PROJECT 2 – The ‘skills backpack’: e-portfolios for learning

While there will always be job-specific skills that an employer is looking for, most employers will also want candidates to have some general skills and be able to evidence the acquisition of these skills. These general job skills are sometimes called "employability skills" or, when related to specific courses or degrees, ‘graduate outcomes’.

Having employability skills can help you get a job. They can also help you stay in a job and work your way to the top. If you score a job interview, chances are you'll be asked questions about your job-specific and employability skills.

There are two core problems: students are often lacking either the awareness of the skills they acquire during their degree program, or they are not very good in demonstrating/showcasing evidence supporting the claims in their job applications/resumes.

On the other hand, employers are unable to evaluate potential candidates based on their competencies rather than their qualifications. This is a problem because they may look at several candidates with apparently similar degree titles and they have very little visibility in what they can show as evidence of their skills.

This project looks to develop an integrated system that does three things:

1. Enable a type of user A (candidate) to build and curate an e-portfolio representing their skillset (this can be partly connecting to other services, partly connected to credentialing providers, partly parsing personal blockchains)

2. Enable a type of user B (prospective employer/talent scout) to search the database of existing users A for certain skills and make connections

3. Enable a type of user C (academic/admin/recruitment agency) to report on end-users A and B and suggest connections between user A and user B to respond to user B requirements.

A Python-based solution is preferred (but not required) using:

1) modern development frameworks,

2) cloud-based architectures, and

3)building a solution which leverages on existing services/APIs without creating a full dependency on the selected tools.

It is essential that system requirements are refined with the stakeholders and that the engineering of the system is thought through properly before building the individual components.