CCI Governance Framework Introduction

*A COVID-19 Credentials Initiative (**CCI**) Product*

We are at a rare turning point in human history, where a pathogen, SAR-CoV-2, the virus that causes a range of illnesses generally called COVID-19, has significantly and negatively impacted global economies and societies. To facilitate a return to fully functional societies, Verifiable Credentials (a "**VC"** or "**VCs"**) have been identified as a valuable tool. VCs provide a secure, privacy-protecting method for saving valuable and sensitive information as trusted digital data, that can be used to enable individuals and societies to manage and recover from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For example, a COVID-19 test result (e.g. virus test, antibody test, etc.) for an individual can be recorded as a VC, and that VC would enable said individual (the VC "**Holder**") to privately and securely prove (a digital "**Proof**") to any other person (a VC "**Verifier**") the result of the Holder's COVID-19 test. The VC Proof can be cryptographically linked directly back to the COVID-19 test administrator and VC issuer (the "**Issuer**"; for example, a trusted medical professional). In this way, the Verifier is able to place *trust* in a known or otherwise trusted Issuer of a VC, via secure, open-source, cryptographic protocols. This process is represented by the following diagram:
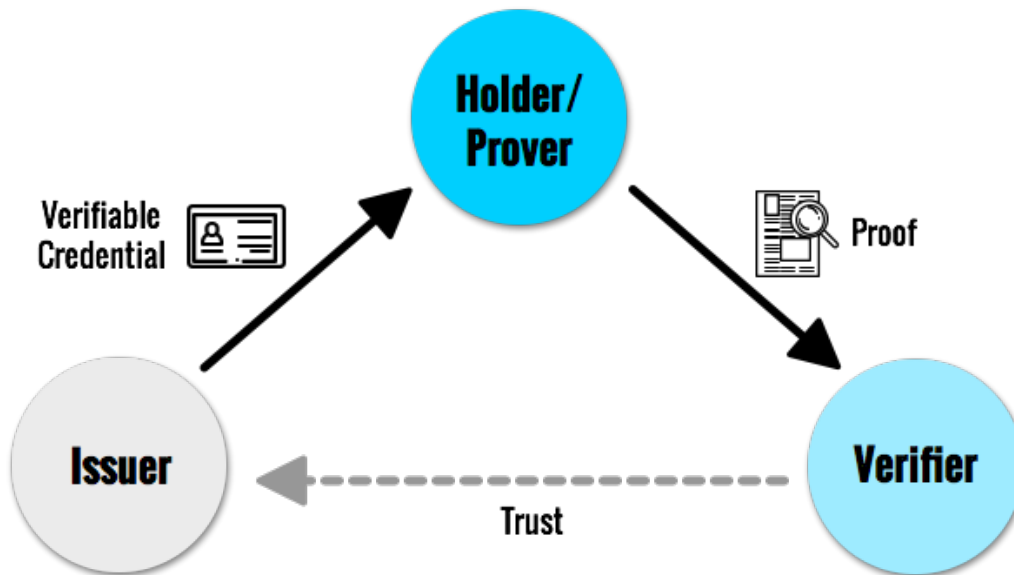

Figure 1: The VC Trust Triangle

For more information about VC terminologies, please refer to W3C Verifiable Credentials Data Model 1.0 Terminology and The Sovrin Governance Foundation Glossary.

The CCI Governance Framework (the "CCI GF") provides general principles, standards, and guidance for VCs being used for COVID-19 related use cases, with the aim of:

- protecting individuals (issuers, holders and verifiers),
- reducing utilization friction,
- ensuring regulatory compliance,
- shaping best practices.

CCI GF principles reflect the overarching spirit of VCs, which include individual ownership of their personal data, privacy by design, and inclusivity for all people, organizations and cultures. CCI GF stakeholders include individuals, governments, NGOs, businesses. healthcare providers, healthcare workers, health insurance companies, etc.

Among the elements this framework addresses, are:

- Levels of Assurance

- General Principles

- Design and Governance

- Compliance

- Governance Framework Disclosure by Default

- Identity Owner Controlled Storage by Default

- Anti-Correlation by Design and Default

- Guardian and Delegate Confidentiality

- Security by Design

- Ethical by Default and Design

The CCI GF V1 is offered as a set of governance guidelines for those who wish to use VCs in any application relevant to supporting recovery and growth from global, regional and local challenges that have been created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Links to the CCI GF V1 documents are listed below:

<CCI GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK MASTER DOCUMENT>

<CCI GF V1 Credential Governance and Issuer Authority Policy>