

Bringing End-to-End Cryptography to Web Mashups

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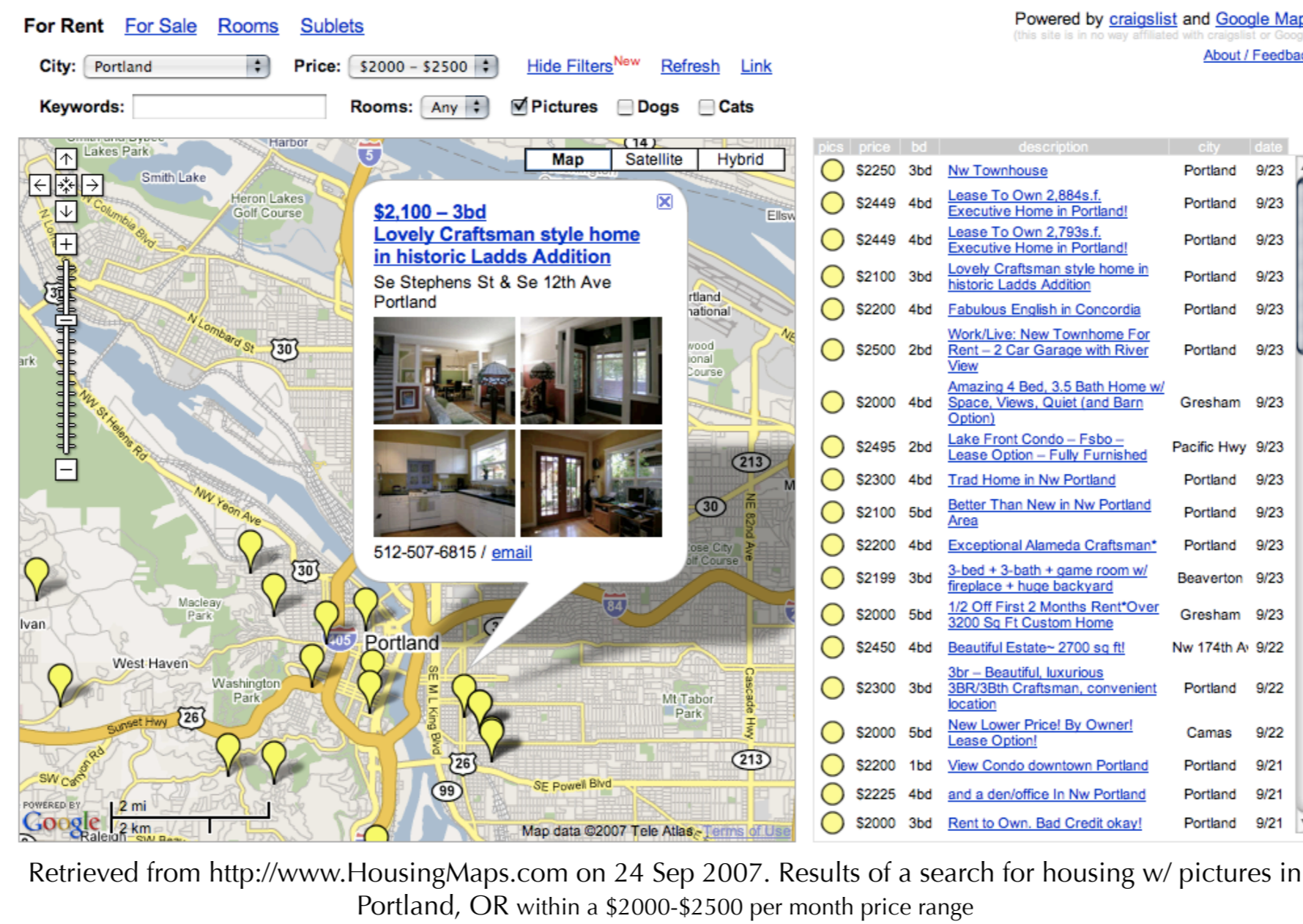
Web Mashups: Data Integration Artwork

Web Mashups are third-party web applications that integrate data collected from several other data sources in novel ways.

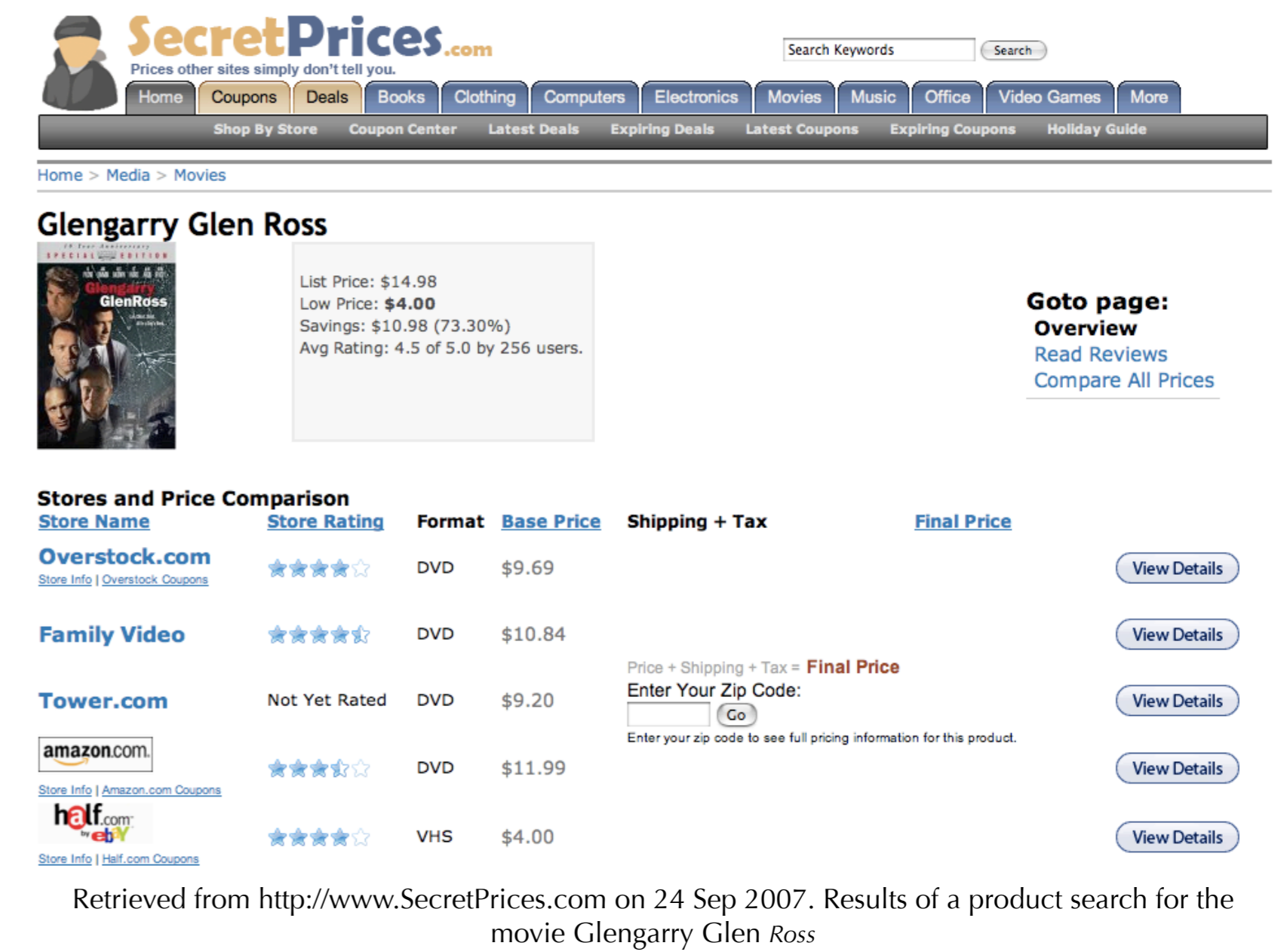
Mashups not only pull from different data sources but also collect different types of data. RSS feeds, multimedia, HTML and services like E-Mail can all be presented through a single web page.

Web Mashups have become one of the textbook examples of what is often called "Web 2.0". Mashups are the result of collaboration and extensibility, these are the cornerstones of Web 2.0 design.

Google Maps is a very popular choice for Mashup sites due Google's flexible API. *HousingMaps.com* uses Google Maps to create a map of housing rentals in an area by using the postings from Craigslist. Other Mashups using Google Maps pull from diverse sources such as census data, weather reports, public transit timetables, public restroom locations and election results.



Online shopping has also fueled the growth of Mashups which compare prices through various vendors to find consumers the best deal. *SecretPrices.com* integrates product data from Shopping.com and Amazon.com to compare prices and vendor ratings.

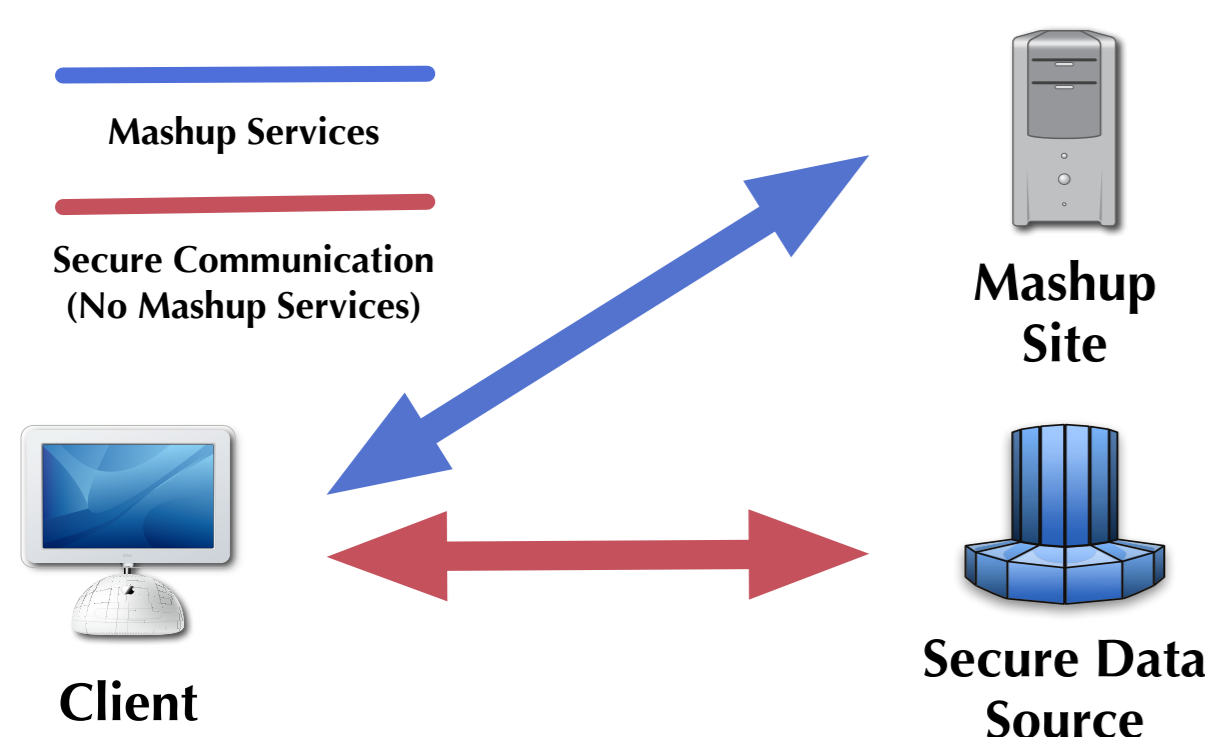


Problems for End-to-End Cryptography

As useful as Mashups are, they pose serious problems for traditional cryptography protocols. But without a system that allows Mashups to have a role in secure communications their overall usefulness is limited.

Negotiating a secure communication through a Mashup (e.g. for analyzing investment data) is a direct violation of the principle of **End-to-End cryptography**. But any secure communication that does not include the Mashup will have none of its benefits.

In cryptographic terms, Mashups are a identical to **Man-in-the-middle attackers**. In order to use Mashups to process secure data efficiently we have to develop a protocol that allows for third parties with varying levels of trust.



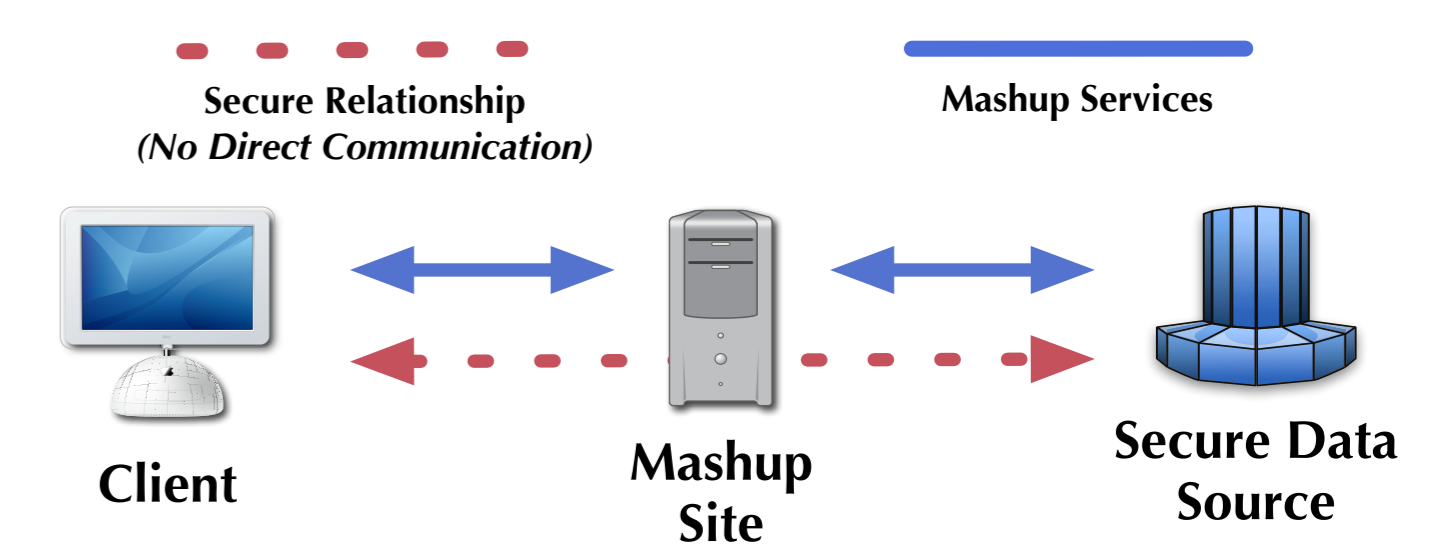
A Layered Approach

In order to integrate Mashups into secure communication without compromising sensitive information we have combined the ideas of **One-Time Use Tickets** and **Layered Cryptography**. The tickets provide the security while the layering allows us to have data flow through several different Mashups.

By allowing Mashups to participate in every step of the secure communication we can benefit from the Mashup's data processing and integration services. At the same time we can still maintain complete control over all data disclosure.

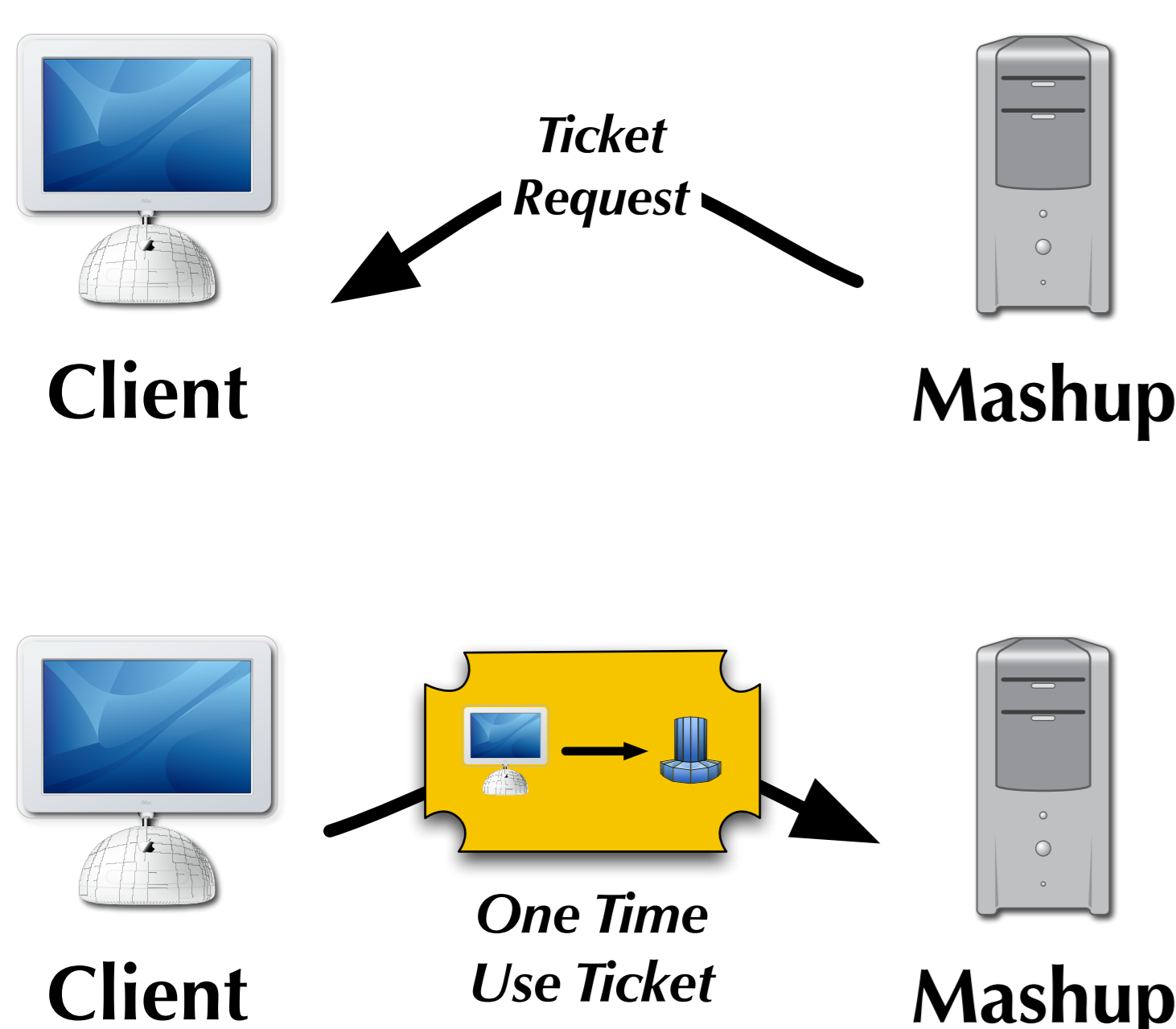
Our layered approach allows us to:

- have numerous Mashups provide services during secure data retrieval
- request data securely through numerous Mashups without unauthorized disclosure
- provide for secure transfer between every machine participating in the communication.



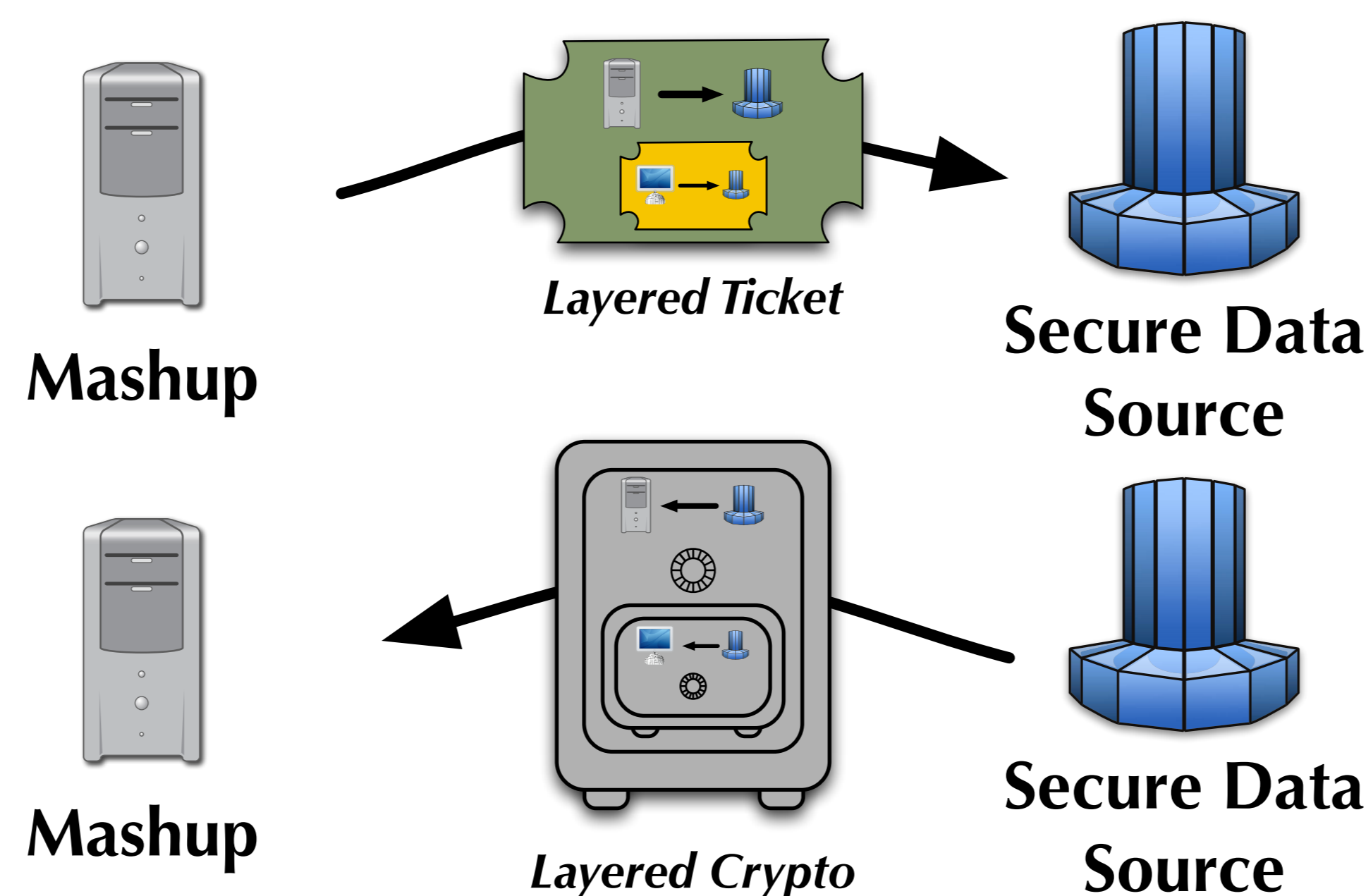
Step #1 - Mashup Requests Ticket

- Mashup server requests the client release of information from a site that requires the client's authentication. The data requested is separated into two groups:
 1. Data that the Mashup needs to process **before** returning the web page.
 2. Data that can be processed by the user's browser **after** returning the web page.
- Client creates a signed ticket for the Secure Server that the Mashup can use to obtain the authorized information. The ticket contains:
 1. The client's authentication data, this reliably confirms the ticket and its contents are from the user and cannot be used again.
 2. Identification of the Mashup server which is to receive the information.
 3. The type of information which will be released to the Mashup Server.
 4. The type of information which is only to be released back to the Client.



Step #2 - Mashup Retrieves Secure Data

- The Mashup wraps the Client's ticket in its own ticket and sends it to the Secure Server. The Mashup's ticket contains:
 1. Authentication data which verifies the Mashup sending the request is the same one authorized by the Client.
 2. Details on how to securely transmit the returned data.
- The Secure Server unwraps both the Mashup and Client Ticket and verifies the identity of both parties.
- The Secure Server retrieves the User's requested data and atomizes it according to a published schema so that the mashup can properly process the data when it is returned. The atomized data is then grouped by who the data will be disclosed to, Mashup or Client.
- Data intended for the client alone is encrypted with the client's encryption key.
- The entire response with the Mashup's authorized data and user's encrypted data is secured using the Mashup's key and send back to the Mashup for processing.



Step #3 - Mashup Returns the Webpage

- The Mashup decrypts the message from the Secure Server and processes the information that has been released to it. The encrypted data viewable only by the Client is embedded into the Mashup page along with the scripts needed to process it.
- The user renders the page and in the process decrypts the private data, processes it with the scripts provided by the mashup, and integrates it into the displayed page.

Sample Mashup HTML

```
<html>
...
Code from Mashup processing of secure data from Secure Server
...
<Encrypted Data>
Encrypted Data from Secure Server readable only by Client
</Encrypted Data>
<Script>
Code for processing Decrypted Data
</script>
...
</html>
```

