



Questions for Developers Building a Connected Learn-and-Work Ecosystem

With so many credentials being offered in America, there is a growing opportunity to advance modern data practices for a connected learn-and-work ecosystem. Credential Engine's Registry and the openly-licensed Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) schema are key strategic assets that can integrate with, and add value to, your products and services. The following questions are intended to help potential developer partners think about the various ways you might use Credential Engine's Registry and the CTDL schema.

Credential Engine provides a variety of free and fee-based [services](#) to support your needs.

1. Credential information is relevant to many different stakeholders and use cases. How have you researched how the users of your product or service might want to discover, access, link, and/or share credential information? What credential-related use cases are most valuable to you?
2. Credential Engine's [Registry](#) contains descriptive public information about credential offerings; it's NOT a Registry of credentials issued to individuals and it does not contain any personally identifiable information. Do you plan to publish credential information to the Registry, consume credential information out of the Registry, or both?
3. Credential information can be communicated in multiple ways, such as with verbal interviews, paper documents, on the web, machine-readable (Excel), non-proprietary formats (CSV, pdf, JSON), open standards (RDF, SPARQL), and linked open data formats (JSON-LD, CTDL, OpenBadges, CLR). How do you plan to use credential data with your product or service?
4. Are you planning to use the Registry for your own research purposes or do you plan to develop an application for other people? Note: Credential Engine's [Terms of Use](#) contains unique License and Use permissions for individual users, publishers, and developers.
5. The [CTDL schema](#) contains over 700 terms to describe everything about a credential offering (such as, credential type, availability, costs, learning opportunities, assessments, credits, competencies, occupations, pathways, transfer value, quality assurance, outcomes, etc.). What specific credential information are you focused on relative to the Credential Registry?
6. The Credential Engine Registry is being scaled up in multiple states and therefore the availability of credential information is geographically clustered (for details see our Registry data [reports](#)). Meaningful learn-and-work ecosystems can be developed in specific localities. Have you explored if the Registry already contains the information needed for your product or service? To view data already in the Registry, see the [Credential Finder](#).

7. If you plan to publish credential information, Credential Engine's Registry and [Publishers Agreement](#) support multiple publishing methods (manual editor, bulk upload, and API) as well as different types of organizational agreements (first party publishing, trusted third-party publishing). Have you thought about how you plan to publish credential information to the Registry? What is the relationship between your organization and the authoritative owner or issuer of the credentials?
8. If you are planning an API-based publishing service, do you have a plan for
 - a. creating and managing [CTIDs](#) over time,
 - b. mapping your data to the Credential Engine's [Registry Assistant API](#); and
 - c. ensuring you can assemble all information required in Credential Engine's [Minimum Data Policy](#)?
9. Credential Engine supports product and service developers at all stages of development via customized MOUs and Developer Agreements. As a nonprofit organization focused on advancing credential transparency as a public good, we are interested in forming mutually-beneficial partnerships that advance our mission while contributing to our financial sustainability. Have you reflected on the value of Credential Engine's Registry and CTDL for your current and future business models?
10. A strong partnership requires each organization to evaluate the opportunity and commit to its success. Considering the scope of Credential Engine's services, who from your organization needs to be aware of this partnership opportunity and engaged in the evaluation process?

To schedule a meeting to discuss these questions and learn more about Credential Engine please contact: Jeff Grann, Ph.D., Credential Solutions Lead for Credential Engine, at jgrann@credentialengine.org or call 651-208-5748.



To learn more, please visit www.credentialengine.org or contact jgrann@credentialengine.org