

# MAKING DIGITAL DATA TRUSTWORTHY IN THE CLOUD

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Malaga 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

# My Background

- ▣ Been developing software since 1972
  - ▣ Commercial and Freelance
  - ▣ Co-founder of 3 Software Product Companies
  - ▣ Have had many different responsibilities
  - ▣ Still developing software, though...
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- ▣ Digiprove's technology adds Trust to Digital data

# What is the core issue?

- ▣ To be able to provide absolute proof of the integrity, authenticity and provenance of digital content when required. (detect any tamper).
  
- ▣ The Cloud adds further uncertainty:
  - Who has access to your data & communications?
  - How many times is it replicated?
  - Where is your data (and copies thereof)?
  - Who has access to your data
  
- ▣ You are placing Trust in an organisation, i.e. people, not technology

# When is Trust Critical?

- ▣ Digital evidence
- ▣ In Court
- ▣ For Regulator/Compliance
- ▣ For Business decisions
- ▣ eDiscovery
- ▣ IPR/Copyright
- ▣ Retention compliance
- ▣ Digital Signing
- ▣ Cloud Data and Apps
- ▣ Social Media
- ▣ Financial Records

# Proliferation of Digital Data

- ▣ Vast majority of content originates digitally:
  - Application software
  - Email
  - Microsoft Word
  - Digital cameras
  - Pro-tools Sound Production software
  - Final Cut Video Production software
  - Phones/Tablets: VOIP / Messaging (BYOD)
- ▣ Most of the rest ends up in digital domain
  - Scanned papers and images
  - OCR
- ▣ Usually no way to trace provenance



# Characteristics of Digital Data

- ▣ It is intended by design to be manipulated
- ▣ It can be changed:
  - Text files
  - Microsoft Word and other documents
  - Email archives
  - PDFs
  - Sound recordings
  - Images
  - Database records & Logs
- ▣ It is communicated
- ▣ It can move location or be replicated



# Questions to Consider

- ▣ Criticality of Data Integrity
  - What is consequence of integrity failure
- ▣ Who needs to trust it?
  - Internal – *basis for operational decisions*
  - Non-exec Directors / Boards – *basis for strategic decisions*
  - Auditors or Regulators – *basis for compliance*
  - External Stakeholders – *basis for trust & confidence*
  - Public/Citizen – *basis for trust and commitment*
  - Journalists – *for attributable quotes*
  - Courts – *evidence*

# How trustworthy does it need to be?

- ▣ Depends on:
  - Criticality of business
  - Criticality of data

I trust our access controls:

Completely

Up to a point

Not Sure

Motivation to tamper or hack:

Little or none

Certain parties

Strong interest

Potential Consequences of undetected tamper:

Negligible

Unknown

Potentially Serious

Can some of the data become evidence?:

Very unlikely

Possibly

Probably

Criticality of Data

HR records

Decision Support

Financial Logs

Personal data

Action Logs

Tweets etc.

Financial data

Communications

Compliance  
Records

Web-site

Standard Docs

User Manuals

Staff

Suppliers

Clients

Auditors/Regulators

Public

Courts

Potential Audience

# Low Trust Examples

- ▣ Regulators
  - Often insist on “wet” signatures
  - Submissions must be in paper or fax
  - Retention of Original paper records
- ▣ Legal documents, contracts etc.
- ▣ Certificates, Diplomas
- ▣ E-Discovery Law
  - Spoliation allegations
  - Preservation Obligations
- ▣ Cloud generally

Low Trust should create demand for Digital Data Trust Solutions

# Misplaced Trust

- ▣ Documents
  - PDFs
  - Scanned Images
- ▣ HTTPS web-pages
- ▣ (Some) Financial Audit Trails
- ▣ Cloud data
- ▣ Tweets and other social media

# Misplaced Trust Example

## PAYMENT

### ► CREDIT CARD

Please, charge in my credit card the total amount: \_\_\_\_\_ €

(Registration + Accommodation)

VISA

MASTERCARD

AMERICAN EXPRESS

OTHERS

Credit card number:

Expiration date (month/year):

Credit card holder:

Signature:

## ACCOMMODATION and REGISTRATION FORM

**IFIPTM'2013**

June 3-5, 2013, Malaga, Spain

**VIAJES**

*El Corte Inglés*

SEND **BY FAX** TO: VIAJES EL CORTE INGLÉS Fax. +34 952 60 90 60 Phone: +34 952 062 654

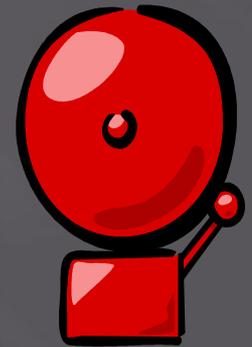
or **SCANNED BY E-MAIL** TO: [malagacongresos@viajeseci.es](mailto:malagacongresos@viajeseci.es)

# Requirements of a Data Trust Solution

- ▣ Have certainty that any content has not changed
  - Since creation date
  - Since authorised amendment (must include version history)



- Automatically detect if content changed outside permitted channels
  - Threat detection
  - Early alarm for attempted fraud
  - Early alarm for data corruption



Give visible assurance

Raise Alarm

# Requirements of a Data Trust Solution

## ▣ Establish Provenance

- Who created?
- Who witnessed?
- Is signed / contains signatures?
- Version History

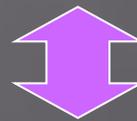
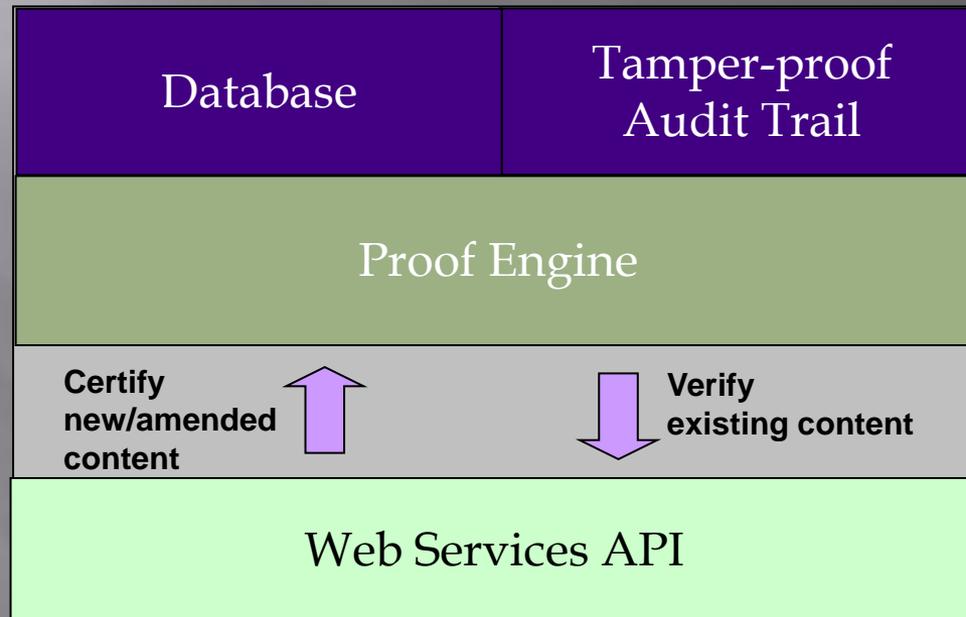
## ● Other Metadata:

- Data Type
- Functional / How created (email, MS Word, camera etc.)
- Where created – Location
- Identity (like fingerprint)

# Methods for Establishing Data Trust

|                        | Description   | Advantages   | Disadvantages   |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| Digital Signatures     | Individual signs content - Binds content to individual and any change in content is detectable. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very Secure</li><li>- Independent proof of identity</li><li>- Can be extended with independent timestamp</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dependent on “web of trust”, independent certification of identities</li><li>- Computationally expensive</li></ul>  |
| Digital Fingerprinting | Use one-way “hash” algorithm to create unique fingerprint of each file/blob                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Easy to implement</li><li>- Computationally light</li><li>- Reliable at detecting file corruptions</li></ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- No intrinsic security</li><li>- No intrinsic time-stamp</li><li>- No key</li><li>- No provenance</li><li>- Certain algorithms have flaws (e.g. SHA1, MD5)</li></ul> |
| Checksum               | Simple algorithm to identify content  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Very Quick</li><li>- Reasonably</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- As for digital fingerprinting</li></ul>   |

# Overview



Packaged Solutions

Web Service

Integrated Systems

# The solution is holistic:

| STEP:                                   | Function   | Notes / Options  |
|---|--|--|
| Digital Fingerprinting                  | Creates unique id/recognition key for each content block         | Uses strong algorithm (e.g. SHA256)                          |
| Secure Fingerprinting                   |  |  |
| Create timestamp                        |  | incorporates timestamp                                       |
| Certify metadata                        | Establishes provenance   | - User name, content abstract, version, GPS co-ordinates     |
| Create transparent tamper-evident trail |  | chain of custody   |
| Independent certification               |  | service  |
| Automatic Verification                  | Gives visible assurance<br>Detect / Alert tampers or corruptions | - On request<br>- Periodic<br>- Whenever content is accessed |

**Result: Creates proof of content & time-stamp and provides independent certification of this**

**It is impossible (even for Cert. Service Provider) to issue a back-dated certificate. Process does not rely on trust in any person or organisation.**

# Some Uses of this Technology

- ▣ Tamper-evident audit trails (regulated industries)
- ▣ Establish provenance & timestamp of legal documents
- ▣ Verify integrity of web pages as they are served
- ▣ Handwritten signatures on digital documents
- ▣ Meet e-Commerce legal requirements on retaining digital data
- ▣ Tamper-evident email archives
- ▣ Ediscovery lock-down

# Applying to the Cloud

- ▣ Requires cloud & ground deployment of technology
- ▣ Multiple Points of certification:
  - For content created locally, evidenciate before upload
  - For content created in Cloud, evidenciate immediately
  - For externally-sourced content, evidenciate immediately
- ▣ On Content presentation, verify locally

# We are Interested in

- ▣ Ideas about Drivers for Recognition of Problem
- ▣ Raising our Profile
- ▣ Improving Our Core Offering
- ▣ New Deployments of our technology/service
- ▣ Academic Opinion and Input
- ▣ Other Forms of Collaboration

# Thanks

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