

Community “Hackathons” in California September 2024

To further accelerate acceptance and usage of Mobile Driving Licenses (mDLs), the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is looking for partners to co-host two community “hackathons” in September 2024. The hackathons seek to promote the adoption of secure, privacy-preserving digital identity by:

- Helping implementors incorporate mDLs into their user experiences by offering tooling, tests, and developer support to trouble shoot issues.
- Empowering developers to walk away with use cases that are executive ready to demonstrate within their own organizations, streamlining the path to live production.
- Welcoming government and civil society observers to see what the technology offers, the challenges facing the community, and identify barriers to unblock adoption.
- Creating a safe space for digital identity community to support relying party adoption across platforms and standards.

To achieve these goals, we are seeking partners to provide critical financial, technical, and logistical support and co-host/co-fund/support the hackathons, and hackathon participants who can bring compelling use cases. To support developers, the CA DMV and its partners, will open up a suite of production and sandbox tools to public and private sector developers, and the selected participants will be offered support in the weeks leading up to and during the hackathons. By the strict definition of a hackathon, we are not expecting developers to arrive with no work in advance. We do expect that teams will benefit from some advance work and support as they deliberate on use cases and enhance them for digital identity acceptance. In addition to the advance support, there will also be the morning sessions to make final improvements, test interoperability, and demonstrate use cases to observers before the presentations and awards.

By way of background on California’s journey to digital identity, in 2021, the California legislature authorized the CA DMV to conduct a pilot to evaluate the use of mDLs. As a result, California residents are now able to use their mDLs to prove who they are to various public and state services and applications without relying on a website or tech company to verify their identity. Further, the CA DMV has built a custom [CA DMV Wallet](#) and made the mDL platform agnostic, which improves accessibility by affording Californians additional choice in what devices they use and where they store and manage their online identities.

To express your interest as a partner or a hackathon participant, please email Lucy Yang and Gail Hodges at Hackathon@dmv.ca.gov.

Two Hackathons

We are planning to host two hackathons, a public event open to anyone to apply and a government event only open to public agencies (and their partners).

	Public Event	Government Event
Timing	Early to mid September (TBC base on venue)	Early to mid September (TBC based on venue)
Location	Silicon Valley/San Francisco	Sacramento
# of Teams	10-15 (40-75 ppl) <i>[Option to expand if there is strong demand]</i>	7-10 (20-50 ppl) <i>[Option to expand if there is strong demand]</i>
# of Total Ppl	120-150	80-100
Use Cases	Examples: KYC, Identity Proofing, Authentication, Retail Age verification (e.g. using TruAge) Any use case that is within the scope of CA DMV architecture and hackathon tooling support	Examples: Identity Proofing, Passwordless Log-in, Unhoused/Disaster Assistance, Age Verification, Vital Record Verification, Human Assistance Any others proposed by government agencies
Participants	Anyone with a scalable digital identity relying party (acceptance) use case	State, local, federal and international government entities and their partners

Participating in the Hackathons

Participation in the hackathons will be free, but capacity will be limited so short proposals from teams of (3-5 people) must be accepted by the co-organizers. The teams will receive the tools at least 4-6 weeks before the event to start their use case development, and teams will have light technical support from the CA DMV and partners throughout this pre-event period and during the hackathons.

Benefits to Participants

- Support from global experts in digital identity
- Bring a real use case back to your own organization, streamlining the path to production

- Development opportunity for top teams to showcase their skills
- California state recognition of teams invited to participate and winners
- No cost to participate
- Have fun!

Benefits to Partners

- Demonstrate your organizations' commitment to accelerating ecosystem-wide adoption of secure, privacy-preserving digital identity
- Bring your expertise to early adopting relying parties
- Front-row seat to observe the proceedings to learn about implementor challenges
- No cost for selected partners to provide expert support
- Co-funding + donations of awards + co-organizing opportunities available to ensure a high-quality event
- Opportunities to amplify the event in your own channels
- Have fun!

Tentative Agenda

Timing	Public Event in Silicon Valley	Government Event in Sacramento
8:00 - 8:15	Opening Remarks	Opening Remarks
8:15 - 10:15	Dev Hours (1)	Dev Hours (1)
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
10:30 - 12:30	Dev Hours (2)	Dev Hours (2)
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 - 14:45	Interop Party	Interop Party
14:45 - 15:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
15:00 - 18:00	Demo Hours	Demo Hours
18:00 - 20:00	Reception and Award Ceremony	Reception and Award Ceremony

Target dates & Venues

Current target is to try and schedule both events during the week of September 16th at neutral locations. The California Department of Technology will provide the venue in Sacramento, and the Silicon Valley/San Francisco venue is in development (e.g. a university or the Computer History Museum in Mountain View).

Available Tooling

Hackathon participants can participate in one or more tracks of their choice to deliver their use cases. At this time, the first two tracks will definitely be supported by the CA DMV. If the tooling, profiles and tests are ready by end of July for other tracks, then the objective is to enable other tracks to be supported as well. This approach will give developers choice and facilitate global interoperability. Some guidance may be offered to participating developers to give them some context of the reach for each of the different standards and profiles, as the current adoption levels vary between them.

Track 1	In-Person Presentation: ISO mDL 18013-5 (QR code or NFC), W3C VC (QR code only)
Track 2	Online Presentation OpenCred: VC-JWT (W3C 1.1)
TBC: Track 3	Online Presentation 18013-7: OID4VP + mdoc
TBC: Track 4	Online Presentation: OID4VP + SD-JWT VC DM + HAIP (for Interoperability with EU Digital Identity Wallet)
TBC: Track 5	Digital Credentials API

Confidentiality & Feedback

All participants are encouraged not to share any information that they do not wish to have in the public domain, as this will be a public event. The expectation for the hackathons and the preparatory period is that this will be a community co-hosted event. Any feedback related to standards will be routed to the appropriate standards body. Any feedback that could help other private and non-profit partners will also be directed to the appropriate place. Any feedback specific to the California government or other government representatives will be directed to the California representatives or other government representatives.

Q&A

Will a hybrid (remote and in-person) option be available to attend this event?

- Our focus is on in-person events to start, but we are considering a hybrid option for some of the tracks where the teams, e.g. cross border government partners, would not be able to travel.

Can a partner support both hackathons?

- Partners may be able to support both events. They should indicate if one or both the public or the government hackathon are of interest. Please note the restrictions on the Sacramento event below.

Can a participant take part in both hackathons?

- The Sacramento event is specifically for government participants from State, Local, Federal and International public sector, and this may be extended to other US jurisdictions if they are able to provide support or act as observers. Private sector entities may be invited by government officials to form a joint team to deliver a use case. Federal and California entities already working in partnership may also wish to form a joint team (e.g. US DHS FEMA + CalOES)
- The public event in Silicon Valley is targeted at all (commercial and government) use cases. A relying party may invite a supplier (or a client) to form a joint team to deliver a use case.

Is funding required to be a partner or participant in the event?

- No.

What funding is required to run the event?

- The event itself is not a profit-making event; the intent is to ensure the direct costs are all covered.
- The CA DMV is able to cover some of the resourcing for the program management, expert advisors, marketing/ communications, and the provision of at least some of the tooling that participants will need to build and test their implementations.
- Additional donation of expert resources for relying party developer support will be actively sourced from partner organizations and aligned to relying party “track” selections.
- The categories of costs to cover include food and drink for participants (coffees, snacks, lunch, dinner, drinks reception), venue costs (if any), awards costs (or donated awards) and any other ad hoc set-up costs (e.g. materials).

Will there be prizes? How will judging work?

- We can definitely offer public recognition of winners.
- We hope to offer prizes in addition, across a range of categories, subject to partner co-funding or “donations in kind”.
- Expert judges will be invited to judge the proceedings.
- Participants will have access to the judging criteria in advance to inform their use case development.

Will travel costs be covered?

- No. We expect all participants to fund their own travel to and from the venue.

Is this really a “hackathon”? Do we have to use that name in promotion of the event?

- This is not exactly a hackathon since developers are not expected to arrive without any pre-work or preparation, as time would be insufficient to complete a use case and presentation in just a few hours. We are open to changing the name of the event from hackathon to another title that is inclusive for the community and leading co-organizers and averts any negative perceptions of the term.

I have suggestions on how to run this effectively, where can I offer my expertise?

- Please email Lucy Yang and Gail Hodges at Hackathon@dmv.ca.gov.