

Hi Joy,

It was a pleasure speaking with you this week. Your approach to uplifting the African continent is both creative and inspiring, it's amazing how we both concluded that PIDs are the solution at the same time. On behalf of the dPID working group, I'd like to say that we're excited about the possibility of working with you. My colleague from the working group, Andrei, is in CC.

For starters, please join [Mattermost](#) so we can chat asynchronously (we changed the password requirements). ~10 people are there to help write grants and conference proposals.

I see several immediate overlaps between what the WG is building and the needs you expressed on the call.

1. **An Easier Path to PID Minting Infrastructure in Africa:** You mentioned the desire for Africa to own its PIDs and the technology underpinning them. Via dPID, we can make that happen right now. Anyone can make a PID, and by making the PID they own it. Devices as small as laptop computers can help secure those PIDs by sharing information automatically with each other, meaning that anyone who makes a PID for themselves also helps secure PIDs (and metadata) for others. No single computer needs to be on 100% of the time for the larger network to resolve information reliably. Everything about dPID is free and open source. Since a globally distributed network secures the information, DeSci Labs doesn't incur storage costs and doesn't charge (although we do store the data regardless, just to be a good samaritan). I could see a joint grant proposal where we work with a small group of academic labs, institutions, repositories, or libraries in Africa to implement a Proof of Concept of the underlying open-source software, and then work out any bug we may come across together
2. **Directly Paying African Researchers for their Work:** Ultimately, the shared goal of any collaboration between our two groups (at least as I would see it) is to use PIDs as a means of uplifting the quality of life in the global south and help secure indigenous information and heritage. Researchers own their dPIDs, along with the data and metadata associated with the dPID. Many data and IP marketplaces are natively compatible with dPIDs, meaning that we can immediately help researchers profit from their data. One Data marketplace that is particularly interesting for this is a group called [SMARDY](#). They have a watermarking feature embedded in the platform which (I believe) could be combined with dPIDs to tag data on a university, country, or continental level. This means the IDs for global metric tracking could be built directly into a dataset.
3. **Starting Curation Communities around PID Containers for Patents:** dPIDs are a fully built-out PID container system, no additional development is needed. Every folder and every file in a dPID are automatically assigned a PID, a researcher never has to think about it. There's even an interface for publication (see <https://beta.dpid.org/46>). The [community management interface](#) is even coming out soon! While the community management interface is tailored to facilitate the validation of scientific work, the social trust layer of comments and formal attestations (imagine a "certified reproducible" or

"FAIR Metadata" badge, awarded by an organization and attached directly to a dPID) can do a lot to de-risk IP for potential investors, increasing its potential value without revealing information. I could see a path to collaboration around where my team refines the privacy requirements for publishing IP and TCC focuses on defining requirements for IP badging and training researchers on how to submit IP. Could also include some of the data marketplace integrations mentioned above.

All of these ideas are just starting points. More than anything else, I want to hear your thoughts! How can we best use technology to uplift the standard of living in the global south? Does anything here resonate with you? Can you think of other ideas or pathways, would you need more learning resources to answer? I look forward to continuing our conversation, there's a lot we can do together.

Thanks,
Erik