

Two of the 6 steps in a secure connection are the ones that break

The 6 steps of opening a secure connection. Two rely on mathematics a quantum computer can solve. The step that scrambles your actual content is not one of them, and no machine capable of either attack exists today.

- 1 Your device says which encryption methods it supports
- 2 The 2 sides agree on a shared secret over an open line
BREAKS
- 3 The server proves who it is with a signed certificate
BREAKS
- 4 The shared secret becomes a short-lived session key
- 5 Your content is scrambled with that session key
SURVIVES
- 6 The connection closes and the session key is discarded

An eavesdropper records the whole connection, so breaking step 2 later recovers the session key and opens everything step 5 encrypted. Forward secrecy does not help, because the attack breaks the temporary key exchange itself.