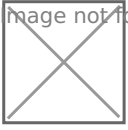


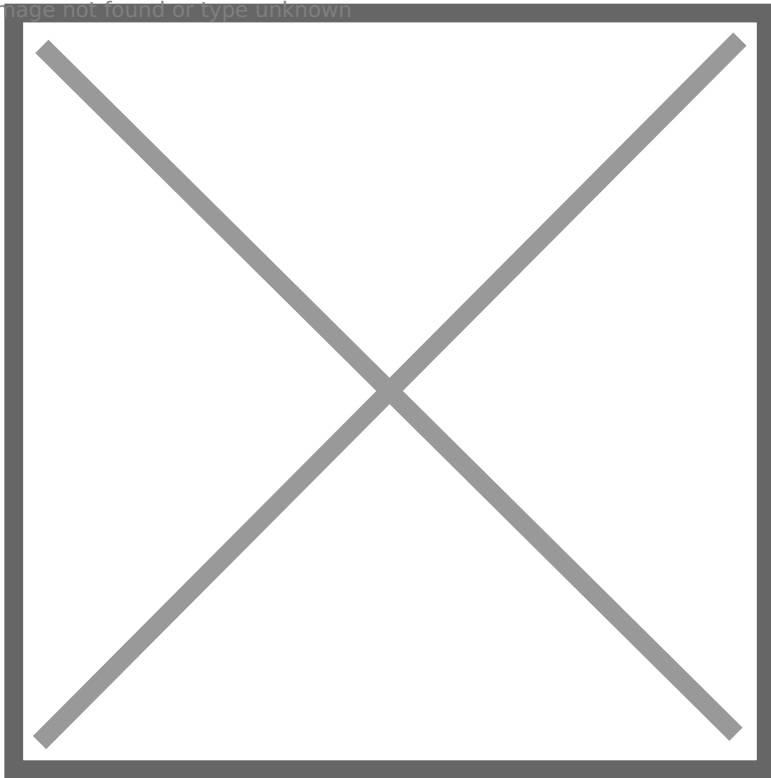
ID Day

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A digital ID for every person on the planet is part of the [U.N. Agenda 2030](#). One way this is being promoted is through an annual [Identity Day](#) (16 September), which has been celebrated since 2018 by many developing nations.

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As has been the case **each year** since 2018, this year's **ID Day** will be observed on Saturday **September 16**, and **many countries** and civil society organizations have expressed their willingness to take part in the event.

The main driver for digital ID globally is the aspiration to account for every person in line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs). An indicator for

SDG 16.9 is to **issue a legal identity to every person by 2030.**

Each U.N. Charter member nation is pursuing the implementation of a digital identity under the guidance of the **World Economic Forum** and **World Bank**.

Yes, it's also happening here in the United States. Don't believe me? **U.S. Senate Bill S884 Improving Digital Identity Act of 2023** references guidance from the **World Economic Forum** and **World Bank**:

tying information on online application portals.⁹

Upgrading identity verification technologies and providing individuals with the choice to adopt innovative digital identity tools is critical to tackling these and related challenges.⁷ Government entities, as authoritative issuers of identity in the United States, are uniquely positioned to work with the private sector to facilitate this transition. For instance, some states, including Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi,

²See, e.g., *Blockchain for digital identity and credentials*, IBM (<https://www.ibm.com/blockchain-identity>) (accessed May 16, 2023).

³Commission on enhancing National Cybersecurity, *Report on Securing and Growing the Digital Economy* (Dec. 1, 2016).

⁴See, e.g., *Personal information of members of Congress exposed in health data breach*, NPR (Mar. 11, 2023) (<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/09/1162191035/personal-information-of-u-s-house-members-exposed-in-health-data-breach>); *Data of 143 million Americans exposed in hack of credit reporting agency Equifax*, Washington Post (Sep. 7, 2017) (https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/technology/equifax-hack-hits-credit-histories-of-up-to-143-million-americans/2017/09/07/a4ae6f82-941a-11e7-b9bc-b2f7903bab0d_story.html); *Data of 40 million plus exposed in latest T-Mobile breach*, AP News (Aug. 18, 2021) (<https://apnews.com/article/technology-business-f23cf2ea885f1089571ee46837c81382>).

⁵Javelin Strategy and Research, *2023 Identity Fraud Study: The Butterfly Effect* (2023) (<https://javelinstrategy.com/research/2023-identity-fraud-study-butterfly-effect>). Javelin collects this information in the following way: "Javelin surveys 5,000 U.S. adults, then qualifies each respondent by categorizing each reported loss. Javelin then extrapolates population information from the U.S. Census Bureau, which then permits a best-effort estimation of identity fraud impact across the entire U.S. adult population. It is reasonable to see vast differences in the research findings of various agencies and companies." For example, the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Consumer Sentinel Network reported a little more than a million U.S. reports of identity theft in 2022.

⁶See, e.g., *'A magnet for rip-off artists': Fraud siphoned billions from pandemic unemployment benefits*, Washington Post (May 15, 2022) (www.washingtonpost.com/us-policy/2022/05/15/unemployment-pandemic-fraud-identity-theft/).

⁹Government Accountability Office, *Data Protection: Agencies need to Strengthen Online Identity Verification Processes* (GAO-19-288) (May 2019); World Economic Forum, *Digital Identity Ecosystems: Unlocking New Value* (Sept. 2021) (https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Guide_Digital_Identity_Ecosystems_2021.pdf).

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licenses and create opportunities to improve convenience for citizens.⁹ The Transportation Security Administration now accepts mobile driver's licenses at select airport checkpoints.¹⁰ The private and public sectors are continuing to develop promising digital identity verification techniques.¹¹

The Task Force this legislation creates also accounts for risks associated with expanding digital identity usage. Risks for expanding digital ID use include potential accessibility concerns, privacy and security violations, and vendor or technology lock-in.¹² For example, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has highlighted challenges associated with implementing digital driver's licenses, like personal control over ID data, hacker susceptibility, and forced app installation. Among its duties, the bill requires the Task Force to consider potential exploitation of digital identity tools by malign actors, privacy concerns, and ways to improve access to foundational identity documents.¹³ Additionally, the bill specifies that the Task Force may not recommend the creation of a single identity credential provided or mandated by the federal government, a unilateral national identification registry, or a requirement forcing any individual to use digital identity verification for a public purpose.¹⁴ Accounting for these types of challenges and risks would allow federal, state, and local governments, and private entities to more successfully introduce digital IDs.

As high-value private transactions and critical government-citizen interactions move online, establishing digital identity standards is essential to ensuring this activity is secure, private, and efficient. A common set of guidelines can ensure mobile forms of identification, as well as digital identity verification processes, are interoperable from a technical perspective, safe from a cybersecurity perspective, and private and equitable from a civil liberties perspective.¹⁵ S. 884 establishes the Improving Digital Identity Task Force, an interagency and public-private partnership, which would develop recommendations on such matters to increase and improve usage of digital identity verification technologies. In addition, the Task Force would ensure that necessary oversight accompanies the deployment of these tools. Task Force recommendations

⁸ Which States Offer Mobile Driver's Licenses: An overview of which states have launched electronic IDs, and which are currently piloting mDLs (<https://idscan.net/mobile-drivers-licenses-mdl-state-adoption/>) (accessed Apr. 7, 2023).

⁹ Digital driver's licenses take the sting out of forgetting your wallet. Here's how they work, The Washington Post (Mar. 24, 2022) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/10/11/digital-drivers-license-mdl/>).

¹⁰ See, e.g., Transportation Security Administration, TSA enables Maryland residents to use mobile driver's license or state ID for verification at Baltimore/Washington International and Reagan National Airports (May, 25, 2022); Maryland begins issuing digital driver's licenses, ID cards, The Washington Post (May 25, 2022) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2022/05/25/maryland-digital-drivers-licenses/>).

¹¹ See, e.g., New features from Google make Android phones better wallet replacements, The Washington Post (June 1, 2023) (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2023/06/01/google-wallet-drivers-license-cards/>).

¹² Creating a good ID system presents risks and challenges, but there are common success factors, The World Bank (<https://id4d.worldbank.org/guide/creating-good-id-system-presents-risks-and-challenges-there-are-common-success-factors>) (accessed May 17, 2023).

¹³ Improving Digital Identity Act of 2023, Sec. 4(g)(9).

¹⁴ *Id.*, Sec. (4)(h).

¹⁵ The White House, National Cybersecurity Strategy (March 2023).

<https://id4d.worldbank.org/guide/creating-good-id-system-presents-risks-and-challenges-there-are-common-success-factors>