

# Functional Description of Level of Assurance 1 (LOA 1) GatorLink

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## **Level of Assurance**

Level of Assurance (LOA) is a term used in identity management to describe the certainty with which a particular identifier can be said to represent a particular person. The federal government (see [www.cio.gov/eauthentication](http://www.cio.gov/eauthentication)) recognizes four levels of assurance. UF operates predominately at level 2 – “strong” identity established by photo id and/or existing credentials such as SSN, driver’s license, birth certificate and other. Level 1 is “weaker” and is used where strong identity is not required. A common use of Level 1 assurance accounts is on-line email providers such as Yahoo. Anyone can create an account or multiple accounts and use their accounts as they see fit. Any contact information associated with the account is self-reported.

## **Potential uses at UF**

The University has several potential uses for low assurance credentials. In each case a simple method for self-creation of a credential is needed, along with persistence. In these cases there is no need for strong identification. Library Patrons, Master Gardeners, Alumni, Student Applicants, On-line Shoppers and others may be candidates for this kind of account.

## **How this would work**

A new self-service web site, or perhaps more than one, would enable people to create low assurance UFIDs and a corresponding GatorLink. These UFIDs would be marked as LOA-1 in university systems. In all other respects they would be true UFIDs and GatorLinks – they would persist, be subject to password and account management and could be assigned affiliations and security roles. Service providers would need to be careful to assign appropriate affiliations and security roles since the identity of the bearer is self-reported. Provisions would be made to convert accounts between LOA-1 and LOA-2 to support various business processes.

## **Status**

This is a new idea and is being offered to address a wide range of credentialing problems that appear to require low assurance. In some cases entire alternate authentication schemes have been developed and maintained. LOA-1 accounts are common on the Internet and are found at other universities. Our existing systems are well positioned for managing LOA-1 accounts. Meetings in the coming months will explore the utility of this idea for various applications.