

Proposal for the strategic development of the Solid Project towards Web 3.0 Data Space

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Introduction

For over a decade, the Solid Project has championed reclamation of the user data control back from dominating platforms. Yet, despite its potential, the Solid Project has not achieved the widespread popularity of its predecessor, the Web technology from 30 years ago. Partially, this is attributed to the unresolved technical challenges such as strong user authentication, security issues, and the POD utilization within corporate and IoT contexts. However, a significant organizational challenge also lies in creating mutually beneficial business scenarios for implementing a new ecosystem for all stakeholders. Consequently, we face systemic challenges requiring a broader approach going beyond what the Solid protocol can offer alone. Going forward, we suggest a two-stage plan for the Solid Project's future development:

- Stage 1: Introduction of the complete Solid-based ecosystem, with a sound brand name
- Stage 2: Cooperation with European Data Space & European Digital ID programs

The outcome of the project is the launch of a viable European Data Space.

Stage 1. Consolidation under the Web 3.0 Data Space Concept

Big picture: an ecosystem around Solid

Recognizing Solid as a foundational element, our goal is to build up an integrated ecosystem around it. To serve businesses, governments, and people the ecosystem requires extra features such as strong security, identity management, and platforms prepared to return data to the PODs.

Name for the ecosystem: Web 3.0 Data Space

- *Web 3.0* combines the advantages of Web 1.0 (publishing information only once) and Web 2.0 (retaining platforms' aggregation power).
- *Data Space* is where countless PODs unify to a global shared repository of the *original* data.

NB! The name is not blockchain-related; we choose "Web 3.0", as this ecosystem *is* the new Web

The language for engaging the Solid community and beyond: Biz-cases

To get a buy-in from Solid community, and from our private, public and citizens clients we need to provide all of them with a common language: the business cases. E.g., museums ask for "*Long-term preservation*", railways demand "*Passengers can get a multi-modal route with ANY app of their choice*", governments need "*Peoples' spending data without violating privacy*" and citizens need "*Simple yet secure e-voting*" and "*One e-passport to get all services*". Biz-cases will be the starting point for any architecture and technical discussion.

We invite the Solid community to discuss the ecosystem architecture: Whitepaper

To kick off this vision, we propose a [whitepaper](#). It starts with a comprehensive and challenging list of biz-cases, from reliable e-reputation and eliminating fake news to IPR control and persistent IDs. Then we discuss the solution at 3 levels. At the 1st "C-level" we explore WHY questions and competitive landscape. At the 2nd "Analytic" level we answer all biz-cases. At the 3rd "Architecture" level we dive into unusual ways of using existing technologies. We invite the Solid community and practical pilot initiatives like Athumi, INRUPT or Linckr to this discussion.

Stage 2. Cooperation with the European Data Space

IDSA has similar issues with building up a complete eco-system.

The International Data Space Association (IDSA), guiding the European Data Space (with €1+ billion EU support), faces the same challenges as Solid. After nearly ten years focusing on their protocol development, IDSA hasn't fully launched its Data Space. There is a need for new approaches, especially for the "Personal Data Space."

Solid brings in a new idea of decoupling data from platforms and systems

Such decoupling will allow the IDSA to expand and link up millions of platforms in bulk. Furthermore, the IDSA will be able to distinguish beyond corporations, i.e. employees and IoT.

Co-operation instead of competition

While the IDSA community might see Solid as competition, our goal for Solid and IDS is to complement each other within a vibrant dataspace. The IDSA works with corporations and platforms, with less focus on individual users. Conversely, Solid prioritizes individuals. To solve corporate issues, we must consider work's role in life.

Biz-cases is the common language for both (and other) communities to align on

Our discussions with the IDSA colleagues have been fruitful, in general endorsing this approach. Essentially, Biz-cases serve as a navigational guide to the Data Space landscape, enabling the IDSA members' projects to align with consumer requirements. Once consensus on Biz-cases is reached, the focus proceeds to their optimal technical execution.

Going beyond the European Data Space to merge with other projects

Collaboration between Solid and IDSA, using biz-cases as a foundation, sets a precedent for other initiatives to cooperate. For example, the European Digital ID program is still isolated from Data Space world. We see its value in establishing advanced user identification and authentication in the Web 3.0 Data Space.

Working together across project communities is crucial for transforming the Internet landscape.

The role of the Post-Platforms Foundation

The Data Space ecosystem requires organizational innovation, and we will do it.

While projects like IDSA and Solid primarily focus on technological development, the Post-Platforms Foundation (member of IDSA) emphasizes organizational innovation. We will develop strategic business plans for particular domains, launch organizational subsystems like PKI (public key infrastructure), establish public-private partnerships, and build up political, legal, and commercial backing to strengthen the Web 3.0 Data Space ecosystem.