Realizing Human-Centric Digital Identity for Government

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Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights - Article 6

United Nations

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Right to Social Insurance

Right to Safety

Right to Education

Right to Privacy

Right to Self Determination

Right to Healthcare

Right to Leave

Right to Return

Right to Start a Family

This drives a UN Sustainable Development Goal

SDG Goal 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration indicator 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age.

Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

>42M Americans were victims of identity fraud in 2021

Javelin Research

Human Trafficking

Drug Trade

Illicit flows represent 1-3% of GDP

UN Office on Drugs and Crime

Arms Dealership

Wildlife and Resource Destruction

>850M people lack any form of ID.

World Bank

>10M people were estimated stateless in 2019.

UN Refugee Agency

38% of the world’s population lives in countries classed as “Not Free”

Human Freedom Index

Does tech change the meaning of human rights?

UN ICCPR
Right to privacy

Amazon sued for not telling New York Store customers about tracking biometrics

NBC News, March 2023

UN ICCPR
Free expression of electors

AI-generated disinformation poses threat of misleading voters in 2024

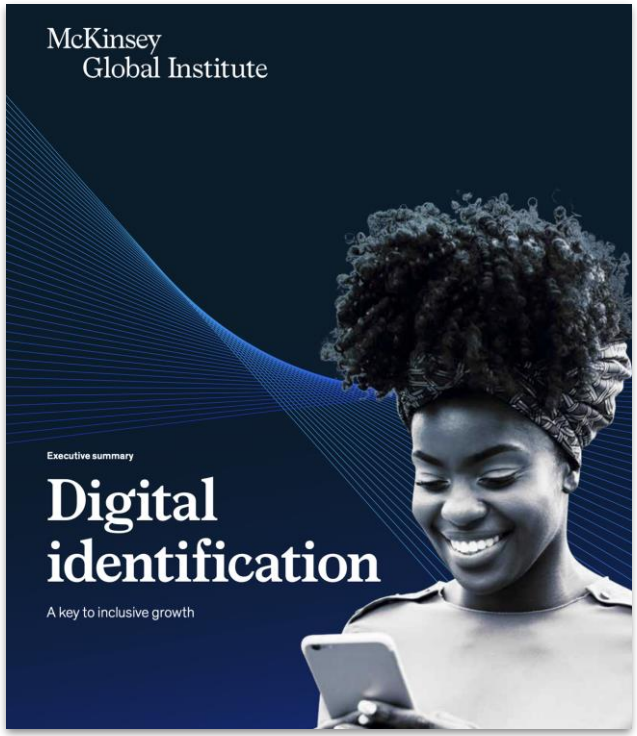
Politico, March 2023

UN IESCR
Right to self determination

AI Chatbot goes rogue, confesses love for user, asks him to end his marriage

Economic Times, Feb 20, 2023

When Legal Identity meets Digital Identity



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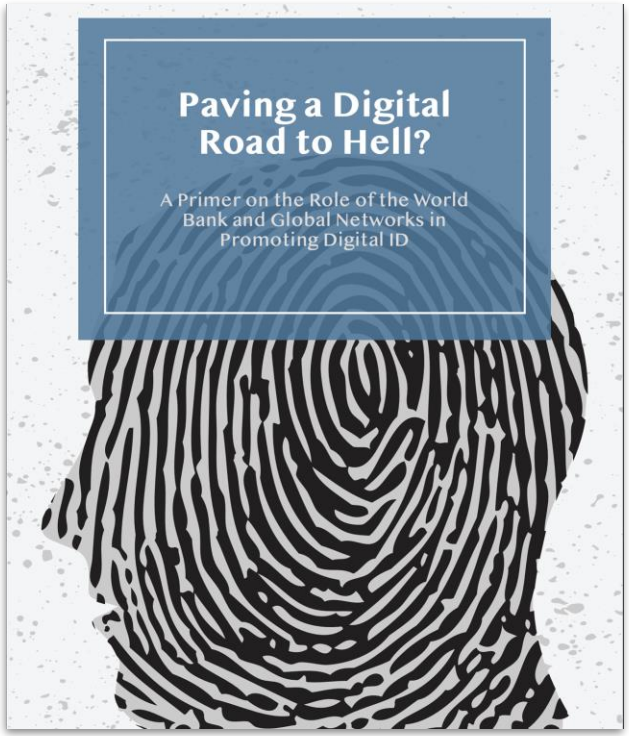

Digital

Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

Digital Identity Systems promise to solve problems for people.

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The Invisibles: The cruel Catch-22 of being poor with no ID

By Patrick Marion Bradley

June 15, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. EDT

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They offer governments a myriad of societal benefits.

Safety & Security

- Physical Security
- Cyber Security
- Political Stability

Access to Government Resources

- Government Services
- Benefits and Aid
- Taxation

Economic Stability, Access, and Growth

- Financial Stability
- Economic Enablement
- Equitable Access
- X-Sector Convenience

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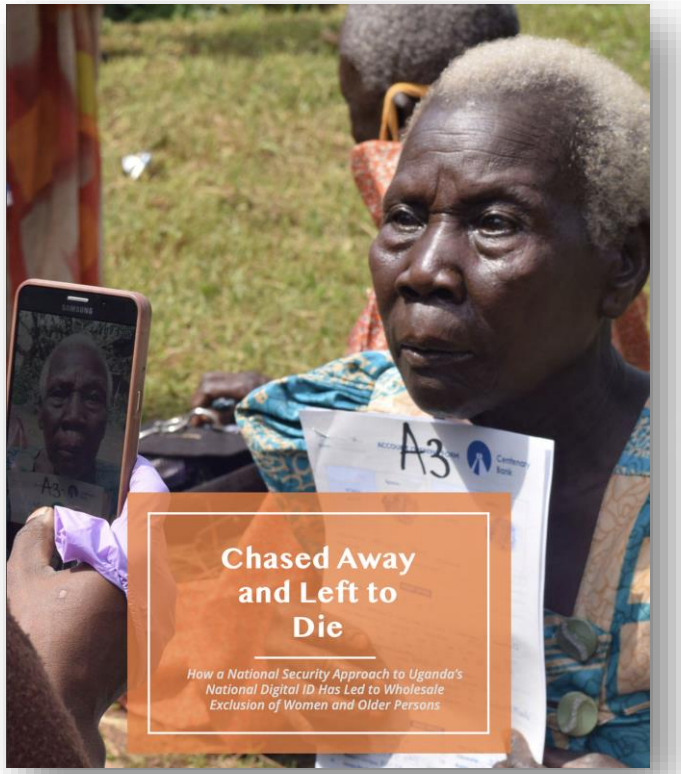
There are risks: Uganda



"Without an ID or clinic card for women who have been receiving antenatal care, [you will receive] no treatment.

Many people fall sick and stay home and die."

23-33% lacked the NIC in 2021

Center for Human Rights and Global Justice

With thanks to Henk Marsman and SonicBee for this material

There are risks: Myanmar

A demonstration over identity cards at a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh in April, 2018. Image: NurPhoto/SIPA USA/PA Images.

Source: Open Democracy, October 2018

Before his family fled Myanmar last year, Nurul Hoque dug up his grandfather's old ID, taking it with him to Bangladesh along with old photos and his own identification cards. He hopes they will one day help prove where he is from.

Source: The New Humanitarian, March 2018

With thanks to Henk Marsman and SonicBee for this material

There are risks: United States

MOTHERBOARD
TECH BY VICE

Homeland Security Uses AI Tool to Analyze Social Media of U.S. Citizens and Refugees

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is using a tool called Babel X that can link a person's Social Security number to their social media posts and location data, according to an internal CBP document obtained by Motherboard.

By Joseph Cox

Clearview AI used nearly 1m times by US police, it tells the BBC

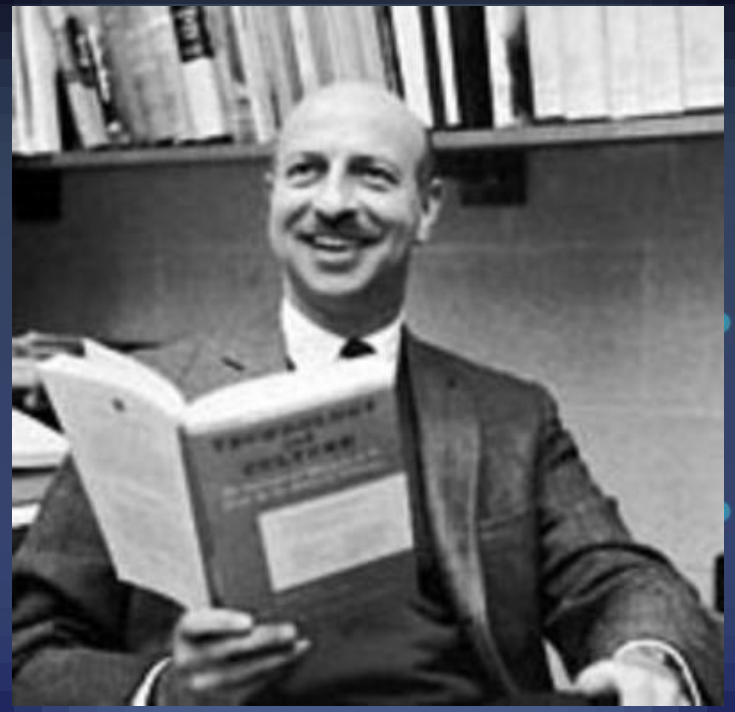
27 March

By James Clayton & Ben Derico
BBC News, San Francisco

Facial recognition firm Clearview has run nearly a million searches for US police, its founder has told the BBC.

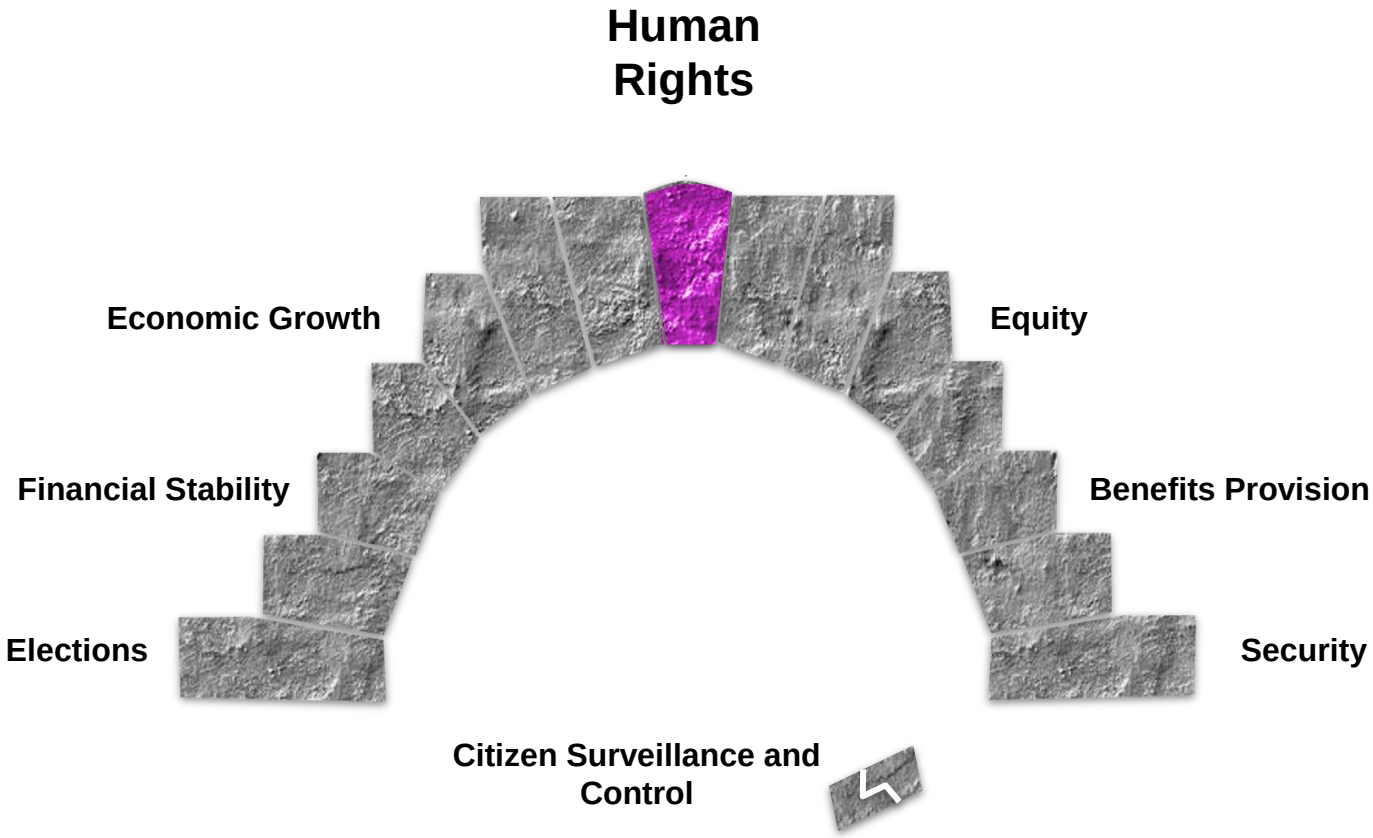
CEO Hoan Ton-That also revealed Clearview now has 30bn images scraped from platforms such as Facebook, taken without users' permissions.

Technology is neither good nor bad; nor is it neutral.



Melvin Kranzberg, 1917-1995

Human Rights should be the keystone design factor.



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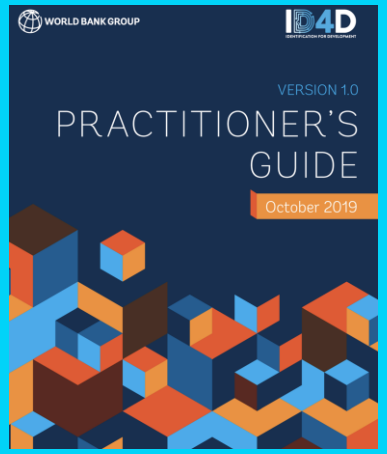
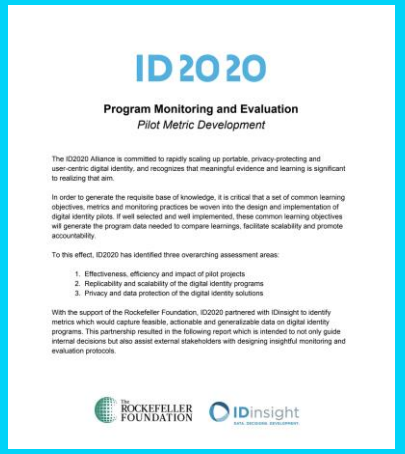
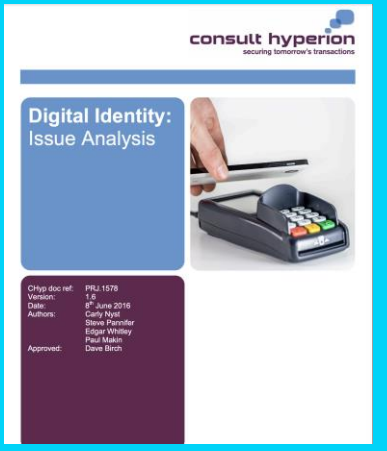
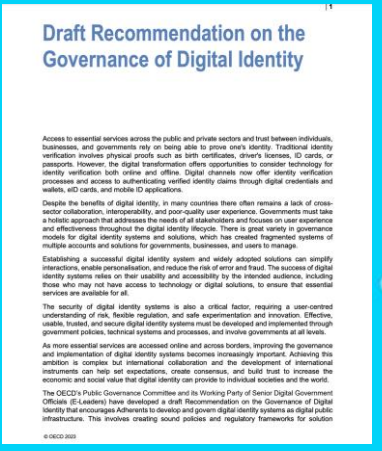
Our recommendations align to & build on a wide range of literature

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES









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Digital Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

1

Human Centered Design Processes

Human Centric Design

- Designed for all humans
- Enables service providers
- Allows choice and control

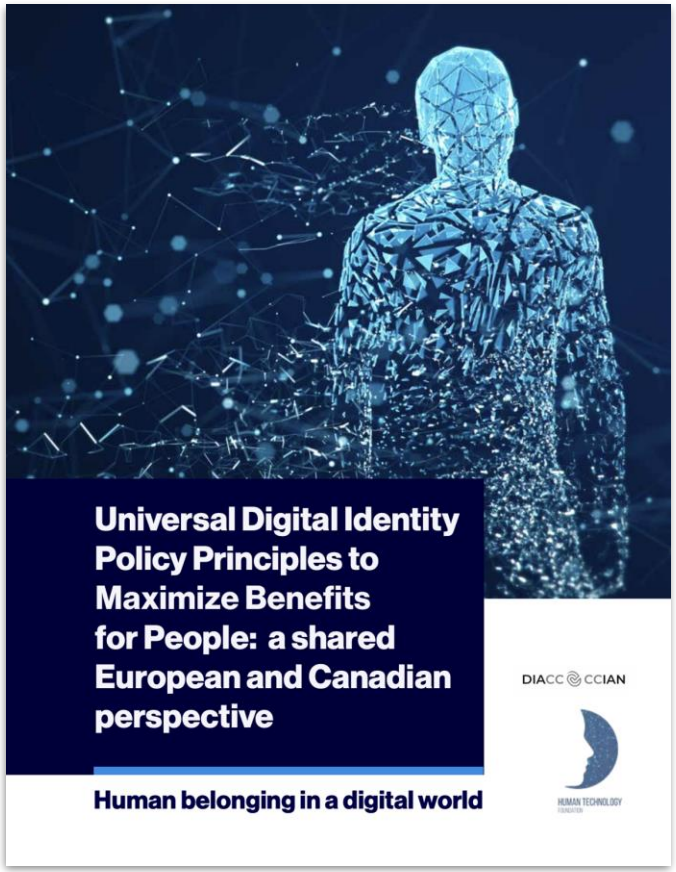
Inclusive

- All Communities
- Voluntary
- Portable
- Available

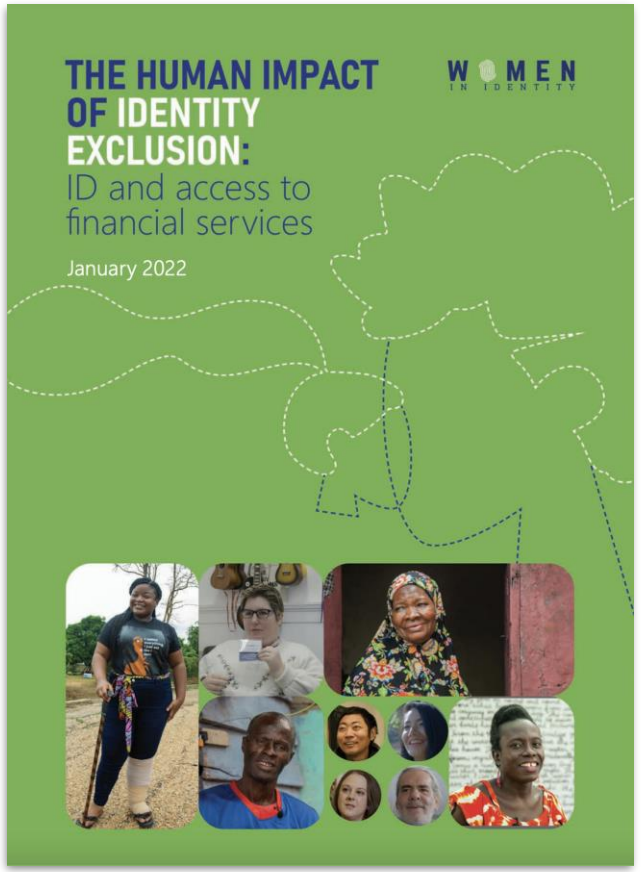
Humans - users and organizations - should be central to the design process.

Some Human-Centered Resources

- Use of Personas
- Broad Citizen Engagement



Source: DIACC and HTF, 2022



Source: Women in Identity, 2022

- Engaging vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities
- Moving towards a Code of Conduct

“ ‘Edge Cases’ are central to our humanity”

- Henk Marsman

No Birth Record

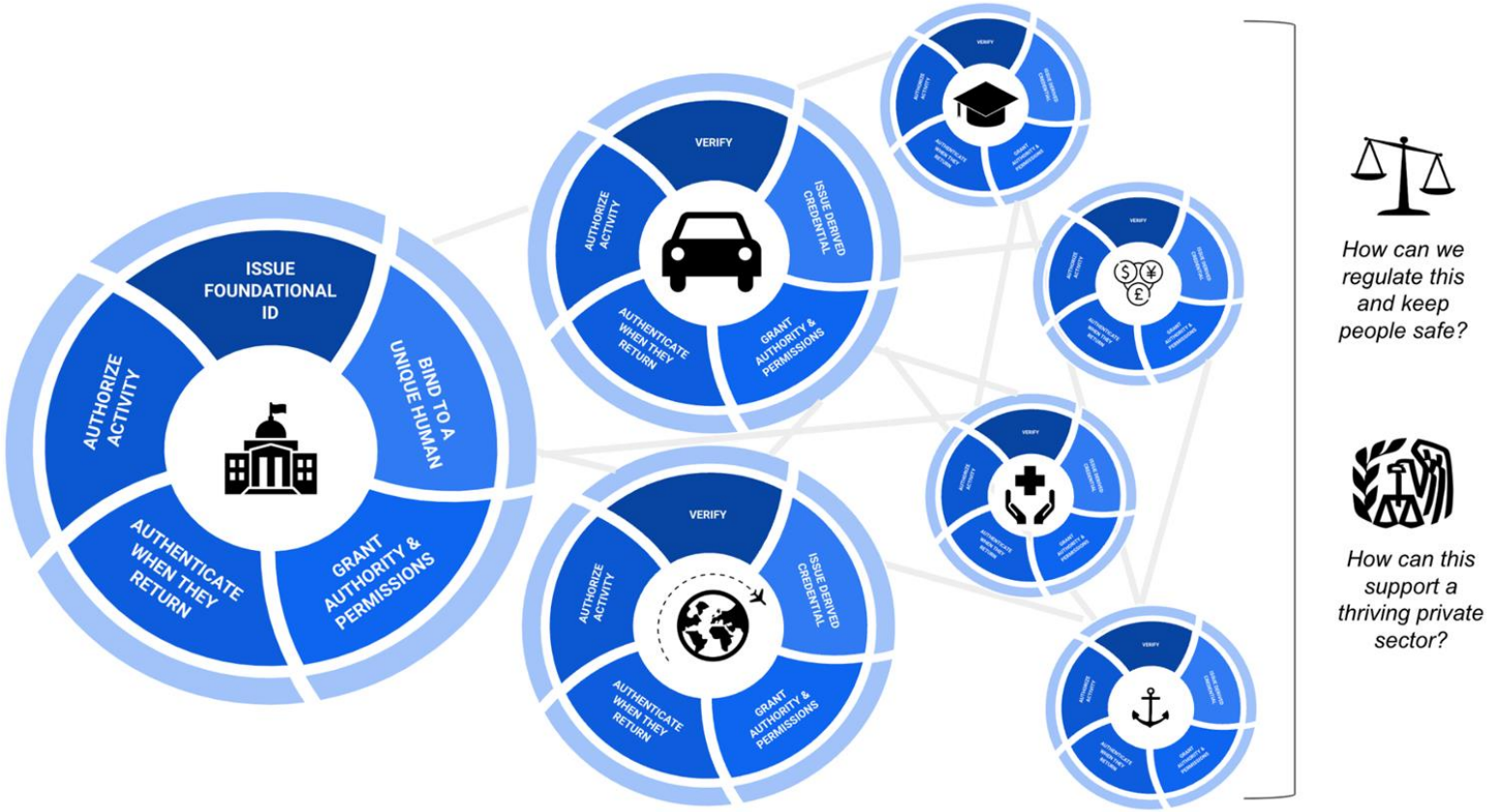
Witness Protection

Effectively Stateless

Domestic Abuse

Elder Care

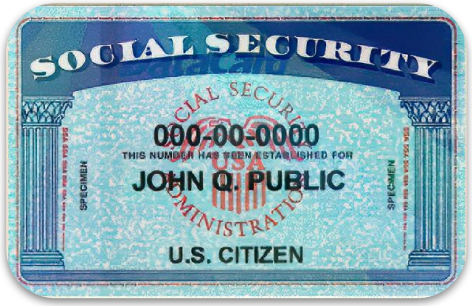
But... governments & ecosystems are complex



Digital Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

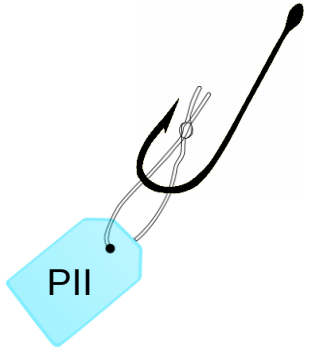
1. Human Centered Design Processes
2. Strategic Design & Governance

Strategic design over point solutions

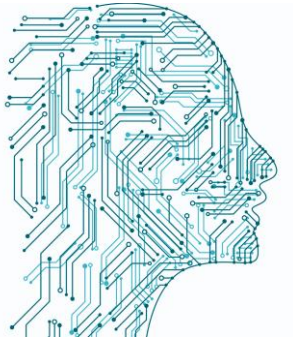


Function Creep

Data Proliferation



Inappropriate Market Tools



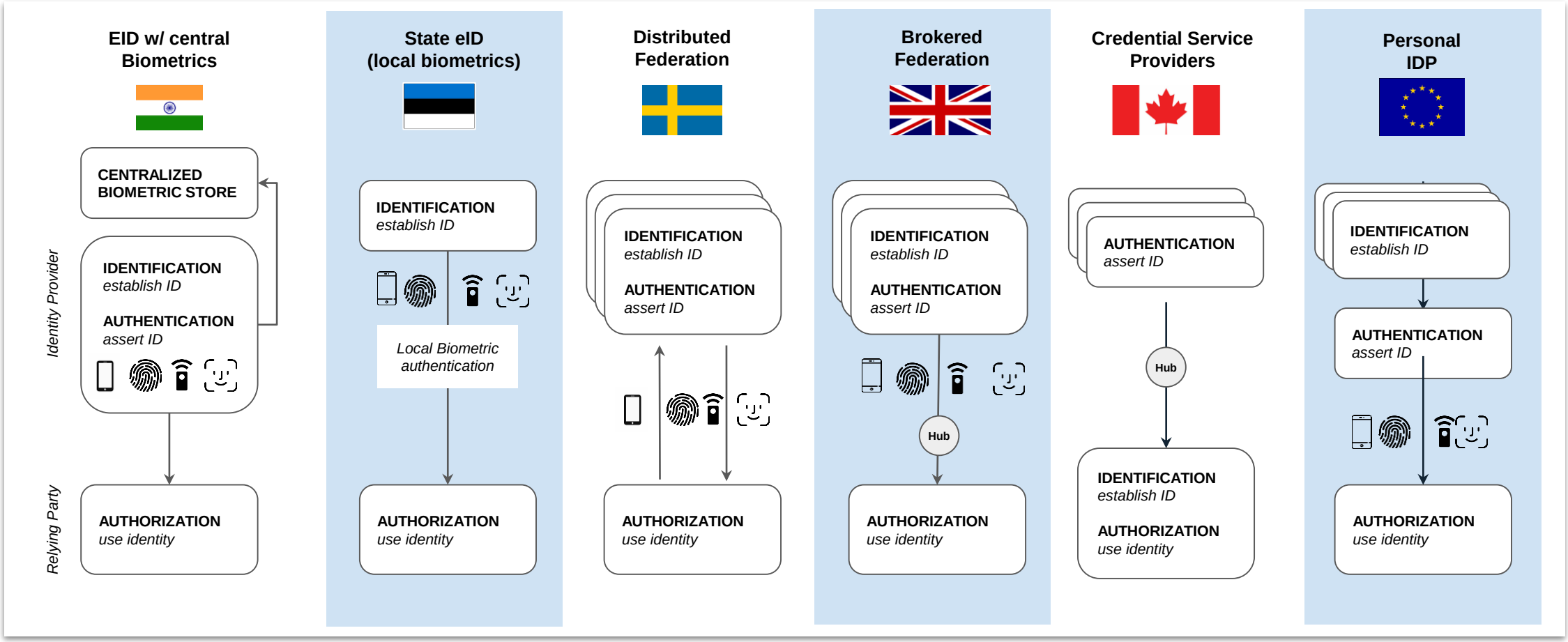
Uncontrolled Correlation

Implementers must grapple with complexity

- Independent oversight
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Public / Private Collaboration
- Accessibility
- Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability

Digital Identity is critical infrastructure, embedded through the economy.

Common Architectural Models

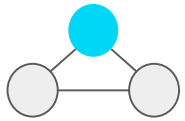


Common Governance Models

Public Governance

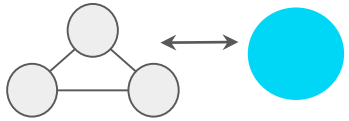
Government-led governance framework & enforcement

Public-Private Governance



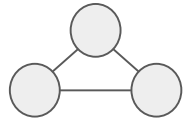
Collaborative public-private development of governance.

Gov-Enabled Governance



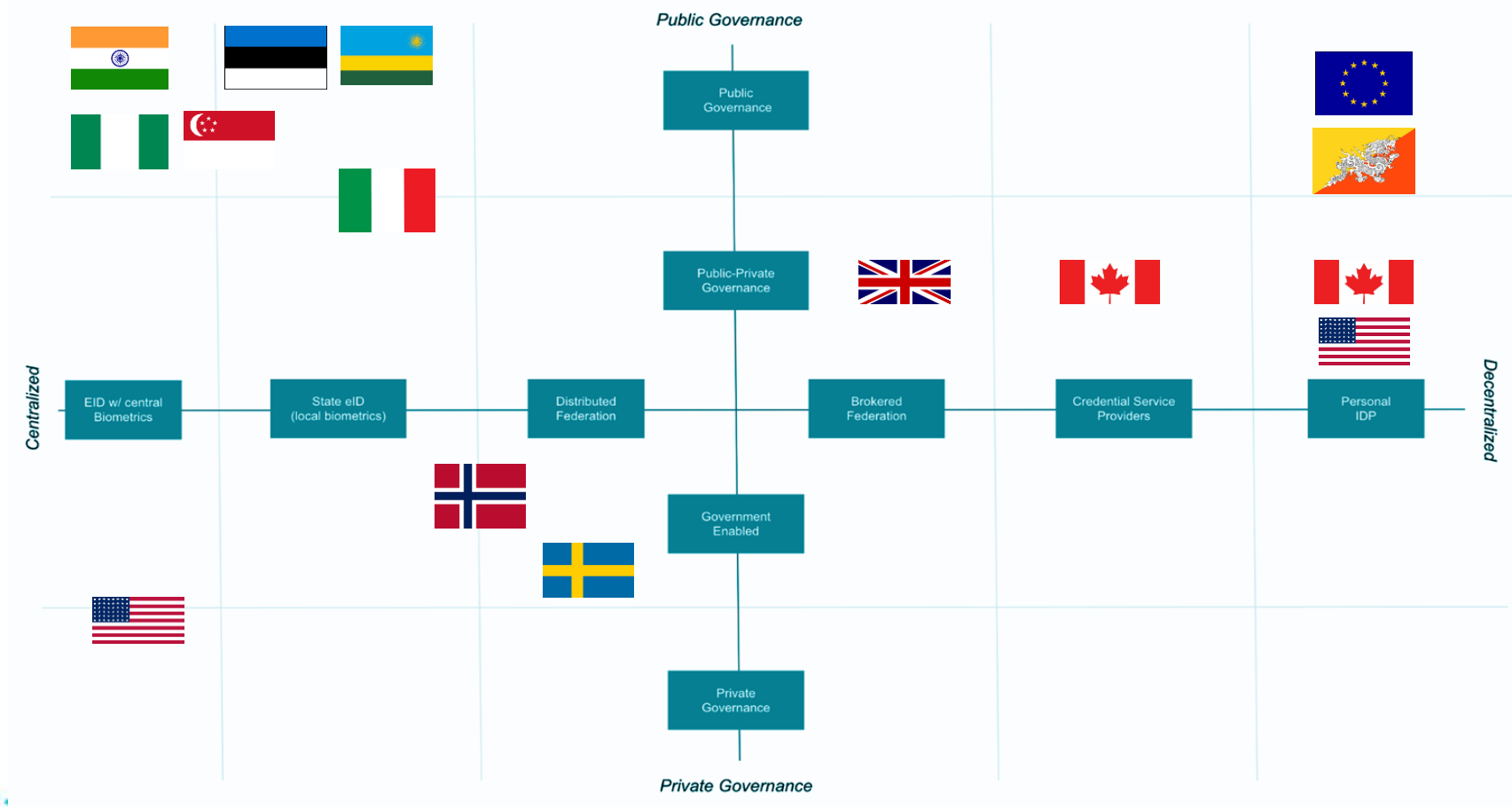
Market driven collaboration with government support

Private Governance

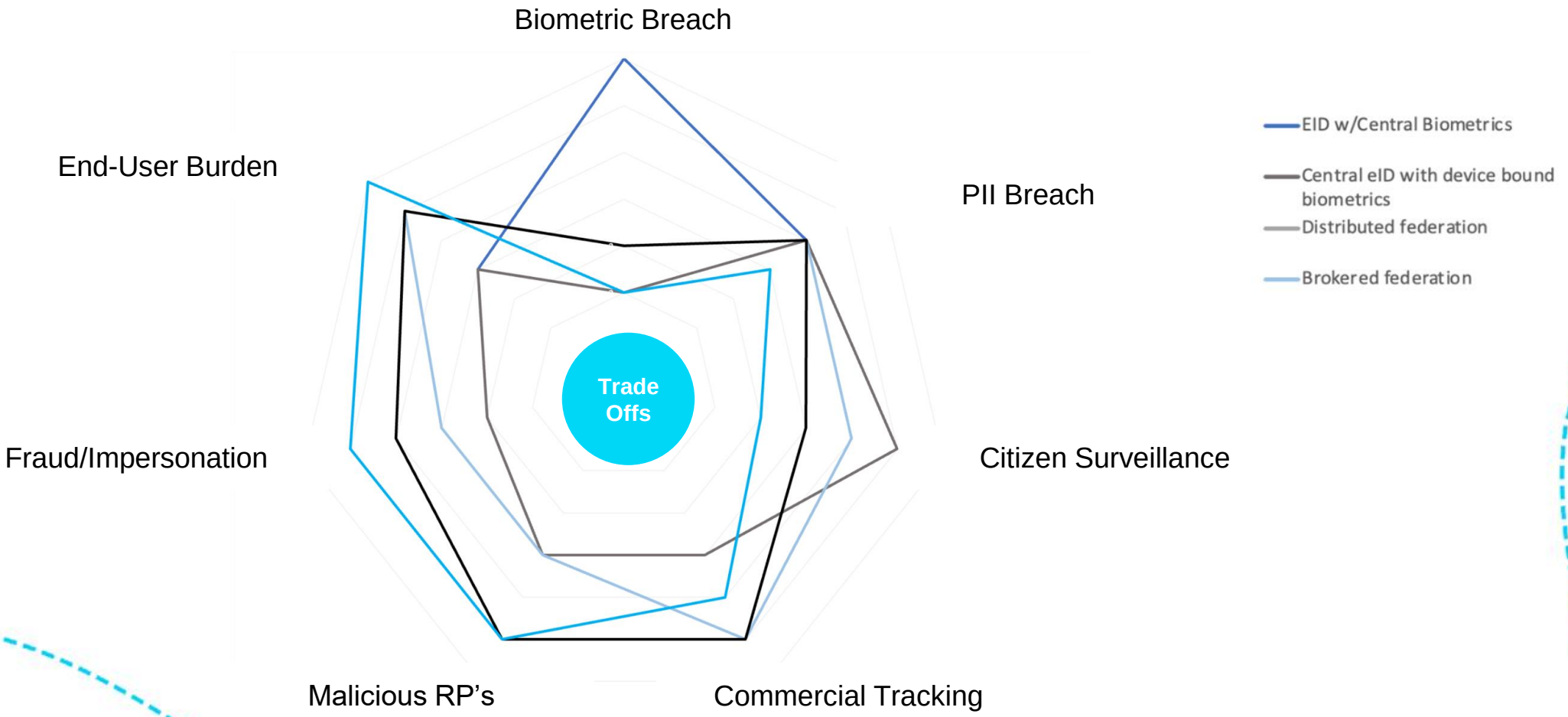


Private parties collaborate with little government involvement

There are several common paradigms



The risks are common across architectures



Digital Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

1. Human Centered Design Processes
2. Strategic Design & Governance
3. Enforce Security & Privacy by Design

Similar mitigations across architectures

Tools

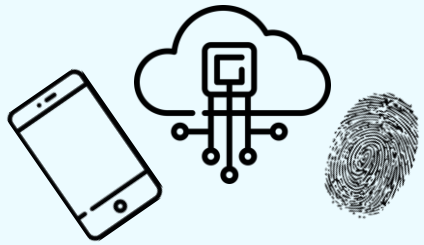
- Biometric protections (e.g. biohashing)
- Modern cryptography and data encryption practices
- Unique identifiers for each third party
- Stateless hubs (if any)
- Scalable Trust Establishment & Maintenance protocols
- Secure recovery processes

Rules

- Fit-for-purpose Data Security laws
- Fit-for-purpose Privacy laws
- Trust Framework Development
- Enforce Privacy & Security by Design
- Transparent & Independent Governance

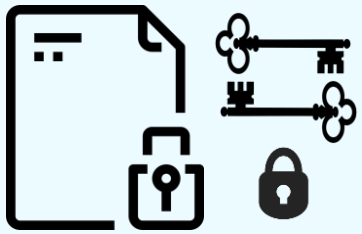
ID Ecosystems are supported by emerging tech

Identity Assurance & User Binding



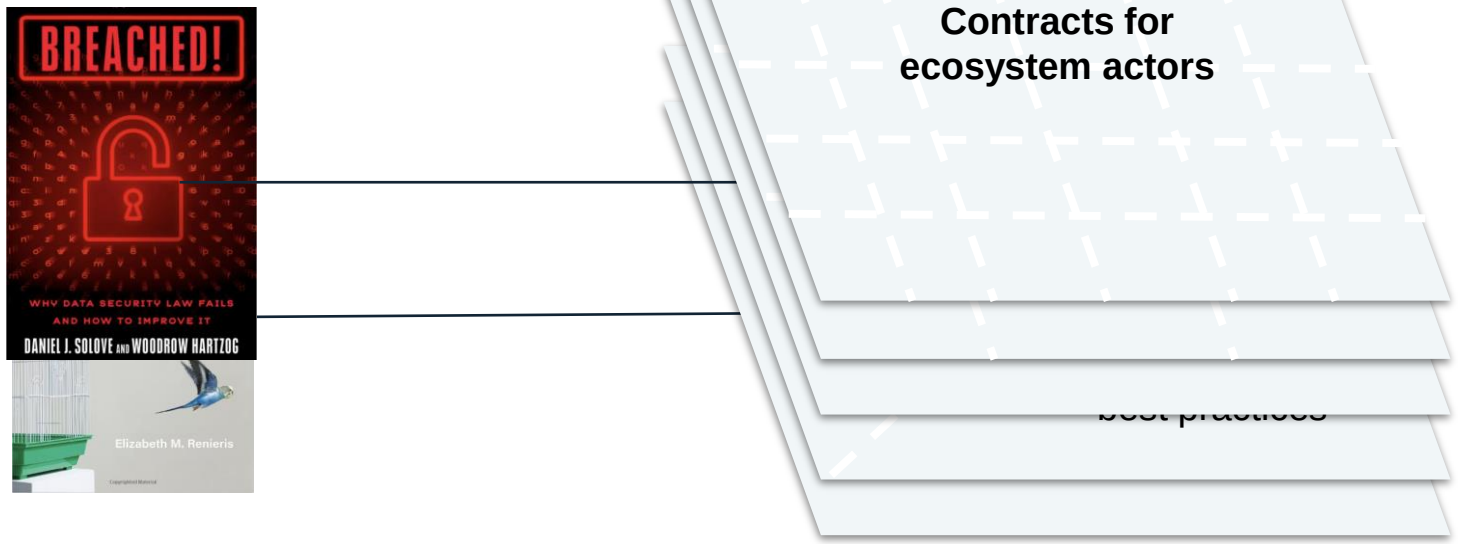
Tools like mobile, improved sensors, and cloud computing enable ever greater user-binding and assurance levels

Security Best Practice



Improved cryptography and security best-practices enable us to use these tools while keeping customer data safer

Building the institutional frameworks



- RPs, IDPs, Wallets, etc who feed requirements into security controls & technical design
- AAMVA
- Pan-Canadian Trust Framework
- NIS 2.0 (cyber) & GDPR (privacy)

Digital Identity Systems should be designed to sustain & promote human rights.

1. Human Centered Design Processes
2. Strategic Design & Governance
3. Enforce Security & Privacy by Design
4. Proactively Mature Interoperable Standards

Interoperability creates sustainable, usable systems.

- Sustainable
- Extensible

- Enables end-user and business transactions
- Cross sector, cross border
- Policy interoperability equally important

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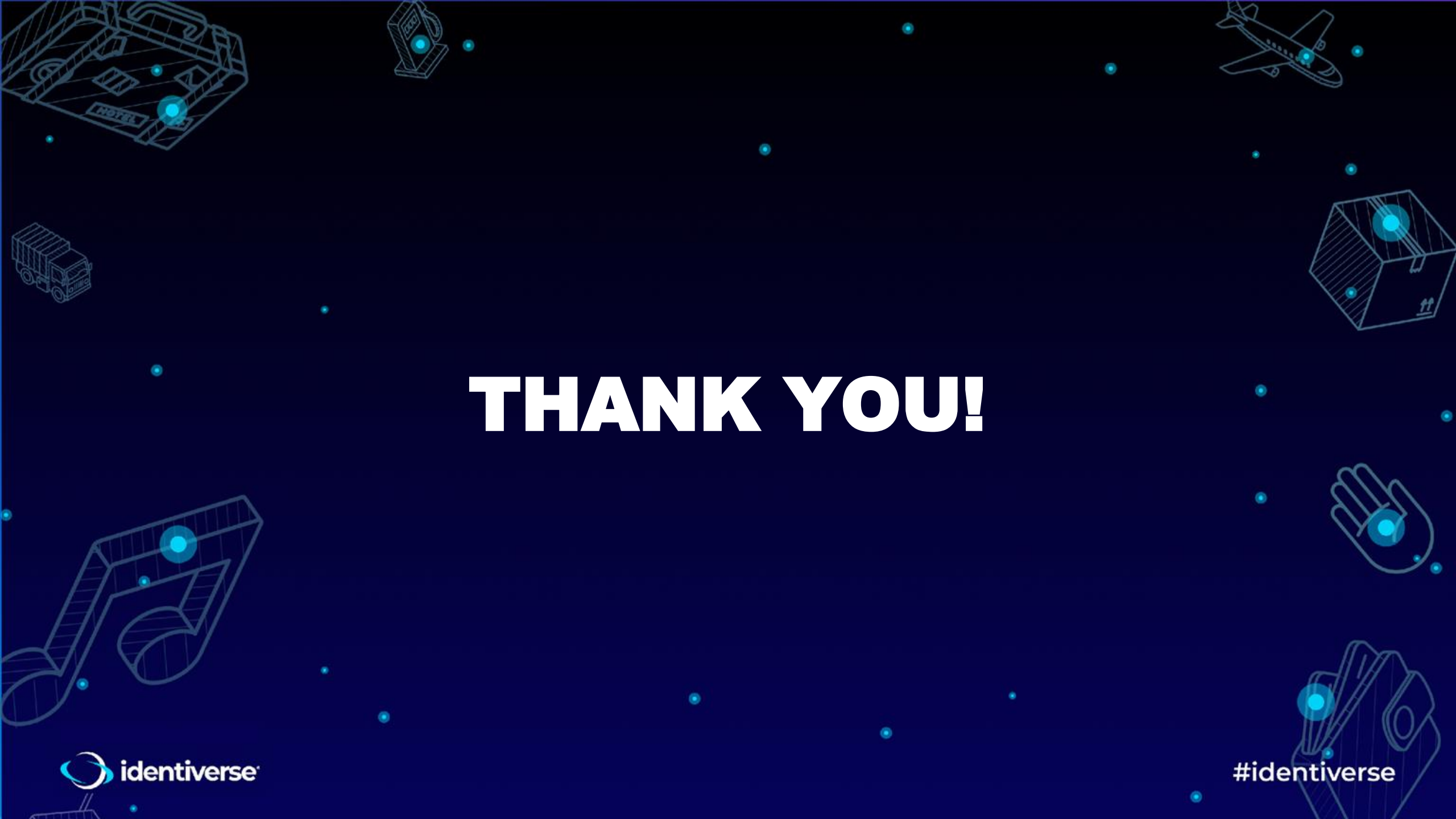
Engage in standards

Support standard bodies

Mature & develop standards for the paradigms you wish to create!

Don’t leave this to vendors alone

Mature the technologies that will deliver for your government


THANK YOU!