APPROACHES TO

Agentic AI Identity Management

Toward a Layered Identity Model for Agentic AI Systems

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THE CORE PROBLEM

This is not an identity problem. It is an infrastructure problem.

Billions

Agents interacting across ecosystems

Fragmented

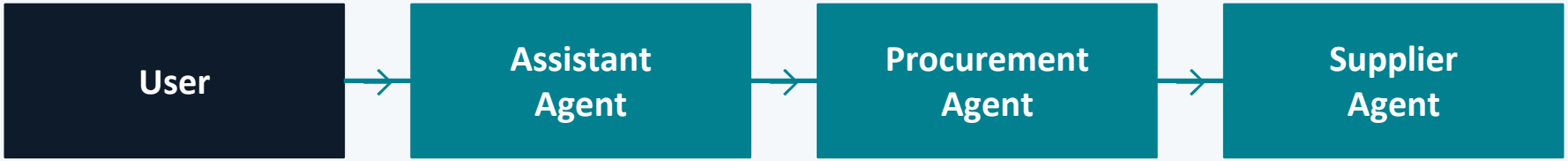
Platforms building their own models

Zero

Standards covering the full stack

Existing identity models - human, device, workload, organizational - were not designed for autonomous delegation chains that cross platforms, organizations, and trust domains.

WHAT CURRENT STANDARDS MISS



A delegation chain crossing platforms, organizations, and trust domains

Standard	What it covers	What's still missing
OAuth 2.0	Delegated authorization	Multi-hop chains, agent provenance
Verifiable Credentials	Credential portability	Dynamic delegation, revocation at scale
DIDs	Decentralized identifiers	Agent capability assertions
SPIFFE/SPIRE	Workload identity	Cross-org trust domains, delegation

A LAYERED IDENTITY MODEL

L1	**Human Identity**	*Who is ultimately responsible?*
L2	**Organizational Identity**	*What institution backs this agent?*
L3	**Agent Identity**	*What is acting? (model, type, version)*
L4	**Capability Identity**	*What is it authorized to do?*
L5	**Delegation Identity**	*On whose behalf, and how far does authority extend?*
L6	**Transaction Identity**	*What happened? Is it auditable?*

Existing standards (OAuth, VCs, DIDs, SPIFFE) cover individual layers - not the full stack.

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THE DESIGN CONSTRAINT: INTEROPERABILITY

The internet did not scale because each network built its own routing.

It scaled because we agreed on protocols.

The same logic applies here.

DNS

Names resolve
across the internet

TLS/PKI

Trust is verified
without prior knowledge

Agent Identity

Trust must work
across ecosystems

Nobody wins if every platform invents its own identity model.

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WHAT A WORKING FRAMEWORK NEEDS

Four requirements the community must align on:

01

Portable agent identity object

A standard identity representation for agents that carries across trust domains — not locked to any platform or vendor.

02

Delegation chain representation & revocation

A standard for encoding who delegated what authority to whom, how far that authority extends, and how to revoke it.

03

Cross-ecosystem credential exchange

Protocols that allow an agent credentialed in one ecosystem to be verified by a relying party in another — without bilateral agreements.

04

Multi-hop provenance tracking

An auditable record that survives across agent-to-agent handoffs: what acted, on whose behalf, under what authority.

THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US

1

Treat agent identity as digital public infrastructure

2

Align on the layered model as a working framework

3

Coordinate across ITU-T, DIF, IETF, and OpenID Foundation