

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for provisioning digital certificates in a compute service environment, comprising:

using in the compute service environment a network resource associated with a customer entity, wherein the customer entity is in possession of a digital certificate issued in connection with the network resource;

determining whether the network resource is still associated with the customer entity; and

if the network resource is still associated with the customer entity, [automatically](#) reissuing the digital certificate for use by the customer entity for a limited duration.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the reissuing takes place automatically and without receiving a reissue request from the customer entity.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein:

the digital certificate associates a public cryptographic key with the customer entity; and the public cryptographic key corresponds to a private cryptographic key.

4. The method according to claim 3, further including:

generating the public cryptographic key and the private cryptographic key upon authorizing the customer entity for usage and/or control of the network resource in the [multi-tenant compute service](#) environment.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the private cryptographic key is inaccessible to the customer entity.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the network resource is at least one of a virtual machine, a database, and/or a service used and/or controlled by the customer entity.

7. The method according to claim 1, comprising:
receiving a request from the customer entity to issue the digital certificate;
authorizing the customer entity in connection with the digital certificate; and
upon successful authorization of the customer entity, issuing the digital certificate, wherein the digital certificate identifies the network resource.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the network resource is a virtual machine and the authorizing comprises:
associating the customer entity with the virtual machine in exchange for a fee; and
launching the virtual machine for use by the customer entity.

9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
granting the customer entity access to the network resource; and
automatically issuing the digital certificate to the customer entity in connection with using the network resource by the customer entity.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining comprises determining whether the network resource is at least one of:
used by the customer entity;
paid for by the customer entity; or
controlled by the customer entity.

11. A network-based multi-tenant service that provides computing resources for use by customer entities, comprising:

one or more processors; and

computer-readable memory storing instructions that are executable by the one or more processors to perform actions comprising:

receiving a request from a customer entity for a virtual machine and a digital certificate associated with the virtual machine;

in response to the request, authorizing the customer entity for using the virtual machine and for issuance of the digital certificate;

upon completing the authorization:

launching the virtual machine for the customer entity; and

issuing the digital certificate to the customer entity, wherein the digital certificate is associated with usage of the virtual machine by the customer entity for a limited duration;

monitoring usage of the virtual machine by the customer entity; and

reissuing the digital certificate if the customer entity is still using the virtual machine.

12. The network-based multi-tenant service of claim 11, the actions further including: automatically reissuing the digital certificate upon receiving:

an indication that the customer entity is still using the virtual machine; and

an indication that the customer entity is still requesting a digital certificate for the virtual machine.

13. The network-based multi-tenant service of claim 11, the actions further including:

automatically reissuing the digital certificate upon receiving payment from the customer entity for continued use of the virtual machine and for reissuing the digital certificate.

14. The network-based multi-tenant service of claim 11, wherein:
authorizing the customer entity includes receiving payment from the customer entity for using the virtual machine and for the issuance of the digital certificate.
15. The network-based multi-tenant service of claim 11, wherein the virtual machine is associated with a customer account of the customer entity.