

DocChain

Blockchain Proof of Existence that Holds Up in Court

A compliance & evidence brief for legal, IP, and enterprise buyers · docchain.ripitlabs.com · by Rip It Labs, LLC

The problem

Businesses constantly need to prove that a specific document — a patent draft, a signed contract, an NDA, a design file, an inspection report — **existed in a specific form on a specific date** and has not been altered since. Traditional options are weak: emailing a file to yourself is trivially forged, a notary only witnesses a signing (not a file's contents over time), and single-authority timestamp services require you to trust that one company forever. WIPO ran a digital timestamping service (WIPO PROOF) and discontinued it in January 2022. The need did not go away.

What DocChain does

DocChain creates a tamper-evident, independently-verifiable proof that a document existed at a point in time. The file is fingerprinted (SHA-256) **in the user's browser** — the document itself is never uploaded. That fingerprint is digitally signed, timestamped, and recorded on five public blockchains. It proves four things: **existence, integrity, timestamp, and the declared issuer**.

Why it holds up as evidence

The proof certificate is written as **self-authenticating electronic evidence under Federal Rules of Evidence 902(13) and 902(14)**. Rule 902(14), added in 2017, makes data authenticated “by a process of digital identification” self-authenticating; the Advisory Committee Note expressly contemplates **hash values** for this purpose. DocChain's process is exactly that: a SHA-256 hash uniquely identifies the record, and any one-bit change produces a different hash and fails verification. The certificate supplies the written certification of a qualified process, reducing the need for live expert testimony to admit the record.

Built on published standards — verifiable without trusting us

SHA-256 (NIST FIPS 180-4)	U.S. federal hash algorithm	The document's unique digital fingerprint
Ed25519 (NIST FIPS 186-5)	Federally-approved digital signature	Signs the attestation over the fingerprint
RFC 3161	Trusted timestamp token standard	Verifiable in any tool (e.g. <code>openssl ts -verify</code>)
PADES (ETSI EN 319 142)	eIDAS PDF signature standard	The certificate PDF is signed + timestamped; validates in Adobe Acrobat
FRE 902(13) & 902(14)	Self-authenticating electronic evidence	Certificate structured for court admissibility
ESIGN Act & UETA	Legal effect of electronic records (US)	Records & signatures are legally recognized
Public blockchain anchoring	XDC, Base, Hedera, XRP, Stellar	Immutable, no single point of trust

Anyone can verify — independently

A counterparty needs no DocChain account. Given the original file they can: (1) recompute the SHA-256 and match it; (2) verify the Ed25519 signature; (3) look up each transaction on the public blockchain explorers; (4) verify the RFC 3161 token against DocChain's published CA with standard OpenSSL; and (5) open the PAdES-signed PDF certificate in Adobe Acrobat to confirm the signature and embedded timestamp. Trust is in the math and the public ledgers — not in DocChain.

Confidentiality by design

Because hashing happens in the browser, the document never leaves the user's device. DocChain cannot read, store, or leak the contents — making it safe for privileged, trade-secret, and unfiled-IP material, and aligned with GDPR data-minimization.

Honest scope

DocChain is evidence of existence, integrity, timestamp, and a self-declared issuer. It is **not** a grant of patent, trademark, or copyright, does not establish legal authorship or ownership, and does not replace a filing with the USPTO or any government registry. Roadmap for regulated buyers: eIDAS Qualified Trust Service Provider (qualified timestamps carrying EU legal presumption), SOC 2 Type II, and ISO/IEC 27001 — pursued via formal accreditation; not claimed until earned.

Start free at docchain.ripitlabs.com — notarizing is free to start, verifying is always free. Enterprise & API (all-5-chain, unlimited, bulk, integrations): sales@ripitlabs.com

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