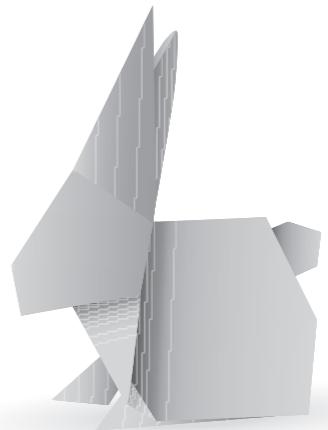


# OpenXPKI

## Workshop 2018

Martin Bartosch



WhiteRabbitSecurity

# PKI Goals Recap

Very, very brief.  
Promise!



# Public Key Cryptography Benefits and Challenges

- ☑ Can provide authenticity, integrity and confidentiality
- Requires reliable association of subject and key
- Requires key distribution
- Requires key life cycle management



# PKI: Making Public Keys Manageable

- Associate keys with their holders
- Distribute public keys
- Manage key life cycle

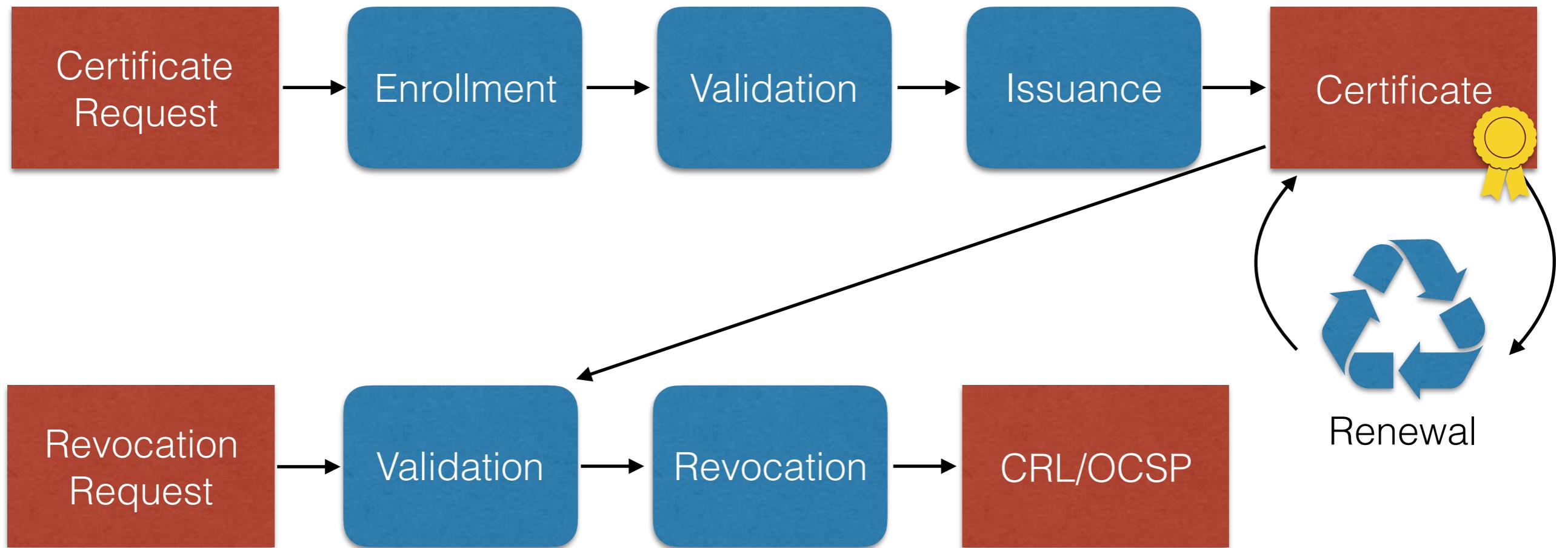


# Digital Certificates: Building Blocks of PKI

- Digitally signed data structure
- *Binds* public key to an entity (person, system)
- *Chains* trust back to a trusted authority
- Provide *reliable naming* to identify entity
- *Limits* public key *validity*
- *Limits* public key *usage*



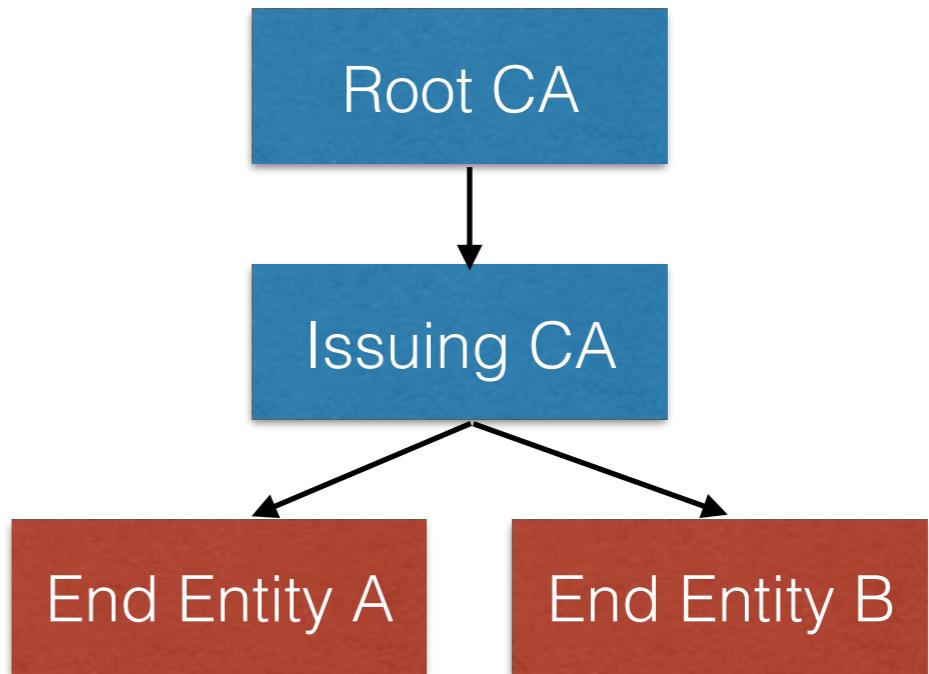
# Digital Certificates Lifecycle



# PKI Hierarchies

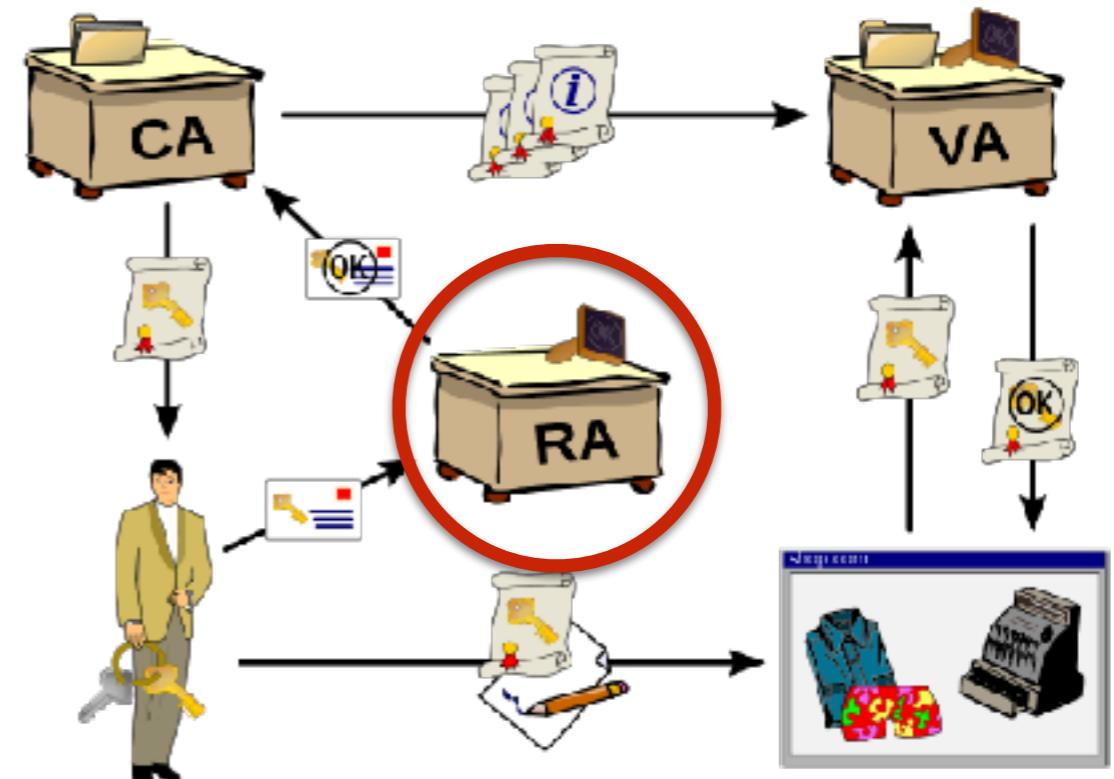
## Certificate Chaining

- Allows creation of Trust Hierarchies
- Separation of Root CA (Trust Anchor) and Issuing CA
  - Low frequency of Root CA key operations
  - Higher security level possible (offline)
  - Subordinate Issuing CA responsible for issuance of End Entity Certificates



# Traditional PKI components: RA - Registration Authority

- Customer facing online component
- Receives enrollment/revocation requests
- Performs verification/validation on requests
  - Authentication of applicant
  - Validation of request data
  - Request authorization
- Forwards approved requests to CA

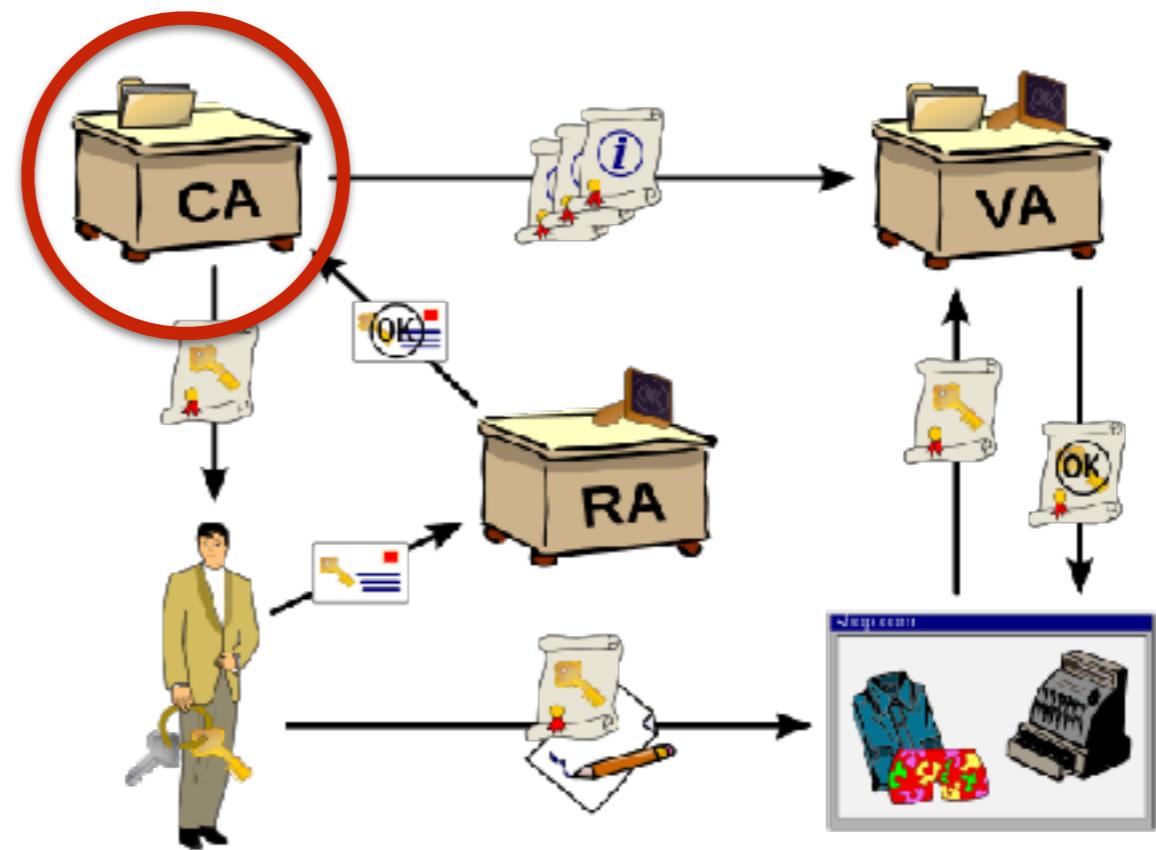


Source: Wikipedia



# Traditional PKI components: CA - Certificate Authority

- Environment primarily dedicated to certificate issuance and revocation
- Often segregated via Firewalls, network segmentation or operated offline
- Receives approved requests from RA
- Performs requested infrastructure key activity (issuance, revocation, CRL issuance)

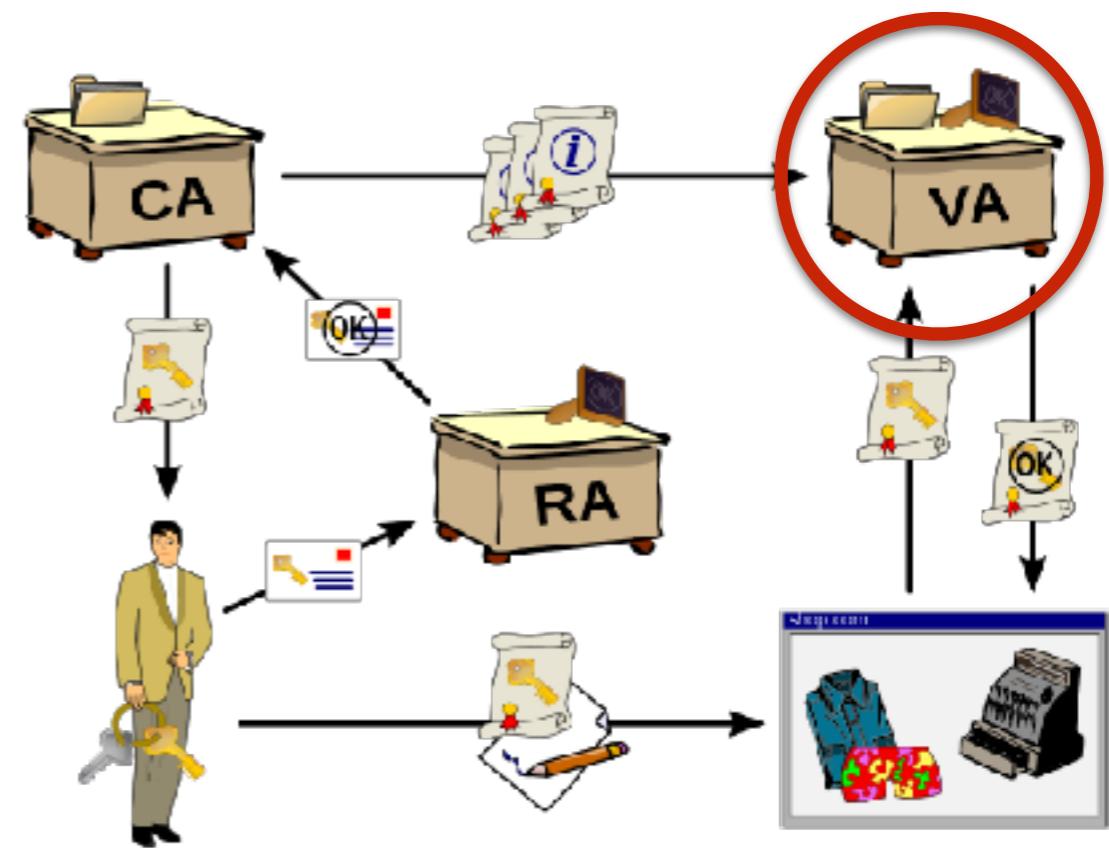


Source: Wikipedia



# Traditional PKI components: VA - Validation Authority

- Services for certificate validity verification
  - CRL hosting
  - OCSP operation



Source: Wikipedia

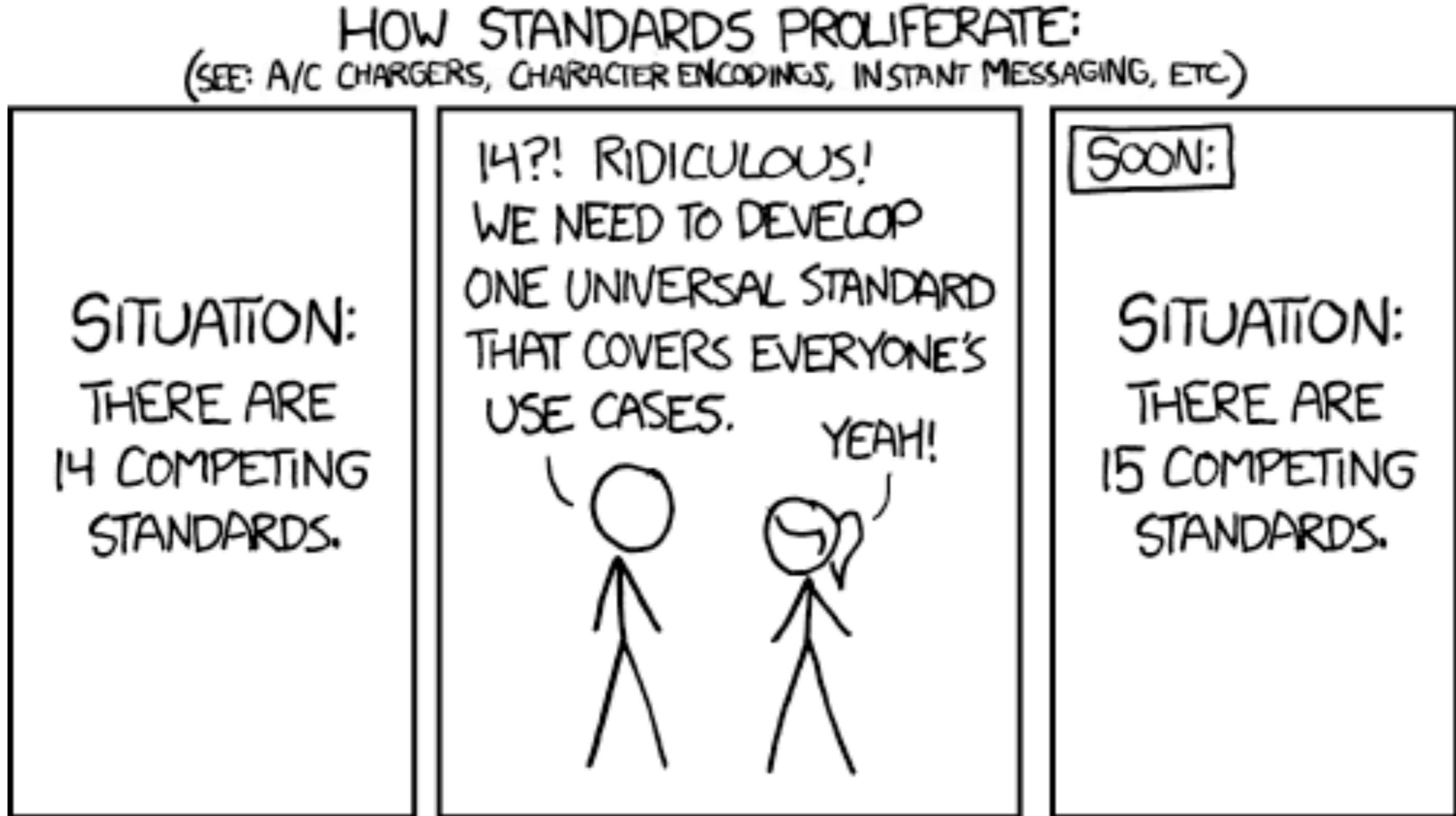


# PKI Integration

- Manual enrollment, approval and issuance causes effort and is error-prone
  - Automation use cases
    - Initial enrollment
    - Renewal
    - Validity checking
- PKI Interface required



# PKI Interface Standards



Source: [xkcd.com \(https://xkcd.com/927/\)](https://xkcd.com/927/)



# PKI Interface Standards

	<b>Data format</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Use cases</b>	<b>RL relevance</b>
<b>CMC</b>	CMS, PKCS#10 ASN.1	n/a	certificate lifecycle	lacking transport protocol def.
<b>SCEP</b>	PKCS#7, PKCS#10 ASN.1	HTTP	enroll, renew	high
<b>EST</b>	CMC	HTTPS	enroll, renew	growing
<b>MS Autoenrollment</b>	CMC	DCOM	enroll, renew	Microsoft: high others: zero
	CMP ASN.1	HTTP (...)	certificate lifecycle	low, academical
<b>XKMS</b>	XML	HTTP (...)	certificate lifecycle	low
<b>KMIP</b>	KMIP TTLV (XML, JSON)	TLS, HTTPS (...)	key management	situational, „product glue“
<b>SCVP</b>	SCVP ASN.1	HTTP (...)	validation (policy)	low (zero?)
<b>OCSP</b>	OCSP ASN.1	HTTP	real time validation	situational



# OpenXPKI

## Design Principles and Features

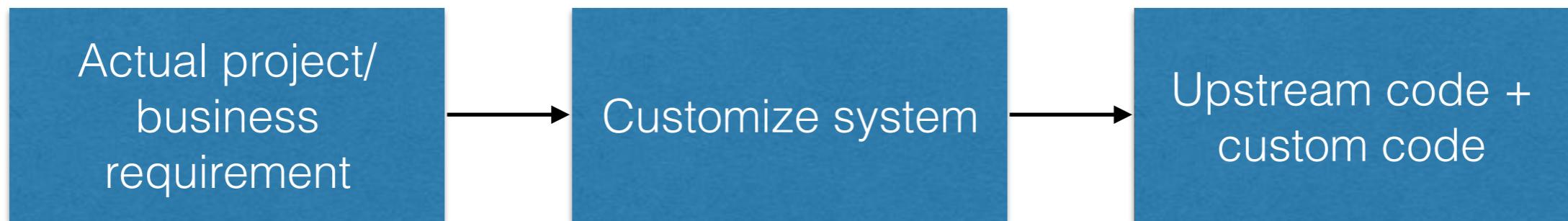


# OpenXPKI Goals

- Primary use case: Online Issuing CA
- Strong focus on
  - RA functionality
  - automation support
  - flexibility
  - infrastructure integration



# Standard project methodology

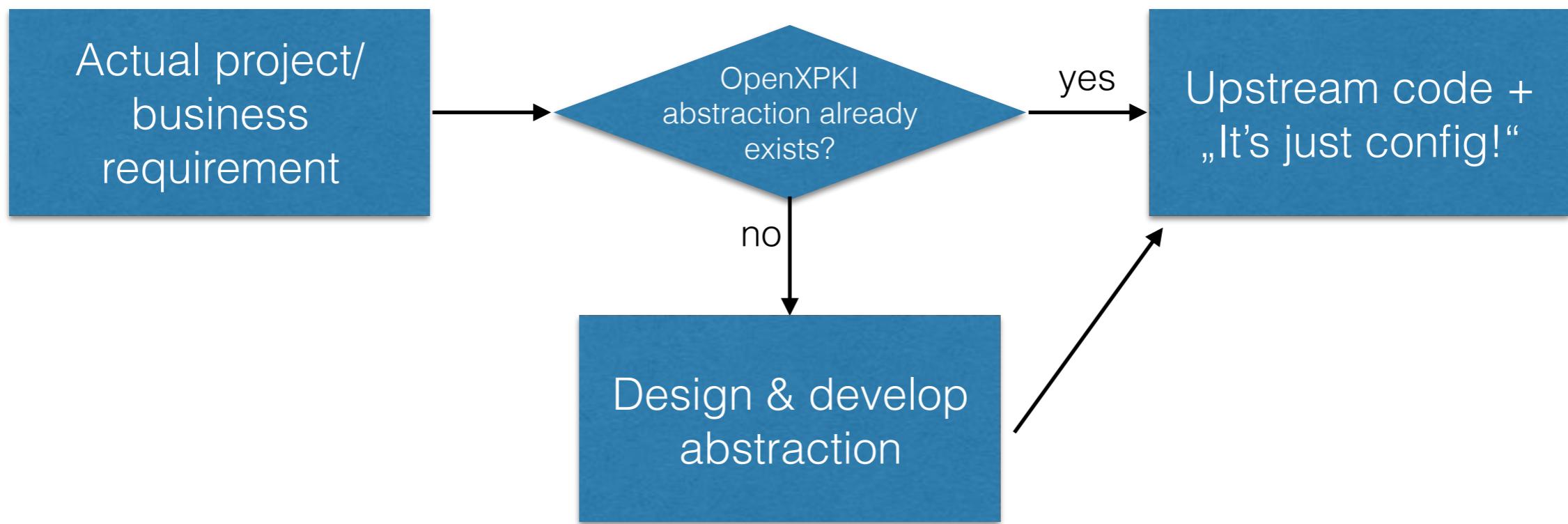


Customer specific code customization (e. g. local Workflow activities).

Technical debt: maintain customizations.



# OpenXPKI Dev Team approach: Customer requirement driven architecture



Take two steps back, abstract problem,  
implement abstraction, configure system.  
Maintain configuration.



# OpenXPKI abstractions: Results from 13 years of development

- Workflow engine and generic workflows with „hooks“ for customization (implement business logic)
- Workflow „datapool“ (tuple storage, data encryption)
- Generic, adaptive user interface (implicit via Workflow definition)
- Connector (abstract external data sources/sinks)
- Template::Toolkit support (propagate/reuse data)
- RPC interface (expose Workflows)
- NICE interface (chain CA backends)



# OpenXPKI Core Properties

- Multitenancy:  
Support multiple logical CAs in one CA instance („PKI Realms“)
- Perpetual PKI operation:  
Support fully automatic CA rollover within a PKI Realm
- Extensive support of automatic enrollment interfaces
- Crypto backend abstraction
- HSM support
- RDBMs support



# OpenXPKI Core Properties

## (2)

- Powerful RA features: highly flexible request authentication/authorization
- Certificate lifecycle management
  - Notifications
  - Renewal
  - Inventory and reporting



# OpenXPKI Core Properties (3)

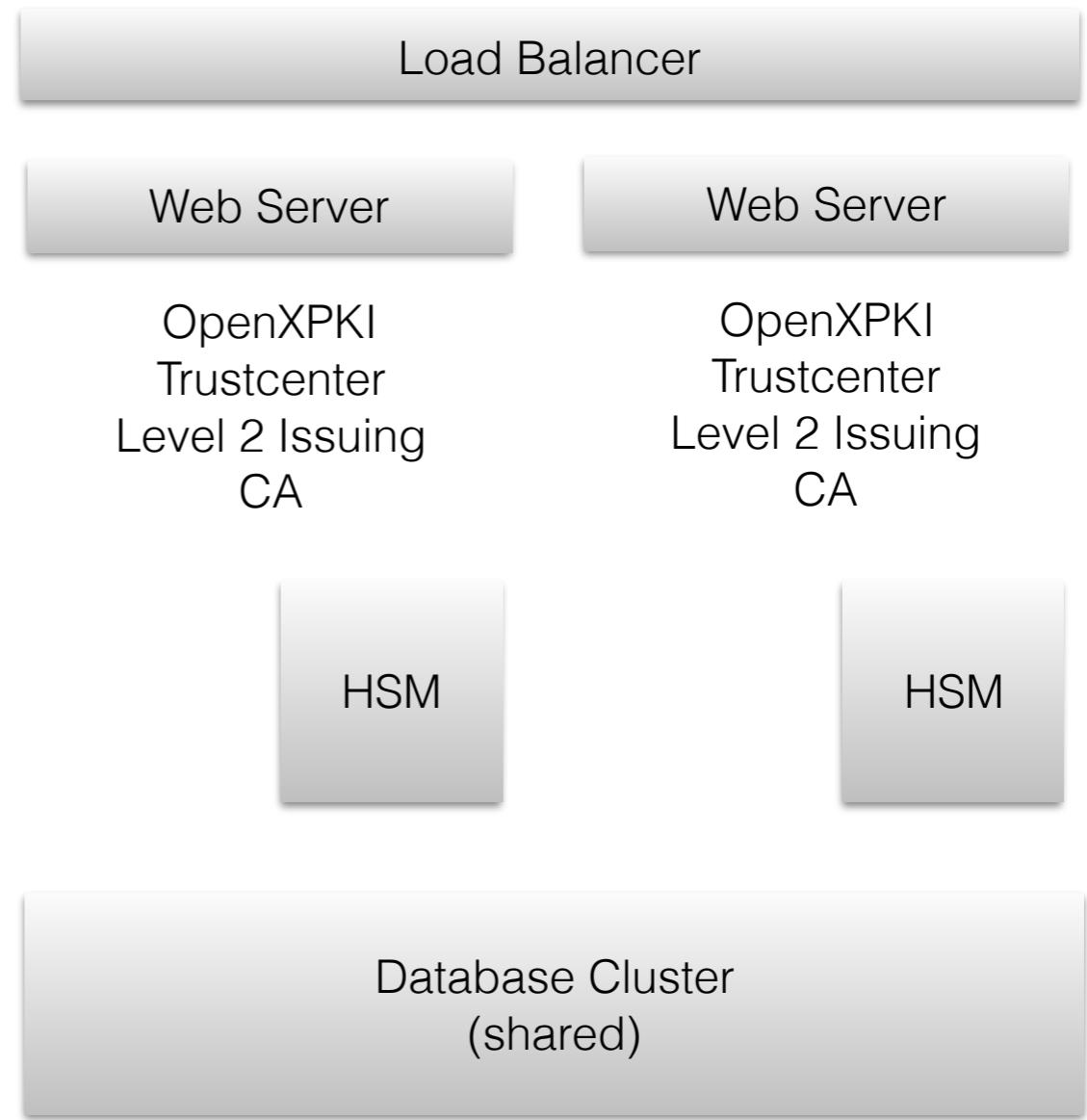
## Configuration

- Text-based, hierarchical configuration
- OpenXPKI configuration layer uses an abstraction for arbitrary data sources/sinks („Connector“)
- Connectors can be used *anywhere*, for *any* configuration item
- Replace literal configuration value with a reference to a Connector returning the value
- OpenXPKI PKI Realm and workflow configuration extensively supports templating (via Template::Toolkit)



# Horizontal Scaling: Active/active Clustering

- Multiple OpenPKI nodes with identical configuration
- Shared, redundant database required (for redundant A/A cluster)
- Load balancer required (scheduling algorithm should favor the same node a client has been accessing previously)



# Vertical Segregation: Chaining PKI components

- Traditional PKI architecture: RA - CA - VA
- OpenXPKI is RA & CA in one application
- Functionality can be separated:
  - OpenXPKI can act as a RA
  - Delegate actual CA operations to „Backend CA“ (online, offline)
  - OpenXPKI can integrate with external asset databases, change tools or workflow systems



# OpenXPKI concepts: PKI Realms

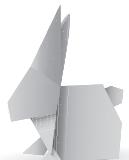


# PKI Realms: CA Multitenancy

- PKI Realms: OpenXPKI supports running multiple, separated logical CAs in one single instance (same database)
- Can be used for multitenancy or running CAs for distinct purposes on the same OpenXPKI instance

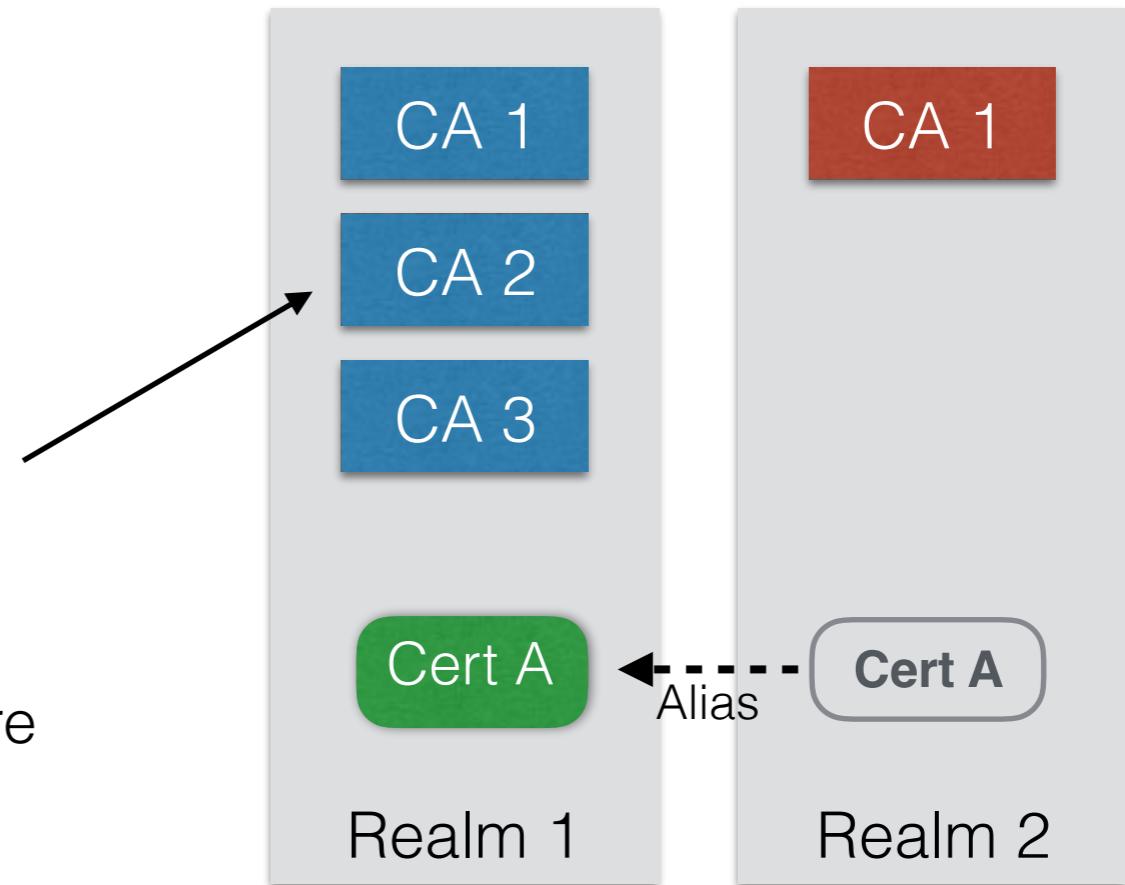


Logical CAs



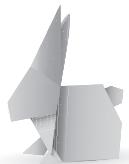
# PKI Realms: Logical CAs

- PKI Realm: Logical CA (namespace):
  - common set of policies, certificate profiles and enrollment/issuance/revocation workflows
  - provides common namespace for all end entity certificates
- PKI Realm contains arbitrary number of Issuing CAs
- Certificates in different PKI Realms are only visible inside their own Realm
- Certificates can be linked from one PKI Realm to another realm



# Shared configuration

- All OpenXPKI PKI Realms share
  - Database configuration
  - Daemon configuration
  - Watchdog configuration



# PKI Realms:

## Realm specific configuration

- Interfaces
  - Authentication
  - APIs (SCEP, EST, RPC, SOAP)
  - User Interface hints
- CA processing
  - Certificate profiles
  - Crypto token/crypto backend
- Workflows
  - Artefact handling
  - Publishing (CRL, Certificates)
  - Notification
  - Metadata management
  - Reporting



# OpenXPKI concepts: CA Rollover



# Problem: CAs expire

- All X.509-Zertifikate have a built-in expiry date, CAs included
- (Useful) purpose: control active usage period cryptographic keys
- Common approach: looong CA certificate validity (2040, anyone...?)



# Naive approach: Long lived CAs

- The Problem: CAs *still* expire eventually
- When this is about to happen it is likely nobody will have a clue what to do
- No preparation, no plan
- Long CA validities only mask and postpone implicit problems



# CA Expiration

## The „sustainability“ approach

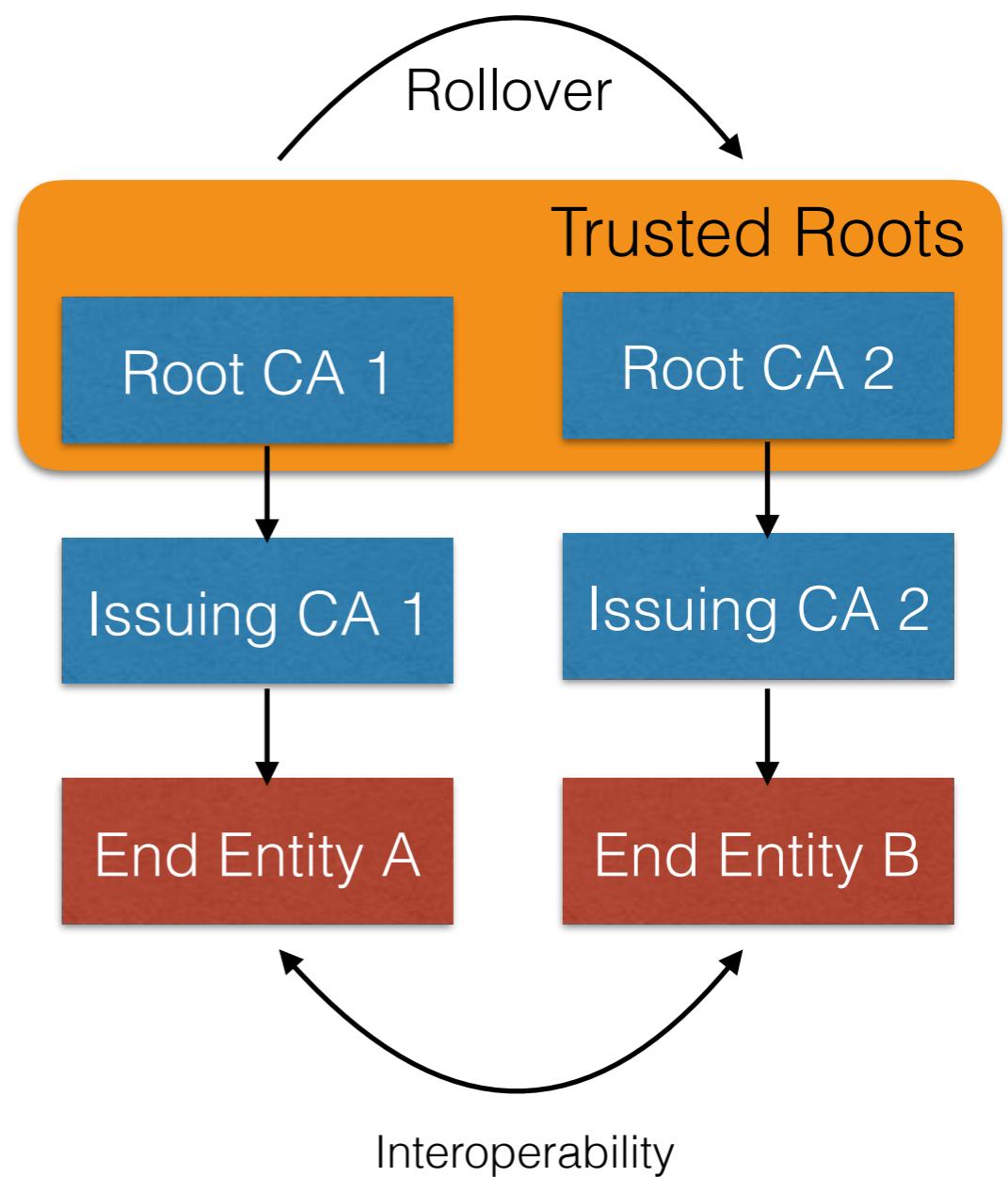
- Plan for perpetual operation of the PKI
- Make CA expiry a part of normal operation
  - CA Rollover



# CA Rollover

Plan for perpetual operation of a PKI

- Approach: a completely new CA generation assumes operation
- Identical configuration, identical certificate profiles
- Issuance of new certificates only with new hierarchy
- Existing certificates remain in operation



# Planning for CA Rollover

- Make CA validity long enough to support designated operation purposes, e. g.
  - End Entities validity: 1 - 3 years
  - CAs validity: ~ 6 - 12 years  
(rule of thumb: EE validity \* 2 + 1 year)
- Purposefully group CA Rollover events
  - Vertically align CA validities
  - Rollover happens on all levels simultaneously

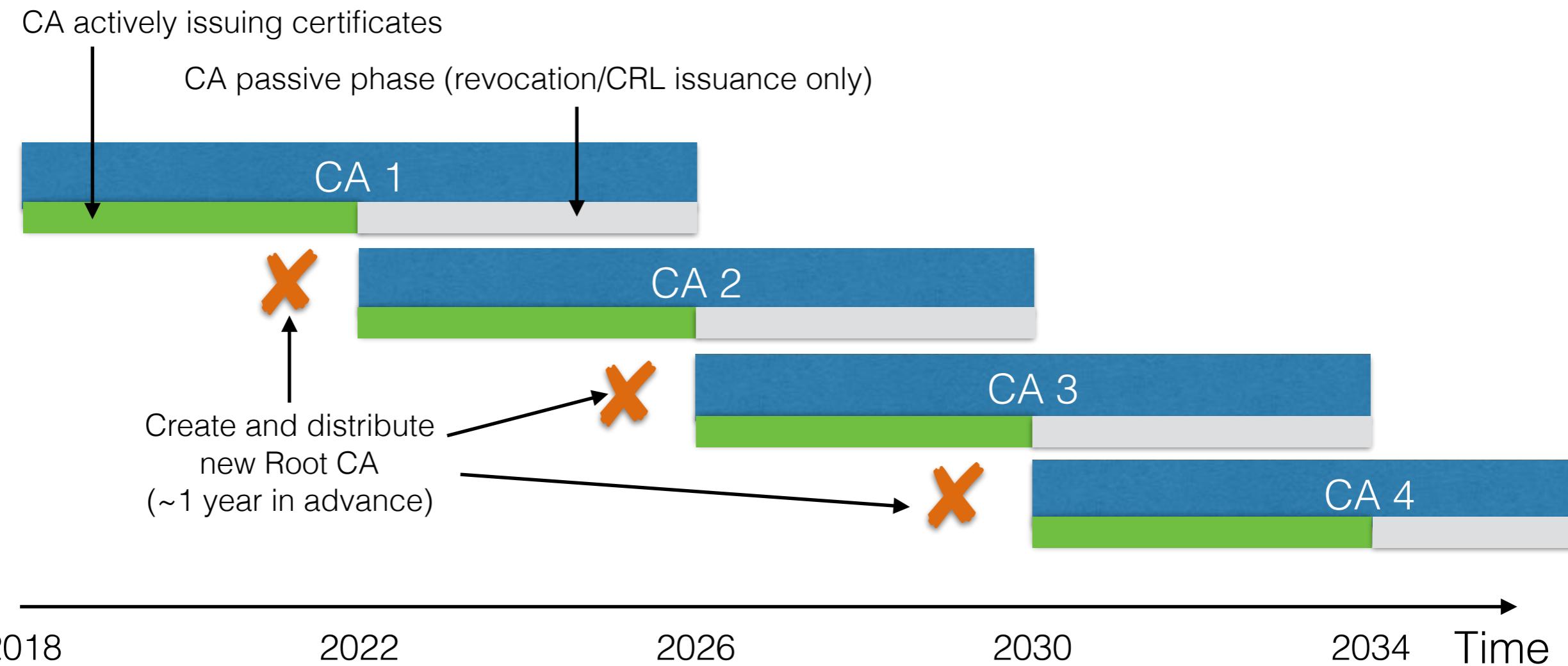


# Planning for CA Rollover (cont)

- Distribute new Root CA long before performing CA Rollover
- Actively verify new Root CA „adoption“
- Practice CA Rollover:
  - Reduce validity of your „Test CA“, forcing Test Certificate users to perform CA Rollover more often on their test systems



# CA Rollover (cont.)



# CA Rollover with OpenXPKI

- CA Rollover is a core feature OpenXPKI
- Can work fully automatically within a PKI Realm
- Can be administratively postponed or triggered
- Seamless, no system downtime
- CA Rollover criterium
  - Highest NotBefore date of all valid CA Certificate
  - Or optional administrative Rollover Date



# CA Rollover: Preparation

- Administratively *import* the new CA certificate
  - Possible at any time before the actual rollover
  - System keeps running, no interruption
  - Importing new CA certificate is possible without configuration modification



# CA Rollover Administration

```
$ openxpkiadm certificate import --file ca-one-signer-1.crt \
--realm ca-one --token certsign

$ openxpkiadm alias --realm ca-one
==== functional token ====
ca-one-signer (certsign):
  Alias      : ca-one-signer-1
  Identifier: _2qf_ZTfJgXgh4xWm3WYr0IgYN8
  NotBefore  : 2018-02-07 13:21:52
  NotAfter   : 2023-02-09 13:21:52
```



# CA Rollover: Execution

- For any certificate issuance operation OpenXPKI automatically
  - determines all valid CAs capable of issuing certificates for the PKI Realm
  - picks the CA certificate with the highest NotBefore date
  - issues the certificate with this CA certificate
- All other CA certificates within the PKI Realm remain valid, but are only used to issue CRLs during their remaining lifetime
- OpenXPKI correctly builds certificate chains for enrollment interfaces



# OpenXPKI concepts: Interfaces



# OpenXPKI interfaces

## Support of commonly used standard enrollment protocols

- SCEP
- EST
- Why no other interfaces?  
Nobody asked for them yet...



# OpenXPKI interfaces

## Non-standard interfaces: RPC

- Generic RPC and SOAP interface
  - ➔ can be used to expose OpenXPKI workflows



# Enrollment interfaces

## Native Windows autoenrollment

- Domain-joined Windows clients automatically enroll against a Windows CA (AD Certificate Services)
- Proprietary transport protocol (DCOM), hence...
- ... no native support in OpenXPKI...
- ... but possible via Secardeo CertEP (uses RPC enrollment interface)



# Enrollment interfaces

## Features

- All enrollment interfaces include built-in hooks for „eligibility checks“
  - Request authentication
  - Request authorization (e. g. check against asset database/CMDB)
- Enrollment interfaces support authentication based on existing certificate



# OpenXPKI

## Non-standard interfaces: NICE

- NICE Interface
  - CA operation abstraction layer
  - support synchronous and asynchronous operation
  - support local and remote CAs
  - Possible use case:  
delegate certificate issuance/revocation to  
remote CA (e. g. SwissSign, Comodo...)



# Validation: CRLs

- CRLs can be published to local and remote targets
  - local file system
  - remote systems (e. g. scp, HTTP/REST)
  - LDAP
- arbitrary number of publishing endpoints



# Validation: OCSP

- OCSP support not integrated in OpenXPKI CE
- 3rd party OCSP responders can be integrated
- High performance OCSP responder support available with OpenXPKI Enterprise Edition



# OpenXPKI

# Enterprise Edition

WhiteRabbitSecurity



# OpenXPKI Code Base

## **Community Edition:**

<https://github.com/openxpki/openxpki>

Primarily maintained by White Rabbit Security Dev Team  
Packages for Debian

## **OpenXPKI Enterprise Edition :=**

Community Edition code base

- + Packaging for other OS (RHEL, SLES)
- + Professional Services
- + Advanced Features & Workflows



# White Rabbit Security

# OpenXPKI Professional Services

## Operation Support

- Privileged support channels
- Software maintenance
  - „Care & Feeding“ of OpenXPKI installation
  - Software updates
- PKI administration support

## Customer Projects

- Business analysis
- Architecture & design
- Configuration and workflow customization
- Custom development
- Configuration management
- Infrastructure integration



# White Rabbit Security

# OpenXPKI Advanced Features

- Advanced Workflows
- Improved statistics and reporting engine
- External CA Backends
- VA Module
  - Improved CRL processing
  - High Performance OCSP Responder



# White Rabbit Security Workshops & Training

## **OpenXPKI**

- OpenXPKI Registration Officer
- OpenXPKI System Administrator
- OpenXPKI Developer



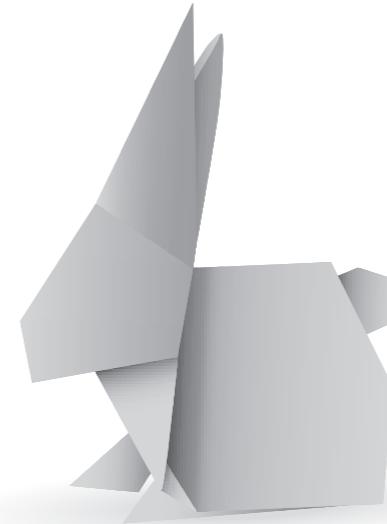
# White Rabbit Security Consulting

- Business and requirements analysis
- Security architecture and systems design
- Cryptographic key management solutions
- PKI architecture and implementation





“We pull a rabbit  
out of a hat - and show you  
how the trick works”



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