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Redefining the Student Journey with Verifiable **Digital Transcripts**



Keep on **transforming**

Admittedly, it's been hard to find any positives in the events of the last twelve months - but if there's one, it's this: ***digital transformation has been supercharged*** across all industries.

Sure, we were talking about remote working and everything it entails long before the world shut down, but the need for organisations to pivot to a new way of learning and working has accelerated the journey towards a more digital way of being.

For students, this has been a particularly challenging time; between moving to a new environment and attempting to navigate the usual academic challenges exacerbated by a pandemic, students have felt the pressure of adapting more than most.

The question now, however, is **'what's next?'**

Students have adapted to digital solutions, and we're emerging into a new world where many processes have been transformed.

The answer is simple: **we carry on transforming!**



The struggle is far from over

Post-pandemic, universities will still be faced with a number of challenges that have either worsened during the COVID-19 crisis or been left somewhere on the backburner while priorities are adjusted.

These challenges include:

- **Meeting Employability Targets**, especially when the world faces a devastating recession and a shrunken job market.
- **Proving Qualifications** for students seeking employment in a post-pandemic world, including specific requirements around medical students and professional programmes
- **Cementing Value for Money** by offering students world-class innovation and support following a crisis which has levelled the playing field across institutions
- **Appealing to Students** and their changing needs, opinions, and priorities.

With new challenges developing, old challenges evolving, and a whole new landscape to navigate, it makes sense to take what we've learnt about digital transformation during the pandemic and apply it to successfully overcome the approaching hurdles.



Introducing Verifiable Digital Credentials

The academic transcript of the future is no longer a bundle of papers desperately stuffed into a ring binder, carried from one property to another through a graduate's life.

As the world becomes more digital, **convenience**, **security**, and **portability** are all becoming increasingly important.

Digital credentials record a student's progress, qualifications, and achievements, collecting credentials along the way and providing a stamp of approval from the issuing university.

The data behind these credentials is then **held by the student** for the rest of their lives, eliminating the need for paper copies of certificates.

Better still, digital credentials ensure that graduates can keep pace of an increasingly digital post-university world, where organisations are adopting remote working and embracing contactless services.



How it works



The Issuer: The University

Universities configure themselves as issuers of verifiable credentials for students.

The University then provides users with an easy sign-up route via a QR code or link on their website. Verifiable Credentials is a **W3C standard** ensuring long-term growth and accessibility.

Verifier: An employer

An employer or assessor validates information about a student by using a Software Development Kit (SDK) to send a credential presentation request to the Microsoft Authenticator app.

The request goes through Azure services and triggers a notification to be sent to the student requesting permission for verification.

Holder: The student

The student receives their verifiable credentials in Microsoft Authenticator or other compatible wallets and can present them to an organization whenever requested.



What it isn't



- **Digital Badges:** this isn't a simple 'well done' or certificate for a job well done; digital credentials are a long-term transcript of a student's achievement, opening doors for them long after graduation
- **A Short-Term Trend:** from contactless banking to enhanced remote working, the pandemic has accelerated our transition to a digital-first society. As with all traditional aspects of university, digital credentials should also be a long-term asset to an individual's future.



The keys to the kingdom

The benefits of digital credentials go far beyond helping students keep on top of their paperwork. We've identified the following key areas of value for students, universities, and employers:

Compatibility

Universities: Prepares for future transformation, future proofing, clears IT estate, frees up IT time, sells reputation as a digital-first university



Students: Digital-first lifestyles, compatible with employer and training systems

Employers: Working with their systems and new way of working

Employability

Universities: Addresses a student need + targets. Builds reputation.



Students: Builds individual employability + enhances career.

Employers: Widens talent pool, enables programmes

Viability

Universities: Reduces the costs involved, including manual processes, admin staff, resources etc. and allows for budget reallocation. Data is stored with students.



Students: Secure, self-owned, flexible, transportable, and permanent.

Employers: Negates fraud and reduces costs and risks associated with hiring and university programs.

Sustainability

Universities: Green targets and reduction of resources



Students: Appeals to Gen Z's sustainable vision of the future by removing paperwork and cutting down on costs and resources to replace lost transcripts

Employers: Easy to manage, cutting down on admin time, iterative assessment



Taking the **first steps**

Ready to play a bigger role in the futures of your students and graduates?

Get in touch to find out more about being part of the development process with Condatis.



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About Us

Condatis, is a UK leader for **decentralized identity implementation** and **bespoke external identity solutions**.

We are one of four global **Microsoft Gold Partners** selected by Microsoft for Verifiable Credential consultancy.

We are actively shaping the strategic direction of **decentralized identity** technology through our membership on the **Decentralized Identity Foundation** and **Open Identity Exchange**.



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