

Credential

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Discussion

A Credential associates an [Identity](#) or authority claim with information used during [Authentication](#) or [Access Control](#).

Credentials include passwords, authentication tokens, cryptographic certificates, signed assertions, application credentials, service credentials, and physical or digital identity tokens.

A Credential contains [Cryptographic Material](#), refers to Cryptographic Material, or operates without Cryptographic Material. The concepts overlap but remain distinct. A Credential supports an identity or authority claim. Cryptographic Material supports a cryptographic operation or relationship.

A Credential requires controlled creation, issuance, storage, distribution, use, rotation, revocation, retention, and disposal throughout its [Lifecycle](#).

Definition

representation of an identity or authority claim used in authentication or access control

Source

DIDO Solutions project definition.

Note

Possession of a Credential does not independently establish authorisation. An authentication or access-control process evaluates the Credential and the applicable [Policy](#) before granting access.

A record identifies a sensitive Credential through a protected reference, identifier, digest, or redacted representation rather than an exposed value.

The controls applied to a Credential preserve its required [Confidentiality](#), [Integrity](#), authenticity, availability, and [Traceability](#).

Example

A client certificate presented by a [Node](#) during mutual TLS authentication constitutes a Credential.

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