The Utah Mobile Driver License Program

The optional Mobile Driver's License (mDL) Program is managed by the Utah Department of Public Safety's Driver License Division (DLD) and provides for an official signed copy of your card placed on your mobile device for you to control. Unlike the physical card and barcode, you may limit the data you share with businesses or entities that you interact with.

mDL was implemented to give you additional convenience and to improve your privacy and control. Privacy protections are built into the software so that no entity can track how you use your mDL, but you have complete transparency into how and where you've used your mDL. No data ever leaves your device without your consent. mDL also gives greater accuracy to the businesses with whom you interact, can eliminate fake IDs, and can lower the incidence of fraudulent purchases, illegal driving, and criminals impersonating citizens.

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Benefits

What safety does an mDL provide?
An mDL allows the user to limit the data they share to just the data that is needed for the transaction. When verifying age, the verifier does not need to know the person's demographic information, address, or driving privilege. They only need to verify that the person presenting is that person, and that they are of age to complete the transaction with only the information required by law. When using the barcode from a physical license, all of the text information from the card is contained in that barcode, so mDL represents an improvement in control of data.

How does an mDL prevent fraud?
An mDL allows you to share data with the relying party (business, agency, or checkpoint) you choose to do business with. All of the security and privacy checks happen automatically through digital signatures and certificate verification. Verifying the authenticity of a physical card is dependent on the knowledge of the clerk or verifier who must understand the security features on a physical card. Card security features vary from state to state, and continually change.

Verifying the authenticity of an mDL is not dependent on the knowledge or training of the clerk. The app does the work. The certificates used in an mDL transfer are signed by the State of Utah DLD and give cryptographic proof that the data is valid. In turn, fake and altered IDs are removed and cannot be authenticated.

What are the benefits for the user?
- Contactless transaction - Never hand your phone or device to anyone.
- Control of shared data - User controls what data they share.

- Secured on device - Data is encrypted and requires PIN or biometrics to open.
- Remote management - Device can be wiped or deleted if lost or stolen.
- Lost Credential (License or ID Card) Recovery - If ID is lost, it is quick and of no cost to download the app, versus applying for a duplicate hard card.

What are the benefits for the relying/verifying party?

- Contactless transaction - Never have to touch or access a user's device.
- Controlled data - Only have to worry about the data required for the transaction.
- Security features - All security features are encrypted data; no need to decipher physical security features.
- Signed by issuing authority - Certificates verify that the credential was issued by DLD.

Do other states have an mDL?

Yes, multiple States have ongoing pilot programs and may issue production mDLs this year. There is an interactive map at Implementation Tracker Map - mDL Connection that shows progress in the United States, and there are other jurisdictions worldwide that are implementing mDL. There is no central coordination of these efforts, but there is a common, open standard for sharing the data so that driver license and ID implementations result in identity that people can use everywhere - ISO/IEC 18013-5:2021 - Personal identification.

Who can get an mDL?

mDLs are only available to current holders of a Utah driver license.

How do I get an mDL?

You must have a valid Utah driver license or Identification card. Download the app from the **Apple Store**, **Google Play**, or scan the QR code below. Follow the in app instructions and once you match, your Utah mDL is downloaded into only your phone.

What is the future of mDL?

The mDL really needs to be looked at as an extension of our physical credential. Just as we have worked for the last 3 years to get this project off the ground, each state will have to do something similar. That is just the first part of building an interoperable ecosystem. Then we have the relying parties who will have their own timeline of adoption. This timeline will be driven by the public and their adoption and want to use an mDL. TSA has announced that they will be launching a pilot of accepting an mDL starting in 2022. FAA states that there are 2.9 million domestic travelers daily. This would position TSA to be the largest relying party as they likely are of our physical credential already. This, by itself, could speed up the ecosystem and adoption rate of the mDL by states and citizens. TSA announced the launch of a pilot program to accept mDLs in 2022. FAA states that there are 2.9 million domestic travelers daily. This would position

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The second part of this answer is online or unattended verification. While the standards for this type of identity verification are still being written, the use cases expand exponentially. An example of this is opening a bank account online. While this is possible now, a bank is running several checks on a person to try to avoid fraudulent activity, while assessing information from a multitude of 3rd parties. With a digital verification of your ID, this would significantly reduce a person from fraudulently being able to open or access an account.
In short, the physical credential is not going away. The mDL is an extension of your hard card, just like putting your credit card on your phone. The future of mDL will open some avenues of use that we have not ever considered.

Can I use my mDL at TSA?
Utah Driver License Division and TSA announced starting March 1, 2023, that the Utah mDL will be accepted at the SLC airport through TSA pre-check as part of TSA's pilot to accept mDLs. Utah's Salt Lake City International Airport (SLC), PHX, BWI, DCA, DFW, MIA and ATL are among the dozen domestic airports where mDLs are now accepted by TSA. Travelers at these and other locations can share their Utah-issued mDL on either an iOS or Android device. Travelers are advised to carry their physical credential to avoid any delays if there are system issues or they are traveling to a destination that does not accept the mDL

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Features

How does the app work?
The app, written by GET Group North America, can be downloaded from the public app stores onto your mobile device. At the DLD office, someone will verify your identity and the system provisions your mDL directly into that app.

Alternatively, the DLD has begun testing remote provisioning which goes through the following steps. The license holder will: (1) download the app from the app store and then (2) scan the 2D barcode on the back of the license and then (3) the app will take a selfie and do a liveness detection. If the selfie matches the photo previously taken at a Driver License office and if the data on the back of the license matches the data in the Driver License database, then the license will be provisioned onto the phone.

The mDL data has been signed by Utah DLD when provisioned to your device, which makes it an official document. The system uses the private keys on your device to encrypt each data element and ensure that only you have control of it.

A relying party (i.e. a business, restaurant, bank, etc.) will have a verifier app that contains a public key from all trusted Issuers (such as Utah DLD). The verifier receives encrypted data from you, and authenticates that data with the public key. This ensures that the mDL data is

authoritative (comes from the DLD), has not been altered, and was issued to you. If all the data elements you shared match, the credential is verified. If there has been any tampering or changes to the data, it will not be verified.

To present their license or ID, the user unlocks the app and chooses the data that they want to share. They simply tap the share button and a QR code will appear. The QR has a countdown timer and does not contain anything that identifies you. Present the QR code to the relying party's verifier device and the two devices will create an encrypted communication path for the verifier to receive just the data you approved, and verify the validity of the license or ID. On many devices, it is also possible to start the process using Near Field Communication (NFC) by tapping your phone on a verifier device.

What data does the app contain?
Legislatively and contractually, the only data in the mDL application is your driver's license, which is cryptographically stored in the app along with the private data keys. In order for any other information to be added to the license or to expand the app's capability, it would have to be debated and approved by state lawmakers, which has not occurred or been discussed.

Will the app track my location?
No. There are no location or tracking services associated with the mDL.

Will the app contain other government records?
No. Not only are no other government records stored in the app, the app does not link to or share data with any other government agency.

But *could* it contain other government records?
The DLD does not want and will not want to commingle any other data (fishing licenses, vaccine records, etc.) with the driver license database. So while the developer technically could do that, the scope for the app is so narrow to only include the mobile driver license data. And remember, adding your driver license to your phone is optional.

If the state government were to come up with a single digital platform for a person to manage all of their government documents, who would approve that decision?
Something like a digital government wallet would require significant debate, decision making and funding by the 104-member Utah Legislature. This mobile driver license project is not the platform for a digital government wallet.

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Program Management

Who authorized the program?
The Utah Legislature in 2019 and in 2020 authorized the Department of Public Safety's Driver License Division (DLD) to create and pilot a mobile driver license program for residents who want the option of carrying their data securely within their cell phone.

Who manages the program?
Just like with your regular driver license, the DLD manages the mobile license application.

Is the mobile license replacing the physical driver license?
This is not meant to replace the physical driver license. The physical card is not going away in the foreseeable future. You should also always carry your physical credential when operating a motor vehicle. The mDL is available as an option for those who want it. Keep in mind that one of the common requests DLD receives related to the driver license is when can there be a secure mobile version of the license.

Who built the software?
The state contracted with GET North America to produce the app. GET does not have access to individual driver licenses, or directly to the Driver License Database.

What was the technological lift to get it in place and keep it going beyond the pilot?
With GET building the app, the technical lift really became a matter of building an API to be able to provision your DL/ID data to the device. Since this was done for an operational pilot, there is no significant change to move from pilot to production.

How long has it been in existence?
The pilot program launched in June 2021. DLD was statutorily required to "establish a process and system for an individual to obtain an electronic license certificate or identification card" on or before January 1, 2022, which it has done.

How many people have mobile driver licenses?
As of January 2023, we have over 13,000 individuals who have chosen to download their mDL.

How many businesses can accept them?
Currently, the mDL can be used in a handful of locations, with more businesses coming online as verifiers. You can see a list of locations on this map on the Driver License Division website. As of February 2022, the mDL is accepted as an official ID at the following locations: Utah Community Credit Union branches; Harmons (City Creek, Traverse Mountain, and Santa Clara); Various State Liquor Stores; Midtown Community Health Center (Ogden)

What businesses are coming on next?
DLD is in conversations with various gas stations, convenience stores, financial institutions and government agencies. They will be added to the map and announced through our social media channels when they come online.

What if I get pulled over?
At this point, law enforcement do not have the capability to verify the mDL and will continue to request your hard card license or ID. However, we are working on a limited pilot program with Utah Highway Patrol troopers in Salt Lake County and are in conversations with other law enforcement agencies in Utah who have expressed interest in the program.

Do I have to hand my phone over to the police?
You won't. An officer will carry a specific mobile application that can scan a QR code generated by the mobile driver license application. There is also an option to share your information with an officer via Bluetooth. The data is only shared with someone else when you tell the app to share it. And it is all completed without anyone else touching your device.

Doesn't this give the government too much of my information?
This is information you gave the DLD to create a license for you in the first place. This is just a convenient, safe and official way to carry your driver license digitally. It also gives you more control over what information you share from your driver license. DLD follows strict security standards that you can read about below.

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Security

How secure is it?
During provisioning, DLD places a series of private keys on the device and is encrypted to each data element. Those encrypted data elements must match with the key that the driver license uses for the verifiers. Not only is the data encrypted, but the application leverages existing security features of your device. At minimum you must create a PIN to access the application, but you may also use fingerprint or facial recognition to open both the phone as well as the app.

How is my data protected?
The app provides a tamper-proof ID Doc on your Mobile device that is signed by DLD. Nobody can create a fake PIN and Face/TouchID, ensuring only you can access or use your mDL.
Just as you choose to share your physical license, you will be in control of who you share your digital license with, and they cannot be accessed without your consent.

What standards are you following?
The standards used to build the mDL are the ISO 18013-5 standards which lay the groundwork for security and interoperability for a mobile driver license/ID solution. DLD is also working to ensure adherence to the recently published AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) standards, which developed the standards for our physical credentials.

Who has access to the data?
Just like with your physical card, the mDL holder, DLD, and anyone you choose to share your data with.

How is the data accessed between the phone and the state (DLD)?
The phone sends a request to the mDL application provider. The provider then sends a request to the state (DLD), which must meet several security requirements. DLD then processes the request and reports a "yes" or "no" that the driver license is a valid registration. In short, the cell phone does not directly access the database at DLD that contains all of the personal information of license holders.

Is Apple going to start offering a mDL in Utah?
Apple has announced that they will be working with several states, including UT, to enable residents to add their Driver's License or state ID to Apple Wallet in the future. This project is in the initial planning process. DLD and Apple will work together to ensure this product meets the needs of UT and its citizens. And just like the mDL with the GET Mobile group, downloading your mDL to your Apple Wallet will be optional.

Can someone hack my phone and access my data?
We have gone to great lengths to protect your data, including encryption, securing the app with a PIN or biometric authentication, and having a stand alone app that does not track data or interact with other apps on your phone. While the DLD cannot determine whether your phone can be hacked, simply having an mDL on your device does not increase the susceptibility of that happening. Also, there is no direct link from the app to all of DLD's data.

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