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govops
UTAH DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

State-Endorsed Digital Identity

Government Operations Interim Committee
October 15, 2025

Identity, Inherent in the Individual

- ▷ SB260, enacted during the 2025 General Session, codified a framework for State-Endorsed Digital Identity (SEDI), which:
 - Confirms that identity is inherent in an individual.
 - Clarifies that the role of the state is to endorse digital identity, but does not create identity.
 - Directs the Department of Government Operations to explore implementation of a SEDI program and system.
- ▷ Implementation of a SEDI program must be expressly authorized by the Legislature.



Hierarchy of Values

- ▷ SEDI program and system requirements are established and prioritized according to a ***hierarchy of values***.
- ▷ The ***highest values*** are:
 - The protection of individual rights (including privacy).
 - Safeguarding children and the vulnerable.
 - Strengthen families and communities.
- ▷ **Operational goals** such as interoperability, efficiency, convenience, or private-industry profits are recognized as legitimate but subordinate to the ***highest values*** and do not justify compromising them.



SEDI Basics

- ▷ Constitutional Rights Basis.
- ▷ Comprehensive Legal Framework.
- ▷ Individual Control.
- ▷ Role of the State.
- ▷ Privacy.
- ▷ Parental Rights and Delegation.
- ▷ Critical Public Infrastructure and Security.
- ▷ Backward Compatibility.



Key Actors Involved and Driving this Issue:

- ▷ Many Collaborating Elected Officials, Including:
 - Governor Cox, Senator Cullimore, Representative Cutler, Representative Chevrier, Representative Shepherd.
- ▷ Many Interested and Supportive Stakeholders from the Public and Private-Industry, Including:
 - Libertas, ACLU, Utah Blockchain Coalition, Eagle Forum, Stand for Health Freedom, Utah Citizens for the Constitution.



GovOps Continues to Seek Public Input

- ▶ **Formal Request for Information** (RFI) sought input from the vendor community and industry experts
 - 25 responses received, 1,177 pages
- ▶ **Conference** sessions seeking input:
 - SEDI Summit this Friday at UVU - 12 states to attend
 - Identity Week
 - Identiverse
- ▶ **Town hall meetings** conducted with multiple legislators in collaboration with UVU
- ▶ **Additional feedback** from: Federal partners, Vendors, Blockchain Coalition, ACLU, Libertas, Counties, Cities, and others
- ▶ Sought **opinions** from academics and experts in the field



The purpose of State-Endorsed Digital Identity (SEDI) is to create a trusted online relationship.

We are adding state endorsement to that relationship where it hasn't existed before.



In the digital age, digital
identity is critical
infrastructure



Public Sector Services that will rely on SEDI



Public benefits: food stamps, unemployment, housing assistance, Medicaid, child health insurance, and more



Professional license and education credentials



Voter registration, signature gathering, petitions for citizen initiatives



Corrections and Public Safety interactions



Private Sector Services that will rely on SEDI



Verify proof of age online and in person



Financial transactions - Know Your Customer



Access health benefits

proof of insurance, health care records



Online Commerce and Travel related needs



Why Google Is Really Warning 2.5 Billion Gmail Users to Stop Using Their Passwords

Your email account is the key to everything. Google is warning users to up their security.

EXPERT OPINION BY JASON ATEN, TECH COLUMNIST @JASONATEN

SEP 2, 2025

SECURITY / POLICY / TECH

LastPass reveals attackers stole password vault data by hacking an employee's home computer

Salt Lake bar caught with nearly 200 underage patrons, state investigators say

By Pat Reavy, KSL.com | Posted - Dec. 5, 2024 at 7:11 p.m.



Nevada ransomware attack marks first-of-its-kind statewide shutdown

Authentication failure blamed for Change Healthcare ransomware attack

News

Apr 23, 2024 • 5 mins

China's Breach of U.S. Telecoms: A Cyber Wake-Up Call

CNN Investigation

Inside North Korea's effort to infiltrate US companies

How Kim Jong Un's regime leverages AI and vulnerable Americans to earn millions

By Isaac Yee, Teele Rebane, Ivan Watson, Lou Robinson and Marco Chacón, CNN

Published August 5, 2025

CISA, FBI warn of social engineering-based ransomware

Highest Security is Needed

- ▷ Because digital identity is critical infrastructure, incomplete and half measures are not acceptable.
 - We need reciprocity between states. All states must have strong security.
- ▷ We have to build SEDI with the highest level of security that is available.
- ▷ Nothing is perfect. When compromise occurs, we must have a way to recover.

