



# Identity Secrets Engine



# Identity Secrets Engine

Identity secrets engine is the internal identity management solution for Vault

- Maintains clients recognized by Vault
- Each client is designated as an entity
- Operators can manage entities in Vault

The Identity secrets engine is mounted by default. It cannot be moved or disabled.



# Vault Entities



Vault creates an entity and attaches an alias to it if a corresponding entity doesn't already exist.

- This is done using the Identity secrets engine, which manages internal identities that are recognized by Vault

An entity is a representation of a single person or system that logged into Vault. Each has a unique value. Each entity is made up of zero or more aliases

Alias is a combination of the auth method plus some identification. It is a mapping between an entity and auth method(s)

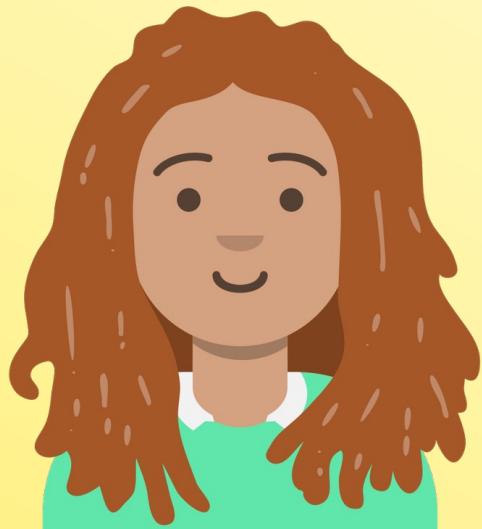


# Vault Entities

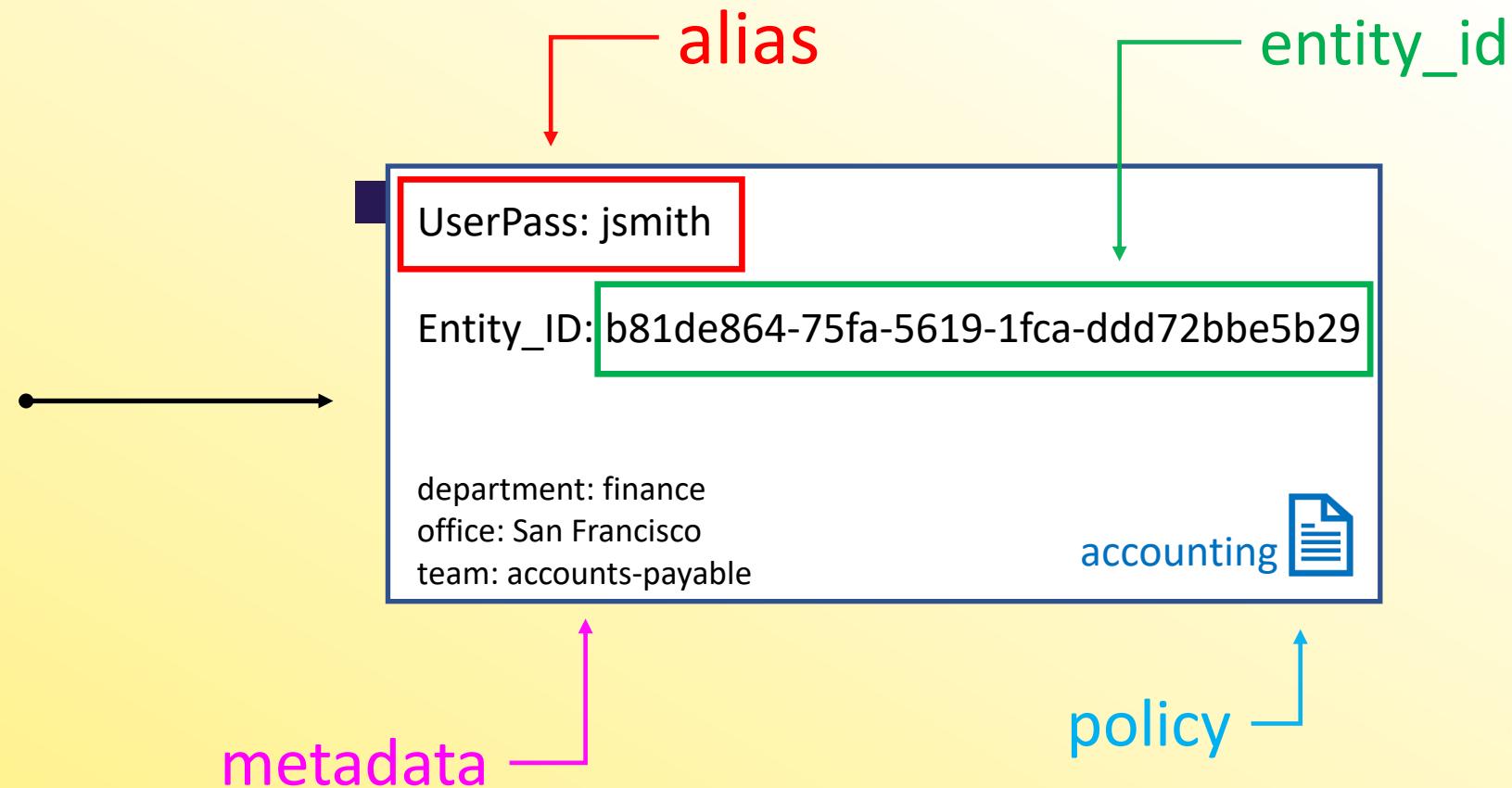


Julie Smith

Finance Specialist



UserPass

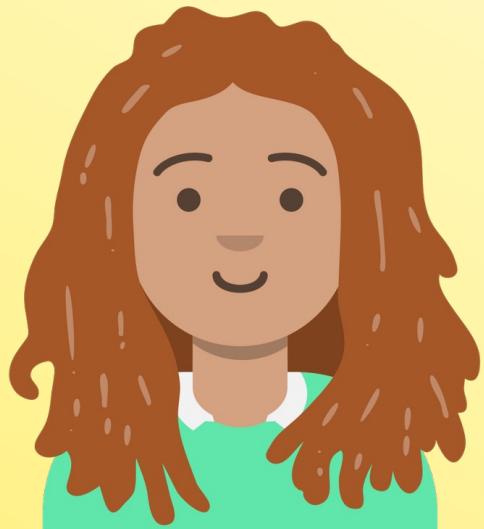


# Vault Entities



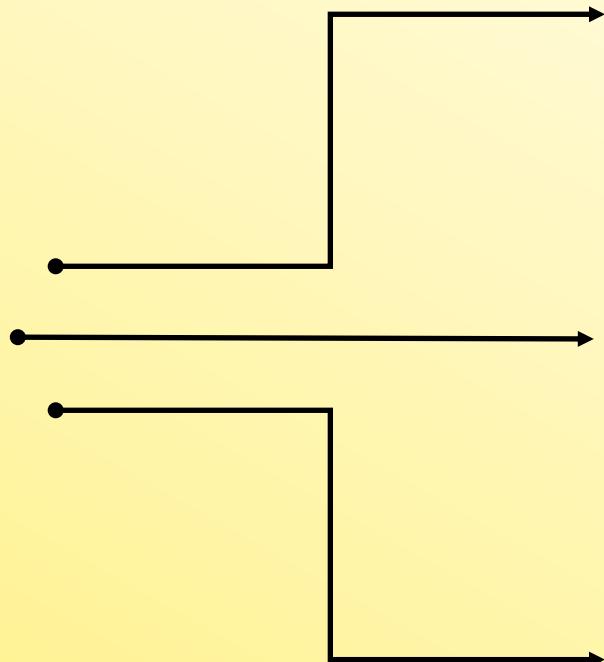
Julie Smith

Finance Specialist



Auth  
Options:

UserPass  
LDAP  
GitHub



UserPass: jsmith  
Entity\_ID: b81de864-75fa-5619-1fca-ddd72bbe5b29

department: accounting  
sub-team: accounts-payable

accounting

LDAP: jsmith@example.com  
Entity\_ID: e93d24b2a-b894-0998-43ce-4294cb9ea9b

department: finance  
team: management

finance

GitHub: jsmith22  
Entity\_ID: 4c9ed3482-4894-ced9-a1b2-90344be93aa

location: us  
sales-region: west

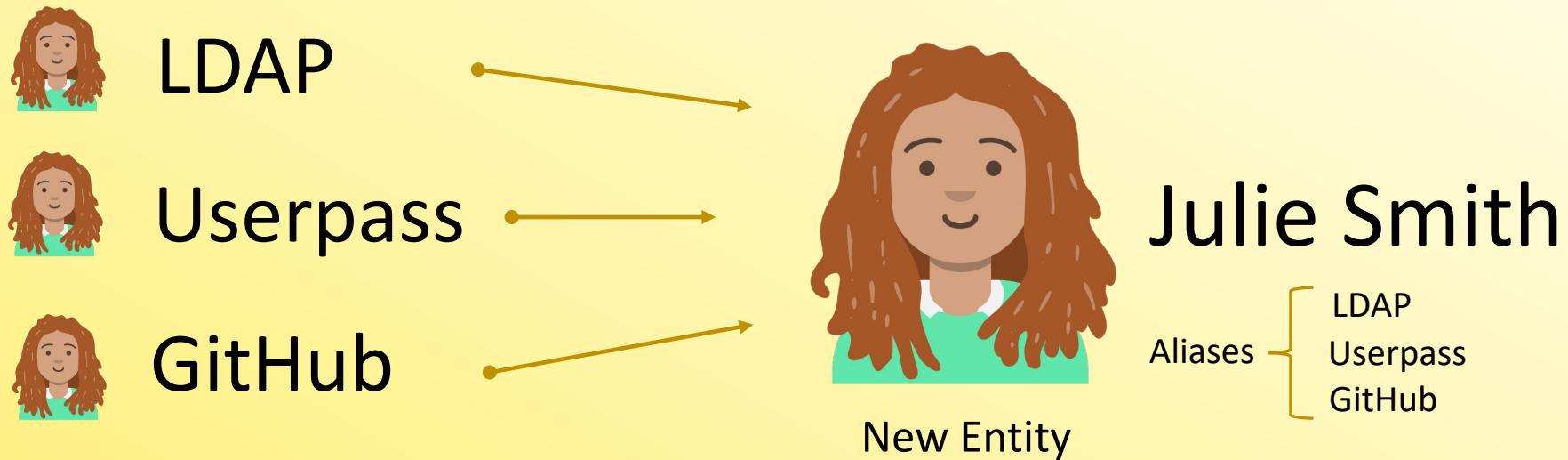
accounts payable



# Consolidating Logins Under a Single Entity



- An entity can be manually created to map multiple entities for a single user to provide more efficient authorization management
- Any tokens that are created for the entity inherit the capabilities that are granted by alias(es).



# Vault Entities



Entity



Name: Julie Smith  
Entity\_ID: e48de234-58fa-0093-5fde-e5b99abe8b33  
Policy: *management*

Aliases:



GitHub: jsmith22  
Entity\_ID: 4c9ed3482-4894-ced9-a1b2-90344be93aa  
Policy: *finance*



LDAP: jsmith@example.com  
Entity\_ID: e93d24b2a-b894-0998-43ce-4294cb9ea9b  
Policy: *accounting*

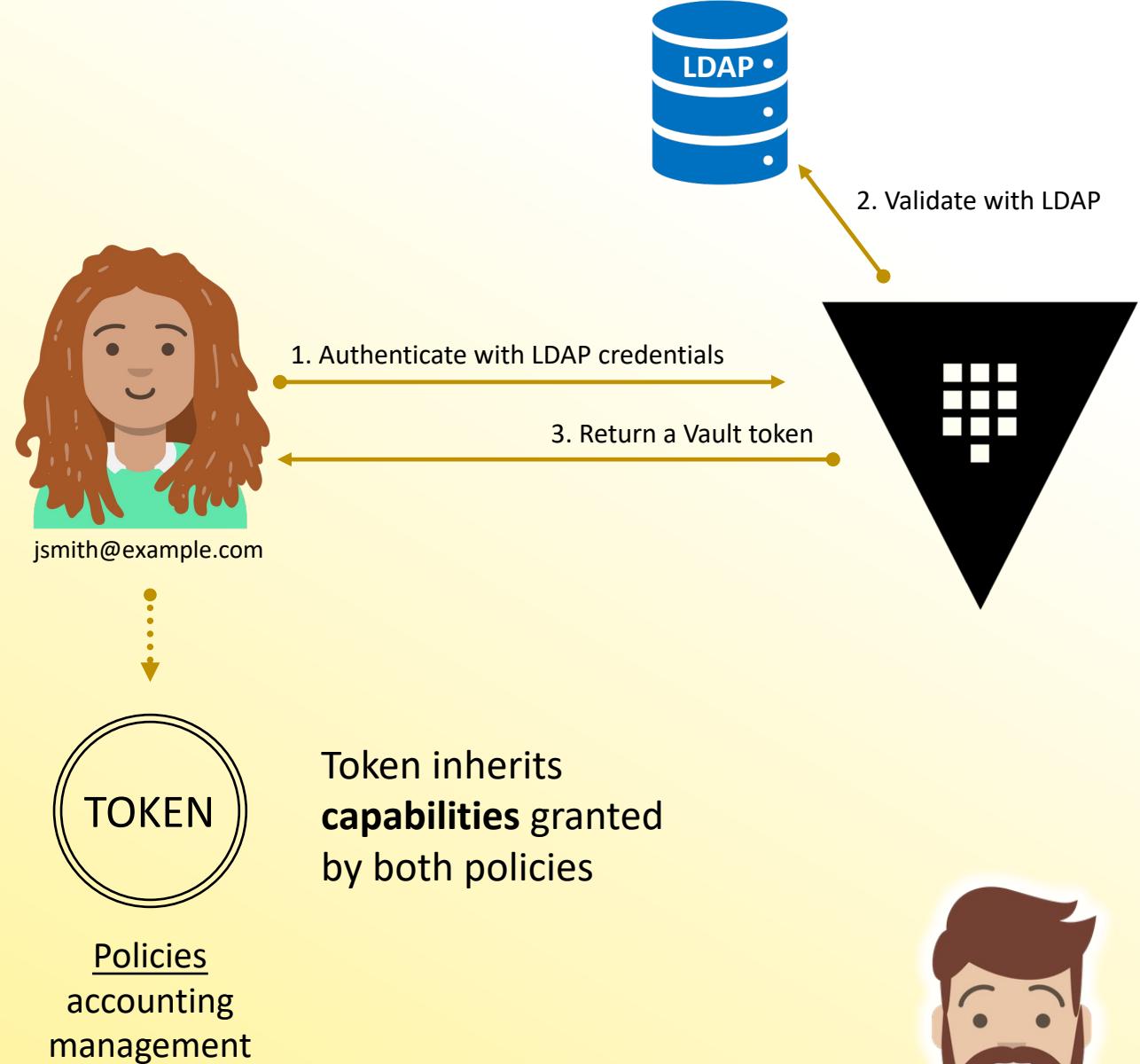
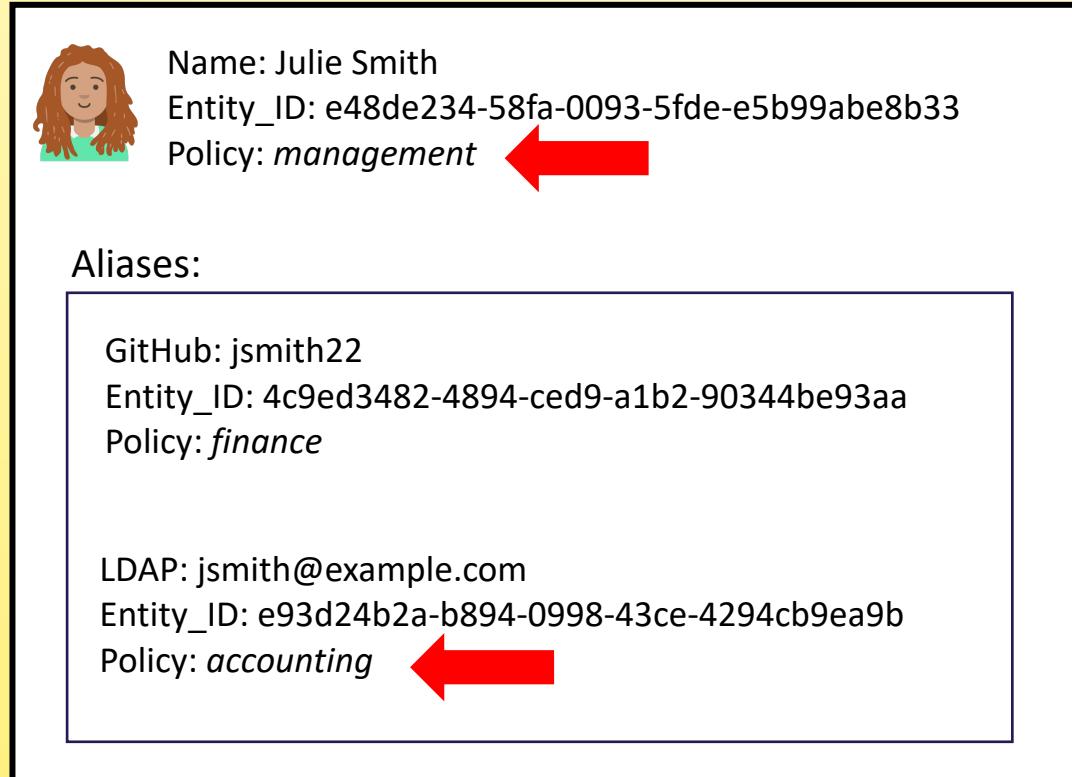


UserPass: jsmith  
Entity\_ID: b81de864-75fa-5619-1fca-ddd72bbe5b29

Aliases



# Vault Entities



# Vault Groups



- A group can contain multiple entities as its members.
- A group can also have subgroups.
- Policies can be set on the group and the permissions will be granted to all members of the group.



Name: Finance\_Team  
Policy: *finance*

Members:



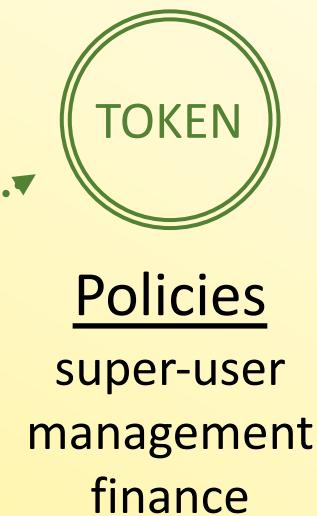
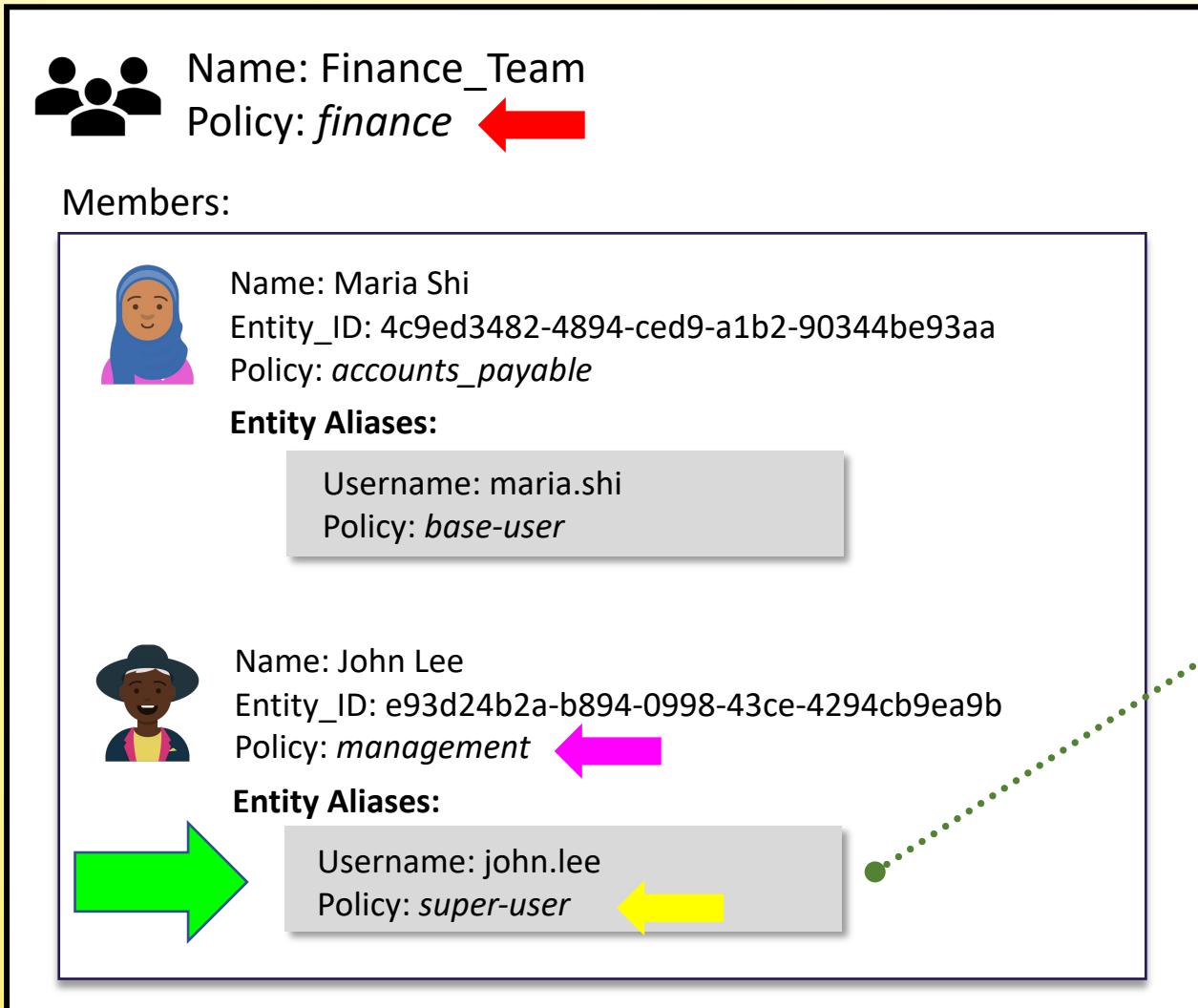
Entity\_ID: 4c9ed3482-4894-ced9-a1b2-90344be93aa  
Policy: accounts\_payable



Entity\_ID: e93d24b2a-b894-0998-43ce-4294cb9ea9b  
Policy: management



# Vault Groups



Token inherits **capabilities** granted by alias, entity, and the group



# Vault Groups – Internal vs. External



## Internal Group

Groups created in Vault to group entities to propagate identical permissions

Created Manually

## External Group

Groups which Vault infers and creates based on group associations coming from auth methods

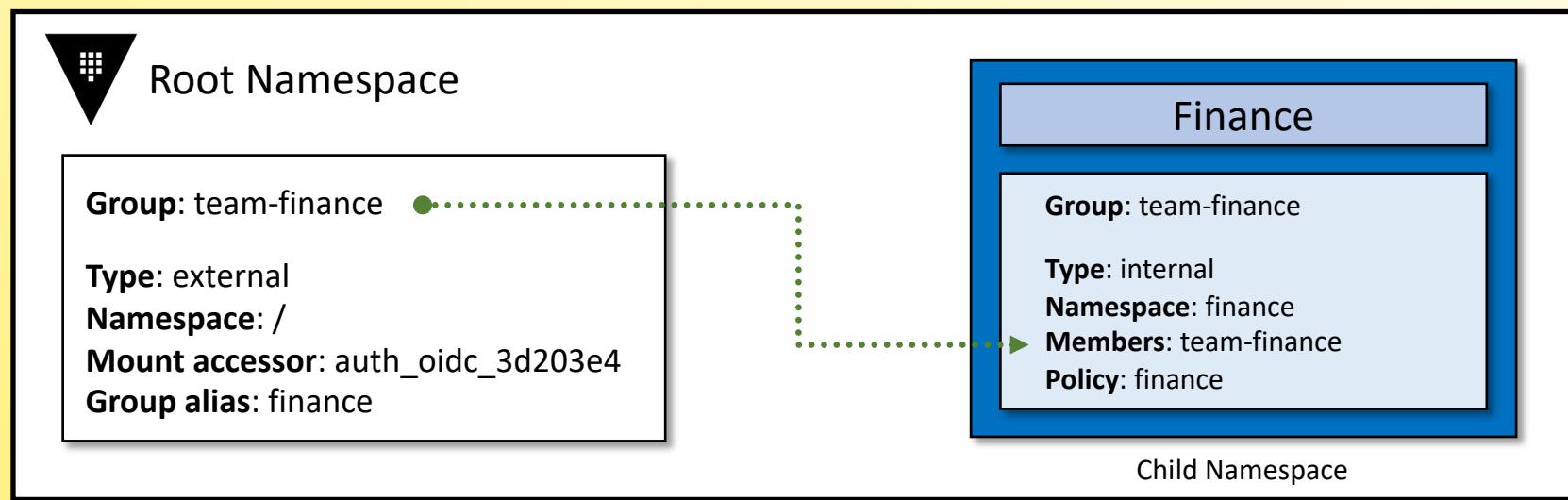
Created Manually or Automatically



# Internal Groups

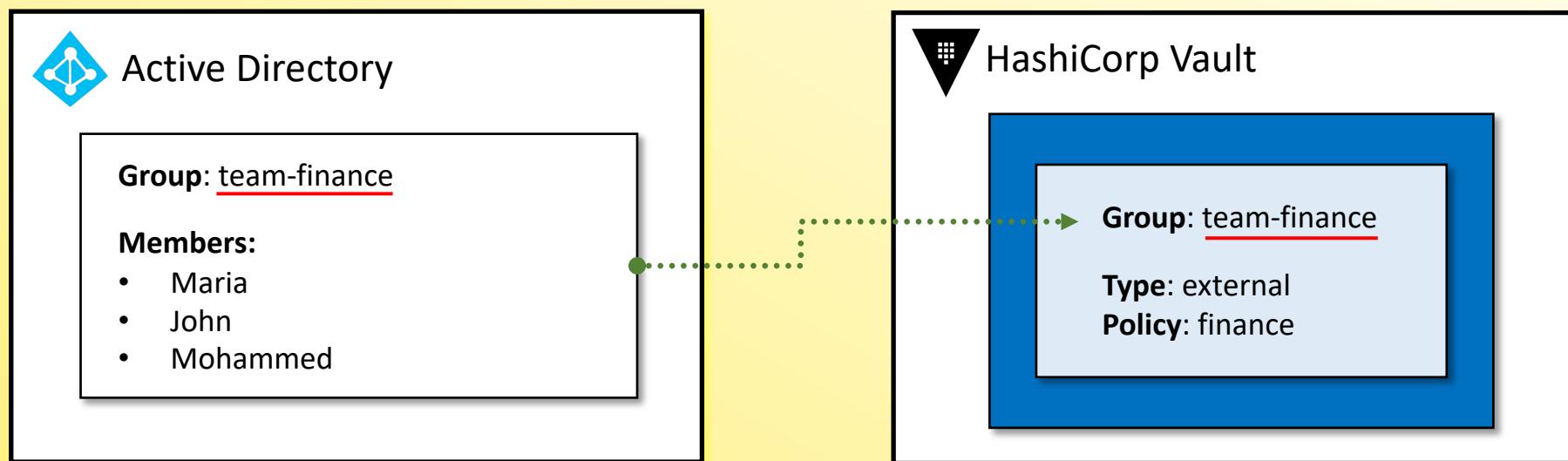


- Internal groups can be used to easily manage permissions for entities
- Frequently used when using Vault Namespaces to propagate permissions down to child namespaces
  - Helpful when you don't want to configure an identical auth method on every single namespace



# External Groups

- External groups are used to set permissions based on group membership from an external identity provider, such as LDAP, Okta, or OIDC provider.
- Allows you to set up once in Vault and manage membership in the identity provider.
  - Note that the group name\* must match the group name in your identity provider



\*OIDC may require different configurations

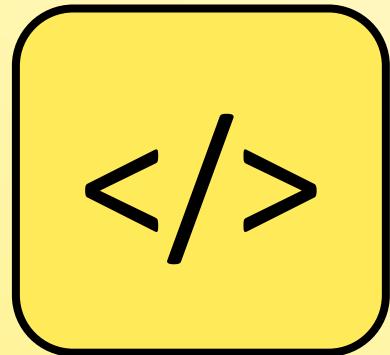




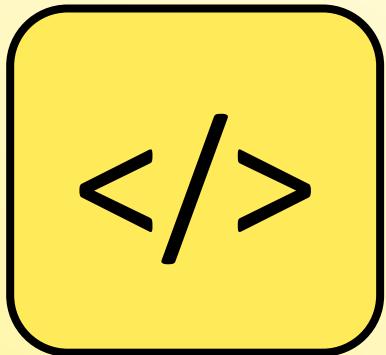
# Transit Secrets Engine



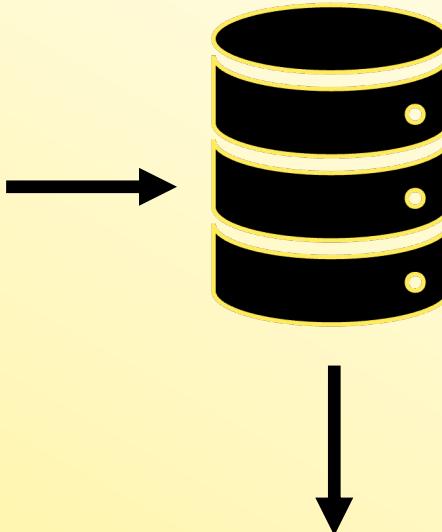
# Problems with Encryption in the Enterprise



Web Tier



App Tier



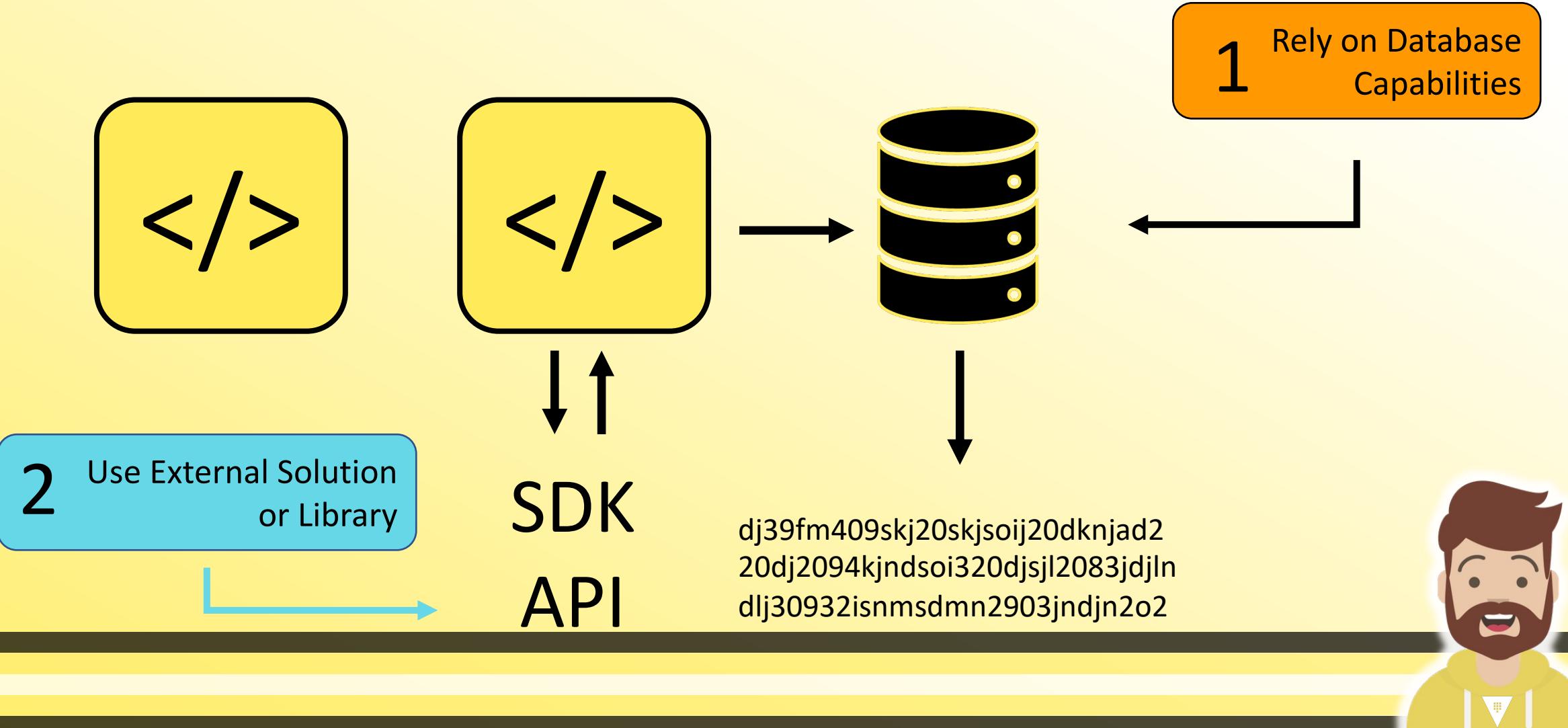
dj39fMME08ky205kRAijSDknjad2  
20dJ2094kj2345828fj1028B3djln  
dljB0932i087sd30n2903jndjn2o2  
d vMaP2-284n25-2010ifh3058bnls

Yes!  
Encrypted is  
Much Better!



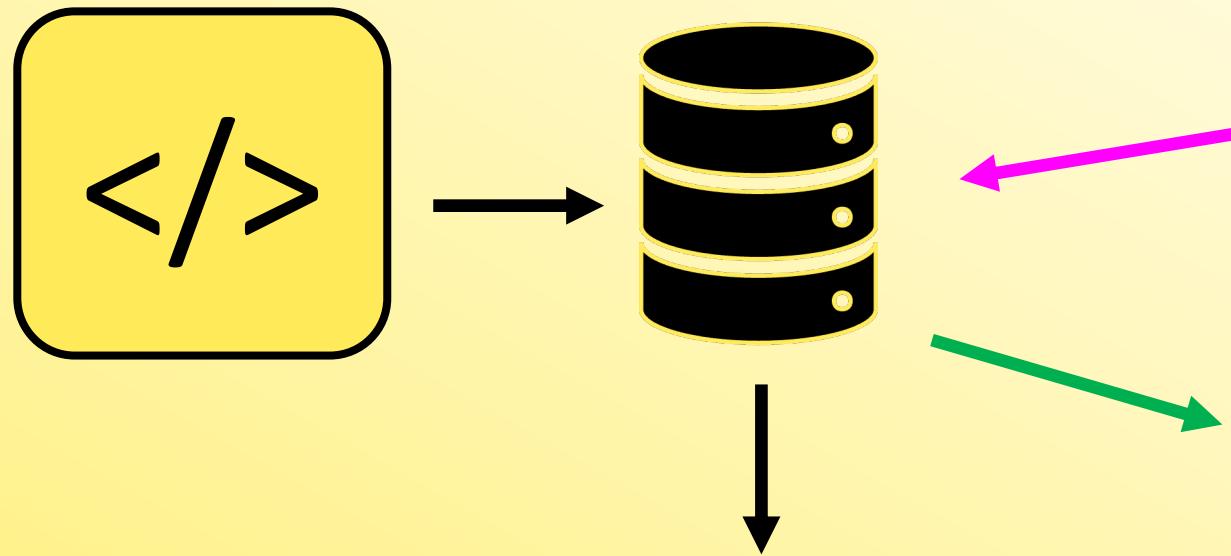
# Problems with Encryption in the Enterprise

Options to Encrypt Data



# Problems with Encryption in the Enterprise

Choosing a Database Platform for our App



dj39fm409skj20skjslij20dknjad2  
20dj2094kjndsoi320djsjl2083jdjln  
dlj30932isnmsdmn2903jndjn2o2

## Ideal Database: Cassandra

but.....maybe it doesn't support the type/level of encryption we need

## Required Database: MSSQL

Only MSSQL features meet the requirements to encrypt our data

NOT IDEAL

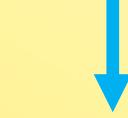
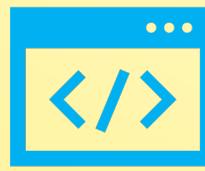


# Problems with Encryption in the Enterprise

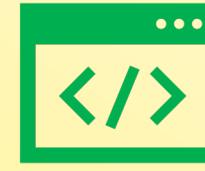
Putting the Responsibility on the Developers



OpenSSL



Golang



.NET



Internally  
Developed



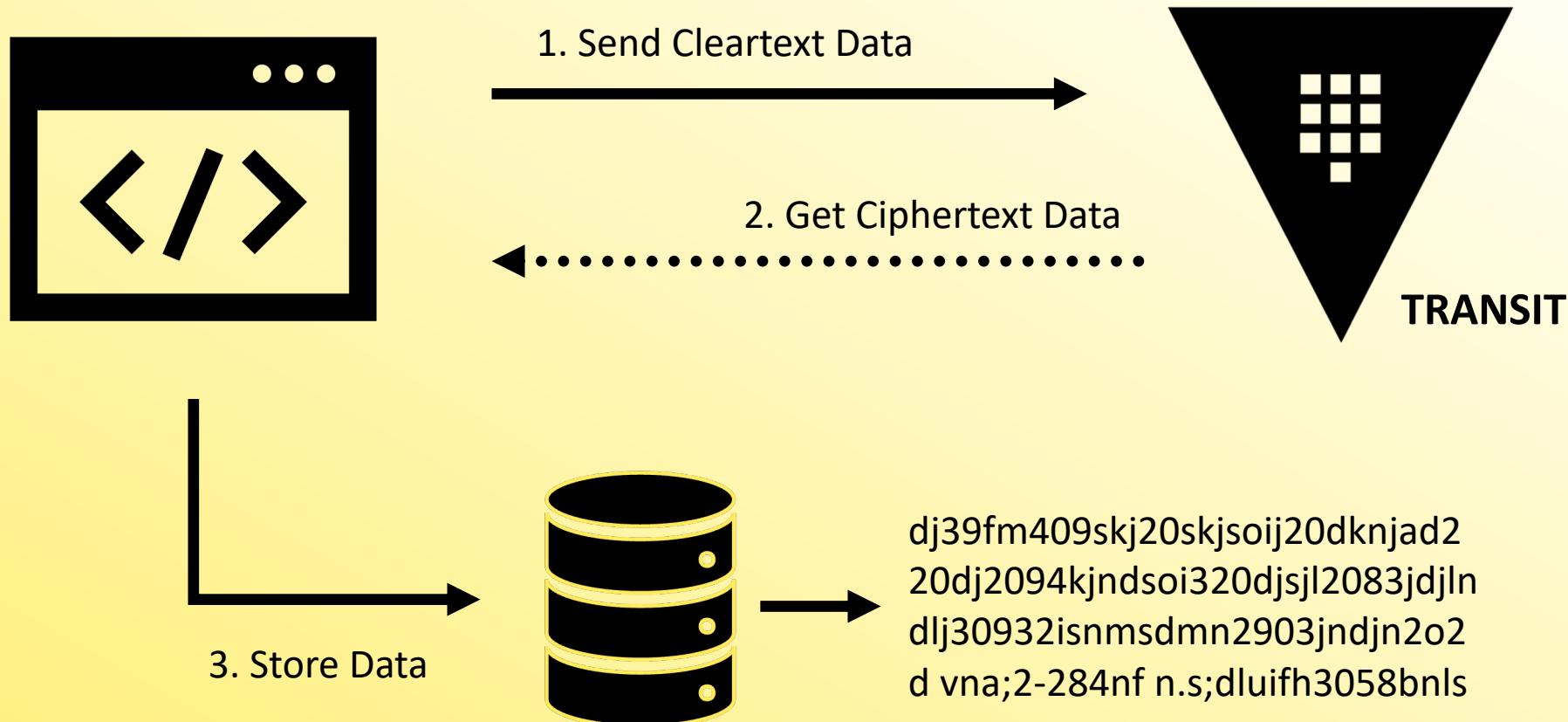
Voltage

Not  
Good!



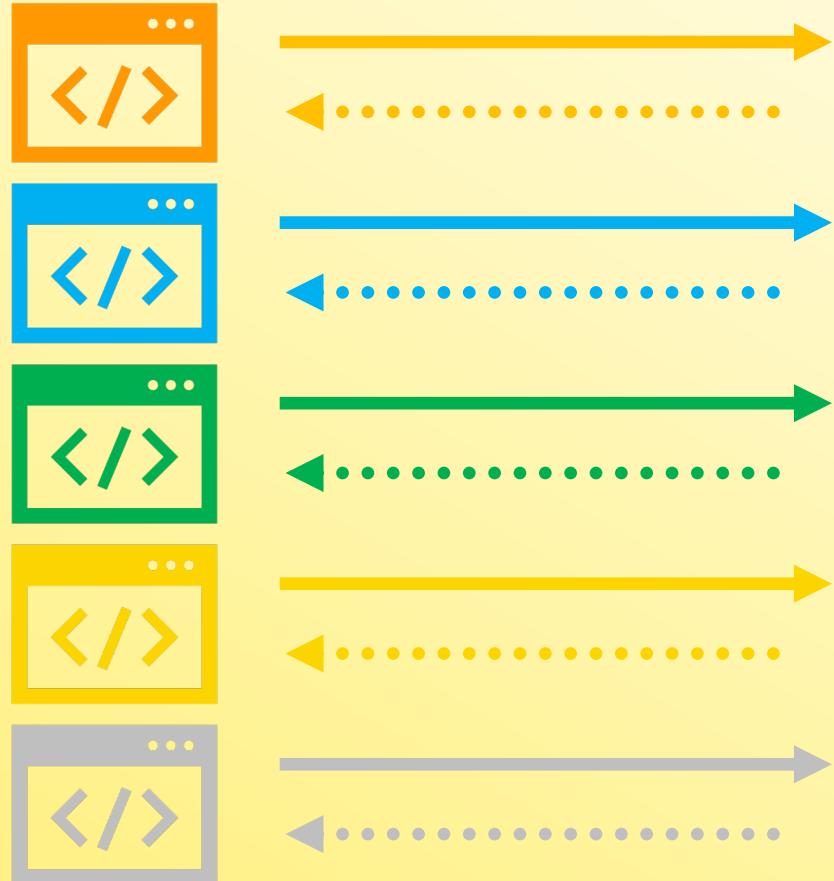
# Solution?

Use Vault's Transit Secrets Engine



# Solution

Centralize the Organization's Encryption Needs



TRANSIT



# Intro to Transit Secrets Engine



Transit secrets engine provides functions for encrypting/decrypting data

- Enables organizations to outsource/centralize encryption to Vault

Applications can send cleartext data to Vault for encryption

- Vault encrypts using the specified key and returns ciphertext to the app
- The application NEVER has access to the encryption key (stored in Vault)
- Decouples storage from encryption and access control

Transit can also provide auto unseal capabilities to other Vault clusters

- *More information in the auto unseal section*





Transit secrets engine  
**DOES NOT STORE** the  
encrypted data



# Intro to Transit Secrets Engine



Encryption keys are created and stored in Vault to process data

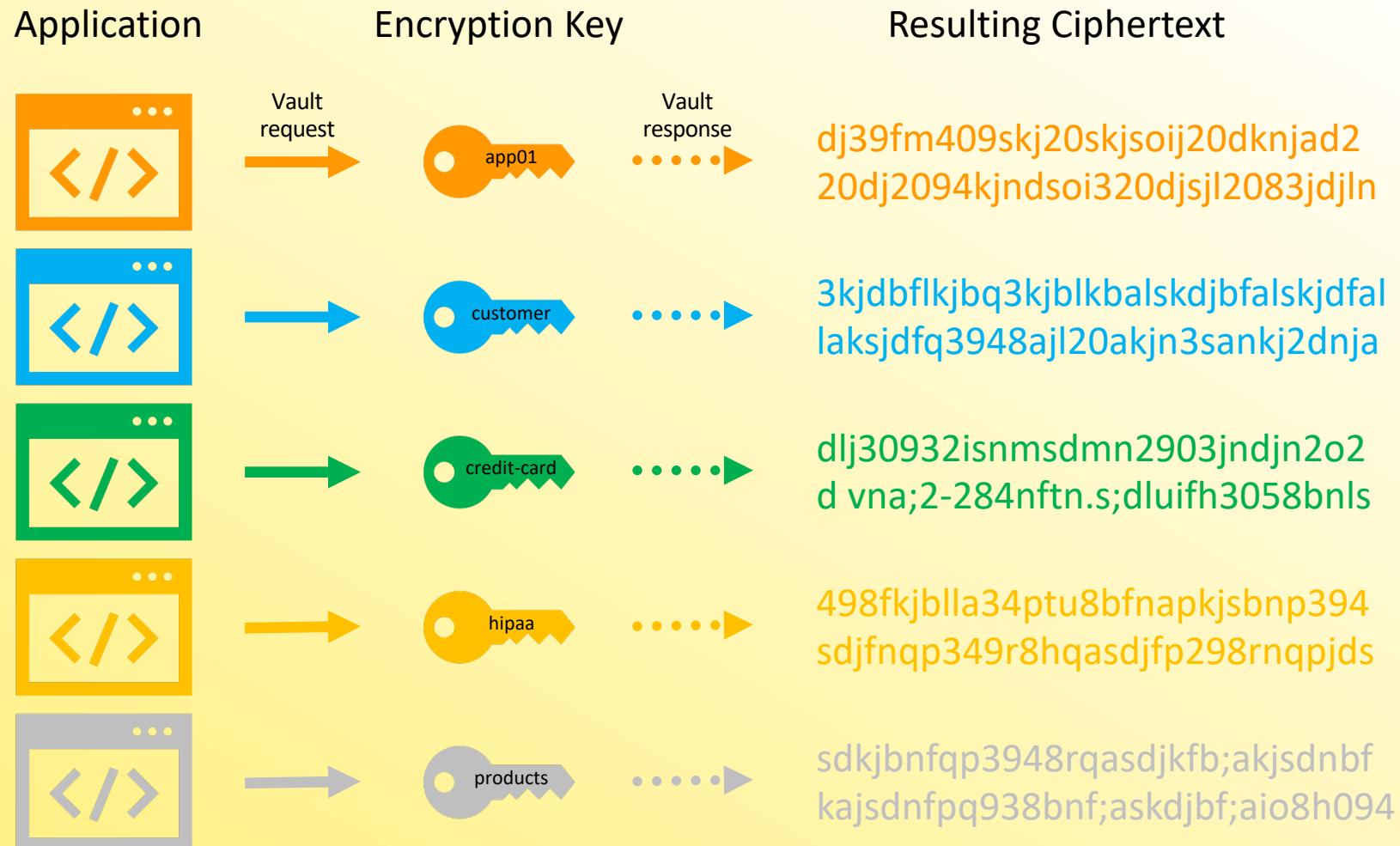
- Each application can have its own encryption key (or more!)
- Apps must have permission to use the key for encryption/decryption operations, which is bound by the policy attached to its token

Keys can be easily rotated as often as needed

- Keys are stored on keyring 
- Can limit what version(s) of keys can be used for decryption
- You can create, rotate, delete, and export a key (need permissions)
- Easily rewrap ciphertext with a newer version of a key



# Intro to Transit Secrets Engine



# Encryption Key Types



Key Type	Description
aes128-gcm96	AES-GCM with a 128-bit AES key and a 96-bit nonce; supports encryption, decryption, key derivation, and convergent encryption
aes256-gcm96	AES-GCM with a 256-bit AES key and a 96-bit nonce; supports encryption, decryption, key derivation, and convergent encryption (default)
chacha20-poly1305	ChaCha20-Poly1305 with a 256-bit key; supports encryption, decryption, key derivation, and convergent encryption
ed25519	Ed25519; supports signing, signature verification, and key derivation
ecdsa-p256	ECDSA using curve P-256; supports signing and signature verification
ecdsa-p384	ECDSA using curve P-384; supports signing and signature verification
ecdsa-p521	ECDSA using curve P-521; supports signing and signature verification
rsa-2048	2048-bit RSA key; supports encryption, decryption, signing, and signature verification
rsa-3072	3072-bit RSA key; supports encryption, decryption, signing, and signature verification
rsa-4096	4096-bit RSA key; supports encryption, decryption, signing, and signature verification



# Intro to Transit Secrets Engine



Vault also supports convergent encryption mode

- Means that every time you encrypt the same data, you'll get the same ciphertext back
- This enables you to have searchable ciphertext

## Encrypting Data

- All plaintext data must be base64-encoded
- This is because Vault doesn't require that the plaintext is "text" only. It could be a file such as a PDF or image
- But...please understand that base64-encoding is NOT encryption

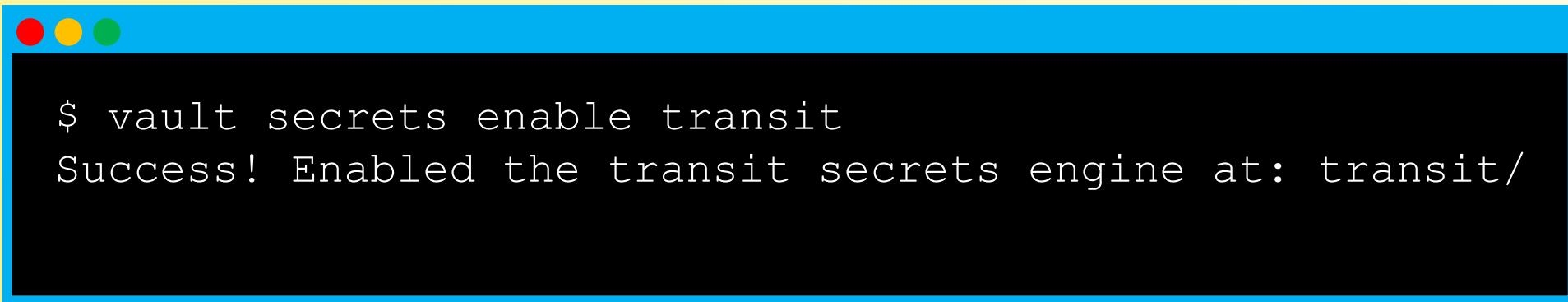


# Enable the Transit Secrets Engine



Before you can use the Transit secrets engine to encrypt data, it must first be enabled

- Can use the default path of transit or enable on another path

A screenshot of a terminal window with a blue header bar. The window shows the command "\$ vault secrets enable transit" being run, followed by the output "Success! Enabled the transit secrets engine at: transit/".

```
$ vault secrets enable transit
Success! Enabled the transit secrets engine at: transit/
```



# Create an Encryption Key



The next step is to create one or many encryption keys used to encrypt/decrypt data

A terminal window with a purple title bar showing red, yellow, and green window control buttons. The main area contains the following text:

```
$ vault write -f transit/keys/training
Success! Data written to: transit/keys/training
```

Note: `-f` is shorthand for "force" and is needed on some Vault commands



# Create an Encryption Key



```
$ vault write -f transit/keys/training  
Success! Data written to: transit/keys/training
```

Custom Key Type

```
$ vault write -f transit/keys/training_rsa type="rsa-4096"  
Success! Data written to: transit/keys/training_rsa
```



# Encrypt Data with a Key



Pass the cleartext data to Vault – specifying the action and desired encryption key to use

```
$ vault write transit/encrypt/training \
  plaintext=$(base64 <<< "Getting Started with HashiCorp Vault")

Key          Value
---          -----
ciphertext   vault:v1:Fpyph6C7r5MUILiEiFhCoJBxelQbsGeEaha15LhDPSoN6HkTOhwn79DCwt0m...
key_version  1
```

\*output truncated



# Breaking Down the Command for Encryption



```
vault write transit/encrypt/training
```



Sub-command



Path where the  
Transit secrets  
engine was mounted  
(enabled)



The desired  
action



The encryption key  
you want to use



# Breaking Down the Parameter



```
plaintext=$(base64 <<< "Getting Started with HashiCorp Vault")
```

Required  
Parameter for  
Encryption  
operation  
(what are we  
going to encrypt?)

Base64 encode the string "Getting Started with  
HashiCorp Vault"

If your data is already base64 encoded, you  
can just pass it as is....you don't need to  
encode it again



# Breaking Down the Vault Response



Key	Value
---	-----
ciphertext	vault:v1:Fpyph6C7r5MUILiEiFhCoJBxelQ.....
key_version	1

This is the data that you would store in a database, file store, or anywhere so your application or organization can read later

The Key Version is built right into the ciphertext

Output abbreviated



# Decrypting Data



Pass the ciphertext data to Vault – specifying the action and desired encryption key to use

```
$ vault write transit/decrypt/training \
  ciphertext="vault:v1:Fpyph6C7r5MUILiEiFhCoJBxelQbsGeEaha15LhDPSoN6HkTO....."

Key          Value
---          -----
plaintext   R2V0dGluZyBTdGFydGVkIHdpdGggSGFzaG1Db3JwIFZhdWx0Cg==
```





# Rotating Encryption Keys



# Key Rotation



Transit allows for a simplified key rotation process

- keys can be rotated manually or by an automated process
- Vault v1.10 includes the ability to set a rotation period

Vault maintains a versioned keyring

- All versions of the encryption key are stored
- Vault admins can limit the minimum key version allowed to be used for decryption operations (older keys won't work)
- You can `rewrap` encrypted data (ciphertext) to use a newer version of the encryption key



# How to Rotate an Encryption Key



Pass the ciphertext data to Vault specifying the action and desired encryption key to use

```
$ vault write -f transit/keys/training/rotate  
Success! Data written to: transit/keys/training/rotate
```



# Reading a Key after Rotation



```
$ vault read transit/keys/training
Key          Value
---          -----
allow_plaintext_backup    false
auto_rotate_period        8760h
deletion_allowed          false
derived                  false
exportable                false
keys                      map[1:1647960245 2:1647960257 3:1647961177]
latest_version            3
min_available_version     0
min_decryption_version   1
min_encryption_version   0
name                     training
supports_decryption      true
supports_derivation      true
supports_encryption      true
supports_signing         false
type                     aes256-gcm96
```

A green arrow points to the value '3' under the 'latest\_version' key. A purple bracket labeled 'keyring' spans from the 'keys' entry to the 'latest\_version' entry.



# Encryption Key Configuration



We can limit what version of the key can be used to decrypt data

- Maybe we have old data that we have converted and don't want anybody to be able to decrypt it
- This is configured using the minimum key version configuration
- It can be configured for each encryption key (not key version)



# Encryption Key Configuration

Minimum  
Key Version = 1



vault:v1:jnaclvjabenpri  
ugbdkjbpiaeurbnlkcjab  
nlirufba;ksjdbnfpqi3u4  
bpq39bcjkpq349bnfda  
kjh4b9dbnajksbr3948f  
dja;siurn4398ebjkbalks  
jdbnfp3948fbhdjkbal4  
8rh4938ebaskjbq9384  
hbfjdblaw948rhfjasdu



vault:v2:bn348naksjnd  
fp3948fnasjdfnp92348  
rh=qe9fnv;kjndfpq34r  
89qjfdvjNdf230r89qj  
vnmndf148fnadjkvN23  
8rhqeojdfnvq3948rhq  
39ruincsajkvnpq9384h  
qpjisnv;aksjdnf9q384h  
fjdsnlaisjnfq9384hr938



vault:v3:498fknb49ub  
nalkxcnbvpq394ufbap  
kxjnfq93u4fbalskjdnB  
vpq93u4fbalskndff3sss  
vp3084fhqeubvaksjdhf  
pq938rfhpqekjfdbvlaks  
jdnvq3948fhgfdjabnlsk  
rjbnre3pq9uesdkjnrpfi  
unaklns394njksalskern



vault:v4:zowkdjcbvlqei  
k4uth4b39ubdjifbow4  
8rubg048rbjfkdoobsfiug  
b0w8rubglkjdfbg028y4  
r5bgoadhjfbg0q8purbl  
akjbpaieurhq83urbgla  
kjbvpqieurbgpqijfbvlaif  
uhpq0w9eurbfpakjdbf  
vlakdjfbngqiasdf34dsfa



# Encryption Key Configuration



vault:v1:jnaclvjabenpri  
ugbdkjbpiaeurbnlkcjab  
nlirufba;ksjdbnfpqi3u4  
bpq39bcjkpq349bnfda  
kjw4b9dbnajksbr3948f  
dja;siurn4398ebjkbalks  
jdbnfp3948fbhdjkbal4  
8rh4938ebaskjbq9384  
hbfjdblaw948rhfjasdu



vault:v2:bn348naksjnd  
fp3948fnasjdfnp92348  
rh=qe9fnv;kjndfpq34r  
89qjfdvjmNdf230r89qj  
vnmndf148fnadjkvn23  
8rhqeojdfnvq3948rhq  
39ruincsajkvnpq9384h  
qpjisnv;aksjdnf9q384h  
fjdsnlaisjnfq9384hr938



vault:v3:498fknb49ub  
nalkxcnbvpq394ufbap  
kxjnfqp93u4fbalskjdn  
vpq93u4fbalskndff3sss  
vp3084fhqeubvaksjdhf  
pq938rfhpqekjfdbvlaks  
jdnvq3948fhgfdjabnlsk  
rjbnre3pq9uesdkjnrpfi  
unaklns394njksalskern



Minimum  
Key Version = 4



vault:v4:zowkdjcbvlqei  
k4uth4b39ubdjifbow4  
8rubg048rbjfkdocsfiug  
b0w8rubglkjdfbg028y4  
r5bgoadhjfbg0q8purbl  
akjbpaieurhq83urbgl  
kjbvpqieurbgpqijfbvlaif  
uhpq0w9eurbfpakjdbf  
vlakdjfbngqiasdf34dsfa



# Setting the Minimum Decryption Version



```
$ vault write transit/keys/training/config \
  min_decryption_version=4

Success! Data written to: transit/keys/training/config
```



# Setting the Minimum Encryption Version



```
$ vault read transit/keys/training
Key          Value
---          -----
allow_plaintext_backup    false
auto_rotate_period        8760h
deletion_allowed          false
derived                  false
exportable                false
keys                     map[4:1647962305]
latest_version            4
min_available_version     0
min_decryption_version   4 ←
min_encryption_version   0
name                     training
supports_decryption      true
supports_derivation      true
supports_encryption      true
supports_signing         false
type                     aes256-gcm96
```

Only the key(s) equal or greater than the minimum key version are available

A green arrow points to the value "4" under "min\_encryption\_version". A pink arrow points to the value "4" under "min\_decryption\_version".



# Permissions Required for Transit



Clients need permission to use certain encryption keys and specific operations related to each key

```
# Permit Encryption Operations
path "transit/encrypt/training" {
    capabilities = ["update"]
}

# Permit Decryption Operations
path "transit/decrypt/training" {
    capabilities = ["update"]
}
```

This same policy can be used for  
Transit auto unseal operations  
using the training key

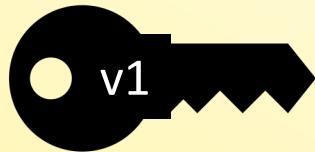




# Rewrapping Ciphertext



# Rewrapping Ciphertext



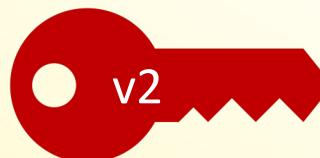
vault:v1:jnaclvjabenpri  
ugbdkjbpiiaeurbnlkjcab  
nlirufba;ksjdbnfpqi3u4  
bpq39bcjkpq349bnfda  
kjw4b9dbnajksbr3948f

vault:v1:bn348naksjnd  
fp3948fnasjdfnp92348  
rh=qe9fnv;kjndfpq34r  
89qjfdvjmNdf230r89qj  
vnmmndf148fnadjkvn23

Data Encrypted in 2019

....but our key has been rotated 3 times since....

Rotated 2020



Rotated 2021



Rotated 2022



How can we upgrade our encrypted data to be  
encrypted by the latest version of the key?



# Rewrapping Ciphertext



```
$ vault write transit/rewrap/training \
  ciphertext="vault:v1:Fpyph6C7r5MUILiEiFhCoJBxelQbsGeEahal5LhDPSoN6
  HkTOhwn79DCwt0mct1ttLokqikAr0PAopzm2jQAKJg=2/QGPTMnzKPlw4cCPGTbkzE
  PlX5OyPkLIgX+erFWdUXKKUIEb6D2Gm5ZjTaola314LsVkbLF5G1RkBTAActskk="

Key          Value
---          -----
ciphertext   vault:v4:RFzp1kMpjtUIiS+6qxrnjIJEdPqCepFUa2ivr70.....
key_version  4
```

A pink arrow points to the command line, and a blue arrow points to the "key\_version" value of 4.

The data was never available in plaintext when rewrapping the data with the latest version of the key





# PKI

# Secrets Engine

# PKI Secrets Engine



## Generates dynamic X.509 certificates

- Eliminates the manual process for generating a private key and CSR, submitting to the CA, and waiting for verification and signing
- Vault's built-in authentication (auth method) and authorization mechanisms (ACLs) provide the verification to generate certificates
- Can only have one CA certificate per PKI secrets engine
  - If you need to issue certs from multiple CAs, use multiple PKI secrets engines on different paths

**PKI secrets engine is use for INTERNAL certificates**



# PKI Secrets Engine



Allows certs to have short TTLs because certs are now ephemeral

- Virtually eliminates revocations
- Applications can obtain certificate at runtime and simply discard the certificate at shutdown
- Simple to allocate a certificate to each workload
- Stops the certificate sharing, use of wildcard certificates, or using self-signed certificates which are prone to MITM attacks



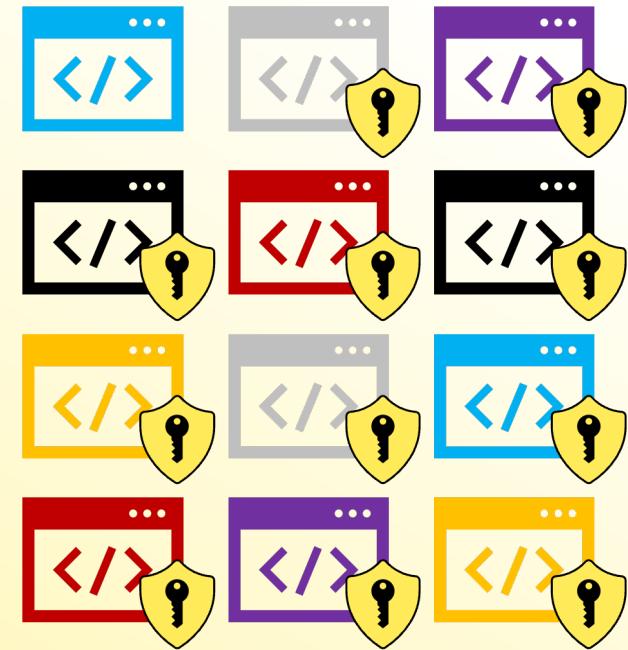
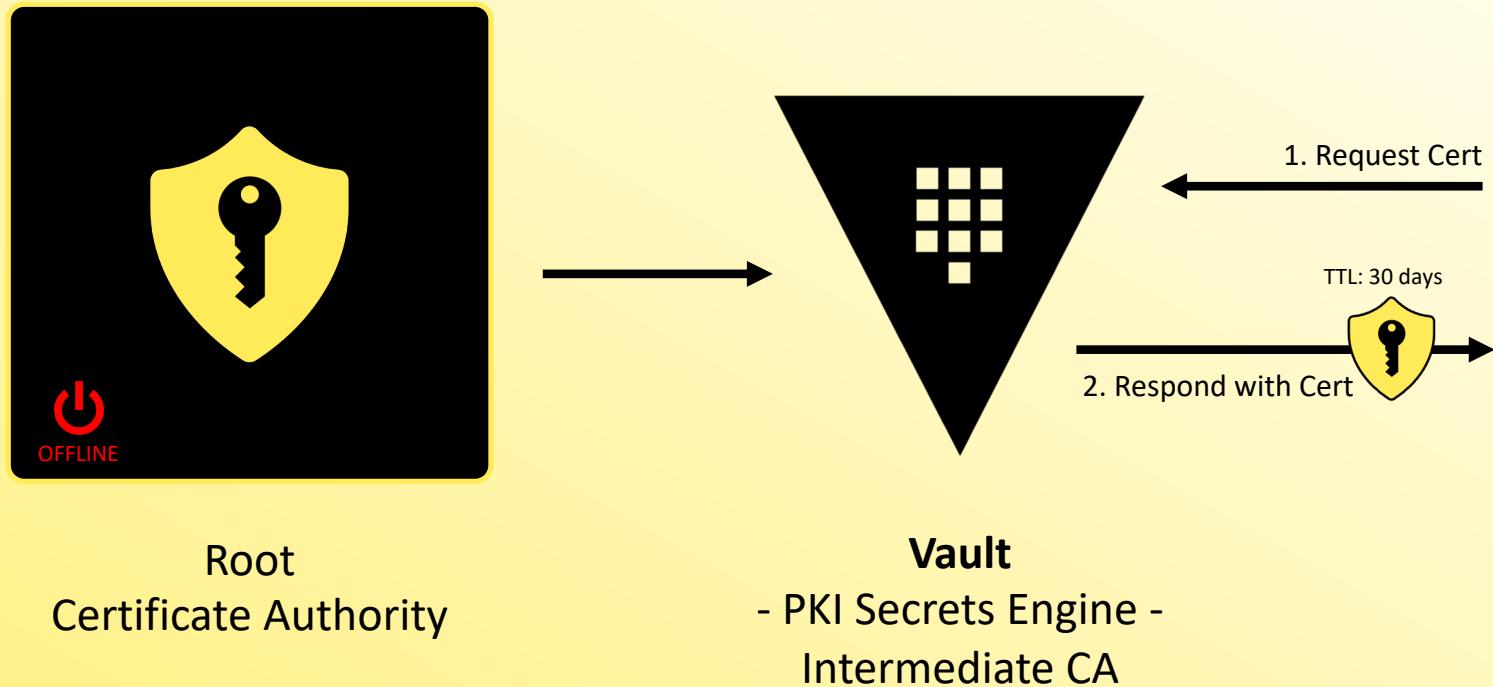
# PKI Secrets Engine



- Most likely, you're going to use Vault as an Intermediate as your root CA is generally offline (*industry best practices*)
- Most organizations already have an existing CA structure in place and Vault can plug right into that, if needed.
- Using multiple PKI secrets engines, Vault can perform the root and the intermediate(s) CA functionality from the same cluster



# Common Architecture



# Enable the PKI Secrets Engine



```
# Enable using default path of pki/
$ vault secrets enable pki
Success! Enabled the pki secrets engine at: pki/

# Enable using custom path of hcvop-int/
$ vault secrets enable -path=hcvop_int pki
Success! Enabled the pki secrets engine at: hcvop_int/
```



# Tune the PKI Secrets Engine



```
# Set a maximum TTL for certificates to 30 days
$ vault secrets tune -max-lease-ttl=720h pki
Success! Tuned the secrets engine at: pki/
```

```
# Set a maximum TTL for certificates to 1 year
$ vault secrets tune -max-lease-ttl=8760h hcvop_int
Success! Tuned the secrets engine at: pki/
```



# Create an Intermediate Certificate for Signing



```
# Generate an Intermediate CSR
$ vault write -format=json \
  hcvop_int/intermediate/generate/internal \
  common_name="hcvop.com Intermediate" \
  | jq -r '.data.csr' > pki_intermediate.csr

# At this point, you need to sign the intermediate with the root CA

# Import signed certificate from the root
$ vault write pki_int/intermediate/set-signed \
  certificate=@intermediate.cert.pem
```



# Configure the CA and CRL URLs



```
# These are URLs that certificates will contain, and hosts will use to validate whether the certs are valid or revoked

$ vault write pki/config/urls \
  issuing_certificates="https://vault.hcvop.com:8200/v1/pki/ca" \
  crl_distribution_points="https://vault.hcvop.com:8200/v1/pki/crl"
```



# Intro to PKI Roles



A role provides a one-to-one mapping between a policy and a configuration in a secrets engine

- In the PKI secrets engine, a role is configured for each configuration based on parameters that control certificate common names, alternate names, and other parameters
- For each unique certificate type or configuration, you'll need to create a unique role
- **Notable configurations include:**
  - allowed\_domains
  - allow\_bare\_domains
  - allow\_subdomains
  - allow\_glob\_domains



# Defining Unique PKI Roles



## web\_dmz\_role

### Role Configuration

```
allowed_domains=dmz.hcvop.com  
allow_subdomains=true  
allow_bare_domains=false  
allow_glob_domains=false  
max_ttl=720h
```

server1.dmz.hcvop.com  
dmzweb01.dmz.hcvop.com

## internal\_apps\_role

### Role Configuration

```
allowed_domains=app.hcvop.com  
allow_subdomains=true  
max_ttl=24h
```

benefits.app.hcvop.com  
payroll.app.hcvop.com

## k8s\_apps\_role

### Role Configuration

```
allowed_domains=k8s.hcvop.com  
allow_subdomains=true  
allow_glob_domains=false  
max_ttl=4h
```

certs.k8s.hcvop.com  
license.k8s.hcvop.com



# Create a Role



```
# Create a new web DMZ role

$ vault write pki/roles/web_dmz_role \
    allowed_domains=dmz.hcvop.com \
    allowed_subdomains=true \
    allow_bare_domains=false \
    max_ttl=720h \
    allow_localhost=true \
    organization=hcvop \
    country=us
```



# Create a Role



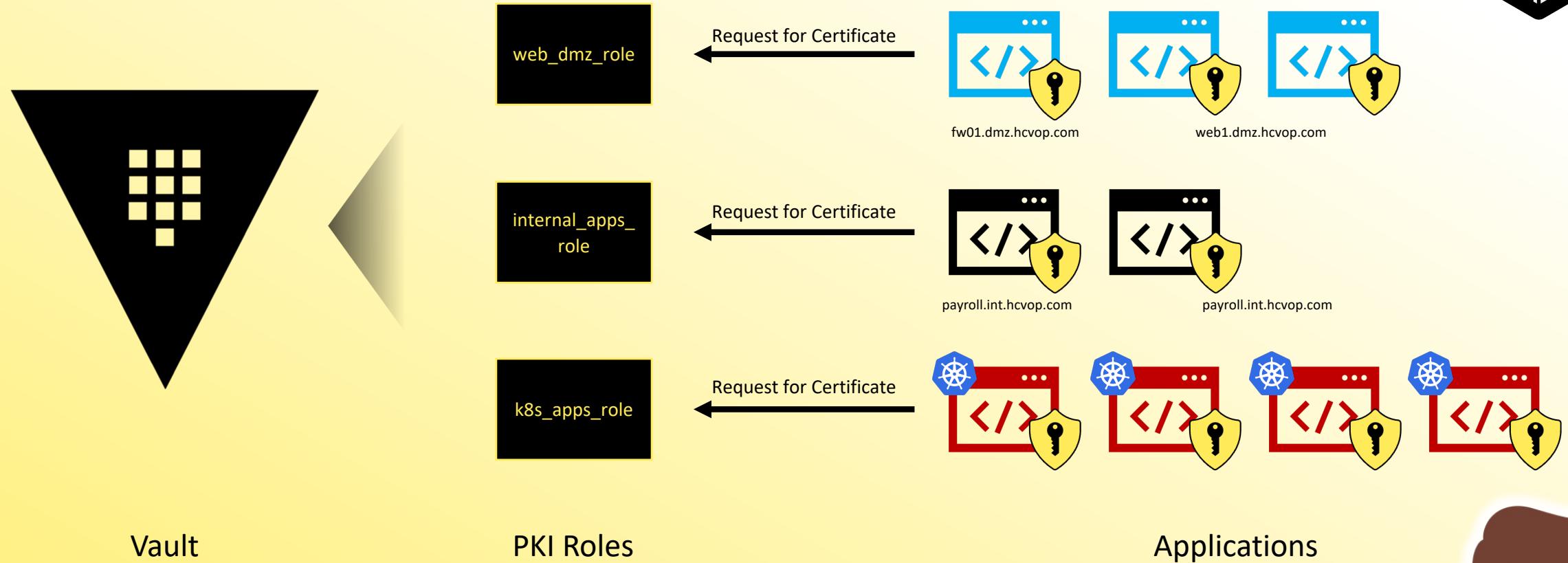
```
vault write pki/roles/web_dmz_role
```



Sub-command	Path where the PKI secrets engine was mounted (enabled)	Path where roles are created/stored	Name of the role we want to create or modify
-------------	---	-------------------------------------	--



# Create a Role



# Generate a Certificate



```
# Generate a new certificate for web_dmz_role

$ vault write pki/issue/web_dmz_role \
    common_name=dmzhcp01.dmz.hcvop.com \
    alt_names=portal.dmz.hcvop.com \
    max_ttl=720h

Key          Value
---          -----
certificate  -----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIDwzCCAqgAwIBAgIUTQABMCAsXjG6ExFTX8201xKvh4IwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQA...  
DTE4MDcyNDIxMTMxOVox ...
-----END CERTIFICATE-----

issuing_ca    -----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----MIIDQTCCAimgAwIBAgIUbMYp39mdj7dKX033Zjk18...  
NAQEL ...
-----END CERTIFICATE-----

private_key    -----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY----MIIEowIBAAKCAQEAtelfqy2Ekj+EFqKV6N5QJ1BgMo/U4IIxwLZI6a87yA  
C/rDhm W58liadXrwjzRgWeqVOoCRr/B5JnRLbyIKBVp6MMFwZVky...  
nyuomSfJkM ...
-----END RSA PRIVATE KEY-----

private_key_type rsa
serial_number  4d:00:01:30:20:2c:5e:31:ba:13:11:53:5f:cd:b4:d7:12:95:1f:82
```

This is the ONLY time you will get the private key so make sure to save it



# Generate a Certificate



```
vault write pki/issue/web_dmz_role
```

Sub-command

Path where  
the PKI  
secrets  
engine was  
mounted  
(enabled)

Path used to  
generate  
certificates

Name of the role we  
want to use to create  
our new certificate



# Revoke a Certificate



```
# Revoke a single certificate

$ vault write pki/revoke serial_number="4d:00:01:30:20:2c:5e:31:ba:a9:7b"

Key                                Value
---                                -----
revocation_time                    1628908066
revocation_time_rfc3339            2022-12-25T06:11:32.676612Z
```



# Remove Revoked and Expired Certificates



```
# Keep the storage backend clean by periodically removing certs  
  
$ vault write pki/tidy tidy_cert_store=true tidy_revoked_certs=true  
WARNING! The following warnings were returned from Vault:  
  
* Tidy operation successfully started. Any information from the operation  
will be printed to Vault's server logs.
```





# Cubbyhole Secrets Engine



# Where Does 'Cubbyhole' Come From?



# Intro to Cubbyhole

## Cubbyhole Secrets Engine is used to store arbitrary secrets

- ▶ Enabled by default at the **cubbyhole/** path
- ▶ Its lifetime is linked to the **token** used to write the data
  - No concept of a time-to-live (TTL) or refresh interval for values in cubbyhole
  - Even the **root** token cannot read the data if it wasn't written by the root

Cubbyhole Secrets Engine **cannot** be disabled, moved, or enabled multiple times



# Service Tokens Have a Cubbyhole

- Each service token gets its own cubbyhole
- A token cannot access another token's cubbyhole
- Cubbyhole expires when the token does



# Viewing Cubbyhole Secrets Engine

```
$ vault secrets list
```

Path	Type	Accessor	Description
---	---	-----	-----
cloud/	kv	kv_dd590f0e	This is an KV secret engine mount
cubbyhole/	cubbyhole	cubbyhole_9c6c2ca2	per-token private secret storage
identity/	identity	identity_e55fbf01	identity store
kv/	kv	kv_ed482380	n/a
kvv2/	kv	kv_0559442e	n/a



# Writing and Read Data to Cubbyhole via CLI

```
# Write data to Cubbyhole
$ vault write cubbyhole/training certification=hcvop
Success! Data written to: cubbyhole/training
```

```
# Read data from Cubbyhole
$ vault read cubbyhole/training
Key          Value
---          -----
certification    hcvop
```



# Writing and Read Data to Cubbyhole via API

```
# Write data to cubbyhole via API
$ curl --header "X-Vault-Token: hvs.QRx4pz2RIka7RhhrjiVRBNjq" \
  --request POST
  --data '{"certification": "hcvop"}'
https://vault.training.com:8200/v1/cubbyhole/training

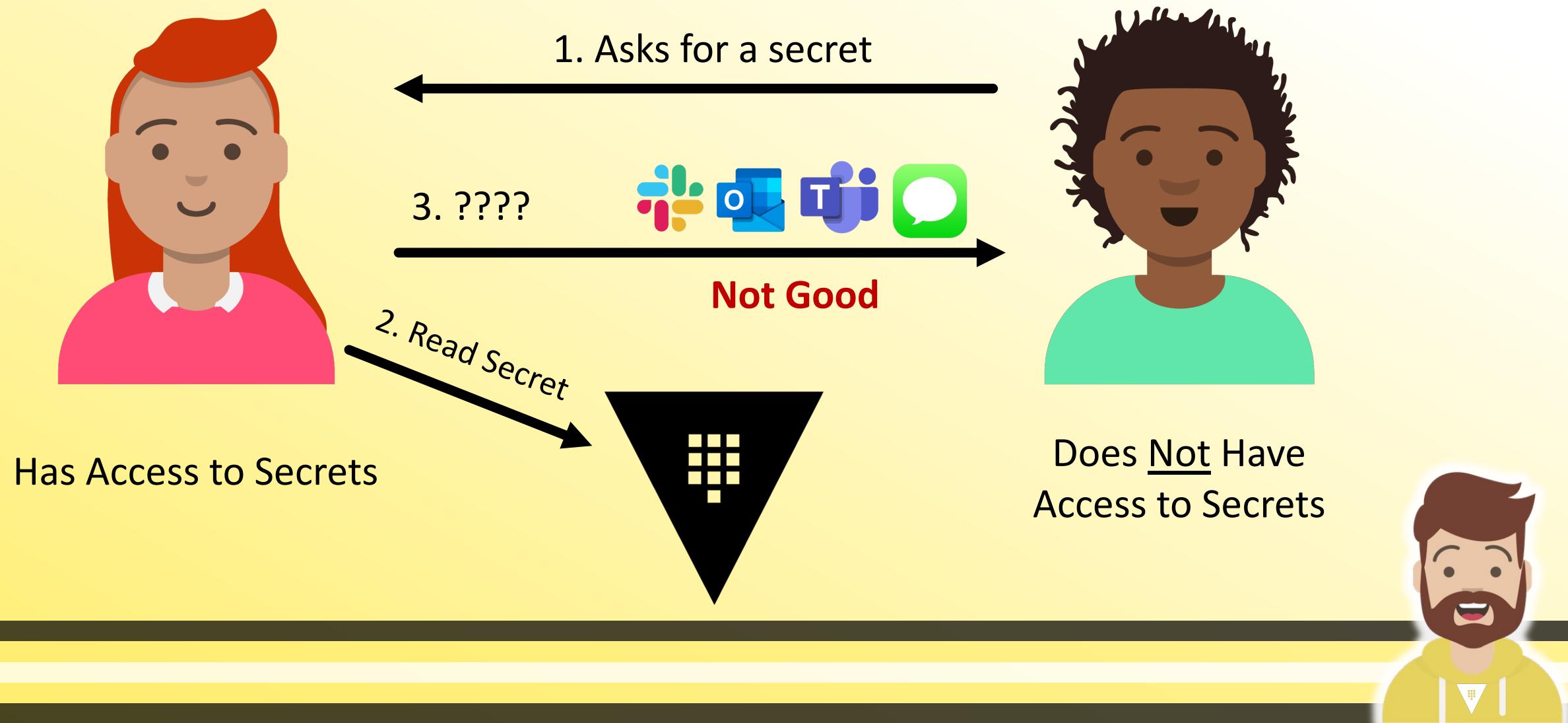
# Read secret from cubbyhole via API
$ curl --header "X-Vault-Token: hvs.QRx4pz2RIka7RhhrjiVRBNjq" \
  https://vault.training.com:8200/v1/cubbyhole/training
```





Cubbyhole Doesn't Seem  
Very Useful....Yet....

# How Do You Share Secrets?



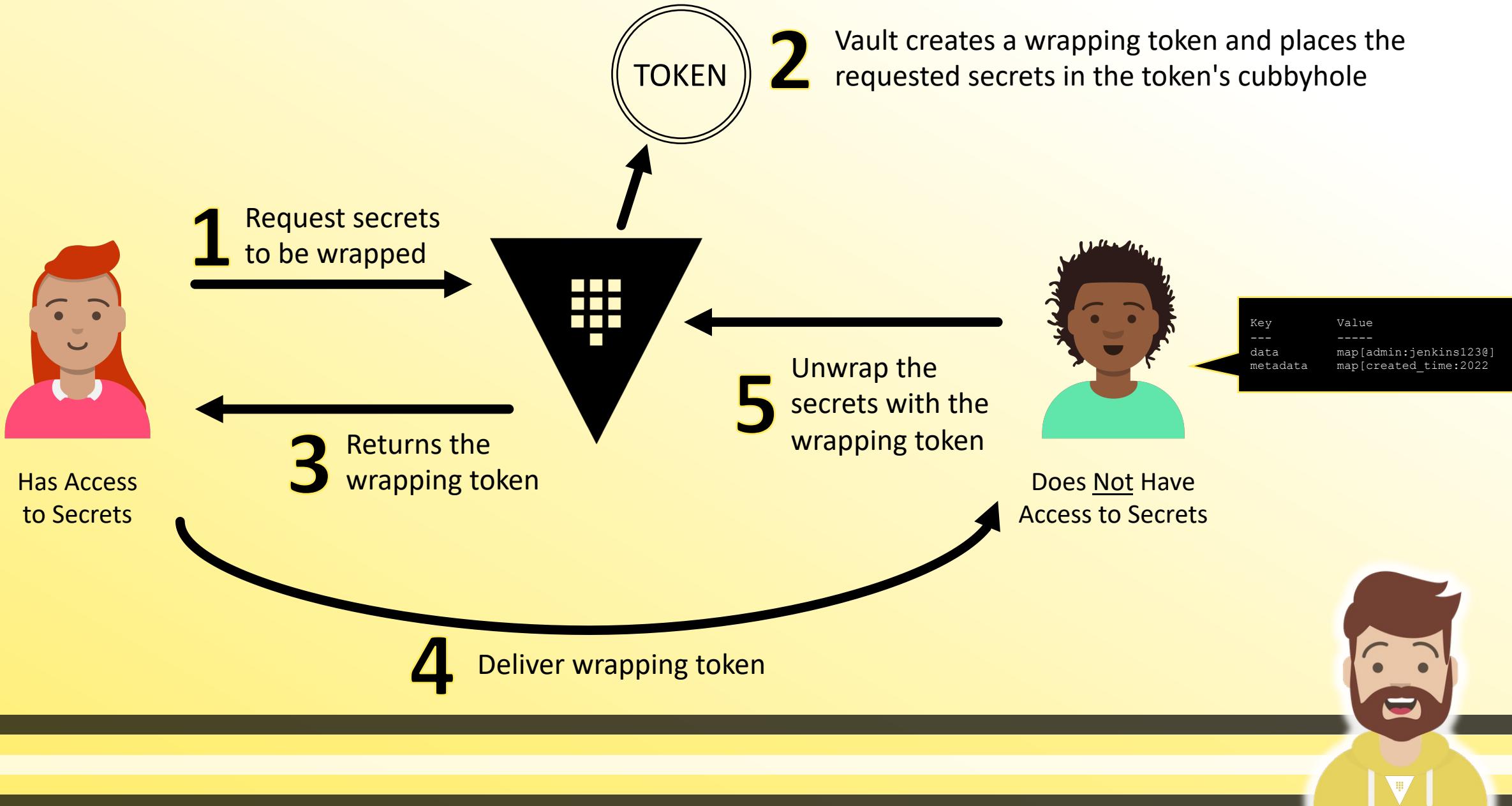
# Response Wrapping

**Instead of sending secrets over the network, you can use cubbyhole's response wrapping feature**

- Enables the retrieval of secrets from a path and Vault will store them inside of another token's cubbyhole
  - This token is called the wrapping token
  - The wrapping token is temporary and limited by a TTL
  - It is also a single-use token
- The wrapping token can be sent across the network and the user can unwrap the token to retrieve the real data (secrets)



# Response Wrapping





# THE SECRET NEVER LEAVES VAULT

You are sending the reference  
(wrapping token) across the network



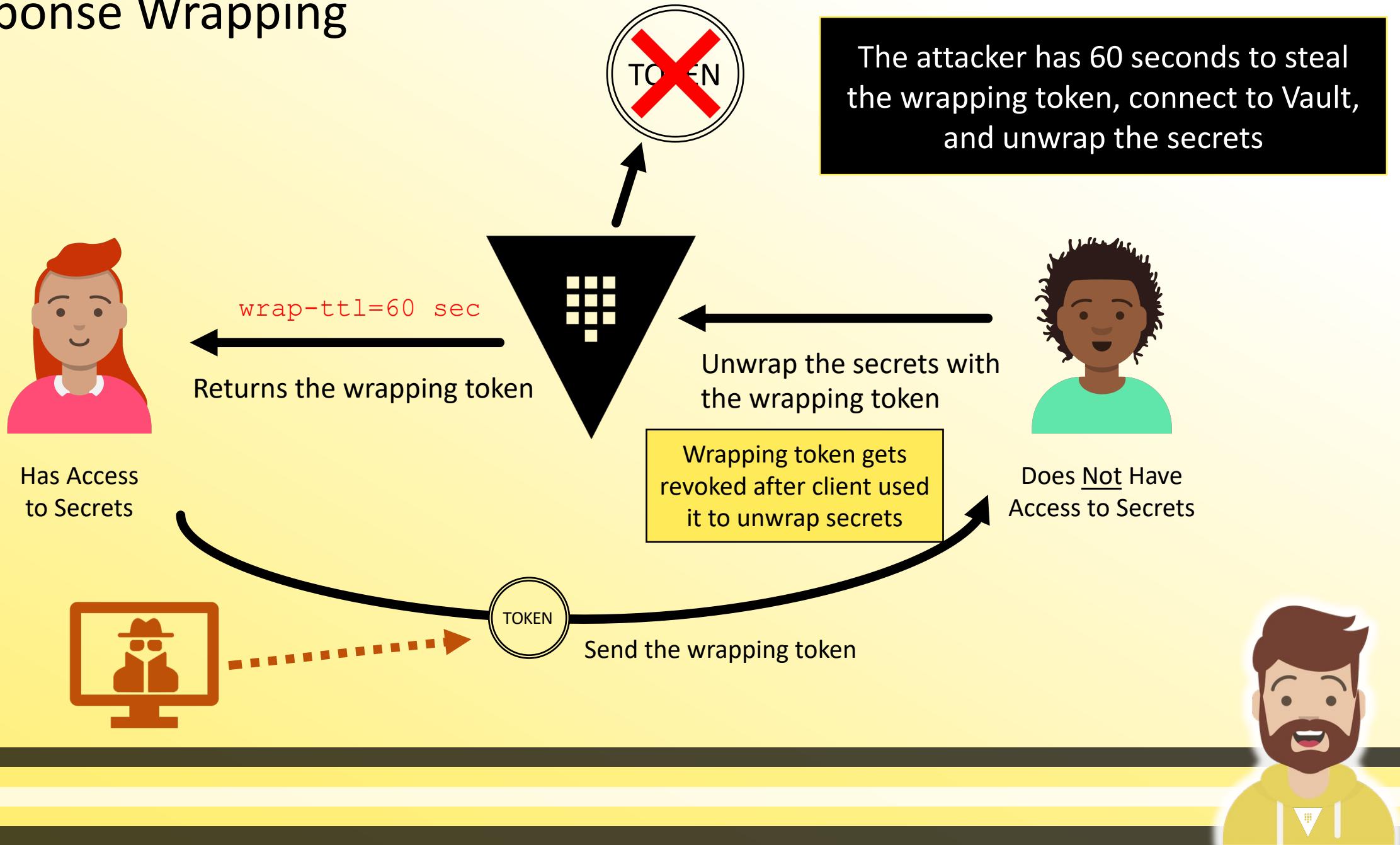
# Benefits of Response Wrapping

Response wrapping provides:

- ***privacy*** by ensuring that any secret transmitted across the network is not the actual secret
- ***malfeasance detection*** by ensuring that only a single party can unwrap the token and gain access to the secrets (because it's a single-use token)
- ***limitation of the lifetime*** of the secret exposure because the wrapping token has a defined TTL



# Response Wrapping



# Wrapping Secrets using the CLI

```
$ vault kv get -wrap-ttl=5m secrets/certification/hcvop
```

Key	Value
---	-----
wrapping_token:	hvs.CAESIDgPWW9ok_h4KHGh2cyObTJ4WW
wrapping_accessor:	O5XSKsRf0c7CwXo996BjKyNi
wrapping_token_ttl:	5m
wrapping_token_creation_time:	2022-12-25 10:36:36.588947 -0400 EDT
wrapping_token_creation_path:	secrets/certification/hcvop

We got back a wrapping token instead of the actual secrets

You can get static or dynamic secrets using response wrapping



# Lookup a Wrapping Token

```
$ vault token lookup hvs.CAESIDgPWW9ok_h4KHGh2cyObTJ4WW
```

Key	Value
accessor	05XSKsRf0c7CwXo996BjKyNi
creation_time	1649172724
creation_ttl	5m
display_name	n/a
entity_id	n/a
expire_time	2022-12-25T10:41:36.588968-04:00
explicit_max_ttl	5m
id	hvs.CAESIDgPWW9ok_h4KHGh2cyObTJ4WW
issue_time	2022-12-25T10:36:36.588947-04:00
meta	<nil>
num_uses	1
orphan	true
path	secrets/certification/hcvop
policies	[response-wrapping]
renewable	false
ttl	4m48s
type	service

Expires in 5 minutes

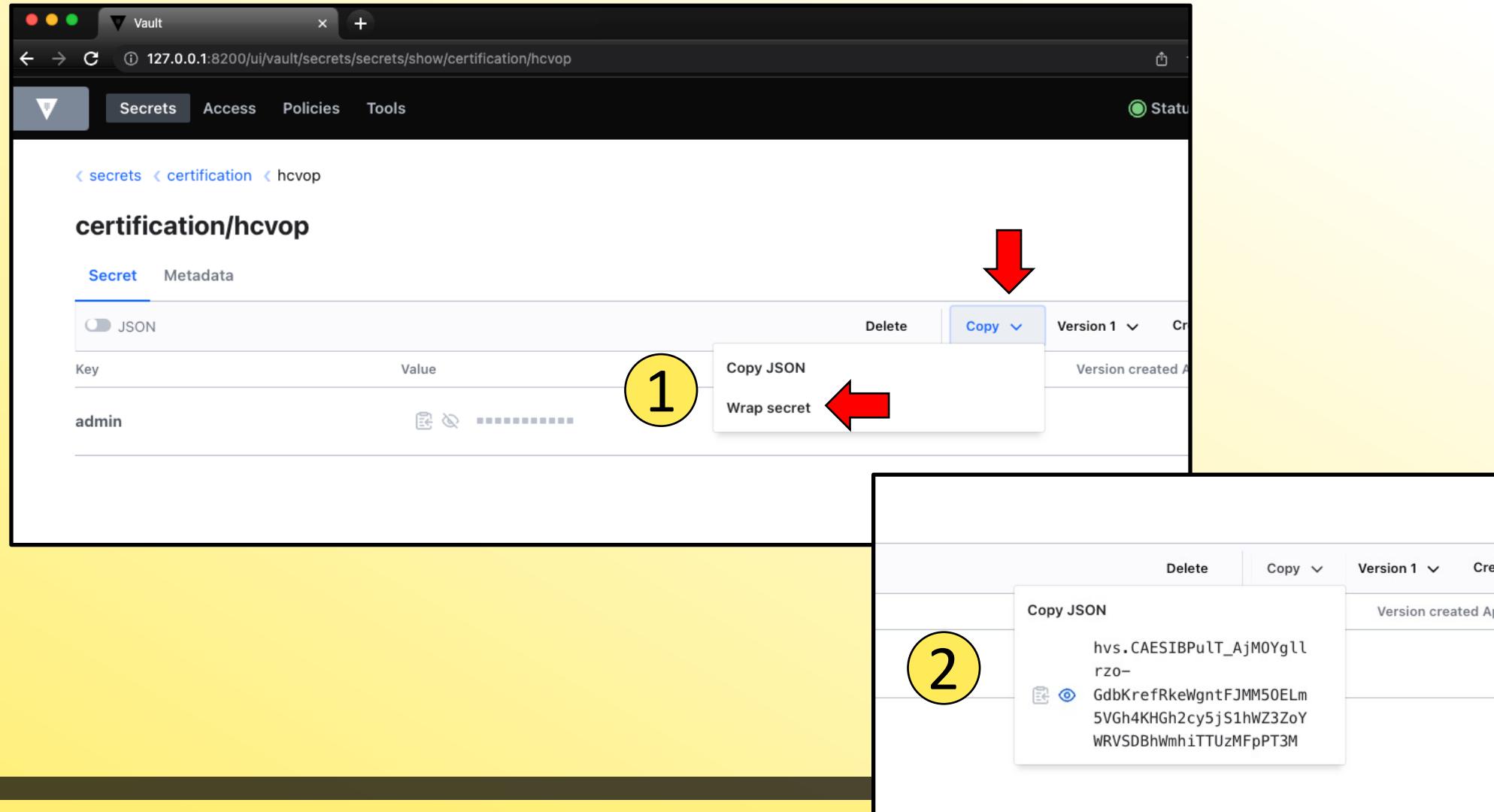
Single-Use Token

Path of secret we requested

Not Renewable



# Wrap a Secret using the UI



# Unwrap the Secret

Use `vault unwrap` command to retrieve the secrets

```
$ vault unwrap <wrapping-token>  
or  
$ export VAULT_TOKEN=<wrapping-token> vault unwrap  
or  
$ vault login <wrapping-token>  
$ vault unwrap
```



# Unwrap the Secret using the CLI

Use `vault unwrap` command to retrieve the secrets

```
$ vault unwrap hvs.CAESIDgPWW9ok_h4KHGh2cyObTJ4WW

Key          Value
---
data         map[admin:jenkins123@]
metadata     map[created_time:2022-12-25T14:33:10.525712Z custom_metadata:<nil> ...]
```



# Unwrap the Secret using the UI

The screenshot shows two screenshots of the HashiCorp Vault UI, illustrating the process of unwrapping a secret.

**Screenshot 1:** The left screenshot shows the "Unwrap data" page. A red arrow points to the "Tools" menu at the top, and another red arrow points to the "Unwrap" option in the "TOOLS" sidebar. A yellow circle with the number "1" is placed over the "Unwrap data" button.

**Screenshot 2:** The right screenshot shows the results of the unwrap operation. The "Data" tab is selected, displaying the unwrapped data in JSON format. A yellow circle with the number "2" is placed over the JSON output area. The JSON data is as follows:

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "admin": "jenkins123@"  
  },  
  "metadata": {  
    "created_time": "2022-04-05T15:54:09.779Z",  
    "custom_metadata": null,  
    "deletion_time": "",  
    "destroyed": false,  
    "version": 1  
}
```