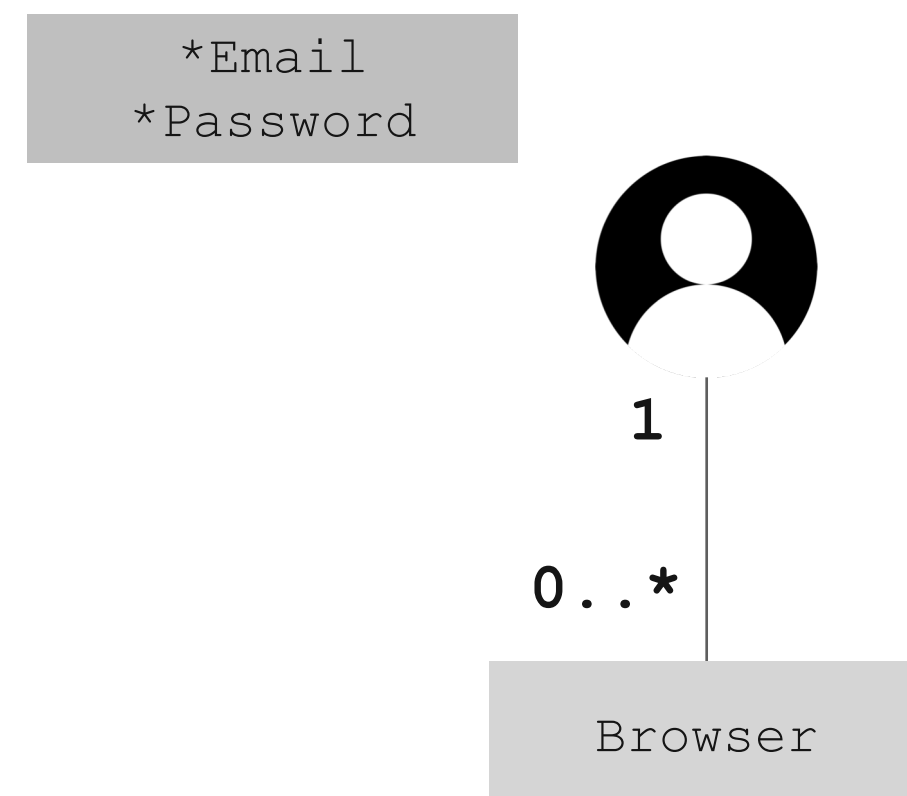
引き継ぎしない場合は絶対に設定をオンにしないでください
この設定をオンにすると、他のスマートフォンにアカウントを引き継ぐことができるようになります。オンにしてから一定時間が経過するか、引き継ぎが正常に完了すると、設定が自動的にオフになります。

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



Typical Account Model in Web



LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS
2014	+ 4-digit PIN
2016	NEW <u>New Migration Rule</u>

"LINE checks if the user has the previous device, or the previous phone number when migrating with new phone number"

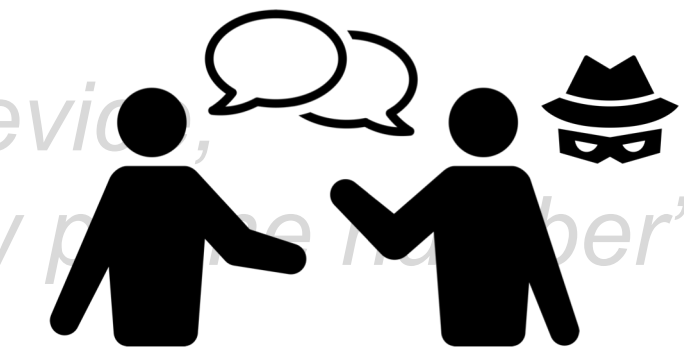


Attack Methods

~~PW list + New phone number~~

~~PW list + Guessed PIN
+ New phone number~~

Social Engineering



What's up?

Help me

090-1234-..

Your Phone?

7158

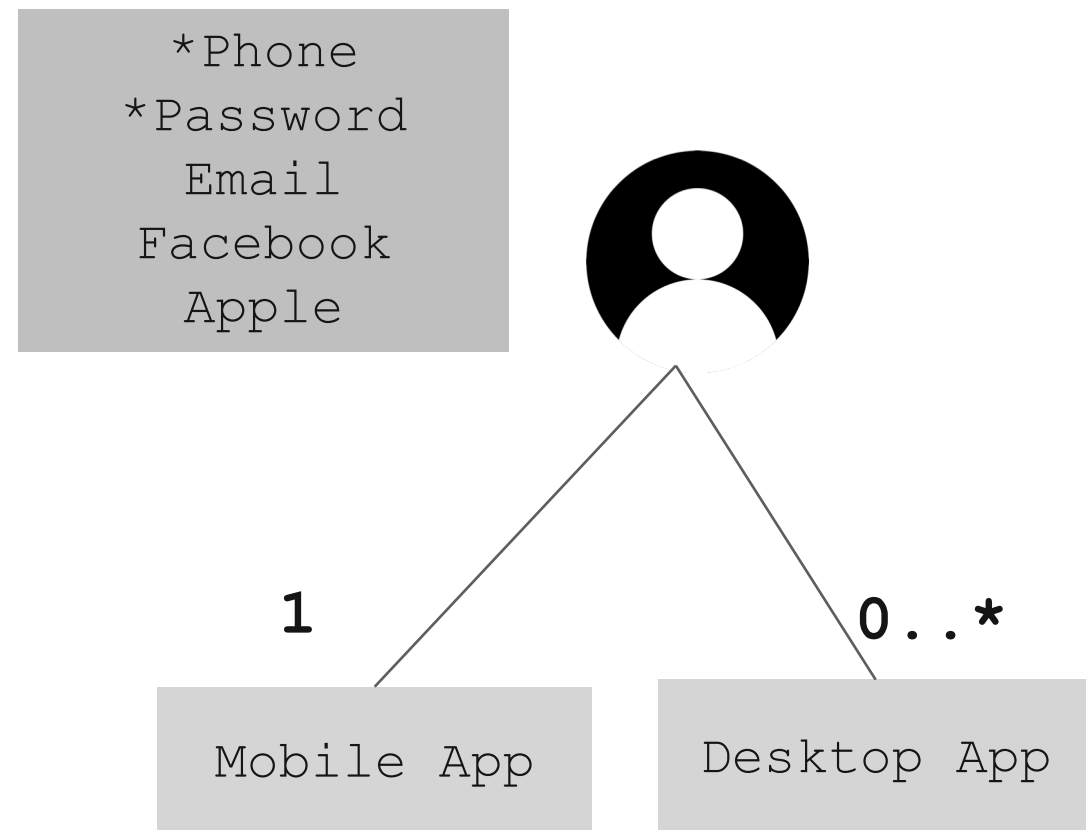
PIN code in SMS ?

Taken Over



1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



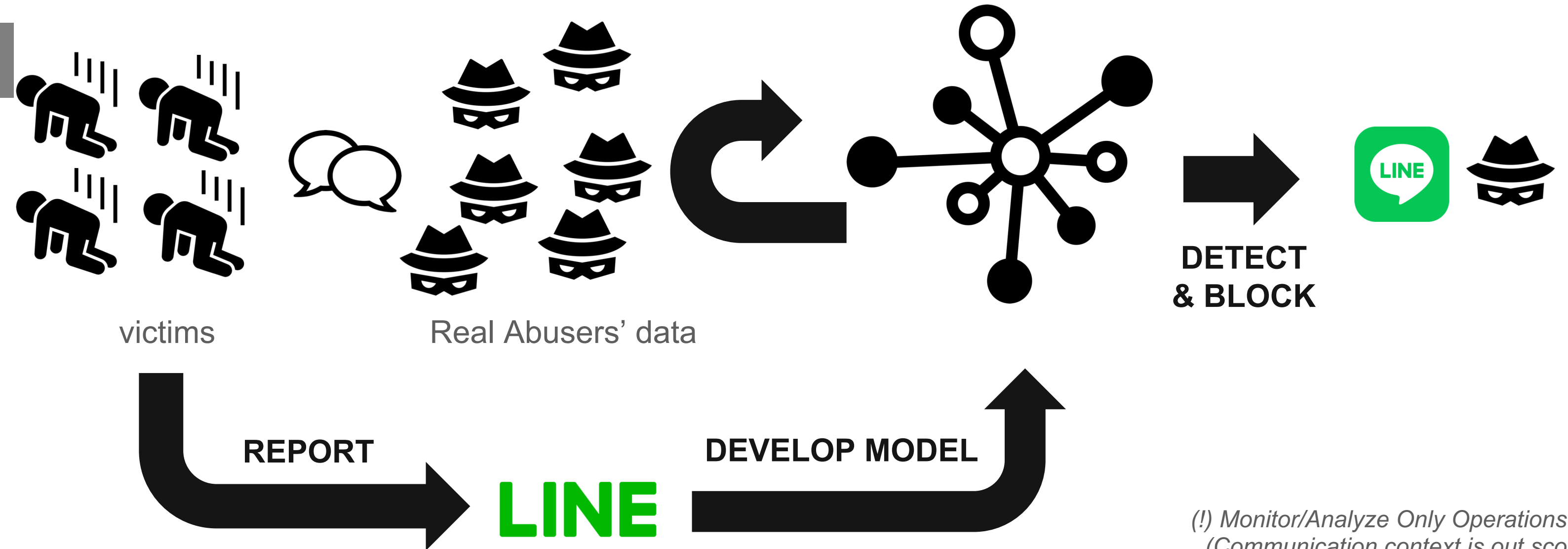
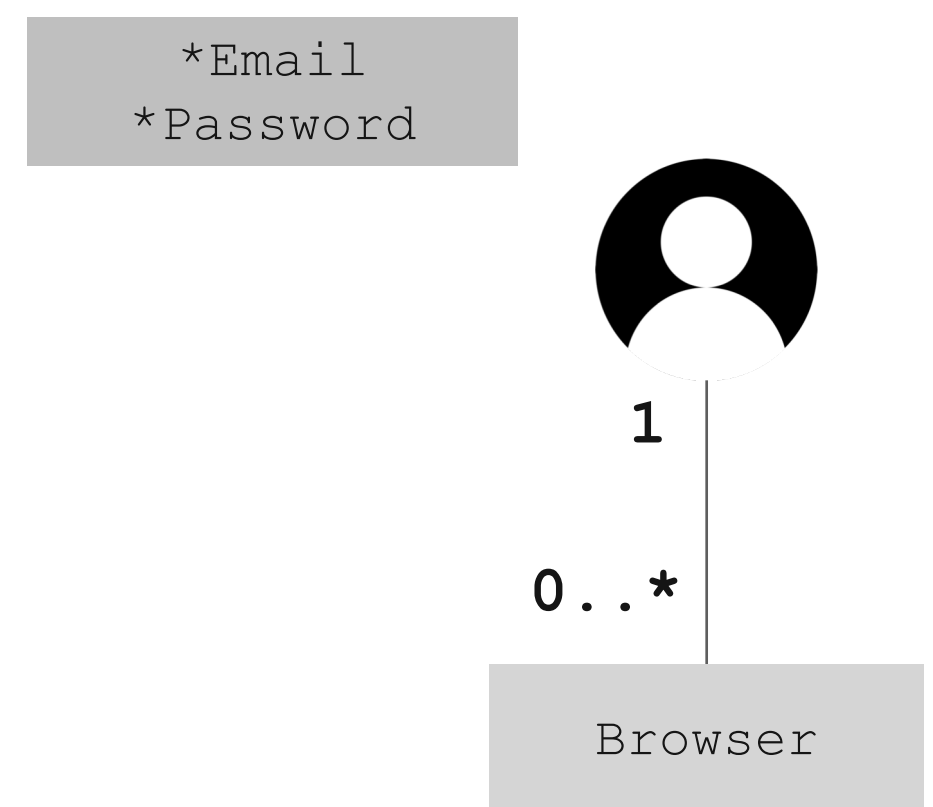
LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS
2014	Introduced 4-digit PIN
2016	New Migration Rule + Data Analysis / ML
~ ...	

Attack Methods

PW list + New phone number
PW list + Guessed PIN + New phone number
Social Engineering

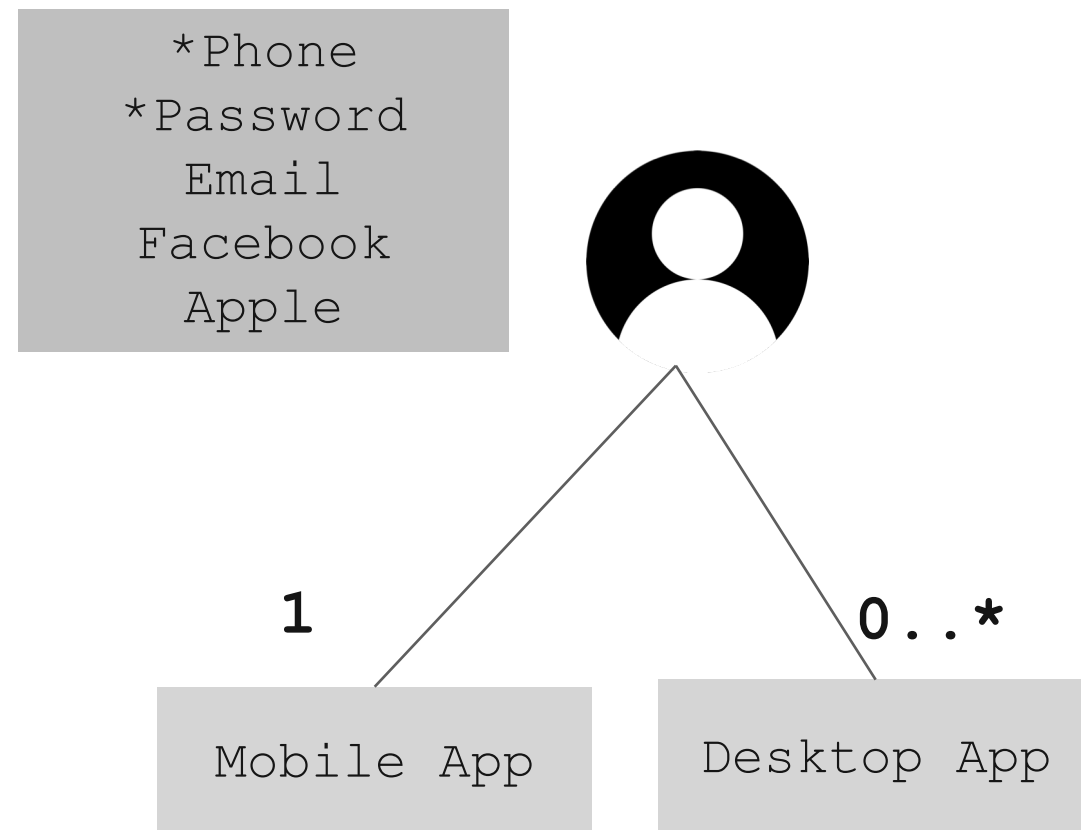
Typical Account Model in Web



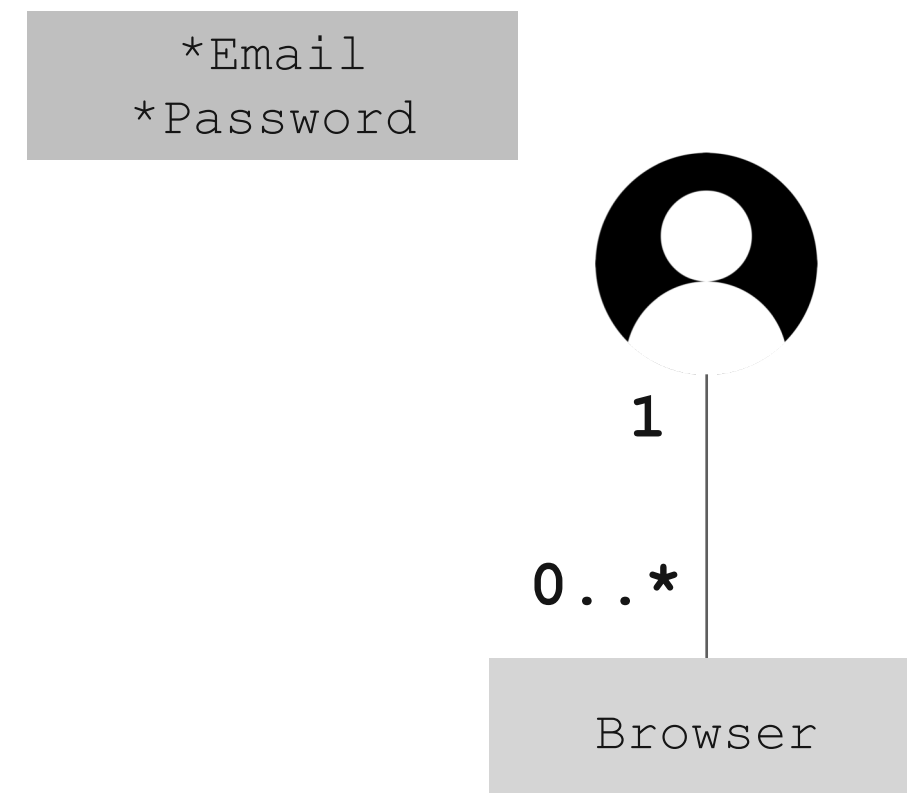
(!) Monitor/Analyze Only Operations in migration flow (Communication context is out scope of monitoring)

1. LINE Account Security

LINE Account Model



Typical Account Model in Web

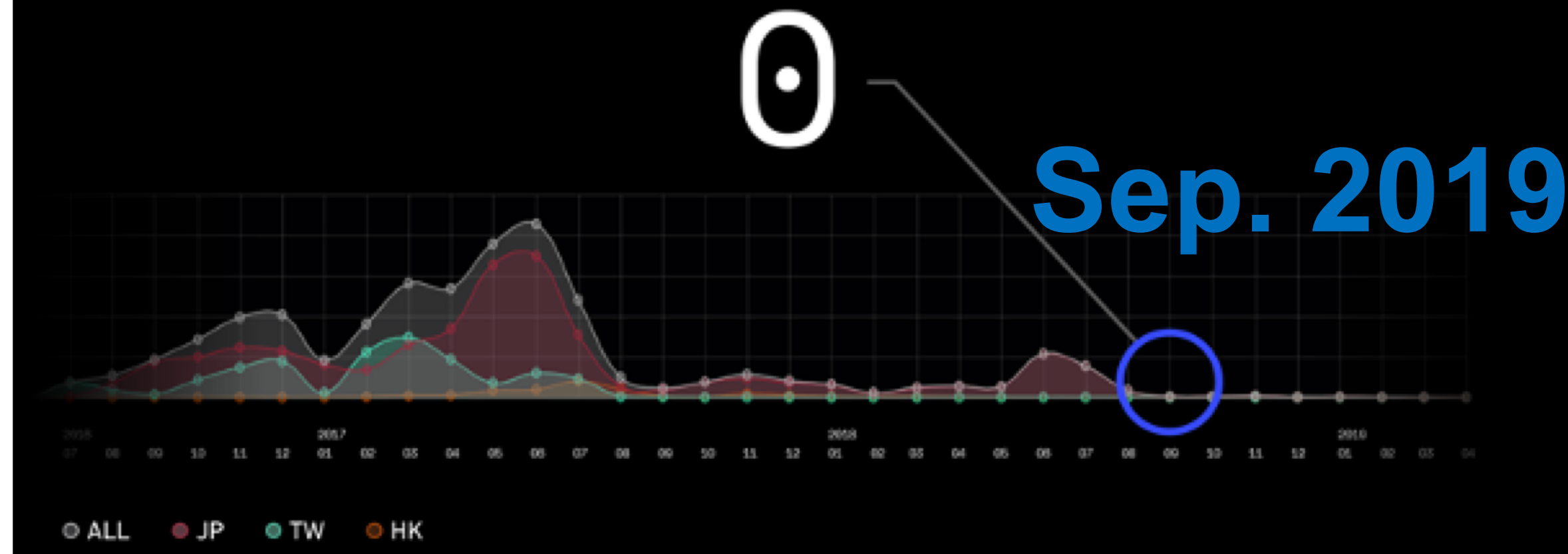


LINE Account Takeover History

Year	Login with another device	Attack Methods
2011~2014	email + pw + SMS	PW list + New phone number
2014	Introduced 4-digit PIN	PW list + Guessed PIN + New phone number
2016	New Migration Rule + Data Analysis / ML	Social Engineering



Machine Learning x Security



2. FIDO x LINE

What's FIDO?



=


Open standards for simpler, stronger authentication using **public key cryptography**

- Single Gesture
- Possession-based
- Phishing-resistant

LINE

2. FIDO x LINE

2017 **LINE** x **fido**™ as a Board member

2018  App launching

2019 **LINE Pay** X   Payment
JAPAN

2020 “**Passwordless**” LINE

2021 Open Sourced

<https://github.com/line/line-fido2-server>



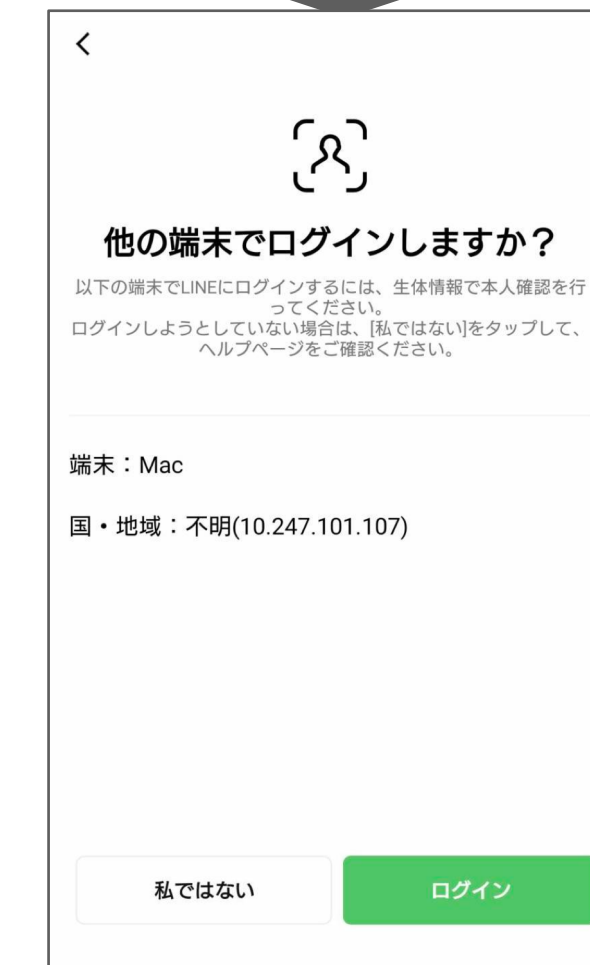
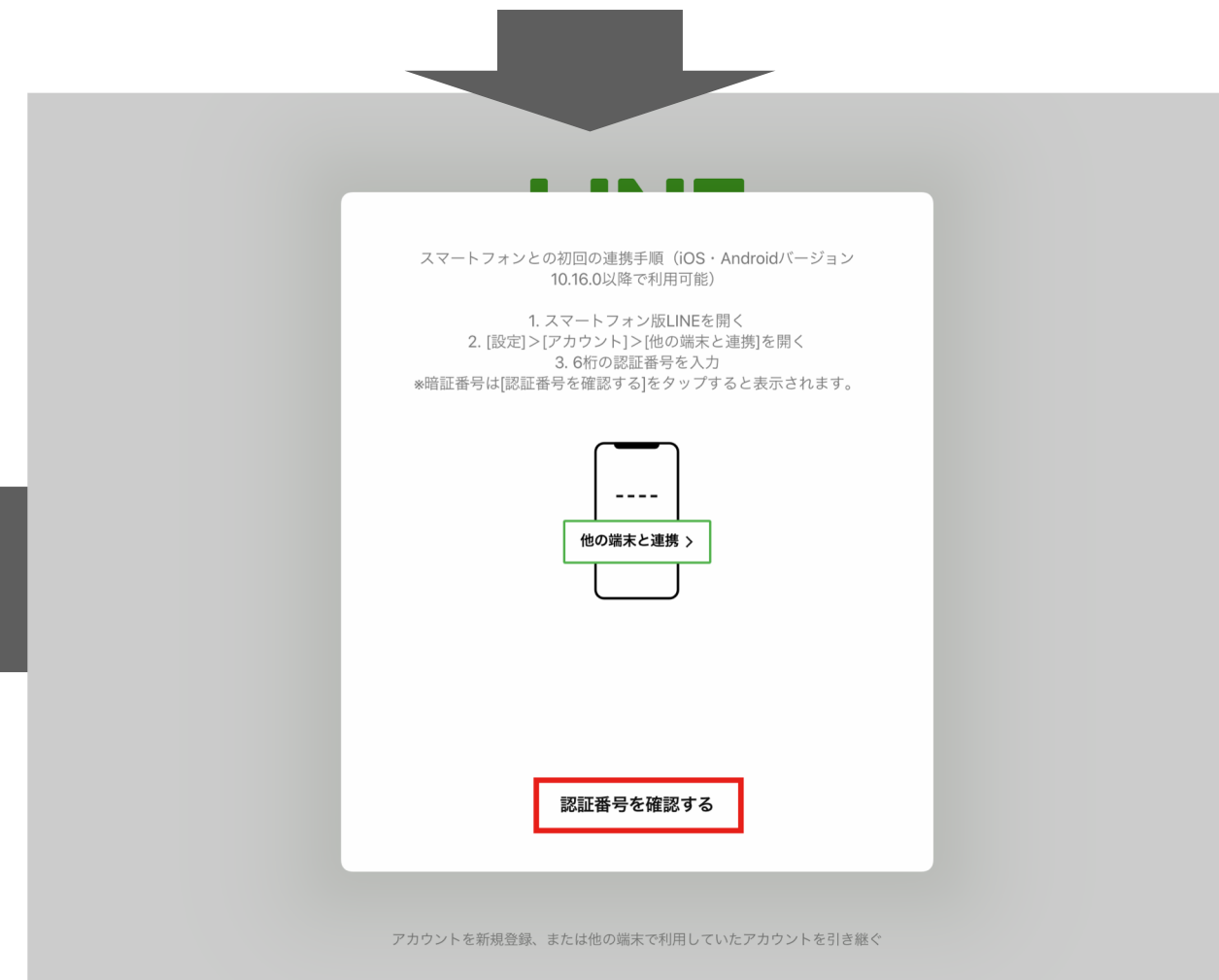
2. FIDO x LINE

“Passwordless” LINE

1st Time Login



After 2nd Time Login





2. FIDO x LINE

“Passwordless” LINE

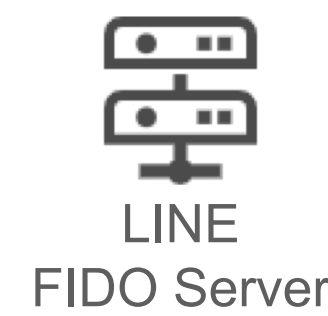
Registration (1st time login)



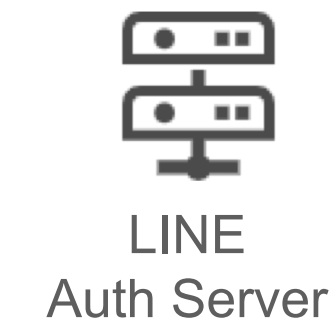
Authentication



LINE App



LINE FIDO Server



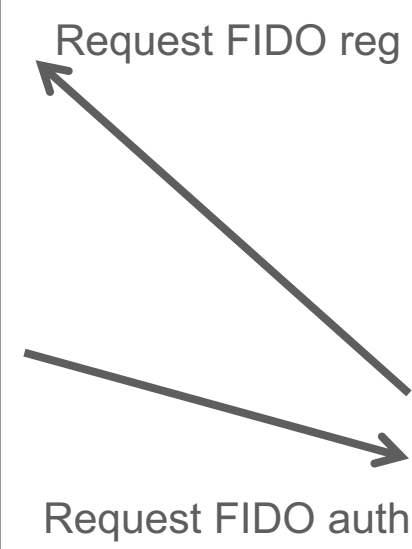
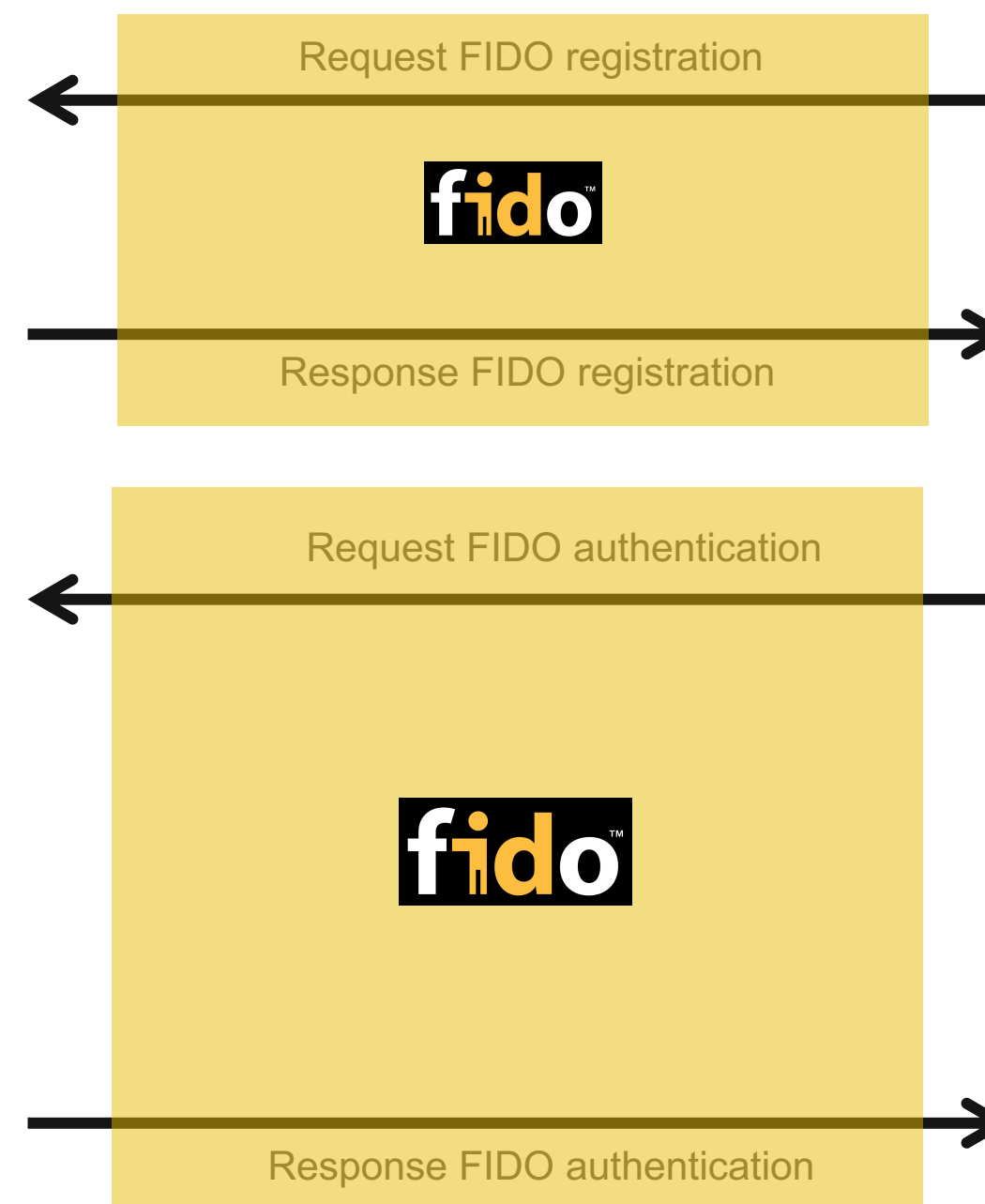
LINE Auth Server



Secondary LINE App

Generate keypairs, signature, ...

Generate signature



Request Passwordless Login

Login



LINE Desktop App

2. FIDO x LINE

“Passwordless” LINE

Issues

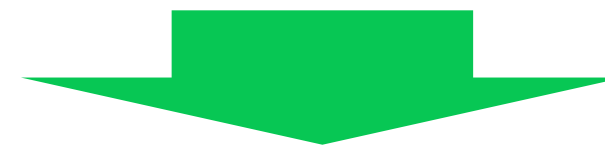
- How and where to manage (generate, store, make signature, get) for Public Key Pairs for FIDO?
- How wide OS version do we support ?
- How do we realize FIDO policy flexibly ? e.g. only allows biometric



LTSM (LINE Trusted Security Module)

2. FIDO x LINE

RP App (Java, Objective C)



FIDO client API
(Java, Objective C)

- FIDO registration
- FIDO authentication
- FIDO de-registration



LTSM Core
(C++)

- FIDO Core features
encoding, decoding,
data format, attestation key
format, ..
- Key Pair Generation
- Encrypt / Decrypt
- Hash
- Make Signature
- Verify Signature
- Get Public key
Support: iOS, Android, Mac OS app



Authenticator / User Key Management

Attestation Key Management

Platform

Face ID /
Touch ID

Keyguard
Manager

androidX.
Biometric

Android KeyStore
(TEE)

iOS Key Chain
(Secure Enclave)

White-box
Encryption

FIDO-enabled App Architecture

2. FIDO x LINE

“Passwordless” LINE

Issues

- How and where to manage (generate, store, make signature, get) for Public Key Pairs for FIDO?
- How wide OS version do we support ?
- How do we realize FIDO policy flexibly ? e.g. only allows biometric

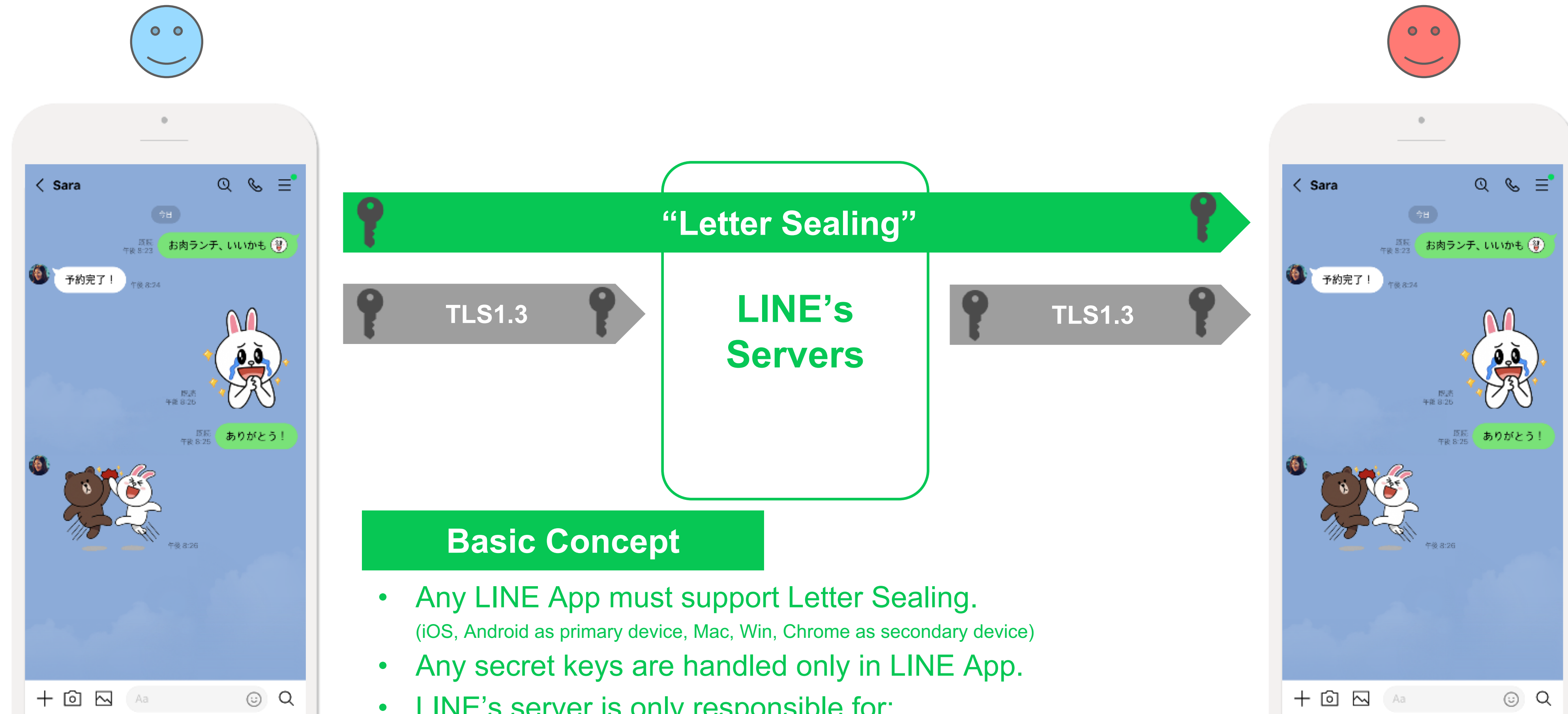


Approaches

LTSM (LINE Trusted Security Module)

- adopt **White Box Encryption**
- support wide coverage of both iOS / Android version
- abstraction of difference of platform features (API in each OS, Authenticator, Secure Storage)

3. “Letter Sealing” (End-To-End Encryption)



Basic Concept

- Any LINE App must support Letter Sealing.
(iOS, Android as primary device, Mac, Win, Chrome as secondary device)
- Any secret keys are handled only in LINE App.
- LINE's server is only responsible for;
 - key exchanges gateway
 - management of each user's ECDH public key
 - sending and receiving E2E encrypted messages

3. “Letter Sealing” (End-To-End Encryption)



Key Sharing in 1:1 talk room



Shared Secret (a&b)
 = ECDH25519 (ECDH_private_a , ECDH_public_b)
 = ECDH25519 (ECDH_private_b , ECDH_public_a)



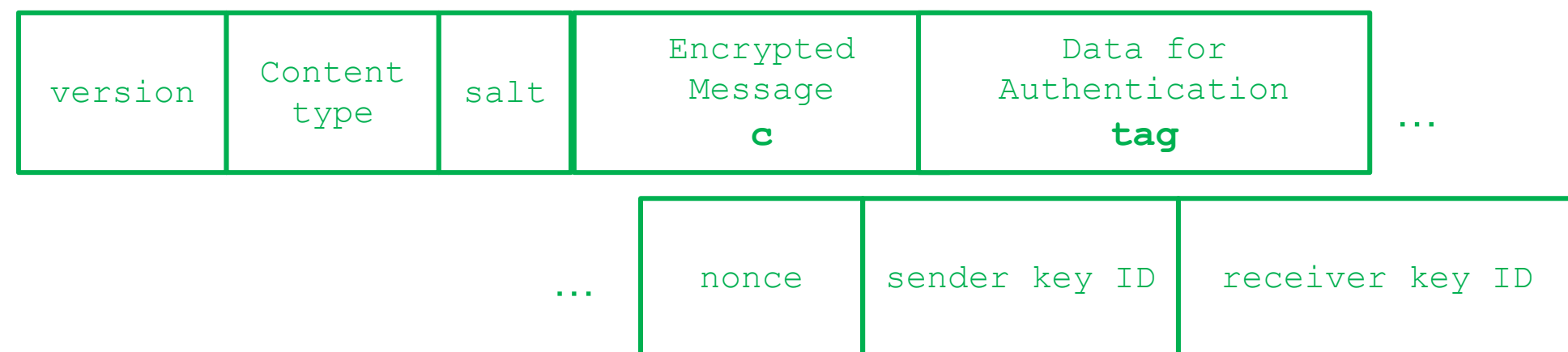
Messaging in 1:1 talk room

$(c, tag) = \text{AESGCM}(\text{AES_KEY}, \text{nonce}, \text{plain message}, \text{AAD})$

$\text{AES_KEY} = \text{SHA256}(\text{Shared Secret (a\&b)} || \text{salt} || \text{"Key"})$

$\text{nonce}[12] = \text{per_chatcounter}[8] || \text{randomsecure}(4)$

$\text{AAD} = \text{receptient ID} || \text{sender ID} || \text{sender key ID} || \text{recipient key ID} || \text{version} || \text{content type}$



Data for E2E encrypted message

send from a to b

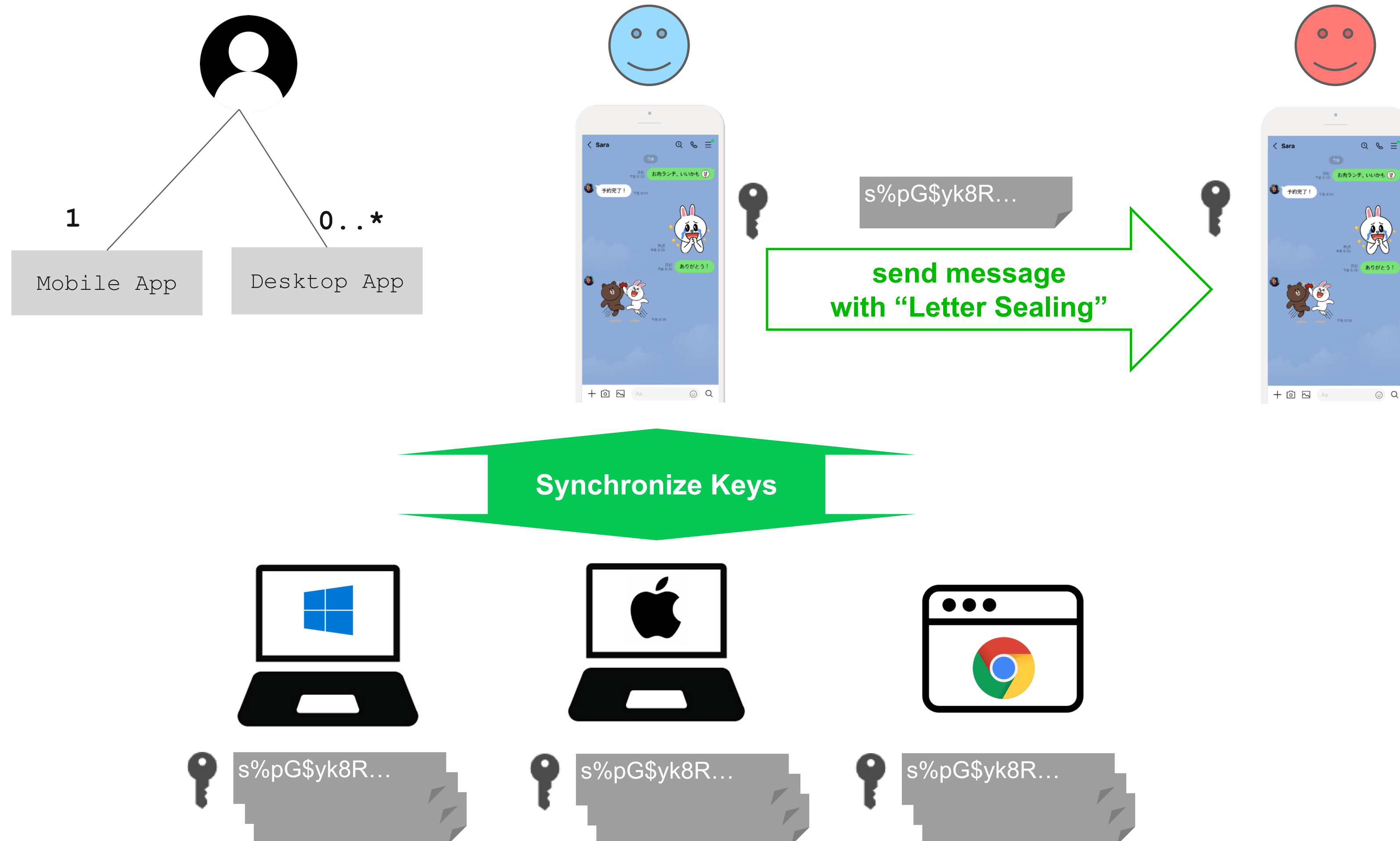
$\text{AES_KEY} = \text{SHA256}(\text{Shared Secret (a\&b)} || \text{salt} || \text{"Key"})$

Plain message

$= \text{AESGCM}(\text{AES_KEY}, \text{nonce}, \text{encrypted_message } c, \text{AAD})$

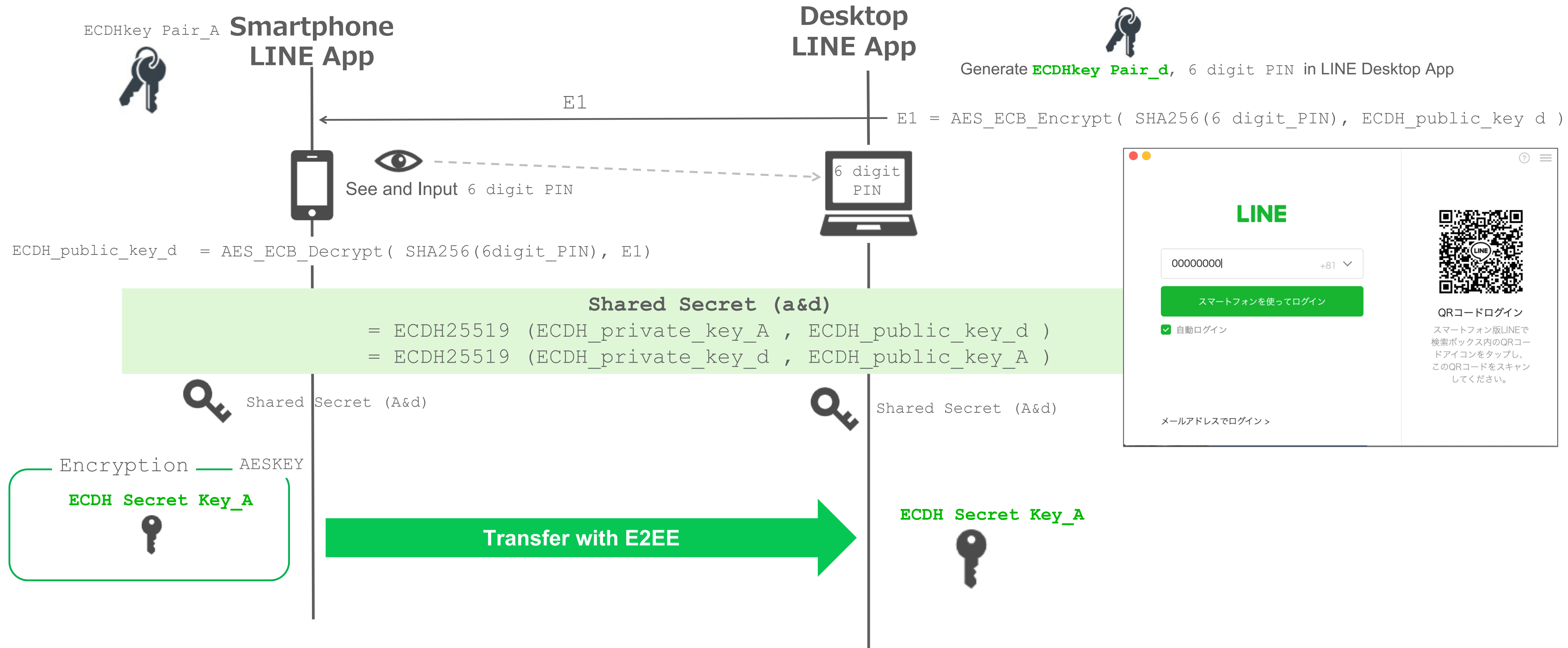
3. “Letter Sealing” (End-To-End Encryption)

LINE Account Model



3. “Letter Sealing” (End-To-End Encryption)

Desktop LINE App Login



LINE

4. On-going Challenges

LINE

Process

*“Security is not a product, but a process.”
— Bruce Schneier”*

Security & Privacy DLC

Plan

Develop

QA

Release

PIA

Security Consulting

Automated Security Test

Risk Assessment

Security Development

Vulnerability Filtering

Incident Response

Self Patrol Inspection

Reporting

Bug Bounty Program

Awareness

Spam/Abuse Eviction

5. PIA (Privacy Impact Assessment)

1. Compliance with laws
2. Compliance with internal rules
(e.g., Privacy Policy, Terms of Use, etc.)
3. Meeting Expectation to Privacy

Check List

1. In what country/countries/regions is the service offered?
2. Who is the service provider?
3. What information does this service collect?
4. What is the purpose of using the collected information?
5. Where do you store it? How long will it be stored?
6. Do you entrust the handling of personal information to any third parties?
7. Do you provide personal information to third parties?
8. When will this service be released?
9. On which platform does this service work?
10. Which company is the main developer?
11. Who is responsible for customer service?
12. Does this service provide back office/CMS/management tools?

Delete

Collect

Use

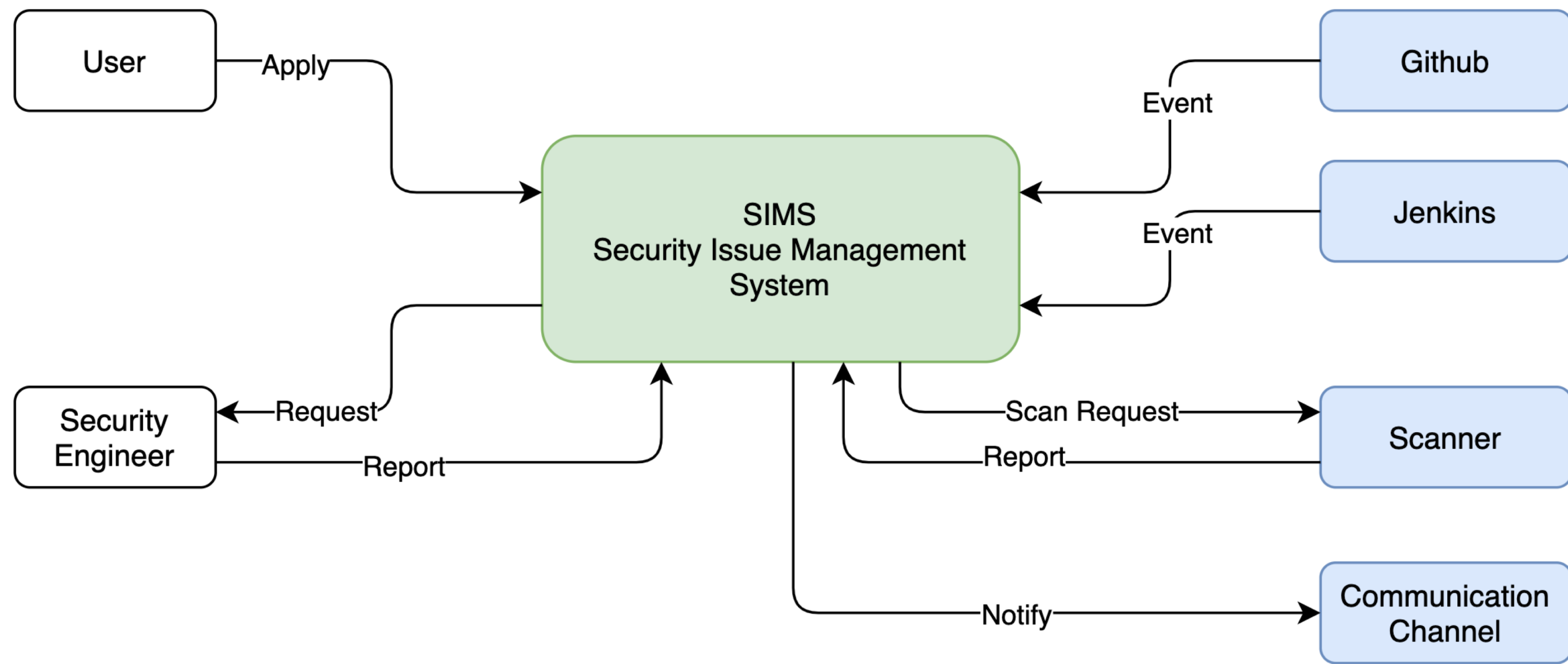
Transfer

Provide

Store

(1) WHAT KIND OF DATA AND WHY?
(2) WHO AND HOW TO CONTROL ?
(3) ENVIRONMENT TO CONTROL DATA ?

6. Automated Security Test



SIMS LINE Search Apply MGMT

LINE Search

SAST / DAST

VUL [Config](#)


Severity: All Status: All Scanner type: All Scanner: All

<input type="checkbox"/>	Vulnerability	Severity	Status	Detected	Scanner types	Scanner	Commit
<input type="checkbox"/>		Critical	Detected		SAST	RIPS	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Major	Detected		DAST	ZAP	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Minor	Detected		DAST	Burp suite	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Critical	Detected		SAST	RIPS	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Major	Detected		DAST	ZAP	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Minor	Detected		DAST	Burp suite	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Critical	Detected		SAST	RIPS	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Major	Detected		DAST	ZAP	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Minor	Detected		DAST	Burp suite	🔗
<input type="checkbox"/>		Critical	Detected		SAST	RIPS	🔗

< 1 2 3 >



7. Bug Bounty Program



LINE
LINE Security Bug Bounty Program
<https://line.me>

Reports resolved **337** | Assets in scope **17** | Average bounty **\$500**

[Submit report](#)











Bug Bounty Program
Launched on Nov 2019

Managed by **HackerOne**

Includes retesting 

[Policy](#) [Hacktivity](#) [Thanks](#) [Updates \(8\)](#)

LINE All Time

 jacksparrow9999 Reputation: 409	 66ed3gs Reputation: 399	 tosun Reputation: 306	 j0eil Reputation: 254	 oofx Reputation: 241
 ngalog Reputation: 237	 nyantw Reputation: 224	 shi0n Reputation: 205	 derision Reputation: 181	 skichia Reputation: 178

<https://hackerone.com/line/thanks?type=team>

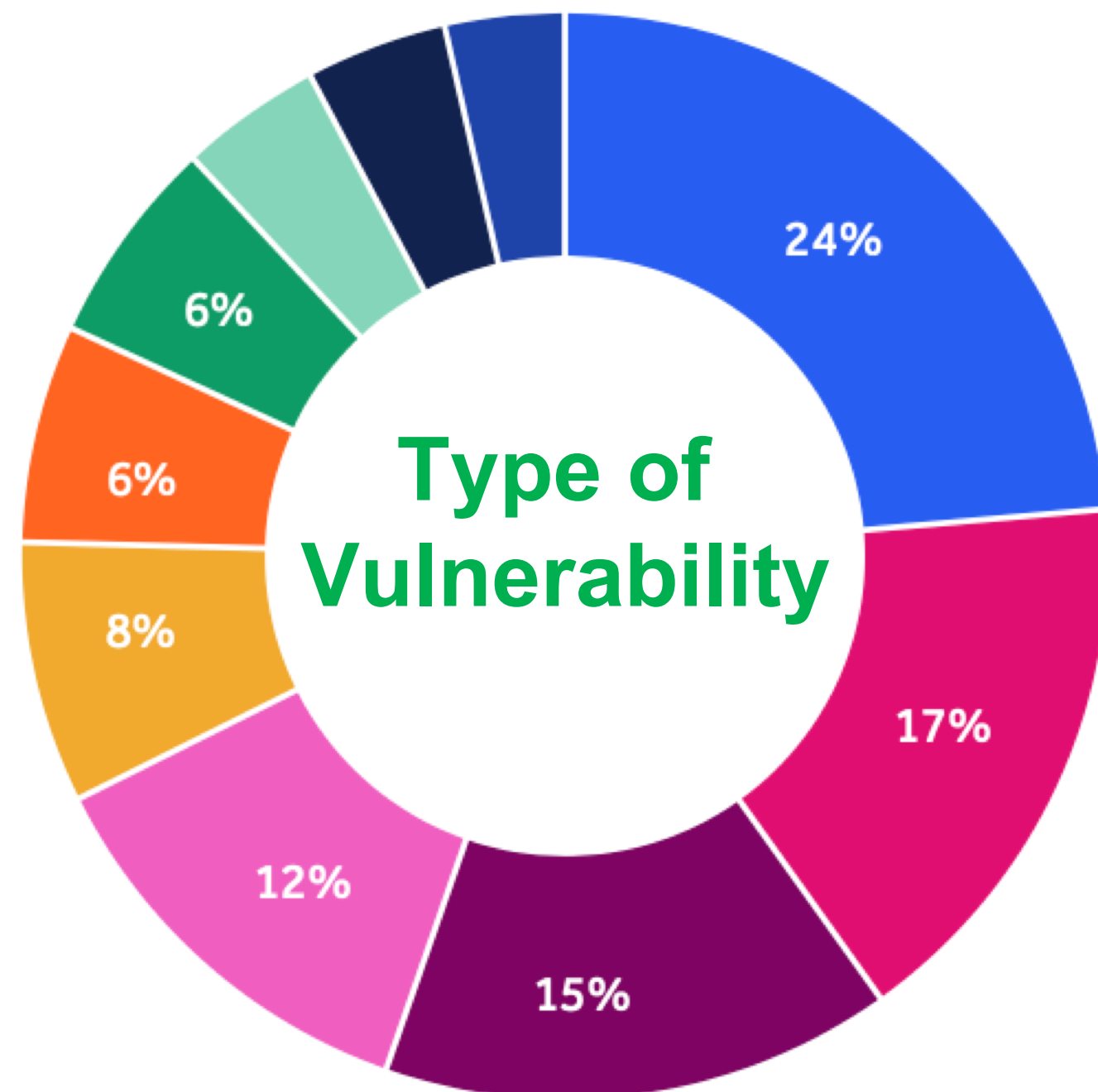
7. Bug Bounty Program

Submissions		
	2020	2021*
# Submissions	630	372
# Valid	166	143
# In Triage	4	15
# Resolved	162	128
% Valid	26.3%	38.4%

Valid Reports

	2020	2021*
Critical	\$31,700	\$28,300
High	\$25,810	\$21,400
Medium	\$32,094	\$31,545
Low	\$8,236	\$3,650
None	\$0	\$0
No Severity	\$1,600	\$600
Total	\$99,441	\$85,495

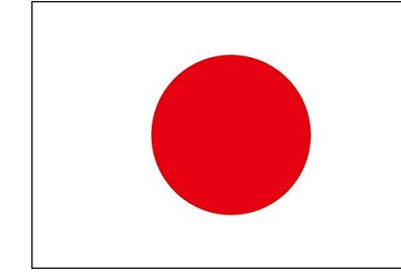
Amount of Bounty



Type of Vulnerability

Other	73
Information Disclosure	51
Cross-site Scripting (XSS) - Reflected	47
Improper Access Control - Generic	38
Server-Side Request Forgery (SSRF)	24
No Weakness	20
Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR)	19
Cross-site Scripting (XSS) - Stored	13
Improper Authentication - Generic	13
Business Logic Errors	11

8. Awareness

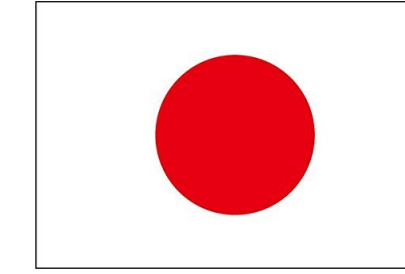


“Cyber Bousai (サイバー防災)”

Awareness Campaign for Cyber Security Risk, since 2017~



8. Awareness



“LINE Privacy Day”

Awareness Campaign for User's Privacy

1月28日は LINE Privacy Day

on“LINE”でも
off“LINE”でも
守ろうプライバシー

© studio U.G. - Yuji Nishimura

LINE Privacy Day とは？

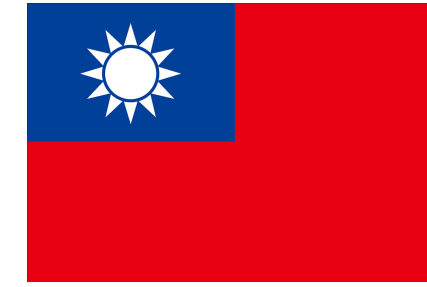
- CHECK 1 プライベートな情報を守ろう
- CHECK 2 友だち管理をしよう
- CHECK 3 メッセージを守ろう
- CHECK 4 アカウントを守ろう



© studio U.G. - Yuji Nishimura



8. Awareness



兒少網安計畫 - 線上記者會

串聯 LINE 生態圈資源

共同響應兒少網安議題



9. Reporting

Transparency Report

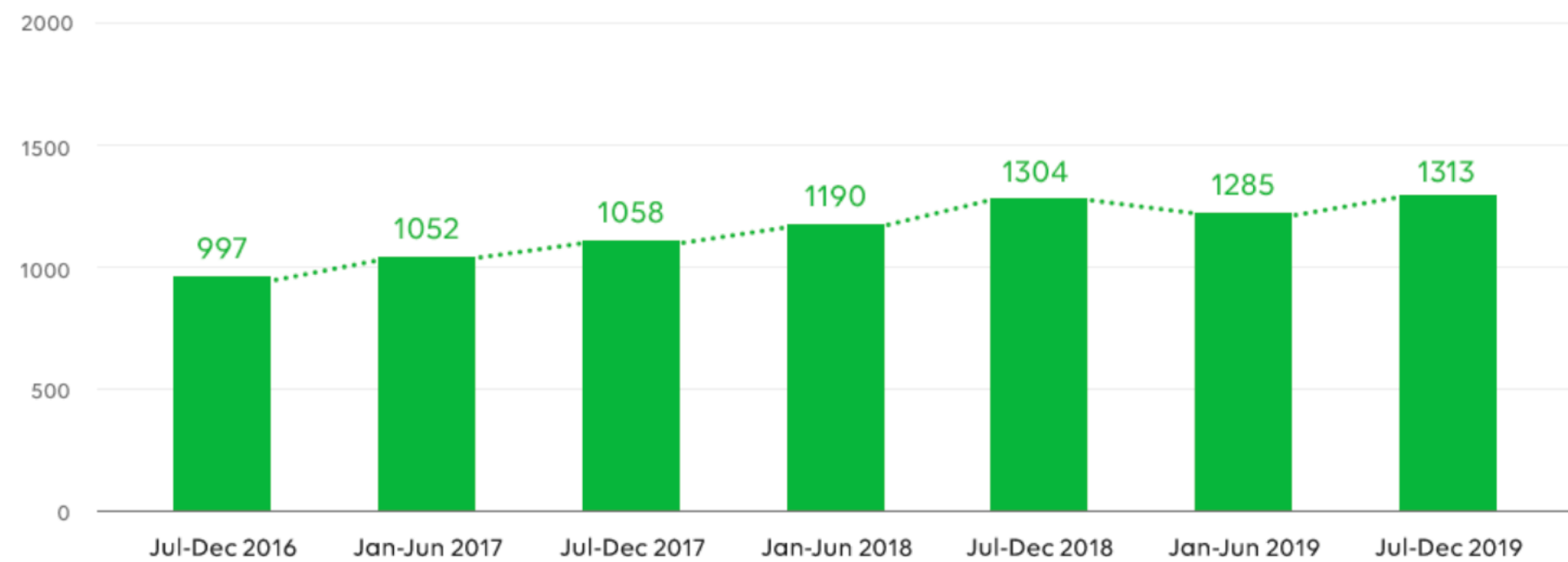
LINE Transparency Report

English

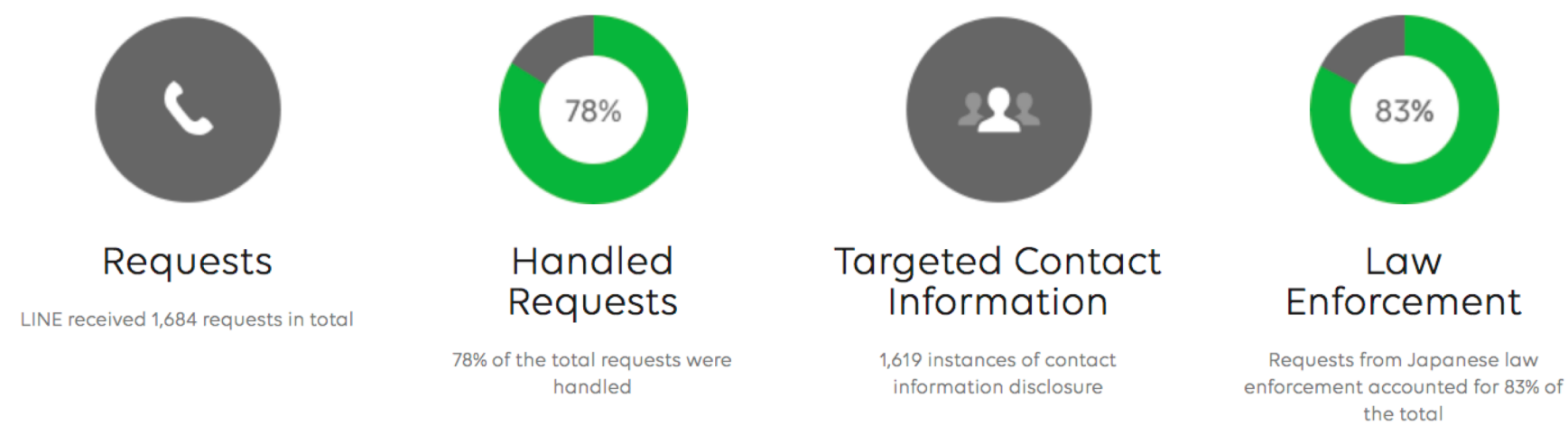
Jul-Dec 2019

User Information Disclosure/Deletion Requests From Law Enforcement

Cases User Information is Provided



Summary of July-December 2019



LINE Content Moderation Report

English

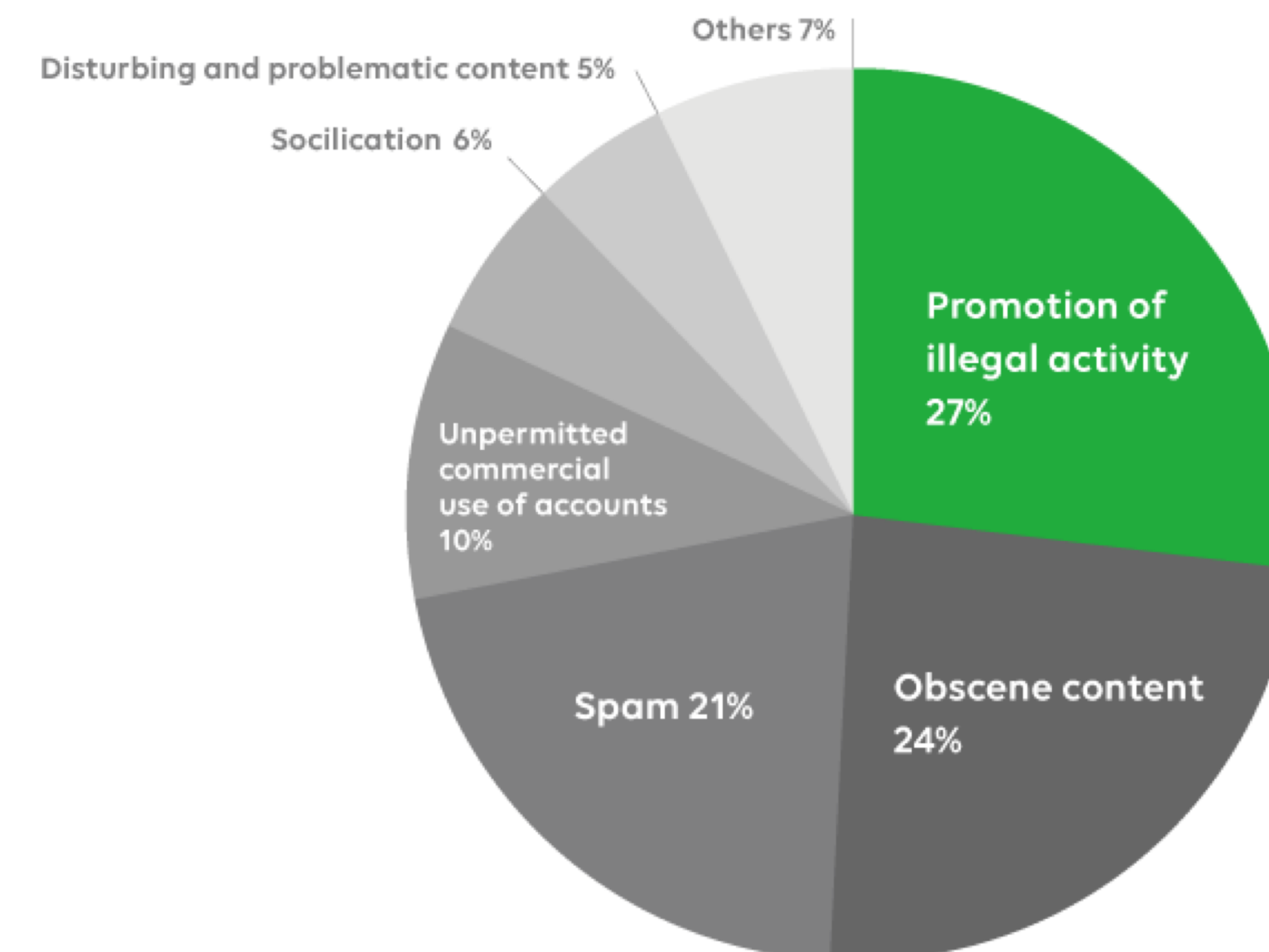
Jul-Dec 2019



- (1) Content Suspended by Automatic Check 10,009,824 items
- (2) Content Suspended by Manual Check 9,517,033 items

Total 19,526,857 items

The breakdown of types of suspended content by manual check is as follows:



9. Reporting

Encryption Report

LINE Encryption Report

2020.11.11

English

Nov 2020

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to describe the type, scope, and deployment status of the encryption mechanisms integrated into each of LINE's main features.

Encryption in LINE

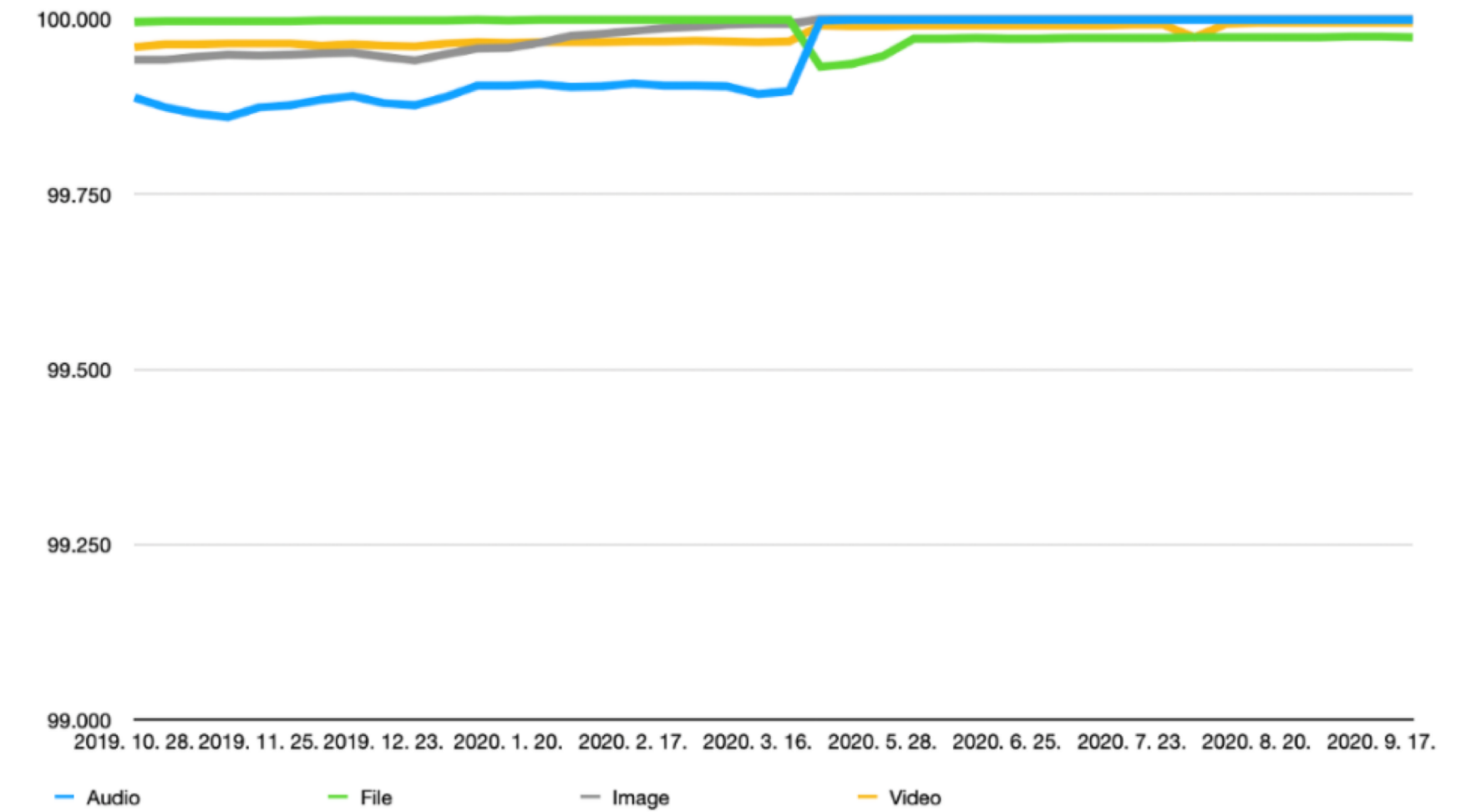
LINE employs various encryption technologies to protect user information. In addition to transport layer encryption, which is used to protect traffic between LINE clients and servers, we apply Letter Sealing encryption to supported message types and supported voice/video calls. Letter Sealing is the name of the end-to-end encryption (E2EE) protocol developed by LINE. For details about the encryption protocols and algorithms used in LINE, please refer to our [Encryption Whitepaper](#).

Encryption Deployment Status

(1) LINE Messaging

Text and location messages sent and received using LINE's messaging feature are end-to-end encrypted with Letter Sealing if one of the following conditions is met.

Both users have Letter Sealing enabled in 1-to-1 chats



Message/media type	2015	2016	2017/9	2018/4	2019/10	2020/9
Text	○	○→◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
Location	○	○→◎	◎	◎	◎	◎
Stickers *2	△	△	○	○	○	○
Image files *3	△	△	○	○	○	○
Voice messages *4	x	x	○	○	○	○
Video files *4	x	x	○	○	○	○
Other files *3	△	△	○	○	○	○

Legend: ◎ Letter Sealing (end-to-end encryption) / ○ Transport-level encryption / △ Partially protected / x Not encrypted or not sufficiently encrypted

LINE

Culture

*“As cybersecurity leaders, we have to create our message of influence because security is a culture”
— Britney Hommertzheim*



10. Security Skill Development

LINE Class

Enterprise learning platform at your service.
Discover the knowledge you need!

LINE Class BROWSE HOME SUPPORT ADMIN Language

Information security Web security App security Cryptography Advanced Persistent Threat awareness

Search

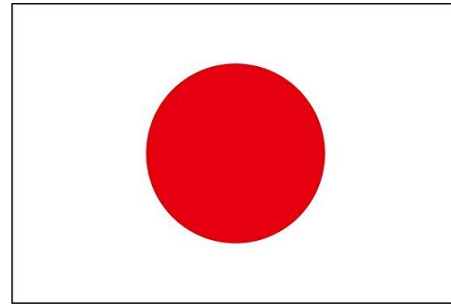
Filter complete classes Filter by difficulty

Lecture Room

BEGINNER Command Injection ✓	BEGINNER SQL Injection	BEGINNER Path Traversal
BEGINNER Domain Name Ownership	BEGINNER Insecure Direct Object Reference (IDOR)	BEGINNER CRLF Injection
BEGINNER Authentication in LIFF App	BEGINNER Spring Boot Actuator Endpoints	INTERMEDIATE Cross-Site Scripting(XSS)
INTERMEDIATE Cross-Site Request Forgery	INTERMEDIATE Deserialization	ADVANCED Server-Side Request Forgery

LINE

11. Interaction



HP: <https://becks.io>

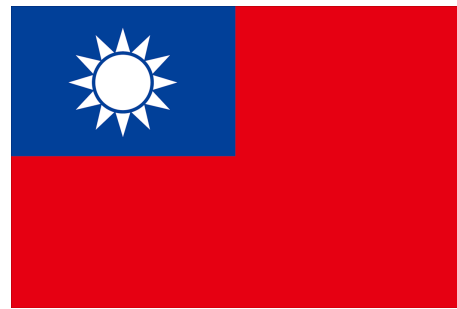
BECKS Japan: <https://becks.doorkeeper.jp>

Twitter (JP): @becks_io

BECKS Taiwan: <https://becks.kktix.cc/>



11. Interaction



HP: <https://becks.io>

BECKS Japan: <https://becks.doorkeeper.jp>

Twitter (JP): @becks_io

BECKS Taiwan: <https://becks.kktix.cc/>

11. Interaction



2017, San Francisco



2018, Rome



2019, Paris



2019, Tokyo

LINE

Summary

Summary

LINE's Key Challenges by;

Technology

LINE Account Security, FIDO x LINE, Letter Sealing, on-going challenges

Process

PIA, Automated Security Test, Bug Bounty Program, Awareness, Report

Culture

Security Skill Development, Interaction

