Tasks to be accomplished in Weeks 8 and 9 (10/23 - 11/5):

1. Read textbook Chapter 5
2. In Discussion Board forum for this time period, answer the following questions by clicking on the reply link for the questions:
   a. How safer are the clients of an on-line service provider if the service provider is certified by a well-known CA like VeriSign (considering different digital ID classes and their implications for e-commerce)?
   b. Email spam is annoying and spreading computer viruses through email attachments imposes threats to the public. While PGP and S/MIME could be effective in securing email channels between important parties like business partners, they may not be realistic for safe-guarding public emails. Are there any non-technical mechanisms that can help with this issue, like enforcing a law that each email address must be traceable (maybe indirectly) to its owners’ real identity so each one sending emails is accountable for what he/she does? Please discuss alternative approaches and their pros and cons.
3. Take an open-book quiz 4 in Blackboard Course Documents from 9am of November 3 to 10pm of November 5. You must complete your quiz within one hour in a single session. Make sure you don’t leave the quiz Web page during your quiz session, and you click on the Submit button at the end of your session. If accidents happen and you cannot access your quiz again, send me an email and I will reset the quiz for you. All the quiz questions are conceptual, and they check your understanding of the topics covered in the recent two weeks and whether you have completed the assigned tasks for the time period.

Important concepts/terms worth attention:

PGP (Pretty Good Privacy), email authentication and confidentiality, general structures of private and public-key rings, public-key management, PGP message generation and reception, PGP trust model, S/MIME, structure of a typical MIME email with multiple parts of different data types, enveloped data, signed data, clear-signed data, and signed and enveloped data.