

# Community “Hackathons” in California Fall 2024

June 2024

To further accelerate acceptance and usage of Mobile Driving Licenses (mDLs), the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is initiating two community “hackathons” and will co-host them with community partners in fall 2024.

The hackathons seek to promote the adoption of secure, privacy-preserving digital identity by:

- Helping relying party organizations and their partners 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, highlight the topline and bottomline benefits of mDLs and streamline the path to live production.
- Welcoming government and civil society and other VIP 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 organizations that have compelling relying party use cases for mDLs to apply to join the hackathons. To support participating teams and developers, the CA DMV and its partners, will open up a suite of production and sandbox tools to public and private sector developers. The selected participants will be offered support in the weeks leading up to and during the hackathons. We expect that teams will select use cases and do almost all technical work before the hackathon events, so strictly speaking it is not a typical “hackathon”. In addition to the advance support, there will also be the morning sessions to make final improvements, test interoperability, and demonstrate use cases to judges and 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. Since then, 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 date, over 500k California residents have provisioned a CA mDL and can assert who they are to various public and state services and applications.

To express your interest as a hackathon participant, please email Lucy Yang and Gail Hodges at [Hackathon@dmv.ca.gov](mailto: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
<b>Timing</b>	October 1, 2024	November 1, 2024
<b>Location</b>	Silicon Valley @Computer History Museum	Sacramento @a CA state government building
<b># of Teams (3-5 people/team)</b>	10-15 (30-75 participants)	7-10 (20-50 participants)
<b># of Total Ppl</b>	120-150	80-100
<b>Use Cases</b>	Any use case that is within the scope of CA DMV architecture and hackathon tooling support  Examples: KYC, Identity Proofing, Authentication, Retail Age verification	Any use case proposed by government agencies  Examples: Identity Proofing, Passwordless Log-in, Unhoused/Disaster Assistance, Age Verification, Vital Record Verification, Human Assistance
<b>Participants</b>	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. We will make an official application form available in July.

The teams will receive the tools 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.

### Use Case Criteria

The majority of participants are expected to be relying parties that have an existing use case that can benefit from leveraging CA mDLs. For example, an organization is verifying physical version of driver's licenses or some digital form of them and can benefit from the security, privacy-preserving, and cost-efficient features of an mDL. Or the relying party may be trying to verify identity attributes remotely using complex proofing and verification processes that could be simplified for users that have a CA mDL.

Preference will be given to applicants that have real world use cases and that have the potential to go from hackathon to full production in the near term. We encourage innovators to come up with promising new use cases that have real, practical value for Californian residents and businesses.

Benefits to Relying Party Participants

- Accelerate your organization's ability to benefit at scale from accepting mDLs, which includes improving user experience by removing friction, lowering costs, and improving your security posture
- Support from global experts in digital identity to get up to speed with mDL development resources and tooling provided by CA DMV and partners
- Bring a real use case back to your own organization, streamlining the path to production approvals
- 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!

**Tentative Agenda**

<b>Timing</b>	<b>Public Event in Silicon Valley</b>	<b>Government Event in Sacramento</b>
8:00 - 8:15	Opening Remarks	Opening Remarks
8:15 - 12:00	Dev Hours	Dev Hours
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	Lunch
13:00 - 15:00	Interop Party	Interop Party
15:00 - 18:00	Demo Hours	Demo Hours
18:00 - 20:00	Reception and Award Ceremony	Reception and Award Ceremony

## Scope and Available Tooling

The CA DMV will be providing a limited amount of test cards and credentials for hackathon participants to use and demonstrate their use cases and access to issuer public keys. Participants are expected to provide relevant information asked by the hackathon organizers in order to receive the test cards and credentials. Participants are also expected to work with the test cards and credentials provided, as well as the CA DMV Wallet.

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 August 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.

<b>Track 1</b>	<b>In-Person Presentation:</b> ISO mDL 18013-5 (QR code or NFC), W3C VC (QR code only)
<b>Track 2</b>	<b>Online Presentation:</b> W3C v1.1 Verifiable Credential-JWT
<b>TBC: Track 3</b>	<b>Online Presentation 18013-7:</b> OID4VP + mdoc
<b>TBC: Track 4</b>	<b>Online Presentation:</b> OID4VP + SD-JWT VC DM + HAIP (for Interoperability with EU Digital Identity Wallet)
<b>TBC: Track 5</b>	<b>Digital Credentials API</b>

## 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 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 participant in the event?**

- No.

### **How are the hackathons going to be funded?**

- 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](mailto:Hackathon@dmv.ca.gov).