

Decentralized Identifier (DID)

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Decentralized Identifier (DID) is a globally unique persistent identifier that does not require a centralized registration authority and is often generated and/or registered cryptographically. The generic format of a DID is defined in § 3.1 DID Syntax. A specific DID scheme is defined in a DID method specification. Many—but not all—DID methods make use of distributed ledger technology (DLT) or some other form of decentralized network.

A DID is a simple text string consisting of three parts:

1. the **did** [Uniform Resource Locator \(URL\)](#) / [Uniform Resource Identifier \(URI\)](#) scheme identifier (i.e., [Hypertext Transfer Protocol \(HTTP\)](#), [File Transfer Protocol \(FTP\)](#), [InterPlanetary File System \(IPFS\)](#), [mailto](#), etc.).

Note: See: [Internet Assigned Number Authority \(IANA\)](#)
<https://www.iana.org/assignments/uri-schemes/uri-schemes.xhtml>

2. the identifier for the DID method
3. the DID method-specific identifier.

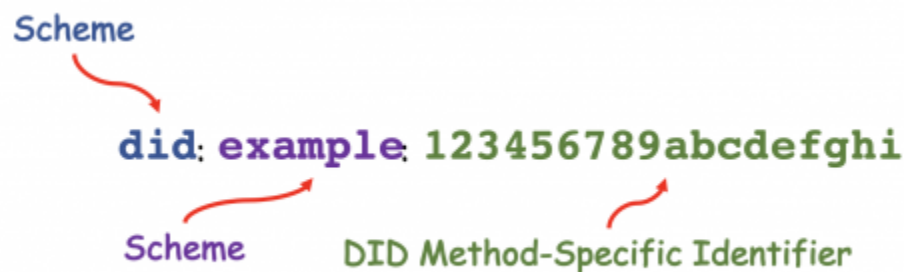


Figure 1: A simple example of a decentralized identifier (DID) (Derived from the W3C)

See:

- [W3C: Decentralized Identifiers \(DIDs\) 1.0](#)
- [RFC7595 - Guidelines and Registration Procedures for URI Schemes](#)

Source: <https://www.w3.org/TR/did-core/>

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