CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

UF Plans Identifier Number Conversion

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UF Information Technology

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The use of social security numbers as an identifier for work or for school can be a problem because of the risk of identity theft. UF will soon begin the implementation of a new 8-digit public ID number to be used by all faculty, staff, and students. The change will become effective on January 21, 2003.

Faculty, staff, and students can find out their new UFID number by going to http://www.it.ufl.edu/ufid and clicking on the What’s My UFID? Web application. You'll need your GatorLink userid and password to access this application. The UFID number will also be mailed later this year to campus addresses.

The UF ID Policy Committee and Directory Committee spent nearly two years researching this matter and coming up with ways to make this change without disrupting university services. In a nutshell, the ID Policy Committee unanimously recommended that the current social security number-based identifier be replaced with the new 8-digit ID number.

A new campus-wide directory is currently being created under the direction of the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)-Data Infrastructure and Administrative Computing Committee (DI&ADM). The UFID number will be managed through this new UF Directory. This directory will be the single, authoritative source for contact information about individuals. It will lower future development costs and improve our ability to offer electronic services. More information about the Directory Project can be found at http://www.it.ufl.edu/projects/directory.

If you currently log onto any UF computer applications with your Social Security number, in the near future you will need to switch to a new logon name or number. The people responsible for these systems or applications will soon be in contact with you to let you know how to make these changes. Virtually all systems on January 21, 2003 will be using a non-SSN login.

To aid units in this transition, Information Systems developers have produced application programming interfaces (APIs) that allow authorized technology developers to develop software to look up individuals via a variety of identifiers -- including social security numbers and GatorLink IDs -- and return the UFID number. Web interfaces will be provided for departmental staff to find UFIDs for their employees and students.

Units across UF are modifying their local processes, forms, software and databases to eliminate the unnecessary use of social security numbers and substitute the UFID number as appropriate. Developers across UF meet every other Friday in Room 122 Frazier Rogers Hall.

Administrative staff and others interested in discussing strategic and procedural implications of the UFID number are meeting on alternate Friday mornings in S201A Criser. For schedule, see http://www.it.ufl.edu/projects/directory/meetings.html.

To find out more about the UFID conversion, visit the UFID Web site at http://www.ufid.ufl.edu.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to: