

Executive Summary

The problem

Authentication, Identity and Access Management is broken! We can just about make it work for authenticating people we enrol into a system we control, but without significant expense are unable to make rich, risk-based decisions about identity and access.

Bad-actors are actively exploiting these failings to make billions at our expense; as nearly every security problem has an identity failing at its root.

Meanwhile, people are having to manage hundreds of usernames with disparate passwords, while their personal data is breached on a regular basis.

Now imagine the future

Where you can consume trusted identity attributes, not only from people, but also devices, organizations, code and agents; to be able to understand identity in context, enabling risk-based access decisions to be made; without that entity needing to be enrolled into a system that you manage.

Where people are directly in control of their own identity, that is truly privacy enhancing and simply “works” with everything they use and interact with.

Where an interaction with another entity is (cryptographically) unique between those two entities, eliminating both usernames and passwords while enabling a frictionless user experience.

Where the identity ecosystem is fully distributed and identity attributes are truly authoritative with a known level of trust; all without the need for centralised infrastructure (or blockchain).

So what next?

Based on the original identity work from the Jericho Forum (an OpenGroup forum) a lab-based “proof-of-concept” demonstrator (built by a collaboration partner) has proved the feasibility of the model. Now we are at the stage to work with a wider set of partners to build a fully working (distributed) technology demonstrator.

About us

The Global Identity Foundation is an organization constituted as a “not-for-profit” foundation to work with research sponsors and partners to facilitate the development and enable the delivery of a viable decentralized global identity ecosystem;

- That is truly privacy enhancing
- That scales globally
- That supports all entities¹, not just people, in a distributed global, identity ecosystem
- That is globally acceptable to all parties; to freely consume identity attributes with a known level of trust.
- With privacy and security embedded in its DNA
- A commitment to creative-commons and open-source as its core principles

¹ Entities are: People, Devices, Organizations, Code & Agents. [Definition: Jericho Forum/Open Group]