



Digital Quantum Key Distribution (D-QKD)

Eliminating HNDL Risk with
Out-of-Band, Quantum Safe Keys

The Quantum Threat is No Longer Future Tense

'Harvest Now, Decrypt Later' Boosts Quantum



Nancy Liu | Editor
September 27, 2022 3:30 PM

Quantum computing development roars as quantum security journey and preparatory recommendations.

"Harvest now, decrypt later" recommendations are organizations today, anticipating maturity level capable of responding.

The consulting firm surveyed over 400 computing benefits and found that over half for "harvest now, decrypt later" attacks.

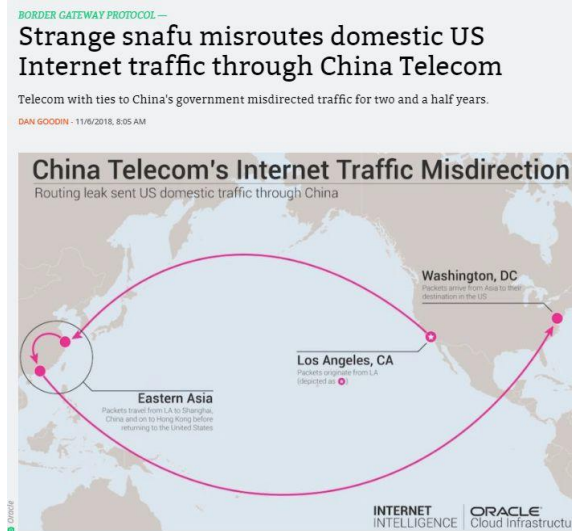
"It's encouraging to see that organizations are aware of the security implications of quantum computing in their data center news."

DATA CENTER NEWS

Harvest now, decrypt later attacks put encrypted data in the hands of hackers

Quantum computers are still under development and seen as future technology, but they already cause danger to encrypted data. Seeing a high potential to be able to crack cryptographic keys in the long-term, cybercriminals are intensifying what are known as "harvest now, decrypt later" attacks to accumulate huge quantities of encrypted data and decrypt them once quantum technology is developed enough.

"Current encryption systems are still hard to break, so they are beneficial for ensuring your privacy," said Marijus Briedis, CTO at NordVPN. "Nevertheless, cybercriminals already target encrypted data even if they cannot crack the decryption. Even though quantum computing is still in the future, it will take years until the global community adapts to the new standard of encryption, so we have to plan the transition to quantum-resistant algorithms now."



CYBERWARFARE

Cyber Insights 2022: Nation-States



By Kevin Townsend
January 20, 2022



by Christopher Burgess
Contributing Writer

Global trends will increase nation-state threats for the US in next 20 years

Press releases

Harvest Now, Decrypt Later Attacks Pose a Security Concern as Organizations Consider Implications of Quantum Computing

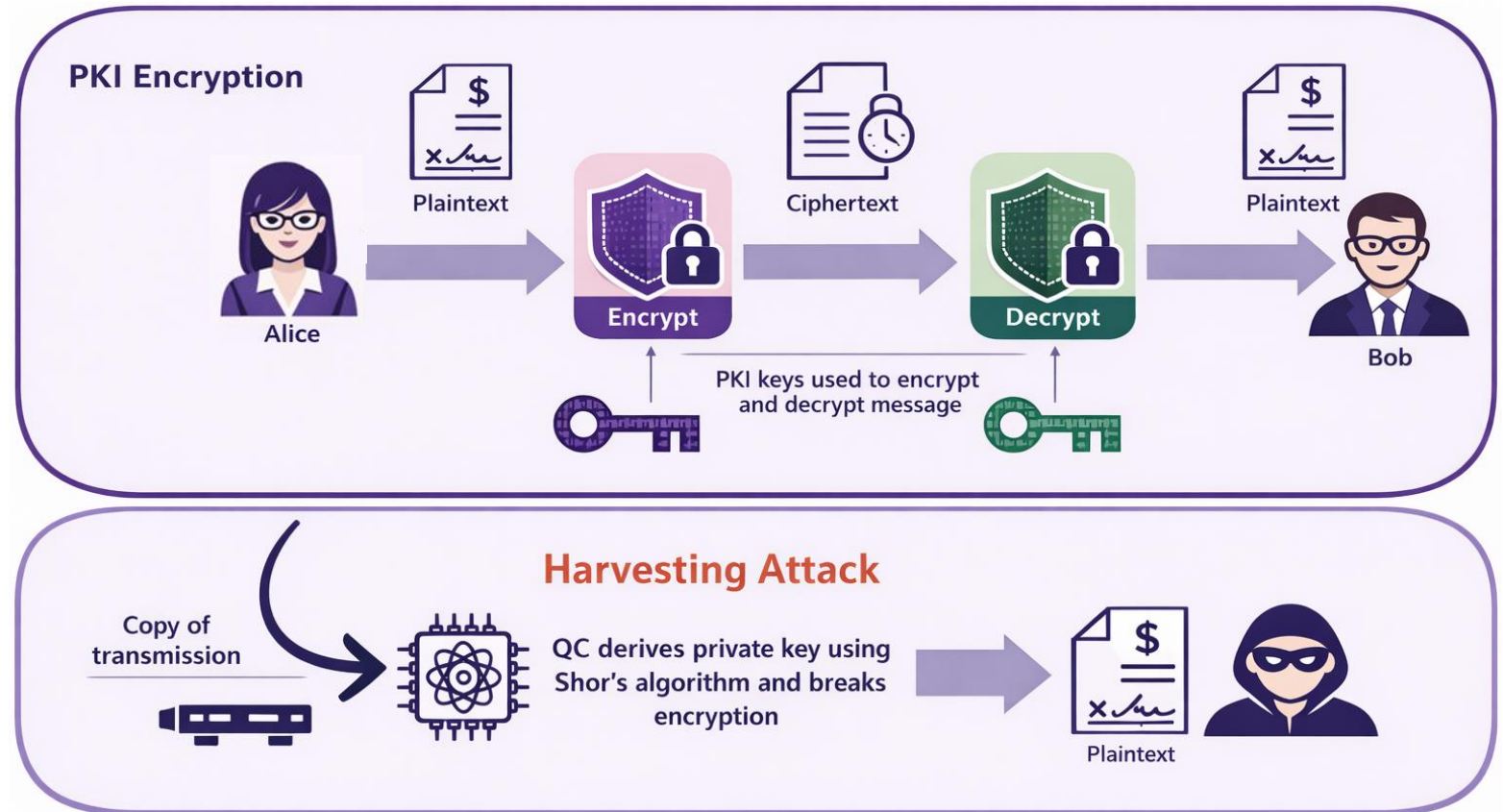
NEW YORK, Sept. 20, 2022 — Just over half of responding professionals at organizations considering quantum computing benefits believe that their organizations are at risk for "harvest now, decrypt later" (HNDL) cybersecurity attacks (50.2%), according to a new Deloitte poll.

In HNDL attacks, threat actors "harvest" data from unsuspecting organizations, anticipating that data can be decrypted later — when quantum computing reaches the maturity to render some existing cryptographic algorithms obsolete.

Deloitte

Harvesting Attack (HNDL): The Zero Day Threat

- Adversaries are recording encrypted traffic **now**
- Decryption will occur once quantum capabilities mature (Harvest Now, Decrypt Later)
- IPSec/IKEv2, TLS, and PKI-based systems are all exposed
- **Even PQC algorithms may be broken in the future**



Any key exchange performed in-band is vulnerable to future decryption.

Why Organizations Need Quantum-Safe Keying

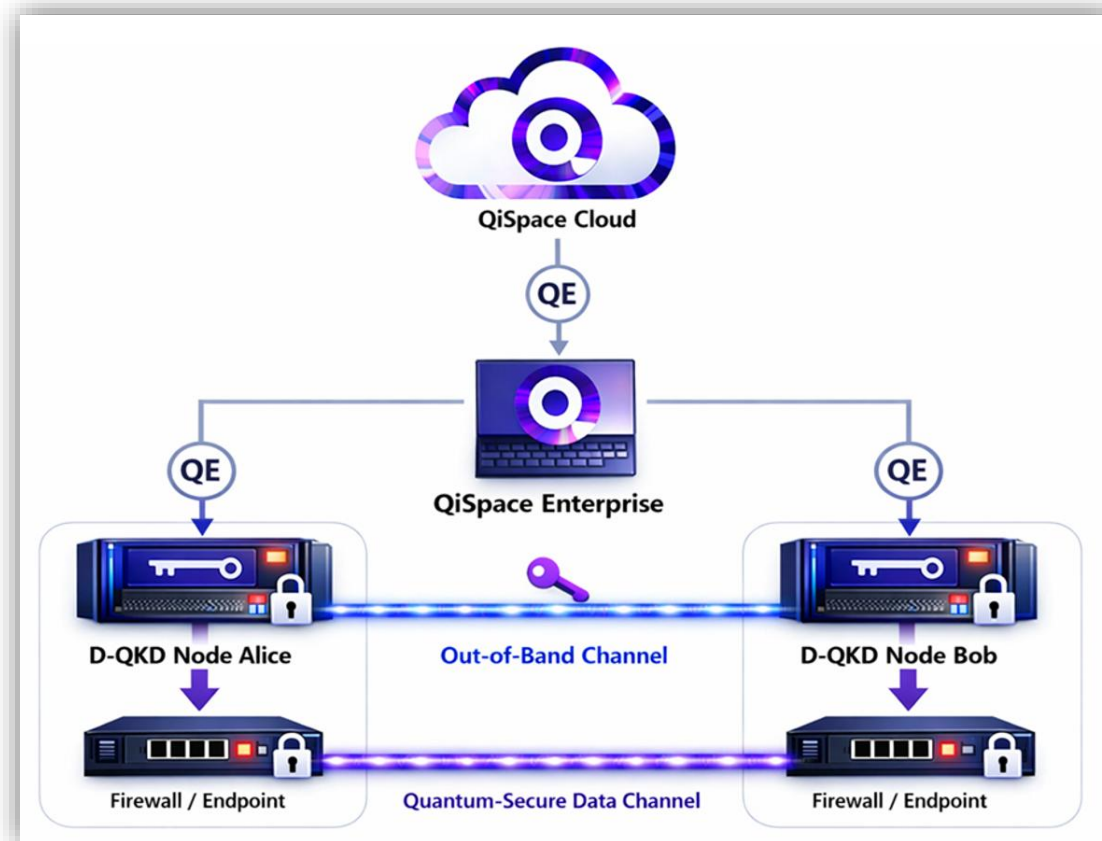
- Site to Site network links are prime targets for HNDL (IPSec, MACSec, OTNSec)
- IKEv2 and MKA key exchange remains in band
- Adding PQC **still** exposes key exchange material to harvesting
- If PQC is weakened or compromised later, today's traffic becomes decryptable



Customers need a solution that removes in-band exposure entirely.

Introducing QiSpace™ Digital Quantum Key Distribution (D-QKD)

- Delivers keys out-of-band, not negotiated in-band
- Works seamlessly with IPSec, MACSec, OTNSec
- Works across any IP network infrastructure — no strict fiber dependencies, no distance limits
- Lightweight software only deployment
- Standards based: D-QKD Nodes implement ETSI-014 & SKIP interface standards
- Follows NSA published security guidance on securely implementing Pre-shared keys over digital networks



D-QKD eliminates HNDL attacks and PQC risks.

Defense in Depth: Why D-QKD is Harder to Attack

To compromise D-QKD an attacker would need to target the out of band (OOB) channel. They would need to:

- Break the PKI/PQC protecting the OOB D-QKD transport
- Extract the delivered key
- Determine which firewall or endpoint it belongs to
- Correlate it to a specific in-band traffic flow
- Do all of this without any visibility into in-band key negotiation (because none exists)



Multi-layer protection makes compromise effectively impossible.

Why have a STRONG Lock if you have a WEAK Key?

- Out-band-keying eliminates the possibility of an attacker compromising the AES-256 key exchange mechanism to access encrypted traffic
- The AES-256 algorithm itself is accepted as “Quantum safe” because even a Quantum-based attack cannot compromise the encryption mechanism (aka the “Lock”) to extract data
- An attacker must therefore seek other ways to obtain the Key
- AES-256 Keys are generated from Random Number sequences also referred to as “Entropy”
- **Cyber threats powered by AI/ML are now used to guess / predict / calculate AES-256 Keys because of weakness or predictability of the Random Number sequences**

Quantropi's Quantum Entropy Differentiators

- **Entropy Sovereignty:** Customers have complete ownership and control over where their entropy is generated and how it is stored and used.
- **Multisource QRNG Generation:** QiSpace™ utilizes a multisource portfolio of industry leading quantum random number generators to ensure entropy source diversity and quality.
- **Quantum Secure Distribution:** QiSpace™ uses quantum secure symmetric encryption for transmissions to enable high-performance distribution, at gigabits per second, over existing internet infrastructure.
- **Entropy Expansion:** QiSpace™ provides platform resiliency against peak demand and flexibility for connection limited and offline endpoints.

QiSpace™ D-QKD Powered by Strong Entropy Network

SEQUR™ SynQK Network

Source

ca Ottawa

Status: Online
IP: 3.99.xxx.xxx

STOP ALL SESSIONS

Key ID	Key-value abstract	Peer Name
...f15c	BAUVmJL5jxdM6+xxSe48BNS6+Qzklj12vGQ+3dsTNVujBL4Ecvlqj4JzdSSF7...	Frankfurt
...90ec	lyagWmfknNTYgrfRX62XH/+Lz3Y9l9BfGvriH+dQh2b4zHD/WyOX1o/l+uhR...	San Franci...
...f15b	fBoUkzW9/Yzht12C/USETVvN/EHcvq+eoQroV6pFM2Bo5C1o50m17RJFY...	Frankfurt
...90eb	yH0/Bloaff2RUsQyT1yoYLVpxxb7cNFGFu++/K4rlR+UU6al9MXLCA0njpK...	San Franci...
...f15a	fi7+Jjn3zTWdYNH0IKLLD8GMSzmT10EUgEL+EdvDdlhb96ej3SllrQuCapQH...	Frankfurt
...90ea	m7aGveDM9gtTzu5NDPKrBTnf8DfTR9nvPwulduaM+Z10UIBartpdlbx7N4U...	San Franci...
...f15d	1RM1fnoAuDeerBlnaVYHhLinDnm1bhlkW66+dlhcAMWMI1QaK0SIDI13R1TM...	Frankfurt

Targets

us San Francisco

Status: Online
IP: 18.144.xxx.xxx

STOP

gb London

Status: Online
IP: 18.133.xxx.xxx

START

us Washington DC

Status: Online
IP: 44.195.xxx.xxx

STOP

de Frankfurt

Status: Online
IP: 3.66.xxx.xxx

STOP

sg Singapore

Status: Online
IP: 13.215.xxx.xxx

STOP

DE SynQK Node
Frankfurt

Status: Online Key Rate: 182.02 Mb/s

Key ID	Key-value abstract	Peer Name
...f215	IrUpPJ3QYLrVQvegl4tDcaDFuJbVdXRCnnMJDrwL1qvrRacDNJ700YxgRZk...	Ottawa
...f214	ESSU/Ujv3H5Y7MOQYbD9IM1tnti3NuPrdbCnxe6YYIN4ztE54NLpeDlvh29E...	Ottawa
...f213	khMCMu35Q+WijTpHwo8zXBwnPedJzDeCvLOmlhyuLBzzGrSTCvoWdp2L...	Ottawa
...f212	f91pfav15vNOC9pjFalJYp7lVnj6RMx2cZUnMX7UcvZhdAXOd8TwwsSRS...	Ottawa
...f211	7bnj0oIk0Fb0yZ/zTMIWsjK90ChZyJl95BEZ24353bQD0pIYnIU874zSdE+o...	Ottawa
...f210	P1IMdAZWs+ijcPFujwAfzFaur73JijjO/v5dUPATPU3Rtz0hlX8UnXpft2HCu...	Ottawa
...f20f	jzRgiPvab0EzGKUgGwe3MMgAaZ8GhHlagHLJ2QJ9V3K7GW7zVGln+5c6g...	Ottawa
...f20e	zblsX5lnRToylRivETm8lEI+pM7wj7DwYQPOeRIGSooABRIuLl9xrsNZ14/nl5...	Ottawa
...f20d	3WQ3+1+mQZ0Ax10mkf7MI1McvbYkVcRfEnJ6clIBL1Kcl1ZVulKWhanTSb7...	Ottawa

Quantropi D-QKD vs. Photonic QKD

QiSpace™ D-QKD offers significant advantage over Photonic QKD:

- No expensive, specialized endpoint hardware
- No optical fiber requirements
- No distance limits
- No trusted nodes
- No limits on multi-node connections



**Photonic QKD not recommended
by US or EU intelligence agencies**

Digital QKD brings quantum security to real-world infrastructure.

Case Study: Deutsche Telekom Benchmark

Quantropi deployed QiSpace in the Deutsche Telekom Open QKD Lab **to test system compatibility and Enterprise-scale performance.**

- Concurrent AES-256 Sessions:
 - QiSpace™ D-QKD: **1.4 Million**
 - Toshiba: **1200**
 - ID Quantique: **12**
- Quantropi D-QKD keys passed NIST 800-22, ENT and Dieharder randomness tests essential for assuring cryptographic integrity

Deutsche Telekom / Quantropi Publication



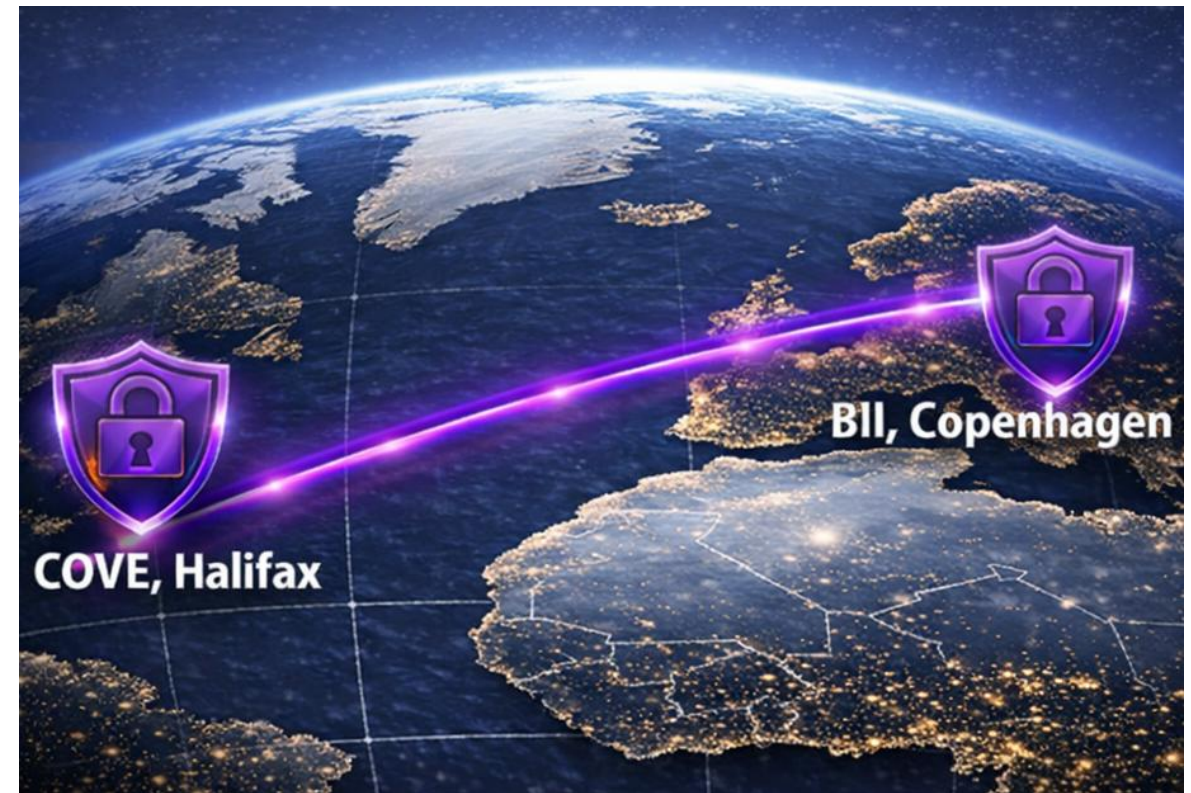
QiSpace dramatically outperformed photonic QKD solutions for a fraction of the cost with no distance limitations.

Case Study: NATO Transatlantic Quantum-safe Networking

Quantropi installed QiSpace in two NATO network locations to create **the first NATO Quantum-safe transatlantic network**.

- The Quantropi solution integrated directly with NATO's existing Palo Alto Networks firewalls
- The connection spanned over 5000 km between Halifax, Canada and Copenhagen, Denmark
- Quantum entropy source used for strong cryptographic key generation

Quantropi Delivers First NATO Quantum Safe Network Connection



Proven quantum security capability for sensitive networks and global operations.

Case Study: Nokia Optical Network Integration

Quantropi delivered QiSpace as a **quantum security overlay for Nokia fiber networks** at the Numana technology testbed.

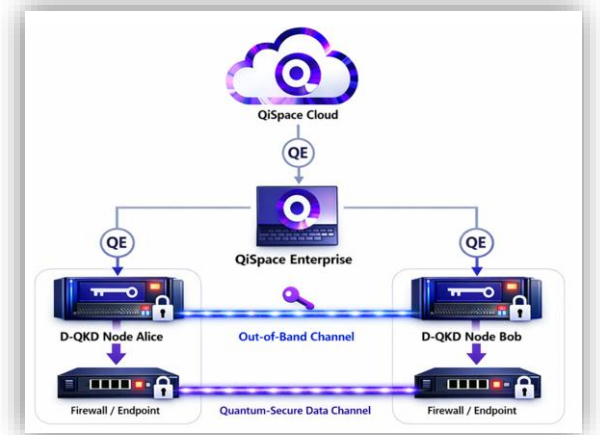
- Kirq by Numana is Canada's only quantum-safe tech testbed that simulates real world conditions and networks
- Quantropi's D-QKD solution was deployed to upgrade existing Nokia fiber network to complete Quantum Security without specialized equipment or dedicated fiber
- Quantum security demonstrated at full network bandwidth up to fiber capacity of 800 Gbps

Quantropi Announces NOKIA Quantum Safe Integration



Carrier-grade quantum security trusted by Telecommunications OEMs.

QiSpace™ D-QKD Vendor Support



Quantum-safe solution for Leading Manufacturers.

Summary: Why Choose D-QKD

- Software only deployment, works on existing physical, virtual, and cloud environments
- Eliminates HNDL risk
- Removes in-band key-exchange exposure
- Future-proofs against potential PQC weaknesses
- Compatible with existing infrastructure from Cisco, Ciena, Fortinet, Nokia, and Palo Alto
- Delivers quantum-grade entropy at scale
- Proven, standards-based, and operationally simple



D-QKD is the most practical path to quantum-safe communications today.



Bring it On.

Contact Information

Email: sales@quantropi.com

Website: www.quantropi.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/quantropi/>