EVVE: Beyond the Garden of Eden…

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Introduction

- Birth and Death registrations and certificates establish and end legal identity, citizenship and parentage

- Issued certificates are foundation documents that provide access to, or cessation of, **benefits** (such as social services, healthcare, education) and additional **identity documents** (i.e. passports, driver licenses)

- Increasingly, receiving entities are requesting electronic verification of paper certificates

- NYC has a portfolio of solutions and desire to support EVVE as the optimal solution

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EVVE: Who is She?

Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE): A secure, real-time, query-based system for verifying birth and death information directly with authenticated official government databases.

- a NAPHSIS supported and maintained system

- Includes national data

- Jurisdictions maintain control by qualifying use cases and participating organizations

Benefits of EVVE

- **Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE)**
    - provides a uniform framework across jurisdictions through a single interface
    - Standardized verification responses
    - Supported system with ongoing updates
    - Testing and onboarding of use cases are vetted nationally
    - Fee for service enables sustainability

New York City (NYC) Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS)

Any birth or death that occurs in or on the way to the 5 boroughs of NYC must be reported to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) BVS; eVital is our electronic vital event registration system

BVS issues birth and death certificates, disposition permits and Acknowledgements of Parentage (AOP)

Certificates are issued on special security paper with integrated security features

NYC registered events and certificates issued:
- 2022: 99,459 Births, 60,696 Deaths
- Issuing over 1 million certificates annually

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Local Requests for Verification of Vital Events

Problem: Consistent & growing need for verification of issued birth and death certificates. Numerous requests for just a NYC solution.

Reason: With increased sophistication of counterfeits, desire to reduce redundant request for certificates and variation of issuances over decades, receiving entities desire verification of paper issuances and don't want to pay for EVVE.

Challenges: Increased volume of requests; reduced vital records office staff; need to maintain timeliness of response. How can we minimize building repeated solutions?

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Fraud Prevention & Document Integrity

Goals:

- Support partner agencies while protecting individual's privacy & data integrity

- Maintain secure, efficient & cost-conscious processes

- Protect the issuance of benefits, such as:
  - **Monetary** (i.e. retirement benefits, life insurance, estate distribution)
  - **Social Services** (i.e. SSA, food assistance, health insurance)
  - Provision of subsequent **identity documents** (i.e. driver's licenses, passports, local IDs)

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Evolving methods of verification

- Letter of Exemplification/Apostille

- Data match

- Data Extracts

- Pre-EVVE API

- EVVE

- Future State

Apostille

When a certificate is to be used internationally, an Apostille may be necessary

The Apostille is the authentication of the certificate by a Competent Authority (i.e. the New York County Clerk) and requires customer to bring the NYC BVS issuance of:

- Birth Certificate
- Letter of Exemplification

- Benefit – internationally recognized
- [Hague Convention on Apostilles (of 1961)](#)

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Data Matching & Data Extracts

Data Matching
- Requesting entity shares a list of applicants/beneficiaries (i.e. parking permits)
- BVS data team conducts match with eVital system and shares a list back with matches; agency revokes benefits
- Benefit: limit exposure of non-matches
- Challenge: dependent on analyst/ labor intensive

Data Extracts:
- Based on contracts, specific data fields are routinely extracted from eVital and shared with verifying requester. Requester uses this dataset to meet their verification needs within their own systems
  - Birth: SSA Enumeration at Birth (EAB), NYS Medicaid – issuance of benefits
  - Death: SSA – halt benefits
  - Acknowledgement of Parentage (AOP): NYS OTDA – establishment of parentage for unmarried parents
  - Limitations: contract may exclude sharing of updated/corrected event information, limitation of field lengths of recipient systems – reducing accuracy of matches

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Local Application Programming Interface (API)

- **Local Database View – pre-EVVE**
  - **Need**: Local agencies issuing benefits wanted to verify birth certificates they received as identity documents
  - **Requirement**: customer presents a certified copy of their birth certificate; the agency wants to verify the document they have in hand
  - **Solution:** BVS created a limited view of the BVS database; with partnering agency, created a secure connection, algorithm and response to a submitted request of a subset of fields; query pings the SQL view and issues a coded response; integrated within the agencies system only
  - **Challenges:**
    - **Cost to build and maintain customized solutions (Assumed locally)**
    - **Complexity and resource commitment of expanding and maintaining data use agreements (DUAs) and additional use cases**

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Local API – verification/certification

- **Expanded Local verification/certification Use Case**
  - Additional Use case leverages previous infrastructure of limited eVital database SQL View
    - Integration with local agency architecture, utilizing modification of algorithm
    - Multi-agency effort
  - Customer applies online, NYC birth certificate is valid proof of identity, citizenship, age and relationship
    - Customer provides required details in partner agency's public facing application which are submitted, matches equate to verified
    - Dynamically, the application will progress

Pro: Eliminates customer's need to get duplicate copy of certificate

Challenges: Local effort requiring limited resources to build & support

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NYC Vital Event Workflow: Report/Registration/Issuance/Verification
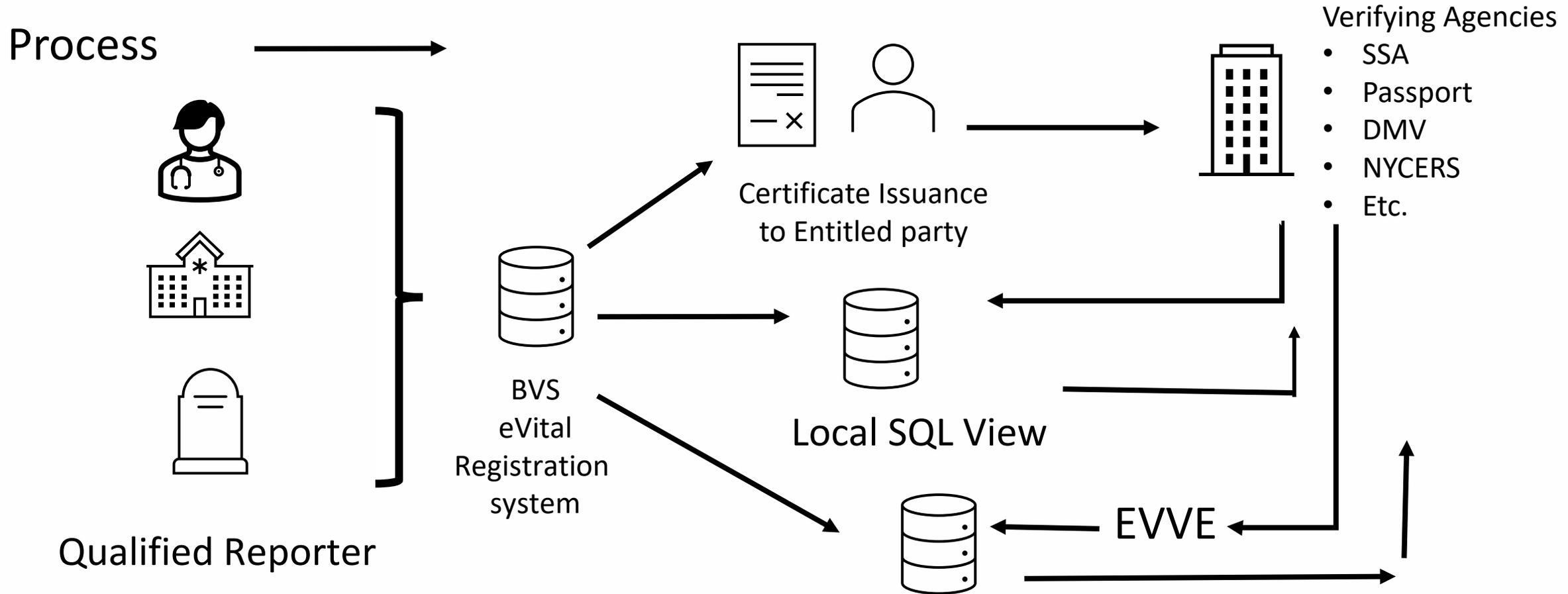
Conclusion

- EVVE modernizes vital record verification
- Reduces burden on NYC (local jurisdictions) while supporting national interoperability
- Paper certificates remain necessary, while verification strengthens trust
- A secure, trusted, modern verification ecosystem protects NYC residents and the integrity of benefits systems

- **How do you promote EVVE and/or support similar local requests?**

What's your experience?

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(Extra slide) EVVE

- **Electronic Verification of Vital Events (EVVE)**
  - Entitled entities are vetted by NAPHSIS & jurisdictions for their use cases
  - Multi-jurisdictional data are available to query
  - Birth and Death data are available
  - Infrastructure and security is already built and maintained
  - Entities can integrate product into their workflows and systems
  - Entities pay for participation through fees
  - Examples: SSA, DMVs, pension benefit administrators, insurance/ healthcare/ financial processors

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