



SEMLA:

Standardized encryption of Modelica libraries and artifacts

Feb 25 2021

Modelon

WHY SEMLA?

- Need standard packaging of commercial closed source Modelica libraries
 - Portable across different Modelica tools (compilers and editors)
 - Cross-platform (Windows/Linux/OSx)
- Need to decouple IP protection and licensing of Modelica tools (compilers and editors) and Modelica libraries
 - Tool and library may use different licensing mechanisms

CURRENT STATE

- Specification proposal & default implementation available online :
<https://github.com/modelon-community/SEMLA/blob/master/doc/SEMLA.md>
- Issue on Modelica Association Github
<https://github.com/modelica/ModelicaSpecification/issues/1868>
- Tool support:
 - Used in released version of Modelon OCT Compiler and Libraries
 - Modelon IMPACT, ANSYS TwinBuilder
 - Some Modelon customers for in-house libraries
 - Supported by OpenModelica
 - Interest from other vendors ESI, Wolfram and Maplesoft

KEY CONCEPTS

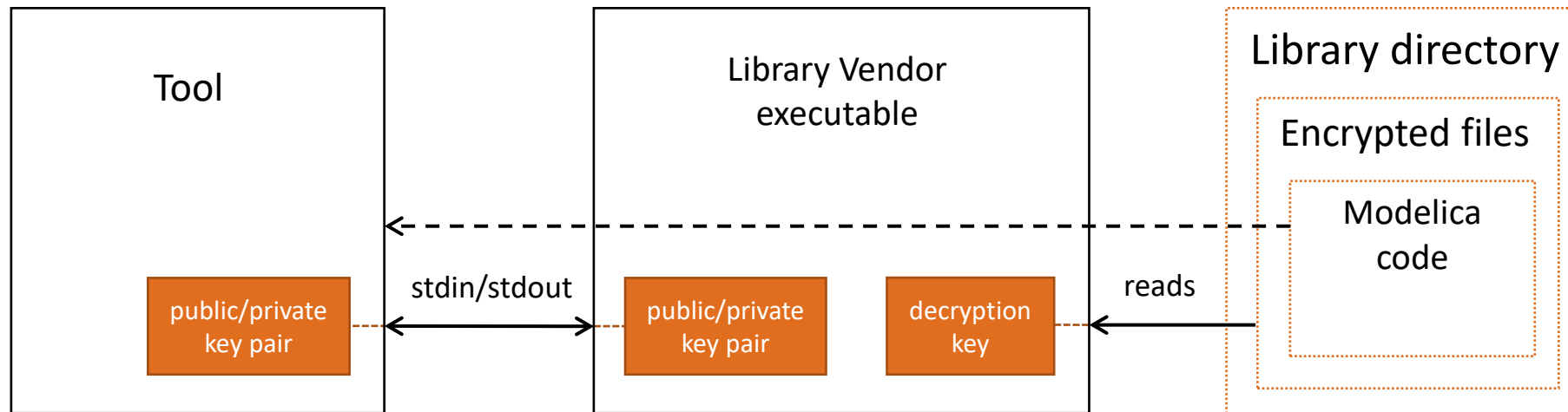
- Modelica Library Container (MLC)
 - Zip file (*.mol*) with special structure that contains
 - Encrypted *.moc* files
 - *manifest.xml* meta-data file
 - Library Vendor Executables (LVE)
- Library Vendor Executable (LVE)
 - Library vendor provided executable that enables
 - Interface to the MLC
 - Library specific license check
 - One LVE can handle multiple tools (Modelon's does it)
- Trusted (authorized) tool
 - SEMLA framework relies on trust between library vendors and tool developers
 - Correct handling of protection access and licensing annotations in the library remains tool responsibility
- SEMLA Protocol
 - Protocol for communication between LVE and Modelica tool

test_library.mol

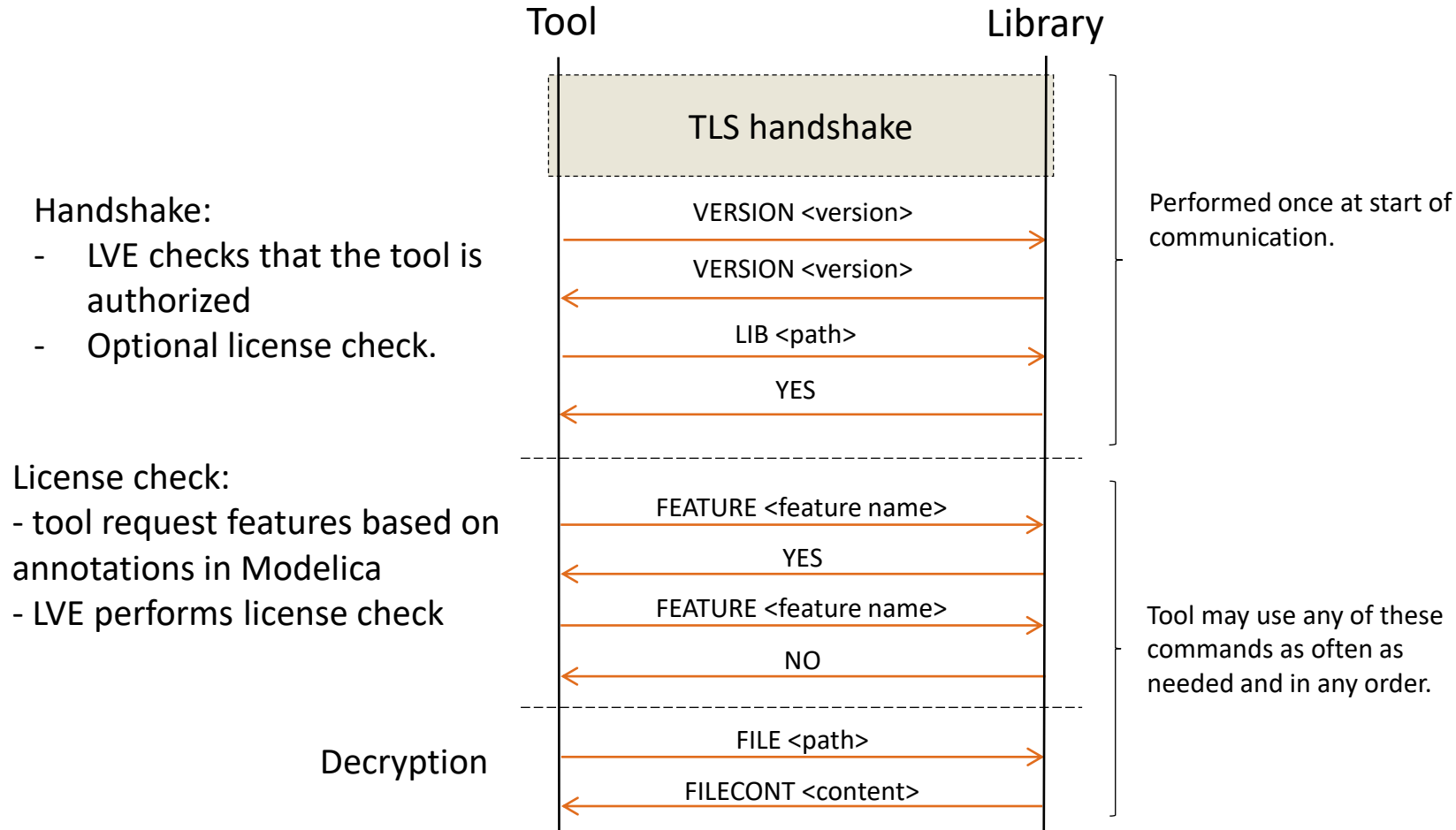
```
test_library/  
  .library/  
    lve_win64.exe  
    lve_linux64  
    manifest.xml  
  module/  
    package.moc  
    package.order  
    testInPackage.moc  
  binary.gif  
  package.order  
  testModel.moc
```

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS AND KEYS

- Authorized Tool (Modelica compiler or editor) starts LVE (Library Vendor Executable) and establishes secure connection to it
- LVE is responsible for validating the tool and implements library side of the protocol including
 - Library license check
 - Library decryption
- Default LVE implementation does not parse or modify Modelica code in any way



SEMLA PROTOCOL FLOW



CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY

- SEMLA is tested with several Modelica-tools
- SEMLA is cross-platform
- Handles encryption of Modelica code
- Handles optional licensing
- Decouples licensing and IP-protection between tool and library
- Could be an enabler for much broader Modelica-community for model & library content

NEXT STEPS & OPEN QUESTIONS

It has been unclear who should be responsible for this:

- This is not a core “language” issue, rather an API/protocol
- This is in the interest of MAP-LIB, but MAP-LIB members are no experts in the required technical knowledge
- Figure out whether other standards want to use it as well for their artifacts
 - FMI, SSP, eFMI if it becomes a project?
- Agree on forum to drive standardization forward – which MA project(s) should drive this?
- If multiple projects: which process/repositories should be used?
- Should this be organized as a short-term project?