
Harel Mallac Technologies' 'Vaccination Passport' Goes Live!

Phoenix, June 9, 2021 - Harel Mallac Technologies (HMT), in partnership with Horizon Africa, has launched its blockchain-powered application to help counter the Covid-19 pandemic: the "Testra Health Pass". With security and privacy at the centre of its design, Testra provides users with access to digitally authenticated dates of their vaccinations and tests anytime and anywhere, as required for access to different premises.



Testra is an innovative solution conceptualized by HMT and developed in collaboration with its partner, Horizon Africa. It allows users to hold a copy of their Covid-19-related records in full privacy on their mobile device rather than on a centralized server which could be exposed to misuse and theft. Testra then uses blockchain technology to ensure integrity of the medical data at all times and throughout the access validation process.

The Health Pass can contain many criteria such as mandatory vaccination for access to certain premises or PCR tests done within the last three days. The application hence allows any organisation, private or public, to oversee the vaccination status of its workforce or other stakeholders who need to access its premises. In the Mauritian context where the authorities wish to reopen the borders soon, while ensuring the safety and health of all residents, HMT has initiated discussions with the authorities and key operators on the adoption of the Testra application and its platform for the purpose of digitalizing the whole vaccination management process.

Testra ensures the medical data privacy of its users

While conceiving this application, our major concern was to preserve the data privacy of end-users and prevent any tampering of the medical data. We thus resorted to the use of blockchain technology to ensure the integrity of the data, by employing hashing techniques on Horizon Africa Blockchain Network (HABN). The Testra approach ensures complete privacy of the end-user's medical data, as it is solely stored on his/her mobile phone. This alleviates the burden of satisfying different regulations with regards to holding medical data, which is classified as a special category of data by the Data Protection Act 2017. As a result, the medical data is not accessible to Testra or any other organisations (such as employers) which can only acknowledge the validity of the Pass. This being said, to mitigate any risks to an organisation, Testra offer the option of having an "employee consent form" for their staff.

"In the context of the current pandemic where information about vaccination status and PCR tests results are being widely shared, it is important for us, as a prudent organization, to ensure that this is balanced against the rights of data subjects and Testra allows for this balance by providing up-to-date passes without the risks of unauthorized disclosure or storage of sensitive medical information." highlighted **Nivejita Rambajun**, Group Head of Legal Affairs and Compliance, Harel Mallac Group.

"True to its mission of leading innovation and with its country at heart, Harel Mallac Technologies endeavours to support the Mauritian community with this tool, so people can go back to a more "normal" social and professional life, feeling safe and freer. It will also help companies, commercial and hospitality premises to operate and welcome employees and visitors with an improved peace of mind." highlighted **Shateeaum Sewpaul**, General Manager, Harel Mallac Technologies.

"Testra is developed with the end-user in mind, by giving them a platform to tackle a major challenge in regard to Covid-19: privacy, while providing a mechanism to organizations to lift access restrictions." highlighted **Akash Balluck**, COO of Horizon Africa.

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About Harel Mallac Technologies:

Harel Mallac Technologies is a leading provider of technology solutions in the Indian Ocean region and on the African continent. Headquartered in Mauritius, the subsidiary of Harel Mallac Group has developed a strong network of ICT Specialists with nodes across the African continent and provides services to enable ICT in medium & large organisations for them to grow and improve their operations. Based in Mauritius, Harel Mallac Technologies has offices in Madagascar, Burundi and Rwanda, and employs some 180 persons.

Frequently Asked Questions:

WHAT IS TESTRA?

Testra is a platform and mobile application enabling users to have exclusive control over their health data which allow them to securely generate a digital pass.

Testra uses blockchain technology and all medical data are securely stored on the user's phone instead of external databases or centralized servers. This prevents any misuse and theft of medical information.

HOW DOES THE TESTRA PASS WORK?

Testra Pass uses medical data saved on the user's phone to generate Passes which only return validity for access purposes. Testra Pass does not have the capabilities to show any medical info. Testra Pass uses pioneering blockchain technology based on Horizon Africa Blockchain Network to ensure that the data are correct and employs hashing and encryption algorithm to fulfil its functions.

Organizations create Passes for premises access with criteria like tests and vaccine. Testra then verifies whether your medical data (which is saved on your phone) fulfils the requirements of the Pass.

HOW TO I USE THE TESTRA PASS?

Input your test and vaccination details on 'MyHealth' section on Testra App. This information is stored on your phone and is secured using a hashing algorithm on HABN so that it can't be read by anyone else. Get invitation for Passes by email or phone. Alternatively, the premises may want to create a QR code for access which then the user has to scan.

WHERE CAN I DOWNLOAD THE TESTRA APP?

Testra App is currently available on Google Play store only. Deployment on Apple App Store is expected soon.

IS TESTRA FREE TO USE?

Testra is currently free to use for end users.