Platform X Users

# Introduction

Users exist in two systems in Platform X. The first system is DLAP, where user access rights and enrollments to courses are managed. The second is the RA system, which is the organizational tool for managing users. RA users relate 1:1 with real world users, and maintain a 1:many relationship with DLAP users, which are each in a different domain.

# RA System

The RA system is responsible for maintaining the users in the real world. They are managed through the Onyx application, separately from Platform-X, and interaction with RA occurs through the authentication system and web services.

# DLAP

Each organization has its own domain. This allows for proper segmentation of user access, but it means that one user in RA may need to be represented in more than one DLAP domain. To accomplish this, a DLAP user account is created in each domain, and that account’s reference ID points to the RA user ID.

# User Authentication

When a user logs into a product course in Platform X, he is authenticated as an RA user, but since the product course does not belong to a specific domain, we cannot know which specific DLAP user should be used. Therefore, all calls from Platform X to DLAP when a user is logged in to a product course are done either through the anonymous user or, for some calls, the administrator user.

When a user accesses a derivative course (which exists in an organization domain), he is authenticated as the DLAP user in the organization domain whose reference ID matches his RA user’s ID. Calls for working with the course are then performed using this DLAP user. This allows us to use DLAP’s built-in access restrictions which prevent, for example, a student being able to see information meant for the course instructor or other students. There are, however, still some DLAP calls which need to be made through the administrator account.

# DLAP Anonymous Account

The DLAP anonymous account is an account that has read-only access to all courses. It is used for browsing product courses.

# DLAP Administrator Account

When a user is logged in, even when logged in through a non-anonymous DLAP user, there are certain calls required by Platform X functionality that DLAP does not allow. In these cases, requests are handled through the administrator login and user privilege enforcement is done on the Platform X, rather than DLAP, level.

Administrative level access is required is when Platform X makes a request for information about objects outside the user’s current domain. For example, in most pages the user is offered a drop-down list of the other courses in which he is enrolled. In order for the system to know about courses outside the current course’s domain, the enrollments request needs to be made by the administrator account.