

HEPIX VWG Image transfer.

Owen Synge for the HEPHX virtualisation working group

A short summary of the Documentation produced.

[HTML](#) [PDF](#) [A4 PDF](#) [Letter](#)

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HEPIX VWG Image transfer.

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HEPIX VWG Assumptions

- > For new customers Cloud may be all we need.
 - But HEP is not a new customer.
- > HEP Experiment software is currently partially trusted.
 - Sites allow NFS 3, sites are not ready for untrusted images.
 - HEP experiments are not ready to abandon rshell style data access.
- > Virtualising Worker node can be transparent for grid users.
 - We need to trust images more than with a cloud infrastructure.
- > Grid/Batch Queues have high efficiency and high use.
 - We should demonstrate our ideas work with the grid.
- > Accountancy is already working with Grid.
 - Cloud model of billing does not fit with current systems.

Four Areas of Focus

> Security Policies.

- Latest Draft

- <https://documents.egi.eu/public/ShowDocument?docid=771>
- “security-related policy requirements for the generation, distribution and operation of virtual machine images”
 - Policies are Valid even for Secured by VLAN systems.

> Image Creation.

- How to make an image XEN KVM neutral.

> Image Transfer.

- Most of this talk.

> Image Contextualization

- Attach a ISO image (virtual CDROM) of site specific batch queue client software.
- Boot time scripts call ISO image.

Image transfer Objective

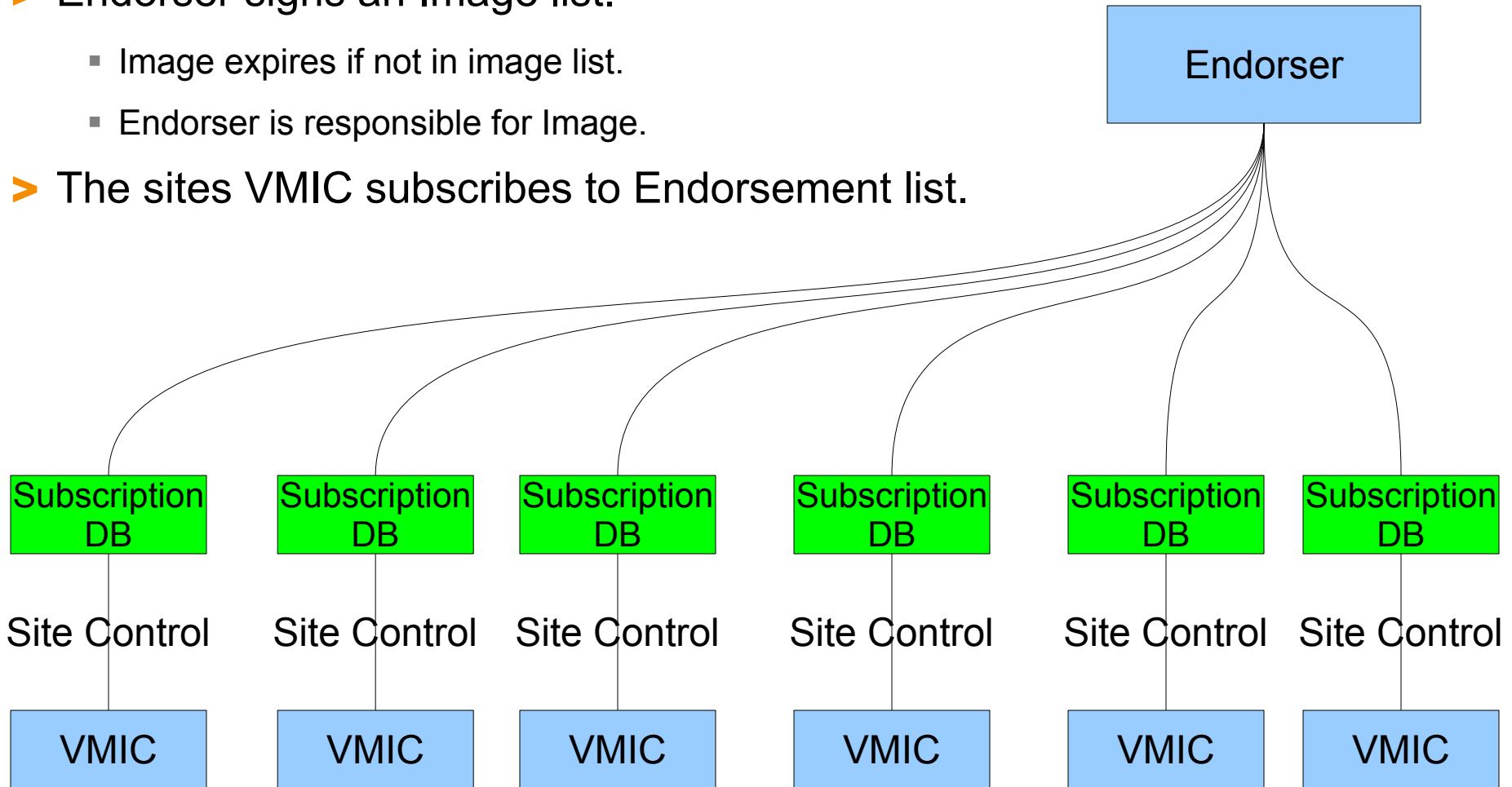
- > How to transfer images securely.
 - We know who made the image (**Endorser**)
 - We know the image is unmodified after endorsement.
 - We know the endorser cant repudiate their image list.
- > Must make life easy for image publisher.
 - Contacting each site to revoke an image is not practical.
- > Grid images on sites must be authorized by administrator.
 - Have minimal work for a site admin.
- > Site must be able to revoke images and trust.
 - An image, an endorser or an image list subscription.
- > We have Implementations for image transfer.



The model is Publish and Subscribe.

- > Endorser signs an Image list.
 - Image expires if not in image list.
 - Endorser is responsible for Image.

- > The sites VMIC subscribes to Endorsement list.



Why an Image list?

- We believe that image lists are better than just image meta data.
 - Any Image not on the list is not endorsed.
 - Prevents lost endorsements.
 - Endorsers only have one item to manage.
 - Any later image list published overrides the old image list.
 - Provides a simple way to deprecate images.



> Image to Meta data binding.

- Cryptographic hashes.
 - It is easy to compute the hash value for any given data.
 - It is infeasible to generate a message that has a given hash.
 - It is infeasible to modify a message without hash being changed.
 - It is infeasible to find two different messages with the same hash.
- Chose to use sha512 and file size to validate data.
 - Following Stratuslabs recommendation.
- Other hashes can be added.
 - If sha512 and size are later found to be too weak.
- URI to retrieve image.
 - Can be cached locally.
- Each image has a UUID
 - So we know which image is expired and which is upgraded.



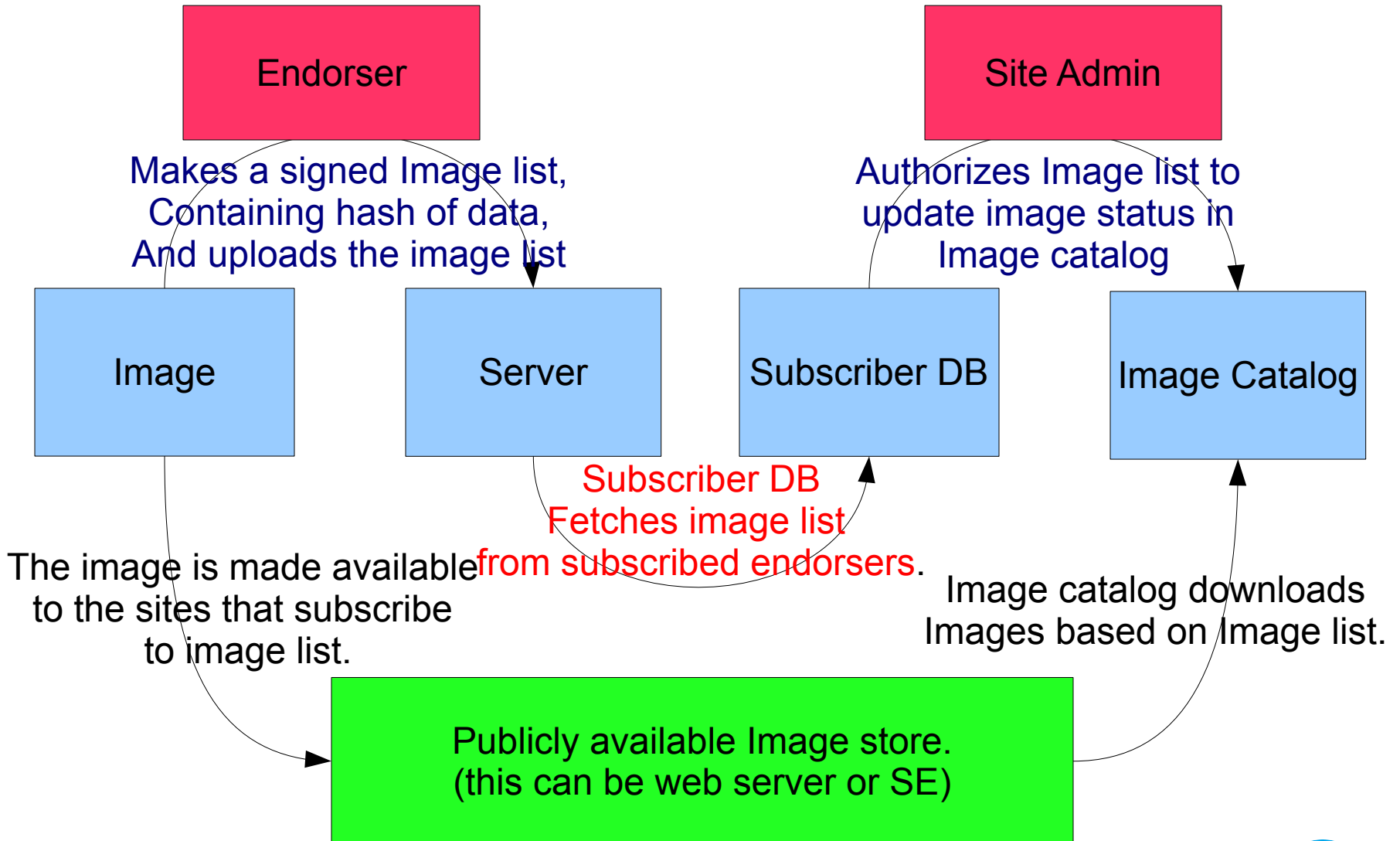
Meta-data Security.

> Meta-data authenticity.

- X509 + signatures. (SMIME or XML signatures)
 - Gives non repudiation, and confidence in who endorsed.
 - Give tamper proof message.
 - Signature can be checked by all clients,
 - Allows checking of historic meta-data changes.
- Version number.
 - Prevents man in middle attacks.
 - Man In Middle attempts to return an old list blocked by this.
- UUID on Image and Image list
 - Allows messages to be identified.
 - So messages cannot effect each other.
 - So images can be expired and updated.



Image and image list transfer overview



Making the Meta-data

> Process for signing Meta-data.

- 1) Create a template for the image list.

- > `vmilisttool --json image_list_template.json`

- 2) Create a template for an image reference.

- > `vmilisttool --image /home/jdoe/rawdiskimage.img --generate Vmmetadata.json`

- 3) Add your newly updated image meta-data to the image list

- > `vmilisttool --template image_list_template.json -add VMmetadata.json --json merged_image_list.json`

- 4) Sign the now assembled meta-data list.

- > `vmilisttool --template merged_image_list.json -s signed_image_list`

> Currently JSON, but XML will also be used.

- Compatibility with new Clemson VMIC messages.

> Can edit the file easily before signing.

- After signing the edits will make the list invalid.

> Extra fields can be added.

- These are for endorsers customers use and will have no effect on the HEPIX infrastructure.



Publishing : The Endorsers Image list.

- > To publish endorsers image
 - Must be available to subscribers.
 - All data integrity and authenticity in the image list.
- > To publish endorsers image list.
 - Subscription URL in Signed Image list must match your publishing location.
 - Must accept UUID constraints.
 - > Image list UUID is unique
 - > Each Image UUID is unique to your list.
 - Man in middle attacks must be blocked.
 - > Suggest x509 based web server.
 - > Could use ordinary https web server.
- > To expire images.
 - Endorsers do not reference image in the image lists latest version.
- > Suggest endorser sets up a subscriber to endorsers own image list.
 - So endorser knows before subscribers that they have an issue!



Subscription : Meta Data Validation.

> Must validate the image lists.

- Using x509 Signatures. (handling CA, CRL's, and CA namespaces)
 - SMIME is supported XML signatures intended.
- Manage a list of endorsers for an image list.
 - So that more than one person can provide and image list (eg for Atlas.)
 - So that only authorized people can update an image list.
- Must enforce UUID constraints.
 - UUID is same as other subscriptions
 - UUID of each image is exclusive to subscription.
- Must query for signed image list using the image hash.
 - So you can find the endorser for a given image and their signature
 - > Non repudiation feature from image
 - So you can expire images from an image cache.
- Should inform image producer if an image list breaks subscriptions constraints.
 - Unsure how this should be done.



Meta-data subscription DB

- > Mostly no admin interaction!
 - All subscriptions updated from a cron script.
 - All data is derived from subscriptions to image lists.
 - So just need to store signed image lists which you should anyway.
 - Migration is simply install a second in parallel.
- > Simple RDBMS
 - No critical data to back up.
- > Adding an endorser and subscription URL is all you need to do.
 - Since Image list contains where to get update to image list.
- > Image cache as a client of the subscription data base.
 - Very simple directory containing image's.
 - Expired images are be deleted.
 - Current images are be validated.



Last words : Coming to the End

- > HEPix Virtualisation Working Group is nearly over.
 - We did what we were created for.
 - We documented what we did.
 - <http://grid.desy.de/vm/hepix/vwg/doc/html/index.shtml>
 - <http://grid.desy.de/vm/hepix/vwg/doc/pdf/Book-a4.pdf>
 - <http://grid.desy.de/vm/hepix/vwg/doc/pdf/Book-letter.pdf>
- > Glue supports Virtualised Execution Environments
- > I hope for changes to Cream CE to allow users to select images.
 - JDL Change/Addition?
 - We need support in Batch Queue integration.
- > Image creation and Contextualization are demonstrated.
- > Image List base VM Image caching is demonstrated.
 - Progress to putting it in EPEL.



Summary (**Concepts matter not implementation**)

- > Policy for dealing with Virtual Machine Images.
- > Recipes for image creation as part of a Virtualised Grid Worker Node.
- > Signed image lists define images published.
 - First version of meta data is defined.
 - Non repudiation of image lists through signatures.
- > Only Images on current Image list are endorsed.
 - This means images expire when not in current image list.
- > Principle is generic to Clouds, Virtualised Worker Node.
- > Implementation of Message Generation/Subscription exist.
 - Working on getting release into EPEL repository.
 - Further working starting in CERN/Academia Sinica
- > We recommend the concept of **Signed image lists**.
 - And using Publish Subscribe model.

