Stewardship

Introduction

You are reading this introduction because your organization is interested in becoming a Sovrin Steward. We are thrilled you are willing to contribute to the cause of Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI)! After reading this paper, you should understand the **purpose**, **qualifications**, and **process** of Sovrin Stewardship.

Purpose

What are Stewards?

Sovrin Stewards are organizations from a myriad of geographies, structures, and industries that operate the network by running validator nodes which write to and read the Sovrin ledger, making them crucial to the independence and security of the network. Therefore, having good Stewards means having a good network. As such, processes have been established to ensure all Stewards are valuable contributors to the network in compliance with business, legal, and technical requirements contained in the Sovrin Trust Framework (STF).

Why Sovrin Stewardship?

Sovrin Stewardship helps organizations in many ways. In addition to reputational benefits of supporting SSI, running your own central node may improve performance of services and tools you may provide. Stewards are also Trust Anchors (see section 3.5 of STF) which unlocks special opportunities in the Sovrin ecosystem.

Process

The process of becoming a Sovrin Steward begins with reviewing sections 5.2 and 7 of this document to ensure your organization qualifies. Once you feel confident applying, your organization will follow a three-part process: approval, onboarding, and announcement.

Approval

To apply to become a Steward, your organization will receive a folder in Google Drive with a Business and Legal Questionnaire for review by the Steward Qualification Committee (SQC) and a Technical Questionnaire for review by the Technical Governance Board (TGB). These surveys are due by the first Wednesday of the month your organization intends to be approved in. During the subsequent weeks, the SQC and TGB will independently review your answers to these surveys and vote to nominate your organization to become a Sovrin Steward. If both the TGB and SQC nominate your organization, a representative from each of these groups will present their opinion to the Board of Trustees (BOT) at the next BOT meeting. The BOT will then hold a formal vote to approve your organization. Once you are approved, you will sign the Steward Agreement of the STF and officially become a Steward.

Onboarding

After signing the Steward Agreement, Sovrin support staff will send you detailed instructions and help get your validator node stood up within 30 days. If your organization would like to set up a node on the Sovrin Test Network (STN) before BOT approval, you may reach out with your intentions and Sovrin staff will consider your request based on bandwidth of the support team.

Announcement

Once your organization is an active Steward on the Sovrin Network, the Sovrin Foundation would like to work with you to announce this to the world. This is most typically done through a press release by both companies done in tandem. After the press release, your company and logo will be published at www.sovrin.org/stewards.

We are thrilled that your organization is considering becoming a Steward on the Sovrin Network. Please reach out to our Executive Director Steve Fulling at steve@sovrin.org with any questions you may have.