9(2)(a)

Fwd: Re: NCEA PAL

9(2)(a)

From:
To: __   wasim.talim@me.com   9(2)(a)
CC: __   _____t.nz>
Date: 26/01/2015 12:06 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: NCEA PAL

Hi Wasim

Attached is the list of standards (and versions) that was created for NZQA's application. It has removed any expired standards.

The file (in the attached zip folder) is a * delimited text file.

The fields are as follows:
Standard_Number
Standard_Type   - U for Unit Stds, A for Achievement Stds
Standard_Title
Version
Level
Credits
Subject
Active_Use   - Y if attached to a Subject
L1_Numeracy   - A= (unit stds), B =(new Achievement stds(AS) only)
L1_Literacy   - A= (unit stds), B =(Achievement stds(AS) Plus US 22750 and 22751)
Assessment_Method   - I = Internal assessed, E = Externally assessed
AME_Permissible   - Maximum results allowed
UE_Numeracy   - A= (unit stds) 26623, 26626 and 26627 only, B =new Achievement stds
(AS) only
UE_Literacy_Read
UE_Literacy_Write
UE_Maori_Literacy_Read
UE_Maori_Literacy_Write
Cheers
9(2)(a)

:-)

...now for the official stuff...

9(2)(a)

Psychometrics, Reporting and Statistics

NZQA

125 The Terrace
P O Box 160
Wellington 6140
Phone: +64 4 463 3362
Web: http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/

9(2)(a)

>
Hi

As discussed - would you please send Wassim the same list you prepared for NZQA's application.

cheers   9(2)(a)

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

9(2)(a)

⑧

From: wasim talim   9(z)(a)
To: 1z>
Date: 26/01/2015 10:49 PM
Subject: Re: NCEA Pal Application

Hi,   9(z)(a)

After speaking to my developer today, we have decided we will provide you with a basic document outlining our requirements and answering your questions. From there if we could set up a meeting late week, perhaps Friday, that would be ideal. But please allow me to get back to you first with the documentation before we settle on a date and time.

Thanks
Wasim

On 26/01/2015, at 12:58 pm, Wasim Talim <wasim.talim@me.com> wrote:

> Hi   9(z)(a)
>
> Thank you for your email.
>
> I will get back to you later today after meeting with my developers and we can arrange a date to meet from there. I will also have some prior information available to you as requested.
>
> Thanks
> Wasim
>
>
>   9(z)(a)
> On 26/01/2015, at 9:52 am,   > wrote:
>
>> Hi Wasim,
>>   9(z)(a)
>> I was forwarded in your details.
>>
>> You have proposed to develop a mobile application that can integrate with NZQA's system to pull students result details.
>> I would like to discuss technical specifications of mobile application.
>>
>> Can you please let me know if its possible to meet and discuss. Accordingly, I will organise a meeting to discuss with you.
>>
>> Also it would be good if you can able to provide more information in advance related to following technical points
>>
>> 1) Preferred approach for integration with NZQA's system.
>> 2) Authentication Mechanism
>> 3) Information storage on mobile device
>>
>> Thank you.
>>
>>
>> Regards,   9(z)(a)
>>
>>

>> Information Services
>> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>>
>> NZQA
>> 125 The Terrace
>> PO Box 160
>> Wellington 6140
>> DDI:+64 4 463 3152
>>
>> Web:http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
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>>
>> ***
>>
>

9(2)(a)

⑨

From: wasim talim
To: 9(2)(a)
Date: 29/01/2015 12:14 PM   ────────── zqa.govt.nz>
Subject: NCEA Pal

Hi   9(2)(a)

Please see attached our proposal for integration. I would love for the opportunity to come see you tomorrow along with my developer. If this is too short notice, we can do next week.
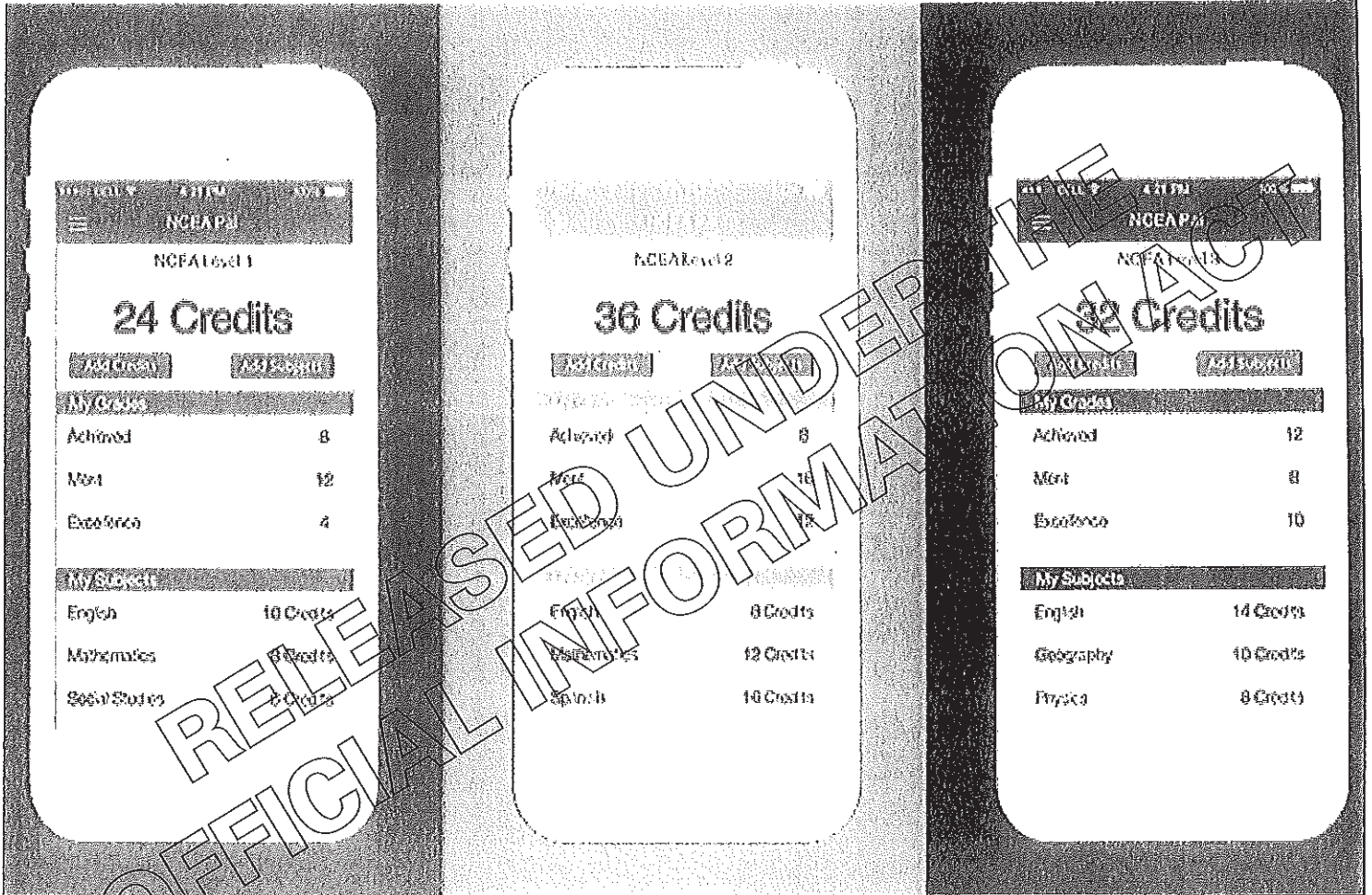
Thanks
Wasim

9(2)(a)

NCEA Pal

Keep track of your
NCEA progress.

NCEA / NZQA Records Integration

Version 0.0.1

28 January 2015

Table of Contents

Overview

This document is to identify the preferred method to integrate the NCEA PAL system with NZQA system. Here we will consider industry best practices and security measures.

NCEA 's Understanding

NCEA PAL understand that NZQA is concern about the student NSN number and its password and require the app users to always enter their credentials to the system to gain access to the NZQA system.

Also NCEA PAL understands that we are not in a position to store any of the credential data in the application and only store the student record details.

Possible Integration Approaches

Method 1 : OAuth 2.0 to Access NZQA data

Considering all the above requirements by NZQA we feel that it this is the best approach to connect and get the student records. This will be very similar to other OAuth solutions in the market where the User of NCEA PAL can enter their credentials to login to NZQA system, by doing that the system will ask if they would like to grant NCEA PAL to access their student records. If they grant the permission the system will go and download their student records via a RESTful API call.

Similar systems of this nature are:

1. Facebook Graph API
2. Google Developer OAuth 2.0 API

We do understand that these solutions are relatively difficult to develop and NZQA still be in the process of getting it done.

Method 2 : AES Encryption on Sensitive data along the wire [Recommended]

When a user request for the student records we will encrypt using an AES encryption mechanism and transfer that data to the NZQA system. Here the system will decrypt the data and send the relevant student records as a RESTful web service. NCEA will only know the encryption cipher where as NZQA will only know the decryption. This is done for security issues. All Web sevices will transfer data via SSL protocol.

We believe this is the most efficient method and easy to implement.

Method 3 : NZQA web page and post data

NZQA will create a HTML5 page that allow the users to connect via the APP. Our NCEA Pal allocation will open up the page and allow the user to login. When they click on the download student records it will start active the download function asynchronously. Moment the data is ready it will notify NCEA system to download the data. For the NCEA user feel a delay as it needs to run on a schedule manner.

9 (2)(a)

NCEA Mobile App

From: 9(2)(a)
To: wasim.talim@me.com; kingj@rangitikeicollege.school.nz   9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)
Date: 27/01/2015 11:35 AM
Subject: NCEA Mobile App

Thank you for your interest in NZQA's Mobile App.
The current design work from our vendor is confidential but we would be very happy to talk with you after the release,
about our journey to develop the App.

9(2)(a)   will continue to be a key contact as will our Information Services area who will connect with you to
understand your technical needs.
kind regards

9(2)(a)

New Zealand Qualifications Authority
          9(2)(a)

email: qa.govt.nz

125 The Terrace
P.O. Box 160
Wellington 6140

9(2)(a)

From: wasim talim
To: 9(2)(a)
Date: 30/01/2015 3:11 PM
Subject: Re: NCEA Pal Application

Hi   9(2)(a)

Sure thing. We will meet on Monday then. Where are you located?

Thanks
Wasim

Sent from my iPhone

> On 30/01/2015, at 11:58 am, _____ wrote: 9(2)(a)
>
>
> I think it will better to bring your technical personal as well to understand his perspective on the proposed implementation options.
>
>
>
>
> Regards,
>   9(2)(a)
>
>
> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>
> NZQA
> 125 The Terrace
> PO Box 160
> Wellington 6140
>   9(2)(a)
> email:
> Web: http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
>
>>> Wasim Talim <wasim.talim@me.com> 30/01/2015 11:35 AM >>>
> Hi   9(2)(a)

> Thanks for your reply.
>
> I am happy to meet you on Monday. Would it be worthwhile to bring my developer along for clarification or would you suggest I come alone?
>
> Thanks
> Wasim
>
>
>> On 30/01/2015, at 11:30 am   wrote: 9(2)(a)
>>
>> Hi Wasim,
>>
>> Thank you for sending document outlining implementation options.
>>
>> The development process is one aspect,but we will also need time for business case, security & privacy assessments and other governance matters. A precise definition of the data

requirements and indication of under what circumstances the data will be released will be critical input to much of this (not just the technology stuff).
>>
>> I'm happy to meet you and discuss with you. Please let me know if you can free between 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm On Monday, 02 February. Accordingly I will organise a meeting to meet and discuss.
>>
>>
>>
>> Regards,
>>   ⌐ 9(2)(a)
>>
>>
>> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>>
>> NZQA
>> 125 The Terrace
>> PO Box 160
>> Wellington 6140
>>   9(2)(a)
>> email:
>> Web:http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
>>
>> >>> Wasim Talim <wasim.talim@me.com> 30/01/2015 11:12 AM >>>
>> Hi   9(2)(a)
>>
>> Any update on this?
>>
>> Thanks
>> Wasim
>>
>>
>>> On 27/01/2015, at 7:45 am,   wrote: 9(2)(a)
>>>
>>> Hi Wasim,
>>>
>>> Thank you for your reply. I will wait to hear from you.
>>>
>>> BTW, Congratulations for your success in developing NCEA Pal mobile application. Really good idea.
>>>
>>>
>>> Regards,
>>>   ⌐ 9(2)(a)
>>>
>>>
>>> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>>>
>>> NZQA
>>> 125 The Terrace
>>> PO Box 160
>>> Wellington 6140
>>>   9(2)(a)
>>> email:
>>> Web:http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
>>>
>>> >>> Wasim Talim <wasim.talim@me.com> 26/01/2015 10:49 PM >>>

>>> Hi 9(2)(a)
>>>
>>> After speaking to my developer today, we have decided we will provide you with a basic document outlining our requirements and answering your questions. From there if we could set up a meeting late week, perhaps Friday, that would be ideal. But please allow me to get back to you first with the documentation before we settle on a date and time.
>>>
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>>> Wasim
>>>
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>>>>
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>>>>
>>>> Thanks
>>>> Wasim
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>> On 26/01/2015, at 9:52 am,   9 (2)(a)
wrote:
>>>>>
>>>>> Hi Wasim,
>>>>>
>>>>>   has forwarded in your details. 9 (2)(a)
>>>>>
>>>>> You have proposed to develop a mobile application that can integrate with NZQA's system to pull students result details.
>>>>> I would like to discuss technical specifications of mobile application.
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>>>>> Can you please let me know if its possible to meet and discuss. Accordingly, I will organise a meeting to discuss with you.
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>>>>> Also it would be good if you can able to provide more information in advance related to following technical points
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>>>>> 1) Preferred approach for integration with NZQA's system.
>>>>> 2) Authentication Mechanism
>>>>> 3) Information storage on mobile device
>>>>>
>>>>> Thank you.
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> Regards.
>>>>>   9(2)(a)
>>>>>
>>>>>
>>>>> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>>>>>
>>>>> NZQA
>>>>> 125 The Terrace

9 (2)(a)

9 (2)(a)

>>>>> PO Box 160
>>>>> Wellington 6140
>>>>>   - 9(2)(a)
>>>>> email:
>>>>> Web:http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
>>>>>
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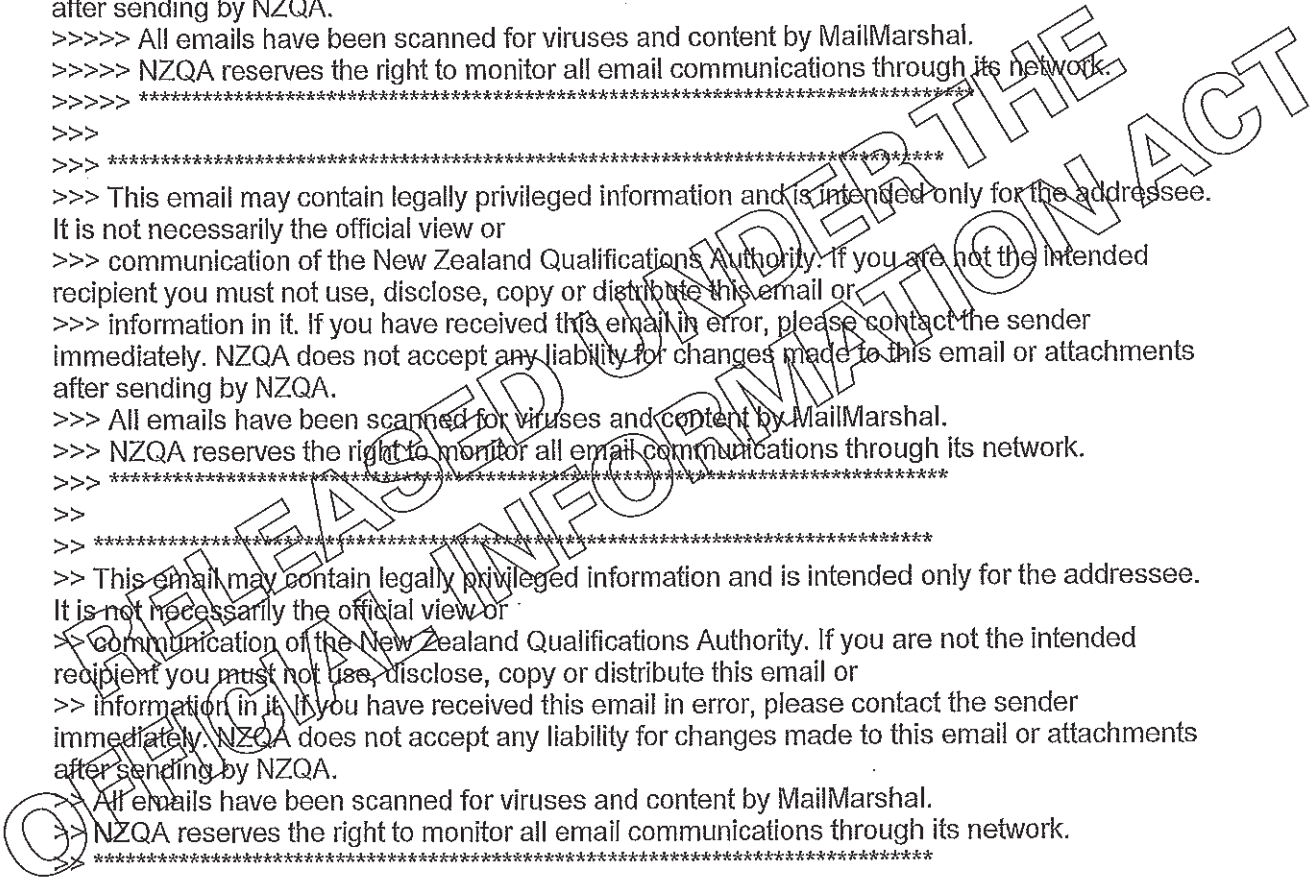>>> NZQA reserves the right to monitor all email communications through its network.
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From: wasim talim
To: ➤ 9(2)(a)
Date: 2/02/2015 2:42 PM
Subject: Re: NCEA Pal App Integration

Hi   H(2)(a)

Was really great to meet you today and hope we can work on this project together.

We have considered this method but in itself I do not see students adopting to it well. There are too many steps in the process and that would deter students. We have seen students are lazy and do not want to enter all their credits manually. So to ask them to go off their mobile device, and go to a computer, then:

1. Log into their nzqa account through student portal
2. Download the pdf
3. Upload to our server
Then go back to their mobile device.

There are too many steps in the process and they would need to do this every month. We need a solution where it is as seamless as possible for the student with absolute minimal effort.

We are open to any other ideas you may have around this. Would we be able to log into the student portal on request of the student to grab the pdf for them? Like a 'string' feature. Or could we establish some sort of file exchange of that pdf to our servers when a student requests it from our app?

All we need is that pdf that is already available to download for the student. If we could figure a way to get that pdf from a request a student makes and place in our server, that would solve everything. We can then convert the pdf ourselves.

If you have any other solutions please do let me know. I am really hoping we can find something that will work so that we can best serve our students.

Thanks again for seeing us today,

Wasim

Sent from my iPhone

> On 2/02/2015, at 1:49 pm,   wrote: 9(2)(a)
>
> Hi Wasim,
>
> Thank you for coming to meet and discuss NCEA Pal application integration with NZQA system.
>
> Apart from the discussed options, There is one more below option that you can consider.
>
> Learner can login to NZQA system, download their ROA in pdf format and then manually upload into your application. There are number of libraries available to extract data from PDF document.
>
> Please let me know your thoughts on this one.
>
> Thanks
>

>
>
> Regards,
>   9(2)(a)
>
>
> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
>
> NZQA
> 125 The Terrace
> PO Box 160
> Wellington 6140   9(2)(a)
>
> email:
> Web:http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/
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> **

                                                                                          9(2)(a)

⑭

From: wasim talim
To: █   ▬▬ 9(2)(a)
Date: 3/02/2015 11:01 PM
Subject: Re: NCEA Pal App Integration

Hi   █ 9(2)(a)

I attach our letter outlining the methods we discussed over our telephone call. I would hope that you forward this onto those with the authority to act.

Please do let me know on how you get along with this.

Thanks

Wasim

On 2/02/2015, at 1:49 pm,   wrote: 9(2)(a)

> Hi Wasim,
>
> Thank you for coming to meet and discuss NCEA Pal application integration with NZQA system.
>
> Apart from the discussed options, There is one more below option that you can consider.
>
> Learner can login to NZQA system, download their ROA in pdf format and then manually upload into your application. There are number of libraries available to extract data from PDF document.
>
> Please let me know your thoughts on this one.
>
> Thanks
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>
> Regards,
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>
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> New Zealand Qualifications Authority
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> PO Box 160
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9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
To: wasim.talim@me.com; kingj@rangitikeicollege.school.nz   9(2)(a)
CC:
          "Richard Thornton" <Richard.Thornton@nzqa.govt.nz>
Date: 25/02/2015 12:10 PM
Subject: NCEA PAL proposals to access student records

Hi Wasim and Jeff

My apologies for the time taken for us to get back to you. All about my unavailability I am afraid.

Wasim,   passed your proposals onto me to respond to - I have written a response attached. 9(2)(a)
                                                                              S9(2)(a)
It would be good to talk (by phone) about this - I have your number Wasim'   I but no contact phone number
for Jeff - can you assist?

kind regards
          9(2)(a)

          9(2)(a)

New Zealand Qualifications Authority
          9(2)(a)

Hi Wasim and Jeff

Thank you for your paper with alternative proposals for access to student achievement data from NZQA. It was good to meet with you and Jeff in January and to discuss data accuracy and the security limitations of accessing the personal (achievement) data held by NZQA for students undertaking NCEA.

Background

As we noted when we met, schools begin to give NZQA initial student achievement and unit standard entry data in April of each year. Entries are provisional up until December of each year. The accuracy and completeness of entry data is very poor until about July of each year.

During the year, each month at a minimum, schools send files of entries and of any results (internally assessed) for those entries. Both the entries and results are captured on students' School Result Summaries with results (once fees have been paid) being added to students' Records of Achievement. Results for externally assessed standards are added but embargoed and made visible after qualifications are checked, awarded and results released in the middle of January.

Original proposal

Your first proposal to us involved students downloading their Record of Achievement pdf so that the data in it could be 'scraped' and entered into the application. The application on their phone would then save the individual user name and password and automatically and frequently request updated data from NZQA without the student requesting it or logging into NZQA to access it.

NZQA proposal

We advised that the School Result Summary contained better data for this purpose as it holds results whether the student has paid fees or not and it holds entries in standards that have yet to have results captured. However, we suggested that to overcome the issues with security and privacy the student request updated data themselves. You agreed to consider this.

Response

In response you note that you want your application to be able to be used from phones and not to require students to have to use desk-tops to load the data – we understand and agree. You also say that the capturing and scraping data from pdfs on phones is not viable as some phones do not enable pdfs to be stored. I checked into this and am pleased to be able to say that this is not the case.

advises me that while users of iOS devices do not have direct access to the file 9(2)(a) systems individual iOS application are assigned with their own data container. An iOS application's interactions with the file system are limited mostly to the directories inside the applications sandbox.

Alternative proposals

Your proposed **method 1** is now very similar to your original proposal and still does not address our privacy and security concerns. You suggest that the application (through an intermediary tool) will use the student user name and password instead of the student doing

so themselves. While you note that you intend to encrypt NSN numbers[1] and passwords so that they will not be readable this does not address our privacy and security concerns.

Your proposed **method 2** does have students accessing their records themselves. However, you state that many Apple devices do not allow the storage on pdfs on the local hard drive. Therefore you want the students to be able to download their records to your servers. This again raises our privacy and security concerns.

However, as pdfs can be loaded onto phones (including iOS based ones) there is no need to for the students records to be moved to your servers (or for NZQA to make changes to the student login page for this to occur). This brings us back to our original suggestion.

Way forward

We do understand that this is not the best alternative and that an API (application programme interface) is. We have started scoping the development of a generic API which you (and others) could use. We have this on our work programme but I am unable to say if we will get it delivered by the end of this year. We should have a timeline within a couple of months once our proposal has been scoped, costed and gone through our approval process.

NZQA has also developed a NCEA application but we have not attempted to use student records to populate it – for all the reasons previously discussed. It is likely that we will make use of the API once it is developed.

---

[1] Just a quick clarification – student's access their results and entries via their student login page on the NZQA website. Access requires a user name and a password. The user name can be anything the student wishes it to be. Some use NSNs but not all user names are NSNs and it is likely that we will move away from allowing the use of NSNs over time.