



WHAT IS DIGITAL ID?

A Digital ID is a new electronic token that helps an online service provider identify you. You use a current physical ID to create that new Digital ID.

Digital ID is often presented as a simple convenience: one secure login, fewer passwords, faster access to services. But in practice, it represents a major shift in how identity is managed, shared, and linked across government and private systems.

What a Digital ID actually does

A Digital ID is a reusable identity credential that allows you to verify who you are across multiple services - government, banking, telecommunications, utilities, healthcare, education, and eventually, online platforms.

Unlike traditional one-off ID checks, a Digital ID is designed to function as a single identity key that can be used repeatedly across unrelated systems. Each time you use it, the interaction, whether for banking, travel, medical access or an online account, points back to the same identity token.

This centralisation is what makes Digital ID so powerful, and why its implications extend well beyond convenience.

Why Digital ID raises concern

The risk is not in what Digital ID does today, but in what it enables as more systems adopt it. Australia already has interconnected infrastructure: **myGov, My Health Record, biometrics, tax and welfare systems, metadata retention, banking verification, smart transport, and AI-driven fraud tools.** Digital ID is the thread that ties these components together.

Once multiple services rely on one identity, the separation between your financial life, medical life, educational life, travel activity, and online activity begins to collapse. Over time, this creates a model where access, permissions, and participation can be **centrally managed**, even if that is not the stated intention today.

Digital ID becomes harder to refuse, increasingly required, simple to monitor, and difficult to live without.

Convenience is the incentive, integration is the intent, and total control is the outcome.

What Digital ID is not

Many digital tasks are **not** Digital ID:

- filling out a form online
- creating a website login
- using digital forms of documents, eg plane boarding passes or concert tickets
- using a digital service that does not connect you across systems

These are ordinary digital processes: the same ones we previously completed on paper.

Digital ID is different. It is the **infrastructure** that links identity across sectors and enables verification to occur through a single, repeatable credential.

How to recognise a Digital ID system

A useful test is to ask:

- Does this create one identity that can be reused across services?
- Does it link multiple systems or databases to a single profile?
- Who holds the data, and what protections apply?
- Is it intended for repeated use across unrelated sectors (tax, healthcare)?
- Does it allow third parties to verify me through a unified token?

If the answer is yes, you are moving beyond a normal digital interaction and into the realm of a Digital ID ecosystem.



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