

Can you trust a person is who they say they are on Bluesky?

Explaining the verification system, and how to trust it, the only way I know - with a diagram!
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Diagram version 1.0.0 - 18.11.2024, 17:15 - License: CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 (if you don't know what that is, look it up)
Latest version of this diagram always at: <https://jonworth.eu/blueskyverification>

What is the format of the username the person is using on Bluesky?

username.bsky.social

Anyone can signup for an account with a username like this - there is no verification from Bluesky itself

Is a website URL provided in the biography of the account?

Yes, and when you go to that URL there is a link back to the person's Bluesky profile

Is this website URL listed in search engines, and is the site known to be associated with that person?

Yes

No

✅ Probably OK ✅
In theory someone could have setup a fake site, or simply acquired a domain, but it's a low risk. You can probably trust this is the person they say they are

domainname.com

Put the domain name into a web browser - what do you get?

A website that is associated with the named individual

No. Or when you visit the URL there is no link back to Bluesky

⚠ Warning ⚠
You have no failsafe way to be sure this account is indeed the person they say they are - you need to check with them, or with someone who trusts them

subdomain.domainname.com

Put the full subdomain into a web browser - what do you get?

Nothing, or the subdomain redirects somewhere else

Try the domain without the subdomain - what now?

Nothing, or the domain redirects somewhere else

This domain could have been purchased for Bluesky verification purposes only

⚠ Caution ⚠
Only once you have worked out the root source of the information can you know whether to trust it

something ending brid.gy

This is content auto-posted onto Bluesky from somewhere else

It is possible in all of these three cases that an account *could* have posted something that only that person themselves could have known - a content analysis *might* then override these technical points

If you're really keen you could do a WHOIS lookup here too

Is this website URL listed in search engines, and is the site known to be associated with that person?

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