Verifiable health credentials for travel and transportation

IBM Digital Health Pass

How can we get back to travel while prioritizing health and safety for employees and customers?

For the first time in decades, the way individuals travel will fundamentally change. With new health and safety regulations from the CDC, WHO and other government agencies, airlines and passengers alike will need to comply quickly. Airlines are looking for ways to improve travel experiences and create verifiable health credentials – in a privacy-preserving manner.

IBM® Watson Health® is designing the solutions to help answer the question: How can we get back to travel while prioritizing health and safety for employees and travelers? To help address that need, Watson Health recently launched the IBM Digital Health Pass.

Solution

IBM Digital Health Pass is designed to provide travel organizations with a smart way to bring people back to a physical location, such as an airline, cruise ship or hotel.

Built on IBM Blockchain technology, the solution is designed to enable organizations to verify health credentials for employees, customers and visitors entering their site based on criteria specified by the organization.

Privacy is central to the solution, and the digital wallet allows travelers to maintain control of their personal health information and share it in a way that is secured, verifiable and trusted. Travelers can share their health pass to return to travel and the activities they love, without requiring exposure of the underlying personal data used to generate the credential.

Benefits

IBM Digital Health Pass is designed to help organizations:

– Interact with travelers in a new way that prioritizes health and safety for passengers

– Adhere and be agile to the ever-evolving government and travel policies around COVID-19

– Build trust by giving travelers the ability to control their personal health data and share in a privacy-preserving manner

– Easily integrate health passes into business policies and processes, so that a verified health pass can be generated for a traveler entering your location

How we envision IBM Digital Health Pass in application*

1. Set entry policies
First, the airline determines its boarding criteria for an upcoming flight. This could include COVID-19 test results and temperature scans.

2. Onboard holder
A passenger planning to travel downloads IBM Digital Health Pass Wallet via mobile phone, or the travel provider's mobile app.

3. Test health status
The traveler gets a COVID-19 test prior to the flight.

4. Issue credentials
The traveler is notified their test result is ready and can download the credential to their mobile app. If they meet airline criteria, they will receive a green health pass.

5. Verify credentials
The traveler shows a QR code to a gate agent where their health credential is verified with a photo ID. Airlines may also feature an icon in their existing mobile app to help them verify a health credential.

*Illustrative use cases: Factors are location specific (e.g. onsite testing)

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