

No-Intermediary Pair Settlement

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What It Specifies

Each party signs its half of the settlement under its credentialed identity. The architecture combines the signed halves into a complete settlement record; the record enters lineage under both parties' authorities.

Verification is structural. Either party (or downstream audit) can verify both signatures and the consistency of the combined record. The verification doesn't depend on intermediary attestation.

Why It Matters Structurally

Intermediary-brokered settlement imposes structural costs: intermediary fees, intermediary single-point-of-failure, intermediary capture of settlement data, intermediary regulatory liability.

No-intermediary settlement eliminates the structural costs. Peers settle directly under credentialed identity; the architecture provides the verification primitives; intermediary brokerage becomes optional rather than required.

How It Composes With Mesh Operation

The architecture defines the settlement protocol structurally: the message exchange, the signature requirements, the admissibility evaluations, and the lineage retention. Parties implementing the protocol can settle directly.

Optional intermediaries can still participate as credentialed observers, escrow agents, or dispute resolvers. The architecture admits intermediary participation as declared services rather than as required infrastructure.

What This Enables

Charging-station, tolling, and direct-commerce operations gain structurally-direct settlement. Civil-infrastructure operations between credentialed parties gain the same.

The architecture also supports new settlement classes. As new pair-relationship patterns emerge (autonomous-vehicle-to-infrastructure, drone-to-airspace, vessel-to-port), the architecture admits the new classes through declared taxonomy rather than requiring intermediary integration.