California mDL Community Hackathons FAQs

Last Updated: August 8, 2024

How can a team get most of the hackathon?

- We advise that you focus on the viability of the idea and demonstrate the viability to us even if you don't have a built functional technical prototype. We definitely encourage you to show as much working tech as possible, especially if you want to win the hackathons, but the design prototype, viability of the use case, your roadmap to implement it and the business plan to get adoption in the next 3 to 12 months are as important.

I am a vendor/partner of a government agency. Can I apply to participate in the Government Event?

- You can apply if you form a team with the government agency you work with or if they endorse you to attend on their behalf, and work on a use case approved by them.

If I am not a participant, can I still attend the hackathons as an audience/observer?

- We have limited space reserved for VIP observers from key stakeholder groups, such as government agencies, standard bodies, community organizations, industry coalitions, research institutes, and civil society groups. If you are working on digital identity/credentials and are interested in becoming a VIP observer, please email us at hackathon@dmv.ca.gov.

Who will review the applications?

- Selected staff members from the two co-hosting organizations, the CA DMV and OpenID Foundation, will review and evaluate the applications.

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

- No.

Will travel costs be covered?

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

Are there any post-hackathon commitments for selected teams? For example, going to production within a certain period of time?

- No. While we will select participants based on the viability and scalability of use cases, we don't require teams to commit to a production timeline post hackathon. Our goal is to support organizations with promising mDL use cases to the best of our ability and help improve the possibility of market success.

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

- Our focus is on in-person events, and we ask each participating team to have at least two members to join the events in person (Accommodations are possible on a case-by-case basis). We MAY also consider a hybrid option for the team presentations portion on the event days for team members and key stakeholders who won't be able to join in person.

What tooling will be provided for the participants?

- We plan to provide tooling for all four tracks (below) and will release available tooling by mid/late August. Some of the tooling may be from community organizations or partners. Participants are not required to use our tooling and can use tooling you have already built.

Track 1	**In-Person Presentation:** - ISO mDL 18013-5: QR code or NFC - W3C Verifiable Credential (W3C VC): QR code only
Track 2	**Online Presentation and Issuance**: - W3C VC v1.1 (JWT) + OpenID for Verifiable Credential Issuance (OID4VCI) - W3C VC v1.1 (JWT) + OpenID for Verifiable Presentation (OID4VP)
Track 3	**Online Presentation:** - ISO 18013-7: mdoc + OID4VP
Track 4	**Online Presentation:** - Digital Credentials API: Wallet Selection

Is the current California mDL that is in production implementing ISO 18013-7 (either OID4VP or Rest API) for online presentation?

- The current implementation we have for online presentation uses W3C VC. However, by the time we have the virtual orientation for the selected hackathon participants of the Public Event in mid/late August, we plan to include a draft implementation of the ISO 18013-7 as a part of our open source OpenCred platform.

What technical support will be provided for the participants?

- We will be providing light technical support prior to and at the events. Support prior to the event may take the form of orientation sessions, office hours, one-on-one team sessions, and chat/email support. We will share more information about technical support at the first orientation session for selected teams.

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 covered.
- The California DMV will offer program management, expert advisors, communications support, and 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.

Will there be prizes? How will judging work?

- We can offer public recognition of winners.

- Event co-host and partners may offer prizes, subject to partner co-funding or in-kind donations.
- Expert judges of 3 to 5 people will be invited to judge the proceedings.
- We will release the judging criteria at the first orientation session for selected participants.

What if I have additional questions?

- You can email us at hackathon@dmv.ca.gov.

Where can I find more information?

- The DMV website has a page dedicated to the hackathon. More information can be found at https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/ca-dmv-wallet/mdl-for-technology-developers/hackathons-2024/.

FAQs on the CA DMV Wallet and mDL Pilot

Will the CA mDL be replacing the physical driver's license in the future?

- No. CA DMV will still continue to issue physical cards. There is currently no plan to stop issuing physical cards, and mDL is an alternative and companion to your physical card.

Does CA mDL already support Identification Card use case?

- Yes, you can provision your CA driver's license or identification card as a mDL.

Is immigration status encoded into the CA mDL?

- No.

How are the California mDL and CA DMV Wallet aligned with the European Digital Identity Wallet?

- California has a production system that is being used by Californians on a daily basis. This system has some (not all) things in common with the European Digital Identity Wallet, not yet fully built out. While the ultimate goal is to align with the EU efforts, as well as many others, to enable mDL and wallet interoperability across borders, California wanted to make a move based on what we believe is good enough for California to make progress when technical standards and their implementations were still in flux.

What does interoperability of CA mDLs look like today with major platforms that claim to have implemented the OID4VP protocol, (e.g. Microsoft Entra, Ping Identity Neo)?

- The open source OpenCred platform we released is already compatible with Entra but not Neo. However, there are nuances in working with Entra. We have included some of them into OpenCred and will continue to add more to enable easier implementations for relying parties.

When will the CA mDL and DMV Wallet open-source code be available?

- We have made some code available through the OpenCred platform and will release more to support the hackathons.

What is current thinking regarding general cross-border usability of CA mDLs?

- As a border state, we are interested in looking at cross-border usability use cases, for example, around financial products and identity verification. We highly encourage those working on such use cases to participate in the hackathons.

How is the CA DMV supporting the underserved communities and small businesses in adopting the CA mDL?

- We have made our CA DMV Wallet available to both Android and IOS. In addition, we have built a mDL reader into Wallet, so small businesses can start reading mDLs today using their own mobile phones without having to purchase special devices or paying for transaction fees per reading.
- We went the extra mile to offer CA mDL in both the W3C VC and ISO formats for a very specific reason, to allow small businesses to use their existing POS devices/systems to verify a mDL, which the ISO format alone can't achieve.
- We also are working with specific public entities to serve our homeless community and disaster assistance populations. We have chosen to implement a mDL provisioning process that is among those with highest level of equity.

Where can I find more information about the pilot?

- You can find more information about the mDL pilot on the DMV website as well as from a dedicated Q&A section at https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/ca-dmv-wallet/mdl-faqs/.