



Protect. Renew. Empower.

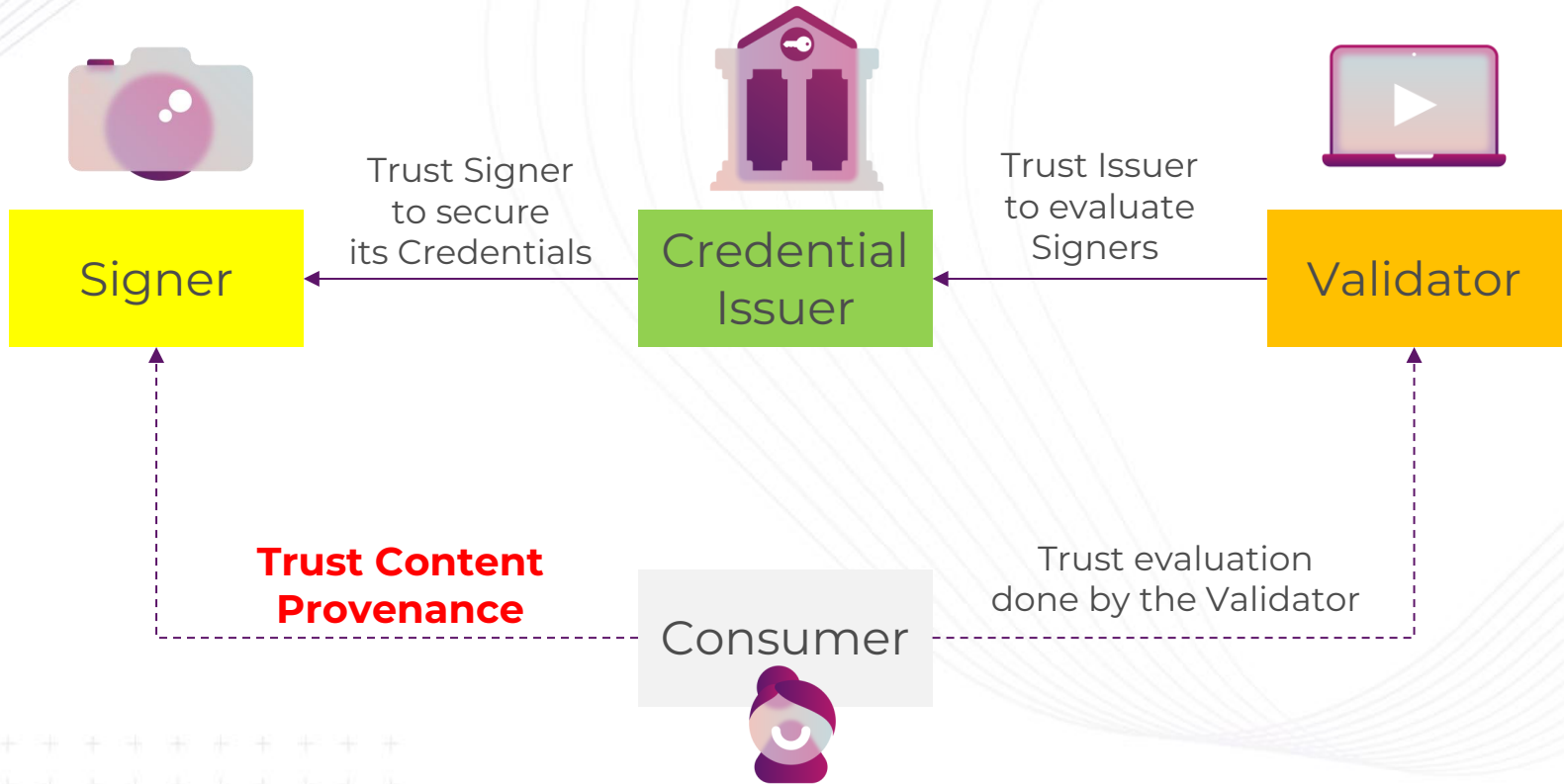
C2PA, the Security Under the Hood

Ettore Benedetti

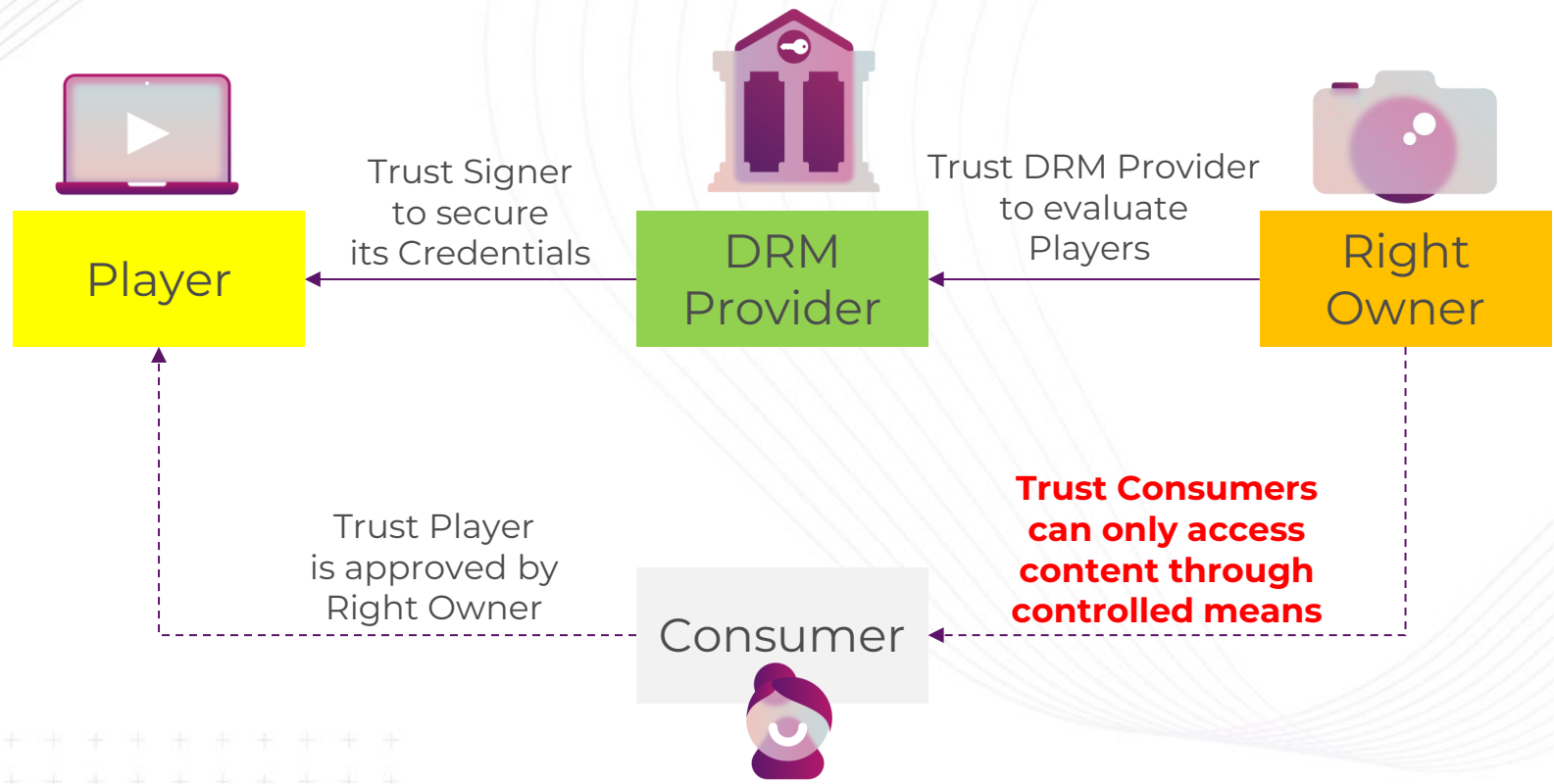
June 23, 2026

- C2PA Trust Model vs DRM Trust Model
- Cryptographic basis of C2PA
- C2PA Conformance Program
- Revocation
- Secure Timestamping
- Conclusion

Trust Model: C2PA



Trust Model: DRM



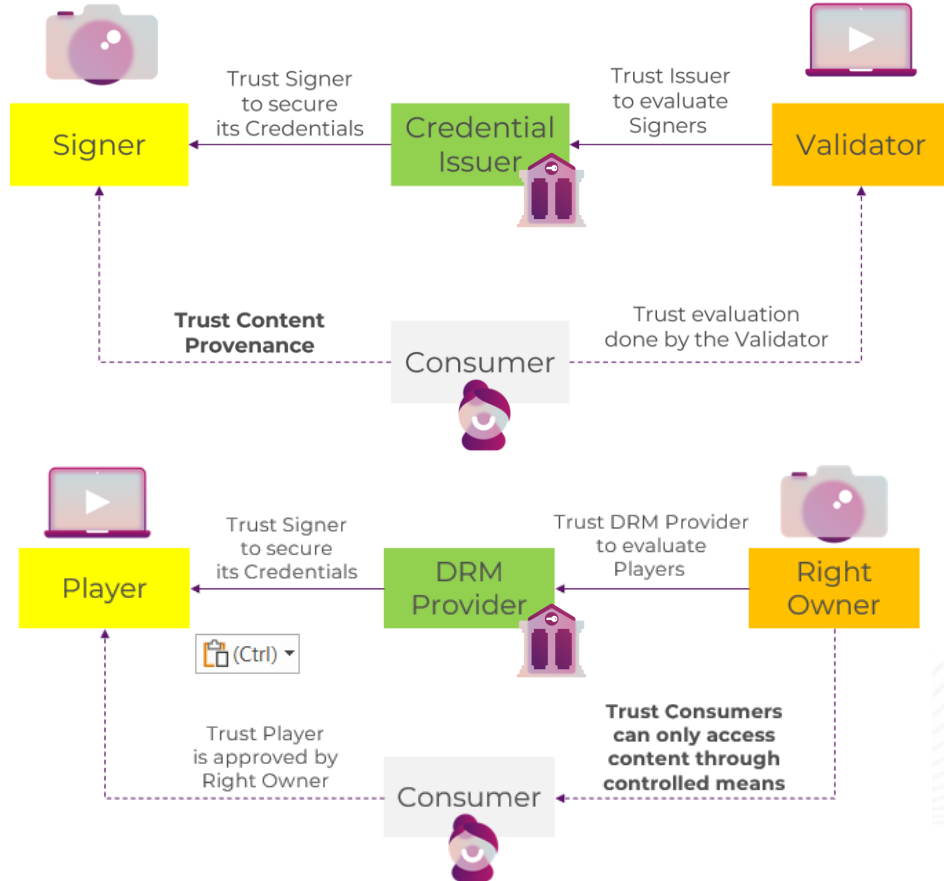
C2PA and DRM side-by-side



False Propaganda,
Scammers, AI slop



Content Pirates



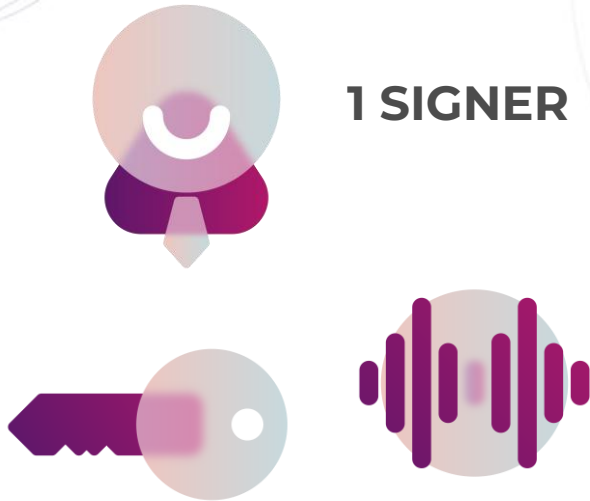
C2PA

DRM

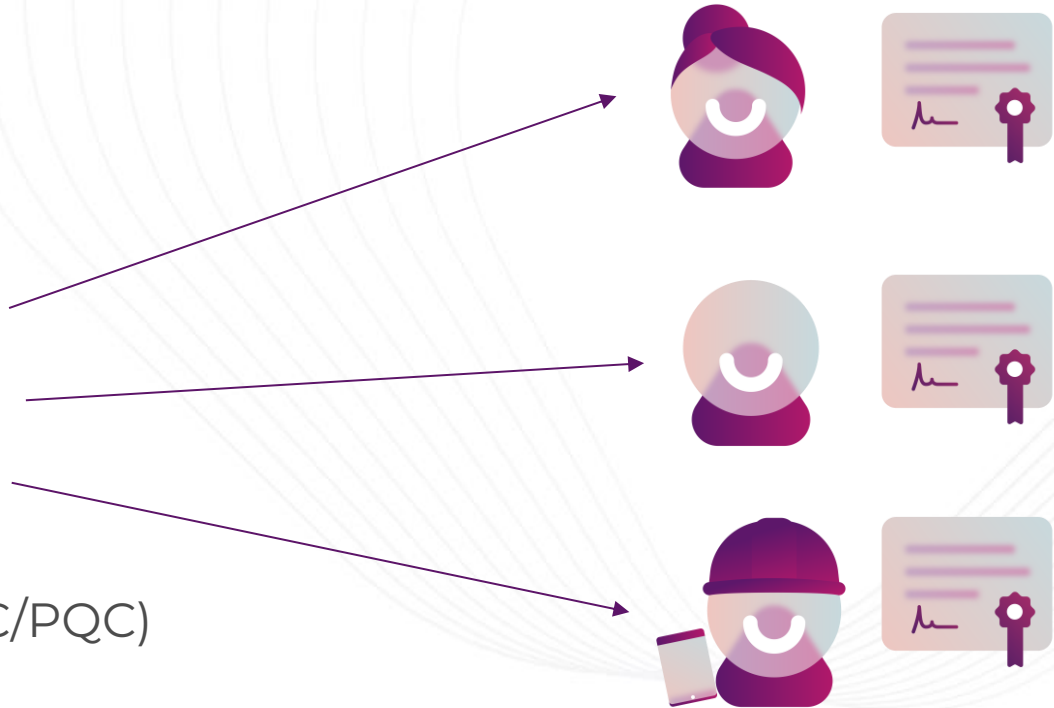
Cryptographic Keys for Signing

MANY VERIFIERS

1 SIGNER



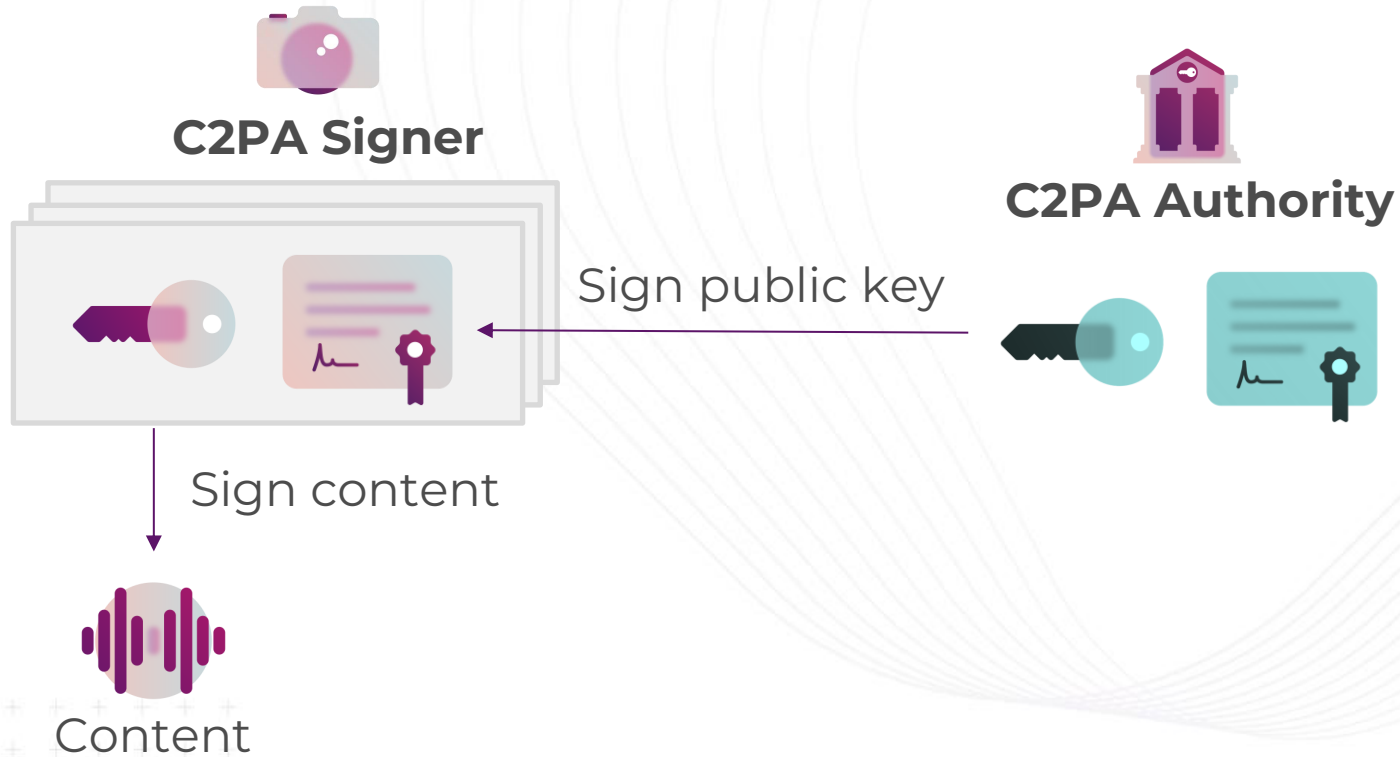
Private Key
(secret, unpredictable, RSA/ECC/PQC)



Public Key



Scaling Cryptography (PKI)



Scaling Cryptography (PKI)

STEP 2: Verify the Signer's public key with Authority's public key



C2PA Signer



Content



C2PA Verifier

RESULT: Verifiers just need to hold 1 public key

STEP 1: Verify the C2PA Manifest with the Signer's public key

C2PA Conformance =

Interoperability

+

Establish Trust



Security Requirements for

- **Authorities** 
- **Generator Products** 



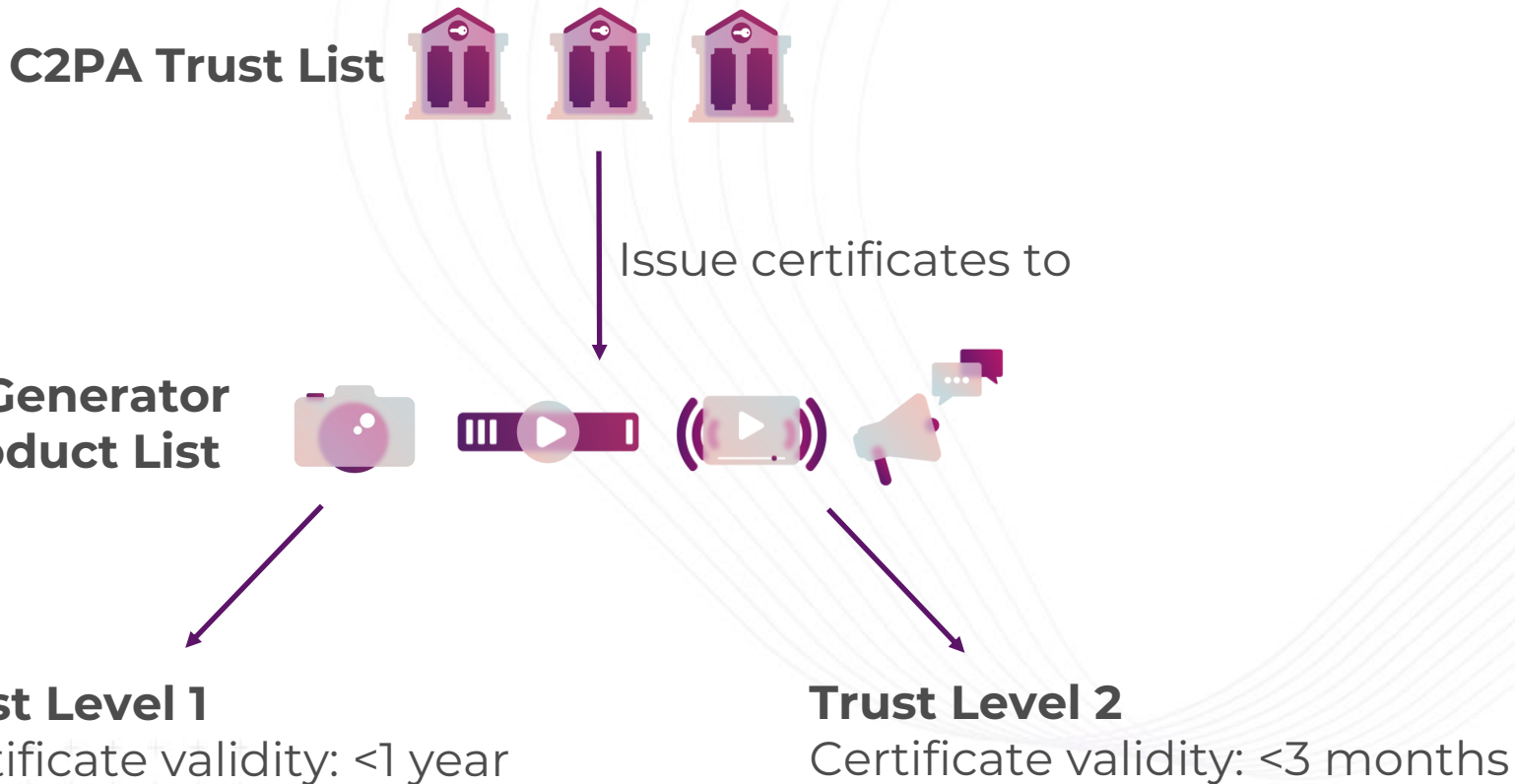
Trust Level 1: lightweight
Example: app can use key in the clear

Trust Level 2: more secure
Example: keys must be isolated

(~ Widevine L3 for HD content)

(~ Widevine L1 for Full HD content)

Putting Everything Together (for now)



Revocation: Introduction

Approval of C2PA Signer



C2PA Signer gets Hacked



Validity Period



Verifiers need to distrust the certificate now



Certificate Issued to C2PA Signer



WELL-FORMED → functionally OK

VALID → WELL-FORMED

- + cryptographic integrity
- + `claimSignature.validated == TRUE`
- + `claimSignature.insideValidity == TRUE`
- + **`signingCredential.ocsp.revoked == FALSE`**

TRUSTED → Valid + `signingCredential.trusted == TRUE`

Enabling Revocation

C2PA
Signer



OCSP
Responder



Am I Revoked?

Signed Proof that you are NOT revoked
(valid for ~24 hours)

Embed
Proof in
C2PA Manifest

RESULT: Verifiers do not need
to perform any online check

WELL-FORMED → functionally OK

VALID → WELL-FORMED

+ cryptographic integrity

+ claimSignature.validated == TRUE

+ claimSignature.insideValidity == TRUE

+ signingCredential.ocsp.revoked == FALSE

TRUSTED → Valid + signingCredential.trusted == TRUE

Secure Timestamps as a Time Machine

C2PA
Signer



TimeStamp
Authority



Notarize this C2PA Manifest (hash)

Signed Proof that C2PA Manifest
existed at this time

Embed
Timestamp in
C2PA Manifest

RESULT: C2PA Manifest Remains
Verifiable in the Future

Putting Everything Together

C2PA Trust List



OCSP Responder



Certificates:

- Trust Level 1: < 1 year
- Trust Level 2: < 3 months

C2PA TSA Trust List



**C2PA Generator
On Product List**



Proof of Non-Revocation

(Secure Timestamp)

Summary

- The Security of C2PA is remarkably similar to the Security for DRM
- C2PA Manifests are signed with standard tools (PKI)
- Interoperability and Trust require programs beyond C2PA alone
- C2PA Signers must embed Revocation Status information in the Manifests
- Secure Timestamps: to ensure the C2PA Manifest remains verifiable



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