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Date: August 31, 2014 5:58

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Dear Mr. Irwan Alnarus Kautsar,

We have received your submission. Thank you.

#### Submission Details

Contribution ID: 53 Type : Work-in-Progress Title : Redefining Data Provider: The REST Approach To Solve Indonesia Lecturer Administrative Problems. Author(s) : Kautsar, Irwan Alnarus; Kubota, Shin-Ichiro; Musashi, Yasuo; Sugitani, Kenichi Presenting Author : Kautsar, Irwan Alnarus Presenter's E-mail: hepidad@gmail.com

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With best regards, Your TALE 2014 organizers.

IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning for Engineering 2014 https://www.conftool.net/tale-conference/

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#### Subject: TALE 2014 - Notification of Acceptance

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#### Dear Irwan Alnarus Kautsar,

Thank you very much once again for submitting a paper to the 2014 IEEE International Conference on Teaching, Assessment and Learning for Engineering (TALE). On behalf of the TALE 2014 Program Committee, we are pleased to inform you that your submission has been accepted for presentation at the conference, subject to the reviewers' feedback being satisfactorily addressed. The review results are appended at the end of this email.

Please begin making revisions to your paper in light of the reviewers' feedback. The final version of your paper must be uploaded to the conftool system (<u>https://www.conftool.net/tale-conference/</u>) no later than October 31, 23:59 NZST (UTC+12, displayed here:

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Congratulations on the acceptance of your paper! Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us. We look forward to seeing you in New Zealand in December.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Chan Ford Lumban Gaol TALE 2014 Technical Program Co-Chairs

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#### Abstract:

Directorate General Higher Education Institution of Indonesia (DGHEI), request lecturers to provide data or report their academic activities as evidence of them. Lecturers needs to make a portfolio or other document specified by DGHEI. From now on we will call this administrative issues. These issues are becoming a problem when the DGHEI requests these reports from the Lecturers to be updated in the DGHEI Systems in a specific time frame. The present paper discusses the problems that appear in the current system. Some of the problems that Lecturers face are: DGHEI Information Systems service unavailability. As a result of this analysis, a new methodology is proposed in order to solve these issues and others. The new approach, using REST (Representational Sate Transfer) to provide the lecturer data in a distributed manner, allowing sharing capabilities to the current system.

Published in: Teaching, Assessment and Learning (TALE), 2014 International Conference on

Date of Conference: 8-10 Dec. 2014	INSPEC Accession Number: 14999514
Date Added to IEEE Xplore: 19 March 2015	DOI: 10.1109/TALE.2014.7062614
Electronic ISBN: 978-1-4799-7672-0	Publisher: IEEE
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Alerts	administrative issues, DGHEI information systems service unavailability, REST	
	Author Keywords DGHEI, REST Protocol, Distributed Systems, Authoring Tools	

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## Programme

Sun	Sunday 7 December 2014						
9:30 -	Full day Workshop on PSoC (Cypress University Alliance)						
9:00 -	AAEE Executive Committee Meeting						
4:30	Rangimarie 3, Level 3, Te Papa						
6:30 -		Sio	W Nation Nation	/elcome Recepti	ion na 630PM-73(		
7:30		Registration and	d Exhibition Spa	ice 3.00PM -7.3	0PM, Oceania, L	evel 3, Te Papa	а
Mon	day 8 Decemi	ber 2014				· ·	
	Co.	unding Theotro	Mao	ri Welcome: 8:3	0AM	m of Now Zoo	land
	301	Registration and	Exhibition space	e: 8:00AM – 5:0	0PM Oceania. L	evel 3. Te Papa	and
		Steve Maha	arey – Vice-Cha	ncellor, Massey	University: Offic	ial Opening	
9:00 -		Keynote Spea	Soun ker Professor A	ding Theatre, L	evel 2 Sponsored by /		
10:00	Collaborative	Pathways: How	do we ensure th	nat all learners a	re enabled to ma	ake connections	s across areas
40.00		of	learning that su	oport an educati	on in engineerin	g?	
10:00 -			Morning Tea	- Oceania, Leve	el 3, Te Papa		
	Sounding	lcon	Oceania North	Oceania South	Angus	Rangimarie	Rangimarie
	Session 1A	Session 1B	Session 1C	Session 1D	Session 1F	Session 1F	Session 1G
	Collaborative	Electrical	Global	Student		Assessment	Teaching
	Pathways	Engineering	Competitive	Engagement	Engineering &	and	Approaches-1
10:30 -			Supply of Engineers	& Retention	Computing Courses &	Evaluation-1 <b>TALE</b>	TALE
12:00			3		Learning		
					Systems		
	Chaim	Chain	Chaim	Chain	TALE	Chaim	Chain
	Assoc/Prof	Dr Gerard	Dr George	Dr Andrew	Prof Dale	Dr Geunsik	Dr Stuart
	Colin Kestell	Rowe	Banky	Bainbridge-	Carnegie	Lim	Marshall
12:00 -	Lunch – Oceania, Level 3, Te Papa						
1:30	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Workshop	Session 2E	Session 2E	Session 2G
	1A	1B	1C	1D	Session 2E	36221011 2F	Session 20
	Solving	Addressing the	Preparing	Supporting	Work in	Curriculum	Educational
	sustainability	Review	Gendered	cohorts	Progress	Pedagogy-2	Distance,
	problems: What specific	Criteria for the	Workplaces	through their			Open and
1:30 -	knowledge	Transactions		studies			Education
3:00	and skills do students need	on Education					TALE
	to have to	TALE					
	solve modern sustainability				Chair: Ms Dorothy	Chair: Dr Phillin	Chair: Dr Bryan Ng
	issues and				Missingham	Allen	Di Diyan Ng
	future?						
3 - 3:30	Afternoon Tea – Oceania, Level 3, Te Papa						
	1A	1B	2C	2D	Session 3E	Session 3r	Session 3G
	(continue)	(continue)	What goes on,	Cultivating	Work in	Collaborative	Learning and
	wicked	Publication	Exploring the	Improving	Student	Paulways	Approaches
3:30 -	sustainability	Review Criteria for the	affordances of engineering	Metacognition	Engagement &		TALE
5:00	problems.	IEEE	laboratory	and Revealing	Recention		TALE
		Transactions on Education	how to interpret	Misconception s in			
			these for proposed face-	Engineering	Chair: Dr	Chair: Dr	Chair: Dr
		IALE	to-face and online venues.	Students	Tom Qi	Elizabeth Godfrey	Andrew Yoong

#### Session 2F – Curriculum Design and Pedagogy – 2 (TALE) **Rangimarie 1** Chair: Dr Phillip Allen

- 1. Investigation-in-progress on how to effectively use tablet terminals in science experiment classes performed by a student project team Hasegawa, M., Teshima, S.
- 2. Integrating Computer Security into the Undergraduate Software Engineering Classes: Lessons Learned Pancho-Festin, S., Mendoza, M.J.
- 3. A Design Project Based Approach to Teaching Undergraduate Instrumentation Long, D.S., McKay, T.G.
- 4. Understanding career aspirations of Information Technology students at Deakin University

McKenzie, S.C., Palmer, S., Coldwell-Neilson, J., Coleman, K.

5. Feasibility study on evaluation of audience's concentration in the classroom with deep convolutional neural networks Yoshihashi, R., Shimada, D., Iyatomi, H.

## Session 2G – Educational Resources, Distance, Open and Flexible Education (TALE) Rangimarie 2

## Chair: Dr Bryan Ng

- 1. Training Laboratory: Using online resources to enhance the laboratory learning experience Nikolic. S.
- 2. Facilitating Access to Course Contents During War Situation with M-Learning and Cloud Computing Technologies Wannous, M., Nakano, H., Mahfuri, M., Nagai, T.
- 3. Work in Progress: Simple software solution for accessing remote lab on mobile devices
  - Samuelsen, D.A.H., Bjørk, J., Graven, O.H.
- 4. Redefining Data Provider: The REST Approach To Solve Indonesia Lecturer Administrative Problems. Kautsar, I.A., Kubota, S.-I. Musashi, Y., Sugitani, K.
- 5. Familiarity breeds understanding: Recommending explanatory analogies to learners Kumar, V., Bhat, S.S., Pedanekar, N.

## Workshop 1B (cont'd)

## **ICON**

Addressing the Publication Review Criteria for the IEEE Transactions on Education Froyd, J.E.

# Redefining Data Provider: The REST Approach To Solve Indonesia Lecturer Administrative Problems.

Irwan Alnarus Kautsar<sup>1</sup>, Shin-Ichiro Kubota<sup>2</sup>, Yasuo Musashi<sup>1</sup>, Kenichi Sugitani<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, <sup>1</sup>Kumamoto University, Kumamoto, Japan. <sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, <sup>2</sup>University of Miyazaki, Miyazaki, Japan. 120D9307@st.kumamoto-u.ac.jp, kubota@cs.miyazaki-u.ac.jp, {musashi, sugitani}@cc.kumamoto-u.ac.jp

*Abstract*—Directorate General Higher Education Institution of Indonesia (DGHEI), request lecturers to provide data or report their academic activities as evidence of them. Lecturers needs to make a portfolio or other document specified by DGHEI. From now on we will call this administrative issues. These issues are becoming a problem when the DGHEI requests these reports from the Lecturers to be updated in the DGHEI Systems in a specific time frame. The present paper discusses the problems that appear in the current system. Some of the problems that Lecturers face are: DGHEI Information Systems service unavailability. As a result of this analysis, a new methodology is proposed in order to solve these issues and others. The new approach, using REST (Representational Sate Transfer) to provide the lecturer data in a distributed manner, allowing sharing capabilities to the current system.

#### Keywords—REST Protocol; Distributed Systems; Authoring Tools; DGHEI

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The Directorate General Higher Education Institution of Indonesia (DGHEI) has been using Web as a public service for more than a decade ago. The main role of DGHEI is to manage the Education systems at the higher education level. The main function of the DGHEI is to manage Higher Education Institution's information as well as students and lecturers information from public and private universities.

For lecturers, their duty is not only to provide education related activities, but also administrative services. One of the duties is to write a report about the academic activities done in one semester. The DGHEI provides an online platform to the lecturers in order to upload their reports.

Based on the DGHEI regulations, lecturers are requested to upload data through several DGHEI websites. Which are Sertifikasi Dosen/Lecturer Certification System (SERDOS) and Sistem Informasi Pengembangan Karir Dosen/Lecturer Career Development Information System (SIPKD). Also, there was another website called FORLAP, used by academic staff to report recent or update data about detailed University's condition. Such as, the number of newcomers, a number of lecturers engaged in active teaching.

The reasons why DGHEI was the pioneer institution to use the web as a public service, was to reduce the information sharing time and to improve the accessibility to lecturer data.

However, the use of these services create other problems. Which is, in fact, repetitive activities by the user (lecturer and academic staff) when uploading data. For example, as a regulation, the lecturer should upload data on two DGHEI websites, and academic staff should upload only on FORLAP. The uploaded data is almost similar entity data. Such as Curriculum Vitae, Academic activity.

Another web application that is maintained by DGHEI is STUDI DIKTI, an Information System (IS) for lecturers that received the DGHEI scholarships. The awardees should report their academic/study activity to this IS. Once again, these reports contain similar data entity. This reporting/uploading activity could cause several issues, such as: data redundancy, load balancing problems (considering potential user accessing the systems), and user time consuming (for repetitive activities).

This paper presented a Representational State Transfer (REST), a software architecture style that could be used as an approach to solve those problems. With the REST approach, the use of the web as a distributed system is enabled. Our proposed approach, implemented with REST is to develop an application as a supportive tool for lecturers, which can support lecturers to collect and record their academic activities. Afterward, with REST web service, we proposed a novel approach to enable the Institution (the lecturer Homebase) to become Data Provider.

This paper is presented as follows, Section II, Problem Analysis; Section III discusses about REST Approach and Proposed Method; Section IV shows our implementation and Experiment Results; Section V presents our Conclusions and Future Work.

## II. PROBLEM ANALYSIS

## A. The Current DGHEI Information System

The main functions of the Information System (IS), is to provide updated data and real time access. The use of web technology as an information system, can wider accessibility and ease of installations compare with Desktop app based Information Systems. The challenge of developing a web based information system is how to develop reliable, high concurrency systems [1].

The information systems, that maintained by DGHEI could be considered as high concurrency system. Because, it can be accessed by more than 10000 potential users, as total lectures from all universities in Indonesia. The DGHEI request lecturers to uploading necessary document on SERDOS and SIPKD. For the Lecturer Institution Administrative staff is required to upload data on FORLAP. Detail IS provided by DGHEI are shown in Table 1.

Name	URL	User
SERDOS	https://serdos.dikti.go.id/	Lecturer
SIPKD	https://sipkd.dikti.go.id/	Lecturer
FORLAP	https://forlap.dikti.go.id/	Lecturer, Academic Staff, Public

TABLE I. INFORMATION SYSTEM PROVIDED BY DGHEI.

#### 1) The FORLAP

This information system, open to public since July 15, 2013, based on DGHEI letter (No. 1097 /E4.1/ 2013), that replaces the old information system called Evaluasi DIKTI. The main function of the old and new IS is quite similar. Which is to manage data of all elements of some private/public Higher Education Institutions (HEI), active students and lecturers. The advantages of FORLAP are that it has a small probability to have peak season/peak time and concurrent user relatively small. Because the user that is authorized to upload data is just administrative staff. Each one public/private HEI has one user account. But, this service model, have other disadvantages, for example, if there is mistaken data, or data update, the lecturer cannot change directly and quickly. At first, is needed to inform the administrative staff. The other crucial thing is, DGHEI uses data from FORLAP to make decisions or assessments.

#### 2) The SERDOS

The use of this information system is to evaluate lecture performance. For the need of this evaluation, lecturers are requested to upload data. Not all lecturers can access and upload data to the SERDOS, only selected lecturers by DGHEI. DGHEI uses SERDOS Data to select the lecturer. Again, selected lecturer base on data from the FORLAP. Base on new regulation by DGHEI (No. 3603/E4.3/2012), The data need to be uploaded are: a Curriculum Vitae (CV), Deskripsi Diri (Self Description Document) and another lecturer portfolio. The result of this evaluation is for the lecturer to achieve professional certificate and professional allowances. Same conditions with the FORLAP systems, these have a small chance to have peak time. Because not all lecturers could access the systems. But, data redundancy occurs in these systems, because the lecturer uploading similar document such as curriculum vitae and portfolio in this IS.

## 3) The SIPKD

Sistem Informasi Pengembangan Karir Dosen/Lecturer Career Development Information System (SIPKD), used to track what the lecturer has done in one semester. Because of no selective user and DGHEI obligate all lecturers to upload their documents in this IS, the SIPKD server has strong possibility to face a peak time. And as a consequence the server is down. The SIPKD just went down in the first month after been released. To solve this matter, DGHEI made regulation as written in official letter no: 652/E4.1/2014, which regulate a schedule of when SIPKD websites should be accessible. The scheduled access is based on academic rank. Shown in Table 2.

No	Academic Rank in Indonesia	Accessibility Day
1	Guru Besar (Professor) and Lektor Kepala	Monday and Tuesday
2	Lektor	Wednesday a Thursday
3	Asisten Ahli	Friday, Saturday and Sunday

TABLE II. THE ACCESSIBILITY DAY BASED ON ACADEMIC RANK

## B. The Entity Data and Problem Issues

From our perspective, this regulation/solution has several issues such as:

- The use of the web should not have boundaries with time regulations. This rule could not match the lecturer schedule.
- The difference of the amount of lecturers among professors, and lowest level academic degrees, possibly could create peaks on their specific access dates.
- Difference location/demographics of each area in Indonesia, has a different ease of Internet access.

As result of problem analysis, the issues that needed to be addressed are: 1). Lecturer uploads same document: such as CV and portfolio. This cause repetition and redundancy data. How to provide single valid data?. 2). Solve high concurrency DGHEI web application, and need an approach for reliability server when meets peak time.

## III. REST APPROACH AND PROPOSED METHOD

Representational State Transfer (REST), is bubbling protocol to serve an information with lightweight bandwidth consumption and rock solid protocol to support the use of web as distributed systems [2, 3]. The importance of REST paradigm, made REST the best approach for distributed systems. The paradigm are, REST focused on how it could represent resources. With or without REST, the resource can be represented in any format. For example, XML or plain text, shown in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1. Resources Representation of Data.

If access the web server where REST is ready, the client will receive the following response: (Fig. 2).

```
"_id" : ObjectId("5401d4353f5256b22ed49b67"),
"firstname" : "John",
"lastname" : "Doe",
"Sex" : "male",
"birthday" : ISODate("1988-07-12T15:00:00Z"),
"address" : "Virgin Street 69",
"mobilephone" : "+819064447444",
"institution" : "University of Some University",
"save_on" : ISODate("2014-08-30T13:40:05.104Z")
```

Fig. 2. Response from Web Server that REST ready.

{

}

When using the REST approach, the uploaded document by the lecturer is the resource. For this matter, our proposed approach, is answering the research question, how to deliver the resource that can solve the problem mentioned in Section II B, such as peak problems in accessing DGHEI Information Systems.

Technically, to solve the peak problem, the developer implements load balancing agent system [4, 5]. Instead of developing load balancer, in this paper, we proposed a distributed data collection. Data grabbed/collected institutionally with REST approach. So, the DGHEI IS is not the main target. The traffic is distributed to each lecturer institution. REST protocol runs over HTTP only. Also, through HTTP, the web application is RESTful already, could perform operations like: Create, Read, Update and Delete (CRUD). This makes easy to integrate existing DGHEI Information System with the proposed approach.

We deliver the proposed method by re-defining who is the data provider. To control and avoid redundancy, lecturer data are centralized at their Homebase university. So, lecturers do not need to upload all the data directly to the DGHEI / SIPKD server, but uploading the instrument that is requested to their Institution. Then, the DGHEI/SIPKD server, grabs the lecturer data from the lecturer institutions.

For our research purposes, we define the following terminology: PDP = Pivot Data Provider. In this case, the lecturer is the PDP. IDP = Institutional Data Provider, the lecturer home base university. IDC = Institutional Data Customer. For the IDC, not only the DGHEI server, but also other institutions like: private companies that are willing to scout information, in order to help the selection process to grant research funds for some public/private higher education institutions. The flow of data between lecturer, IDP and DGHEI is illustrated in Fig. 3.



Fig. 3. The Data Flow between PDP, IDP and IDC.

In this research, we simulate data that will be reported by lecturers to DGHEI, using simply lecturer profiles. Such as: Name, Sex, Date of Birth, Address, Moblie Phone, and Institution name. The detail scenario to simulate the data flow activity is shown in Fig. 4.



Fig. 4. The Simulation Scenario for REST Approach.

The data flow scenario's activity from the above picture is:

## A. Creation.

Lecturer create/update his public profile that will use on DGHEI as recent Curriculum Vitae. The public profile authoring could be done in a local machine (offline) or web application provided by their campus (online). In this research, we prefer to simulate this proposed method with authoring offline conditions, because this fits more with the real conditions in Indonesia where there are bandwidth gap problems.

## B. Uploading.

After authoring the public profile, we proposed lecturers to upload their profile to their IDP servers. This uploading activity should be done using Local Area Network or Internet as long as IDP has a public IP Address an automatically. For example, when the Lecturer laptop is connected to the server machine, the application that acts as PDP upload automatically the updated data to IDP.

## C. Grabbing.

The IDC (in this case the DGHEI machine), grabs periodically or by request, the lecturers data from each IDP/campus. The use of the campus server as an IDP is strongly possible because most public/private university has their own web server/IP Public.

## IV. IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPERIMENT RESULT

To prove the concept, we list the required applications. All of them are web applications in order to take advantage of their multiplatform intrinsic characteristic.

Because, it is needed a web server which provides the RESTful web service in order to use the REST protocol as an approach of providing data. This web application is developed with flask framework. With this framework, web application has been developed for simulating purposes.

## A. Lecturer Profile Creation as PDP.

We simulate the require document which contents are simply personal information in our Lecturer Based Supportive Tool (LBST) [6]. The LBST, enables lecturers to create/update not only profiles, but also authoring learning materials in offline conditions or no need Internet connections. The simulation of the input of personal information into our LBST is shown in Fig. 5.

Personal Information				
First Name	Mary			
Last Name	Jane			
Sex	Female \$			
Date of Birth	Tell us when we should deliver the birthday cake?			
Address	New Road 1170			
Mobile Phone Number	+8174448444			
Institution	Some University			
	CREATE NOT NOW ?			

Fig. 5. Lecturer Profile's Data Entry.

## B. Uploading a Lecturer profile on IDP

The next step to be done by the lecturer after authoring their public profile, is to upload it on IDP (Fig. 4 points B). For enable uploading data from PDP to IDP, a lecturer's laptop should establish a connection to the IDP web server. For this, the lecturer can upload the data by using LAN infrastructure or internet as long as IDP is accessible. The only lecturer's concern is to configure the IDP address. The configuration of our developed web application is shown in Fig. 6.

Option Name:	UMSIDA server
URI Remote Server:	http://203.1 3/
Token	1484
	SAVE



#### C. Grabbing Lecturer Profile Data.

After connection is established and lecturer uploads their profiles, IDP provides the uploaded data automatically to IDC. IDC could grab the data accessing IDP web services. For example, in a URL: "http://203.xxx.xxx/people/". The IDP responses as shown in Fig. 7.

<pre>{     "meta": {         "total_court": 1,         "limit": 20,         "offset": 0     },     "objects": [         "mobilephone": "+8174448444",         "firstname": "Jane",         "lastname": "Jane",         "save_on": "2014-04-07115:00:00",         "save_on": "2014-04-07115:00:00",         "address": "New Road 1170",         "di: "540108dc3f256D22449b66",         "dit", *540108dc3f256D22449b66",         "dit", *54018dc3f256D2249b66",         "dit", *54018dc3f24000000000000000000000000000000000000</pre>	http://	/people
"Tnstitution": "Some University" }	<pre>{     "meta": {         "tota         "limi         "offs     }     ;         "objects"         {             "             "</pre>	<pre>l_count": 1, t": 20, et": 0 : [ mobilephone": "+8174448444", firstname": "Mary", lastname": "Jane", Sex": "female", Sex": "female", Sex: "female", Sex</pre>

Fig. 7. Response from IDP.

To use this response, we developed a third application that acts as IDC. With simulating the data grabbing process from the above response using python module called "requests" and "json.load" to parse the data. This parsed data we called Profile Datasets. Then save the downloaded data on a spreadsheet. In this experiment, we use Google Spreadsheet. By using Gspread, a python API for Google spreadsheet, we successfully store the Profile Datasets in Google Spreadsheet. Shown in Figure 8.



Fig. 8. Access Google Spreadsheet with python Gspread python module.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

The present research proposes a method to collect lecturer's updated data and other administrative related academic information in a distributed. The benefits of using our proposed method could be, but not limited to: the DGHEI infrastructure will not achieve the "out of service" status, which allows the users to rely on the provided services without thinking in any disturbance in the uploading/retrieving processes since the new approach allows to distribute the load among the different campus servers. The simulations done so far, reinforces our research proposal in the way that there is no need to change drastically the installed infrastructure in academic institutions, but to only implement web services that could improve the general performance. We proved the high impact of the REST paradigm in order to solve a problem that is particular to the reality of Indonesian Higher Education Institutions.

As for our future work, we will emphasize the security in our uploading mechanisms. We will also will focus our efforts into the creation of a coordinated profile to be simulated. This coordination will be made with DGHEI in order to provide a much more reliable simulation.

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