



How to Align Digital Credentials with Meaningful CTDL Data

Credential Engine's [2022 Counting Credentials report](#) counts over 1 million credentials offered in the United States, and there are many millions more globally. Unfortunately, many of these credentials are undervalued and do not unlock opportunities because people do not understand what they mean. Therefore it's important for credential information to be published to the Credential Registry so that the meaning and value of each credential is clear. Publishing credentials using the Credential Transparency Description Language (CTDL) contextualizes them with other meaningful data in the Credential Registry, such as skills, courses, occupations, and pathways.

Issuing credentials to people without providing clear, transparent information about what they mean, contributes to confusion in the credential landscape. Digital credentials issued to people should include alignments to data in the Registry so that people and systems can use that data to interpret the value of the credentials and support more informed decisions about learning and career pathways.

Examples of digital credentials that are designed to include alignments to the Registry are Open Badges, W3C Verifiable Credentials, and Velocity Network credentials. Use these simple steps to enrich digital credentials by linking to CTDL data in the Registry. See Credential Engine's [Learning and Employment Records Action Guide](#) for more in-depth information.

Instructions:

The most basic way to leverage CTDL in credentials issued to people is to use the digital credential's alignment field to include a link to data in the Registry.

Step 1: Publish information about the credential offering

- [Publish CTDL data](#) about the credential in the Credential Registry.

Step 2: Get the CTID

- Get the CTID, the globally unique identifier for the credential offering, from the Credential Finder.
 - Search for the credential in the [Credential Finder](#).
 - Click on the credential name to open the detail page for the credential.
 - Scroll down the page to locate the CTID in the bottom left corner of the credential detail page.



Additional Information

Identifiers and other information for the Credential

CTID: ce-4ecd813e-fc13-4815-a1e4-1426df158351

- Select the CTID and copy it. Note: Make sure to select the full CTID including the “ce-” portion.
- Use the CTID to create an alignment within the digital credential to link to data about that credential in the Registry.

Step 3: Create an alignment

Once a credential is published to the Registry, CTDL information can be added to the digital credential that will be issued to a person. The “alignment” or other “more information” field in the digital credential can include a link to Registry data that is human and machine-readable in the Credential Finder.

- Common data for an alignment field are:
 - Name
 - URL
 - Description
 - Framework
 - Code
- The “Name” in the alignment is the name of the credential.
- For the URL, get the CTID for the credential from the Credential Finder, and use the CTID to create a URL in this structure:
 - Example: <https://credentialfinder.org/resources/ce-8c75de90-e553-4ae6-a876-08ef1360c3b8>
 - Paste your CTID from step 2 to replace the CTID in this example.
 - Note: Do not copy/paste the URLs directly from the Credential Finder. Those URLs could change.
- For “Description,” use the following text to describe where the information came from: “Additional information powered by the Credential Registry.”
- For “Framework,” use the following text to identify the data structure: “Credential Transparency Description Language”
- For “Code,” use the CTID for your credential.

General example of alignment information:

Name: “Fundamentals of 3D Modeling Certificate”

URL: "https://credentialfinder.org/resources/ce-64d07ada-6659-4097-9bc2-9f1c111b0826"

Description: "Additional information powered by the Credential Registry."


Framework: "Credential Transparency Description Language"

Code: "ce-64d07ada-6659-4097-9bc2-9f1c111b0826"

Open Badge alignment example:

```
[
  {
    "targetName": "Fundamentals of 3D Modeling Certificate",
    "targetUrl": "https://credentialfinder.org/resources/ce-64d07ada-6659-4097-9bc2-9f1c111b0826",
    "targetDescription": "Additional information powered by the Credential Registry;",
    "targetFramework": "Credential Transparency Description Language",
    "targetCode": "ce-64d07ada-6659-4097-9bc2-9f1c111b0826"
  }
]
```

Example of an alignment inside a digital credential:




Fundamentals of 3D Modeling

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The Fundamentals of 3D Modeling is an introduction to basic knowledge and skills required to represent three dimensional objects using intersecting two dimensional representations. It helps professionals to decide if a career in 3D is right for them, or to develop a broader understanding of the... [\[more\]](#)

Badge Details

EARNING CRITERIA Recipients must complete the earning criteria to earn this badge	Pass the exam.
ALIGNMENTS This badge is aligned to these frameworks	Fundamentals of 3D Modeling  Description Additional information powered by the Credential Registry. Framework Credential Transparency Description Language Code ce-64d07ada-6659-4097-9bc2-9f1c111b0826

Learn more about [credential transparency](#). For more information, contact info@credentialengine.org



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