

## RESEARCH PAPER

# Multi-Company Coordination

The parent company should not need to open a child's database to know the child is alive. Signed events are how we avoided that temptation.

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## Problem

Once you have five operating projects, someone will ask for a portfolio dashboard. The naïve implementation is “the LLC reads every sqlite.” That is shared authority with extra steps. It also means a bug in the parent becomes a read of every child's cash and keys.

## Design

Each company emits HMAC-SHA256 envelopes to a loopback ingest on the parent. Localhost is not identity; the MAC is. Replay is seen(event\_id, idempotency\_key). Bodies that look like secrets are refused. The parent records the event and, for support, a customer-safe projection — not a mount of the child store.

```
company --HMAC--> LLC ingest (loopback)
          |
          +--> event log / receipts
          +--> support projection (sanitized)
          +--> owner portal (signed fields only)
```

No sibling sqlite. No shared .env.

## What the parent may do

Ingest health. Project facts Support is allowed to say. Enqueue a web inspect on a child if the child delegated that. It may not spend as the child, publish as the child, or read the child's vault.

## Tests

Wrong MAC refuses. Replay refuses. Non-loopback ingest refuses. Secret-shaped bodies refuse. Support text is scanned for cash, PIDs, and loopback ports.

## Limitations

This is a same-host bus, not a public mesh. Keys are per-company. Losing a key is an owner secret rotation, not a protocol feature we pretend is automatic.

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