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Problem Statement

XML provides a versatile way to store data. Data stored in an XML format can be published on the web for distribution purposes. This allows for a convenient method of distributing data to other individuals interested in the data. Naturally, some of this data may be sensitive or may only be intended for a certain individual to read. A secure method of publishing XML data is needed to prevent unauthorized access. The method of secure publishing should support the ability to verify a receiving individual’s allowance access as well as preventing the individual from seeing portions of the document they are not intended to see. Additional features that would be beneficial would be for the publisher to have the ability to publish only changes to an existing document instead of republishing the entire document as well as the receiving individual having the ability to only receive changes to the document relevant to the portions they are allowed to access instead of re-downloading the entirety of the document.

Analysis of the Problem