

Credentials Working Group Charter

The **mission** of the Credentials Working Group is to standardize a mechanism for exchanging provably-authentic claims via the Web. Examples of claims may be qualifications, achievements, qualities, or pieces of information about an entity such as a name, government ID, payment provider, home address, or university degree.

Join the Credentials Working Group[LINK].

End date	31 December 2019
Confidentiality	Proceedings are Public
Initial Chair(s)	TBD
Team Contact	TBD
(FTE %: 20)	
Usual Meeting Schedule	Teleconferences: approximately 1 per week. Face-to-face: up to 3-4 per year as needed IRC: active participants, particularly editors, regularly use the #credentials W3C IRC channel

Background

A credential is a qualification, achievement, quality, or piece of information about an entity such as a name, government ID, payment provider, home address, or university degree.

The purpose of the [Credentials Working Group](#) is to formalize standards related to credential storage and exchange systems for the Web. The goal of this Working Group is to create technical specifications that achieve a decentralized system of credentials that empower both individual people and organizations on the Web to issue, store, transmit, and receive digitally verifiable proof of attributes, qualifications and achievements.

Compatibility and Deployment Expectation

The specifications will be designed to be compatible with current and future badging specifications, such as Open Badges and Open Credentials, as well as follow Web Architecture Principles. The foundation of this work are the good parts of Persona and WebID and, where possible, compatibility with OAuth2 and OpenID Connect.

Scope

The scope of the Credentials Working Group is limited to the development of data formats and protocols for Web pages to perform the following operations:

- Requesting a credential from a user agent.
- Consuming a credential (eg: for authentication/authorization purposes).
- Writing a credential to an entity's credential vault.
- Ensuring that credentials are broadly accessible to people with disabilities.
- Using a credential as a replacement for username/password website login.

Success Criteria

To advance to Proposed Recommendation, each specification is expected to have two independent implementations of all features defined in the specification.

Deliverables

The Working Group will develop specifications for one or more W3C Recommendations covering the scoped functionality.

Milestones

Work Product	FPWD	LC	CR	REC
RDF Dataset Normalization specification ^{*A}	N + 1 month	N + 3 months	N + 9 months	N + 12 months
Signing HTTP Messages specification ^{*A}	N + 1 month	N + 6 months	N + 9 months	N + 12 months
Linked Data Signatures specification ^{*A}	N + 1 month	N + 12 months	N + 19 months	N + 24 months
Credentials / Badges Vocabulary	N + 1 month	N + 9 months	N + 12 months	N + 18 months
Identity Credentials specification	N + 1 month	N + 12 months	N + 18 months	N + 24 months

^{*A} - It's possible that these specifications will be handed off to another Working Group, like Linked Data Platform or IETF HTTP/2 WG

Dependencies and Liaisons

This Working Group's specifications depend upon some specifications being developed by other Working Groups for example ...

W3C Groups

This Working Group expects to ask the following W3C Working Groups for reviews of deliverables in Last Call, and where appropriate to liaise on potential synergies:

- Web Payments Interest Group (and future Web Payments Interest and Working

Groups)

- IETF [HTTPbis](#) and [HTTPAuth](#) Working Groups
- IETF [Websec Working Group](#)
- W3C [Web Crypto Working Group](#)
- W3C [Web Security Interest Group](#)
- W3C [Web Apps Working Group](#)
- W3C [Web Application Security Working Group](#)
- W3C [Web and Mobile Interest Group](#)
- W3C [Web and TV Interest Group](#)
- W3C [Web and Broadcasting Business Group](#)
- W3C [The Web Schemas Task Force of the W3C Semantic Web Interest Group](#)
- W3C [Accessible Platform Architectures \(APA\)](#)

External Groups

- IMS Global, including the Caliper work
- Seede/ExPRESS
- School Interoperability Framework
- Post-Secondary Electronic Standards Council
- Research Institutions contributing to the field of digital credentials (Academic, Industry, Governmental)

Participation

To be successful, the Credentials Working Group is expected to have 6 or more active participants for its duration. Effective participation in the Working Group is expected to consume one work day per week for each participant; and up to two days per week for editors. The Credentials Working Group will allocate also the necessary resources for building Test Suites for each specification.

The Working Group welcomes participation from representatives of W3C Member organizations. To enable a broad spectrum of input, the group also anticipates the active participation of individuals as W3C Invited Experts (read the [policy for approval of Invited Experts](#)). Participation from W3C Members and non-Members alike will help ensure the goals of this charter are effectively addressed. Invited Experts in this group are not granted access to Member-only information.

Participants are reminded of the [Good Standing requirements](#) of the W3C Process.

Communication

Most of the technical work of the group is done through discussions on the public-credentials-wg@w3.org, the group's public mailing list. Editors' drafts and their editing history is available from a public W3C Web site. The group's *action* and *issue* tracking data is also public, as are the participants-approved *minutes* from all teleconferences and meetings. In general, the Working Group holds a weekly teleconference as needed, but additional teleconferences can be scheduled occasionally at the chairs' discretion if a specific topic seems to warrant synchronous discussion.

The group uses a Member-confidential mailing list for administrative purposes and, at the discretion of the Chairs and participants of the group, for Member-only discussions in special cases when a particular participant requests such a discussion.

Information about the group (deliverables, participants, face-to-face meetings, teleconferences, etc.) is available from the [Credentials Working Group home page](#).

Decision Policy

As explained in the W3C Process Document ([section 3.3](#)), this group will seek to make decisions when there is consensus and with due process. The expectation is that typically, an editor or other participant makes an initial proposal, which is then refined in discussion with members of the group and other reviewers, and consensus emerges with little formal voting being required. However, if a decision is necessary for timely progress, but consensus is not achieved after careful consideration of the range of views presented, the Chairs should put a question out for voting within the group (allowing for remote asynchronous participation—using, for example, email and/or web-based survey techniques) and record a decision, along with any objections. The matter should then be considered resolved unless and until new information becomes available.

Asynchronous decisions that are attained through the mailing list, possibly using a “Call for Consensus” process are preferred, but synchronous decisions made during a teleconference or a face-to-face meeting are valid provided that the topic they address was clearly outlined in a public agenda posted one week earlier so that non-participating parties have a chance to voice their views ahead of time.

This charter is written in accordance with [Section 3.4, Votes](#) of the W3C Process Document and includes no voting procedures beyond what the Process Document requires.

Patent Policy

This Working Group operates under the [W3C Patent Policy](#) (5 February 2004 Version). To promote the widest adoption of Web standards, W3C seeks to issue Recommendations that can be implemented, according to this policy, on a Royalty-Free basis.

For more information about disclosure obligations for this group, please see the [W3C Patent Policy Implementation](#).

About this Charter

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