

# Patterns in Data Provenance

*Cryptographic Magic Included*

Benedict Lau // March 23, 2024 // Causal Islands LA 2024

**Benedict Lau**

**Data Provenance  
@ Hypha Worker Co-op**



Data Integrity

Decentralized  
Preservation

Verifiable  
Computing

Hardware  
Attestations

Media  
Authentication

AI Model  
Lineage

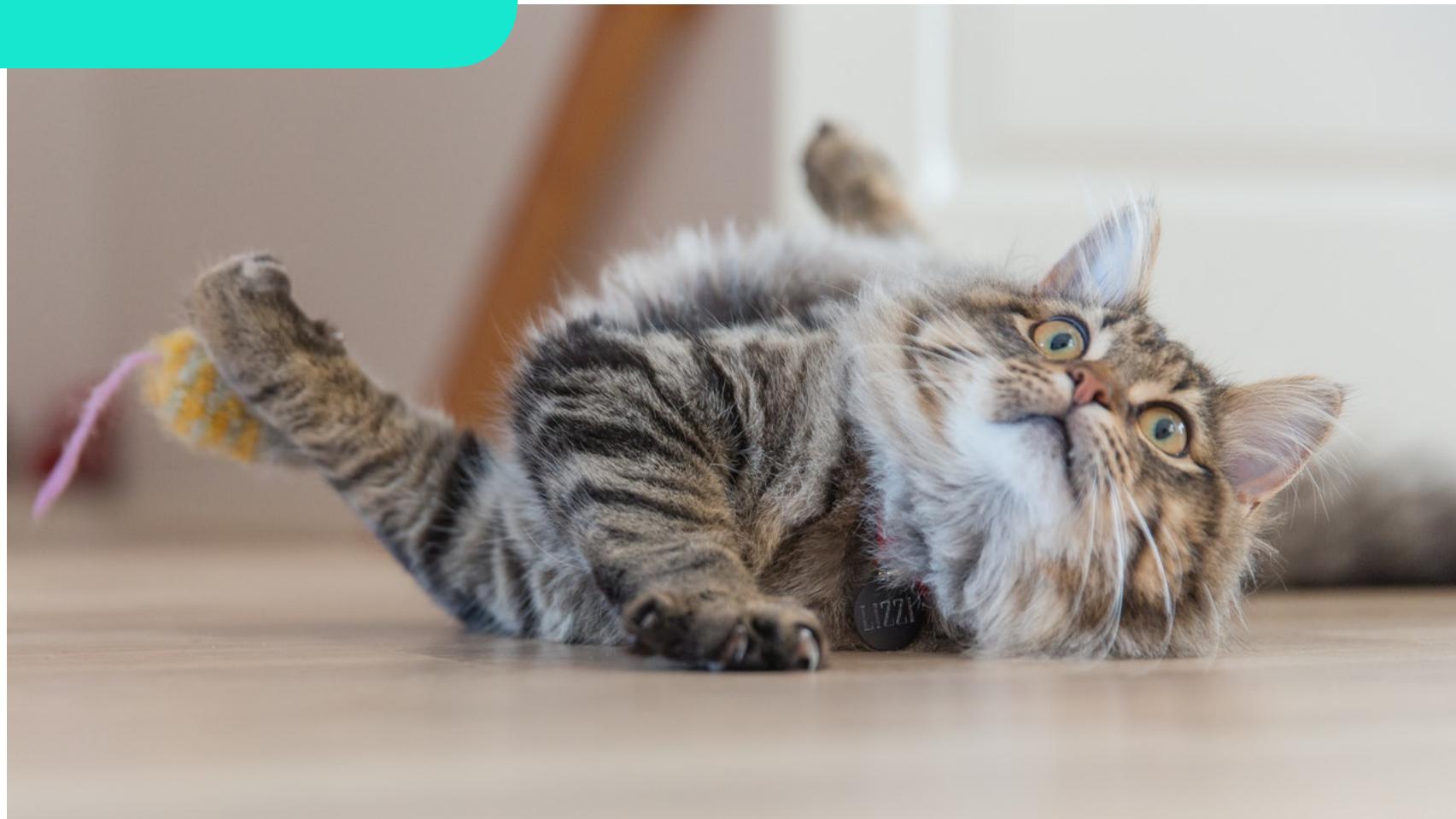
Benedict Lau

Data Provenance  
@ Hypha Worker Co-op

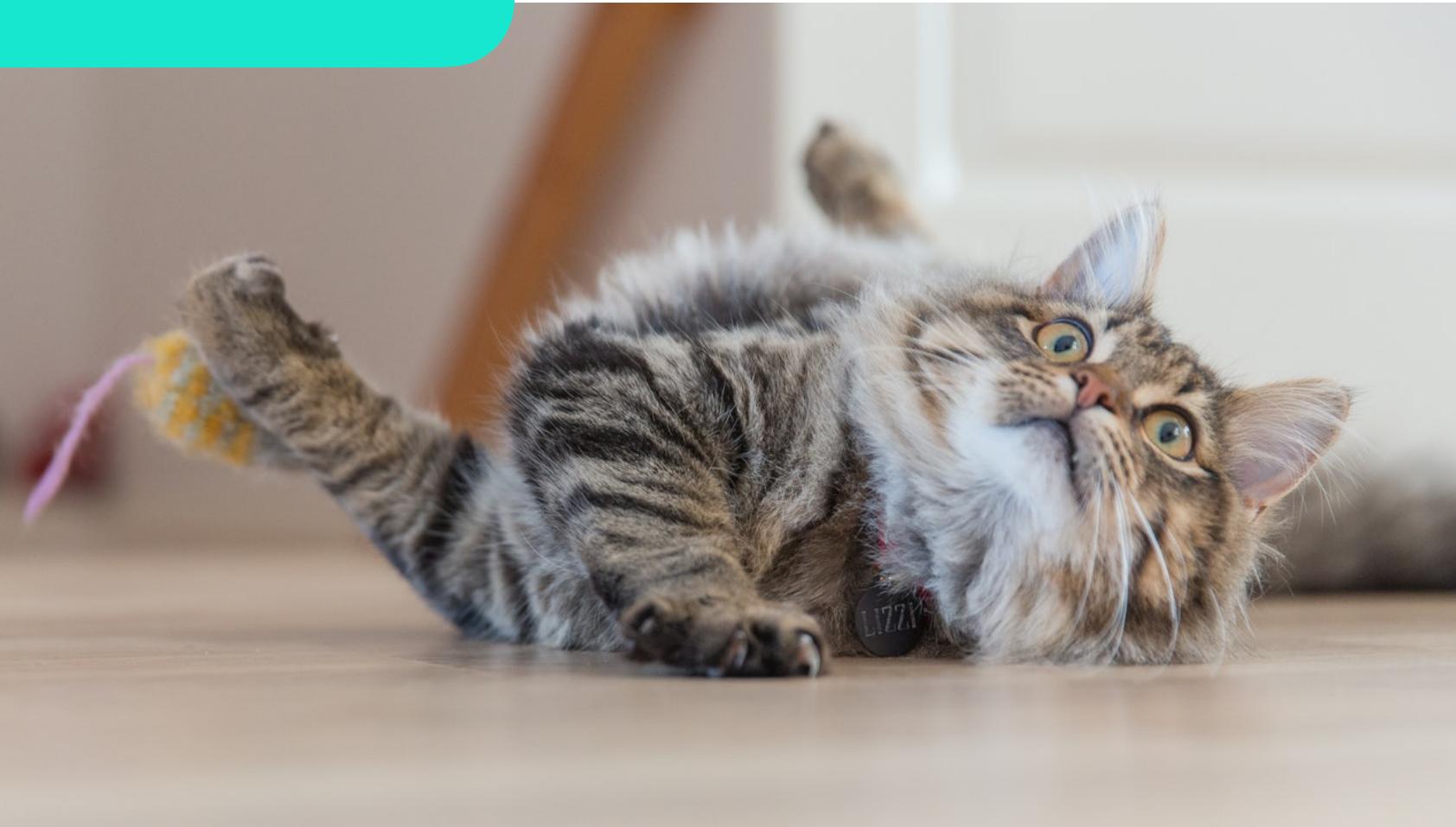
HYPHA

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

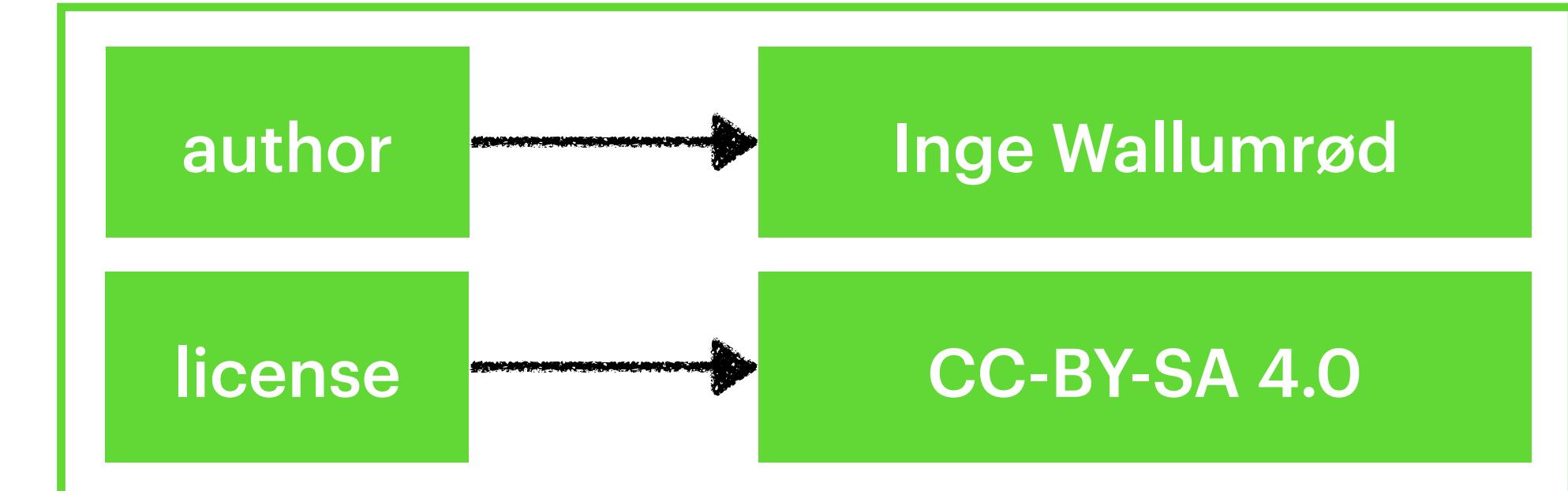
**Data**



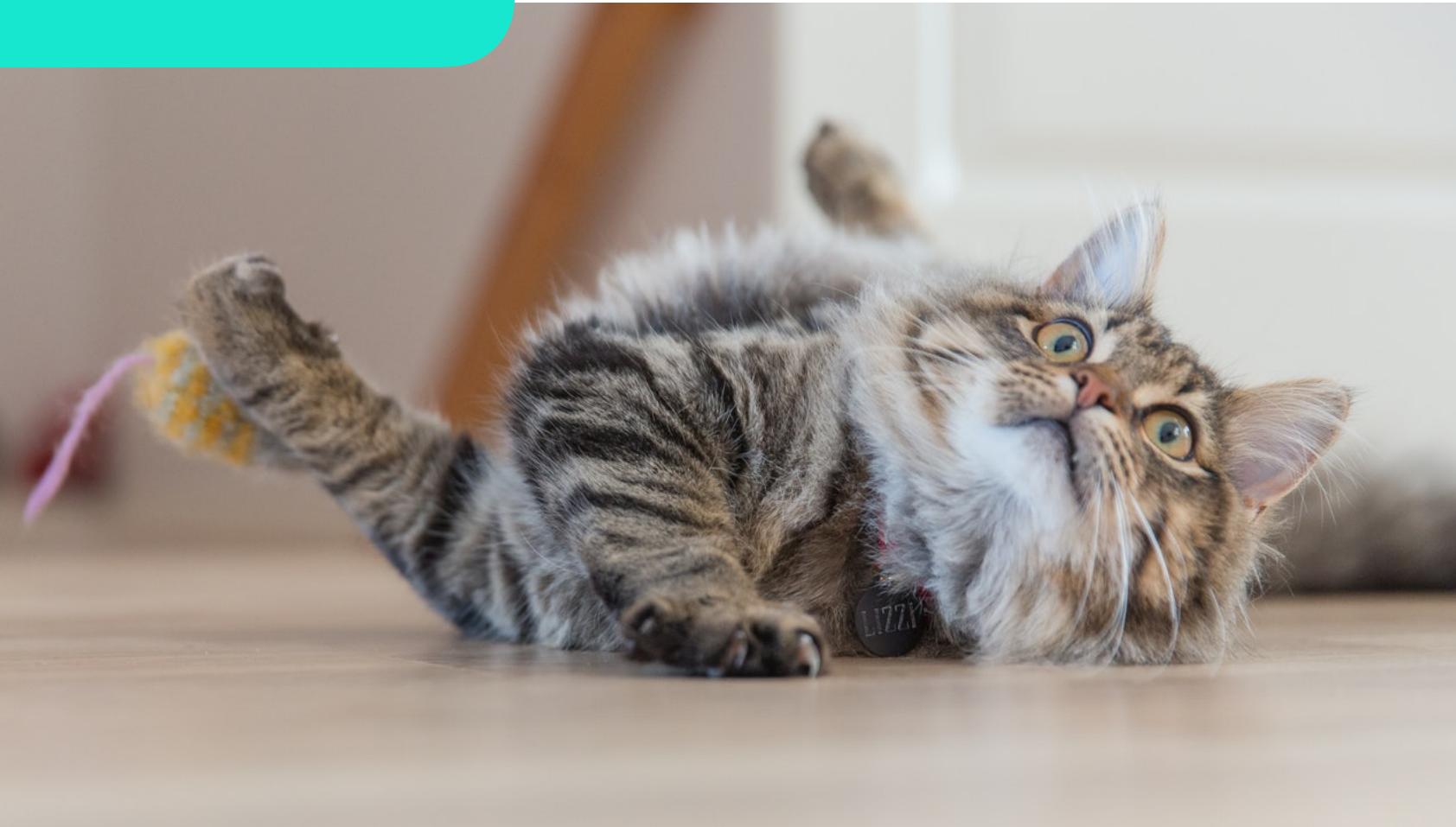
**Data**



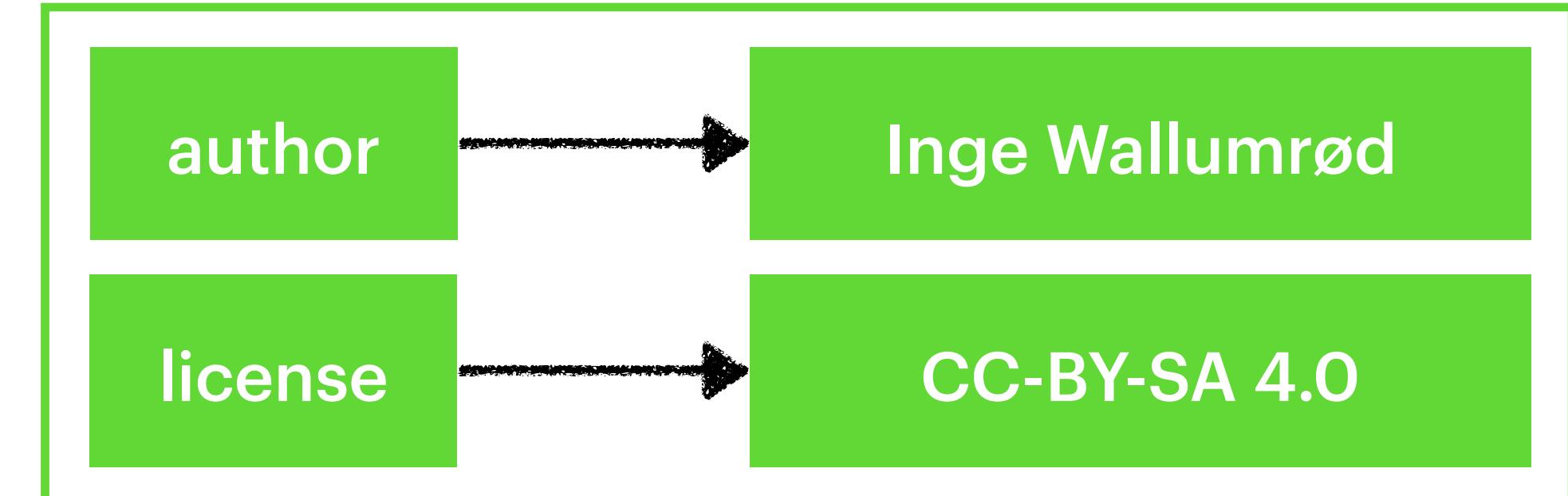
**Metadata**



Data



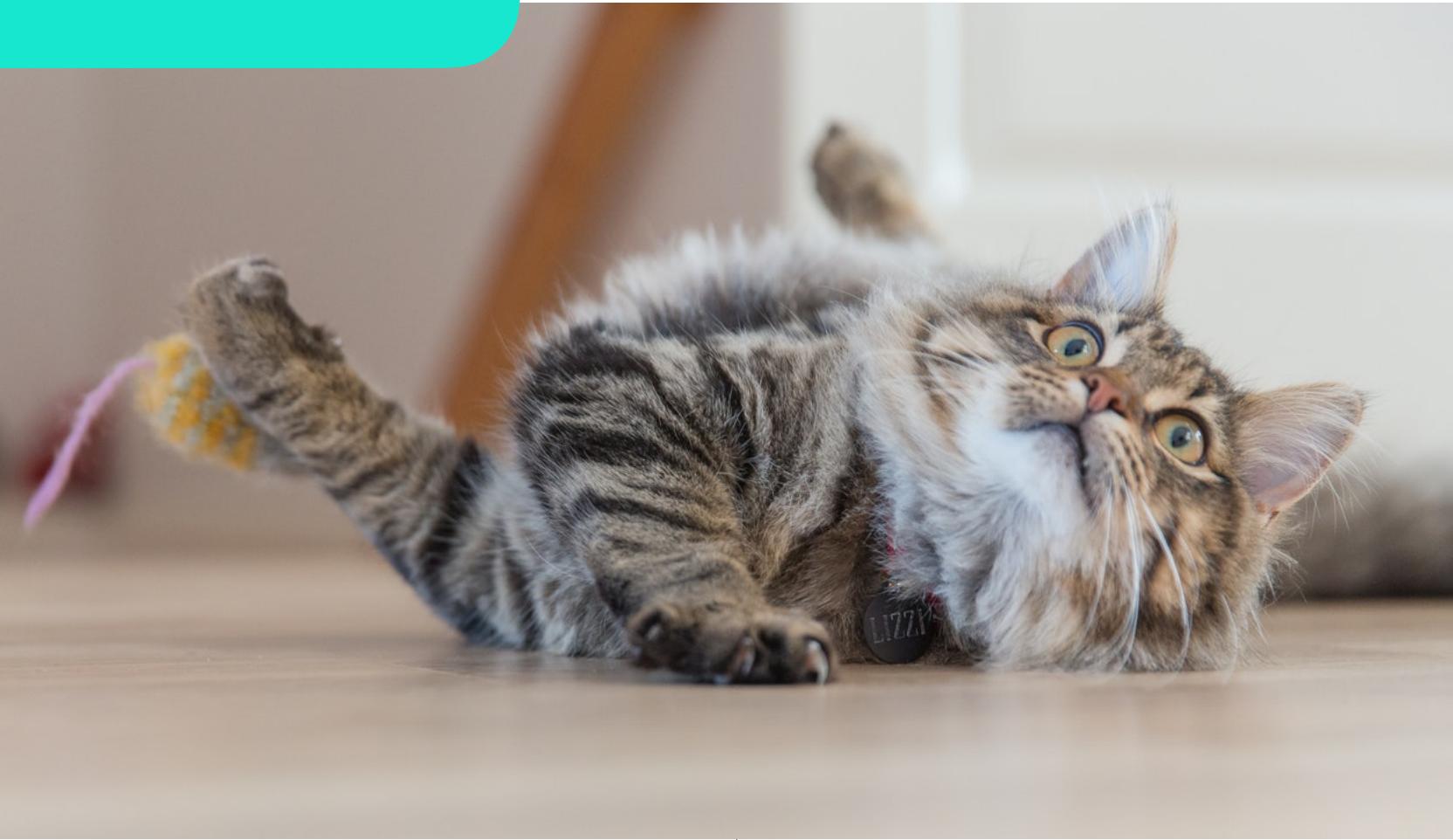
Metadata



↓ SHA 256

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

## Data



## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

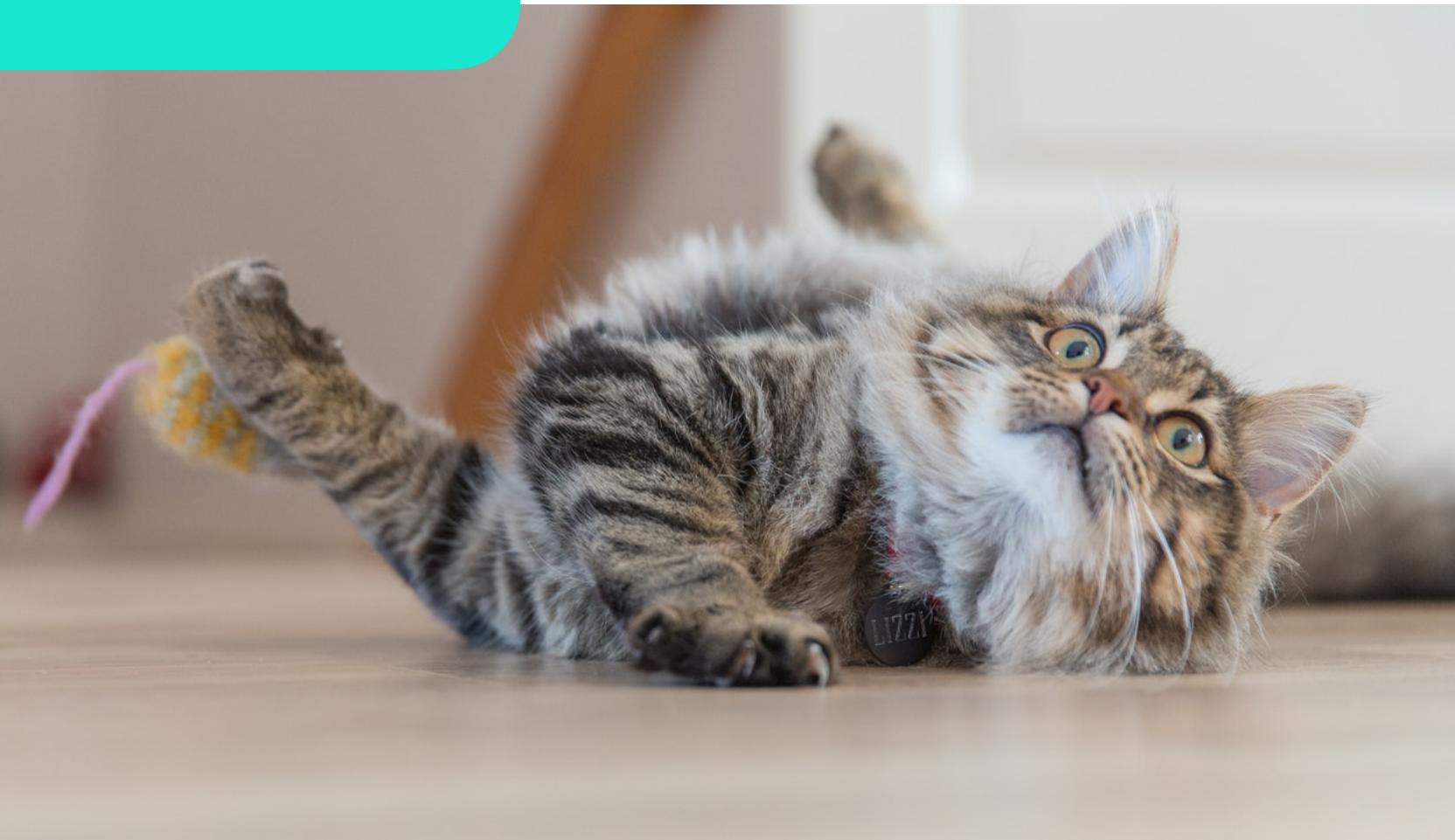
CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

## Data



## Metadata

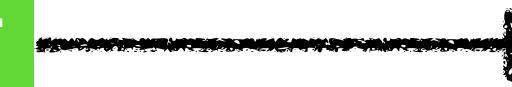
author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

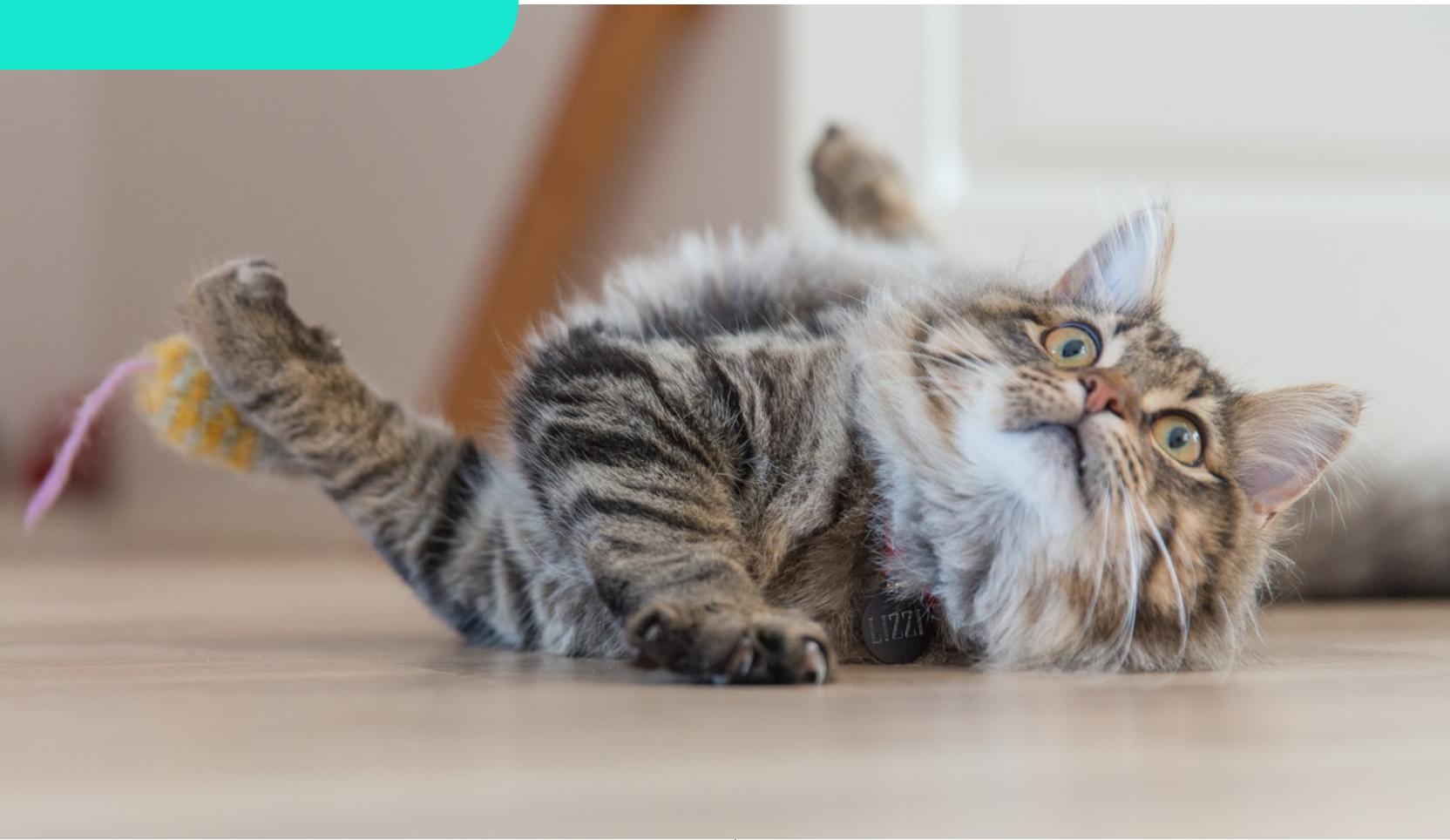
↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

↓ SHA 256  
**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**

## Data



## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**

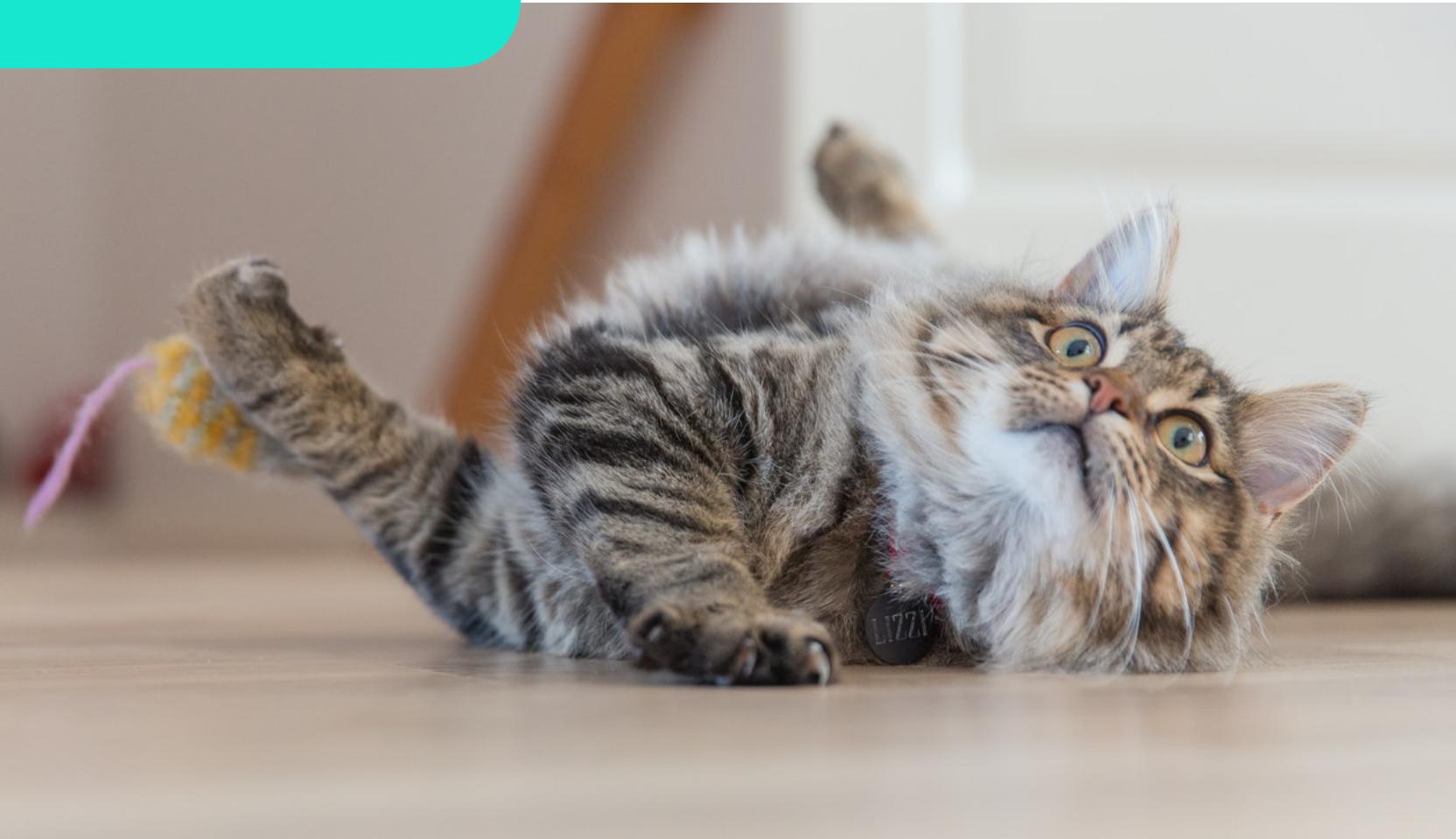


**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0**

↓ SHA 256  
**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**



Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

SHA 256



**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**



Integrity

**Data**

**Metadata**

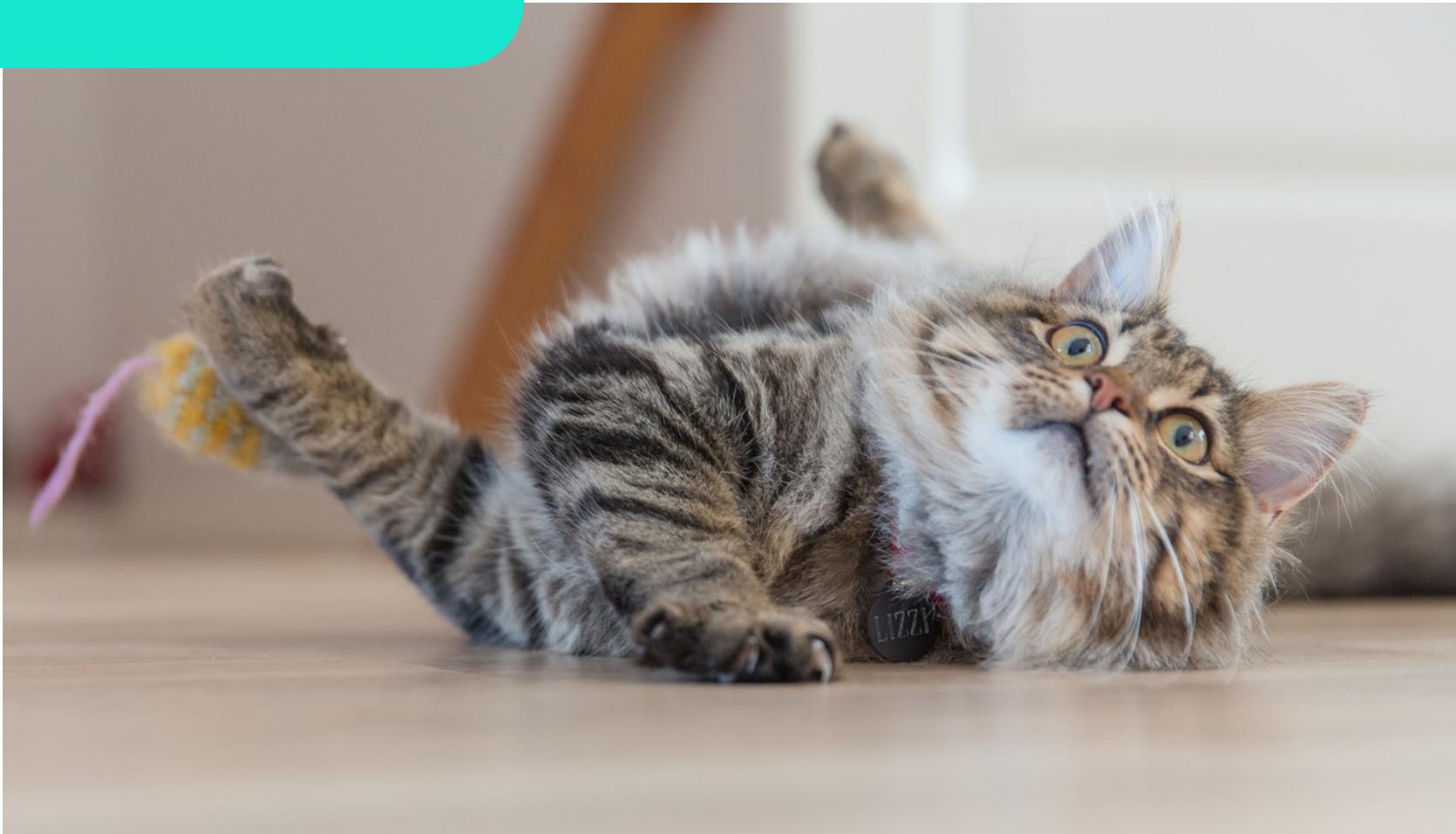
**Integrity**

# Let's try verifying

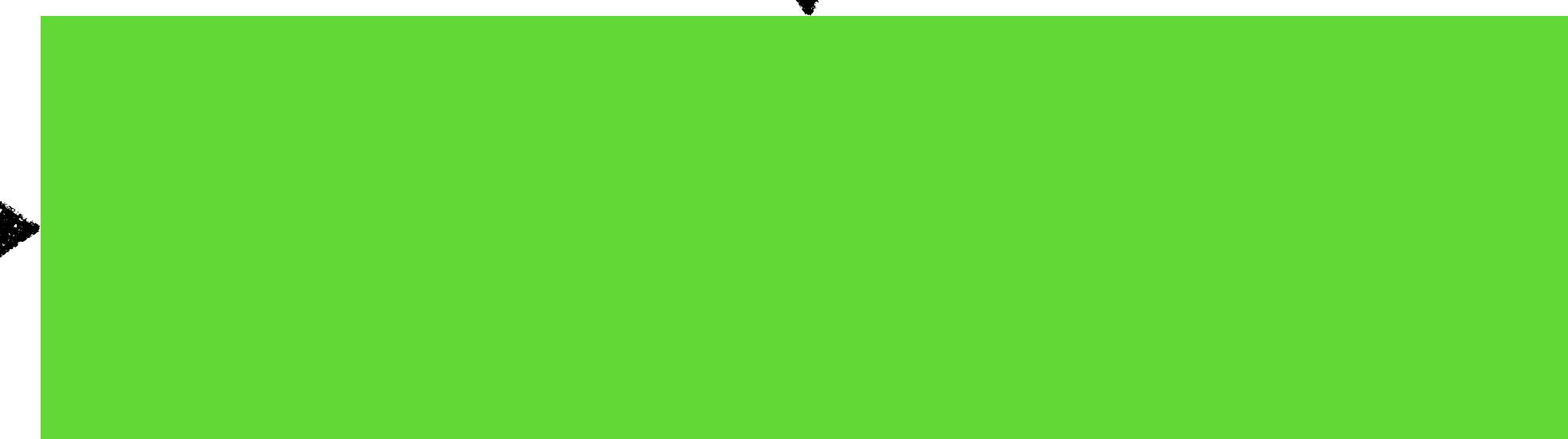
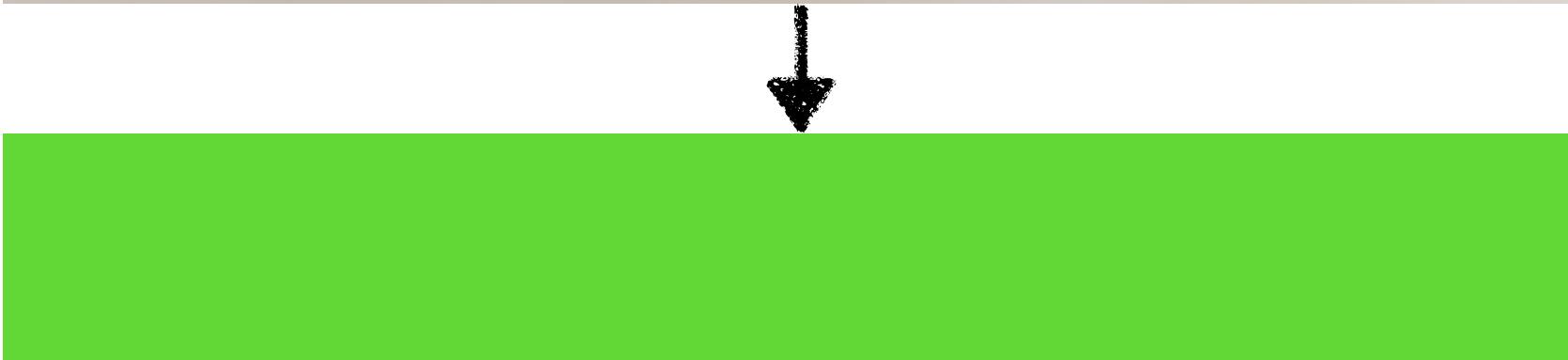
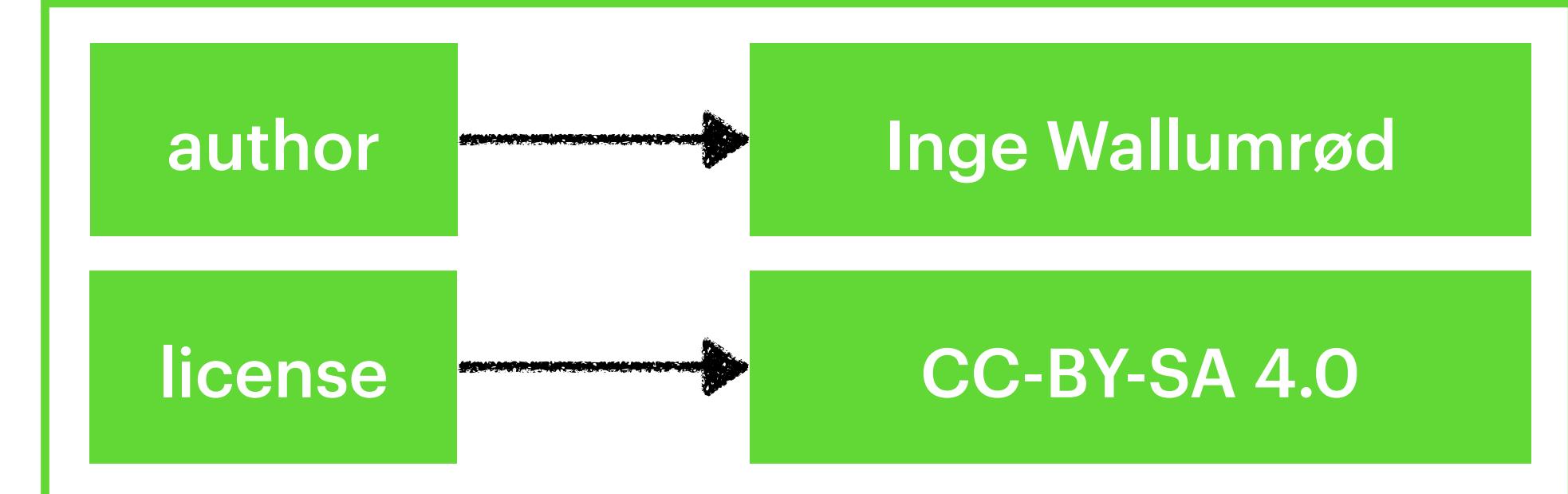
- A verifier is given:



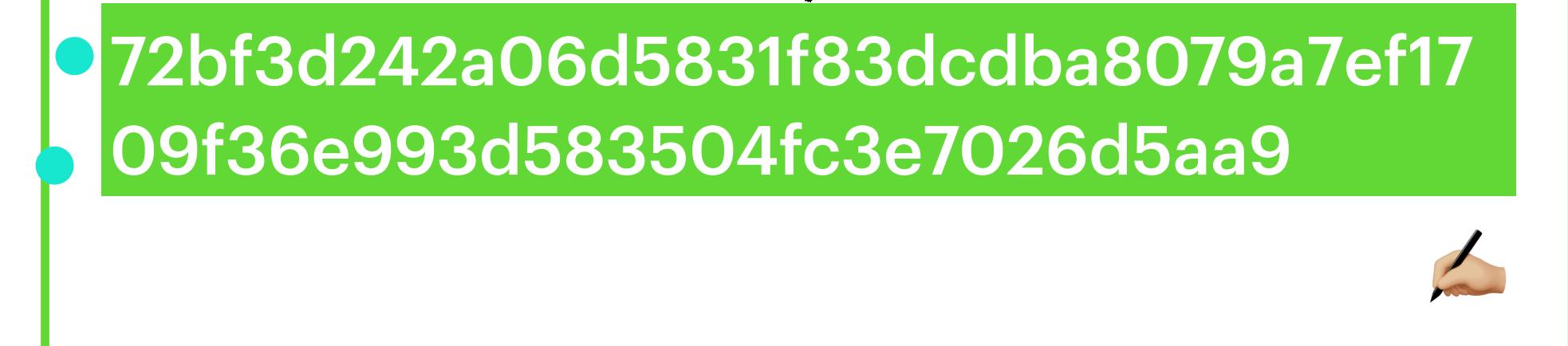
Data



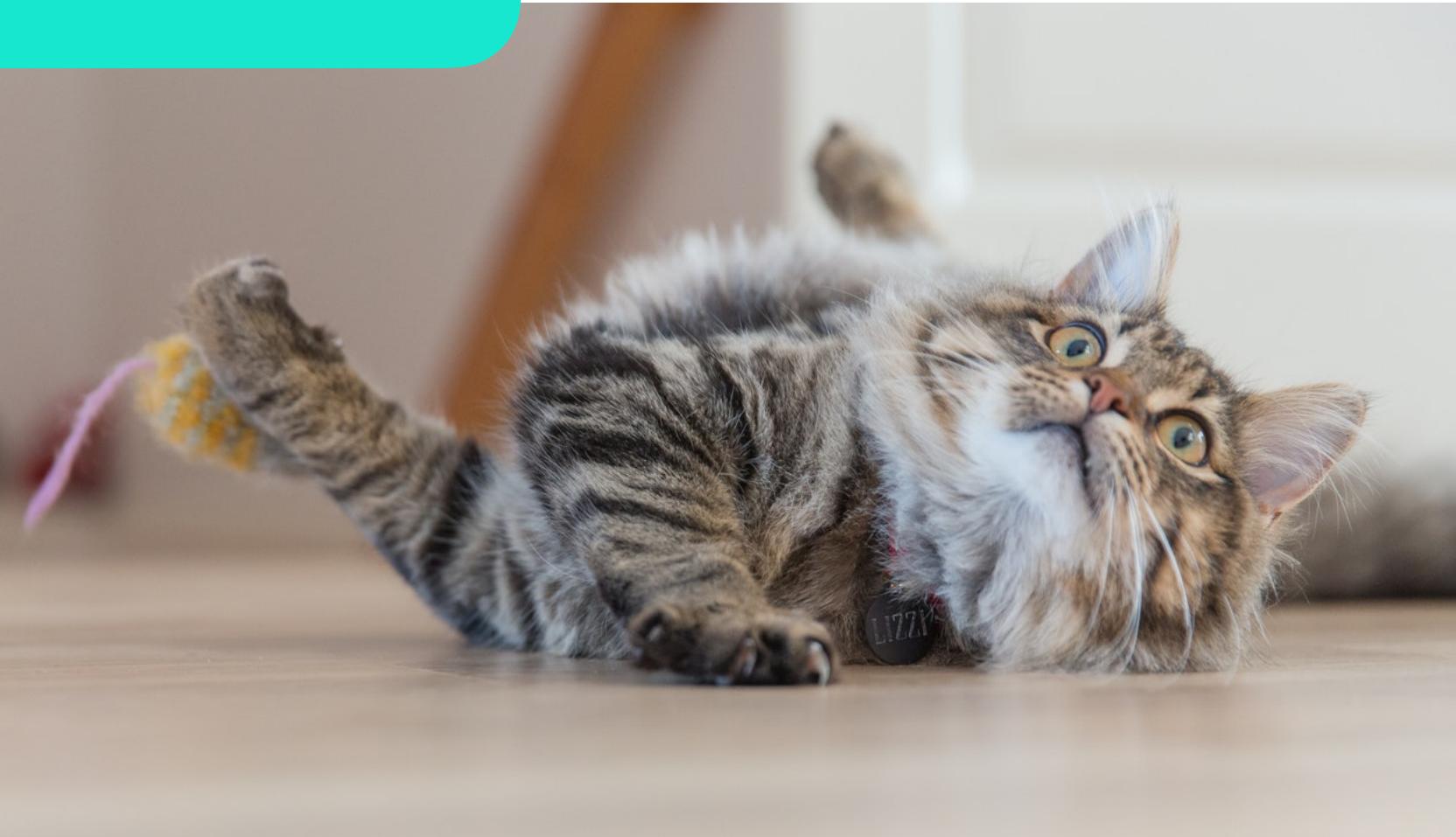
Metadata



Integrity



Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

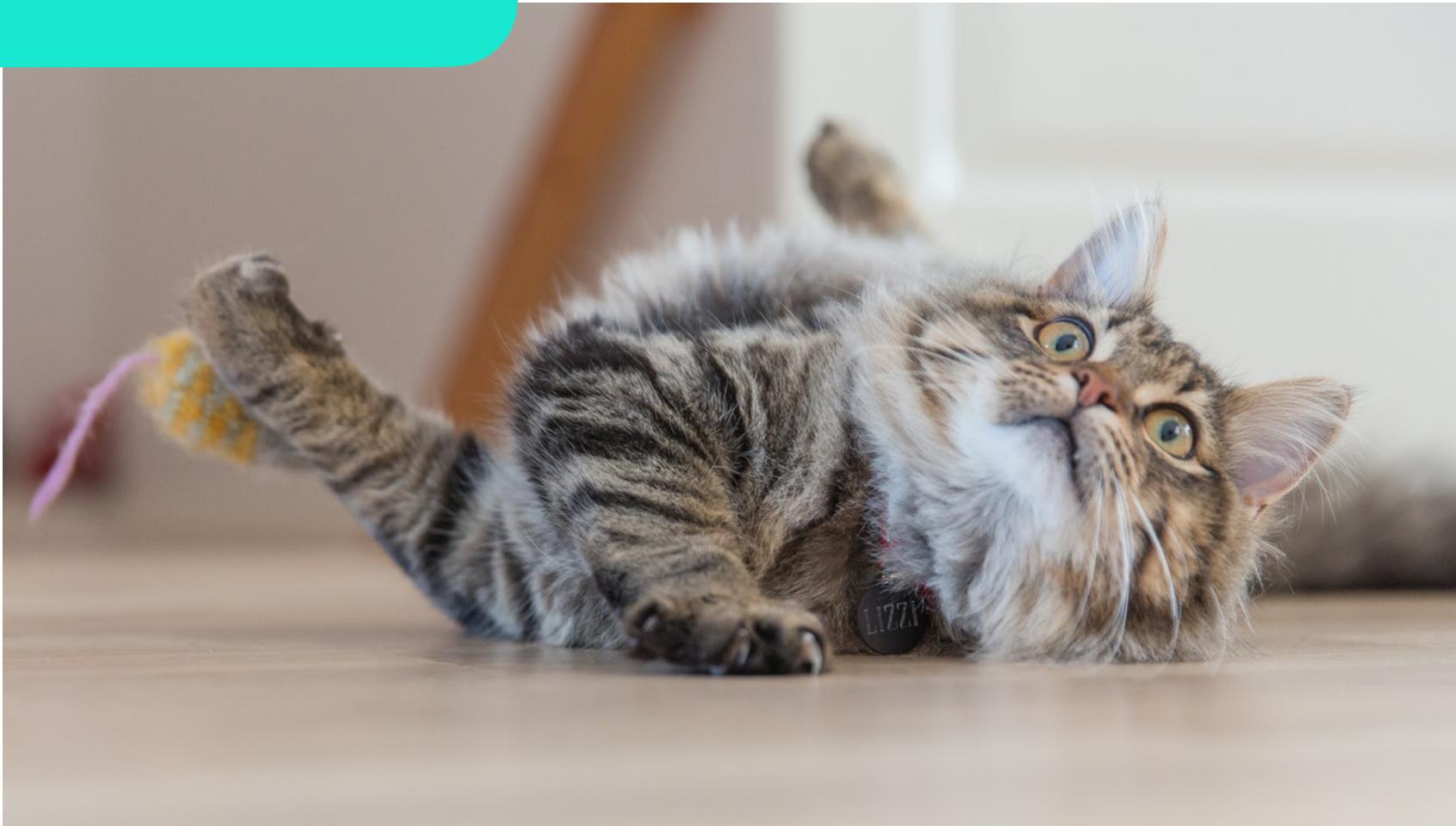
CC-BY-SA 4.0

Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256  
600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf



Integrity

72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9



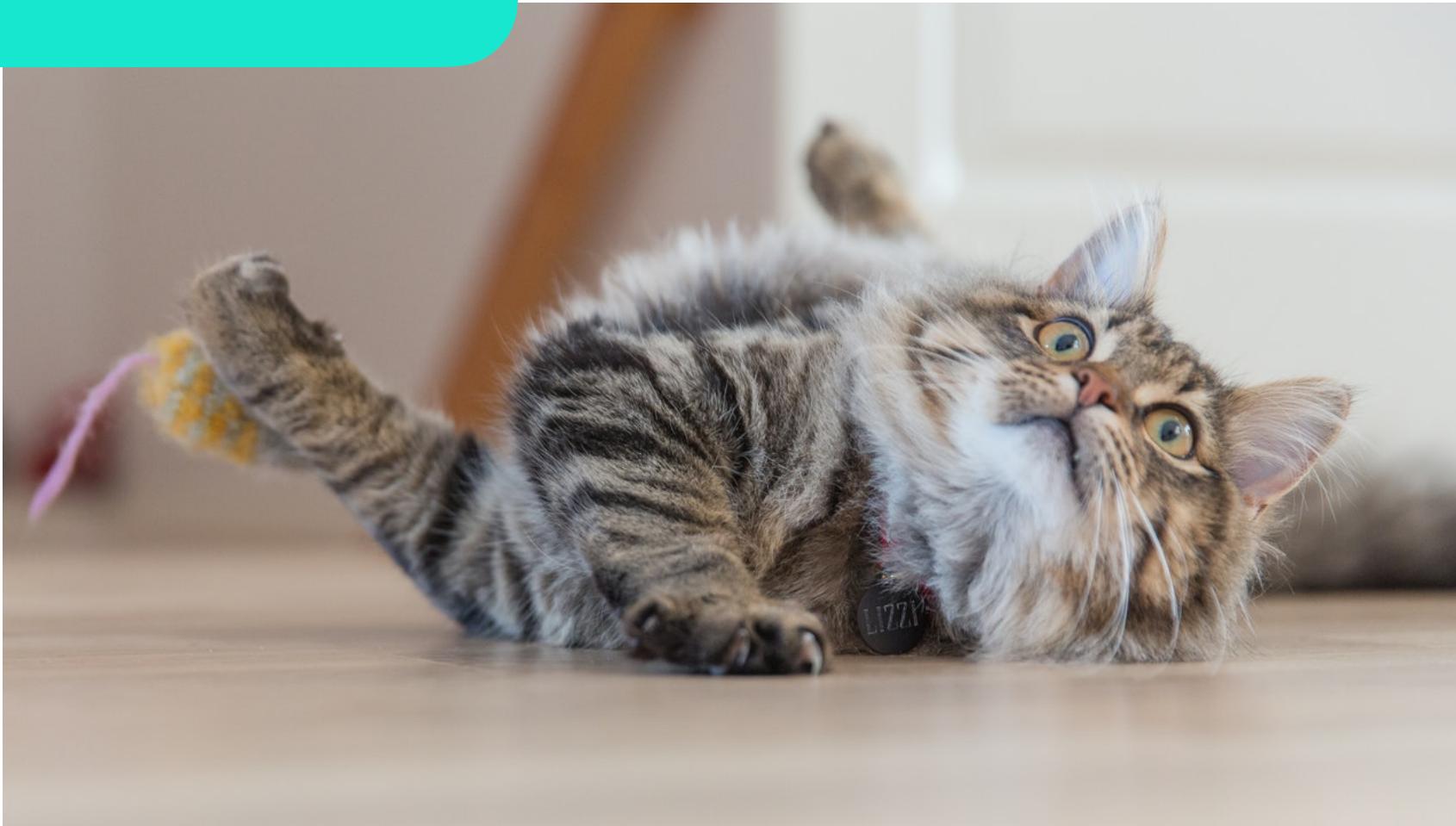
# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm

Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256  
600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

!?

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"  
}
```

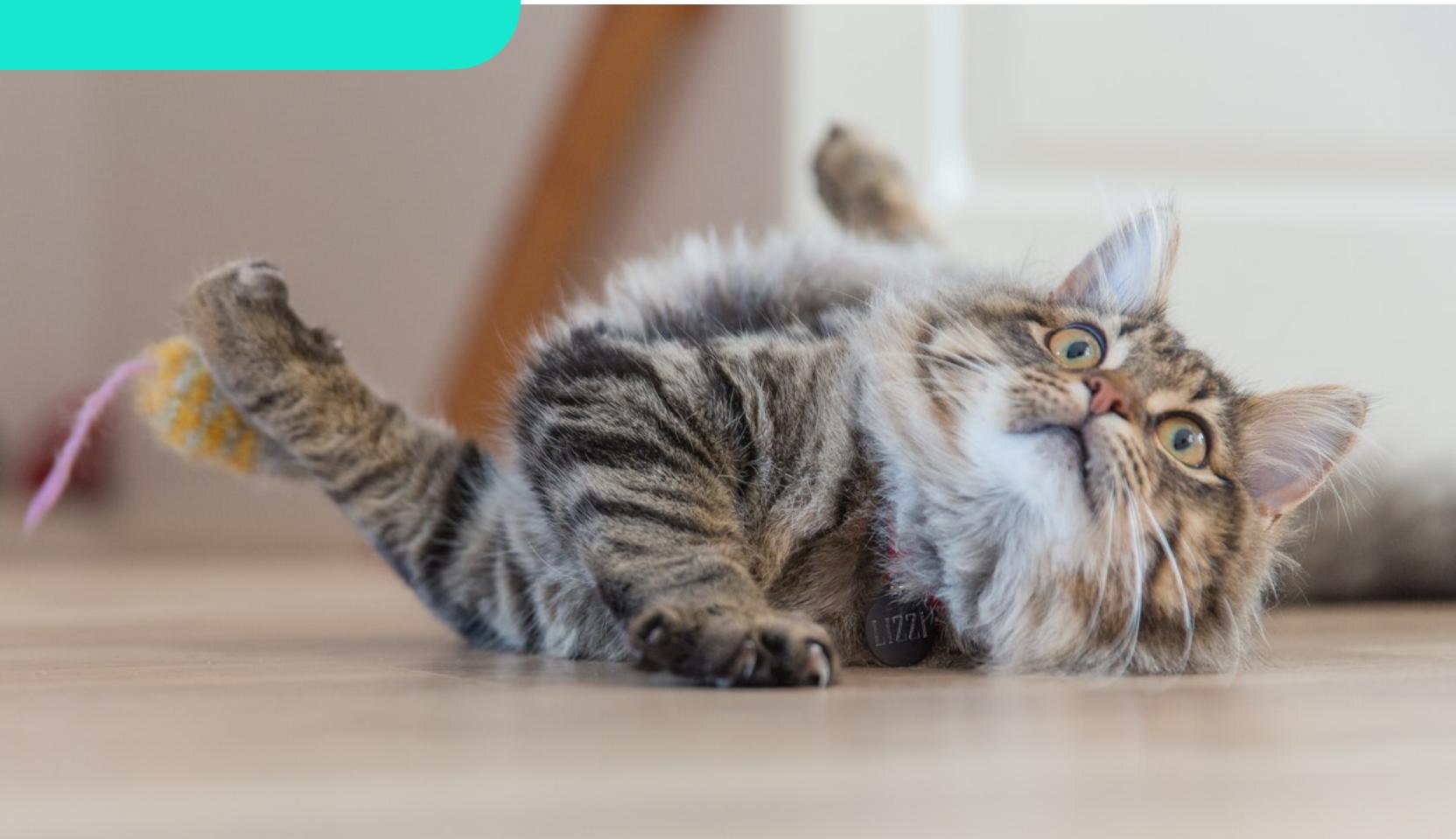
# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:



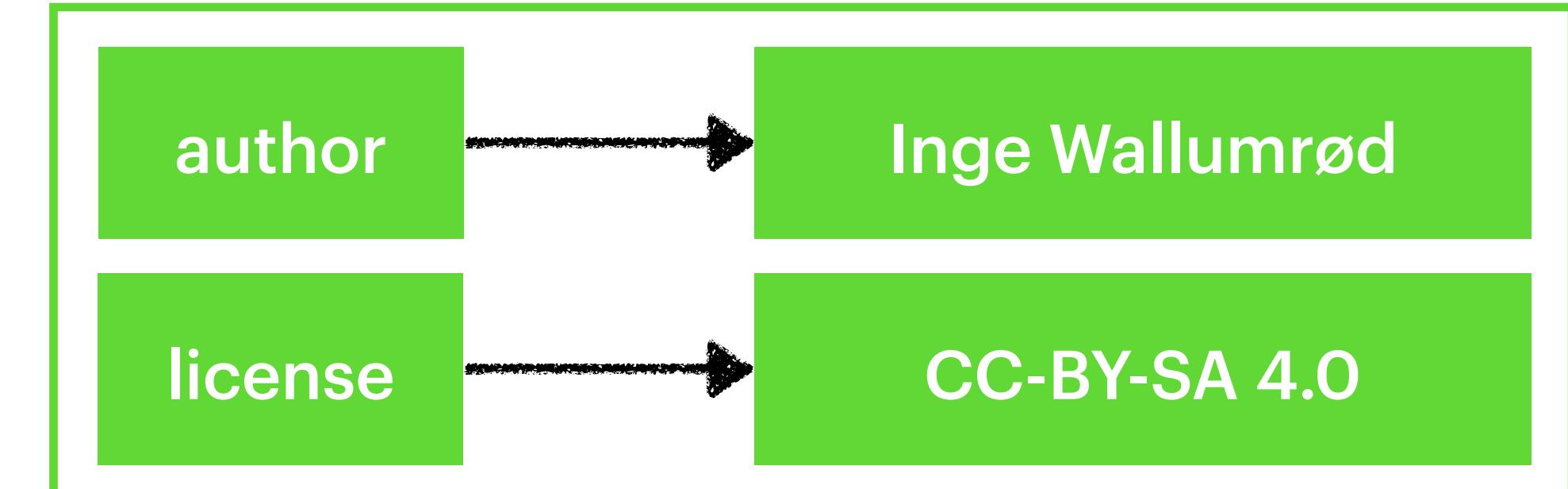
- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm
  - The metadata packaging system

# Data



SHA 256  
↓  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**

# Metadata

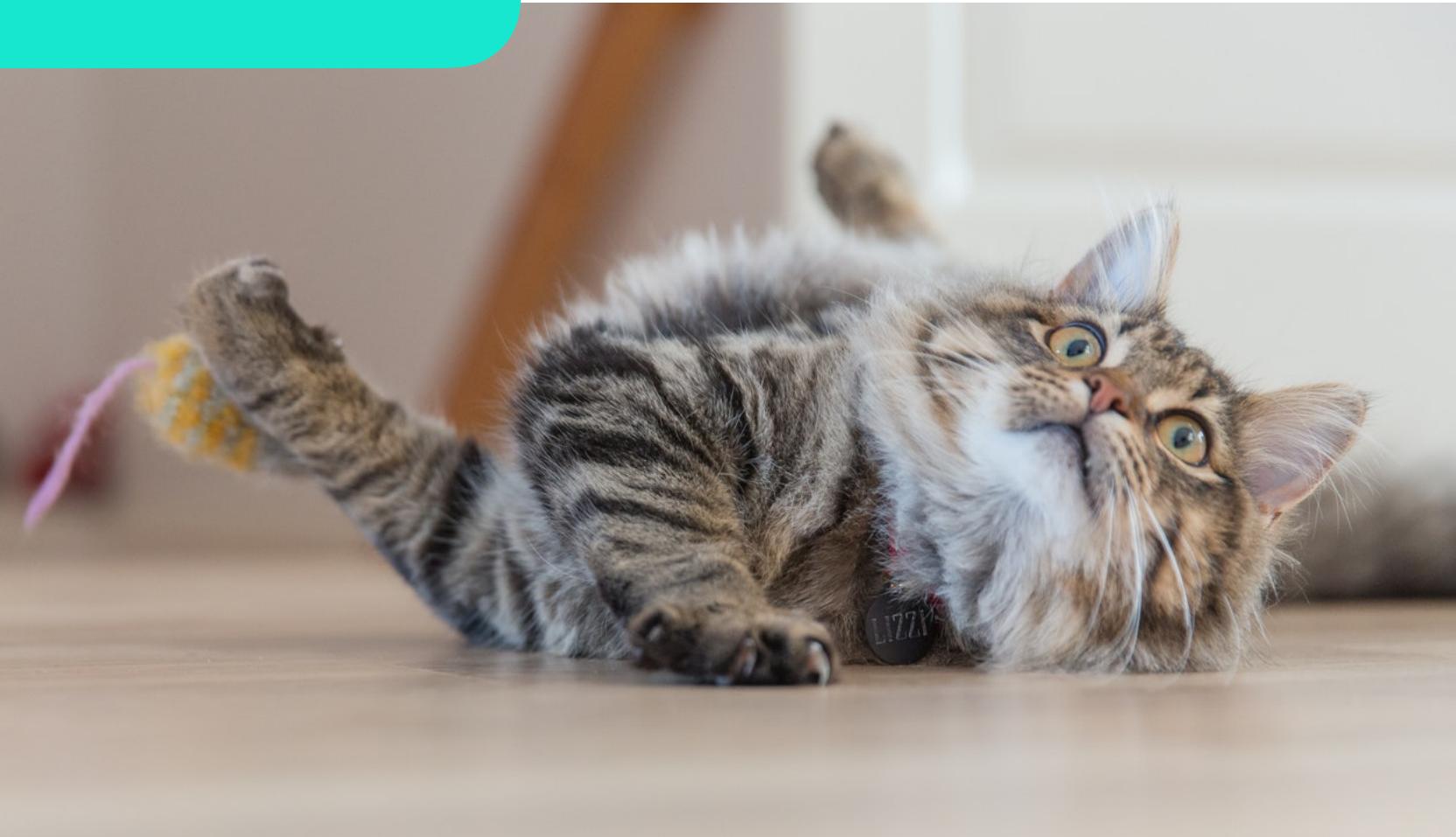


600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
0f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

# Integrity

- 72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17
- 09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9

Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

↓ SHA 256

**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
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:

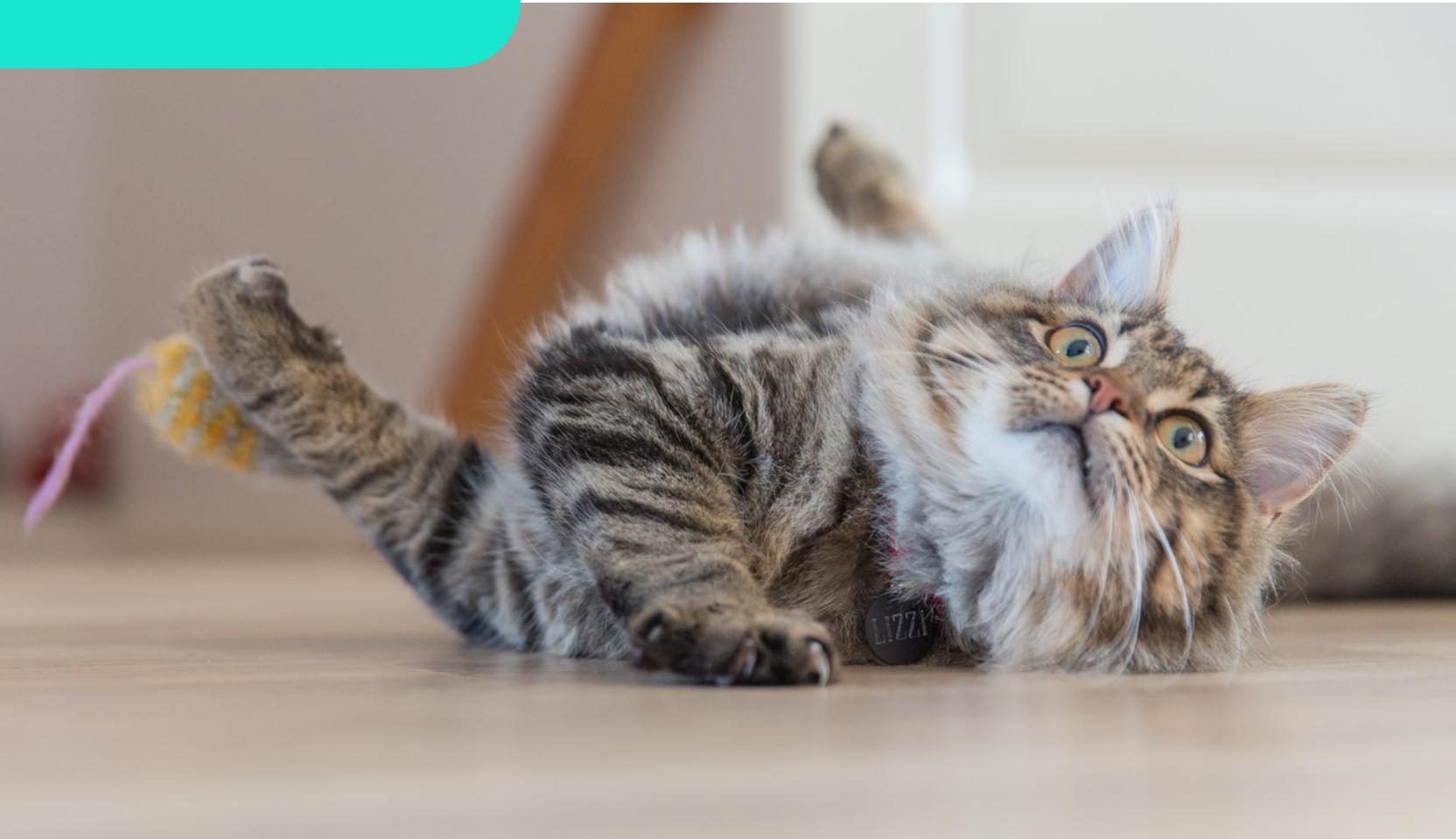


- The verifier also needs:
  - The data hashing algorithm (**CID, Blake3**)
  - The metadata packaging system (**C2PA, Numbers Protocol, ISCN, JCS, JSON-LD, RDFC, Authenticated Attributes**)
  - The signature verification method (**Verifiable Credentials, ZK proofs**)
  - The public key to verify against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

# Back to our original design goal ...

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

Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

↓ SHA 256

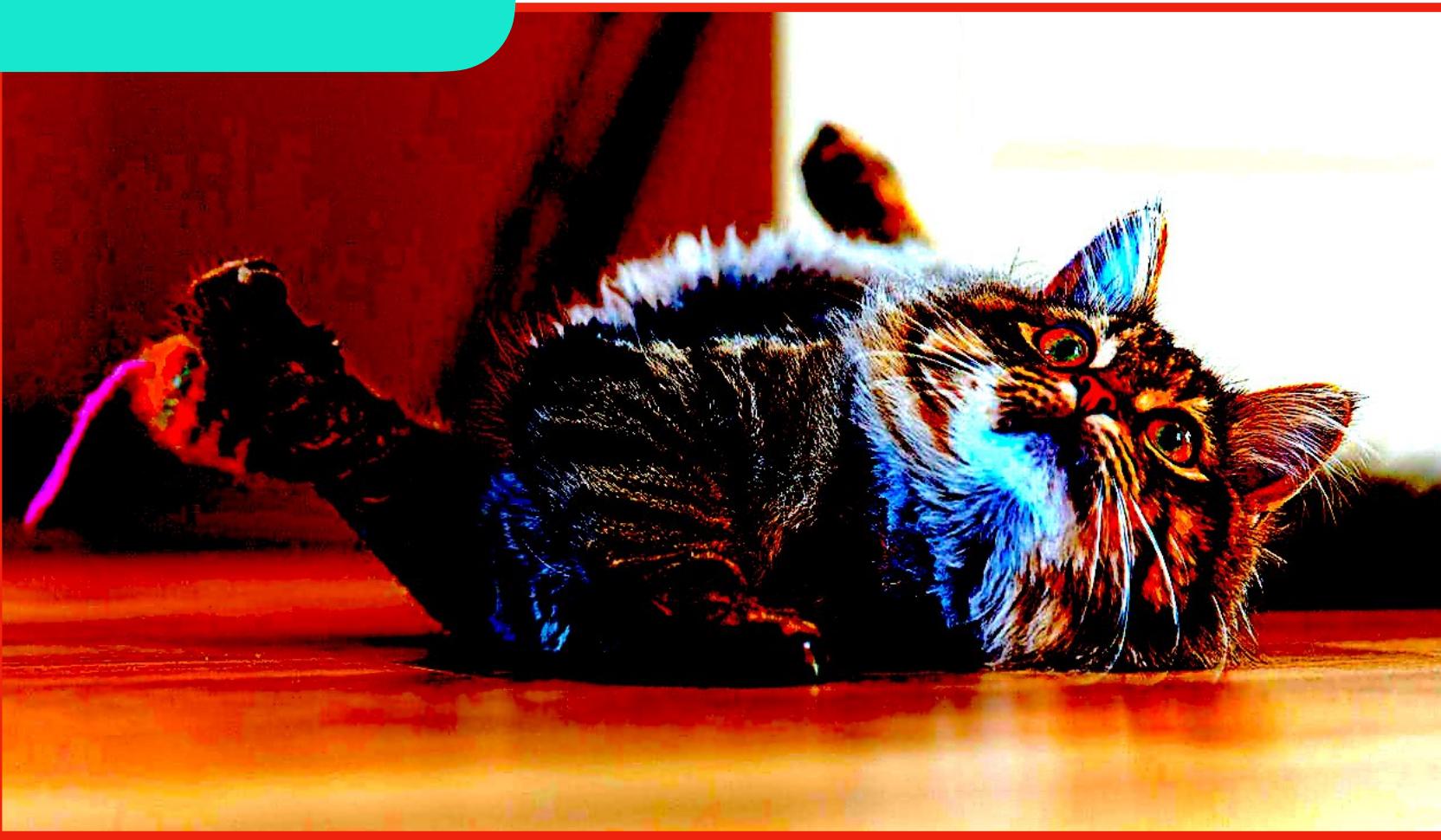
**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**

ECDSA + Public Key



• Integrity •

Data



Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

SHA 256  
**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**

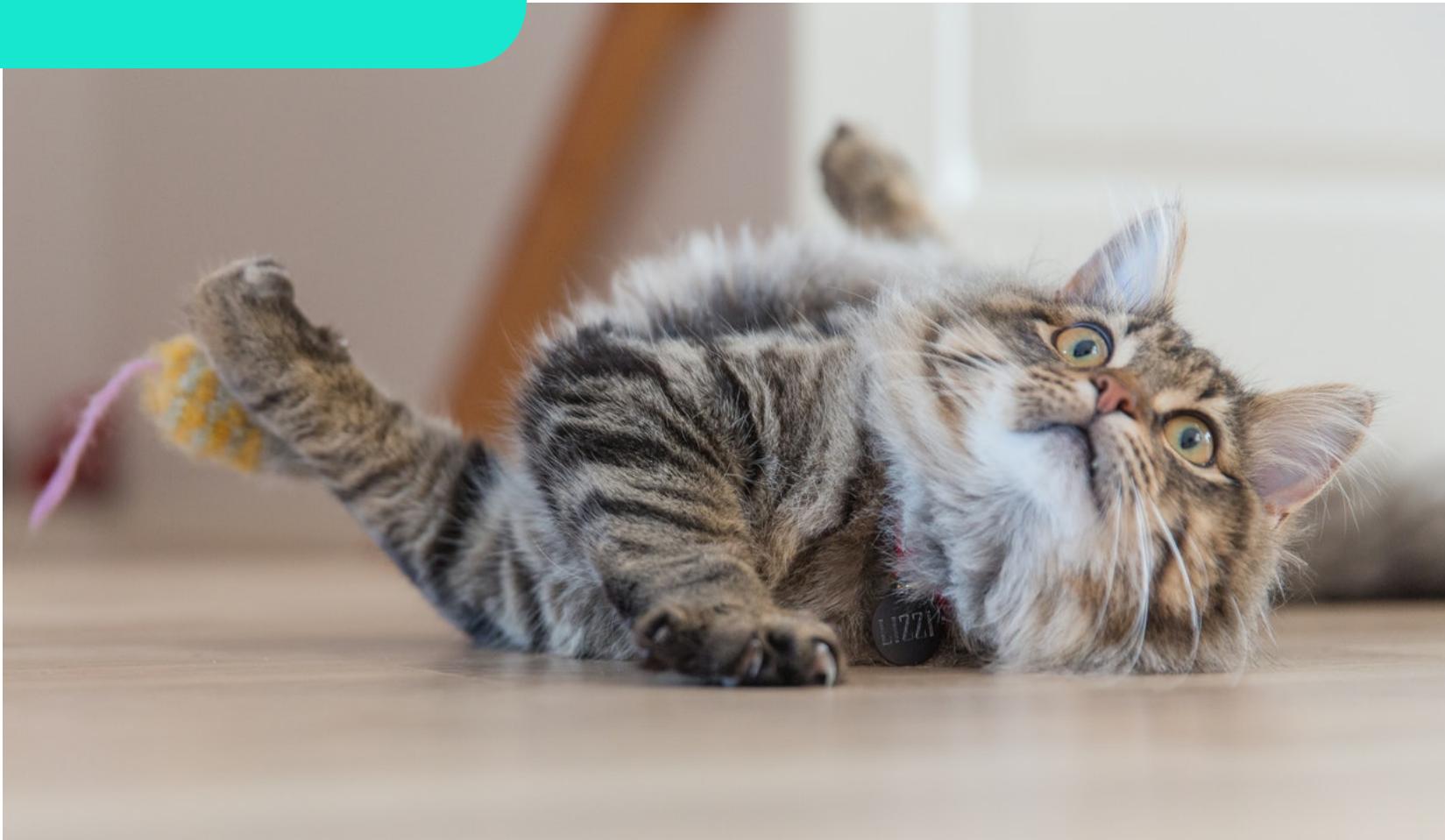
ECDSA + Public Key



Integrity

Data Tampering

Data



Metadata

author

Benedict Lau

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

↓ SHA 256

**72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9**

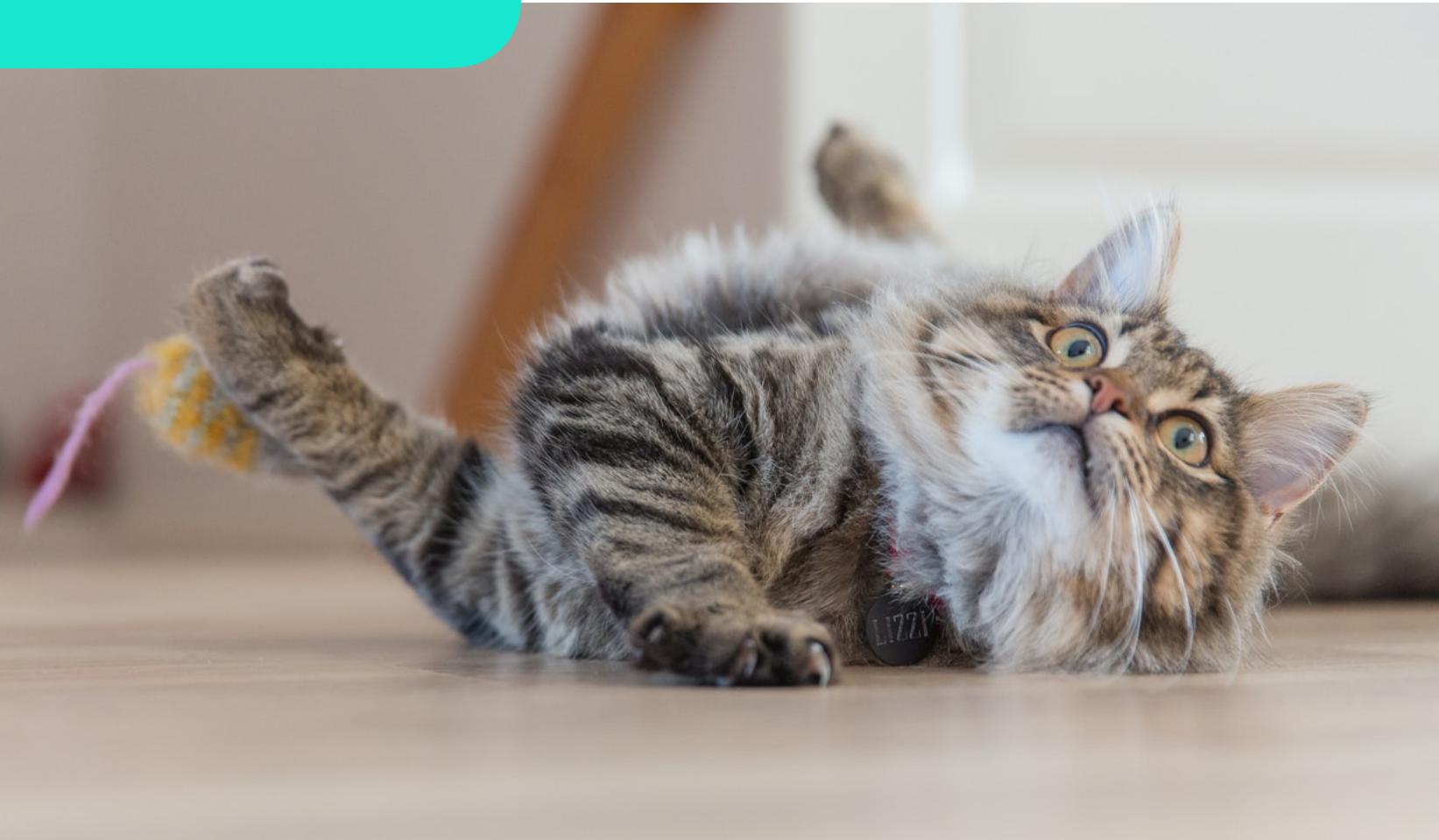
ECDSA + Public Key



Integrity

# Metadata Tampering

Data



Metadata

author

Benedict Lau

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

↓ SHA 256  
**600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf**



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

↓ SHA 256

**ab6055adc3c7e7a62aa5fc2d09efb0ad5a  
6ca7015343eca2dda94981b03e02fa**

ECDSA + Public Key



• Integrity •

# Signature Tampering

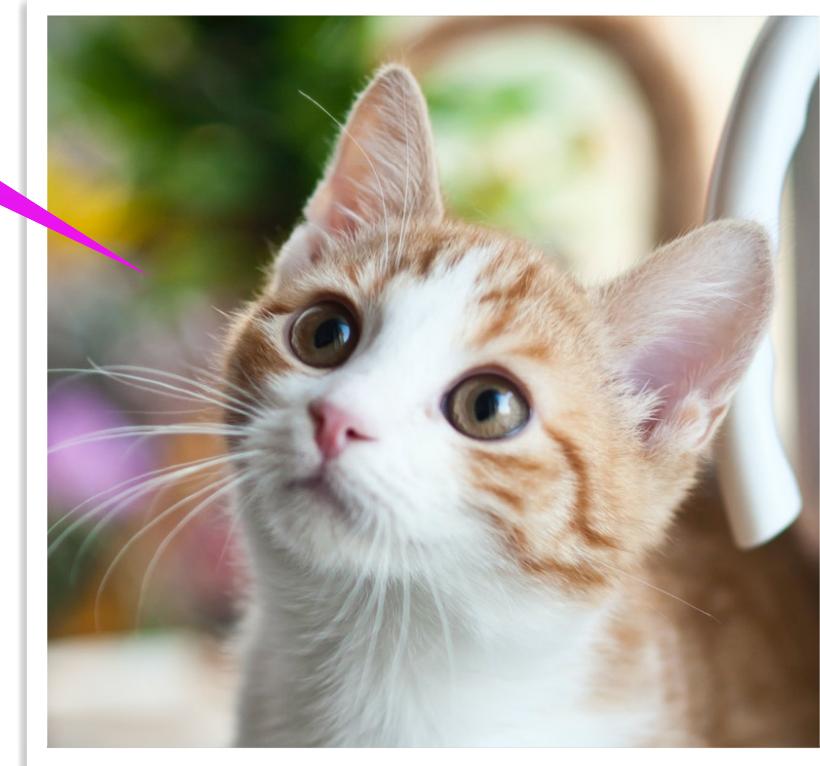
# More accurately ...

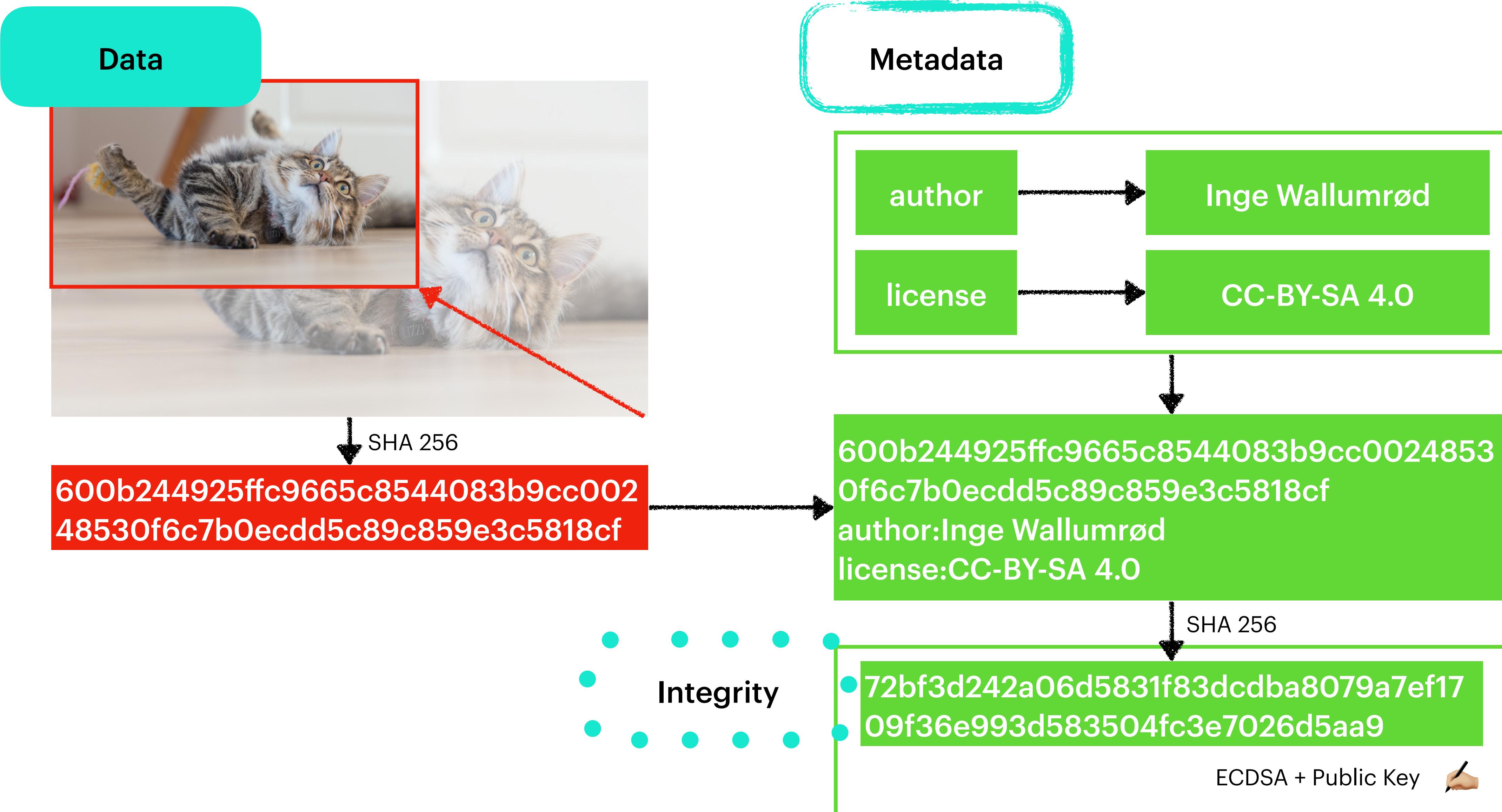
~~I want to ensure my data, and its  
associated metadata, is not tampered.~~

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

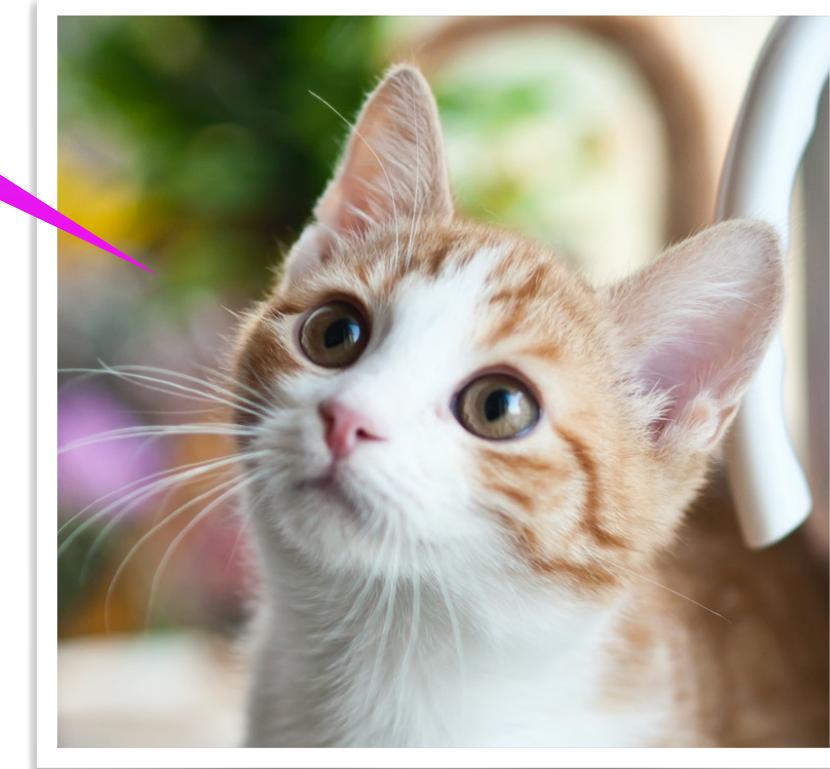
# Scenarios

What if I resize the  
picture?

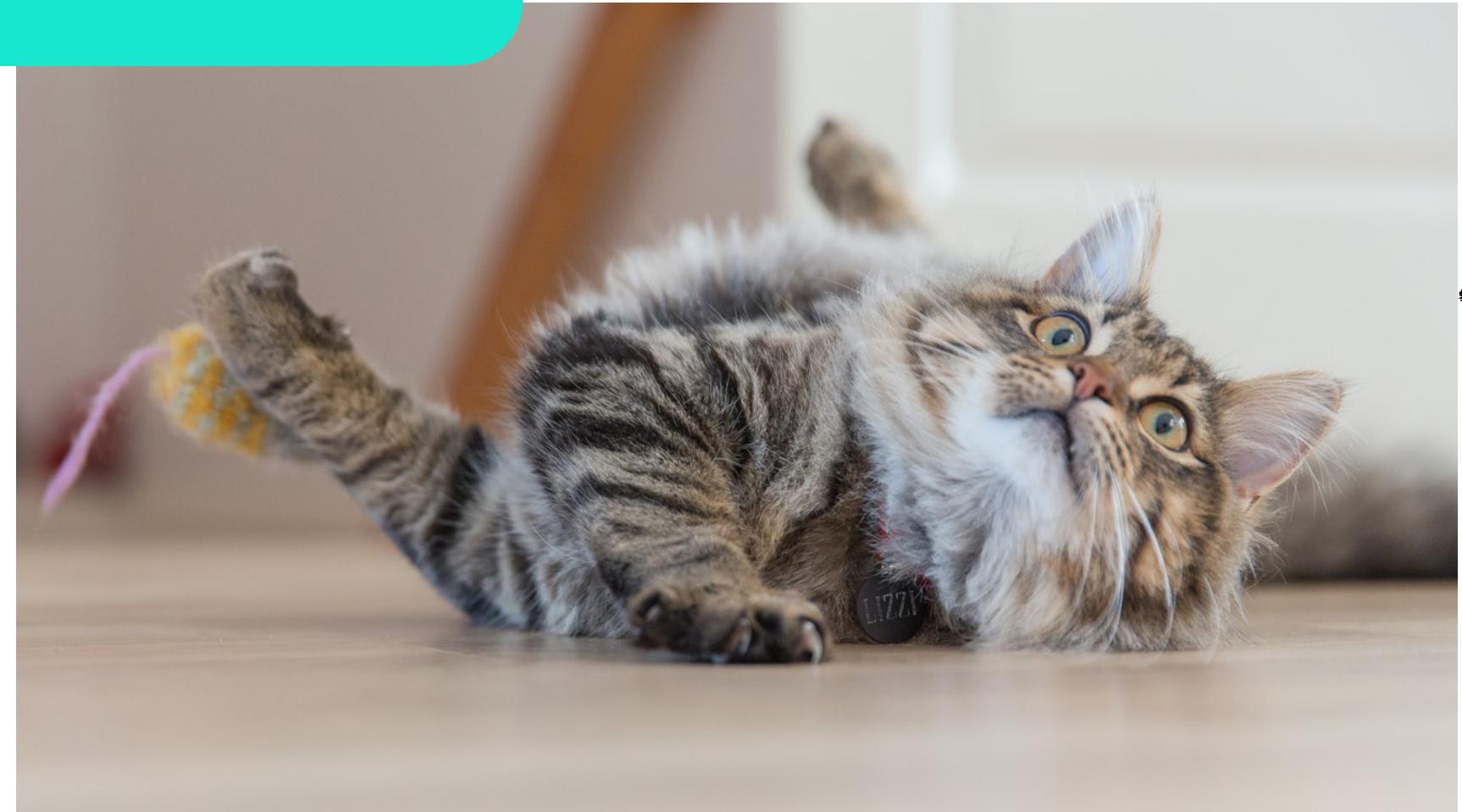




... or do legitimate edits, or  
necessary redactions, or  
transcoding, or when web  
optimization kicks in ...



Data



Transformation

Data



Attest

Metadata



Statement

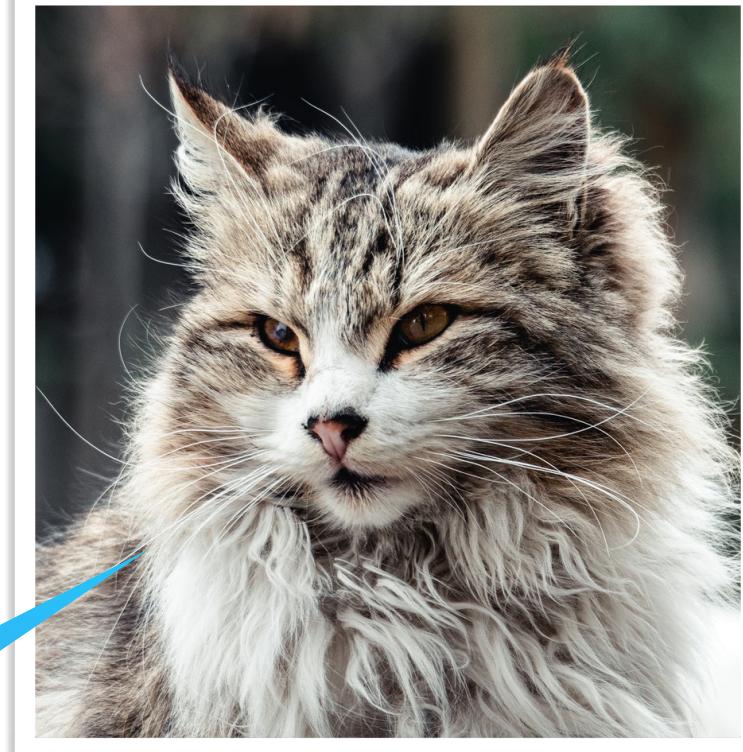
Integrity

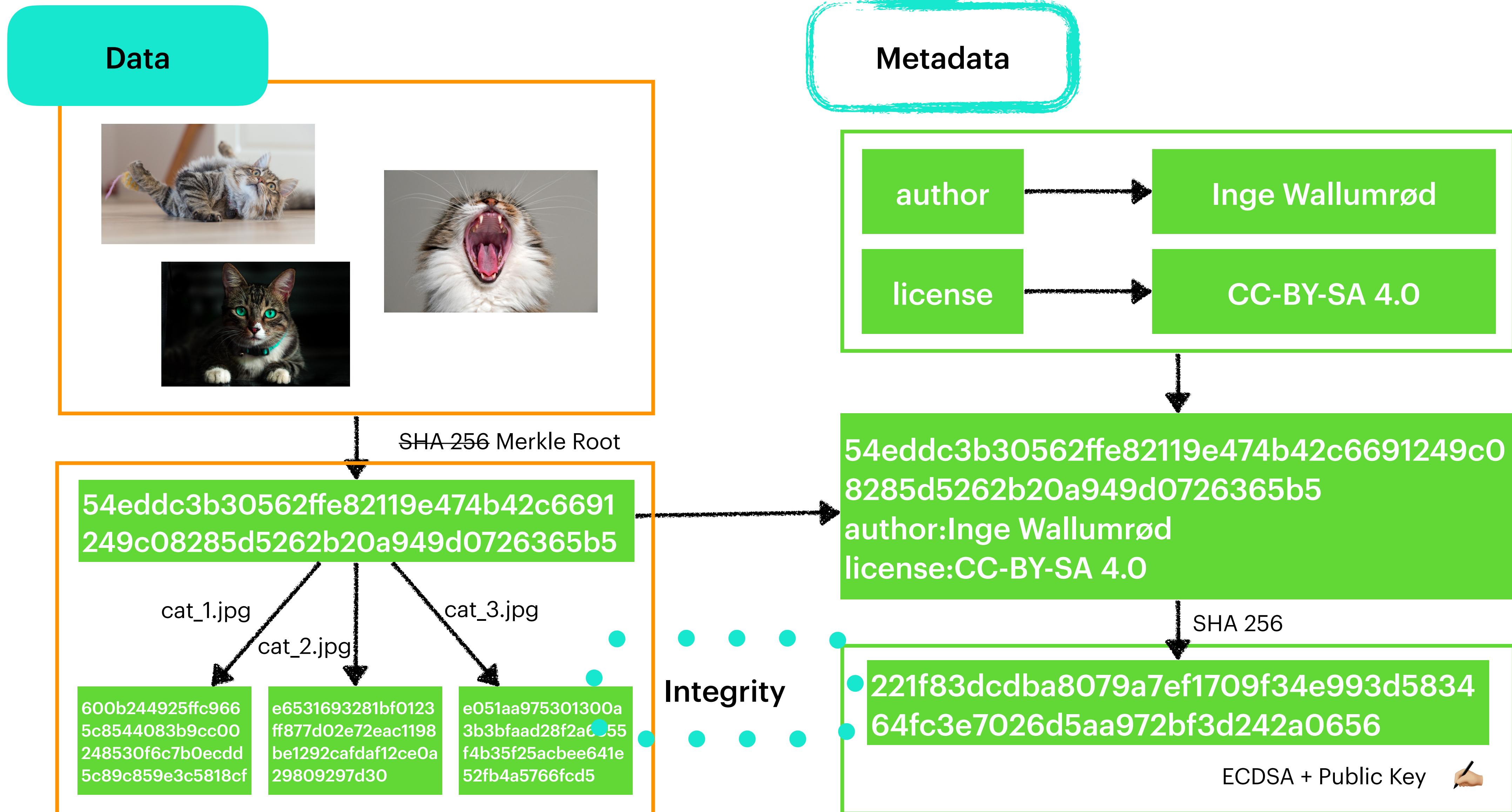
Metadata



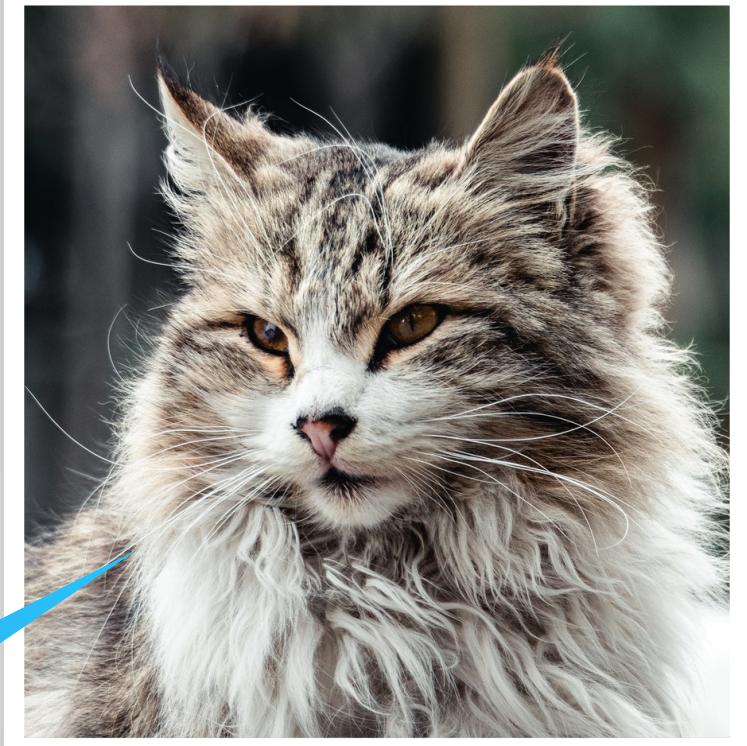
Data Lineage

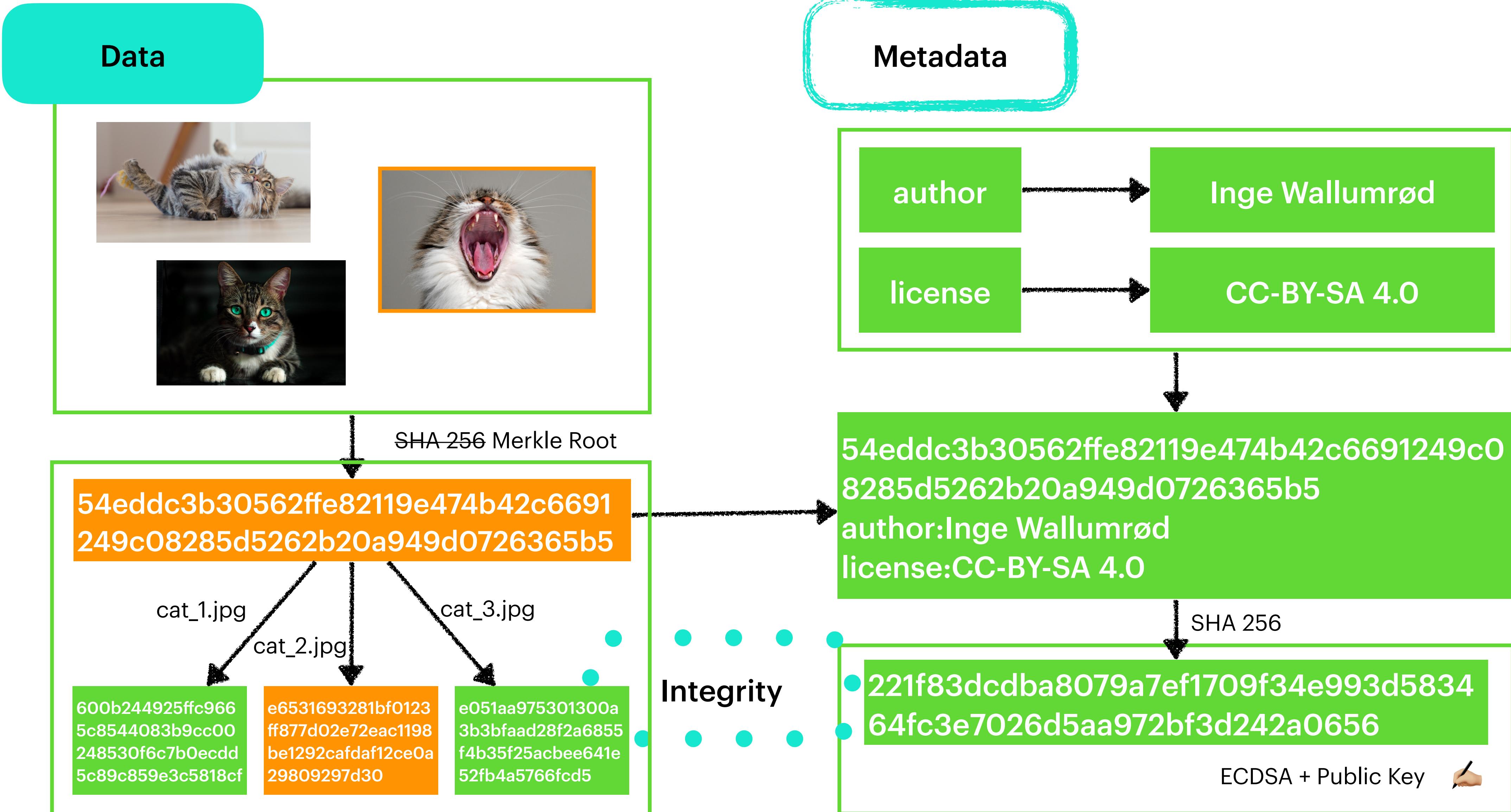
# What if my data is a collection of files?





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





# Let's try verifying

- A verifier is given:

Data



Integrity

221f83dcdba8079a7ef1709f34e993d5834  
64fc3e7026d5aa972bf3d242a0656

ECDSA + Public Key



Metadata

54eddc3b30562ffe82119e474b42c6691  
249c08285d5262b20a949d0726365b5

e6531693281bf0123  
ff877d02e72eac1198  
be1292cafda12ce0a  
29809297d30

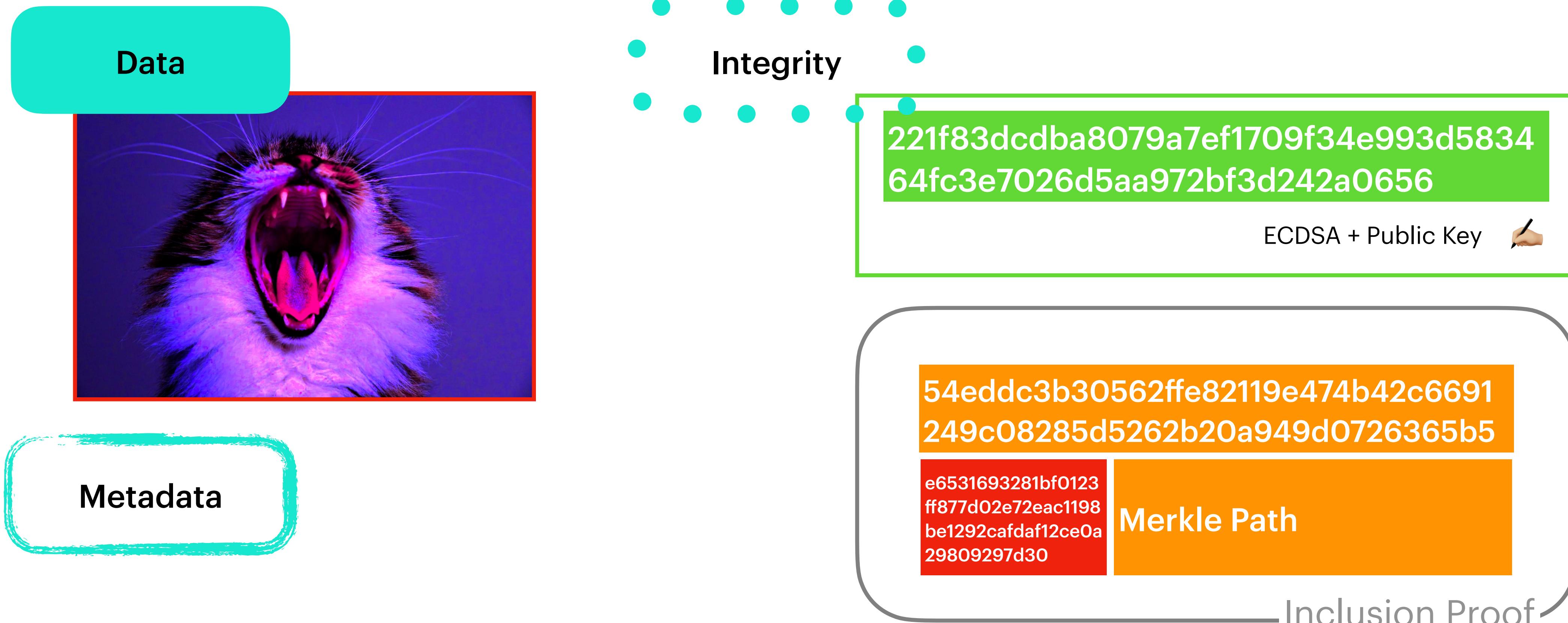
Merkle Path

Inclusion Proof

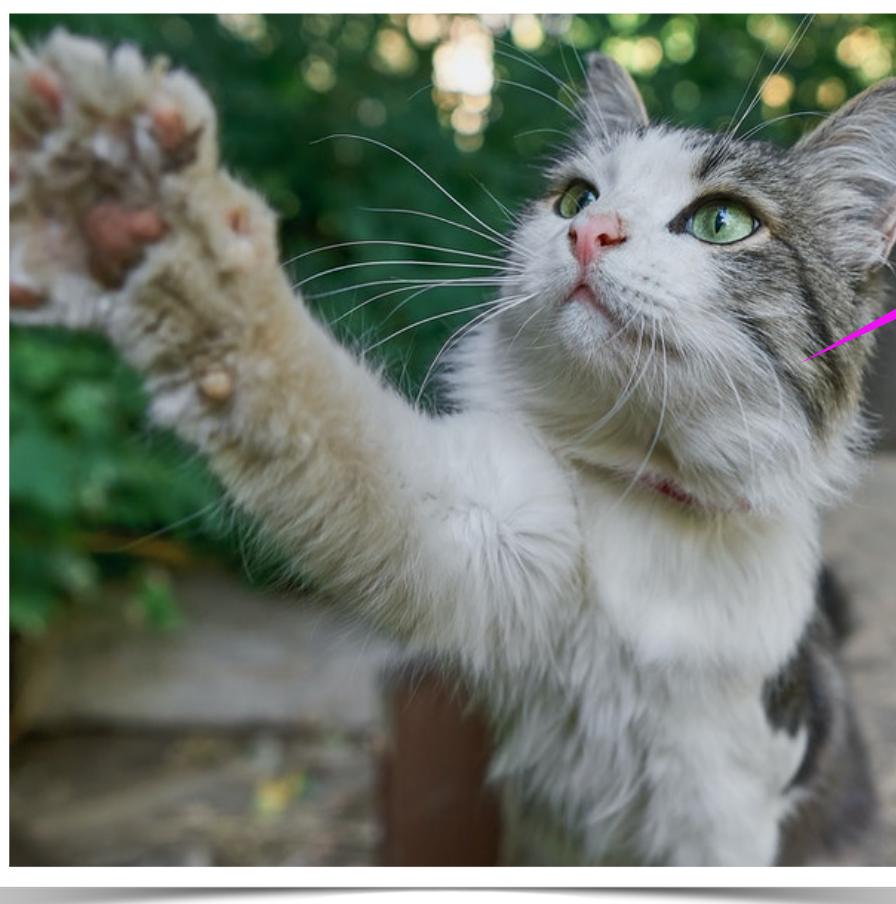
# Let's try verifying

*Inclusion proof fails verification if the data is tampered*

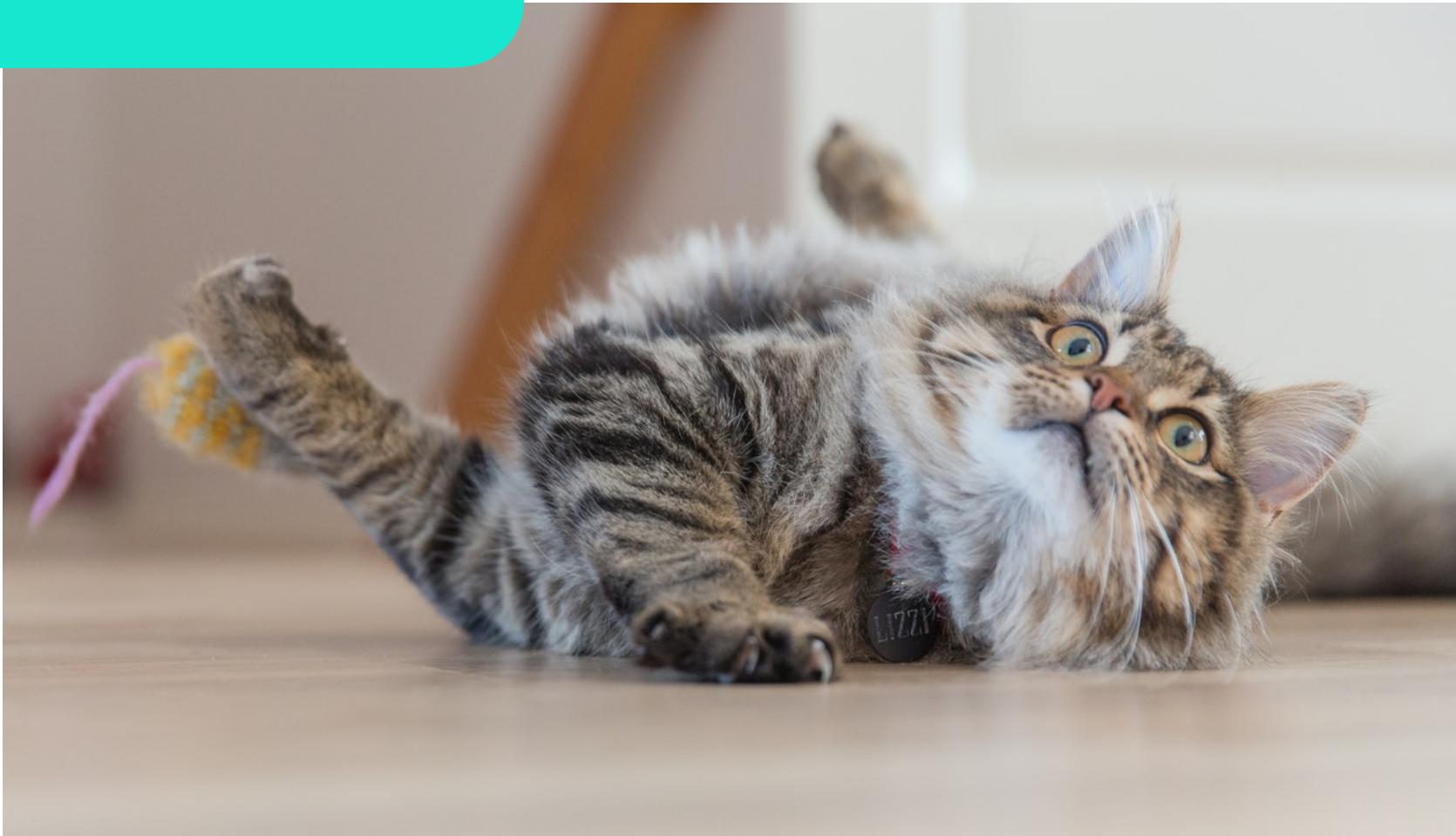
- A verifier is given:



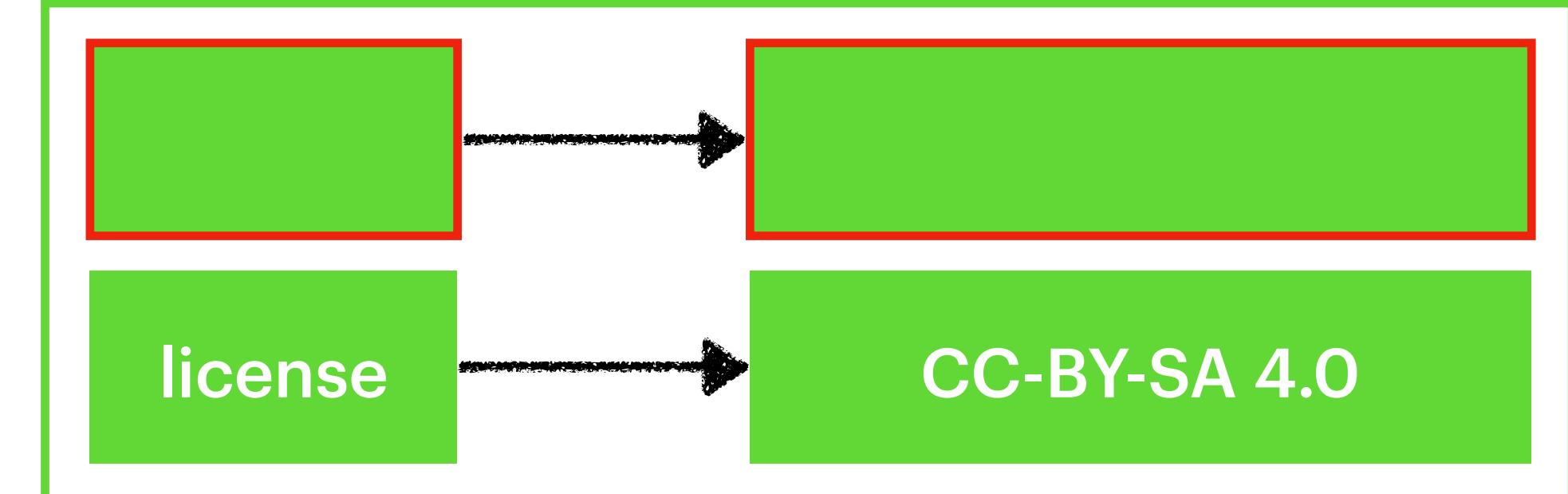
What if I need to  
redact part of the  
original metadata?



Data



Metadata



↓ SHA 256  
600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc002  
48530f6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf

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

• • • Integrity • • •  
72bf3d242a06d5831f83dcdba8079a7ef17  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5aa9  
↓ SHA 256  
ECDSA + Public Key



## Metadata

author

Inge Wallumrød

license

CC-BY-SA 4.0

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
Of6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
author:Inge Wallumrød

600b244925ffc9665c8544083b9cc0024853  
Of6c7b0ecdd5c89c859e3c5818cf  
license:CC-BY-SA 4.0

SHA 256

SHA 256

Integrity

0abf3d242a0cdba8079a7ef1709f36e993d  
583504fc3e7026d5aadf6d5831f83

45a7ef172bf3d242a0e55831f83dcdb807  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5ab9

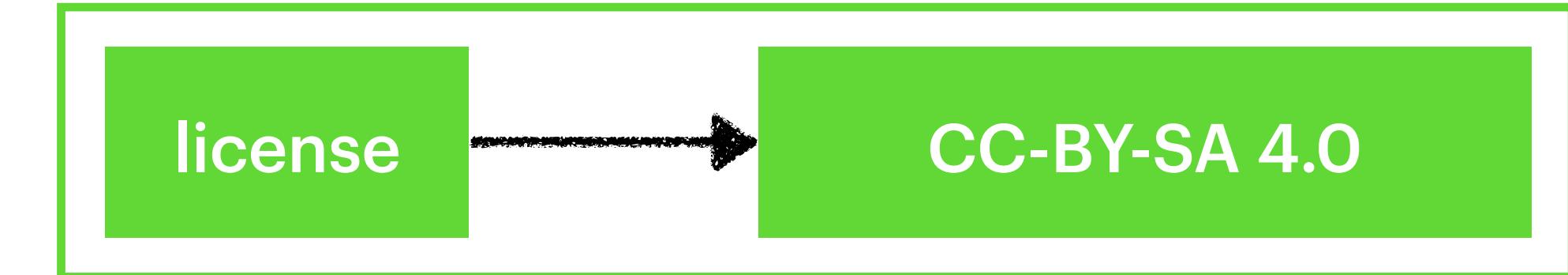
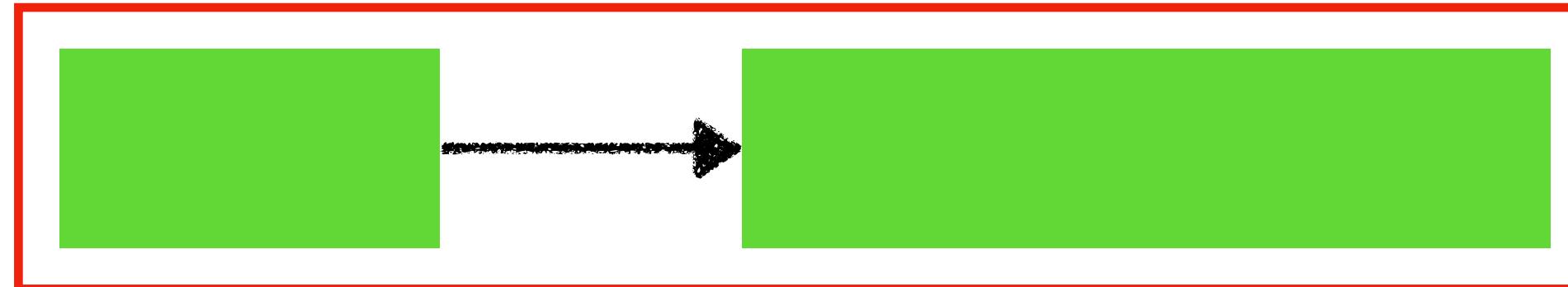
ECDSA + Public Key



ECDSA + Public Key



Metadata



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

45a7ef172bf3d242a0e55831f83dcdba807  
09f36e993d583504fc3e7026d5ab9

ECDSA + Public Key



Integrity

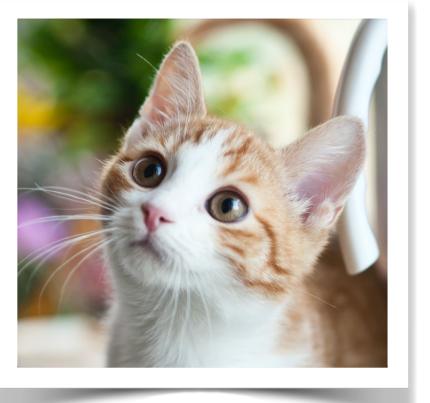
# These scenarios are just the beginning ...



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



I want to know *when* something is attested.



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

**Benedict Lau**  
[benedict@hypha.coop](mailto:benedict@hypha.coop)

