GUIA.



Landscape study · Edition 1 · November 2026

Read before you build on an AI agent identifier

Who answers for an AI agent? What 27 initiatives write about naming it, binding its key and holding someone responsible, and what would change their answer.

Free sample, share as is

27
initiatives read

197
documents on file

135
identifiers recorded, 69 of them for the agent, its key or its organization

1734
quoted passages checked against the stored copies

About this sample

Free sample, share as is

What this sample holds

This is a free sample of edition 1. It holds the key findings and the sheet listed in the contents. Edition 1 holds 27 initiatives, read through 197 documents.

The full report adds the executive summary; chapter 1, What is at stake; chapter 2, Scope and method, limits; chapter 3, The landscape; chapter 4, the summary table; the sheets of every initiative; chapter 6, Precedents; and the appendices: A, Codebook; B, Internal systems; C, Signals to watch; D, Documents read. The key findings refer to some of them.

Use

The sample is © 2026 Matthieu Crédou, Guia. It is free of charge. You may share it as is, without changes.

The full report

guia.fr/agent-identity

STATE OF THE DATA

The identifier coding was reviewed in full once, on 6 October 2026. Later reviews, between 7 and 14 October 2026, covered corrections and the two initiatives coded afterwards (a2a, oauthactor); for each, the last review found no critical and no major issue. Two changes of 14 October were not reviewed: the date of oauthactor and the removal of the working group from the carriers of wba, now recorded only as the venue of its documents. The rank of the strings whose subject the text does not type has not been reviewed line by line. The identifiers of the party the agent presents itself to (merchant, verifier, resource server) are not recorded.

Data generated 2026-10-31

Key findings

The study reads 27 initiatives through 197 documents and records 135 identifier strings, 69 of them primary: strings that name the agent or an instance of it, a key or a credential that stands for it, the organization the text makes answer for it or operate it, or, whatever they name, strings the text makes the identifier of the agent or attaches its key rules to. The primary strings come from 25 of the 27 initiatives, and an initiative that names many strings weighs more than one that names few: the three largest hold 18 of the 69. A string is counted as answering a question only when a sentence of the stored copy answers it, or a row of a table whose column heading asks the question; "not stated" says that the copies read are silent, not that the system lacks the property. Four of the five findings count the strings for which the texts answer and those for which they are silent: that is the central measure of the study, set out in chapter 3.

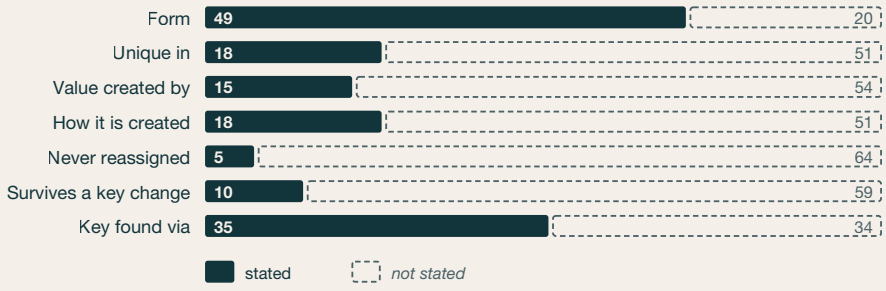
1. **The texts describe a form for 49 of the 69 primary strings; for 5 of 69 they say whether the string can one day be given to another entity.** For the other strings, the texts name a string and neither show nor describe it. 2 of the 25 initiatives with a primary string answer the question of reassignment. AGTP answers it both ways for different strings: its "canonical Agent-ID" is never issued again, its agent label can be registered anew after a waiting period. Neither the "stable subject path", a string kept for one subject across changes of identifier, nor the handle, a name in the form local-part.domain, is ever given to another subject, in the texts of ANP, Agent Network Protocol.
2. **10 of 69 primary strings come with a sentence saying whether the string survives a change of key.** 6 of the 25 initiatives with a primary string answer that question, and the answer is not always yes. In Groundmark and Web Bot Auth, the string that selects the key changes with the key, while the agent's domain or URL does not. The DID, a decentralized identifier, built on a key fingerprint changes with its binding key, not with a runtime key, while the stable subject path does not change, in the texts of ANP, Agent Network Protocol.
3. **18 of 69 primary strings come with a sentence stating the perimeter in which the string is unique.** 12 of the 25 initiatives with a primary string state one, and the perimeters differ, among them the whole world, a DNS domain, a trust domain, an issuing authority, a particular system, a

network or programme, and a namespace the text defines. 3 of these answers are cells of a "Scope" column in one specification, ANS v2, quoted as written.

4. **35 of 69 primary strings come with a sentence saying where a verifier finds the key, in 21 of the 25 initiatives with a primary string.** Three mechanisms recur in those sentences: a record in the DNS, an X.509 certificate, a key directory served over HTTPS; some texts name two or three of them for the same string. Other strings place the key elsewhere, among them in a chain of credentials, on a distributed ledger, or in a registry that exists in the sample code of a repository; for some, the text answers in words the study's list does not hold. Chapter 1 names the initiatives behind each.
5. **29 of the 69 primary strings name the agent or an instance of it; 15 name a key or a credential, which stands for the agent in 13 cases; 12 name an organization.** 1 names a service, and for 12 the text says what the string names and it is none of these. An identifier that names a key says nothing of the agent until another sentence says whose key it is.

The texts describe a form for 49 of the 69 primary strings; for 5 of 69 they say whether the string can be given to another entity.

Figure 1 · Primary strings for which a quoted passage answers, by question · of 69



Source: analyse/report/identifiers.csv.

Contents

5 Initiative sheets 6

INITIATIVE SHEETS

Trusted Agent Protocol 7

5 Initiative sheets

Trusted Agent Protocol 7

payment · 1 of 1

Trusted Agent Protocol

Carried by	First published	Documents read	Identifiers
Visa (company)**; Cloudflare** (company)	**2025-10-14**	**13**	**3 primary, 1 auxiliary**

IDENTIFIER SHOWN IN THE SUMMARY TABLE

`keyid (kid, key_id)` +2 other candidates

names: **key** → **agent** · stated as current · defined in `visa-spec` (protocol specification, published by its author)

Form	string, format not described
Unique in	*not stated*
Value created by	*not stated*
How it is created	*not stated*
Never reassigned	*not stated*
Survives a key change	*not stated*
Key found via	HTTPS key directory

WHAT THE TEXTS SAY ABOUT DIDS

- **no mention of DIDs**

WHAT THE TEXTS DO NOT STATE

For at least one primary identifier: how it is created, key found via, never reassigned, survives a key change, unique in, value created by. Each “not stated” rests on a recorded search of the local copies (analyse/identifiers/visa.search.md).

IDENTIFIERS OF THE AGENT AND OF WHO ANSWERS FOR IT

keyid (kid, key_id)

names: **key** → **agent** · stated as current · defined in `visa-spec` (protocol specification, published by its author)

> The identity of the public key that will be used to verify the signature. The Merchant may have cached the public key for the keyid.
> visa-spec · Required Message Signature Fields · e2

> has been signed using a key maintained by a trusted agent
> visa-spec · Required Message Signature Fields · e21

> The Agent Registry supports multiple keys per agent, enabling key rotation and multi-algorithm support.
> visa-readme-registry · ## Key Management · e11

Form	string, format not described
	> Signature-Input: sig2=("@authority" "@path"); created=1735689600; keyid="poqkLGiymh_W0uP6PZFw-dvez3QJT5SolqXBCW38r0U"; alg="Ed25519"; expires=1735693200; > visa-spec · Sample Checkout Request with Message Signature · e22
Unique in	*not stated*
Value created by	*not stated*
How it is created	*not stated*
Never reassigned	*not stated*
Survives a key change	*not stated*
Key found via	HTTPS key directory
	> Visa publishes public keys on the web in the following well-known location (https://mcp.visa.com/.well-known/jwks) to allow discovery of the keys by the relying party. > visa-spec · Public Keys Retrieval Service · e8

The text calls it the identity of the public key (e2). The link to the agent rests on a key said to be maintained by a trusted agent (e21) and on the sample registry holding several keys per agent (e11). An example value is shown (e22), its format is not described. The same value is named kid in the consumer object, the payment container and the token header, and key_id in the sample registry.

agent_id

names: **agent** · appears in an example only · defined in `visa-readme-registry` (product documentation, published by its author)

> - `GET /agents/{agent_id}` - Get agent details by agent ID
> visa-readme-registry · ### Agent Management · e23

Form	string, format not described
	> "agent_id": 1, "agent_name": "Sample Payment Directory", "agent_domain": "https://directory.example.com" > visa-readme-registry · Returns: · e25
Unique in	*not stated*
Value created by	*not stated*
How it is created	

	not stated
Never reassigned	*not stated*
Survives a key change	*not stated*
Key found via	operator directory

> - `GET /agents/{agent_id}/keys/{key_id}` - Get specific key for agent
> visa-readme-registry · ### Key Management · `preuve:e16`

Exists only in the sample Agent Registry (sample code), not in the specification. The example shows an integer (e25). The registry says it supports several keys per agent to enable rotation but does not state that the agent identifier stays unchanged, so survival of a key change is left not stated. The only value shown is the integer 1 in a sample response.

`domain (agent_domain)`

names: **agent** · appears in an example only · defined in `visa-readme-registry` (product documentation, published by its author)

> - `GET /agents/domain/{domain}` - Find agent by domain
> visa-readme-registry · ### Domain Lookup · `e26`

Form	HTTPS URL

> "agent_id": 1, "agent_name": "Sample Payment Directory", "agent_domain": "https://directory.example.com"
> visa-readme-registry · Returns: · `e25`

Unique in	*not stated*
Value created by	*not stated*
How it is created	*not stated*
Never reassigned	*not stated*
Survives a key change	*not stated*
Key found via	*not stated*

Lookup field of the sample Agent Registry (e26). The example shows an https URL (e25). Nothing is said of its uniqueness or origin.

AUXILIARY STRINGS

Components of another string, identifiers of a party of the infrastructure, or strings the text does not make the identifier of the agent. Their quotes are in the data set and on the site.

String	Names	Form	Status	Quotes
`iss`	organization	URL (scheme not stated)	stated as current	`e29 e5 e30 e31 e8`

GUIA.



Read before you build on an AI agent identifier

Landscape study · Edition 1 · November 2026