New Zealand's Digital Future

2023 MANIFESTO

TECH ALLIANCE

DIGITAL IDENTITY.NZ

Digital Identity NZ (DINZ) is the voice of digital identity in Aotearoa, formed to help New Zealand's transformation as a digital nation, where everyone can prove who they are digitally to organisations in a secure and trusted way.

DINZ is a not for profit, membership funded association, part of the NZ Tech Alliance. DINZ is an inclusive diverse organisation bringing together members with a shared passion for the opportunities that digital identity can offer.

It supports a sustainable, inclusive and trustworthy digital future for all New Zealanders through its vision – that every New Zealander can easily use their Digital Identity in its mission to empower a unified, trusted and inclusive Digital Identity ecosystem for Aotearoa New Zealand that enhances Kāwanatanga (honourable governance), Rangatiratanga (self-determination & agency) and Ōritetanga (equity & partnerships).

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ABOUT THIS MANIFESTO

Digital Identity NZ endorses the NZTech Manifesto, which outlines specific areas the Government should focus on to enable and grow Aotearoa as a Digital Nation. These actions are aligned with the Digital Tech ITP.

At Digital Identity NZ, we firmly believe that digital identity has the power to revolutionise the lives of all New Zealanders by enabling them to fully participate in the digital economy safely and confidently.

We believe that there are specific areas the Government should focus on to support the uptake of digital identity for the benefit of all New Zealanders, that builds a resilient digital identity ecosystem, empowers individuals and organisations, enhances efficiency, and drives economic growth.

The manifesto outlines four key areas:

- **Establishing Trust and Security**
- **Empowering Digital Inclusion**
- **Enabling User Centric Design**
- **Promoting Interoperability and Standards**

Establishing Trust and Security

- Assist the implementation and promulgation of the Digital Identity Services Trust Framework (DISTF) – a legal framework and regulatory environment to add assurance to new forms of online trust relationships that will play an important part in supporting independent identity services, and protect privacy and data rights in digital identity systems.

- Collaborate with other industry experts, cybersecurity professionals, and privacy advocates to establish and further develop other non-regulatory trust frameworks in pursuit of a trustworthy digital identity ecosystem.

- Develop guidance and augment emerging standards to safeguard people and organisations against identity theft, cyber threats, and unauthorised access to data.

- Foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders to continuously improve the security of digital identity systems, stay ahead of emerging threats, and build education and awareness to tackle misinformation.
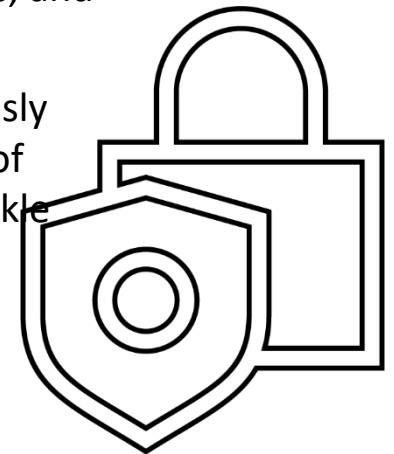
Empowering Digital Inclusion

- Prioritise efforts to bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to digital identity solutions for all New Zealanders with regard to Māori tikanga and Māori Data Sovereignty and social inclusion for the disadvantaged in our society.

- Invest in digital infrastructure to improve connectivity in rural and under-served areas, enabling widespread access to digital identity services and promoting economic participation.

- Provide digital skills training programs targeting vulnerable communities to enhance their digital literacy and enable their participation in the digital identity ecosystem.

- Collaborate with community organisations, educational institutions, and local government to identify and address barriers to digital inclusion, to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital transformation journey.
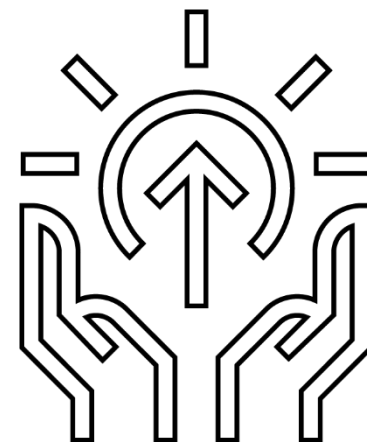
Enabling User-centric Design

- Champion the development of intuitive and user-friendly digital identity systems that prioritise user-centric design principles.

- Foster inclusivity and the creation of accessible systems that cater to the diverse needs of all New Zealanders, including those with disabilities or limited digital literacy.

- Collaborate with user experience designers, human rights organisations, and community representatives to incorporate empathy and simplicity into digital identity solutions.

- Conduct research and feedback sessions with people and organisations to continuously improve the usability and user-friendliness of digital identity systems.
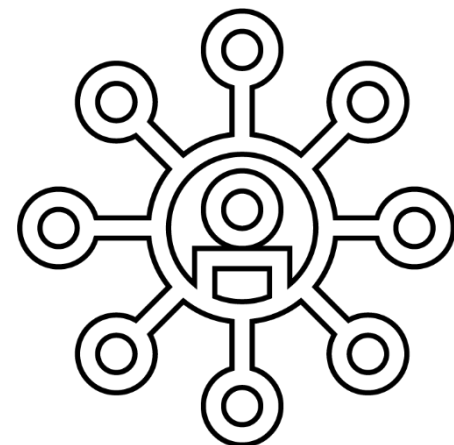
Promoting Interoperability and Standards

- Promote interoperability by encouraging collaboration and standards adoption between different identity systems and platforms, both domestically and internationally, for digital trade.

- Help establish mechanisms for seamless integration between public and private sector services, so that digital identity solutions can be utilised across various domains.

- Advance an open and interoperable digital identity landscape that encourages innovation, reduces duplication of effort, and increases velocity in the digital economy.

- Regularly assess and recommend updates to interoperability standards that reflect evolving technologies and ensure continued compatibility between the different digital identity systems and platforms.