Digital Promise Launches Badging Coalition to Develop an Open-Source Badging Solution

In partnership with learners, credentialing experts, developers, and designers, the Coalition will co-design an equity-centered badging mechanism.

June 28, 2023 | Washington, D.C. - Global education nonprofit, [Digital Promise](#) has launched a badging coalition to develop an open-source badging solution. Since 2014, Digital Promise has awarded over 20,000 microcredentials and partnered with numerous organizations. The Badging Coalition will meet over the course of the next year to collaboratively design an open-source badging solution that can be leveraged both by learners and institutions.

"As digital credentials become an essential element of verifying learners' competencies and skills, it is critical that organizations have an open-source badging option," says Dr. Rita Fennlley-Atkinson, director of micro-credentials at Digital Promise. "Digital Promise is thrilled to bring together a coalition that will center the diverse needs of all types of learners who will benefit from increased opportunities to certify their skills."

Digital Promise proposes the creation of a badging alternative in the market to support like-minded badging providers. The proposed badging solution incorporates the following ideals:

- **Equity**: We believe that a technology credentialing solution should consider the needs of diverse learners. This concept is founded on the principle that diverse expertise, experience, and perspectives are critical to designing a robust product. Further, we also believe that development teams should be representative of the intended user base to the largest degree possible.

- **Learner Autonomy and Control of Data**: Data and privacy continue to be a topic of discussion in education and digital credentials. Badging mechanisms should provide learners with autonomy in how they manage, control, and share their data, and with whom. This control should also include the right to determine how much personal information is shared and how it may subsequently be used by the badging provider.

- **Ability to Serve All Ages**: Most badging providers only have the capability to serve adults, while a small subset can support credentials for learners aged 13+. Developing a badging solution that can support learners of all ages will support a variety of credentialing efforts that can serve a broader range of learners.

- **Open Source and Sustainability**: Currently, there is no true open-source badging solution that is freely accessible. Since the inception of digital badges, many advances have been made that can inform the design and development of an open-source solution that is also sustainable. We believe that a collaborative open-source solution is key to sustaining and advancing badging technologies in a way that benefits a variety of credentialing organizations.

- **Adherence to Open Badges Standard V3.0**: Currently, most badging providers adhere to the OBv2 and OBv2.1 of 1EdTech's Open Badges standard. A solution that adheres to the latest standard will allow for the greatest flexibility and ability to evolve toward Learner Employment Record and Comprehensive Learner Record compatibility.

Currently, the Badging Coalition is at capacity, but if you are interested in staying involved, please complete the following form to be added to the waitlist. Follow along the work of the Badging Coalition by visiting our website.

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About Digital Promise
Digital Promise is a global nonprofit working to expand opportunity for every learner. We work with educators, researchers, technology leaders, and communities to design, investigate, and scale innovations that support learners, especially those who've been historically and systematically excluded. Our vision is that every person engages in powerful learning experiences that lead to a life of well-being, fulfillment, and economic mobility. For more information, visit the Digital Promise website and follow @digitalpromise for updates.