THE SURF EDUBADGES PROJECT

Working towards an open badge infrastructure for Dutch HE

IMS Europe
Alexander Blanc
SURFnet
SURF & Open Badges

2016
- Pressure cook session with stakeholders
- Whitepaper published
- Experiment with Mozilla open badge framework

2017 - 2018
- Proof of Concept

2018 - 2019
- Pilot eduBadges

2020
- eduBadges service offering for Dutch HE?
About the eduBadges PoC

2017 - 2018

- 10 participating institutions
- Open Badge Infrastructure based on Open Source Badgr
- Collaboration with Concentric Sky on joint development
- Development on Badgr on Github (https://github.com/edubadges)
  - SSO SURFconext – openID Connect
  - LTI integration component
  - Code audit
Learned lessons Edubadges Proof of Concept

**BADGE ISSUER (EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)**

**Lessons learned**
- Badge strategy; determine the status that the badge has within the education system and how it relates to other badges.
- Badge governance; who may issue badges, when may they be issued, and to whom?
- Badges for micro-credentials require a vision on flexible education.

**BADGE CONSUMER (EMPLOYER OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION)**

**Lessons learned**
- No experience acquired through the PoC (to be discussed in the future).

**BADGEEarner (STUDENT)**

**Lessons learned**
- Possibilities offered by badges not yet known.
- Uploading badges to social media takes time and effort, and they are not displayed prominently.
- Managing badges is still an issue to be resolved.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Lessons learned**
- Important focus is storage of edubadges.
- Standardisation: alignment required on subject-specific metadata and value system.
- Integration of the edubadge features in the digital learning environment and student information systems (SIS) is imperative.
- Important focus is on guaranteeing the authenticity of the badge’s content, the awarding party and the badge earner.
- A persistent ID to manage the badges is a prerequisite (e-mail address is not sufficient).
Edubadges Pilot 2018 - 2019

- Fresh install edubadges infrastructure
  - Roles and permissions model extended
  - Frontend Theming options
- GDPR compliant
  - New enrolment workflow
- More participating institutions
- Increasing effort on policy support for enabling microcredentialing within Dutch HE
- Preparing business model for service delivery by SURF to Dutch HE
- Persistent identity
- Continuous development

eduID.nl
Work in progress

- Metadata Extensions
- Alignment with European exchange and description frameworks
- Develop badge signing - digital signatures to permit validation of open badges without a need to access an assertion database
- Extend LTI integration to improve LMS/SIS – badge system communication
- Researching and experimenting with blockchain/distributed ledger technology for making access to endorsements and badge classes more transparent and verifiable

- & many things more...
Full report that reviews for Signed Open Badges cryptographic practices:
https://wiki.surfnet.nl/display/OB/Signing+Open+Badges