



Dec 11, 2025

UNTP Technical WG

Invited bvanderpol@usetappr.com Jo Spencer Nicholas Smith
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Attachments  UNTP Technical WG  Notes - UNTP Technical WG

Summary

The meeting, attended by Harley Thomas, Giuseppe Benenati, Phil Archer, Nick Smith, Adrienna Zsakay, and Ricky Thiermann, began with an introduction from Giuseppe Benenati regarding Spherity's expertise in credentialing and digital product passports (DPPs) utilizing DID methods. Harley Thomas presented two open merge requests: one to restructure the documentation for decentralized access control requirements and another to update the UNP's custom secure link implementation to use the W3C-defined digital multibase, a change acknowledged by Phil Archer as leveraging existing definitions. Nick Smith raised concerns about the need for clearer documentation on the intended use of secure links, especially for cross-linking information in the supply chain working group's use cases, and expressed a need for clarification on the origin of the access control categories. Phil Archer, a newly appointed co-chair of the W3C Verifiable Credentials Working Group, mentioned that Nick Smith's cross-linking discussions are relevant to a new feature in their draft charter, while further discussions on selective disclosure in the UNP context, like Nick Smith's carbon intensity example, led participants to conclude that this complexity likely belongs in the application layer. Adrienna Zsakay reported progress on the UNP website documentation and emphasized the importance of documentation quality and grammar, while also promoting participation in UNP subworking groups.

Details

Notes Length: Standard

- **Introductions and Meeting Context** Harley Thomas welcomed Giuseppe Benenati, Director of Sales at Spherity, who explained that their main expertise is in credentialing and digital product passports (DPPs). Giuseppe Benenati mentioned that they received an introduction from Mark at Moilitas cloud and were seeking to exchange information and identify potential synergies with the group. Phil Archer and Nick Smith also welcomed Giuseppe Benenati. Harley Thomas acknowledged that they had misunderstood the meeting's focus, believing it was solely about DID methods in the UNP.
- **Spherity and Technical Expertise** Giuseppe Benenati confirmed that Spherity utilizes DID methods for their digital product passports. They offered to bring a more technical colleague to future meetings to discuss details. Harley Thomas informed the group that the site now includes a page detailing different potential DID methods for future support and encouraged feedback via future working groups or GitLab issues.
- **UNP Working Group Involvement and Recruitment** Adrienna Zsakay introduced herself as the leader of the Communications, Training, and Guidance work package groups within UNP, noting they are familiar with Spherity. Adrienna Zsakay then pitched the idea of joining UNP subworking groups, which Harley Thomas jokingly cautioned against, asking them to keep recruiting to side channels. Nick Smith also noted that they support finding people for the supply chain working group.
- **DID Questions and Access Control** Nick Smith indicated that the supply chain working group has questions about DIDs, particularly regarding "how-to" and flexibility features. Harley Thomas suggested reviewing open merge requests before circling back to DID questions later in the meeting.
- **Decentralized Access Control Restructuring Merge Request** Harley Thomas presented an open merge request focused on restructuring the documentation for decentralized access control to clearly outline six different categories or methods. They clarified that this change is non-technical, only aimed at improving structure to support subsequent tickets and provide common patterns for the supply chain working group's use cases. Nick Smith found the categorization interesting but needed clarification on the origin of the categories

and whether they should be strictly functionality-based, expressing concern about the standard defining *how* people will implement things.

- **Access Control Requirements Clarification** Harley Thomas clarified that the access control descriptions are a list of requirements, such as having public data alongside private data like maintenance history, and are not intended to define specific patterns or methods. Nick Smith agreed that this context means the descriptions serve to stimulate design discussions.
- **Supply Chain Working Group Challenges** Nick Smith explained that the supply chain working group faces challenges because participants from different supply chain backgrounds have varied views on information movement. The group is currently working on defining the different data needs and how data should flow with a product, which ultimately relates back to access control.
- **Onboarding Technical Colleague** Giuseppe Benenati announced that Ricky Thiermann from Spherity was joining the call, and Ricky Thiermann is more technical and may be interested in discussing DID methods.
- **Secure Link Implementation Update** Harley Thomas discussed merge requests from Michael Nelson to update the UNP's custom secure link implementation to use the W3C-defined digital multibase. They noted that this change is intended to leverage an existing definition rather than reinventing the wheel and that subsequent merge requests will propagate the change across all UNP credentials that use the secure link type. Phil Archer acknowledged that they should be more familiar with these changes but agreed that leveraging existing definitions is reasonable.
- **Documentation Needs for Secure Links** Nick Smith stressed the need for more documentation regarding the intended use of secure links, specifically whether they are for internal UNP elements, qualified credentials, or any URL. They highlighted that the supply chain working group sees a great need for cross-linking information to prevent double entry, such as linking a facility record credential to a DPP, and required certainty on whether the secure link should be used for this. Harley Thomas explained that the secure link is primarily for verifying that a linked document, like a PDF, has not been altered by comparing its hash to the hash in the DPP, and committed to making an issue to document this more clearly.
- **Verifiable Credentials Working Group Updates** Phil Archer mentioned that Nick Smith's discussion about cross-linking information is relevant to a conversation

with Steve, leading to a new feature in the draft new charter for the W3C Verifiable Credentials Working Group. Phil Archer, recently appointed as a co-chair of this group, noted that "verifiable issuers and verifiers" is a relevant deliverable, aiming to create a trusted graph where one credential can point to another.

- **Decentralized Access Control and Verifiable Presentations** Harley Thomas brought up selective disclosure for different customers, asking if this requires issuing multiple DPPs. Phil Archer explained that selective disclosure can be managed via a Verifiable Presentation with a W3C verifiable credential or an SD-JWT, where a presenter shares only specific pieces of information from a credential. Nick Smith noted that a major struggle is identifying what a Verifiable Presentation is in the UNP world, as it does not currently exist. Phil Archer explained that the concept of a Verifiable Presentation is less relevant when the subject is a shipment or product, as opposed to an individual's identity.
- **Carbon Intensity Example and Application Layer** Nick Smith used the example of having four different carbon intensity calculations for various jurisdictions and wanting to disclose only the relevant one. Phil Archer suggested that this scenario might require separate credentials for separate jurisdictions. The complexity of adding context or access control logic to the identity resolver to facilitate selective disclosure of claims was discussed, with Phil Archer expressing concern that this would violate the aim of keeping the resolver simple and high-performing. Both Nick Smith and Harley Thomas concluded that this complexity likely belongs in the application layer, aligning with the current guidance given to ESG managers to discuss these needs with solution providers.
- **EU DPP and UNP Differences in Access Control** Phil Archer observed a fundamental difference between the EU DPP world, which assumes a solution provider responds to information requests, and the UNP's decentralized approach, where blocks of data are passed around. Adrienna Zsakay stated that their colleagues in the Serpass world (EU DPP) are confident in handling user access control, possibly using blockchain, and that UNP doesn't have a provision for service providers, which they see as a positive. Adrienna Zsakay also mentioned efforts to bring an international focus to Serpass discussions, which could eventually lead to service providers being more willing to participate in UNP working groups.
- **Documentation Quality and Grammar** Adrienna Zsakay provided an update on progress on the UNP website, noting they have completed two sections and will

next align documentation with recommendation 49. They emphasized the importance of proper grammar and spelling on the UNP website to maintain credibility, even for technical sections. Harley Thomas suggested speaking to Ash Harwood, who leads the quality side of things, and reiterated that the technical working group's documentation is for a technical audience, while other groups need to translate it.

- **Summary of Action Items and Next Steps** Harley Thomas summarized action items, including merging Michael's pull requests and ensuring documentation alignment, merging the access control restructuring request, and working on the access control issues for Nick Smith's group without defaulting to an application layer solution. Nick Smith agreed to send any documentation they write up on this topic. Adrienna Zsakay confirmed they would liaise with Ash Harwood regarding grammar and quality for website content.

Suggested next steps

- ☐ Giuseppe Benenati will bring a more technical colleague from Spherity to the next meeting to discuss details, particularly about DID methods.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will send through some links about the different DID methods that could potentially be supported in the future.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will create an issue to document the intended use of secure links and make sure the documentation aligns with Michael Nelson's changes to be merged.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will merge the merge request that restructures and clearly calls out the different decentralized access control methods.
- ☐ Harley Thomas will develop content to address the access control issues for Nick Smith and the supply chain working group.
- ☐ Nick Smith will send Harley Thomas the documentation the supply chain working group writes up on the access control issues.
- ☐ Adrienna Zsakay will start working on the other sections of the UNP website and liaise with Ash Harwood regarding UNP quality and processes.

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