

Digital Signature

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Discussion

A Digital Signature is a cryptographic value generated for an identified digital representation using a signing key.

A corresponding verification process evaluates the Digital Signature using the applicable verification key and verification conditions.

A Digital Signature may be generated for:

- An [Artifact](#)
- An [Image](#)
- A content digest
- A document
- A message
- A data set
- A software package
- A metadata record

A Digital Signature may contribute to evaluation of:

- Whether the signed representation changed after signing
- Whether the signature corresponds to the signed representation
- Whether the signature was generated using the signing key associated with an identified signing identity

A Digital Signature differs from a content digest:

- A content digest represents content through the output of a digest algorithm
- A Digital Signature applies a cryptographic signing operation to an identified representation, which may include a content digest

A Digital Signature differs from an electronic signature:

- A Digital Signature uses cryptographic operations to associate a signed representation with a signing key
- An electronic signature is a broader concept that may use cryptographic or noncryptographic mechanisms

Definition

cryptographic value generated for an identified digital representation using a signing key and evaluable using a corresponding verification key

Source

Dido Solutions, Inc. and Jackrabbit Consulting, Inc.

Note

A valid Digital Signature does not by itself establish that the signed subject is:

- Approved
- Correct
- Compliant
- Free from vulnerabilities
- Authorized for deployment
- Suitable for a specified purpose

A Digital Signature also does not establish the trustworthiness of the signing identity unless the applicable trust conditions establish that relationship.

The term does not prescribe a particular cryptographic algorithm, certificate mechanism, key-management system, signature format, or trust model.

Example

Crucible generates a Digital Signature for the content digest of an Image and associates the Digital Signature with the Image identifier and signing identity.

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