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# Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies (DLTs) — Overview of trust anchors for DLT-based identity management

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ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

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# Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 307, *Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies*, in collaboration with Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.


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# Introduction

In recent years, new decentralized digital identity management systems have emerged, some of them based in distributed ledger technologies (DLTs) providing support functions. As explained in ISO/TR 23249, these include associating identifiers with public keys, supporting the attestation of credentials, enabling credentials revocation, defining common credential templates or implementing trust anchors.

DLT systems provide and rely on different types of trust anchors for DLT-based identity management, each being important in terms of some dimension of policy, technology, data, security, assurance, etc. Each trust anchor presents opportunities and risks to a DLT-based identity management system, and the DLT-based identity management system actors need guidance and standards to develop an appropriate operating model and risk mitigation strategy.

However, the DLT-based identity management system actors have also to take into account risks, including those shared with other organizations in chains of trust, and to have a governance model that is suitable for distributed and decentralized ecosystems formed by multiple actors. The DLT-based identity management system actors have to consider technological change and new types of technology with new risks that can address, create or result in opportunities and threats. The overall effectiveness of the DLT-based identity management system is critically dependent on the quality of the data it holds and shares; this is a high priority in DLT-based identity management system governance and operational models.

This document provides an overview of trust anchors for DLT-based identity management systems.

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# Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies (DLTs) — Overview of trust anchors for DLT-based identity management

## 1 Scope

This document describes concepts and considerations on the use of trust anchors for systems leveraging blockchain and distributed ledger technologies (DLTs) for identity management, i.e. the mechanism by which one or more entities can create, be given, modify, use and revoke a set of identity attributes.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 22739:2020, *Blockchain and distributed ledger technologies — Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 22739:2020 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

## 4 Abbreviated terms

| | |
|---|---|
| AML | anti-money laundering |
| BIP | bitcoin improvement proposal |
| CA | certification authority |
| CAB | Certification Authority Browser (CA/Browser) |
| DID | decentralized identifier |
| DKMI | decentralized key management infrastructure |
| DKMS | decentralized key management system |
| DLT | distributed ledger technology |
| eIDAS | electronic identification, authentication and trust services |
| ETSI | European Telecommunication Standards Institute |
| EU | European Union |
| ID | identity |

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