

# HEPIX VWG Image transfer.

Owen Synge for the HEPHX virtualisation working group

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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 data access.
- > Virtualising Worker node can be transparent for grid users.
  - We need to trust images more than with a cloud infrastructure.
- > Accountancy.
  - Cloud model of billing does not fit with current systems.
- > We should find a way to use as much of grid as possible.
  - We should demonstrate our ideas work.

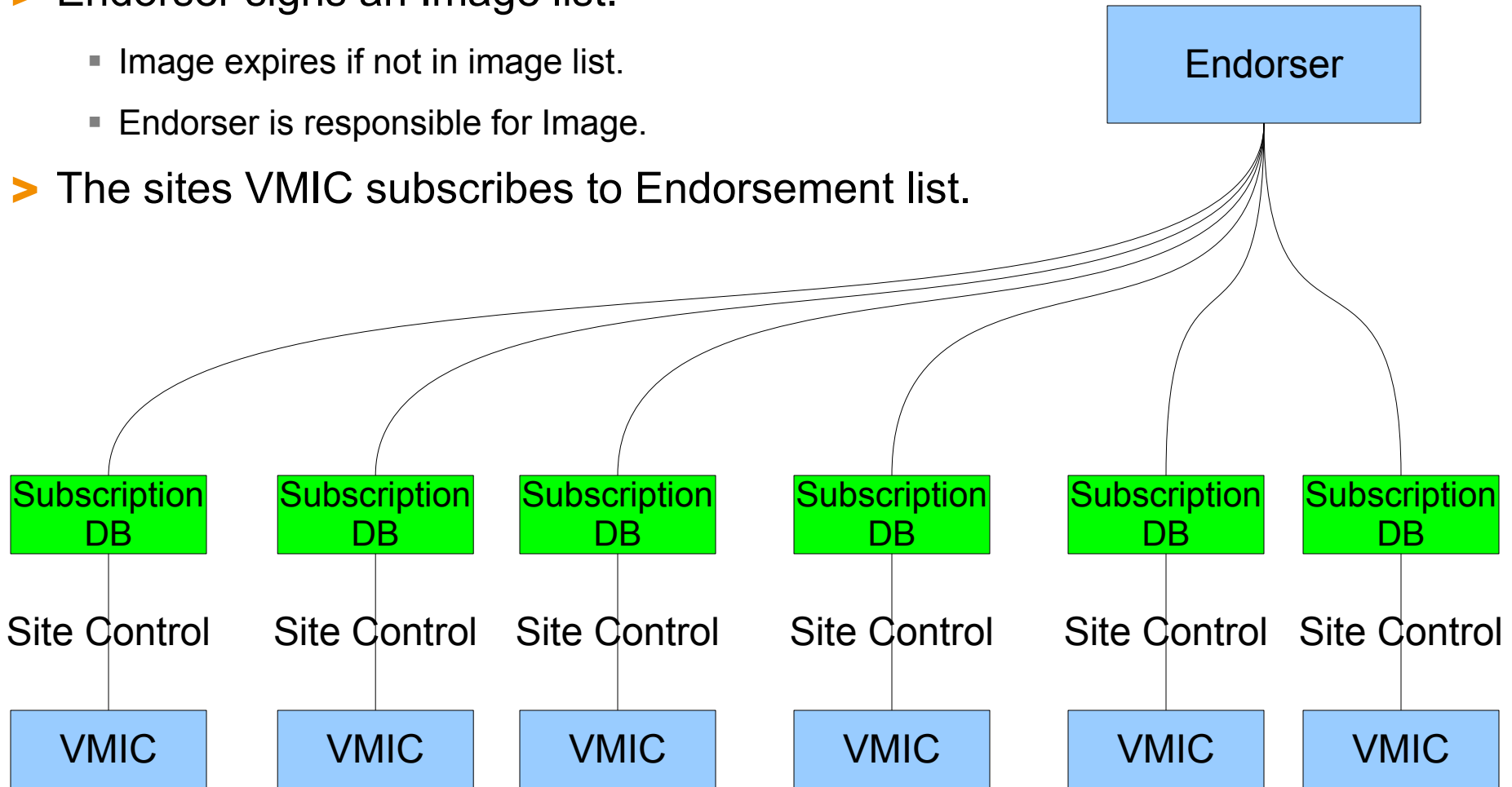
# Image transfer Objective

- > 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.
- > Privileged images on sites must be authorized by administrator.
  - Can subscribe to an image from an image list.
  - Have minimal work for a site admin.
- > Site must be able to revoke.
  - An image, an endorser or an image list subscription.
- > We have Implementations for image transfer.
  - Present to HEPIX and hope for site approval
  - Plan to present to experimental communities if approved by HEPIX.



# Publish 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.



## > 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.

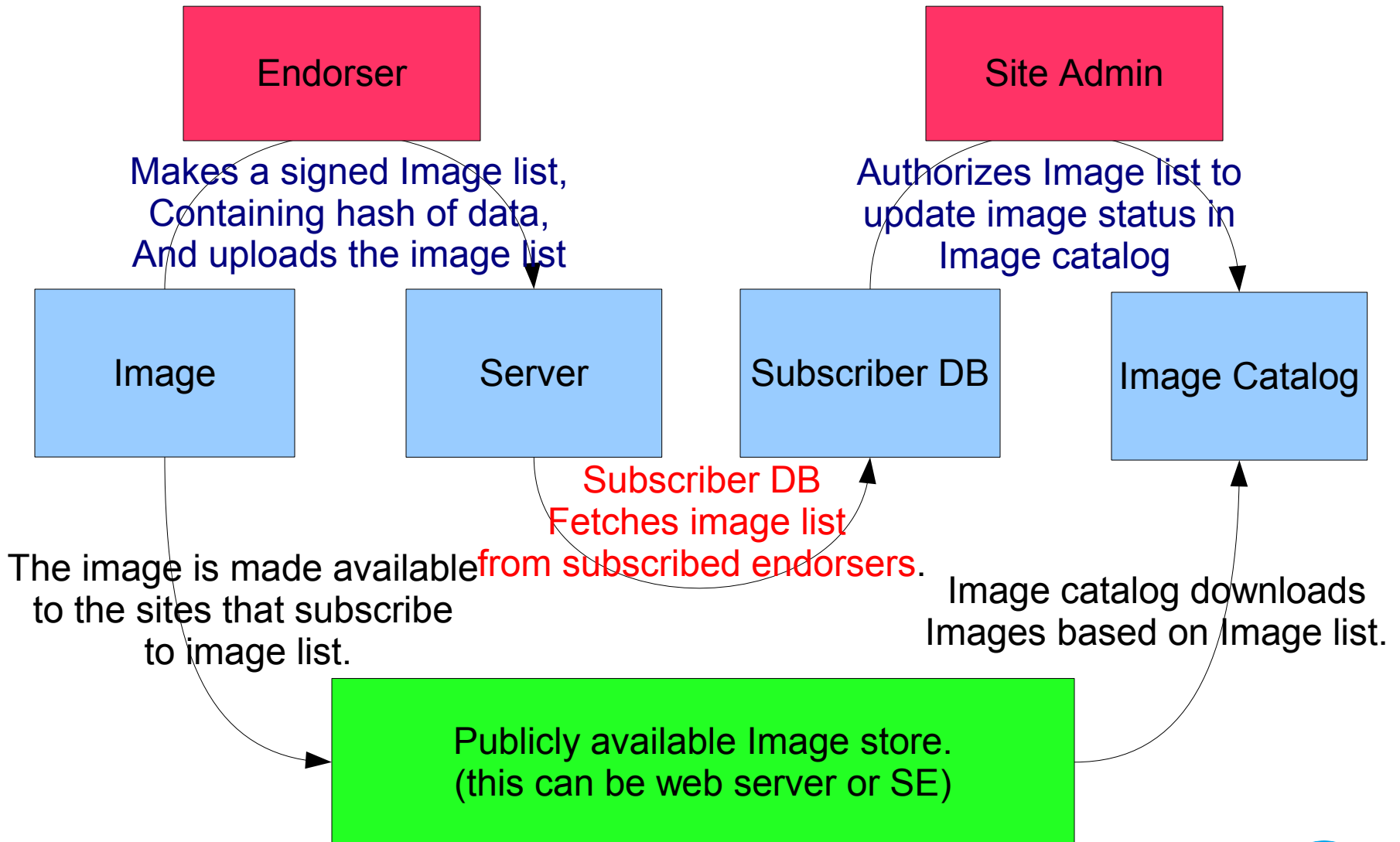


# Why an Image list?

- 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 and image list transfer overview





# Making the Meta-data

- > CERN VMIC automates this with new patch.
- > 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 endorsers Image list.

- > To publish endorsers image list.
  - Must be available to the subscribers.
  - Subscription URL in 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 publish endorsers image
  - Must be available to subscribers.
  - All data integrity and authenticity in the image list.
- > 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!



# Meta data subscription 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 image list all that is required to subscribe.

- Since Image list contains where to get update to image list.

## > Image cache as a client of the subscription data base.

- Not yet implemented. (2011-04-29)
  - > Will be writing this during HEPIX and shortly after.
- Very simple directory containing image's.
- Expired images will be deleted.
- Current images will be validated.



# VMIC deployed at CERN and 3 other sites.

- > The admins image authorization interface.
- > Allows multiple admins to cover for each other.
  - Uses service cert.
- > Allows sites to securely deploy images around a site.
  - Produces a site image list. (similar to an external image list.)
  - Action to commit database data to a signed message.
    - > Allows site to atomically update image lists.
- > Provides a history of images deployed at a site.
  - Stores the sites signed image list.
- > Patch came in from Clemson University to provide Image list import and export directly.
  - This talk does not cover this system as I am yet to investigate this new functionality.



# Summary (**Concepts matter not implementation**)

- > Signed image lists define images.
  - First version of meta data is defined.
  - RDF(XML) and JSON are functionally equivalent.
- > 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.
- > Two implementations of message generation/consumption exist.
  - My fault for not being aware of Clemson University patch.
  - We need to compare features and maybe make messages inoperable.
- > We recommend the concept of **Signed image lists to HEPIX.**

