



AAMVA Plans for an mDL Digital Trust Service

Driver licenses in North America are accepted in nearly every business or government interaction where identity must be confirmed, residency must be established, or age must be verified. This is possible because the community has developed universal trust of the physical credential issued by driver licensing agencies resulting from their identity proofing due diligence.

Across North America, jurisdictions are beginning to implement Mobile Driver License (mDL) solutions, offering residents the convenience and benefits of having their driver license information securely stored on their mobile device. AAMVA's aspiration is to offer jurisdictions, and the ecosystem, a trust framework that ensures mDLs achieve an equivalent or greater level of trust to what exists with physical credentials. Jurisdictions and industry stakeholders around the world recognize that this requires a standards-based infrastructure that incentivizes compliance, fosters universal acceptance, and builds trust and support for mDL acceptance regardless of geography.

In December 2020, AAMVA issued a Request for Information (RFI) to help assess the feasibility of setting up a trust framework for mDLs issued by AAMVA members. The RFI was published on AAMVA's website and distributed to more than 100 organizations that expressed interest in participating in the process. AAMVA received 29 responses from a representative group of Issuing Authorities, Potential Service Providers, Relying Parties (Verifiers), and other organizations. The responses confirmed that the envisioned trust framework aligns well with perspectives of the ecosystem, and that AAMVA may be the right organization to bring this kind of service to market because of its experience, member stature, reliability, and neutrality. The responses also provided feedback and recommendations for a business model for the trust framework, risk assessment/mitigation, governance/policies, and technology.

Respondents to the RFI confirmed that:

- The ecosystem requires a centralized entity operating a trust framework.
- AAMVA is well positioned to explore this responsibility.
- The trust framework vision is aligned with respondents' perspectives.

Key points from a technical perspective were:

- Adhere to a standards-based approach to infrastructure and interoperability.
- Define and enforce governance rules and policies that all parties can trust.
- Identify and document risks to the trust framework, and design suitable mitigation strategies.

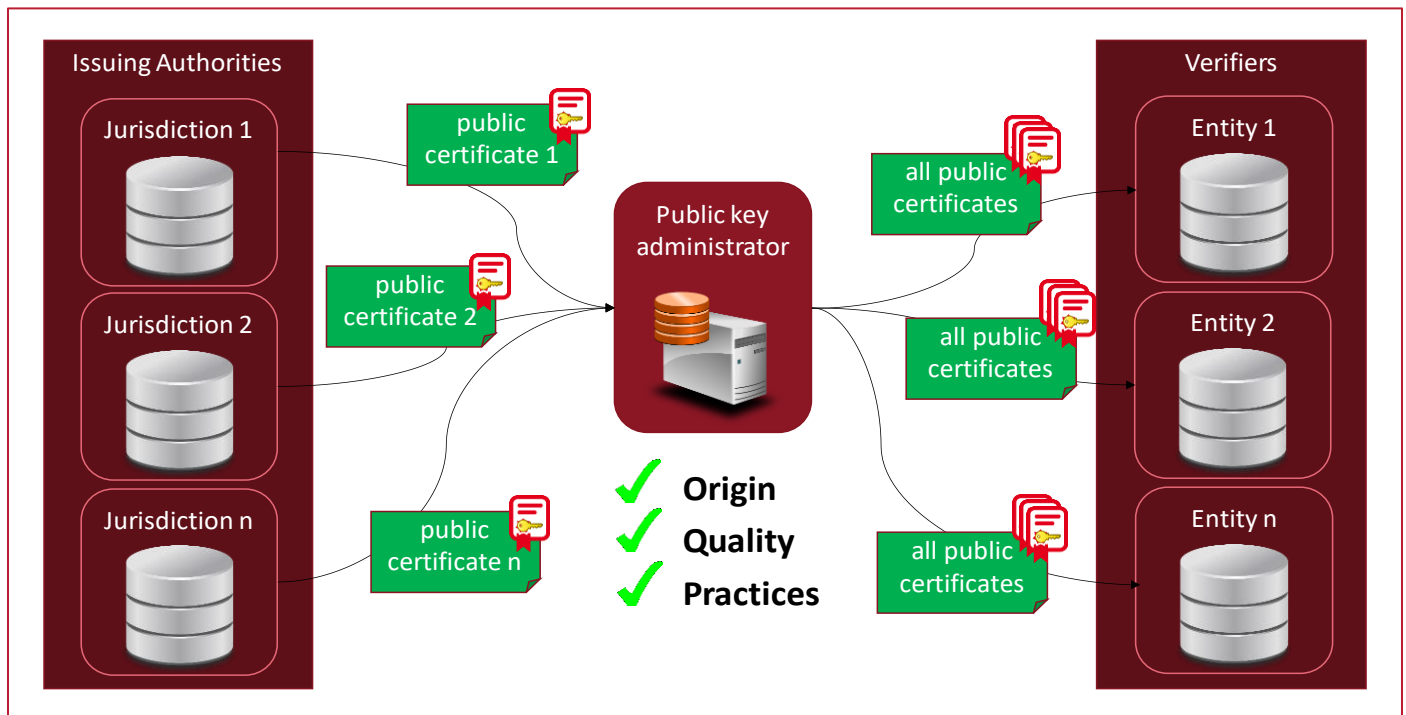
Key points from a business perspective were:

- Stakeholders expect AAMVA to be the lead advocate for mDLs in the ecosystem, including outreach, communication, and education for Relying Parties.
- A wide variety of potential business models and revenue generation options were proposed. These need to be explored in more detail.
- Funding for start-up costs and operating costs may be possible through foundations, vendors, grants, and other organizations with values that align with the potential benefits of a trustworthy ecosystem.

Next Steps: Define a Minimally Viable Product (MVP)

Following the input of the RFI responses, the AAMVA Board of Directors approved a recommendation to build a Minimally Viable Product (MVP) version of a “mDL Digital Trust Service” (DTS). The MVP version of the DTS will allow AAMVA to test technologies, establish basic governance rules and policies, and create an operating framework to discover the path to a full DTS. As part of this development phase, AAMVA plans to consult with a representative group of Issuing Authorities, Relying Parties, mDL application providers, industry groups, and residents of participating jurisdictions during the operation of the MVP as necessary. The next steps are to finalize the technology design and business requirements so that AAMA can put the infrastructure in place to launch during the first part of 2022.

mDL Trust Framework/Digital Trust Service concept



For questions or more information about mDL or the DTS, please contact AAMVA’s Identity Management Team:

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