Introduction

Metaforik is a web service which streamlines content and service delivery based on the client's needs and privileges.

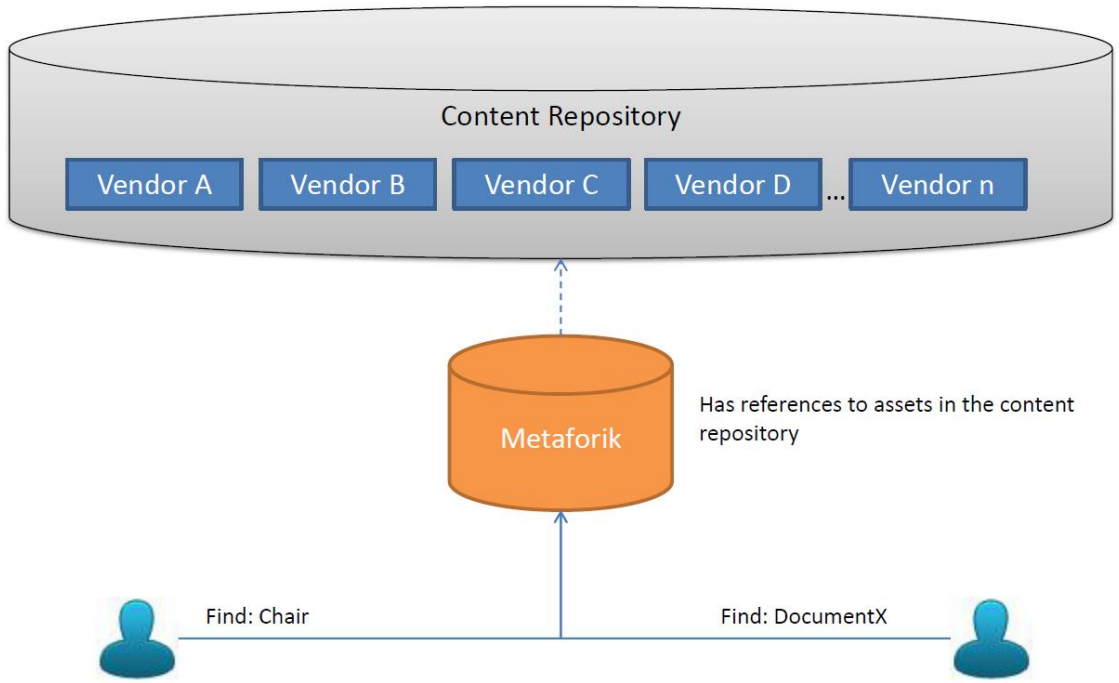
For example a user requires a model of a dog, the user would send a request Metaforik Item called "Dog". As opposed to retrieving content through a "hard" address, which may lead to problems such as the resolution of the model being too high or too low, Metaforik will decide based on user specific data which model to give (More likely the URI from which the asset will be fetched).

In short Metaforik provides a bespoke content and service delivery based on the user's context and/or circumstances. This is not just limited to customising content discovery but also controlling access to content.

Permissions for a Metaforik Item can be set according to a blacklist or whitelist control structure, allowing publishers of content to control who may access content or even variations of that content. An Item may change the manifestation of content being delivered to the client based on the privileges that the client has been assigned, say for a premium service, the client may be delivered a higher resolution model of the aforementioned dog model.

Structure

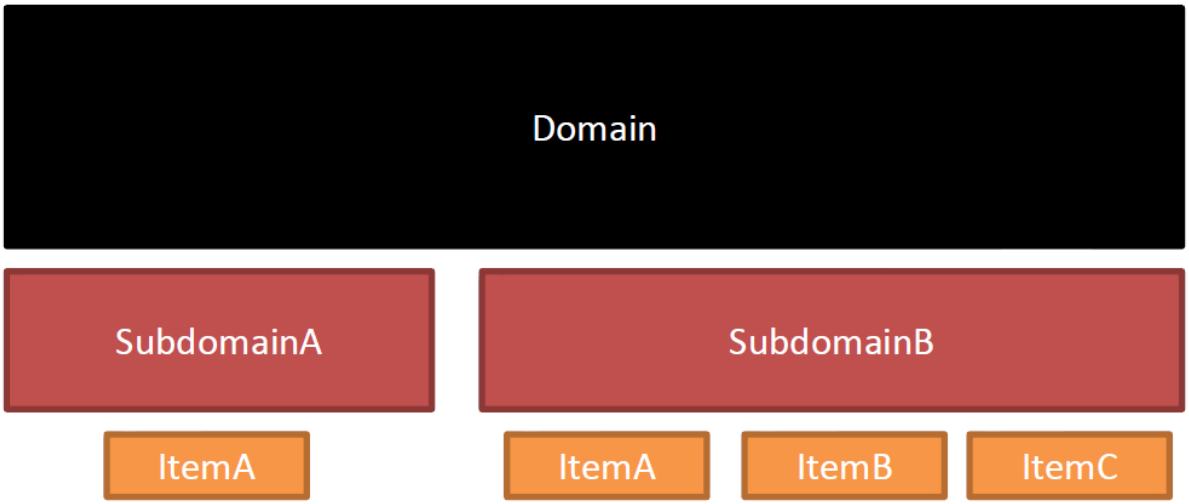
Metaforik delegates the assignment of content. The service is hosted on a server or the cloud. It processes the request for an item and returns an XML with the appropriate URIs for a client to choose the best asset. Clients then access the relevant asset based on the URI that was included on the Metaforik XML they received from the service.



Namespaces.

In order to organise content into a clear, readable format, Metaforik structures its items into 3 tiered system.

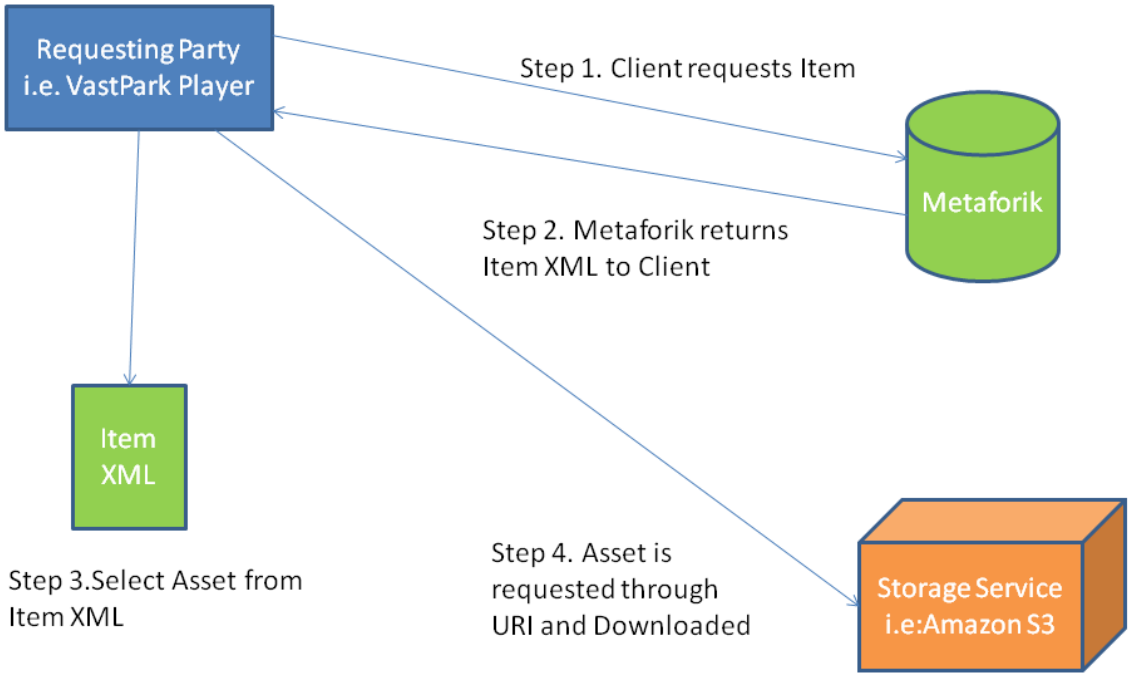
- Domain
- Subdomain
- Name



- Each service has one Domain.
- Each Domain can have multiple Subdomains.
- Items must have unique names within in the subdomain. ItemA@Subdomain1 is different from ItemA@Subdomain2.

Sequence of Operations

1. User searches Metaforik for a 3D chair model
2. The request is authenticated
3. Appropriate access is determined
4. A chunk of XML called an Item is returned to the user
5. The user's client evaluates the Item and selects the most appropriate Asset
6. Asset contains a URI to the actual resource
7. Resource is acquired using URI



Hierarchy

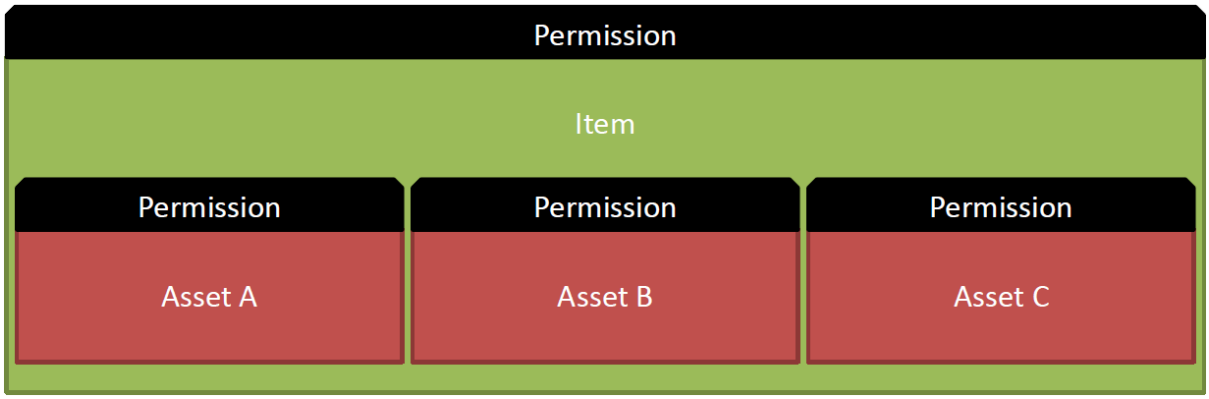
There are 2 terms by which content is described by Metaforik .

- Items
- Assets

It is necessary to have these terms clearly described.

Item: An item is the broad description of an Item, it is what would be made in a request for in a Metaforik request. To use the earlier description of a Dog model; this would be the broad description of the item before being processed to actual model(i.e. a high resolution or low resolution model).

Assets: The actual content being delivered to the client after the Metaforik request has been processed.



Note: Permissions can be applied to both Assets and Items to control privileges, so a user may have access to an item, but not certain assets within that item.

Permissions

Permissions are a means to control who can access Metaforik Items and Assets.

Permissions can be set at an Item or Asset Level, therefore a user could access an Item but may only be allowed to access certain assets within that item.

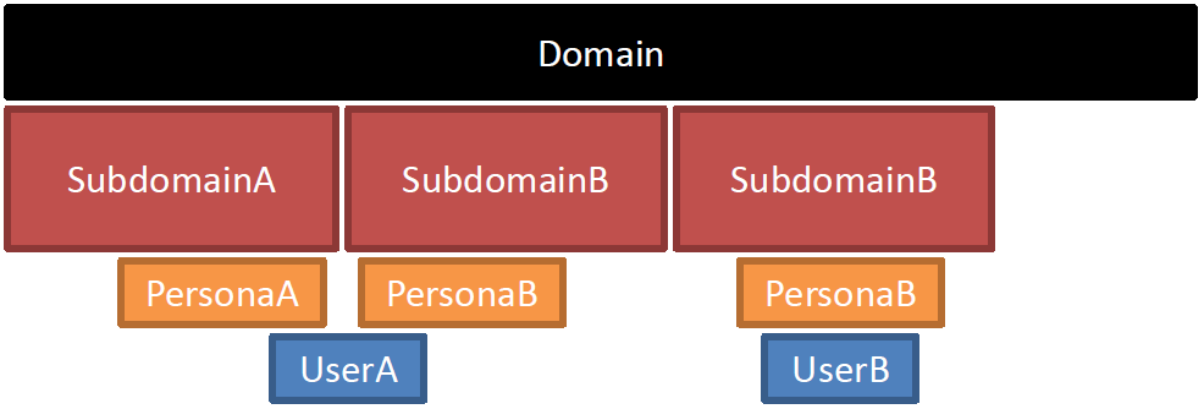
Permission Types

- Whitelist (Only users on this list can access the content)
- Blacklist (Users on this list cannot access the content)

User Hierarchy

Users can also be represented on Metaforik using Personas which are also controlled using privileges. This allows user information for applications such as social networking to be controlled similarly to assets, allowing only certain information to be exposed as the situation demands it. A user can be part of a group and

- Users exist within a common domain
- May be members of multiple subdomains
- Users (via Persona) may optionally be members of one or more groups



- Usernames must have a unique Alias (each Persona has an alias) within each subdomain
- Users can have multiple Personas
- Users must have a unique name within each domain