## How to use course identifiers to make administration easier

Identifiers make administration easier whenever a site has many pages that are restricted to credentials with similar structures. Course identifiers are a variable that guarantee uniqueness across all the pages in a site. Course identifiers can be used to dynamically generate credentials. This allows a generic credential to be created and then reused in multiple locations automatically. The example below is based on the iTunes U Administrator's Guide, Chapter 4. It uses identifiers to create credentials for pages.

Identifier based credentials are created in the follow way:

- 1 Log into iTunes U as the site administrator.
- 2 Click Edit Access in the Welcome page.
- 3 From the "Edit Access for" pop-up menu be sure that the site name is selected.
- 4 Click the icon to define new credentials and user access.
- **5** Type in the following credential:

Instructor@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu:classes:\${IDENTIFIER}

The \${IDENTIFIER} specifies that this is a identifier based credential.

- 6 Chose the access you want to assign to the credential from the pop-up menu: No Access, Download, Drop Box, Shared, Edit.
- 7 Type a label for the credential in the Label field. This will allow this credential to have tab-level access defined on Course pages.
- 8 Click the icon to save the changes.
- 9 Repeat steps 4 through 8 for this credential:

Student@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu:classes:\${IDENTIFIER}

At this point you have defined two credentials, however since you used the \${IDENTIFIER} variable when you created the credential it can be used many times over. The "Edit Access" should look like this when you are done:



To start using the new identifier based credentials you need to create a new course page (or edit an existing one) and configure it to use the \${IDENTIFIER} variable.

- 1 Log into iTunes U as the site administrator.
- 2 Click Edit Page in the Welcome page.
- 3 Choose a Course page design and layout from the Create Page pop-up menu in the section where you want to add a new Course page.

iTunes U adds your new Course page to the Welcome page.

4 Enter a Course name and Course short name. Now the identifier is needed. If you do not add an identifier to the course the credentials with \${IDENTIFIER} will not be used.

The identifier should be a unique string that can be passed into iTunes U when a user passes through the authentication system. Using the examples in iTunes U Administrator's Guide, Chapter 4 this would be "fall06:eecs302:02". The course will look like this when you are done:

Title:	Fall 06 EECS 302
Short Name:	fall06:eecs302
Identifier:	fall06:eecs302:02
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## 5 Click the icon to save your changes.

Even though you have not specifically added the Instructor@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu:classes:fall06:eecs302:02 or Student@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu:classes:fall06:eecs302:02 credential to the Fall 06 EECS 302 Course page you will be able to access the page using these credentials. This is because fall06:eecs302:02 is automatically substituted for the \${IDENTIFIER} variable when a user with these credentials accesses the iTunes U site.

Using this method you can create many course pages and never have to create any additional credentials. The only requirements are that the Course pages have an identifier, and that this identifier is passed into iTunes U as part of the users credentials.

It is important to note that when making use of this feature the

"Authenticated@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu" credential must have Download access on the top-level Welcome page. This is due to the way identifier based credentials work. This will mean that you have to set Authenticated@urn:mace:itunesu.com:sites:example.edu to have No Access to prevent authenticated users from accessing restricted areas of you site.