Accessing National Digital Identity Systems: Risks and Rewards

Keeping our Eye on Identification and IDs

Newsletter #2: September 2021

Welcome to Issue 2 of the CERTIZENS Newsletter

What's in this Issue

Accessing digital identity systems: the risks and rewards

The making of digital identity systems: discourse and practice

International Identity Day

Highlights of the International Identity Day 2021

International Identity Day 2022

Online series hosted by Joseph Atick, formerly of the World Bank and now with the Turing Trust, for academics, government, business and civil society – The University of Cape Town will host the summit, postponed from April 2020 due to Covid-19, for 13-15 September 2021. The theme is: "How can digital identity systems help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?"

International Summit on the SDGs in Africa

Turing Trustworthy Digital Identity Conference

The Centre of Excellence for CRVS Systems (CERTIZENS) hosts the Turing Trustworthy Digital Identity Conference 2020, when civil registration offices were forced to close due to Covid-19.

Digital Citizenship and Identity in Africa: A Continental Perspective

The seminar examines the implementation of CRVS and identity in both Ghana and Uganda. Below we hear preliminary reflections from two CERTIZENS team members currently undertaking research in the field. In this seminar, we reflect on the elements of identity and citizenship in Ghanaian society. The discussion is based on newspaper sources, and in-depth interviews. This seminar explores the role of digital technologies in enhancing the sense of social belonging and national attachment, while also shying away from the dangers – including state surveillance, exclusion and even retribution – resulting from the often idealised or over-optimistic promotion and adoption of digital ID or CRVS systems.

The role of digital technologies in enhancing the sense of social belonging and national attachment

In CERTIZENS, below we mention two recent journal articles related to different dimensions of citizenship in Ghana – one by Kofi Takyi Asante, Zimbabwean citizens face severe delays for ID documents

"Accessing National Digital Identity Systems: Risks and Rewards" by Bronwen Manby and Dario Borghetti

Bronwen Manby and Dario Borghetti discuss the risks and rewards of accessing national digital identity systems. They argue that while digital identity systems can provide access to resources and services, they also raise concerns about privacy, security, and the potential for abuse.

"The role of digital technologies in enhancing the sense of social belonging and national attachment" by Kofi Takyi Asante

Kofi Takyi Asante explores the role of digital technologies in enhancing the sense of social belonging and national attachment in Ghanaian society. He discusses the importance of digital technologies in promoting social inclusion and combating exclusion.

"The making of digital identity systems: discourse and practice" by Joseph Atick

Joseph Atick examines the making of digital identity systems, exploring the discourse and practice behind their creation. He discusses the motivations and challenges behind the implementation of digital identity systems.

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"Digital Citizenship and Identity in Africa: A Continental Perspective" by Certizens

Certizens host the Turing Trustworthy Digital Identity Conference 2020, when civil registration offices were forced to close due to Covid-19. The seminar examines the implementation of CRVS and identity in both Ghana and Uganda. Below we hear preliminary reflections from two CERTIZENS team members currently undertaking research in the field.

"International Identity Day 2021" by Certizens

International Identity Day 2021 was hosted by CERTIZENS, looking at indigeneity and citizenship rights for Zimbabwean citizens in the context of national policy, and the role of technology and digital ID systems in promoting and protecting these rights. The day included events, workshops, and discussions focused on the theme of "Identity, Citizenship and Technology."