Use Case Anchor — v0.01 (Final)

Purpose
This document anchors a specific, recurring coordination problem observed in multi-system environments where eligibility and discovery depend on external classification standards. It is intentionally narrow, descriptive, and non-prescriptive. No implementation, governance model, or enforcement mechanism is implied.

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1. Context

Organizations increasingly rely on automated or semi-automated processes to determine whether an entity is eligible to discover, access, or participate in a given activity. These determinations frequently reference **external classification frameworks**—such as industry, trade, or occupational standards—that exist outside the organization's direct control.

As operations scale across regions, partners, and internal systems, these classifications are reused repeatedly. However, they are often interpreted, mapped, and applied independently within each system, without a shared coordination reference.

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2. Primary Use Case: Eligibility-Based Discovery Across Systems

Actors

- An organization operating multiple digital systems
- External entities (people, organizations, or assets) seeking discovery or participation
- One or more external classification standards maintained by third parties

Scenario

An external entity seeks to discover or participate in an offering, workflow, or process.
Eligibility depends on how that entity is classified under one or more external standards.

Within the organization:

- Multiple systems reference the same external classifications
- Each system applies its own interpretation or mapping
- Eligibility logic is evaluated independently at each point of interaction

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3. Observed Problem

This pattern produces consistent operational friction:

- **Fragmented interpretation**
  The same classification may be evaluated differently across systems.
- **Opaque exclusion**
  Entities may be filtered, blocked, or misrouted without clear visibility into the basis for the decision.
- **Redundant implementation**
  Similar eligibility logic is repeatedly recreated, increasing the likelihood of divergence over time.
- **Limited traceability**
  It becomes difficult to identify which classification, version, or interpretation influenced a given outcome.

These issues become more pronounced as automation increases and human mediation decreases.

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4. Boundary of the Use Case

This use case explicitly does **not** address:

- Definition, ownership, or governance of classification standards
- Verification or certification of claims

- Enforcement of access, compliance, or policy decisions
- Replacement of existing identity, credentialing, or authorization systems

The focus is limited to the **coordination problem that arises prior to enforcement**, at the stage where discovery or eligibility is evaluated.

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5. Limitations of Existing Approaches

Common approaches often assume either:

- Centralized ownership of eligibility logic, or
- Tight coupling between systems and specific classification standards

These assumptions break down in environments where:

- Standards are externally maintained
- Systems are heterogeneous and independently evolved
- Authority and participation are distributed

As a result, coordination is handled informally, inconsistently, or implicitly, leading to ambiguity and drift.

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6. Anchor Statement

When discovery and eligibility depend on external classifications that no single system owns, a shared coordination reference is necessary to reduce fragmentation, ambiguity, and unintended exclusion.

This document defines that problem space without asserting a specific solution, implementation, or governing authority.

Document Status

- **Version:** v0.01 (Final)
- **Intent:** Use case anchoring only
- **Scope:** Single, bounded scenario
- **Audience:** Reviewers, institutions, and technical stakeholders
- **Next document:** *Prior Art Timeline — v0.01*