

The Agent-Centric Web of Trust

On the first day of the Vaduz hackathon, we identified the natural reasons that the need to identify people has become important in society. In short, we determined: **Identity is about a historical record that creates trust.** We noticed, repeatedly, how having trust appears to lead to greater privilege. From that determination, we thought about how a digital system could biomimic this natural behavior.

How identity works now

1. Relationship built through Body/Facial Recognition
2. Government Authority
3. Private Rating Systems
4. Centralized Social Media Platforms
5. Media Appearances / Publications
6. Language / Mode of speech

Based on: Facial recognition (natural/digital), Name, National Government Identification Numbers, Passport

These processes can be digitized on Holochain with the following steps:

1. Create a private key on the Distributed Public Key Infrastructure application (DPKI)
2. Optionally produce a physical smart card which stores the private key
3. Create entries that form part of a historical record attached to that private key
4. Have those entries signed (vouched for) by other DPKI keyholders

Examples of the types of historical record entries that might be created:

1. Birth Certificates

A document stating where you were born and who your parents were, and what name your parents gave you.

2. Driver's licenses

A document stating that successfully and safely operated a motor vehicle of a certain type

3. Intellectual property (copyrights/trademark/patent)

Any kind of documentation of the establishment of an idea, concept, art

4. Passport

A document declaring your citizenship with a national government

5. Titles/Deeds

A document declaring your ownership of a particular asset, which attempts to most uniquely identify that asset among other similar assets

Questions that arose:

- Is a concept of “proof of work” or “proof of cooperation” relevant to identity and trust systems?
- How is work determined to be “useful”?
- In human interactions, people can forgive and or forget past interactions. Is there a way to digitally “forget” historical things to replicate this behavior? Should we?
- How does one gain trust when they have no previous “old system” identification?
- Is a person’s historical record actually a form of an asset?