



GABE COHEN

ABOUT

Principled, pragmatic, and experienced technologist focused on building the future with a passion for digital identity, privacy, security, and the environment.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF OPEN STANDARDS

Block (TBD) | January 2024 - Present

- Led the specification of numerous Digital Identity standards, interoperability profiles, and SDKs across 6+ programming languages
- Led the integration of Mobile Drivers Licenses into Square and Cash App, partnering with the California DMV and securing a NIST Research and Development Agreement (CRADA).
- Authored did:dht (did-dht.com) and led both implementation and deployment of clients and servers across 6+ programming languages.
- At the W3C, serving as Co-Chair of the Decentralized Identifier working group as well as a Lead Editor of the VC-Data-Model v2, VC-JOSE-COSE, and author of the specification for VC-JSON-Schema.
- Presented at multiple conferences globally on Digital Identity and Open Banking and Finance.
- Representing Block and TBD at the W3C, Decentralized Identity Foundation, Open ID Foundation, SIDI Hub, and IETF.

LEAD PLATFORM ENGINEER, VERIFIABLE CREDENTIALS

Block | January 2022 - January 2024

- Led & architected open source Decentralized Identity & Verifiable Credentials based projects (ssi-sdk, ssi-service).
- Editor & implementer of multiple identity specifications across the W3C, Decentralized Identity Foundation, and OpenID Foundation.
- Speaking engagements
 - Multiple presentations at the Internet Identity Workshop
 - DEFCON31 on 'Attacking Decentralized Identity'

CO-FOUNDER & CTO

EcoMint | Oct 2021 - January 2022

- Secured grant funding from the Tezos Foundation.
- Led technical architecture and development for the company
- Held responsibilities including hiring and managing the development team.
- Successfully launched an NFT-based crowdfunding project on the Tezos blockchain, responsible for reforesting a 5-hectare site in Ghana.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Fast | Feb 2021 - Sept 2021

- Lead security engineer on the Identity & Access Management team.
- Designed and implemented an OAuth 2.0 & OpenID Connect Server to facilitate web and mobile e-commerce.
- Architected multiple data privacy tools and solutions for business and individual account management.

PRINCIPAL SOFTWARE ENGINEER

Workday | Jul 2016 - Jan 2021

- Developed the Workday Credentials Platform, a blockchain-based Decentralized Identity and Verifiable Credentials system.
- Architected large-scale software development and CI/CD systems.
- Led multiple standards initiatives in the W3C, Decentralized Identity Foundation, and IMS Global around cryptographic signature suites, Verifiable Credentials, and Decentralized Identifiers in Open Badges
- Mentored junior developers across projects.
- Presented at IMS Global and Internet Identity Workshop conferences.

CONTACT

P: +1 516.724.7897
E: gabe.l.cohen@gmail.com
W: decentralgabe.xyz
T: @decentralgabe

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- Go, Kotlin, Python, TS
- Program and Project Management
- Systems Design and Architecture
- Digital Privacy and Security
- Identity and Access Management
- Cyber Security
- AWS

PERSONAL SKILLS

- Direct and honest communication
- Feedback oriented
- Organization, detail
- Active listening
- Building consensus
- Efficient decision making
- Technical writing
- Mentorship, onboarding, coaching

AFFILIATIONS

W3C DID Working Group, Chair
January 2024 - Present

W3C Verifiable Credentials Working Group, Editor
August 2022 - Present

Co-Chair, Claims and Credentials Working Group
Decentralized Identity Foundation
Sept 2020 - Jan 2021

EDUCATION

B.S., Computer Science
University of California, San Diego
2012 - 2016

ISSA Certified Personal Trainer
August 2024