The National Academic Depository (NAD) will be used to hold academic awards i.e. mark sheets, convocation certificates, transfer certificates, in a dematerialized form to enable electronic and authentic verification by institutions, employers and other verification agencies.

The NAD project is planned to cover around 1000 institutions which constitute 40,000 institutions. In addition, all central and state board results (9th and 12th standard) and their constituent school/colleges will come under the NAD project. We have an in-dated sign-up over 134 academic institutions and Birla who are in various stages of uploading/updating awards in the electronic forum of the NAD system. We have a committee of nearly three lakh awards in the system, which can be verified by the institutions/companies who are registered with us,” says Joydeep Dutta, Executive Director & Group CTO, CDSL.

The important thing about this project is that the verifiability of mark-sheets that is available on the platform is digitally signed and pre-verified, with the marks having gone farther than downloading/purchasing the records and viewing the same as verified, after the student has given his consent and the verification fees have been paid through the payment gateway. The type of certificates can be employed, background checkers, academic institutions, banks, consulates, evaluation bodies, etc. The verification can be initiated by both domestic and foreign verifiers after they are registered in the NAD system. The less collected are usually higher for foreign verifiers and devised by any relevant academic institutions.

Some of the various types of awards that can be lodged in the system are as follows:

- Degree Certificates
- Diploma Certificates
- Mark sheets
- Provisional Certificates
- Skill Certificates
- Transcripts
- Need for NAD

This initiative has been a long-felt need and brings together institutions of disparate levels of IT maturity to participate in the national digital academic depository ecosystem. Academic institutions need not invest in high-end IT infrastructure and software as they have their systems available 24×7 and internet facing. Therefore, cyber security compliance is less of a worry to the academic institution.

The entire verification request process, namely request by verification agency, consent by student, payment for verification services and showing the final image to the verifier can be achieved in minutes which could take up to a month if the verifier is in another location and more in another country. Moreover, the student is able to view all his academic records on our platform.

Other stakeholders

The new projects, business development and operations were primarily motivated in the NAD project. There were multiple discussions with the ministry and UGC, sharing the concept and planning phases. A technical committee with multiple experts was also set up by the ministry to discuss technical challenges and issues. The new projects and IT teams were instrumental in conceptualizing the business functionality and technical specifications of the project. Inputs and learnings from operations were used in replicating the processes from the securities depository business.

Another session in conjunction with the MHRD/UGC had been conducted in different cities across the breadth and depth of the country, where the dean and representatives of the institutions and other officials have been invited to introduce the concept of NAD and explain how the entire process of award handling, verification and other services will work. The legal department was involved in preparing and finalizing the legal and all documentation between CVL and the institutions, separately between CVL and the ministry. Thus, to ensure that all stakeholder responsibilities and expectations were documented. The business development team contacted the institutions and laid the relationship before the IT team started engaging with them for technical discussions.

Key benefits

- Convenience and efficiency: 24×7 optimal and near real-time academic record verification irrespective of stakeholder location resulting in convenience to the student and verifiers.

- Security: Digitally signed institution authenticated academic records available online. Near total elimination of fake and forged awards. There is no risk of loss of physical records since the same is available online and one need not have a physical copy.

- Cost savings: Storage of physical records can be reduced or nearly eliminated since the same is online. No need for institutions to incur IT infrastructure with historical data by uploading to the depository database. There is also a significant saving of time for academic verification by putting in place an online approach.

- Eliminate counterfeit awards –上官 practice of forgery.

- Automation of manual work.

- Reduced administrative work for the students and agents currently involved in these services.

- Reduce fraud and manipulation of records, etc.

- Eliminate corruption at various levels.

- Reduce the need to store physical records once uploaded to the CVL system.

- Ensure improved efficiency in service delivery.

- Ensure accurate MIS/analytics.

- Help in education policy formulation with accurate H1V analytics.

- Help in ensuring access to students for verification purposes.

As told to Abhishek Raval

EXPRESS COMPUTER | NOVEMBER, 2017

6

CASE STUDY

Why a national depository for academic records is an idea whose time has come

The Finance Minister announced in his budget speech for 2016-17 about the setting up of an Academic Depository on the pattern of a Securities Depository. The Government of India under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) / University Grants Commission (UGC) subsequently nominated CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) to implement the National Academic Depository (NAD) which would be used to hold academic records i.e. mark sheets, convocation certificates, transfer certificates, in a dematerialized form to enable electronic and authentic verification by institutions, employers and other verification agencies.

The NAD project is planned to cover around 1000 institutions which constitute 40,000 institutions. In addition, all central and state board results (9th and 12th standard) and their constituent school/colleges will come under the NAD project. The President of India formally inaugurated the project on July 3, 2017 in a grandation at New Delhi.

The idea was to create a centre which would be used to hold academic records of all central and state board results (9th and 12th standard) and their constituent school/colleges, an idea whose time has come.

The important thing about this project is that the verifiability of mark-sheets that is available on the platform is digitally signed and pre-verified, with the marks having gone farther than downloading/purchasing the records and viewing the same as verified, after the student has given his consent and the verification fees have been paid through the payment gateway. The type of certificates can be employed, background checkers, academic institutions, banks, consulates, evaluation bodies, etc. The verification can be initiated by both domestic and foreign verifiers after they are registered in the NAD system. The less collected are usually higher for foreign verifiers and devised by any relevant academic institutions.

Some of the various types of awards that can be lodged in the system are as follows:

- Degree Certificates
- Diploma Certificates
- Mark sheets
- Provisional Certificates
- Skill Certificates
- Transcripts
- Need for NAD

This initiative has been a long-felt need and brings together institutions of disparate levels of IT maturity to participate in the national digital academic depository ecosystem. Academic institutions need not invest in high-end IT infrastructure and software as they have their systems available 24×7 and internet facing. Therefore, cyber security compliance is less of a worry to the academic institution.

The entire verification request process, namely request by verification agency, consent by student, payment for verification services and showing the final image to the verifier can be achieved in minutes which could take up to a month if the verifier is in another location and more in another country. Moreover, the student is able to view all his academic records on our platform.

Other stakeholders

The new projects, business development and operations were primarily motivated in the NAD project. There were multiple discussions with the ministry and UGC, sharing the concept and planning phases. A technical committee with multiple experts was also set up by the ministry to discuss technical challenges and issues. The new projects and IT teams were instrumental in conceptualizing the business functionality and technical specifications of the project. Inputs and learnings from operations were used in replicating the processes from the securities depository business.

Another session in conjunction with the MHRD/UGC had been conducted in different cities across the breadth and depth of the country, where the dean and representatives of the institutions and other officials have been invited to introduce the concept of NAD and explain how the entire process of award handling, verification and other services will work. The legal department was involved in preparing and finalizing the legal and all documentation between CVL and the institutions, separately between CVL and the ministry. Thus, to ensure that all stakeholder responsibilities and expectations were documented. The business development team contacted the institutions and laid the relationship before the IT team started engaging with them for technical discussions.

Key benefits

- Convenience and efficiency: 24×7 optimal and near real-time academic record verification irrespective of stakeholder location resulting in convenience to the student and verifiers.

- Security: Digitally signed institution authenticated academic records available online. Near total elimination of fake and forged awards. There is no risk of loss of physical records since the same is available online and one need not have a physical copy.

- Cost savings: Storage of physical records can be reduced or nearly eliminated since the same is online. No need for institutions to incur IT infrastructure with historical data by uploading to the depository database. There is also a significant saving of time for academic verification by putting in place an online approach.

- Eliminate counterfeit awards –上官 practice of forgery.

- Automation of manual work.

- Reduced administrative work for the students and agents currently involved in these services.

- Reduce fraud and manipulation of records, etc.

- Eliminate corruption at various levels.

- Reduce the need to store physical records once uploaded to the CVL system.

- Ensure improved efficiency in service delivery.

- Ensure accurate MIS/analytics.

- Help in education policy formulation with accurate H1V analytics.

- Help in ensuring access to students for verification purposes.

As told to Abhishek Raval

EXPRESS COMPUTER | NOVEMBER, 2017

6

CASE STUDY

Why a national depository for academic records is an idea whose time has come

The Finance Minister announced in his budget speech for 2016-17 about the setting up of an Academic Depository on the pattern of a Securities Depository. The Government of India under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) / University Grants Commission (UGC) subsequently nominated CDSL Ventures Limited (CVL) to implement the National Academic Depository (NAD) which would be used to hold academic records i.e. mark sheets, convocation certificates, transfer certificates, in a dematerialized form to enable electron...