

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this OIX Whitepaper, we argue that giving a Claimant the ability to provide Events as evidence to support their claim to hold certain Attributes has the potential to transform the economics of data assurance, combat fraud and improve access to services.

The basic concept of an Event is not a new one: it is in many ways analogous to a digital 'witness statement' or 'signed receipt'. For the purposes of this Whitepaper, we define an Event as a trustable record of universal content that can be linked to other Events and is made available as a Digital Resource for re-use by one Entity (the Event Provider) for re-use by either the Claimant or other authorised Entities (the Event Consumers).

However, Events have yet to be fully harnessed for the purpose of data assurance. Although many Entities record audit trails of activity for compliance purposes, very few – if any – set out to capture and manage such records as a valuable, shareable resource (i.e. as Events). Similarly, very few Entities use reasoning models that consume Events as part of the due diligence that delivers the data assurance outcomes they require.

In this paper, we seek to articulate what it would take for an Entity to set itself up as an Event Provider and/or Event Consumer, what the motivations for doing so might be and how it would benefit not only the Claimant but also the Ecosystem as a whole.

We highlight the functionality that would be required both to streamline the interactions and to establish an environment of trust between the Claimant, Event Provider and Event Consumer. We investigate a sub-set of potential options for the implementation of such exchange infrastructure, and point to a minimum set of standards that would enable interoperability between different implementation solutions. An initial set of technical artefacts were developed to test and visualise the use of such standards.

Finally, we set out a modest proposal for next steps, anchored on an OIX Alpha Project to develop a common set of requirements to generate, exchange and consume Events for the purposes of data assurance within an Ecosystem of otherwise independent actors, tested and refined through the development of a set of prototype capabilities.