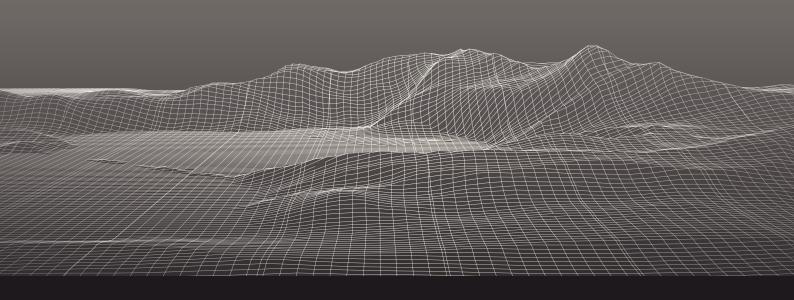


SWF STD-4:2025 (0.1.0)

The Spatial Web

DID Method for the Spatial Web (did:swid) Implementation Specification

September 26, 2025



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Spatial Web Foundation 5877 Obama Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90016 USA

E-mail: info@spatialwebfoundation.org

Abstract

did: swid is a DID method (W3C WD-did-1.1-20250918) for the Spatial Web (Spatial Web Foundation), with the following design goals and properties:

- All Spatial Web Entities (including Credentials) have SWIDs.
- The Spatial Web SWID Registry ensures uniqueness of the SWIDs.
- Most SWIDs will be created by a DID Issuer at behest of the Entity and not recorded in a centralized registry.
- The Spatial Web will include Entities with DIDs created without interaction with any particular authority.

1. Scope

This specification defines the did: swid method for decentralized identifier (DID) (W3C did-core). DIDs using this method can be used as Spatial Web Identifiers (SWIDs). See <u>SWF 3:2025 (0.1.0)</u> for more details about SWIDs.

The Spatial Web will use SWIDs as identifiers.

The did: swid method leverages a registry known as Spatial Web SWID Registry, which is managed by a Designated Authority.

2. Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

W3C did-core, World Wide Web Consortium. *Decentralized Identifiers (DIDs) v1.0*. https://www.w3.org/TR/did-core/.

3. Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1. self-certifying identifier

PREFERRED

SCID

ADMITTED

object identifier derived from initial data such that an attacker could not create a new object with the same identifier

3.2. Data Integrity

PREFERRED

specification of mechanisms for ensuring the authenticity and integrity of structured digital documents using cryptography, such as digital signatures and other digital mathematical proofs

SOURCE: W3C CG Data Integrity

3.3. decentralized identifier

PREFERRED

DID

ADMITTED

type of identifier that enable verifiable, decentralized digital identities

Note 1 to entry: A DID refers to any subject (e.g., a person, organization, thing, data model, abstract entity, etc.) as determined by the controller of the DID.

SOURCE: W3C did-core

3.4. DID controller

PREFERRED

entity that controls (create, updates, deletes) a given DID (3.3)

SOURCE: W3C did-core

3.5. DID document

PREFERRED

document returned when a DID (3.3) is resolved

SOURCE: W3C did-core

3.6. DID method

PREFERRED

mechanism by which a particular type of *DID* (3.3) and its associated *DID document* (3.5) are created, resolved, updated, and deactivated

Note 1 to entry: DID methods are defined using separate DID method specifications.

3.7. JSON Canonicalization Scheme

PREFERRED

method for canonicalizing a JSON structure such that is suitable for verifiable hashing or signing according to IETF RFC 8785

SOURCE: IETF RFC 8785

3.8. multibase

PREFERRED

specification for encoding binary data as a string using a prefix that indicates the encoding

3.9. multikey

PREFERRED

verification method that encodes key types into a single binary stream that is then encoded as a *multibase* (3.8) value

3.10. multihash

PREFERRED

mechanism for differentiating instances of hashes

Note 1 to entry: Software creating a hash prefixes (according to the specification) data to the hash indicating the algorithm used and the length of the hash, so that software receiving the hash knows how to verify it. Although multihash supports many hash algorithms, for interoperability, **term DID controllers not resolved via ID DID-controllers MUST** only use the hash algorithms defined in the specification as permitted.

SOURCE: Internet-Draft draft-multiformats-multibase-08

3.11. W3C VCDM

PREFERRED

verifiable credential according to W3C REC-vc-data-model-20220303

SOURCE: W3C REC-vc-data-model-20220303

4. Identifier

4.1. Target system

The target system of the did: swid DID method is a registry known as Spatial Web SWID Registry, which is managed by a Designated Authority.

4.2. Method name

The namestring that identifies this DID method is: swid. A DID that uses this method MUST begin with the following prefix: did: swid. Per the DID specification, this string MUST be in lowercase. The remainder of the DID, after the prefix, is the 4.3, specified below.

4.3. Method-specific identifier

The did: swid method-specific identifier contains a self-certifying identifier (SCID) for the DID.

As specified in the following Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF) notation IETF RFC 2234 the self-certifying identifier **MUST** be present in the DID string. See examples below.

EXAMPLE 1 — **Example method-specific identifier**

swid-did = "did:swid:" "z" scid
scid = 46(base58-btc-alphabet)

The scid part of the did: swid identifier is generated by creating a cryptographic digest (hash) of the first entry of a data structure known as Cryptographic Event Log Cryptographic Event Log (also see Clause 6). The hash is encoded using multihash (Internet-Draft draft-multiformats-multibase-08).

The characters in the base58-btc-alphabet are as defined in the W3C Controller Documents specification (W3C REC-cid-1.0-20250515).

EXAMPLE 2 — **Example did:swid**

did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv

5. DID Method Operations

5.1. Create (Register)

5.1.1. Creating a did:swid

To create a did: swid, the Entity first generates a private/public key pair that controls the DID. The public key is included as a verification method in the initial version of the DID document.

This initial version of the DID document MUST be a conformant SWID Document, i.e. it MUST have an HSTP Service Endpoint.

See SWF 3:2025 (0.1.0) for more details about SWIDs and SWID Documents.

EXAMPLE 1 — **Example initial DID document**

```
"@context": [
    "https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
    "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
],
    "verificationMethod": [{
        "id": "#keys-1",
        "type": "Multikey",
        "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w6WR7em
ozFAn5cxu"
    }],
    "authentication": [
        "#keys-1"
    ],
    "service": [{
        "id": "#hstp",
        "type": "HSTPEndpoint",
        "serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/hstpendpoint"
    }]
}
```

Using the initial version of the DID document, the first entry of a Cryptographic Event Log (Cryptographic Event Log) is constructed (also see Clause 6). A cryptographic digest (hash) of this entry is created and encoded using multihash (Internet-Draft draft-multiformats-multibase-08), and is used as the scid part of the did: swid identifier (see Clause 4).

EXAMPLE 2 — Example SWID

did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv

5.1.2. Using a DID Issuer Service

A did: swid or other type of SWID may be created by a "DID Issuer Service" at behest of the Entity.

The following diagram describes the process of creating a SWID using a "DID Issuer Service":

FIGURE 1: Creating a SWID using a DID Issuer Service

```
../plantuml/creating-a-swid-using-a-did-issuer-service.
puml
```

When creating a did: swid or other type of SWID, the "DID Issuer Service" MUST enforce that the DID document associated with the SWID is a conformant SWID Document, i.e. it MUST have an HSTP Service Endpoint. Otherwise, the "DID Issuer Service" MUST return an error response.

See SWF 3:2025 (0.1.0) for more details about SWIDs and SWID Documents.

To create a SWID using a "DID Issuer Service", the create function of the DIF specification (DIF did-registration) is used.

```
EXAMPLE 1 — Example Request to create a SWID: HTTP POST to https://<did-
issuer>/create?method=swid
  "options": {
    "clientSecretMode": true
  "secret": { },
  "didDocument":
     "@context": [
         "https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
         "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
     "verificationMethod": [{
        "id": "#keys-1",
"type": "Multikey"
         "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w6WR7
emozFAn5cxu"
     }],
      authentication": [
       "#keys-1"
     "service": [{
         "id": "#hstp"
         "type": "HSTPEndpoint",
         "serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/hstpendpoint"
     }]
  }
}
EXAMPLE 2 — Example Response
  "didState": {
   "state": "finished",
    "did": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv
```

```
"secret": { }
},
"didRegistrationMetadata": { },
"didDocumentMetadata": { }
}
```

During the process of creating a SWID, the Entity MAY be required to prove control of its SWID's associated public key, using Signing Requests (<u>DIF did-registration</u>) and Signing Responses (<u>DIF did-registration</u>).

```
EXAMPLE 3 — Example Signing Request
 "jobId": "96202012-41d8-424a-85a9-3673bda6abc7",
 "didState": {
  "state": "action",
  "action": "signPayload",
  "signingRequest": {
   "signingRequestCreate": {
    "kid": "#keys-1",
"alg": "EdDSA",
    "purpose": "authentication",
    "serializedPayload": "<-- base 64 encoded -->"
  }
 "didRegistrationMetadata": { ... },
 "didDocumentMetadata": { ... }
}
EXAMPLE 4 — Example Signing Response
    "jobId": "96202012-41d8-424a-85a9-3673bda6abc7",
    "options": {
        "clientSecretMode": true
    "secret": {
        "signingResponse": {
             "signingRequestCreate": {
                 "signature": "<-- base64 encoded -->"
    "didDocument": {}
}
```

5.2. Read (Resolve)

To resolve a did: swid or other type of SWID, the resolve function W3C did-resolution is used.

EXAMPLE 1 — Example Request to resolve a SWID: HTTP

GET to https://<swid-resolver>/identifiers/did:swid: zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv

EXAMPLE 2 — **Example Response**

```
"didDocument": {
    "@context": [
     "https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
      "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
   ],
"id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv
   "verificationMethod": [{
      "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3j
v#keys-1",
      "type": "Multikey",
     "controller": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY
      "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w6WR7em
ozFAn5cxu"
   }],
    "authentication": [
      "did:swid:zOmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv#kevs
-1"
    "service": [{
     "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3j
"serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/hstpendpoint"
   }]
 "didDocumentMetadata": { }
}
```

5.3. Update (Rotate)

To update a did: swid or other type of SWID, the update function <u>DIF did-registration</u> is used.

Updating a SWID can include the following:

"@context": [

- Rotating the public key that controls the SWID.
- Changing the HSTP service endpoint of the SWID.

```
EXAMPLE 1 — Example Request to update a SWID: HTTP POST to https://
<swid-registry>/update
{
    "did": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv",
    "options": {
        "clientSecretMode": true
    },
        "secret": { },
        "didDocument": {
```

```
"https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
         "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
      ],
"id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3j
      "verificationMethod": [{
         "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjp
e3jv#keys-1",
         "type": "Multikey",
         "controller": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKr
McY2Hcjpe3jv",
         "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w6WR
7emozFAn5cxu"
      }],
"authentication": [
         "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv#k
eys-1"
      "service": [{
         "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjp
e3jv#hstp"
         "type": "HSTPEndpoint",
         "serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/new_
hstpendpoint"
      } ]
}
EXAMPLE 2 — Example Response
  "didState": {
   "state": "finished",
    "did": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv
    "secret": { }
  "didRegistrationMetadata": { },
  "didDocumentMetadata": { }
```

During the process of updating a SWID, the Entity MAY be required to prove control of its SWID's associated public key, using Signing Requests and Signing Responses.

5.4. Deactivate (Revoke)

To deactivate a did: swid or other type of SWID, the deactivate function of the DIF DIF did-registration specification is used.

```
EXAMPLE 1 — Example Request to deactivate a SWID: HTTP POST to https://
<swid-registry>/deactivate
{
    "did": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv",
    "options": {
        "clientSecretMode": true
    },
        "secret": {
    }
```

```
EXAMPLE 2 — Example Response
{
    "didState": {
        "state": "finished",
        "did": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv"

    "secret": { }
    },
    "didRegistrationMetadata": { },
    "didDocumentMetadata": { }
}
```

During the process of deactivating a SWID, the Entity MAY be required to prove control of its SWID's associated public key, using Signing Requests (<u>DIF did-registration</u>) and Signing Responses (<u>DIF did-registration</u>).

6. The SWID Registry

The SWID Registry contains a list of SWIDs. For each SWID, the SWID Registry contains a cryptographic event log following the Cryptographic Event Log specification (Cryptographic Event Log). Every entry in the event log is cryptographically signed by the entity that controls a SWID.

EXAMPLE — **Example SWID Registry entry:** The SWID Registry could contain the following cryptographic event log for a SWID that has been created, and then updated once:

```
"log": [{
    "event": {
      "operation": {
        "type": "create",
        "data": {
          "@context": [
            "https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
            "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
          "id": "did:swid:",
          "verificationMethod": [{
            "id": "#keys-1",
            "type": "Multikey",
            "controller": "did:swid:"
            "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w
6WR7emozFAn5cxu"
          }],
          "authentication": [
            "#keys-1"
          "assertionMethod": [
```

```
"#keys-1"
          "service": [{
            "id": "#hstp"
            "type": "HSTPÉndpoint",
            "serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/
hstpendpoint"
          }],
           "proof": {
            "type": "DataIntegrityProof",
            "cryptosuite": "ecdsa-jcs-2019"
            "created": "2024-11-29T13:56:28Z",
            "verificationMethod": "#keys-1",
            "proofPurpose": "assertionMethod"
            "proofValue": "z5obCSsrQxuFJdq6PrUMCtqY93gBHqGDBtQLPFxpZ
xzwVWgHYrXxoV<sup>'</sup>"
    }
     {
    "event": {
      "previousEvent": "uEkoYyQ6YVtUmER8pN24wLZcLK9EBguM5WZlbAgfXBDu
QiA",
      "operation": {
        "type": "update",
        "data": {
          "@context": [
            "https://www.w3.org/ns/did/v1.1",
            "https://spatialwebfoundation.org/contexts/did/1.0"
          "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcj
pe3jv",
          "verificationMethod": [{
            "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2H
cjpe3jv#keys-1",
             "type": "Multikey",
            "controller": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemH
AKrMcY2Hcjpe3jv"
             "publicKeyMultibase": "z6MkmM42vxfqZQsv4ehtTjFFxQ4sQKS2w
6WR7emozFAn5cxu"
           authentication": [
            "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3j
v#keys-1"
          "assertionMethod": [
            "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2Hcjpe3j
v#keys-1"
          "service": [{
            "id": "did:swid:zQmQoeG7u6XBtdXoek5p3aPoTjaSRemHAKrMcY2H
cjpe3jv#hstp",
            "type": "HSTPEndpoint",
             "serviceEndpoint": "https://hstp.example.com/new_
hstpendpoint"
          }],
          "proof": {
            "type": "DataIntegrityProof",
```

7. Security and Privacy Considerations

TODO

Annex A (informative)

Version log

The following lists the substantive changes in each version of the specification.

- Version 0.1
 - Initial version

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Document contributors

Markus Sabadello (lead editor), Kurt Cagle, Scott Carroll, Bastiaan den Braber, Stephane Fellah, Jacqueline Hynes, George Percivall, Christine Perey, Capm Petersen, Reese Plews, Gabriel René, Lior Saar, Hari Thiruvengada, Ronald Tse

Spatial Web Foundation leadership

Gabriel René Executive Director / Founder Managing Director / Founder

Bastiaan den Braber Director of Operations

George Percivall Distinguished Engineering Fellow

Dan RichardsonDirector of Market AnalysisDr. Sarah Grace ManskiSenior Ethics Advisor

Comments about the Spatial Web and this document can be sent to the Spatial Web Foundation at info@spatialwebfoundation.org

