

Information for IoC Badge Issuers



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Overview

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This document aims to describe what you can expect from us and what we will need from you in order to issue IoC badges.

Support

The Institute of Coding (IoC) Badging platform is committed to supporting Universities and organizations through the process of designing, managing and issuing their IoC badges. We will work collaboratively with you to setup and run badging for IoC related events. If you have any requirements not currently met by our platform, please feel free to discuss them with us.

Please Note: We are introducing a new fee structure to help us maintain this platform beyond the original research funding period that ended in March 2021. Please see our [fees page](#) for more details.

Website



Figure 1 – IoC website homepage (not logged in)

This website currently supports three types of end users:

- 1. Badge Issuers**, like yourselves, wanting to issue badges for IoC related events.
- 2. Badge Recipients** who want to view and download the badges they have been issued.
- 3. Badge Validators:** Third parties who want to check that a given badge they have been presented with is a valid IoC badge.

Badge Issuers

All IoC approved issuers will be given a login account to the IoC Badging platform. Using the website or the API issuers can view the information for the badges they have been authorized to issue, they can setup their badge recipients and they can issue badges to them:

We use essential cookies to handle sessions and logins, and Matomo Analytics cookies to gather data on how you use this site. This data is extremely valuable for our research and helps us improve our analysis. Note: all Analytics data remains on our own local Matomo server.

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Are you happy to help with our research by allowing Matomo Analytics cookies?

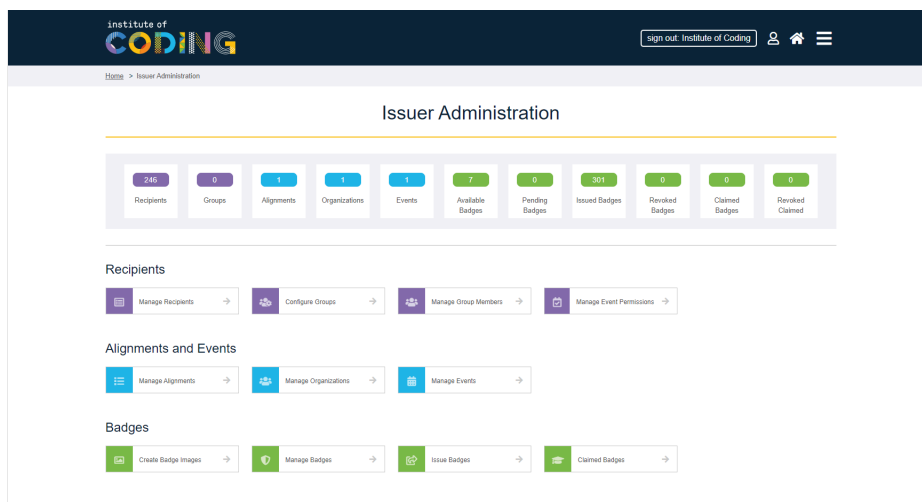


Figure 2 – Badge Issuer homepage

Badge Recipients

Badge recipients will be able to login to our website and view their IoC badge portfolio. Here they can view the details of any of their badges in our friendly viewer page (see figure 4) and download their badges:

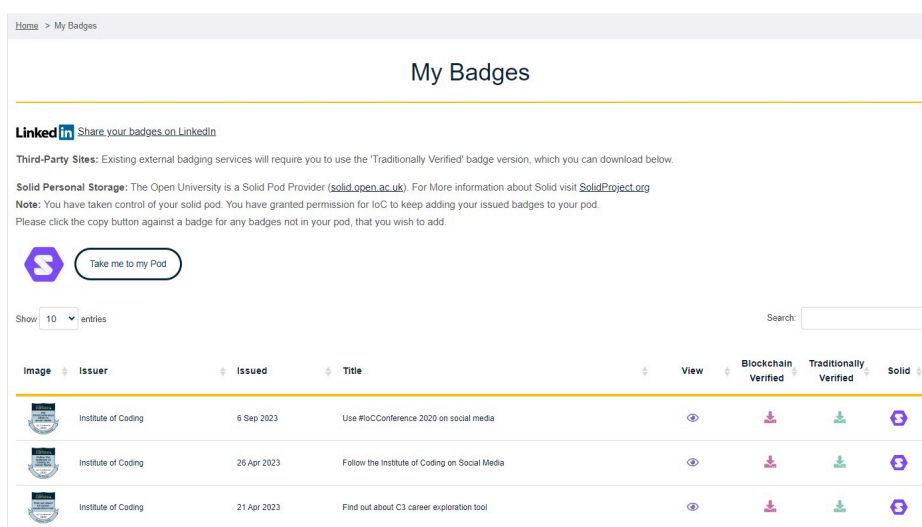


Figure 3 – Main section of the Badge Recipient homepage



Figure 4 – Badge View page with example data

Validators



We have created a website where anyone can come and validate a badge. They must have access to the badge (or for the API the badge JSON) and they must have separately obtained and confirmed the email address of the person who says it is their badge.

Validate a Badge

To validate a badge, select a .png file of a badge, enter the recipient's email address and press the validate button.
The answer will appear in the results panel, a tick for a valid badge, a cross for an invalid badge. Press show details for more detailed information.

Select a badge file *

Enter recipient's email *

 Find out about C3 career exploration tool Validation Result: 

[show details](#) [hide validation](#)

Validation Summary

Valid Assertion Format:	✓
Email Address matches:	✓
Hosted Badge Data matches Embedded Badge Data:	✓
Badge NOT Revoked:	✓

Figure 5 – IoC Validation webpage

Badge Uses

There are many Open Badge services in existence for issuing, storing and sharing Open Badges which your students could explore and engage with. Our Traditionally Verified badges are issued using the Open Badges Specification version 2, which is currently maintained by IMS Global: <https://www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0Final/index.html>. This means that they should be compatible with third-party tools that follow this standard.

The most common use your students will have for their badges will be to share them on social media, especially somewhere like LinkedIn. For full details of how a student can share their Institute of Coding badges on LinkedIn, please refer to the Badge Recipients documentation here: [Information for IoC Badge Recipients - Share your badges on LinkedIn](#)

Becoming An IoC Badge Issuer

To become an IoC Badge Issuer, you must be part of the IoC project or an educator in the computing space. You will need to [Email Us](#) first to express your interest and we can then begin a dialog to approve you as an IoC Issuer.

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Once approved to be an issuer, you will need to supply us with some details. For the Issuer details associated with any badges you issue, and to setup your website admin account, we would need the following details from you:

Issuer Details

<http://www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0Final/index.html#Profile>

Property	Description
<i>Required:</i> Name	e.g. your university/organisation name
<i>Required:</i> Description	e.g. a description of your university/organisation
<i>Required:</i> Image URL	e.g. a URL to a publicly accessible version of your logo (or send us an image and we will host it locally)
<i>Required:</i> URL (website)	e.g. your university/organisation main website
<i>Optional:</i> Email	e.g. your university/organisation main contact email (<i>optional</i>)
<i>Optional:</i> Telephone	e.g. your university/organisation main contact number (<i>optional</i>)
<i>Required:</i> Account email	We would also need an Issuer email address to be used to create the Issuer administration account on our system. This would be used by whoever is setting up the Recipients and Issuing the badges to them. We recommend a generic account that could be shared on your side. We will then setup an Issuer account and this email address will be emailed with a link to complete registration.

Creating badges for approval

Once you have an IoC Issuer login, you can go to the Issuer admin area and start entering the details for any badges you would like to submit for approval. Badges can have a complex structure of data behind them incorporating alignments, events, organizers and sponsors of events. Below are the data elements to be considered for each of those:

Badge Details

www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0/index.html#BadgeClass

Property	Description
<i>Required:</i> Badge title	A title for your Badge. For clarity badge types should be unique within your badge set for a given badge type unless a new version of an existing badge is being release.
<i>Required:</i> Badge description	A description of your badge

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**Required:
Badge
Type
Alignment**

All IoC badges need to align to an approved IoC Badge Alignment.
Please see section entitled '[Gateway Badging Alignment Types](#)', for more details of the types currently available.

Knowledge badge types will require the additional information shown in figure 26 below:

Knowledge Badge Information

Please provide the following information for a Knowledge Badge.

Knowledge Badges must be assessed, completion alone is not sufficient as this does not differentiate from attendance.

Please provide a clear explanation of how this course will be assessed. Include the details of every unit of assessment (for each course if relevant), indicating pass level *

This question is mandatory

How is this monitored/graded? For example are units automatically marked (how many attempts are allowed)? is this self-certified? is this marked by instructors? etc. *

This question is mandatory

What is the pass rate or notion of success for the course overall? *

This question is mandatory

It must be accepted that students might not pass and may need to repeat the course. Please explain the options for students who fail e.g. if a student completes the course but does not pass would you want to award an attendance badge? *

This question is mandatory

If a student gains an attendance rather than a knowledge badge how might this impact the award of a super-badge (if relevant)? *

This question is mandatory

Figure 26 – Knowledge Badges - additional information

**Required:
An image
for the
Badge**

You will be able to design this using the templates available on the 'Create Badge Images' area of the Issuer Administration pages. See [Gateway Badging Alignment Types](#) for examples. See figure 28 below:

[Home](#) > [Issuer Administration](#) > [Create Badge Images](#)

Create Badge Images



Name *

Shield Type

Edit Type Single Text Area Independent Text Lines

Shield Text

Shield Font Weight

Ribbon Text

Ribbon Font Weight

Ribbon X Offset

Ribbon Y Offset

Ribbon Text Arc

Logo

Logo Size

Logo Position

Figure 28 – Create Badge Images page

**Required:
Badge
Criteria**

(www.msglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBv2p0/index.html#Criteria). This is basically a statement of what the student had to do to earn the badge.

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**Optional:
Badge
Criteria
Skills**

Badge Criteria skills are a way to describe in a badge the individual computing skills gained by the person who has received this badge. We have created a set of skill options based on the [Computer Science Ontology](#) breaks all the computer science topics down into a fine grain and gives us a starting point for a skills list.

We have created an interface for issuers to explore and select skills they wish to add to a badge, the [Badge Criteria Skill Selection](#) page. This interface allows you to explore and select skills and stores the three elements you know to add a skill to a badge:

1. **Skill name:** the name of the skill
2. **Skill url:** the url of the skill in the skills schema that needs to be put into the issued badge data.
3. **Skill level:** the attainment level the badge holder has reached in this skill. Currently we have started with 4 levels: 'Basic', 'Competent', 'Knowledgeable' and 'Expert' following those expressed in the [Skills and Ontology \(SARO\)](#) which the IoC Criteria Skills ontology extends.

From the [Badge Criteria Skill Selection](#) page you can search and explore the skills data and also save a selection of skills that you want to add to a badge. You can then easily copy your saved skills list so that you can use it in any documentation or emails you send us with the data for your badge. In future versions of the IoC badging system we intend to integrate and expose this more directly.

**Optional:
Badge
Criteria
Events**

One or more events can be associated with a badge's criteria. Each event has the following properties:

Event :	
Name	(required)
Description	
Start Date and Time	(required)
End Date and Time	(required)
Location Name	
Location Po Box Number	
Street Address - e.g. 72 Windsor Street	
Town/City	
County	
Post Code	
Country	
Organizer(s)	One or more Organizations (see below)
Sponsor(s)	One or more Organizations (see below)
Organization:	
Name	(required)
Email	(required)
Location Po Box Number	
Street Address - e.g. 72 Windsor Street	
Town/City	
County	
Post Code	
Country	

**Optional:
Tags**

You can also add some Tags of your choice.

**Optional:
Issuer
Alignments**

www.msglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBv2p0/index.html#Alignment

This is where you would enter any accreditation standards that your badge aligns to.

Note: Any Alignments will need to be entered in advance of selection on the Badge creation form, through the Manage Alignments area of the Issuer Administration screen.

[Home](#) > [Issuer Administration](#) > [Manage Alignments](#)

Manage Alignments

Create new alignment

Name *	<input type="text" value="Enter the alignment name"/>
URL *	<input type="text" value="Enter the alignment URL"/>
Description *	<input type="text" value="Enter the alignment description"/>
Code	<input type="text" value="Enter the alignment code (optional)"/>
Framework	<input type="text" value="Enter the alignment framework (optional)"/>
<input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

Figure 27 – Issuer Alignments - Alignment creation screen

Issuing badges to students

Once your badge or badges have been approved, you will be able to issue them to students (recipients).

In the Issuer administration area (see figure 2 above) you can setup your badge recipients. You will have a form to enter the following details for a recipient (see figure 8 below):

Recipient Details

www.msglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBv2p0Final/index.html#IdentityObject

Property	Description
<i>Required:</i> a name	We ask for a name, but that is only for use on our system so you can identify the person. It is not put into the badge issuance.

We use essential cookies to handle sessions and logins, and Matomo Analytics cookies to gather data on how you use this site. This data is extremely valuable for our research and helps us improve our analysis. Note: all Analytics data remains on our own local Matomo server.

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Optional: Group

If you have setup recipient groups to manage different cohorts of recipients, this allows you to assign a new recipient to one of those existing recipient group. You can add recipients to groups later as well in the 'Manage Group Members' page of the Issuer Recipient admin area.

The form is titled 'Create new recipient' and is enclosed in a green border. It contains four input fields: 'Full name *' with a placeholder 'Enter the recipient name', 'Email *' with 'Enter the recipient email', 'Unique ID' with 'Enter the recipient unique ID (optional)', and 'Group' with a dropdown menu 'Select a group'. At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Figure 8 – Section of the Recipient Management page showing the form for creating a new recipient

Assertion Details (issued badges)

The issuing of an instance of a badge is known in the Open Badges specification as an Assertion and we often refer to it from a system point of view as an badge issuance, (www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0Final/index.html#Assertion).

On the Badge Issuing page you will be required to select a Badge Recipient and Select a Badge to save as a pending issuance (see figure 9 below).

The page is titled 'Manage Badge Issuing'. It features a 'Please note' section stating that only recipients with verified email addresses can be issued badges. Below is the 'Create a Badge Issuance' form with three dropdown menus: 'Recipient Groups' (placeholder: 'Select a group to filter recipient list'), 'Recipient *' (placeholder: 'Select a Recipient'), and 'Badge *' (placeholder: 'Select a Badge'). A 'Save' button is at the bottom. Below the form is a 'Pending Badges' section with another 'Please note' about issuance time. It includes a search bar, a table with columns 'ID', 'Recipient Name', 'Badge Name', 'Version', 'Manage Evidence', 'Edit', 'Issue', and 'Delete', and a row of example data: ID 6, Recipient Name 'Madison Potter', Badge Name 'another text', Version 53. Navigation buttons for 'Previous' and 'Next' are at the bottom.

Figure 9 – Section of the IoC Badge Issuing page with example data

Evidence

Once a badge is pending you can optionally add any Evidence items to the issuance: (www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0Final/index.html#Evidence).

For a given item of evidence you can enter the details as shown in figure 25 below:

The form is titled 'Add evidence' and is enclosed in a green border. It contains six input fields: 'Name *' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence name'), 'URL *' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence URL. Must start with https:// or http://'), 'Description' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence description (optional)'), 'Narrative' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence narrative (optional)'), 'Genre' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence genre (optional)'), and 'Audience' (placeholder: 'Enter the evidence audience (optional)'). At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Figure 25 – Evidence creation form

IoC Endorsement

Just for your information, we will automatically add an IoC endorsement to all Badge Objects. It will follow the Open Badges Endorsement object schema:

(www.imsglobal.org/sites/default/files/Badges/OBV2p0Final/index.html#Endorsement)

This endorsement section will be part of the Badge Object and will appear in each badge Issuance JSON (Assertion) with the following information:

Endorsement Issuer

Property	Description
Name	Institute of Coding

We use essential cookies to handle sessions and logins, and Matomo Analytics cookies to gather data on how you use this site. This data is extremely valuable for our research and helps us improve our analysis. Note: all Analytics data remains on our own local Matomo server.

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Endorsement Claim

The Institute of Coding endorse this badge and its issuer.

Gateway Badging Alignment Types

IoC currently support the following gateway badging alignment types:

- **Attendance** – This badge represents attendance of an Institute of Coding related event. To earn this badge the recipient must attend an Institute of Coding related event.
- **Community Service** – This badge represents community service actions around an Institute of Coding theme. To earn this badge the recipient must perform a community service around an Institute of Coding theme.
- **Knowledge Self-Assessed** – This badge represents knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain. To earn this badge the recipient must have self-assessed their knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain set by an event or course.
- **Knowledge Bronze** – This badge represents a basic knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain. To earn this badge the recipient must show evidence of a basic knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain.
- **Knowledge Silver** – This badge represents an intermediate knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain. To earn this badge the recipient must show evidence of an intermediate knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain.
- **Knowledge Gold** – This badge represents a confident knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain. To earn this badge the recipient must show evidence of a confident knowledge of an Institute of Coding domain.
- **Super Badge** – This badge represents an additional, non academic, reward for attaining multiple other badges at an Institute of Coding related event. To earn this badge the recipient must have completed a set of Institute of Coding badges.



Attendance Badges require the following considerations:

- Courses that require the student to be present at the training for a specified length of time e.g. 80% of the time for a week long course; 100% of the time for a 1 day course. This should be specified in the badge information on the digital badge webpage
- Online courses that require the student to complete the course. There should be consideration given to whether it is possible for students to appear that they have completed the course without engaging with it properly. For example, some platforms allow users to self-declare that they have completed a unit etc. If there is a risk of this, then there should be some checks introduced that would avoid this possibility
 - How does the Digital Badge issuer know that a student has completed the course?

Knowledge Badges require the following considerations:

Knowledge badges must be assessed - completion alone is not sufficient as this does not differentiate from attendance. To be awarded a knowledge badge:

- The course details on the digital badge website should clearly explain how this course will be assessed
- What is the pass rate or notion of success for each assessment (and for the course overall)
- How is this monitored? How does the student demonstrate this?
- It must be accepted that students might not pass and may need to repeat the course
- If a student does not pass, but continues, can they be awarded an attendance badge?
- If a student gains an attendance rather than a knowledge badge how might this impact the award of a super-badge?
- Providers must provide the details of every unit of assessment for each course, indicating pass level

Knowledge Badge levels

- Providers need to clearly indicate why a course is e.g. silver rather than bronze. This should include the level at which the training is aimed, in addition to the way that it is assessed
- We would expect the higher level badges, especially gold, to mainly have e.g. exam-type assessment

Examples of the gateway badge alignment types applied to badges:



Please Note: The IoC badging panel will assess the knowledge badges submitted for consideration. Attendance, Community Service and Super badges may require panel assessment if they are not obviously related to an IoC theme and therefore require further approval.

Appendix

1. Example Badge JSON

```

{
  "@context": [
    "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
    "https://w3id.org/blockcerts/v2"
  ],
  "type": "Assertion",
  "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/assertions/9b370317c8a6157a05fd8cc14623cf11d4a205e6f29c409e9049b7f4fbb736b",
  "issuedon": "2019-09-05T10:57:46.609Z",
  "recipient": {
    "hashed": true,
    "identity": "sha256$20c7f9e90645f6fdf40b426bd974d6cf9d4a2c21baf9b415a6c9f87bc2b4e551",
    "type": "email",
    "salt": "iocbadges54937210087"
  },
  "recipientProfile": {
    "type": [
      "RecipientProfile",
      "Extension"
    ],
    "publicKey": "ecdsa-koblitz-pubkey:0x006a3c8cb1e094986875c2be424b1e42c73fa109"
  },
  "verification": {
    "type": [
      "ERC721TokenVerification2018",
      "Extension"
    ],
    "publicKey": "ecdsa-koblitz-pubkey:0x00c9ae48683d786a54550255c2456c13930bfcc9"
  },
  "badge": {
    "@context": "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
    "type": "BadgeClass",
    "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/848249e9b4ad012b0a1828eac3d7924d2ba5dbc9b624a74ae2917dc000df2b1e",
    "version": "2.0",
    "name": "Getting Started with Coding Bootcamp",
    "description": "This is a three day intensive coding bootcamp on the fundamentals of computer programming, taught using Processing (a dialect of Java). The bootcamp builds participants' programming skills by introducing core constructs - variables, conditionals, loops, basic data structures and functions - as well as the computational thinking necessary to create, debug and adapt simple arcade games.",
    "image": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/images/badges/qmu/qmu-ioc-badges-2019.png",
    "criteria": {
      "@context": "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
      "type": "Criteria",
      "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/criteria/f07aad6b7fecb9e3e7362d8166d75477497133aeaa181d64353d4c20f5b1a1b5",
      "narrative": "Participants must attend all 3 days to be awarded the digital badge."
    },
    "issuer": {
      "@context": "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
      "type": "Issuer",
      "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/issuers/a539094e40e160225cce1045998ec49659aa48097221abe71b8c15722f7a621",
      "name": "Test Issuer",
      "description": "A great Issuer",
      "url": "http://test.net",
      "email": "test@open.ac.uk",
      "telephone": "",
      "image": {
        "type": "ImageObject",
        "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/issuers/images/logos/litemaplogo.png"
      }
    },
    "endorsement": [
      {
        "@context": "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
        "type": "Endorsement",
        "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/endorsements/5b09afe52389684134bec000b7e7aa8f27d7e76e520034f0fc6093b26e49208471",
        "issuedon": "2019-09-05T10:57:46.616Z",
        "issuer": {
          "@context": "https://w3id.org/openbadges/v2",
          "type": "Issuer",
          "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/endorsers/7c63368edf5976dd9d8cc4eb5fbd4b245ef4cd0b3428ddac16a117cac2cf380a",
          "name": "Institute of Coding",
          "description": "Our mission is to break down barriers to digital learning and employment. We believe learning should be a lifelong process and that everyone has a right to improve their skills. We want to spread opportunity by offering access to education, providing what you need, when you need it, in a place you can reach.",
          "url": "https://instituteofcoding.org/",
          "email": "ioc-badges@open.ac.uk",
          "telephone": "",
          "image": {
            "type": "ImageObject",
            "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/images/logos/ioc-logo.png"
          }
        },
        "claim": {
          "id": "http://blockchain20.kmi.open.ac.uk/badges/848249e9b4ad012b0a1828eac3d7924d2ba5dbc9b624a74ae2917dc000df2b1e",
          "endorsementComment": "The Institute of Coding endorse this badge and its issuer"
        }
      }
    ],
    "signature": {
      "type": [
        "ERC721Token2018",
        "Extension"
      ],
      "targetHash": "844228454a67f0929b962a1bc8d9a50cd072c277fcff651ce24a8ffebacae7c0",
      "hashType": "Keccak-256",
      "canonicalizationAlgorithm": "URDNA2015",
      "tokenId": 10,
      "anchors": [
        {
          "sourceId": "0xa8f9ca0fe4e53cbc6858ab0af80f95b7f0b23df3",
          "type": "ETHData"
        }
      ]
    }
  }
}

```