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Eclipse Decentralized Claims Protocol - v1.0

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Abstract

Dataspaces require the ability to communicate participant identities and credentials to secure data access. This specification defines a set of protocols for asserting participant identities, issuing verifiable credentials, and presenting verifiable credentials using a decentralized architecture for verification and trust.

Table of Contents

1. Abstract
2. 1. Terminology
    a. 1.1 Claim
    b. 1.2 DID
    c. 1.3 Holder
    d. 1.4 Issuer
    e. 1.5 Resource
    f. 1.6 Subject
    g. 1.7 Verifiable Credential
    h. 1.8 Verifiable Presentation
    i. 1.9 Verifiable Data Registry
    j. 1.10 Verifier
3. 2. Dataspace Ecosystem Overview
    a. 2.1 Interrelation to the Dataspace Protocol
    b. 2.2 Systems
        i. 2.2.1 Dataspace Governance Authority Systems
        ii. 2.2.2 Participant Agent Systems
        iii. 2.2.3 Credential Issuer Systems
4. 3. Trust Model and Information Flow Architecture
    a. 3.1 Consent
    b. 3.2 Trust Relationships
    c. 3.3 Transport Security
5. 4. Base Concepts

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a. 4.1 Decentralization
b. 4.2 Identities
c. 4.3 Self-Issued ID Tokens
    i. 4.3.1 Verifiable Presentation Access Token
    ii. 4.3.2 Obtaining Self-Issued ID Tokens
    iii. 4.3.3 Validating Self-Issued ID Tokens
d. 4.4 Schemas, Contexts, and Message Processing
    i. 4.4.1 The Decentralized Claims Protocol Context
e. 4.5 The Base URL

6. 5. Verifiable Presentation Protocol
    a. 5.1 Presentation Flow
    b. 5.2 Credential Service Endpoint Discovery
    c. 5.3 Credential Service Security
        i. 5.3.1 Submitting an Access Token
    d. 5.4 Resolution API
        i. 5.4.1 Presentation Query Message
        ii. 5.4.2 Presentation Response Message
        iii. 5.4.3 Presentation Validation
7. 6. Credential Issuance Protocol
    a. 6.1 Issuance Flow
    b. 6.2 Issuer Service Endpoint Discovery
    c. 6.3 Issuer Service Base URL
    d. 6.4 Credential Request API
        i. 6.4.1 Credential Request Message
    e. 6.5 Storage API
        i. 6.5.1 Credential Message
        ii. 6.5.2 Credential Container
    f. 6.6 Credential Offer API
        i. 6.6.1 Credential Offer Message
        ii. 6.6.2 CredentialObject
    g. 6.7 Issuer Metadata API
        i. 6.7.1 IssuerMetadata
    h. 6.8 Credential Request Status API
        i. 6.8.1 CredentialStatus

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    i. 6.9 Key Rotation and Revocation
        i. 6.9.1 Key rotation
        ii. 6.9.2 Key revocation
    j. 6.10 Verifiable Credential Revocation
8. 7. Conformance
9. A. Profiles of the Decentralized Claims Protocol
    a. A.1 DCP Profile Definitions
        i. A.1.1 Homogeneity requirement
    b. A.2 Profile Authoring Recommendations
10. B. Notes
    a. B.1 List of Figures
11. C. References
    a. C.1 Normative references
    b. C.2 Informative references

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Information technology — Eclipse decentralized claims protocol

1. Terminology

The following terms are used to describe concepts in this specification.

1.1 Claim

An assertion made about a Subject (1.6).

1.2 DID

A decentralized identifier as defined by Decentralized Identifiers (DIDs) v1.0.

1.3 Holder

An entity that possesses a set of identity resources as defined by the VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A). The holder will typically be the subject of a Verifiable Credential (1.7).

1.4 Issuer

An entity that asserts claims (1.1) about one or more subjects by issuing a Verifiable Credential (1.7) to a Holder (1.3).

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1.5 Resource

A resource is an entity managed by the Credential Service such as a Verifiable Credential (1.7) or Verifiable Presentation (1.8).

1.6 Subject

The target of a set of claims contained in a Verifiable Credential (1.7) as defined by the VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A). In a dataspace, a subject will be a participant.

1.7 Verifiable Credential

A tamper-evident credential whose authorship can be cryptographically verified as defined by the VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A).

1.8 Verifiable Presentation

A tamper-evident presentation of information whose authorship can be cryptographically verified as defined by VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A).

1.9 Verifiable Data Registry

Maintains identifiers such as DIDs (1.2) and Verifiable Credential (1.7) schemas in a dataspace.

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1.10 Verifier

An entity that receives a Verifiable Credential (1.7), optionally presented inside a Verifiable Presentation (1.8) as defined by the VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A).

2. Dataspace Ecosystem Overview

This section describes the core actors and systems in a dataspace ecosystem that are pertinent to this specification. It adheres to the model defined by the Dataspace Protocol [dsp-base]:

- A Dataspace is a policy-based data sharing context between two or more entities.
- The Dataspace Governance Authority is responsible for operational management of a dataspace (2), including participant (2) registration and designation of trust credential issuers.
- A Participant is a member of the dataspace (2). Members MAY take on different roles, which are attested to by verifiable credentials.
- A Participant Agent performs tasks such as publishing a catalog or engaging in data transfer. Note that a participant agent is a logical construct and does not necessarily correspond to a single runtime process.
- An Identity Provider is a service that generates identity tokens used to verify the identity of a Participant Agent (2). Each participant (2) will use their own identity provider to generate a self-signed identity token.
- A Credential Issuer issues Verifiable Credentials (1.7) used by participant agents (2) to allow access to assets and verify usage control.

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2.1 Interrelation to the Dataspace Protocol

The Dataspace Protocol (DSP) [dsp-base] is designed as a layered protocol, which is independent of the identity and trust system used. The Decentralized Claims Protocol fills this gap by providing such an orthogonal overlay for identity and trust in a decentralized manner.

2.2 Systems

2.2.1 Dataspace Governance Authority Systems

Registration System

The registration system is responsible for participant (2) registration, onboarding, and management in a dataspace. The registration system is run by the Dataspace Governance Authority (2) and is outside the scope of this specification.

2.2.2 Participant Agent Systems

Participants (2) will run one or more agent systems that interact in the dataspace. These systems MAY offer data catalogs, perform data transfers, or provide application functionality. A participant (2) MAY run the following identity-related agents. Note that this is a logical description and MAY not represent an actual deployment topology.

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Security Token Service (STS).

The STS creates self-issued authorization tokens that contain identity claims used by participant agents (2) under the control of the same participant (2).

Credential Service (CS)

The CS manages Verifiable Credentials (1.7). This includes read and write endpoints for Verifiable Presentations (1.8) and Verifiable Credentials (1.7).

DID Service (DIDS).

The DIDS creates, signs, and publishes DID documents.

2.2.3 Credential Issuer Systems

Issuer Service (IS)

The Issuer Service is run by a trust anchor and manages the lifecycle of Verifiable Credentials (1.7) in a dataspace. A dataspace MAY contain multiple Issuer Services run by different trust anchors. The Issuer Service:

- Issues Verifiable Credentials (1.7) for dataspace participants (2).
- Manages revocation lists for Verifiable Credentials (1.7) types it issues based on Verifiable Credentials Status List v2021.
- Provides cryptographic material used to verify Verifiable Presentations (1.8) and Verifiable Credentials (1.7).

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3. Trust Model and Information Flow Architecture

This specification is based on the Issuer-Holder-Verifier model as described in the VC DataModel version of the selected profile (A):

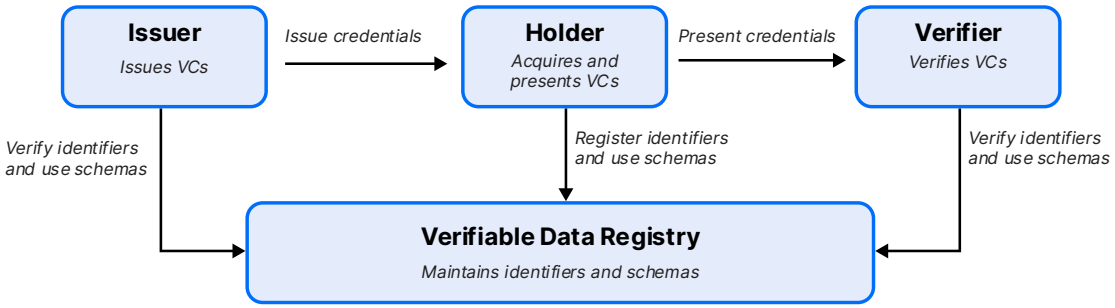


Figure 1 The Issuer-Holder-Verifier Model

In this model, the Issuer (1.4) creates a Verifiable Credential (1.7) and provides it to the Holder (1.3), which can then present the Verifiable Credential (1.7) to the Verifier (1.10).

The Verifier (1.10) decides which Verifiable Credentials (1.7) it will accept and the Holder (1.3) decides which Verifiable Credentials (1.7) it will present. All parties rely on a Verifiable Data Registry (1.9) to obtain identifier information and metadata about Verifiable Credentials (1.7), such as schemas. Furthermore, parties communicate with each other using the protocols defined in the Dataspace Protocol specification [dsp-base] and this specification.

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