Organizational Identity

GLEIF, the LEI and the vLEI

ICANN At-Large Plenary
Session 2: Building Trust on the Internet through Registrant Verification
March 6, 2024
Agenda

1. Overview of the Global LEI System
2. The need for secure, verifiable Organizational Identity
3. End-verifiable Organizational Credentials – vLEIs
Overview of the Global LEI System
The Global LEI System

In 2011, the G-20 leaders supported "the creation of a global legal entity identifier (LEI) which uniquely identifies parties to financial transactions."
Who is Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)

- GLEIF is a not-for-profit Swiss foundation, founded by the Financial Stability Board (FSB).

- GLEIF is overseen by the Regulatory Oversight Committee (ROC) with
  - 68 regulators and
  - 24 observers
  - from 50 countries

- GLEIF Board has 15 independent directors.

- 38 Partners for LEI issuing (LOUs) and growing

- > 2,569,091 issued LEIs to date
The LEI

- The LEI is a life-long identifier **owned** by the respective legal entity.
- It points to the associated reference data.
- The LEI is an ISO standard ISO 17442.
The need for secure, verifiable Organizational Identity
What is GLEIF providing with the vLEI? Organizational Identity

- The ability of a person or thing to prove their authority to represent an organization outside (and even inside) the boundaries of that organization.
- Organizational Identity ultimately is about being able to verify the identity of an organization and the people that represent the organization.
- With the verifiable LEI (vLEI), this can be done with Organizational Credentials — securely, with certainty and end-verifiability.
vLEI: Zero Trust Architecture for Organizational Identity using Organizational Credentials

- Zero Trust Architectures
  - ‘Never trust; always verify’

Would require a change in behavior of users that receive signed document, files, data etc.

For the vLEI, would mean always using the Verifiable Provenance and Instant Revocation State Verification features to verify that the source of the credential is trusted and that the credential has not been revoked.

- The vLEI ecosystem and infrastructure delivers Zero Trust Architecture for Organizational Identity using Organizational Credentials

- Multi-signature, weighted threshold requirements and pre-rotation of keys keep security first - always
End-verifiable Organizational Credentials – vLEIs
Representing the connection among Organizations, Persons and Roles

Cryptographically binds the person in their role to their organization
The verifiable LEI (vLEI) Ecosystem

The vLEI Trust Chain

- The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF), as manager of the Global LEI System, has created the verifiable LEI (vLEI) Ecosystem.
- Each vLEI requires an underlying LEI.
- GLEIF has established itself as the **Root of Trust** for the vLEI Ecosystem and chain of trust (using cryptographic Autonomic Identifiers).
- A trusted network of **Qualified vLEI Issuers (QVIs)** can issue Organizational Credentials - vLEIs
  - to Organizations
    - the Legal Entity vLEI Credential enables verification of an organization to its LEI
  - to Persons who represent their organizations either in official or functional roles
    - vLEI Role Credentials enable verification of persons to their organizations
Using vLEIs
Using vLEIs

Identity Verification
- for businesses
- for public sector
- for people

vLEIs

HR/employee onboarding

Client onboarding

Signing and submitting Reports/Forms /Taxonomies

Physical supply chain /trade finance

Access to public sector services

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Digital signing with vLEIs: signing and submitting reports, filings and data

Reporting entity submits filing to regulatory authority signed with vLEIs

**Relevant for both mandatory and voluntary submissions**

Receiving entity
- verifies the cryptographic validity of the vLEI credential and signature
- checks that the LEI is valid and that a filing was expected from this organization

Receiving entity accepts filing upon successful verification and checks
Example: Private sector reporting to the public sector
Pillar 3 reporting to the European Banking Authority

- EBA has secured the participation of 17 banks for a pilot
- Upon conclusion of a successful pilot:
  - EBA would announce decision to use the vLEI for Pillar 3 reporting
  - Implement Pillar 3 reporting for the total 600 banks reporting entities and plan to migrate other EBA reporting frameworks to use vLEI for the identification, authentication, authorization, security and management of users in charge of submitting these frameworks
The vLEI ecosystem and infrastructure is governed by the vLEI Ecosystem Governance Framework

- The vLEI Ecosystem Governance Framework defines the vLEI operational model and describes how vLEI issuing stakeholders will qualify for and perform their roles in the vLEI ecosystem and infrastructure.
  - The vLEI EGF focuses on guiding GLEIF, QVIs and users of vLEIs to fulfill the operational and governance requirements of the vLEI ecosystem and infrastructure.
  - The vLEI software has been developed with a purpose to implement many of the requirements of the EGF so that consistent compliance globally can be achieved.
- The vLEI EGF been created in full accordance with standards and recommendations of the Trust over IP Foundation using the ToIP EGF metamodel, which requires a mandatory annual review.

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