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Funding Information System (FIS) Amalgamation Guidance

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Funding Information System

Change to this Document

Version	Date	Changes made
V1.0	19/12/2013	Initial version.
V1.1	17/09/2014	Updated to include guidance for functionality for Funding Year 2014 to 2015

Feedback

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Amalgamation procedure is a data processing function within the Funding Information System that merges two or more ILR files together.

In the FIS, 2013 to 2014 data collection, it is available within the 'Import (amalgamate) and validate ILR submission' procedure and in the FIS 2014 to 2015 data collection, it is available as a separate procedure named 'Amalgamate'.

It is designed to create a single ILR file after joining together data sourced from multiple ILR data files, and will ensure that the new file only contains one learner record for each Learner Reference Number. If records with the same Learner Reference Number exist in more than one of the input files then the amalgamation process will attempt to merge the records together into a new single learner record. It does this by comparing the learner data and ensuring that it is consistent. If there are any data conflicts which cannot be resolved within the learner data, then an amalgamated (merged) learner record for this learner cannot be created and the learner's data will not be included in the amalgamated ILR file. After the amalgamation process is complete, the FIS will create an ILR data file which is compatible with The Hub's single ILR file format.

1.2 Purpose of Document

This document provides a summary of the amalgamation process that is performed within FIS. The document is designed to help FIS users understand how amalgamation works, including which procedures to run and which reports to check prior to submitting the exported ILR file to The Hub.

Readers of this document should have a reasonable level of understanding of FIS and its functions. More details on the functions within FIS are detailed in the FIS User Guide.

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1 Process Overview

Amalgamation is invoked by using the “Amalgamate” procedure in FIS. Upon executing the procedure, the FIS user must choose a file to import and then click “Add” again to choose an additional file, repeating this process until all files to be amalgamated have been selected. The user must click Import to continue.

The following table summarises the processes that FIS performs next, followed by procedures that can be run by the user to complete the Amalgamation process:

Processes	Sub-Processes
Initial Checks	All files to be amalgamated must have a unique and valid file name
	All files to be amalgamated must be schema valid
	All files to be amalgamated are checked for the presence of duplicate Learner Reference numbers within a single file

If any errors are generated as part of the initial checks, the amalgamation process is aborted and any errors are detailed within the Rule Violations report

Perform Amalgamation

The amalgamation rules are applied across all learner data that appears in more than one file (see section 2) and merged learner records are created for data that has passed the amalgamation rules

	All Learning Delivery records are re-sequenced for learners that appear in more than one file and have passed the amalgamation rules
Amalgamation Summary Report	All amalgamation conflicts are reported within the Amalgamation Summary Report. In functionality for Funding Year 2014 to 2015, this report is generated automatically.

Generate ILR File

The ILR file produced from amalgamated data contains all data for valid learners. The single, amalgamated file is generated automatically and exported to the FIS Workspace folder. Note that all conflicting learner records identified in the Amalgamation Summary Report are not included in the ILR file.

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2 Amalgamation Rules

For each set of learner data (for matching case insensitive Learner Reference Numbers) the Amalgamation Rules will be applied. These rules are applied across each ILR field covered in the Amalgamation Rules Specification. Note irrespective of whether any data conflicts are encountered, the processing will continue until all the amalgamation rules have been applied.

A copy of the Amalgamation Rules can be found [here](#)

Standard Rules:

When carrying out these rules the following standard rule will apply in most cases. The amalgamation rules specification details the exceptions to this and how they should be handled:

- 1) All string comparisons will ignore their case.
- 2) Blank values will be overwritten by non-blank values. *Note that blank in this context is defined as NULL, missing or a series of space characters.*
- 3) If all of the non-blank data is identical across all files for a given field, then store the non-blank values from the first record.
- 4) If any of the non-blank data is not identical across all files then report an error and do not amalgamate records for this learner.

Non-Standard Rules:

For some learner fields the data does not need to be identical in order to be amalgamated and the rules for these fields are detailed in the Amalgamation Rules Specification.

All amalgamation errors and warnings are recorded in the Amalgamation Summary Report (see Section 3).

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3 Amalgamation Summary Report

The Amalgamation Summary report provides detail on record numbers in all files, as well as a breakdown of the individual errors/warnings generated by the amalgamation process. For Funding Year 2013 to 2014 this report is available as a separate procedure and for Funding Year 2014 to 2015 it is generated automatically when the 'Amalgamation' procedure is run.

3.1 Summary Page

Amalgamation Summary Report
 Provider: DefaultProvider
 UKPRN: 99999999 Year: 1314

Summary

Files (in order of loading)	Learner Records
ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	1
ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	1
ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	1
Total Number of Learner Records	3

Number of learner records in each file
 Total of the above

	Count
Learners in all files	1
Rejected Learners	1
Learners in the Amalgamated File	0
Amalgamation Errors	38
Amalgamation Warnings	0

Number of unique (distinct) learners across all files
 Number of rejected learners (due to amalgamation errors)
 Number of learner records that will be included in the amalgamated file (which excludes the rejected learners)
 Total Number of Errors/Warnings generated by the Amalgamation rules

Component Set Version: 007 LARS Data: 8 Organisations Data: 3
 Application Version: 1.2.24.0 Postcode Data: 2 Large Employer Data: 2

File Preparation Date: 07/08/2013
 Prepared at: 9:38:05 AM on 05/12/2013 Page: 1 of 8

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3.2 Error/Warning Page(s)

Amalgamation Summary Report
 Provider : DefaultProvider
 UKPRN : 99999999 Year : 1314

Field Value Conflict Errors

Learner	Entity	Key	Conflicting Attribute	File	Value		
20	Learner		Accom	ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	5		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	6		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	6		
			ALSCost	ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	5		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	4		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	4		
			DateOfBirth	ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	1997-10-24		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	1997-10-24		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	1996-10-24		
			Dest	ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	75		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	76		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	76		
			Ethnicity	ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	31		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-02.xml	31		
				ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-03.xml	32		
			FamilyName			ILR-A-99999999-1314-20130807-003001-01.xml	FamilyName

Component Set Version: 007 **LARS Data:** 8 **Organisations Data:** 3
Application Version: 1.2.24.0 **Postcode Data:** 2 **Large Employer Data:** 2

File Preparation Date: 07/08/2013
Prepared at: 9:38:06 AM on 05/12/2013 Page: 2 of 8

Learner Reference Number

Conflicting values (which should be identical across all files)

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