

Managing SSH Access Without Managing SSH Keys

Niall Sheridan

niall@intercom.com

Intercom Production Systems

"Many organizations don't even know how many SSH keys they have configured to grant access to their information systems or who has copies of those keys"

- [NIST IR 7966](#) *Security of Interactive and Automated Access Management Using Secure Shell (SSH)*



 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub 6 hours ago

 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub a day ago

 Delete id_rsa jenkins
[redacted] on GitHub 5 days ago

 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub 6 days ago

 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub 13 days ago

 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub 17 days ago

 Delete id_rsa
[redacted] on GitHub 20 days ago

Delete id_rsa

🔗 master

 committed on GitHub 23 hours ago

📄 Showing 1 changed file with 0 additions and 27 deletions.

27 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ .ssh/id_rsa

... @@ -1,27 +0,0 @@

```
1 -----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----
2 -MIIEpAIBAAKCAQEA06gbxIXHQt lqwERWRTz/zRb+N2CVQFhBt9r+gpbG5FdjKKyX
3 -triLg7RYHluMdEuP8C14S9Ba9hhLfyQkgxoSPR57j lbe0acW2zckdWF5ns0qLSvu
4 -j3rV40RhVdxngyF+NUT+LtY730ZL7bunwLc+aqiZSNjGq0o lqJwZZQAv9rb9v9y
5 -Lg4E8vy6BbnjaQ9IrZk9h0rQBf4v70zubXPt1InEtDcnnQG+K61pBlygvNspva0u
6 -0+A4DNJ+BPGt9toXbmaFRlHx7Kn+yLT38yyDgbie6Qw+kQu9zISehD8+wFD3Gcb/
7 -2sLL4r48bJ1oCHn9g9DNQo85zBAQlsYDYfTq0wIDAQABAoIBAAScoR5DG/hk7GKM
8 -GqUfkyNQ4PEr9ZSVV7k92FXYGzVWgh6cxCGDG+cewtzGeeT+0IAXPYvJWnIKTXrT
9 -usfwhX03cNHFKs2+qkzUgsLcAN5ovQiG8I fH0Wk5ELXi048r56gZfMBggqVpjzX6
10 -5MjaNU31poFj19BbqT5nSMXx16JWhFY7+kcfRxJ05CgfI0vLV3LI fGeLB32LxTrG
11 -2tsUHoWPlr l f0uicZuHZacSji0Ni qinWee3AVswe l VG+8EIE9AeaDDsR6HMYVYxw
12 -wFUzDZInMKFqbcCJV rpy/QJfqqI l ZzEC8CHvad+g33e4mpo6angigt nbeemHpBaZ
13 -sq2/SgECgYEA8GRDpf3SCoEG/z zrUxRBBbt xKRVhN6KwFAIGmwEXFbxdAh0uofeB
14 -6maA7JMBw0DcC6Ias3Qnr605h0hm9/RKmQ7RoDKo8mdZImiBPUPPjZ7LToqj fmMh
15 -VTuudYX6yu76h7y1EzB/cjXJyayDVE5avr7ofDz86ccA0k63q/aMfkECgYEA4WY3
16 -wwcU3LvTjtxL3fhBIZQ63qYj0aE1A l mKKA0sgy1PIRKh7ZB4DGAC9rRgU/9NuDDu
17 -2QlJSTAFt l0IjxjuewwG8REgHuSMQ4D3cejXFfBqThvj hZBRzP71zxz7PbYxn7FN
18 -9GWHjdYntVU+02BNuxXDNbTXMbjFr9/CGd l8jBMCgYEA6A/ChmFq/JzmRktm2QK6
```


Hackers break into FreeBSD with stolen SSH key

JUN
16
2017

A Multi-billion Dollar Defense Firm Fails to Protect Private SSH Keys

Chris Vickery, a cyber risk analyst from UpGuard, successfully retrieved [a cache of 60,000 documents](#) related to a United States military project for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). The sensitive files (close to 28 GB) linked to the U.S. intelligence agency were left unsecured (without a password) on a public Amazon server for anyone to access. Some of these files included the private SSH keys of a Booz Allen – one of country’s top defense contractors – employee, and various plain text passwords belonging to contractors with [Top Secret Facility clearance](#).

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Security](#) > [CIA Malware Can Steal SSH Credentials, Session Traffic](#)

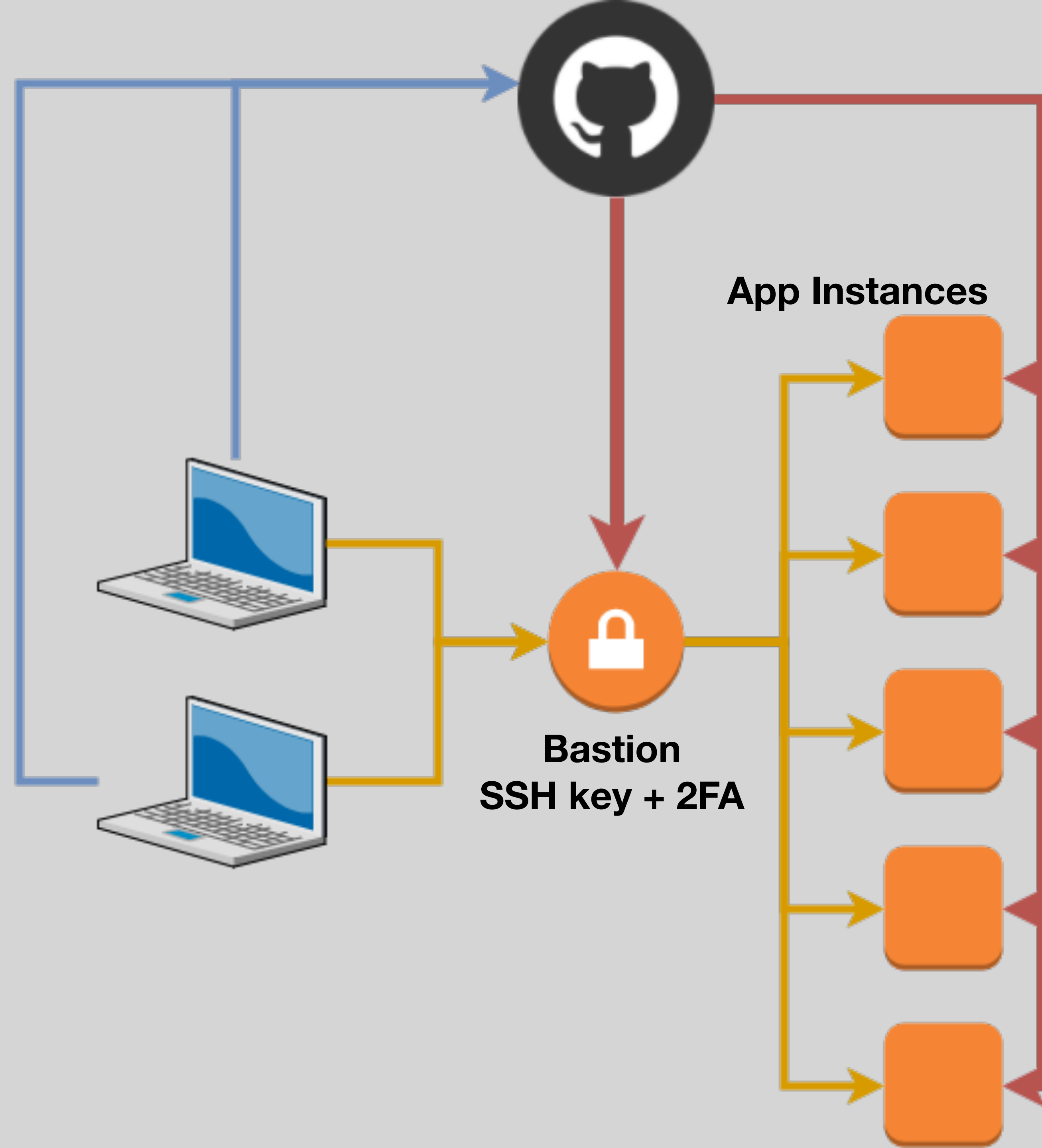
CIA Malware Can Steal SSH Credentials, Session Traffic







HOPE IS NOT
A STRATEGY







SSH Certificates

- Composed of: ssh key + signature + signing key + metadata
- Only need to distribute 1 public key to machines - the signing key
- Metadata allows for some nice properties to be set

Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com user certificate

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

source-address 12.34.56.78/29

Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding

Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com **user certificate**

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

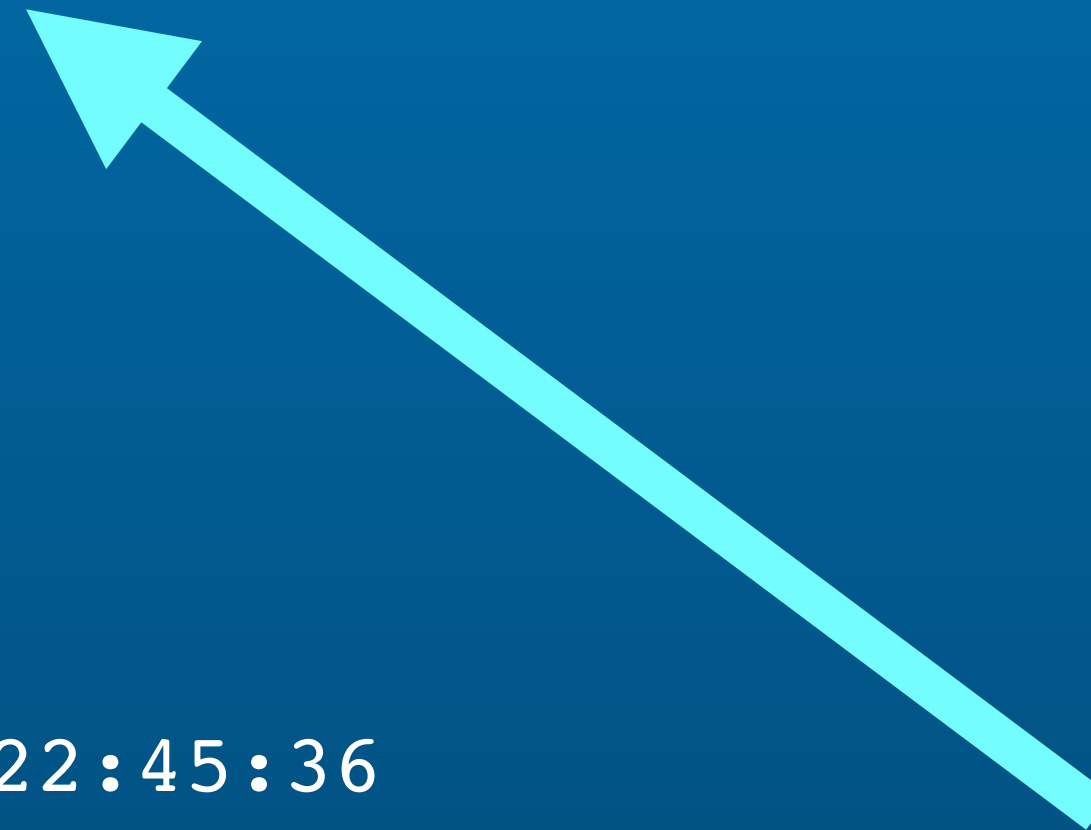
source-address 12.34.56.78/29

Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding



Certificate Type

Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com user certificate

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

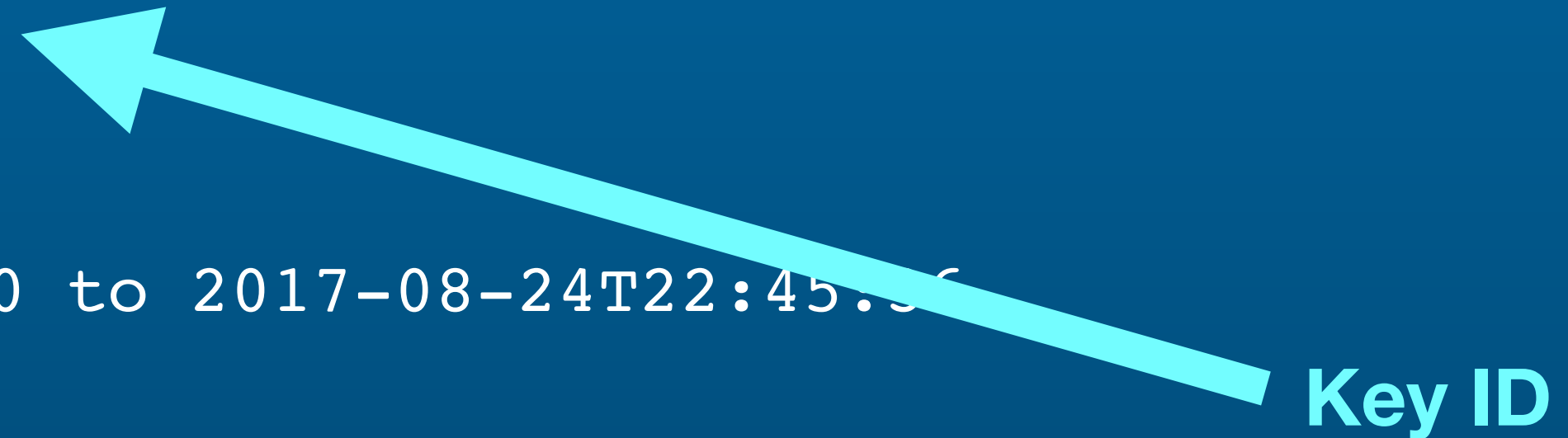
source-address 12.34.56.78/29

Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding



Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com user certificate

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

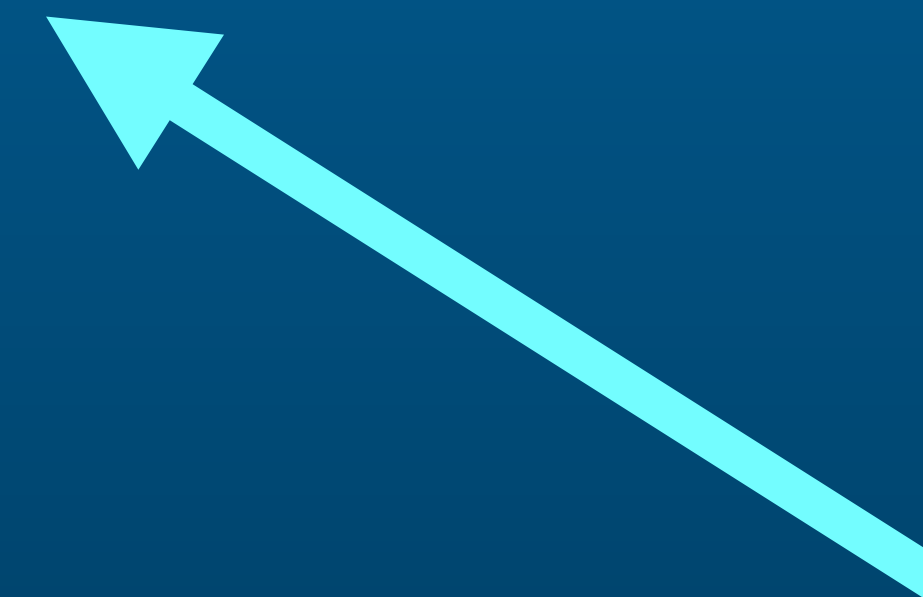
source-address 12.34.56.78/29

Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding



Certificate Lifetime

Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com user certificate

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

source-address 12.34.56.78/29

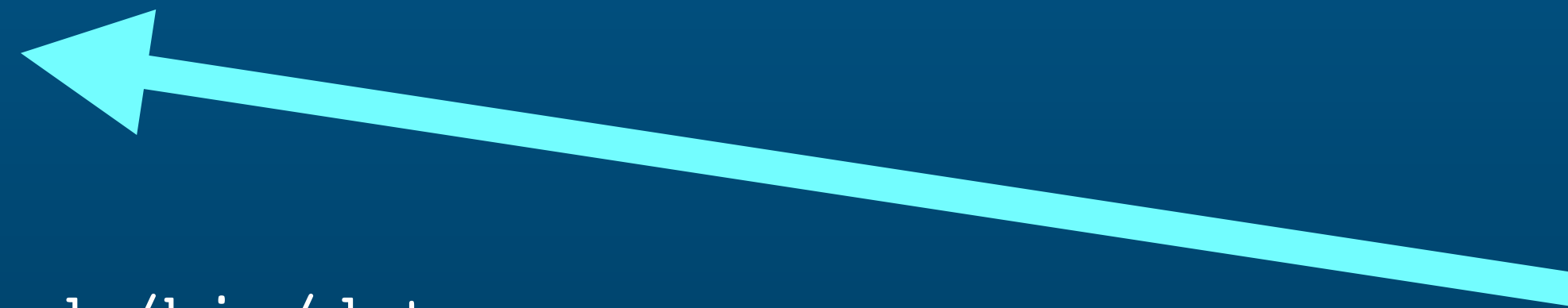
Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding

Username(s)



Type: ssh-ed25519-cert-v01@openssh.com user certificate

Public key: ED25519-CERT SHA256:WHATEVER

Signing CA: ED25519 SHA256:WHATEVER

Key ID: "some identity string"

Serial: 0

Valid: from 2017-08-23T22:40:40 to 2017-08-24T22:45:36

Principals:

prod-user

Critical Options:

force-command /bin/date

source-address 12.34.56.78/29

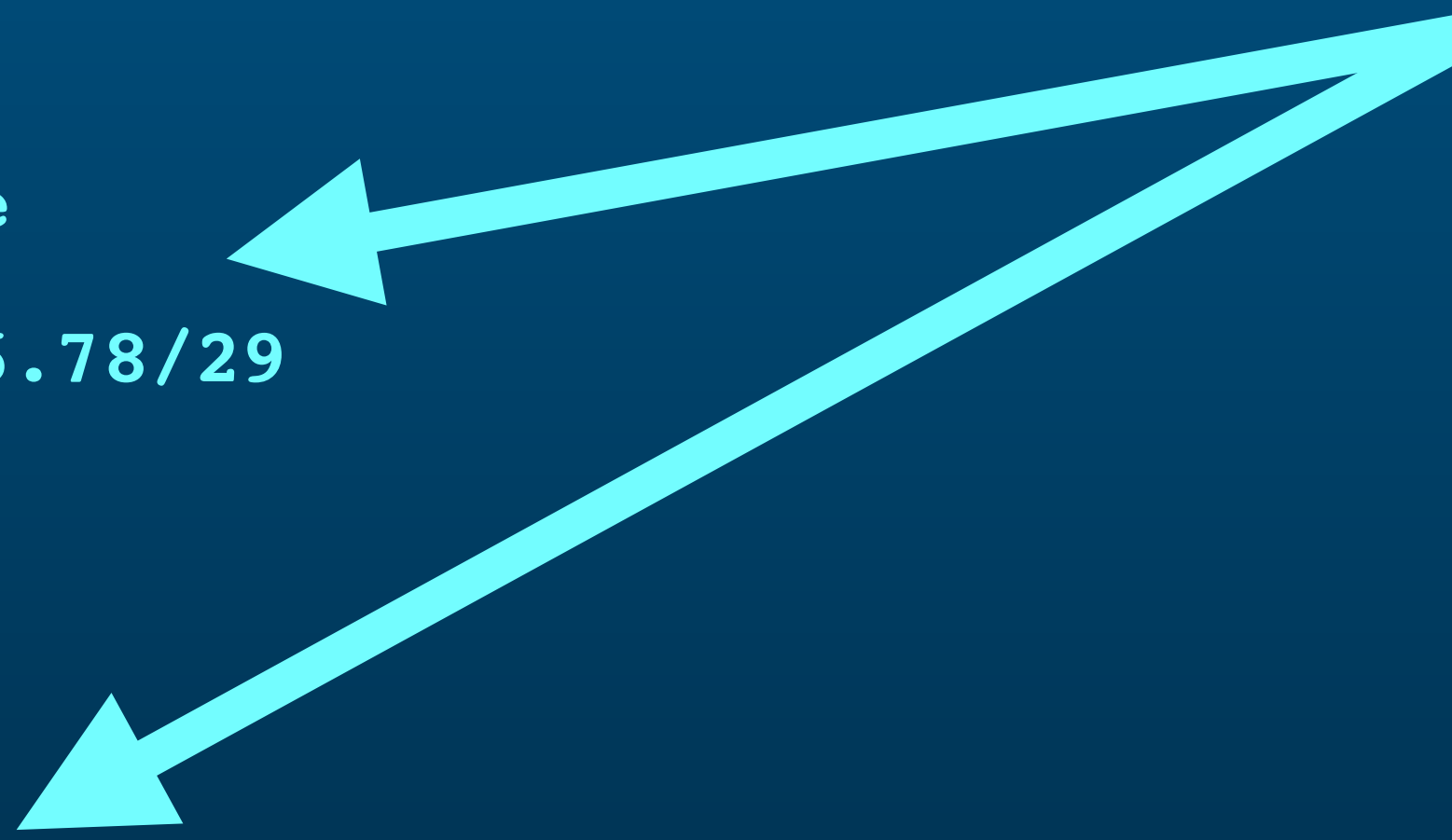
Extensions:

permit-pty

permit-port-forwarding

permit-x11-forwarding

Certificate Restrictions




```
/etc/ssh/sshd_config:
```

```
TrustedUserCAKeys /etc/ssh/ca.pub
```

```
/etc/ssh/ca.pub:
```

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDAYZL32Emt4Ap.....
```

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDGmvJaFt37ZTz.....
```

```
ssh-rsa AAAAB3NzaC1yc2EAAAADAQABAAQDWmdffJK0YR8z.....
```

```
ssh-ed25519 AAAAC3NzaC1lZDI1NTE5AAAAIOBL2PHBRyIa7ok.....
```





```
% cashier
```

```
Your browser has been opened to visit
```

```
Generating new key pair
```

```
Enter token: _
```


Access Token

```
[redacted]
```



```
% cashier
```

```
Your browser has been opened to visit [REDACTED]
```

```
Generating new key pair
```

```
Enter token: [REDACTED]
```

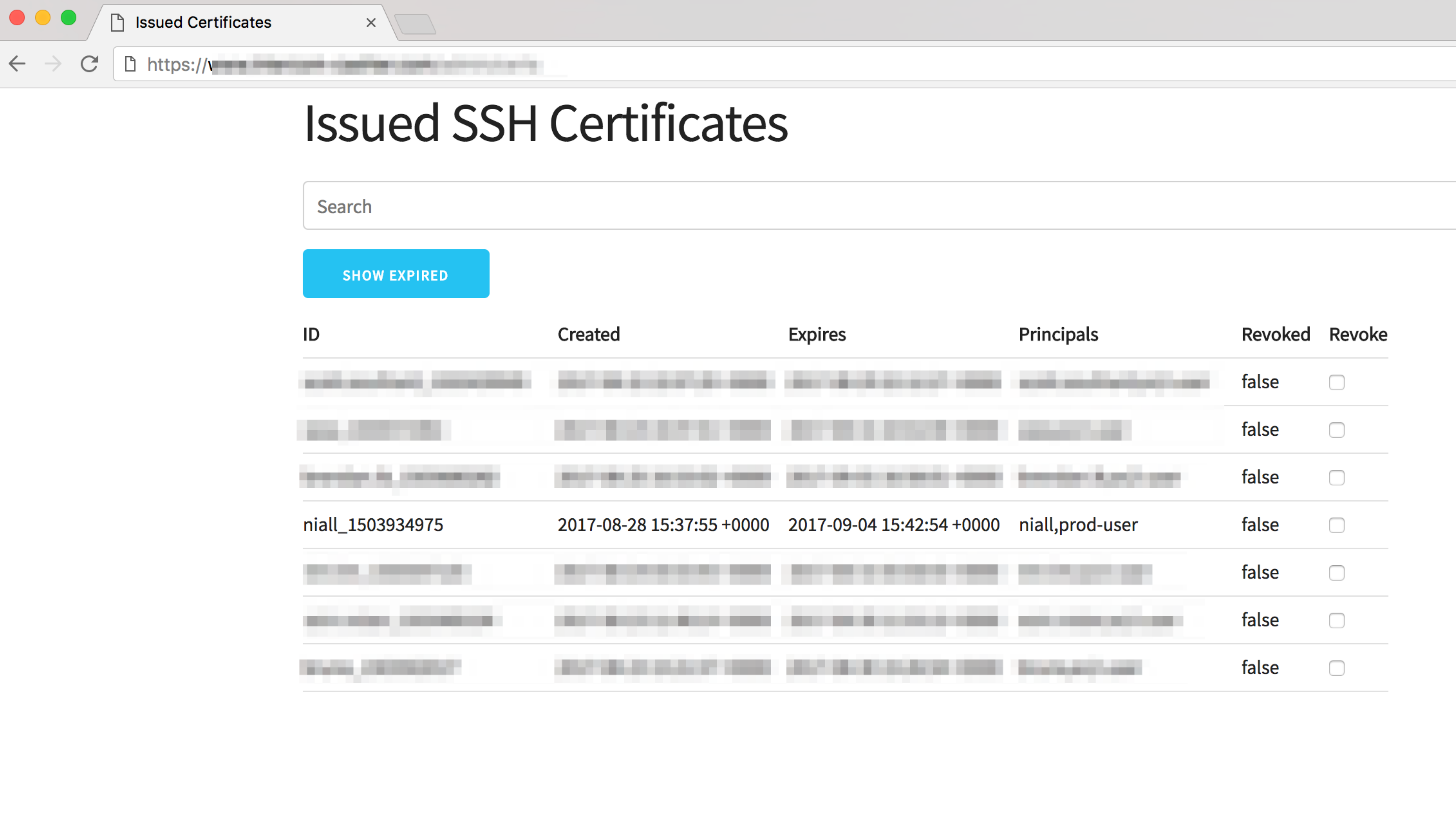
```
Credentials added.
```

```
% ssh-add -l
```

```
256 SHA256:CIxATG78JkHH1AF+bk6vumRtP3z22wpRP+Y6hoMK9v4 niall_1503934975 [Expires  
2017-09-04 16:42:54 +0100 IST] (ED25519-CERT)
```

```
256 SHA256:CIxATG78JkHH1AF+bk6vumRtP3z22wpRP+Y6hoMK9v4 niall_1503934975 [Expires  
2017-09-04 16:42:54 +0100 IST] (ED25519)
```

```
% _
```

Issued SSH Certificates

Search

SHOW EXPIRED

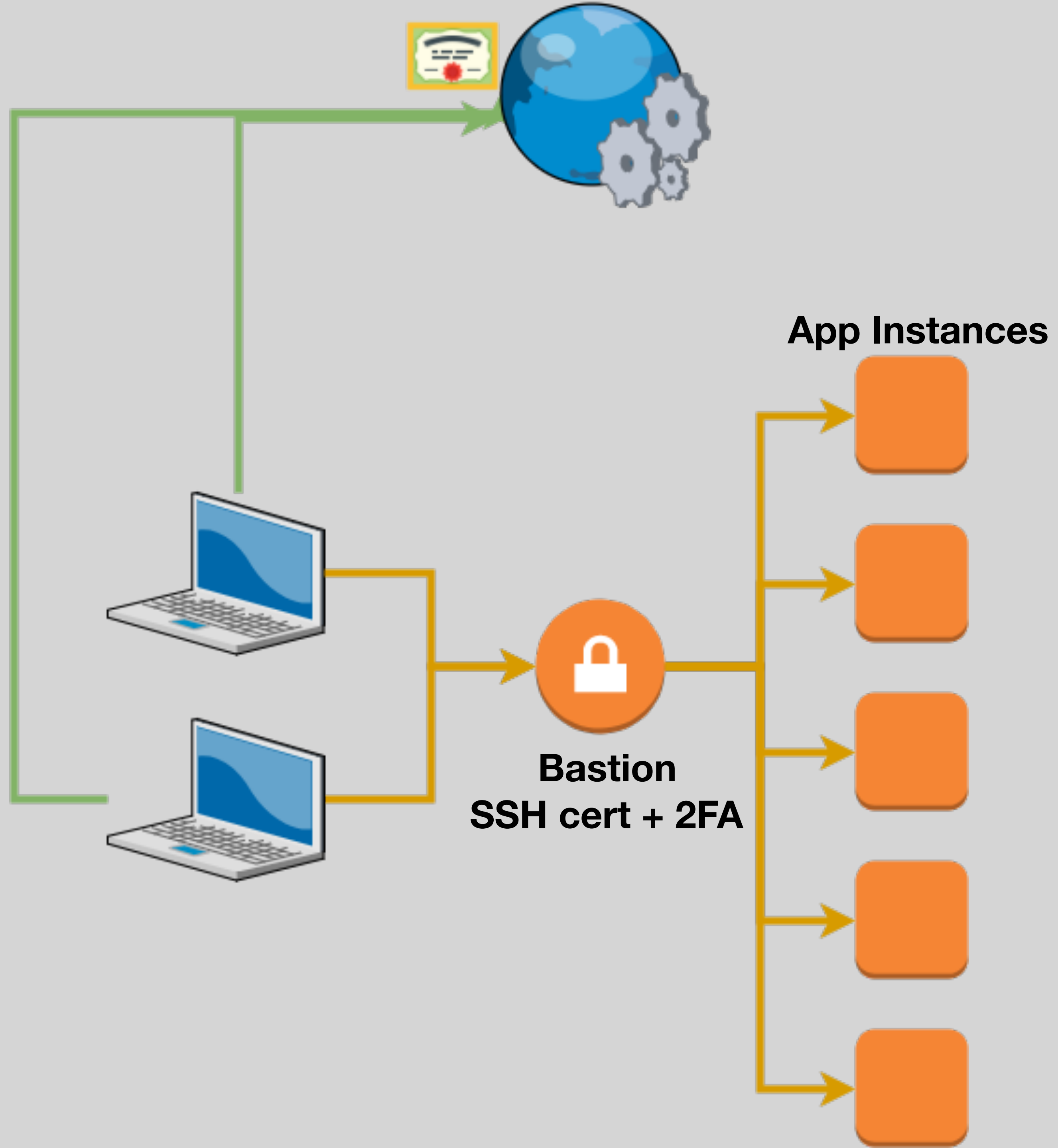
ID	Created	Expires	Principals	Revoked	Revoke
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
niall_1503934975	2017-08-28 15:37:55 +0000	2017-09-04 15:42:54 +0000	niall,prod-user	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	false	<input type="checkbox"/>

SSH Key:

```
sshd[6382]: Accepted publickey for prod-user from  
10.0.0.167 port 49562 ssh2: RSA bb:86:14:02:cf:  
37:91:b9:4f:09:76:8f:e0:bc:52:77
```

SSH Certificate:

```
sshd[6382]: Accepted publickey for prod-user from  
10.0.0.167 port 33984 ssh2: ED25519-CERT ID  
nia11_1503934975 (serial 0) CA ED25519 bd:0b:55:9f:  
84:be:ad:e9:eb:ac:7e:8c:83:ed:4d:cb
```

Questions?

<https://github.com/nsheridan/cashier>

Niall Sheridan
niall@intercom.com