

PRISM VDR Driver

Introduction & Code Examples

Verifiable Data Registry on Cardano Blockchain

This VDR is part of Hyperledger Identus Project and was created under the Cardano's Project Catalyst #1300189, Milestone 3

<https://milestones.projectcatalyst.io/projects/1300189/milestones/3>

What is a Verifiable Data Registry (VDR)?

A **Verifiable Data Registry** is a system that:

- **Stores data** that can be independently verified
- **Creates an immutable audit trail** of all changes
- **Provides cryptographic proof** of data authenticity
- **Enables decentralized trust** without central authority

Real-world analogy: Think of it like a public notary service that timestamps and validates documents, but it's automated, decentralized, and permanent.

Why Blockchain for VDR?

Blockchain provides:

- Immutability** - Data cannot be changed once written
- Transparency** - Anyone can verify the data
- Decentralization** - No single point of failure
- Cryptographic Security** - Strong mathematical guarantees
- Timestamp Proof** - When data was created/modified

This project uses Cardano blockchain - a proof-of-stake blockchain with high security and low energy consumption.

What is the PRISM VDR Protocol?

The **PRISM VDR Protocol** is the part of the PRISM Protocol specification that defines:

1. **How to structure data** for storage on Cardano
2. **How to sign data** with cryptographic keys
3. **How to create, update, and delete entries** on-chain
4. **How to verify data authenticity** from the blockchain

Key Features:

- Uses Cardano transaction metadata (label **21325**)
- Encodes data in Protocol Buffers (protobuf)
- Signs with secp256k1 ECDSA cryptography
- Supports both identity (SSI) and generic storage entries

PRISM Protocol - Entry Types

SSI (Self-Sovereign Identity) Entries

- Represent `did:prism` identifiers (DIDs) & DID Documents
- Contain cryptographic keys (MASTER_KEY, VDR_KEY, etc.)
- Form a chain of lifecycle events (E-1, E-2, E-6)
- **SSI identifier** = hash of the creation event (E-1)

Storage Entries

- Store arbitrary data (up to 16KB per transaction metadata limit)
- **Owned by** an SSI entry (signed by owner's VDR_KEY)
- Form a chain of lifecycle events (E-7, E-8, E-9)
- Support multiple data types: byte arrays, IPFS CIDs, etc and custom types.
- Auto-deactivate when owner SSI is deactivated

PRISM Protocol - Event Flow

How data gets recorded on Cardano:

1. **Create Event** - Construct PRISM event
2. **Sign with Private Key** - Sign with appropriate key purpose
3. **Encode as Protobuf** - Serialize event using Protocol Buffers
4. **Submit to Cardano** - Send transaction via Blockfrost API
5. **Transaction Confirmed** - Included in blockchain (~2-3 blocks, a few minutes)
6. **Data Immutable** - Considered immutable after confirmation

Settlement Time:

- **Practically immutable:** After a few blocks (~5-10 minutes)
- **Fully settled:** ~36 minutes (guaranteed immutability)

What is the PRISM VDR Driver?

The PRISM VDR Driver is a Scala 3 implementation that:

- **✓ Implements the PRISM VDR Protocol**
- **✓ Provides a simple Java-compatible API**
- **✓ Handles blockchain interaction** via Blockfrost API
- **✓ Manages cryptographic signing** automatically
- **✓ Published to Maven Central** for easy integration

Think of it as: A library that makes it easy to use the PRISM VDR Protocol without dealing with blockchain complexity.

```
B --> C[PRISM VDR Driver];  
C --> D[ZIO Effect System];  
D --> E[Blockfrost API];  
E --> F[Cardano Blockchain];
```

Core CRUD Operations

The driver provides 5 main operations:

Operation	Description
<code>create()</code>	Create new storage entry on blockchain
<code>read()</code>	Fetch data from blockchain by identifier
<code>update()</code>	Update existing entry with new data
<code>delete()</code>	Deactivate entry (marks as deleted)
<code>verify()</code>	Verify data and get cryptographic proof

Let's see each one in action with code examples!

Setup - Configuration

Before using the driver, you need to configure it:

```
import hyperledger.identus.vdr.prism.*  
import fmgp.did.method.prism.*  
import fmgp.did.method.prism.cardano.*  
import fmgp.crypto.Secp256k1PrivateKey  
  
// 1. Configure Blockfrost API access (preprod testnet)  
val blockfrostConfig = BlockfrostConfig(token = "preprod_TOKEN...")  
// 2. Configure wallet with 24-word mnemonic  
// ⚠ WARNING: This is a test wallet for demo purposes only!  
val walletConfig = CardanoWalletConfig(Seq(  
    "mention", "side", "album", "physical", "uncle", "lab",  
    "horn", "nasty", "script", "few", "hazard", "announce",  
    "upon", "group", "ten", "moment", "fantasy", "helmet",  
    "supreme", "early", "gadget", "curve", "lecture", "edge"  
)  
// 3. Your DID identifier that owns the VDR entries  
val didPrism = DIDPrism("51d47b13393a7cc5c1afc47099dcbeccc0c8a70828c072ac82f55225b42d4f4")  
// 4. Derive VDR signing key from wallet (key purpose: 0, 1)  
val vdrKey = Secp256k1PrivateKey(walletConfig.secp256k1PrivateKey(0, 1).rawBytes)
```

Setup - Create Driver Instance

```
// Initialize the PRISM Driver with MongoDB and automatic indexing
val driver = PRISMDriverMongoDBWithIndexer(
    blockfrostConfig = blockfrostConfig,          // Blockfrost config
    wallet = walletConfig,                        // Cardano wallet
    didPrism = didPrism,                          // Your DID
    vdrKey = vdrKey,                             // Signing VDR key
    mongoDBConnection = mongoDBConnection.       // connection to BD
)

// Driver is ready to use!
println(s"✓ Driver Version: ${driver.getVersion}")      // Output: 1.0
println(s"✓ Driver Family: ${driver.getFamily}")        // Output: PRISM
println(s"✓ Driver ID: ${driver.getIdentifier}")        // Output: PRISMDriverMongoDBWithIndexer
```

Note: This driver variant uses MongoDB for persistence and runs automatic indexing before each operation.

CREATE - Store Data on Blockchain

```
val originalData = "My Data. Just some bytes".getBytes
val createResult = driver.create(originalData, Map.empty.asJava)
val vdrEntryId = createResult.getIdentifier

println(s"Data created: ${bytes2Hex(originalData)}")
println(s"VDREntryID: $vdrEntryId")
println(s"State: ${createResult.getState}") // SUCCESS
```

What happens:

1. Data is encoded in protobuf
2. Signed with your VDR key
3. Submitted to Cardano blockchain
4. Returns unique identifier ('create' event hash)

CREATE - Real Example

You can run this example from the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step1
```

Output:

```
Data created: 4d792044617461...
VDREntryID: abc123def456...
State: SUCCESS
```

The data is now permanently stored on Cardano blockchain and verifiable!

READ - Retrieve Data from Blockchain

```
val readData = driver.read(  
    Array(vdrEntryId),           // Identifier from create operation  
    Map.empty.asJava,            // Optional queries  
    null,                        // Fragment (not used)  
    Array.empty                  // Public keys (not required)  
)  
println(s"Data read: ${bytes2Hex(readData)}")  
println(s"Data length: ${readData.length} bytes")
```

Run the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step2 # Reads data created in step1
```

What happens:

1. Driver queries Cardano blockchain via Blockfrost
2. Fetches transaction with matching event hash

UPDATE - Modify Existing Entry

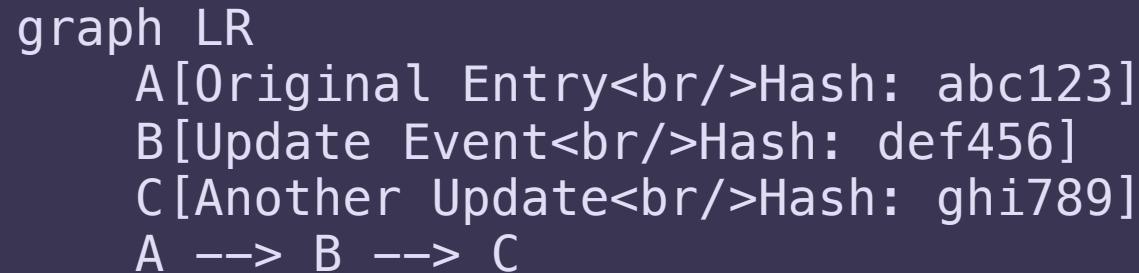
```
val updatedData = "Updated Data".getBytes
val updateResult = driver.update(
    updatedData,                      // New data
    Array(vdrEntryId),                // Path: identifier of entry to update
    Map.empty.asJava,                 // Queries (optional)
    null,                            // Fragment (not used)
    Map.empty.asJava                  // Options (optional)
)
val newId = updateResult.getIdentifier

println(s"New data: ${bytes2Hex(updatedData)}")
println(s"VDR Entry Id : $vdrEntryId")
println(s"New identifier: $newId")
println(s"State: ${updateResult.getState}") // SUCCESS
```

Run the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step3 # Updates the entry from step1
```

UPDATE - How it Works



Each update:

- Creates a **new event** on the blockchain
- References the **previous event hash**
- Forms an **immutable chain** of updates
- Both old and new data remain on-chain

To get latest data: Use the most recent identifier

DELETE - Deactivate Entry

```
driver.delete(  
    Array(vdrEntryId),           // Path: identifier to delete  
    Map.empty.asJava,            // Queries (optional)  
    null,                        // Fragment (not used)  
    Map.empty.asJava             // Options (optional)  
)  
println("✓ Entry deactivated")
```

Run the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step6 # Deactivates the entry  
sbt demo/run step7 # Try to read – returns empty (step7 = step2)
```

Try to read after deactivation:

```
val deletedData = driver.read(Array(vdrEntryId), Map.empty.asJava, null, Array.empty)  
println(s"Data length: ${deletedData.length}") // Output: 0
```

VERIFY - Get Cryptographic Proof

```
val proof = driver.verify(  
    Array(vdrEntryId),           // Path: identifier to verify  
    Map.empty.asJava,            // Queries (optional)  
    null,                      // Fragment (not used)  
    Array.empty,                // Public keys (optional)  
    true                        // returnData: Include data in response  
)  
  
println(s"Proof Type: ${proof.getType}")          // "PrismBlock"  
println(s>Data: ${bytes2Hex(proof.getData)}")      // Original data  
println(s"Proof bytes: ${proof.getProof.length}")   // Cryptographic proof  
println("✓ Cryptographic proof obtained")
```

Run the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step5 # Verify and get cryptographic proof
```

Use cases:

Check Operation Status

```
val status = driver.storeResultState(vdrEntryId)

status match {
  case Driver.OperationState.SUCCESS =>
    println("✓ Operation succeeded")
  case Driver.OperationState.RUNNING =>
    println("⌚ Operation in progress")
  case Driver.OperationState.ERROR =>
    println("✗ Operation failed")
}
```

Run the demo:

```
sbt demo/run step8 # Check operation status
```

Note: Currently the driver runs synchronously, so operations return immediately with SUCCESS or throw exceptions on error.

Complete Example - End to End

The complete workflow is available in the demo as step-by-step examples:

```
# Run each step in sequence:  
sbt demo/run step0  # Create DID (one-time setup)  
sbt demo/run step1  # CREATE – Store data on blockchain  
sbt demo/run step2  # READ – Retrieve the data  
sbt demo/run step3  # UPDATE – Modify the entry  
sbt demo/run step4  # READ – Read updated data (step4 = step2)  
sbt demo/run step5  # VERIFY – Get cryptographic proof  
sbt demo/run step6  # DELETE – Deactivate entry  
sbt demo/run step7  # READ – Try to read (returns empty, step7 = step2)  
sbt demo/run step8  # Check operation status
```

Or see the full code in:

- `demo/src/main/scala/demo/ExamplesStepByStep.scala`
- `demo/src/main/scala/demo/DemoConfig.scala`

Use Cases

Where would you use PRISM VDR Driver?

1. Digital Identity Systems

- Store and manage decentralized identifiers (DIDs)
- Verifiable credentials and attestations

2. Audit Trails

- Tamper-proof logging
- Compliance and regulatory records

3. Document Verification

- Notarization of documents
- Timestamp proofs

Use Cases

4. Supply Chain

- Track product provenance
- Verify authenticity

5. Healthcare

- Medical record integrity
- Consent management

6. Whistleblower

- Censorship resistance
- Confidentially and Anonymously (No PII is collected)
- Data Integrity and Verifiability
- **Proof of Continuity!**

Integration - Maven/SBT

Add to your project:

- **SBT (build.sbt):**

```
libraryDependencies += "org.hyperledger.identus" %% "prism-vdr-driver" % "0.3.0"
```

- **Maven (pom.xml):**

```
<dependency>
    <groupId>org.hyperledger.identus</groupId>
    <artifactId>prism-vdr-driver_3</artifactId>
    <version>0.3.0</version>
</dependency>
```

- **Gradle (build.gradle):**

```
implementation 'org.hyperledger.identus:prism-vdr-driver_3:0.3.0'
```

Requirements

To use the PRISM VDR Driver you need:

1. **Java 17+** runtime environment
2. **Blockfrost API token** (free tier is available)
 - Sign up at: <https://blockfrost.io>
 - Choose preprod (testing) or mainnet (production)
3. **Cardano wallet mnemonic** (24 words)
 - Generate with any Cardano wallet (Daedalus, Yoroi, Identus SDKs, etc.)
4. **DID identifier** and VDR key
 - Created during SSI initialization
5. **ADA tokens** (only for mainnet)
 - Transactions cost ~0.2 ADA
 - Preprod uses test tokens (free)

Key Technical Details

Protocol Specifications:

- **Blockchain:** Cardano (mainnet or preprod)
- **Metadata Label:** 21325 (PRISM_LABEL)
- **Encoding:** Protocol Buffers (protobuf)
- **Signature Algorithm:** secp256k1 ECDSA with SHA-256
- **Max Entry Size:** 16,384 bytes (Cardano transaction limit)
- **Settlement Time:** ~36 minutes (guaranteed immutability)

Driver Specifications:

- **Language:** Scala 3.3.6
- **License:** Apache 2.0
- **API:** Java-compatible interface

Networks - Preprod vs Mainnet

Preprod (Testnet):

- Free test TADA tokens
- Fast testing and iteration
- Same functionality as mainnet
- Data may be reset periodically
- Explorer: <https://preprod.cardanoscan.io>

Mainnet (Production):

- Permanent, production-grade storage
- Real economic value
- Costs real ADA (~0.2 per transaction)
- Data is PERMANENT (cannot be removed)

Security Considerations

✓ Strong Security Features:

- secp256k1 cryptographic signatures
- Blockchain immutability
- Public verifiability

⚠ Important Warnings:

1. **Private Keys:** Never commit wallet mnemonics to git!
2. **Public Data:** All blockchain data is PUBLIC and permanent
3. **No Deletion:** "Delete" only marks as inactive, data remains on-chain
4. **Key Management:** Losing VDR's owners keys means losing control of the SSI and storage entries
5. **API Tokens:** Protect your Blockfrost API token

Resources & Documentation

Official Documentation:

-  PRISM VDR Specification: [prism-vdr-specification.md](#)
-  Source code: <https://github.com/hyperledger-identus/prism-vdr-driver>

Hyperledger Identus:

-  Website: <https://www.hyperledger.org/projects/identus>
-  Identus VDR Spec: <https://github.com/hyperledger-identus/identus-vdr>

Cardano Resources:

-  Blockfrost API: <https://blockfrost.io>
-  Block Explorer: <https://cardanoscan.io>

Summary

What we covered:

-  **PRISM VDR Protocol** - Specification for verifiable data on Cardano
-  **PRISM VDR Driver** - Scala 3 implementation of the protocol
-  **5 Core Operations** - Create, Read, Update, Delete, Verify
-  **Code Examples** - How to use each operation
-  **Configuration** - Setup and integration
-  **Use Cases** - Real-world applications

Key Takeaway:

The PRISM VDR Driver makes it easy to store verifiable, immutable data on the Cardano blockchain with just a few lines of code.

Thank You!

Questions?

Contact & Resources:

-  GitHub Issues: <https://github.com/hyperledger-identus/prism-vdr-driver/issues>
-  Hyperledger Identus Community:
 -  Discord Identus channel - Linux Foundation Decentralized Trust
 -  Identus Community weekly meeting
-  Full documentation in repository

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