

Press Release

GLEIF and Evernym Demo ‘Organization Wallets’ to Deliver Trust and Transparency in Digital Business

Legal entities can prove employee identity and job role with digital credentials that are anchored to the organization’s LEI in a blockchain-based chain of trust

12 May 2020 – Basel – The Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) and Evernym have piloted a solution which allows organizations to create and manage ‘organization wallets’, containing digital portable credentials that confirm an organization’s identity and verify the authority of employees and other representatives to act on behalf of the organization. These credentials can be used to securely identify authorized representatives when they execute an increasing number of digital business activities, such as approving business transactions and contracts, including client onboarding, transacting within import/export and supply chain business networks and submitting regulatory filings and reports.

Critically, a blockchain-based chain of trust secures these organization wallets and the verifiable credentials they contain, which connect a person’s name and job role to the organization’s legal entity identifier (LEI). This decentralized identity management model ensures the integrity and authenticity of the credentials, providing secure, trusted verifiable identity in a digital context. It also gives organizations a unique ability to secure both the content of the information exchanged and the interaction between the actors in a transparent trust chain. This provides a valuable point of differentiation from centralized identity management schemes based on information in databases. In addition, leveraging the LEI allows clear identification of the legal entity, using a global, consistent and open identifier.

The recent proof-of-concept completed by GLEIF and Evernym simulated a regulatory filing. It was secured by a verifiable credential rooted on the Sovrin Network, an open source project for a global public utility for self-sovereign identity. ‘Self-sovereign’ means the individual identity holder controls their credentials, using them whenever and however they please, without being forced to request permission from an intermediary. The workflow, and subsequent chain of trust, in the pilot was defined as follows:

- GLEIF registers its own public Decentralized Identifier (DID) on the Sovrin public ledger;
- GLEIF accredits each of its authorized LEI Issuers* with the capability to issue verifiable credentials to legal entities;
- The legal entity is validated by the LEI Issuer and receives an LEI;
- The legal entity requests a verifiable credential, alongside its LEI, to establish its digital identity;
- The LEI Issuer issues the verifiable credential to the legal entity;
- The legal entity uses this credential to issue verifiable credentials to its employees, which identify the official roles they play in the legal entity. These credentials are stored in the ‘organization wallet’ of the legal entity.

Thanks to this chain of trust, the regulators in this demonstration were able to verify the authenticity of the filings based on the credentials of the official entity representative, the entity itself, the LEI issuer and GLEIF.

The concept of leveraging the LEI in organization wallets could also deliver an unprecedented level of transparency on key organizational roles. The verifiable credentials issued by legal entities could be incorporated into the Global LEI Index, without the inclusion of personally identifiable information. Open access to the list of digital role credentials registered by legal entities in the Global LEI System could be of significant value for LEI data users worldwide, who could look up the published list of official roles that have been issued by a legal entity.

Stephan Wolf, GLEIF's CEO, comments: "There is no precedent for the concept of organization wallets. This pilot was driven by the increasing digitalization of business activities and the need for enhanced transparency and trust to verify someone acting on an organization's behalf. By partnering with Evernym, we have extended the idea of self-sovereign identity beyond individuals to legal entities for the first time. The process of cryptographically recording credentials, linked to an organization's LEI in a chain of trust rooted on distributed ledger technology, gives organizations full control over the issuance and management of their own employee's digital credentials. These credentials are not only strongly verifiable and transparent, but they can be updated or revoked at any time. Trust is delivered by the decentralized identity management process that eliminates a single point of failure while at the same time ensuring data privacy."

"While we often focus on individuals when we think of identity, trusted organizational identity is also important to reduce the friction of interactions between businesses around the world," adds Evernym's CEO, Steve Havas. "Our pilot with GLEIF is an important step for enabling more trusted commerce and we look forward to seeing how companies adopt this technology to securely identify who is at the other end of each transaction."

GLEIF is blockchain agnostic and has conducted decentralized digital identity proofs-of-concept for LEIs on both Ethereum and Hyperledger blockchains, to ensure that the verifiable credentials are interoperable with different distributed ledger technologies.

LEARN MORE: GLEIF and Evernym are partnering on a joint webinar which will take place on Tuesday 19 May at 10.00 EST / 15.00 BST / 16.00 CET, to explain how portable verifiable credentials can be applied to legal entities, and what an organization identity wallet looks like. [Please follow the link on Evernym's website to register attendance.](#)

- ENDS -

Full resolution images and logos can be downloaded via this link

<https://www.gleif.org/en/newsroom/gleif-graphics-images>

Contact

Lucie Rohani / Ellie Bokros, iseep

Lucie.r@iseepr.co.uk / ellie@iseepr.co.uk

+44 (0) 113 350 1922

Relevant link

<https://www.gleif.org/en>

Notes to Editors:

***LEI Issuers** - also referred to as Local Operating Units (LOUs) – supply registration, renewal and other services, and act as the primary interface for legal entities wishing to obtain an LEI. Only organizations duly accredited by GLEIF are authorized to issue LEIs. Accreditation is the process by which GLEIF evaluates the suitability of organizations seeking to operate within the Global LEI System as LEI issuers. More information can be found on the [GLEIF website](#).

Glossary of terms

Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)

The Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) is a 20-character, alpha-numeric code based on the ISO 17442 standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The LEI connects to key reference information that enables clear and unique identification of legal entities participating in financial transactions. Each LEI contains information about an entity's ownership structure, answering the questions of 'who is who' and 'who owns whom'.

About the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF)

Established by the Financial Stability Board in June 2014, the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF) is a not-for-profit organization created to support the implementation and use of the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI). GLEIF is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.

GLEIF services ensure the operational integrity of the Global LEI System. GLEIF also makes available the technical infrastructure to provide, via an open data license, access to the full global LEI repository free of charge to users. GLEIF is overseen by the LEI Regulatory Oversight Committee, which is made up of representatives of public authorities from across the globe. For more information, visit the GLEIF website at <https://www.gleif.org/en>.

About Evernym

A global leader in portable credential technology, Evernym develops software and applications to help organizations around the world build trusted digital relationships. Evernym is the original creator of Hyperledger Indy, the Sovrin Network, and the Sovrin Foundation. The company was founded in 2013 and is based out of Salt Lake City, Utah. To learn more, visit www.evernym.com

Source:

Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation, St. Alban-Vorstadt 5, 4052 Basel, Switzerland

Chairman of the Board: Gerard Hartsink, CEO: Stephan Wolf

Commercial-Register-No.: CHE-200.595.965, VAT-No.: CHE-200.595.965MWST

LEI: 506700GE1G29325QX363

: <http://bit.ly/1OXTYLo> | : <http://bit.ly/1Me7uZx> |  GLEIF Blog: <http://bit.ly/1LylXkn>