

The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act

Implementation in Minnesota

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For: NALIT Professional Development Seminar

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UELMA

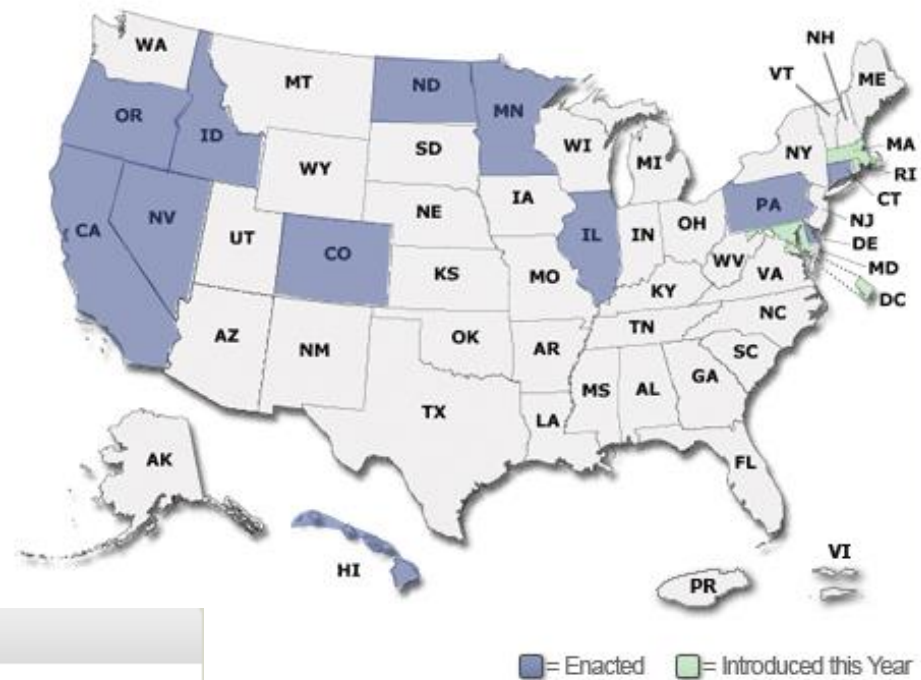
- Approved July 12, 2011 by Uniform Law Commission
- Approved February 6, 2012, by American Bar Association
- Establishes an outcomes-based, technology-neutral framework
- To provide online legal material with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by publication in a law book

What does UELMA require?

- Official electronic legal material must be:
 - *Authenticated* by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered
 - *Preserved* either in print or electronic form, and
 - *Accessible* for use by the public on a permanent basis

Enactments!

Enactment Status Map



Legislative Tracking

2014 Introductions & Enactments

State	Bill	Sponsor	Status
Delaware	HB 403	Walker	Enacted
District of Columbia	20-221	Wells	Introduced
Idaho	SB 1356		Enacted
Illinois	SB 1941	Mulroe	Enacted
Maryland	HB 46	Arora	Introduced
Massachusetts	HB 38		Introduced
Pennsylvania	SB 601	Scarnati	Enacted
Rhode Island	HB 7604	Hearn	Introduced

Outcomes – Based Standards

- Permit variety of implementation methods and costs
 - Purchase of commercially-available software
 - Development in-house by states
- Allow for future technology development

Minnesota - UELMA in Statutes

- Enacted in Minnesota Statutes 2013
 - Chapter 3E. Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act
 - <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3E&view=chapter>
- Legal materials covered by the statute
 - Section 3E.02 subd. 3

(1) the Minnesota Constitution;

(2) Laws of Minnesota;

(3) Minnesota Statutes;

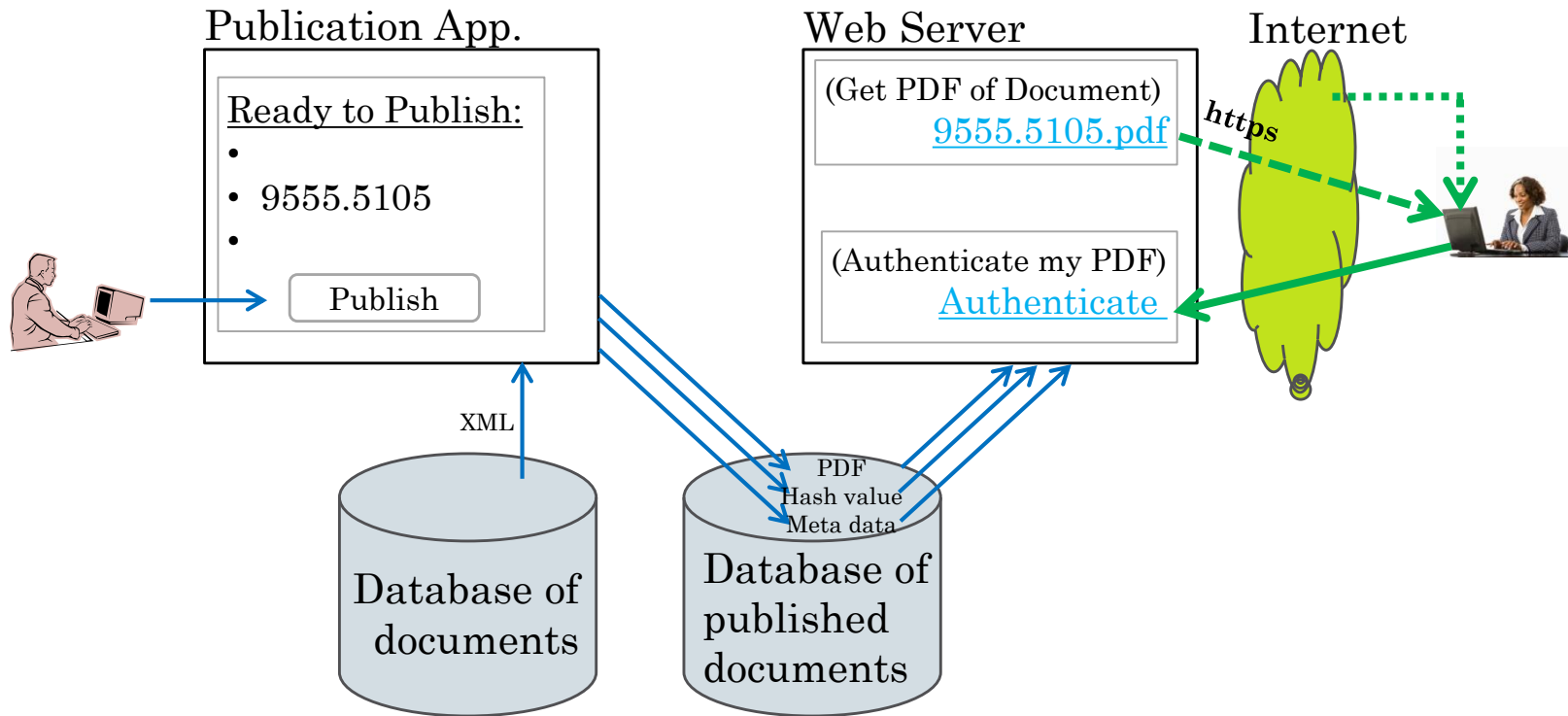
(4) Minnesota Rules.

- Official publisher – Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Authentication requirement

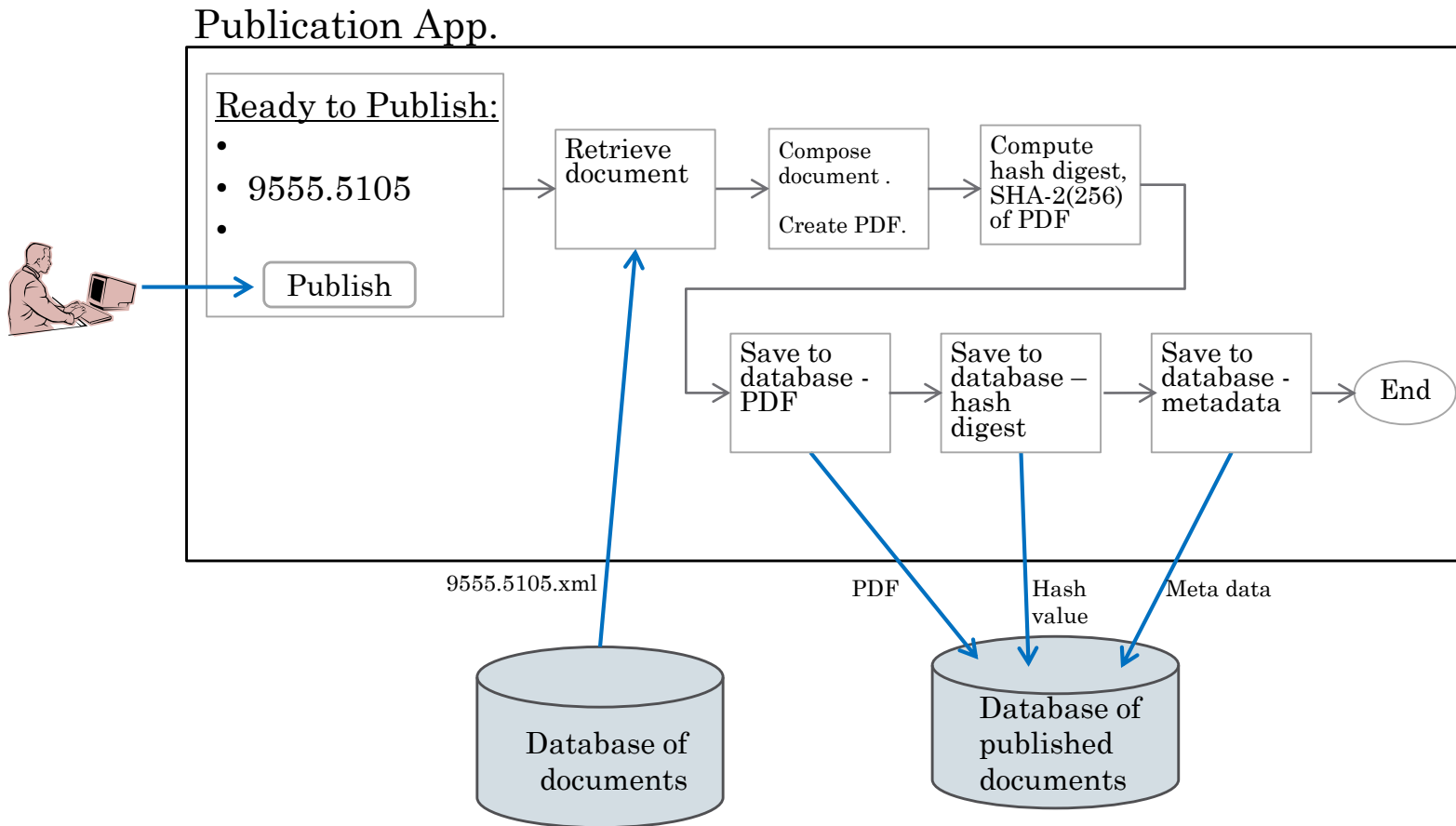
3E.05 AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL ELECTRONIC RECORD.

An official publisher of legal material in an electronic record that is designated as official under section 3E.04 shall authenticate the record. To authenticate an electronic record, the publisher shall provide a method for a user to determine that the record received by the user from the publisher is unaltered from the official record published by the publisher.

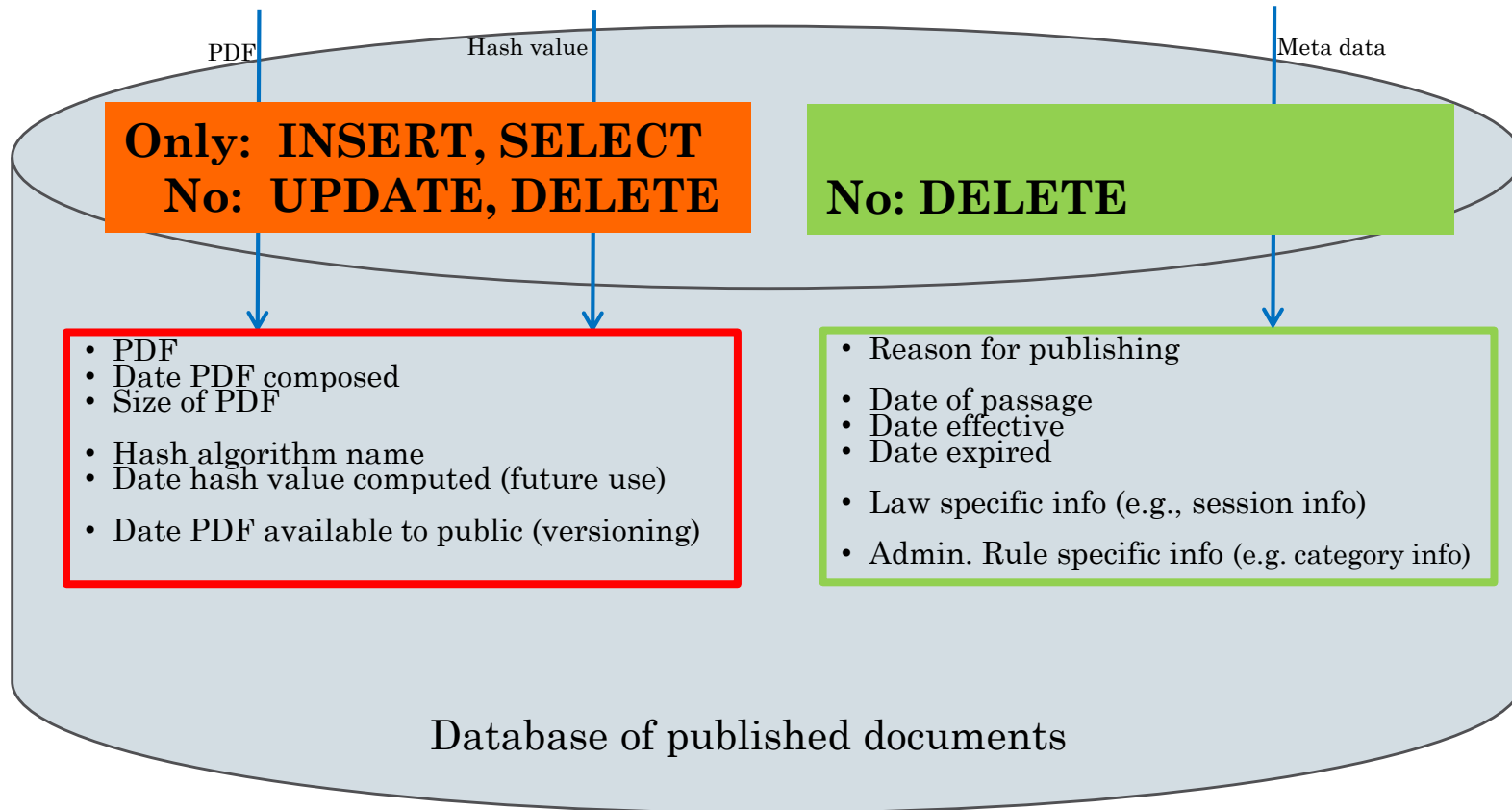
Minnesota - IT Architecture



Minnesota - IT Architecture (cont.)

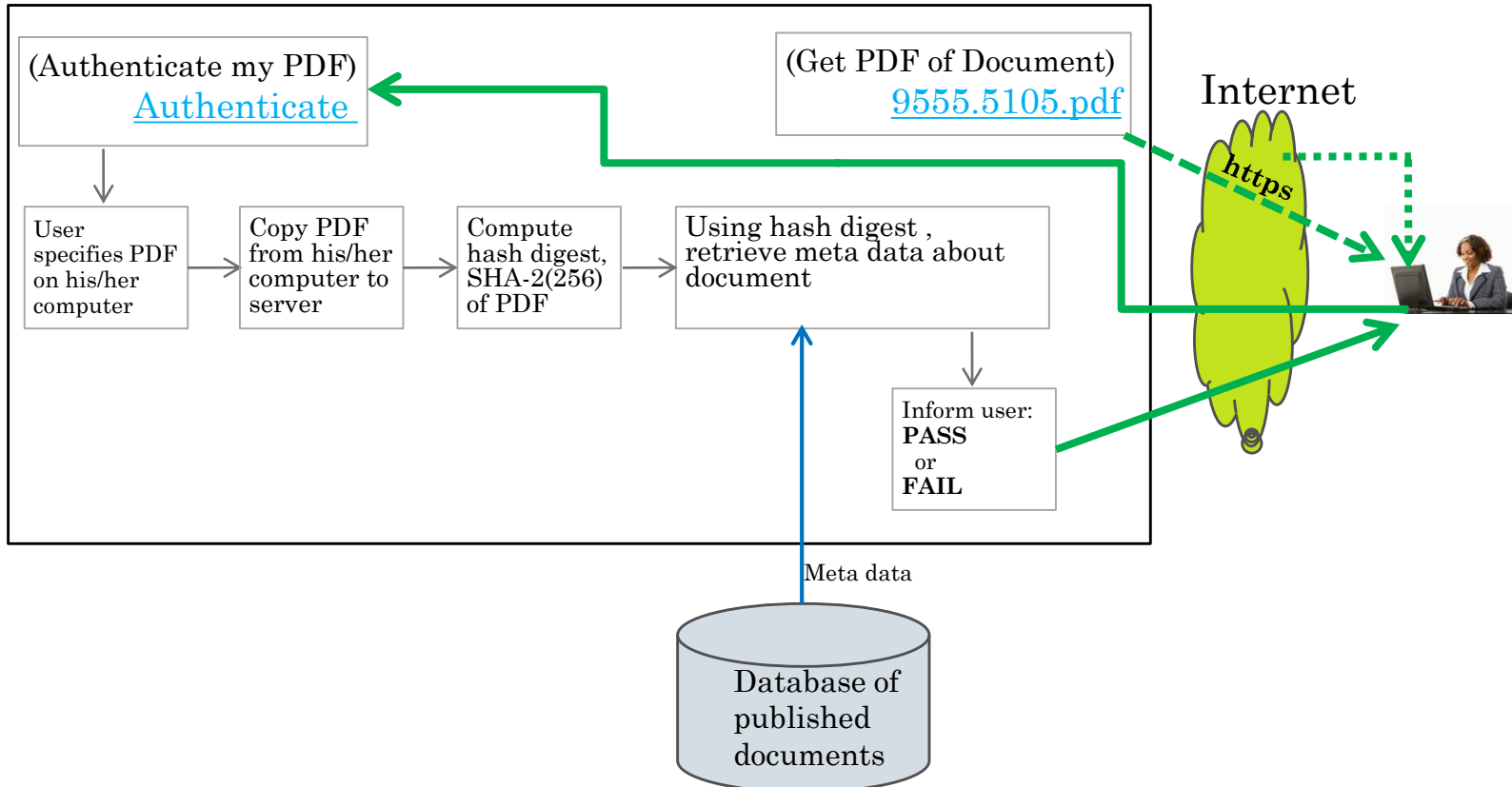


Minnesota - IT Architecture (cont.)



Minnesota - IT Architecture (cont.)

Web Server



Minnesota - UELMA Solution

- Disadvantages

1. Not as user friendly as Signed PDFs.
2. Custom software needs to be developed and maintained.
 - 5 developers worked 9 months to develop authentication feature for the first (of 4) document types.
3. Authenticating every version adds complexity to the database and software design.
4. Database size will grow over time, as PDFs are published.
 - Database performance will suffer unless partitioning or other tactics are utilized

Minnesota - UELMA Solution

- Advantages

1. System can identify obsolete versions of a document.
2. No new software was purchased.
3. Scalability. After system is built for 1 document type, additional doc types can be added using variations of the architecture.
4. Easy to add new hash algorithms in the future.
5. System can be expanded to authenticate additional file formats: images, audio, video, etc.

Additional Resources

- U.S. Government Printing Office
 - <http://www.gpo.gov/authentication/faq/>
- Minnesota White Paper
 - https://www.revisor.mn.gov/revisor/pubs/Minnesota_Authentication_Prototype.pdf
- American Association of Law Libraries “AALL”
 - developing a best practices paper
 - should be available in fall, 2014