



Maintaining a sustainable Future for IT in Higher Education

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Time: 11:30 - 12:00

How Many Are You?

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Abstract:

“How many are you?” seems a silly question but in the daily practice of universities a lot of persons have multiple digital identities for both staff members and students, in particular in research environments. Staff members have their base in the registration in the HR system, students in the student administration, alumni sometimes in the student administration, sometimes in an independent alumni administration and often a kind of affiliate registration is used for guests or people who are temporarily doing some work for a university department.

The question we want to discuss here is the possibility to give these people just one identity, which they can use life-long. A lot of questions pop up:

- Is it possible to match persons in different source registrations?
- What does this mean for the (de)provisioning to applications?
- Does it generate a security problem? etc.

Delft University of Technology is looking into these questions and has some tentative answers:

- It is possible to match persons; the challenge is to minimize the manual actions. One registration should be defined as the authoritative source.
- Provision of data to other applications will not be very different; adding or removing a role will be important triggers instead of the presence in a HR or student registration.
- Deprovisioning of a role requires a different approach.
- The interchangeable data should have the same format.
- Applications with different roles for staff and students can be possible in two different ways.