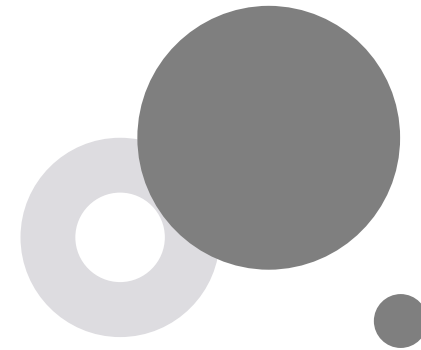


Answers to...

# “The Four Horsemen of the SSI Apocalypse”

by Jeremy Grant at Identiverse 2023

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRuZjWX7IzU>)





## 1. “Key management sucks”

- Look at what is happening in the FIDO ecosystem with multi-device passkeys — driven by a realization that key management sucks and consumers and RPs can’t really deal with it... and so the only way to bring user-friendly unphishable AuthN to the masses is to have centralized providers sync your keys.
- But if SSI is about decentralized identity... what are we doing here?





## 2. “Where are the validated attributes?”

- Around 2018 (ish) — realization that nobody in any high assurance use case cares who you say you are unless it’s validated by an authoritative source
- Meanwhile, dozens of companies got funded around the idea
- None of the investors seem to ever have bothered to ask a key question: “Are there any authoritative issuers looking to digitally sign cryptographic assertions as to the validity of attributes on the blockchain?”
- The US lacks a digital identity strategy — let alone one focused on validated attributes





### 3. “Privacy is oversold”

- I’m continually told that the reason we all need SSI is that it will restore control over my data, to me. But will it?
- If I present my SSI credential to a company — are they going to then delete the information after? Why would they do that?
- Are companies going to block data brokers from getting it?
- There is an illusion that just because I choose to reveal my data at a granular level that it then disappears.
- It’s nice that I can reveal a subset of attributes like “over 18” — but that’s a far cry from the idea that SSI is going to enable a “digital revolution” that keeps my data out of other places.





## 4. “Why do I need a coin?”

- I have United miles, Marriott points — now I need to acquire an alternative currency just to prove who I am?
- Or if I am a business, I need to acquire coins so I can pay for the service?
- Thankfully, this is not part of the VC model — but I still get pitches each month based on the idea that there is a coin powering these things





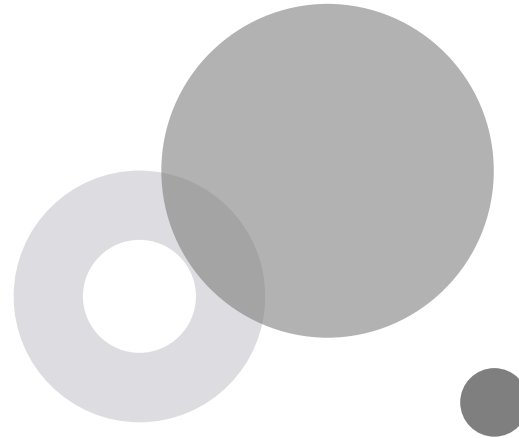
## 5. Bonus Horseman: “Choice”

- “Giving people choices over when and how they share their information — and what specific attributes they where — is great in theory.
- In practice, it tends to overwhelm people.
- We need more work on the UX here — how do we enable granular sharing of attributes without making it a burden?”

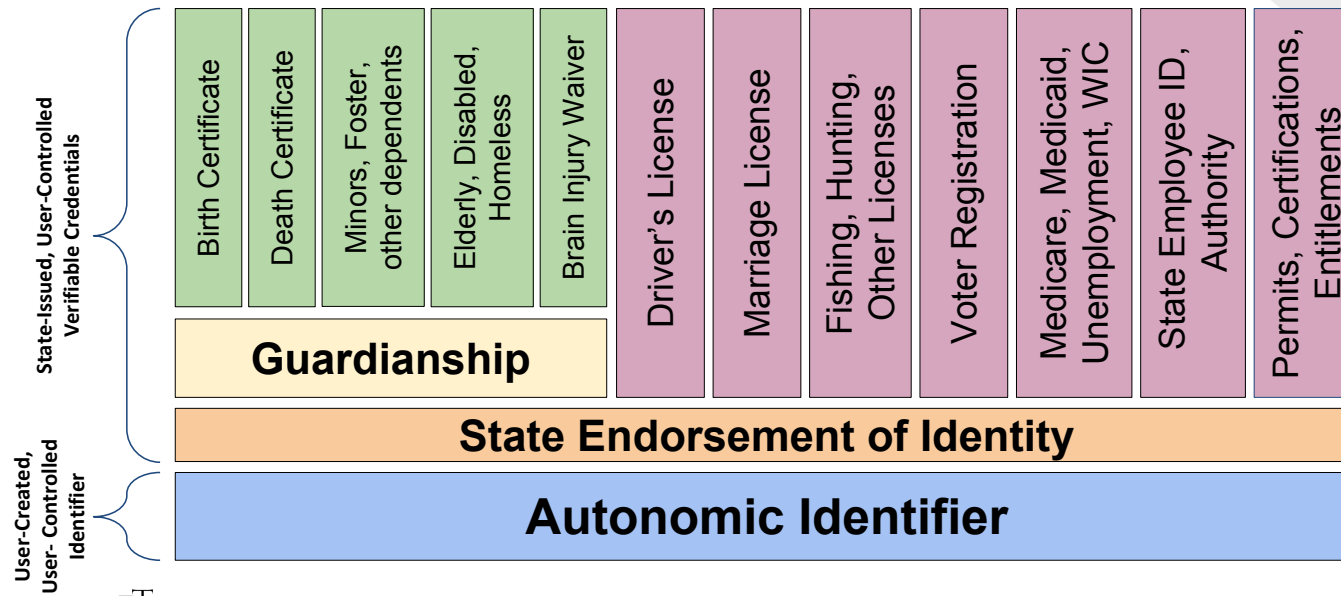




Thank You.



## The Solution: Citizen-Controlled Digital Identity





## Principles & Goals of **Verifiable Government**

<b>Utility</b>	<b>Security</b>	<b>Autonomy</b>
Usefulness/Flexibility	Verifiability	Privacy
Guardianship	Data/systems Protection	Confidentiality
Cohesiveness	Fraud Prevention	Control/Consent
Portability/Vendor Lock-in	Auditability	Transparency
Paper/Offline		Recourse
Adoptable/Easy to Use		Least Disclosure
		No Surveillance

