Mahoodle bug fixing logs
#1

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The bug

Somehow, after installing https://github.com/catalyst/assignsubmission-maharaws to the Moodle instance at Toyohashi Univevrsity of Technology and configured both Moodle side (https://lms.cite.tut.ac.jp) and Mahara side (https://mahara.cite.tut.ac.jp). As admin, I could not see students' submitted mahara assignments. The following error showed up when every time I tried to click a Mahara assignment submission.

*<EXCEPTION class="WebserviceInvalidParameterException">
<ERRORCODE>invalidparameter</ERRORCODE> <MESSAGE> Invalid parameter value detected; execution cannot continue. : Username is not valid. </MESSAGE> </EXCEPTION>, moodle*

I then reported the problem as two open issues on the plugin's page:
https://github.com/catalyst/moodle-assignsubmission_maharaws/issues/38
https://github.com/catalyst/moodle-assignsubmission_maharaws/issues/39

The fix

In January 2021, because of my commitment to teach about Mahara to the MoodleMoot Japan 2022 participants in February, I installed a separate bundle of Moodle instance and Mahara instance in my private server. This time I tried to resolve the problem of being unable to directly submit Mahara assignments on Moodle.

The following page informed me the possible reason behind this bug. It was potentially due to incorrect account configuration when bridging Moodle and Mahara.
https://bugs.launchpad.net/mahara/+bug/1851155
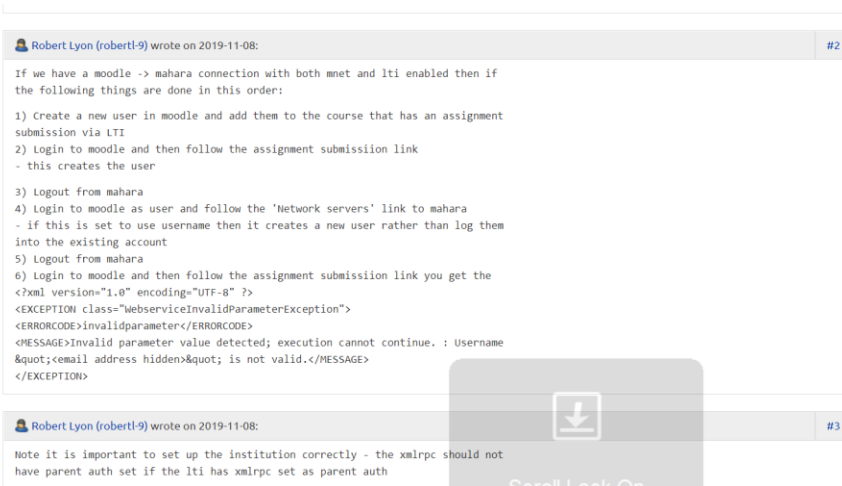
It mentioned that it is something about LTI, xmlrpc, and parent authority setting, etc.

I also realized that the main admin account has duplicate accounts on Mahara somehow such as admin, admin1, admin2. These duplicate accounts are associated with the same email accounts but somehow co-exist on the Mahara platform.

If I access Web services -> External apps, I will see a Moodle app connection established but its owner belongs to "admin". Note that "admin" account is the original admin account when creating the Mahara instance.

However, I actively use another admin account "admin 1", which was automatically created later after setting up the XML-RPC / MNet authentication (https://manual.mahara.org/en/16.10/administration/institutions.html#xml-rpc-mnet-authentication).
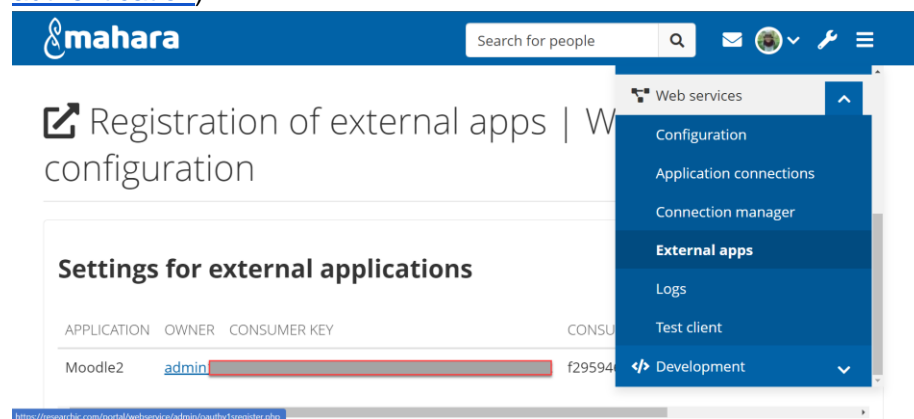
I created a new Moodle app here on the above page at Mahara and deleted the old one. Now this new Moodle app's owner is "admin 1".

I copied the consumer key and consumer secret of this Moodle app, and pasted them to Moodle under "yoursiteURL/admin/settings.php?section=assignsubmission_maharaws" (Site administration -> Plugins -> Activity modules -> Assignment -> Submission plugins -> Mahara submissions)

I then checked which institute does "admin 1" belong to. It belongs to "no institute".

Meanwhile, "admin" belongs to TUT institute.

But TUT institute is the institute that was set to bear the Moodle-Mahara connection via XML-RPC / MNet authentication.

All content created by TUT institute members later on Mahara cannot be seen by my admin account "admin 1" because "admin 1" was not one member of the TUT institute at Mahara. This is easy to fix.

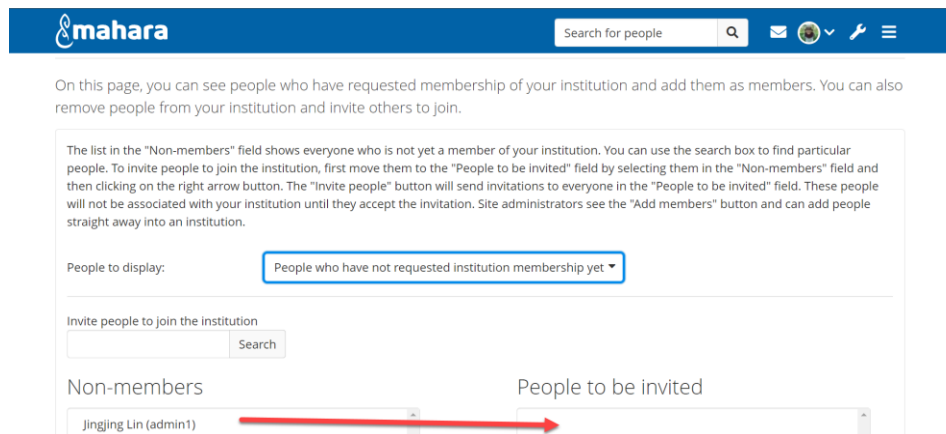Institutes -> Settings -> TUT institute; click the number "3" under Numbers.
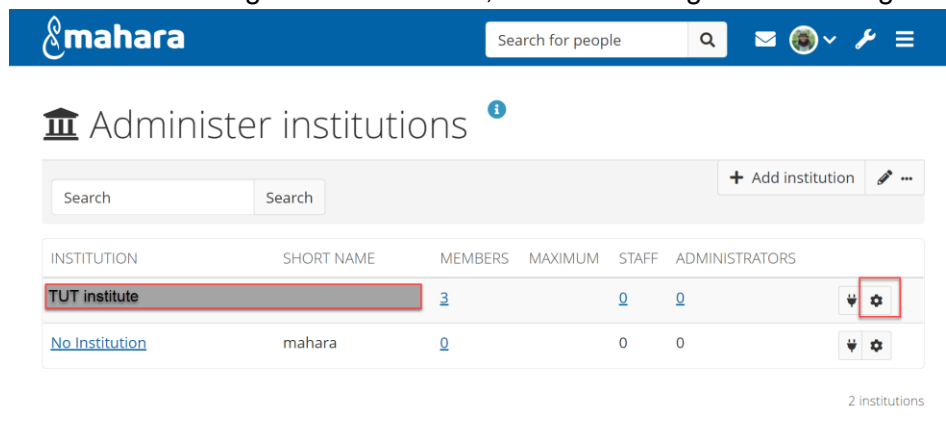

Choose "People who have not requested institution membership yet", and add the account "admin 1" to the membership list.
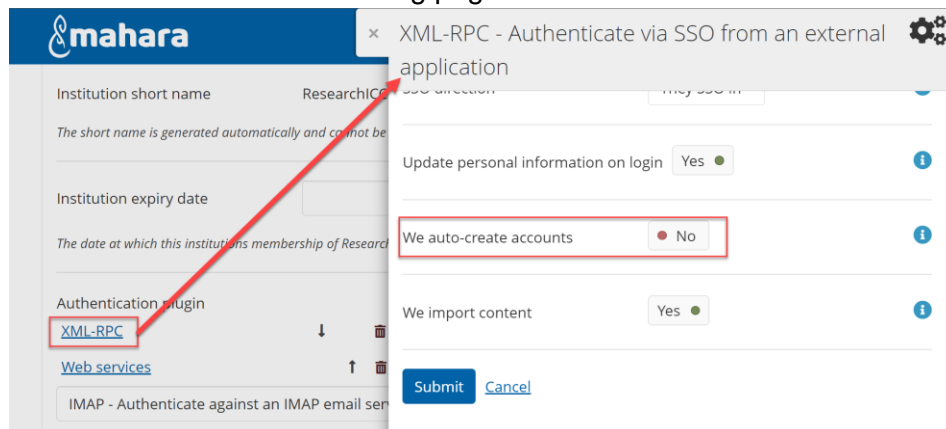
But there are more things to fix.
Institutes -> Settings -> TUT institute; click the setting icon on the right.
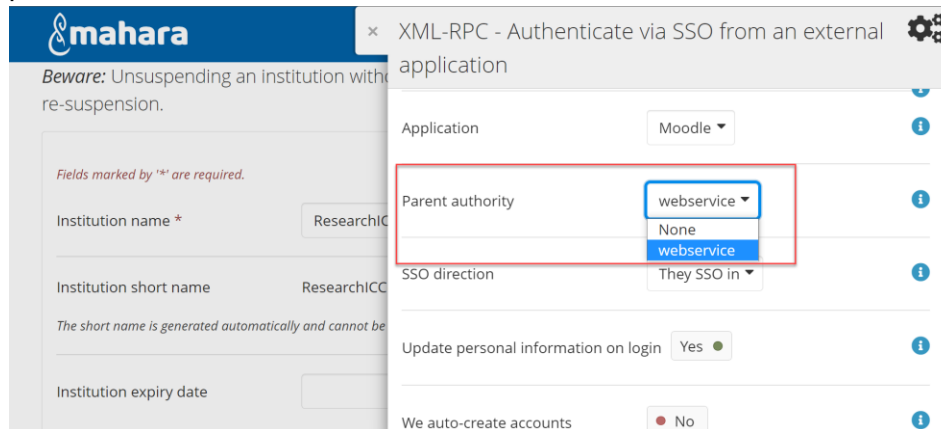

Click the XML-RPC to open its setting window. I disabled "We auto-create accounts" in the XML-RPC authentication setting page for TUT institute at Mahara.

Another thing that can be changed is "Parent authority". If you for instance allow Google account to directly login to your Moodle site (webservice), when a user logins to your Moodle and jumps to your Mahara site, it involves webservice login credentials through this path. Next time, if you would like to allow the user to use Google account to directly login to your Mahara site, you can select "webservice" as the parent authority. If select "None", then the user cannot use "webservice" account to login to your Mahara directly. No matter which you select, your

user can always jump to Mahara from Moodle via MNET. Choices here do not influence that path. Here, I set it as "None".
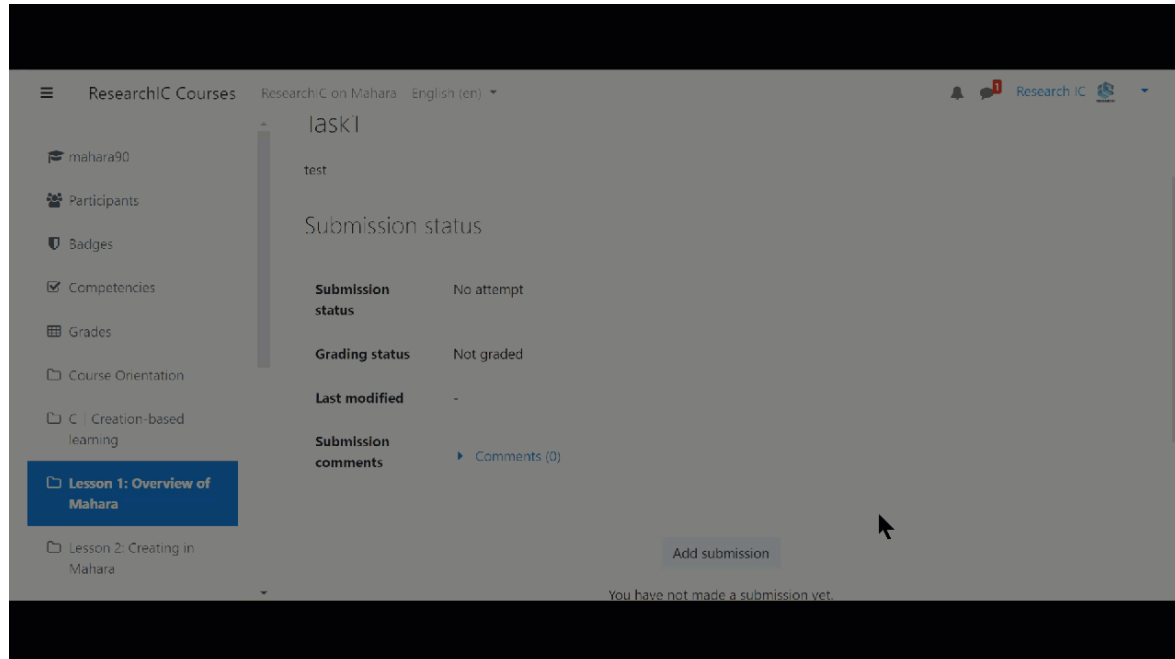

As the final step, I deleted all duplicate admin accounts on Mahara including "admin". Finally, the plugin works smoothly.

Result demo

Student submit a Mahara assignment

Teacher grades a Mahara assignment