



PRIMAR[®]

Dataset cancellations without dataset files

Severity of cancellation traceability

Svein Skjaeveland

Introduction

S-100 allows for cancellations to be issued as an instruction in the Exchange Catalogue metadata without an accompanying dataset file:

S-100 17-4.1 (text description below figure 17-2):

“...This level of flexibility is essential to properly support the mainstream use case of exchanging geospatial data, as well as the use cases for releasing dataset cancellation notices or new Catalogue releases without any data files present”

Technically this can be done by including the data file information in the exchange catalogue metadata and encode the DatasetDiscoveryMetadata attribute “purpose” (Type = S100_Purpose) with the value 5 (cancellation):

Attribute	purpose	The purpose for which the dataset has been issued	0..1	S100_Purpose
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S100_Purpose

Role Name	Name	Description	Code	Remarks
Enumeration	S100_Purpose	The purpose of the dataset	-	
Value	newDataset	Brand new dataset	1	No data has previously been produced for this area
Value	newEdition	New edition of the dataset or Catalogue	2	Includes new information which has not been previously distributed by updates
Value	update	Dataset update	3	Changing some information in an existing dataset
Value	reissue	Dataset that has been re-issued	4	Includes all the updates applied to the original dataset up to the date of the re-issue. A re-issue does not contain any new information additional to that previously issued by updates.
Value	cancellation	Dataset or Catalogue that has been cancelled	5	Indicates the dataset or Catalogue should no longer be used and can be deleted
Value	delta	Dataset difference	6	Reserved for future use

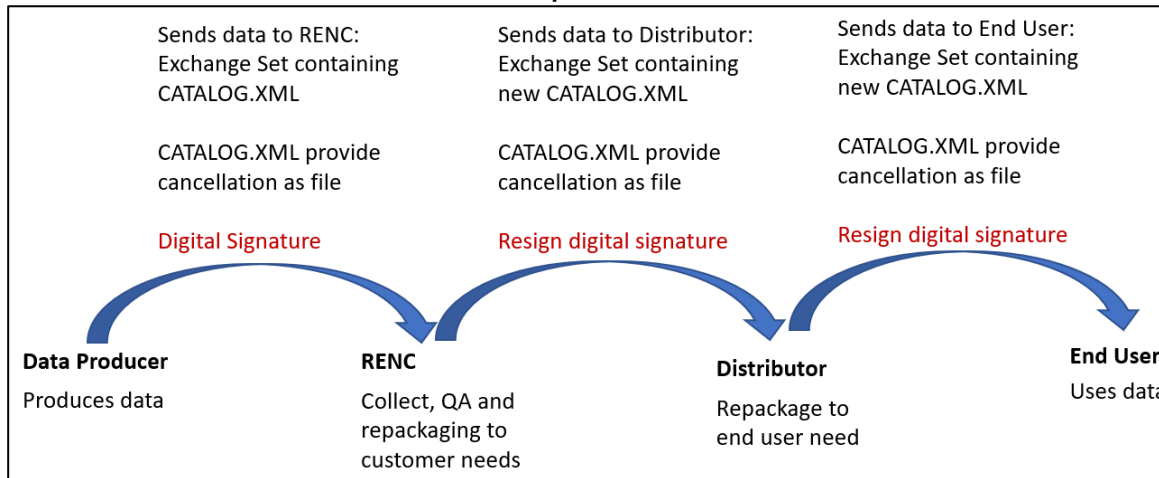
A: Fileless cancellation and digital signature

- A fileless cancellation instruction as described above is not supported by the digital signature mechanism in S-100 Part 15:
- S-100 part 15 defines a mechanism for digitally signing all the files included in an exchange set including the catalogue file. This mechanism applies to both dataset and support files
- If a cancellation transaction is issued without an accompanying dataset file (fileless cancellation), S-100 requires that all the cancellation information must be encoded in the CATALOG.XML metadata
- The cancellation instruction itself will not be signed – only the CATALOG.XML containing the instruction.
- For digital signing there is therefore a huge difference between a fileless cancellation and cancellation issued as an update

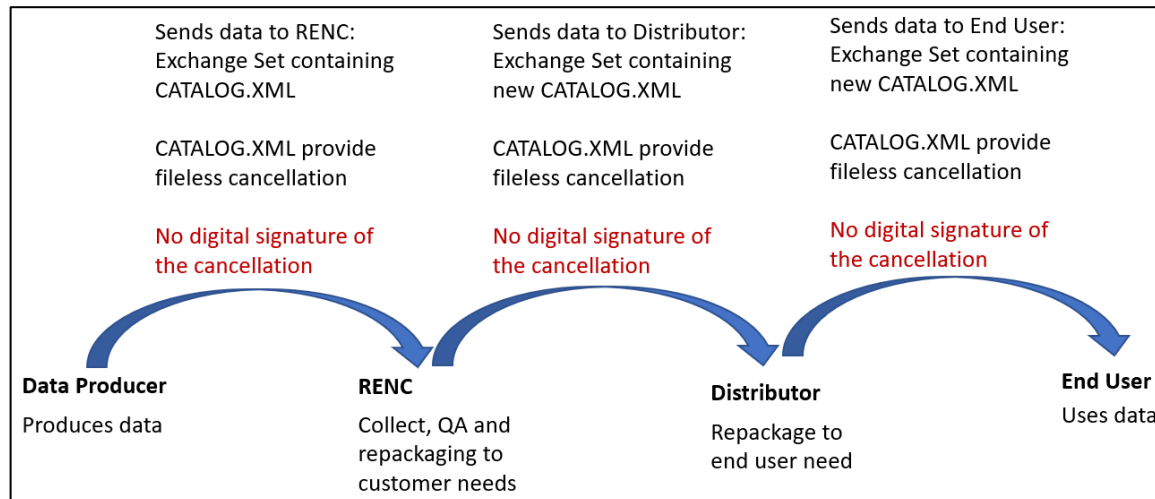
The differences



- Cancellation as file-based update:



- Fileless cancellation:



Consequence and risk



Consequence:

- The consequence is that it will not be possible to trace the origins of a cancellation transaction back to the data producer since it will only contain the RENC/distributor digital signature.
- **This raises the question if this poses a security risk as it will then not be possible to verify the origin of the cancellation instruction.**
- In theory a RENC/Service Provider and Distributor could issue a cancellation instruction not being issued by a producing agency.

If considered a risk, possible solutions could be:

- S-100 Part 15 must be extended to cater for the possibility to digitally sign the cancellation instruction within the DatasetDiscoveryMetadata.
- Special instructions must be defined for how a data producer shall create cancellation updates, how RENC/Distributors shall process cancellation updates, and how end-user systems shall process cancellation updates.

Consequence and risk



Conclusions:

- It must be agreed upon if missing digital signing of the cancellation instruction poses a security risk, and if yes a solution must be provided.
- Further descriptive text on cancellation guidance should probably be provided in Part 17.
- Explanatory text for cancellation handling should be added in S-100 Part 17.

As a side note, papers have been provided to the S-101, S-102, S-104 and S-111 PTs to inform them of the topic. Especially for S-102, S-104, S-111 it is important to know the fileless approach can be used, as they at the moment do not support the file-based solution.

Action Required of WENDWG:

The WENDWG is invited to:

- Note the paper and discuss the severity of missing digital signatures for fileless cancellations.
- Take any action appropriate.