Governing Digital Identity from an Ethical Perspective: The Case of Indonesia

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Abstract:
Many government institutions worldwide have shifted their digital services to a more advanced transformation through the implementation of smart government. Digital identity is perceived as the key to maximizing the service delivery of smart government to citizens. In Indonesia, even though the government has aggressively transformed traditional identification with electronic identification since 2011, national digital identity has just been initiated recently. The Indonesian government has made significant efforts to succeed in the initiative, such as setting up regulations, expanding the Internet coverage across the nation, improving digital skills, and implementing other programs included in Indonesia's digital roadmap 2021-2024. However, the discussion regarding the governance of digital identity has not been sufficiently addressed. Learning from other developed countries that have successfully harnessed the integration of digital identity and smart cities, many issues, primarily ethical concerns, need to be tackled. In addition, there is limited research investigating the ethical issues of digital identity in developing countries where society is characterized by a considerable gap in human capital, literacy, economy, and other social factors. Indonesia is a country where the digital divide is still widely apparent. This paper highlights ethical issues concerning integrating digital identity with smart government and explores how government should govern its digital identity management to create a safe, trusted, and inclusive smart government. This paper is a literature review paper. We also use scoping reviews to explore the implementation of digital identity in other countries that have successfully implemented it. We also use government documents and government data to support our analysis. As most of the literature on digital identity discusses its technical arrangements, this study enriches the existing literature on digital identity by presenting the ethical issues behind the implementation of digital identity in a developing country and the governance mechanism that the government should consider.

Keywords: governance, digital identity, smart government, ethical issues, developing countries, Indonesia