

# Governance Chain as Trust Substrate

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## What It Specifies

Each market participant's credentials trace to credentialing authorities. The credentialing chain is auditable; participants can evaluate counter-party credentials before transacting.

Listings, observations, and settlements all carry chain-credentialed lineage. The marketplace's trust evaluations operate against the chain rather than against opaque reputation scores.

## Why It Matters Structurally

Reputation-based marketplaces face structural problems: reputation gaming, reputation capture by platforms, reputation portability barriers, reputation regulatory liability.

Governance-chain trust eliminates these structural problems. Trust comes from credentialed authority chains; the chains are auditable; the trust is portable across marketplaces under declared federation.

## How It Composes With Mesh Operation

The architecture defines the trust evaluation primitives. Participants evaluate counter-party trust against declared chain requirements; the trust evaluation is structural rather than reputation-based.

Trust composes with other features. Cross-marketplace trust portability, byzantine-robust trust, and dispute-mechanism trust all build on the chain trust primitive.

## **What This Enables**

High-stakes marketplaces (spectrum, capacity allocation, regulated commerce) gain structurally-supported trust. Defense and dual-use commerce gain the same.

The architecture also supports trust evolution. As credentialing authorities mature and new authorities enter, the chain trust evolves through declared governance procedures.