

# Patterns in Data Provenance

*Cryptographic Magic Included*

**Benedict Lau**

**Data Provenance**

**@ Hypha Worker Co-op**

The logo for HYPHA, consisting of the word "HYPHA" in white, bold, uppercase letters centered within a solid purple square.

**HYPHA**

Data Integrity

Decentralized  
Preservation

Verifiable  
Computing

Hardware  
Attestations

Media  
Authentication

AI Model  
Lineage

**Benedict Lau**

**Data Provenance**

**@ Hypha Worker Co-op**

**HYPHA**

**I want to ensure my data, and its associated metadata, is not tampered.**

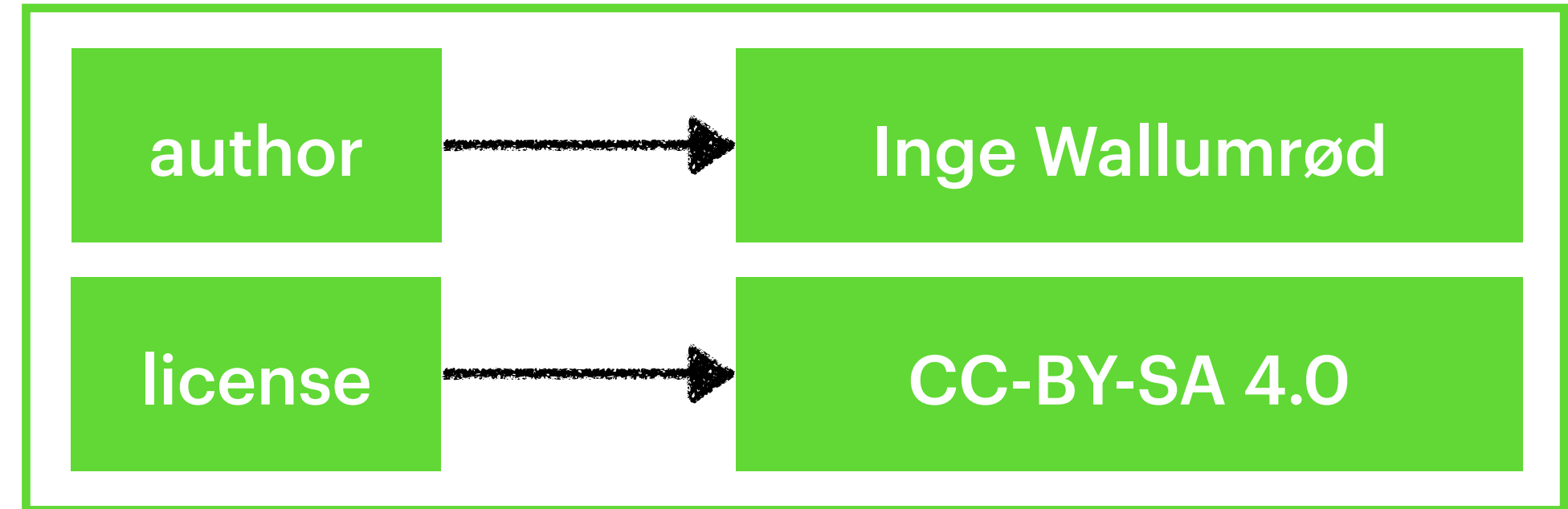
Data



Data



Metadata



## Data



↓ SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

## Data



↓ SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0



## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

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600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8a8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

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0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

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600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8ba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

Integrity



**Data**

**Metadata**

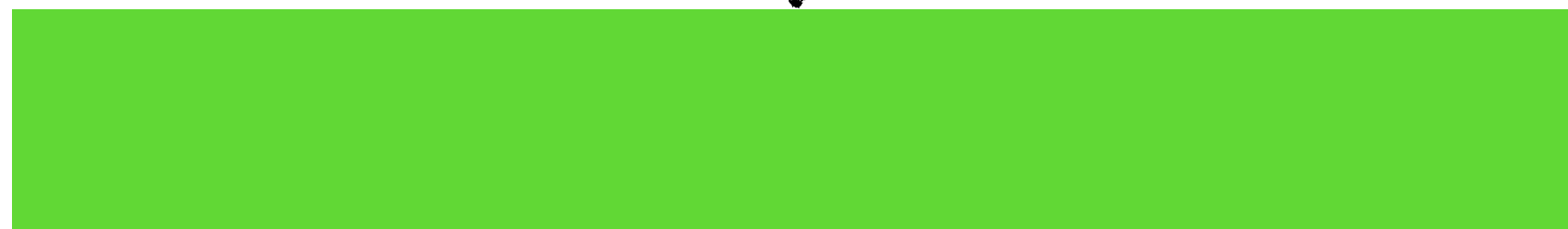
**Integrity**

# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



Data



Metadata

author



Inge Wallumrød

license



CC-BY-SA 4.0



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



Data



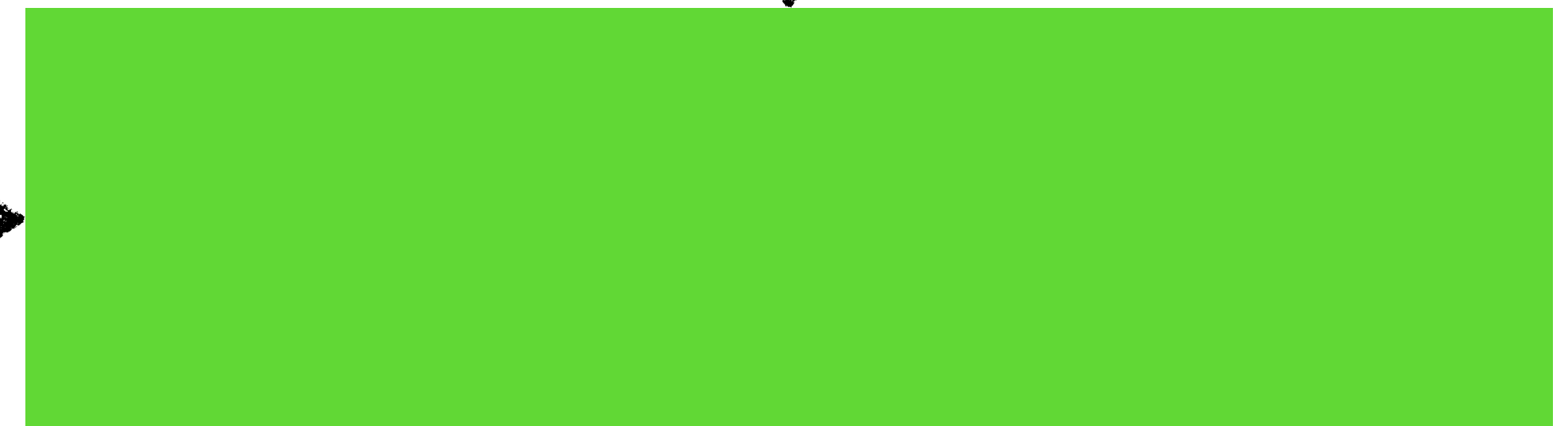
Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



Data



↓ SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

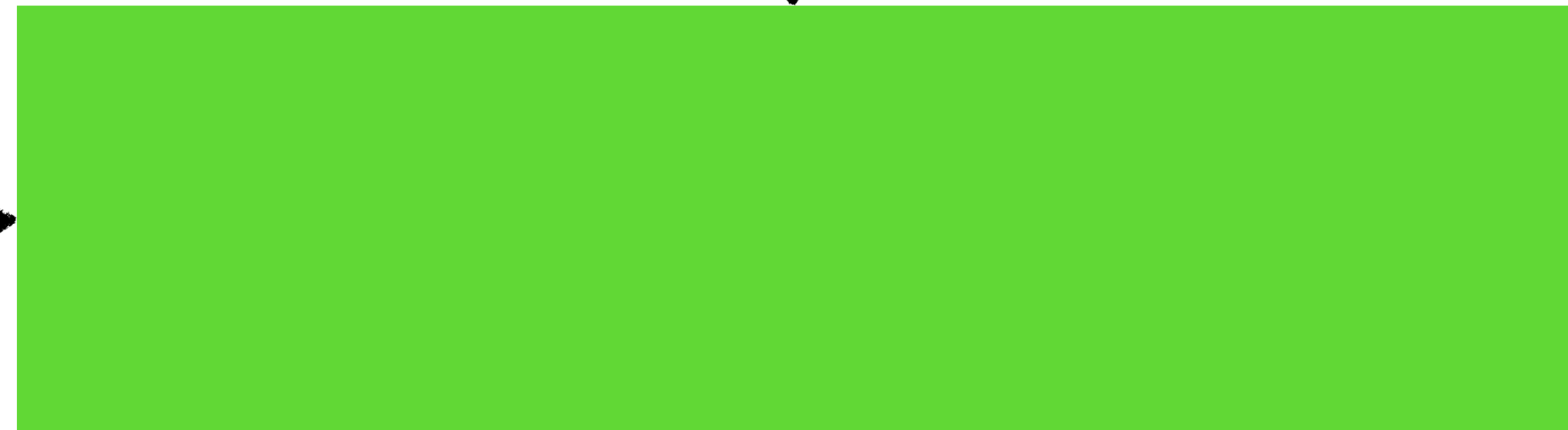
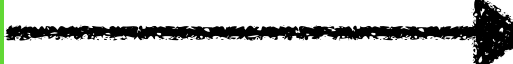
Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9





# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm

Data



↓ SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

!?

!?



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



```
hash,600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc00248530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
license,CC-BY-SA 4.0  
author,Inge Wallumrød
```

```
{  
  "data":"600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc00248530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf",  
  "license:CC-BY-SA 4.0",  
  "author":"Inge Wallumrød"  
}
```

```
{  
  "data":"600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc00248530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf",  
  "author":"Inge Wallumrød",  
  "license:CC-BY-SA 4.0"  
}
```

# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm
  - The metadata packaging system

## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8ba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

!?

!?

## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8a8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key

Integrity



# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm
  - The metadata packaging system
  - The signature verification method
  - The public key to verify against

# Some standards we've implemented

- A verifier is given:



- The verifier also needs:

- The data hashing algorithm (**CID, Blake3**)
- The metadata packaging system (**C2PA, Numbers Protocol, ISCN, JCS, JSON-LD, RDFC, Authenticated Attributes**)
- The signature verification method (**Verifiable Credentials, ZK proofs**)
- The public key to verify against (**GPG, DID, BBS+**)



**Back to our original design goal ...**

**I want to ensure my data, and its associated metadata, is not tampered.**

## Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

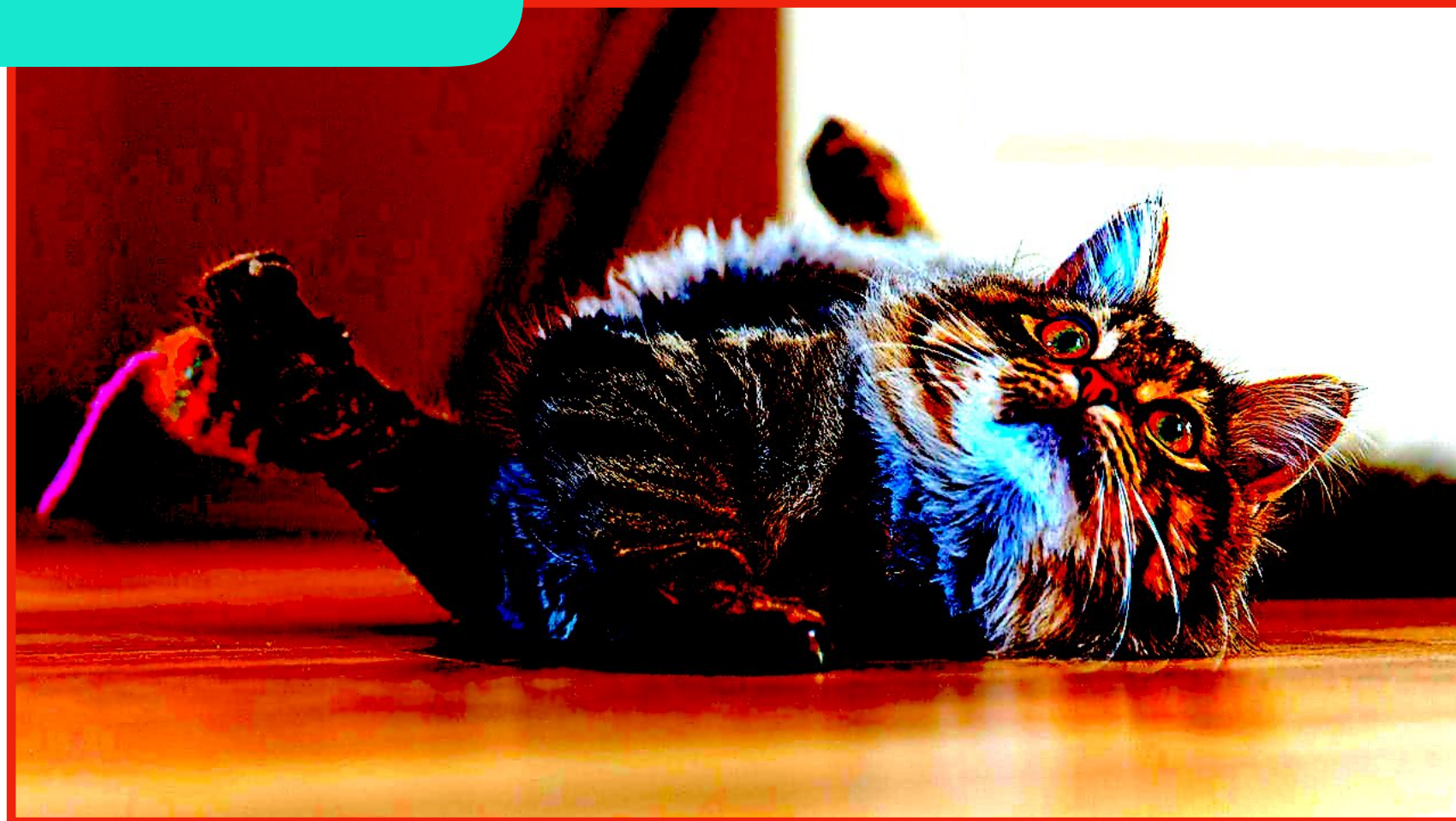
72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8a8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key

Integrity



Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key

Integrity

Data Tampering

Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata

author

Benedict Lau

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Benedict Lau  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd5ba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key

Integrity

# Metadata Tampering

Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata

author

Benedict Lau

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Benedict Lau  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

ab6055adc3c7e7a62aa5fc2d09efb0ad5a  
6ca7015343eca2dda94981b03e02fa

ECDSA + Public Key



Integrity

# Signature Tampering

# More accurately ...

~~I want to ensure my data, and its  
associated metadata, is not tampered.~~

**Tampered versions of my data, and its associated  
metadata, cannot be attributed to me.**

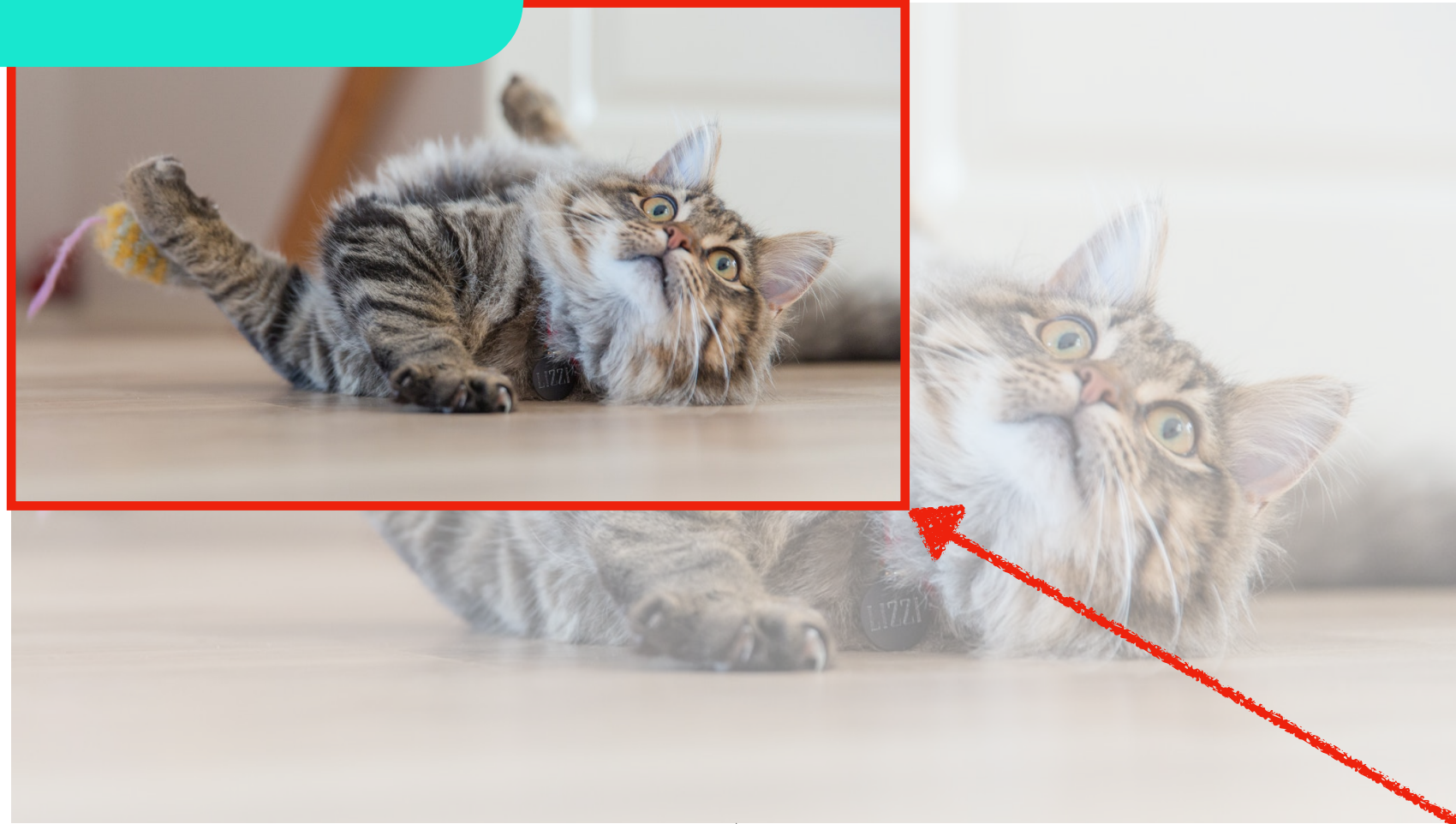
# Scenarios

What if I resize the  
picture?





Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key

Integrity



... or do legitimate edits, or  
necessary redactions, or  
transcoding, or when web  
optimization kicks in ...



Data



Transformation

Data



Attest

Metadata

Integrity

Statement

Integrity

Metadata

Integrity

Data Lineage



**What if my data is a  
collection of files?**

## Data



SHA-256 Merkle Root

54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691  
249c08285d5262b20a949d0726365b5

cat\_1.jpg

cat\_2.jpg

cat\_3.jpg

600b244925ffc966  
5c8544083b9cc00  
248530f6c7b0ecdd  
5c89c859e3c5818cf

e6531693281bf0123  
ff877d02e72eac1198  
be1292cafdaf12ce0a  
29809297d30

e051aa975301300a  
3b3bfaad28f2a6055  
f4b35f25acbee641e  
52fb4a5766fcd5

Integrity

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691249c0  
8285d5262b20a949d0726365b5  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

221f83dcd8ba8079a7ef1709f34e993d5834  
64fc3e7026d5aa972bf3d242a0656

ECDSA + Public Key





... and if I need to reference a subset of files in my collection, or a data range within a single file ...

## Data



SHA-256 Merkle Root

54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691  
249c08285d5262b20a949d0726365b5

cat\_1.jpg

cat\_2.jpg

cat\_3.jpg

600b244925ffc966  
5c8544083b9cc00  
248530f6c7b0ecdd  
5c89c859e3c5818cf

e6531693281bf0123  
ff877d02e72eac1198  
be1292cafdaf12ce0a  
29809297d30

e051aa975301300a  
3b3bfaad28f2a6855  
f4b35f25acbee641e  
52fb4a5766fcd5

Integrity

## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691249c0  
8285d5262b20a949d0726365b5  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

221f83dcd8ba8079a7ef1709f34e993d5834  
64fc3e7026d5aa972bf3d242a0656

ECDSA + Public Key



# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:

Data



Metadata

Integrity

```
221f83dcdba8079a7ef1709f34e993d5834  
64fc3e7026d5aa972bf3d242a0656
```

ECDSA + Public Key 

```
54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691  
249c08285d5262b20a949d0726365b5
```

```
e6531693281bf0123  
ff877d02e72eac1198  
be1292cafdaf12ce0a  
29809297d30
```

Merkle Path

Inclusion Proof

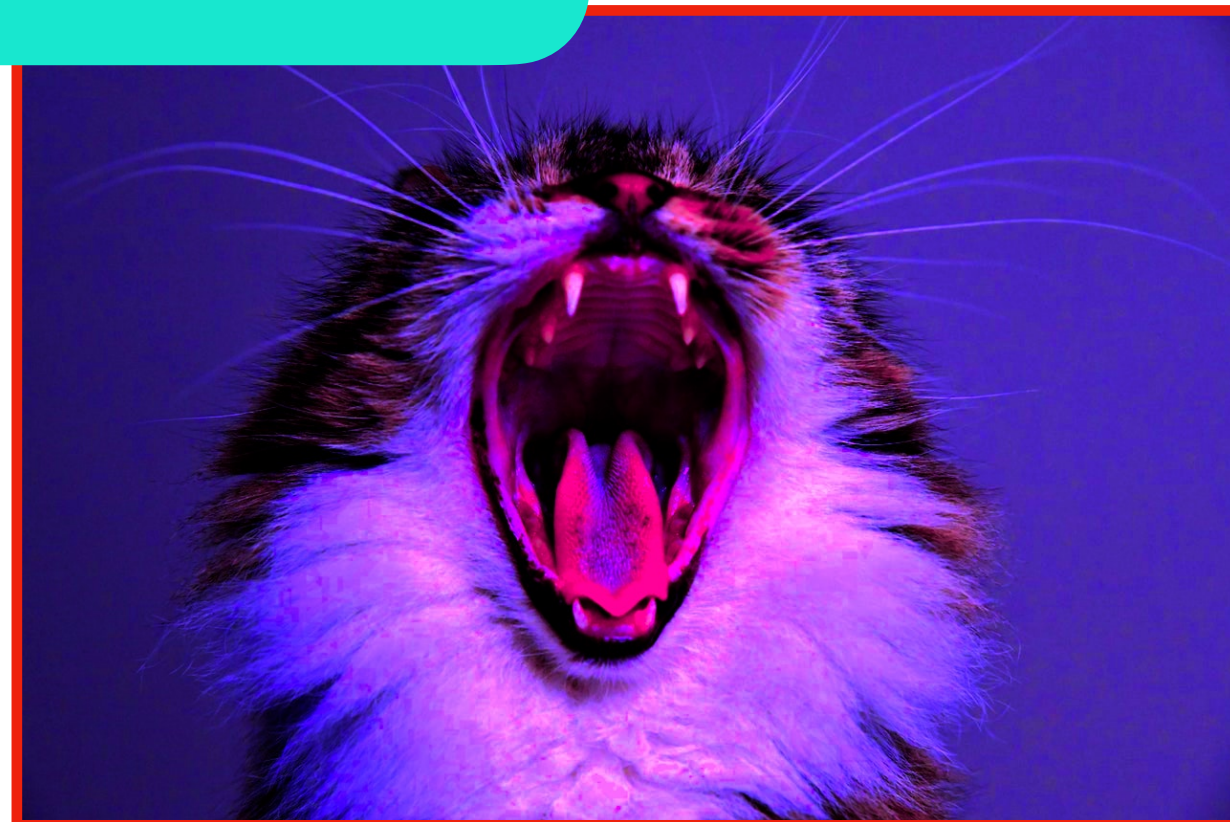


# Let's try verifying

*Inclusion proof fails verification if the data is tampered*

- A verifier is given:

Data



Metadata

Integrity

```
221f83dcd8a8079a7ef1709f34e993d5834  
64fc3e7026d5aa972bf3d242a0656
```

ECDSA + Public Key 

```
54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691  
249c08285d5262b20a949d0726365b5
```

```
e6531693281bf0123  
ff877d02e72eac1198  
be1292cafdaf12ce0a  
29809297d30
```

Merkle Path

Inclusion Proof

What if I need to  
redact part of the  
original *metadata*?



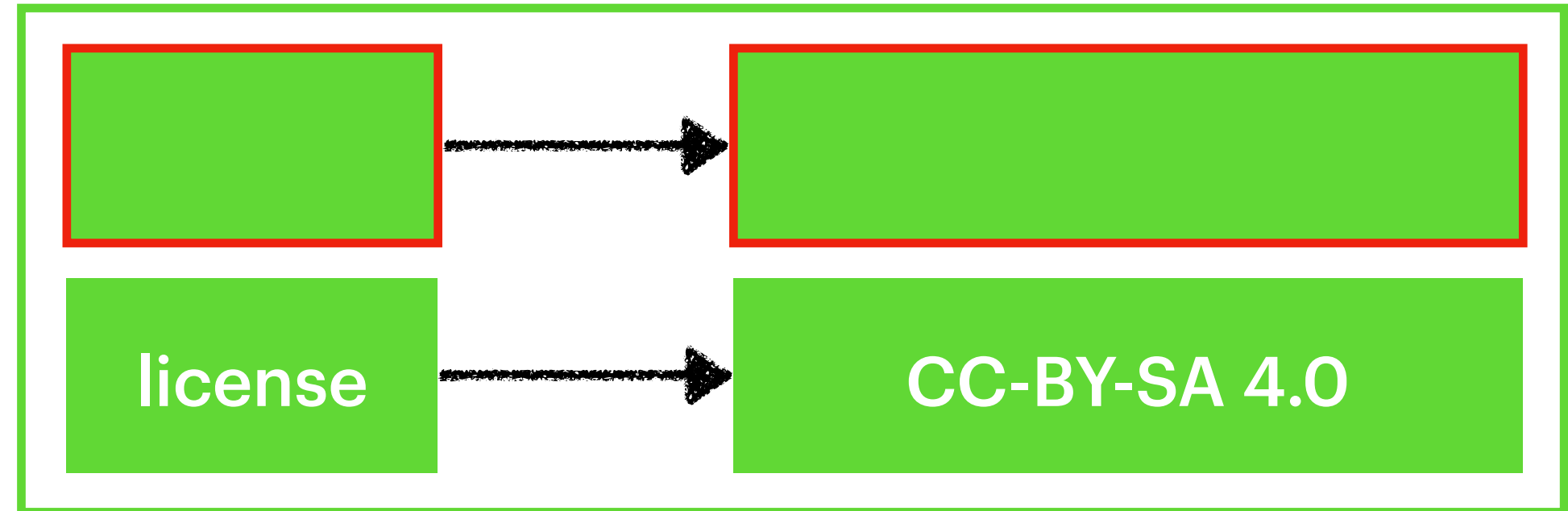
Data



SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

Metadata



600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

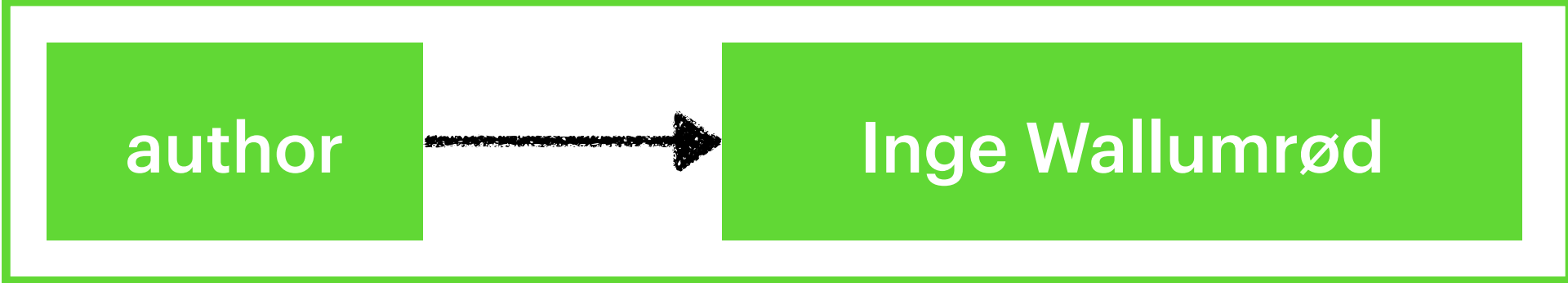
SHA 256

Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcd8a8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

ECDSA + Public Key 

Metadata




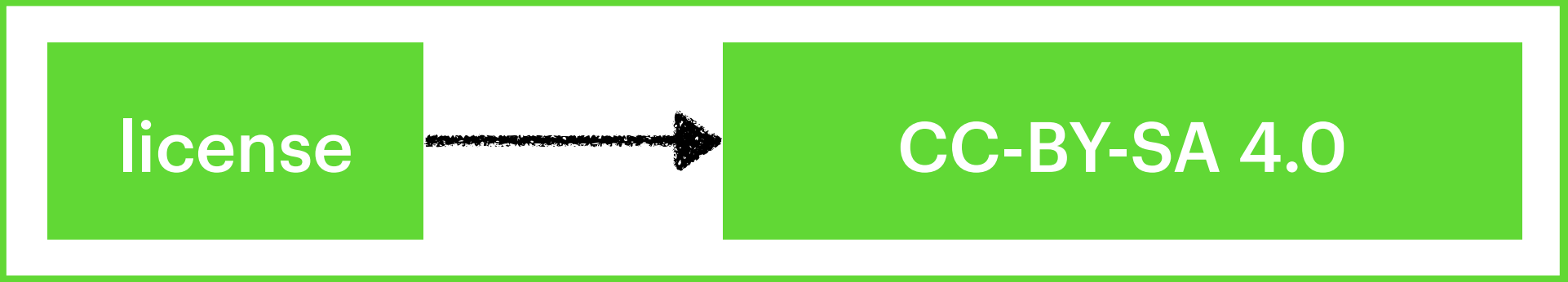
600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød



SHA 256

0abf3d242a0cdba8079a7ef1709f36e993d  
583504fc3e7026d5aadf6d5831f83

ECDSA + Public Key 



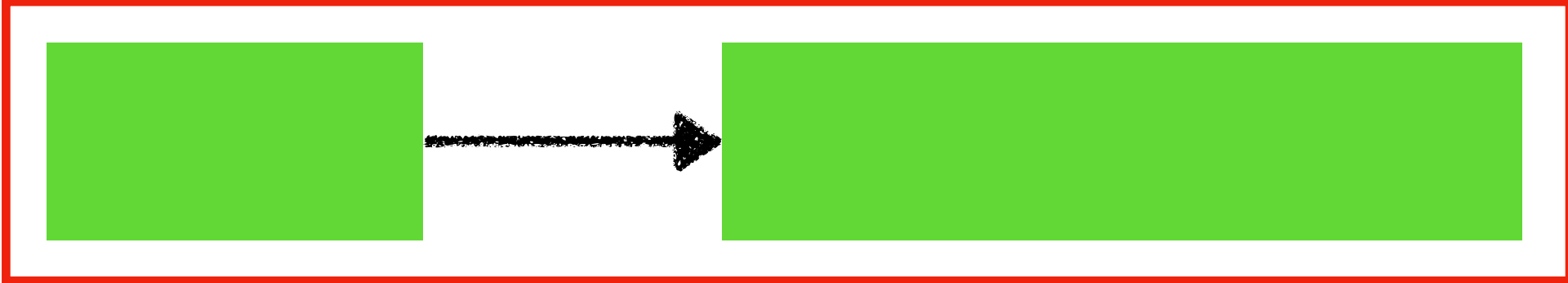
600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

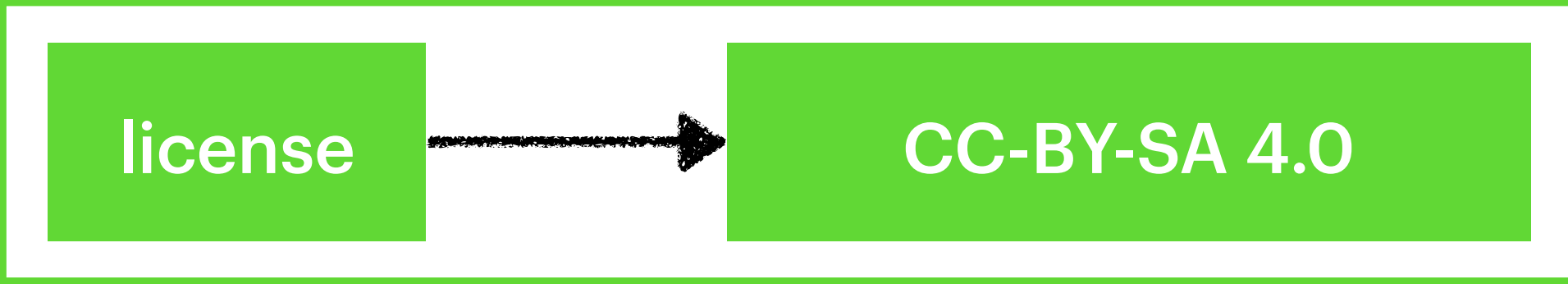
45a7ef172bf3d242a0e55831f83cdba807  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5ab9

ECDSA + Public Key 

Metadata



Integrity



600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

45a7ef172bf3d242a0e55831f83dcdba807  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5ab9

ECDSA + Public Key 



I want to know  
*when* something is  
attested.

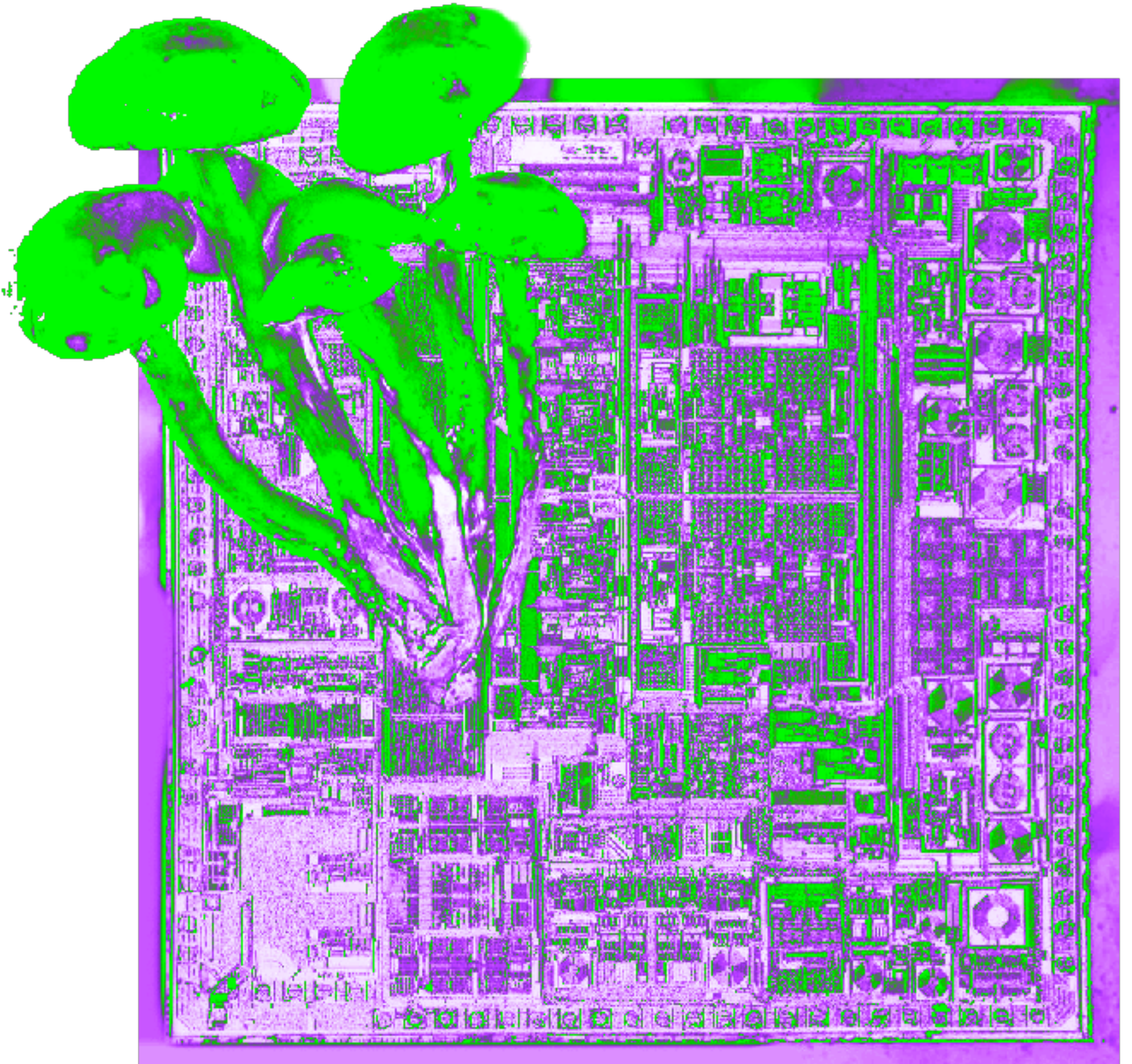
These scenarios are just the  
beginning ...



How do I know  
no one is *withholding*  
a subset of attributes  
from me?



What if two cats are  
talking about the *same*  
data, but one used SHA 256  
and another Blake3 to  
fingerprint them?



**Benedict Lau**  
benedict@hypha.coop