

A Digital Identity Management Model for the Jordanian Online Press and Publication Law to Sustain the National E-Commerce Strategy in Jordan

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to propose a compromise to the Jordanian press and publication law that witnessed a controversy between the government and some of the civil society groups due to the latest amendments that were added to this law, the new model is suggested and the recommendations will follow.

1. Introduction

In September, 2012, the Jordanian parliament approved proposed amendments to the press and publications as suggested by the government, the controversial amendments included modifications that required each online news website to register its details and obtain a formal license from the Department of Press and Publications after paying the fees of 1000 Jordanian dinar. The website owner was also held accountable for the published online materials on the website, the accountability in the law was extended to include not only the published materials by the news website administration, but also the online readers who post comments on the website, these online commentators became subject to legal pursuit if their published comments were deemed offensive according to the latest amendments. Furthermore, the owner of the website should have a website chief editor who must be a member of the Jordanian Press Association. The new amendments also impose fees on the websites that fail to conform to the law and the consequences can result in blocking the news website totally.

From the perspective of the government, these amendments were not intended to hinder the freedom of speech; instead, they are necessary to organise the online media and to protect the people from being subject to abusive online defames and extortions as a result of fake published materials on some websites. Therefore, by issuing new amendments the government will make sure that someone is accountable for the published materials and that the victims from the deemed offensive published materials can obtain their rights through specified courts that will look at their cases in a specified amount of time to ensure the justice of their case. In his letter to the Executive Director of the International Press Institute Alison McKenzie and Executive Board members, the Jordanian prime minister Abdullah Ensour stated "The intention was not to restrict the level of criticism and debate, but to increase transparency, responsibility and accountability," (Petra News Agency, 2013).

The Jordanian government started to force the law formally in June, 2013, when it blocked more than 200 online news websites that didn't obtain a working license according to the latest press and publications amendments (Freedom House, 2013), according to Freedom House 2013 report classified Jordan as a "Not Free" Internet Country in 2013, comparing to a "Partly Free" status in 2012. The opponents of this law organised several protests against the latest law amendments as they believe these amendments will confine the freedom of speech (Middle East Online, 2013) as well as entailing new hurdles such as the new relating obligatory articles in the law to the online users comments, many Jordanian news websites have disabled the "readers' comments" features from their pages and justified this as an objection against the new press and publication law latest amendments, and to protect the users themselves from being harmed by these amendments.

Human rights Watch also called the government of Jordan to scrap the press and publication law since the organisation considers it a violation to the internet freedom (Middle East Online, 2013). The opponents of this law support the organisation process to the online news publishing, however, they call for a better civilized law, JPA President Tareq Momani said: "We back efforts to organise the work of news websites, but we need a law that wins the support of all involved parties and enhances the media." (Middle East Online, 2013).

Most of the recommendations for solving the disagreement between the government and the opponents of this law have either admitted the need to comply with the law or to rescind the controversial articles that involve blocking the websites, licensing, and user comments accountability. The provided recommendations by the Jordanian Media Monitor suggested some modifications to the legal aspects of the new law regarding the court formation and website license fees, the suggestions also recommended the deletion of some articles that call for accountability for the user comments and the websites blocking rights (Al-Quds Center for Political

Studies, n.d). However, according to the authors knowledge, no single research has tried to approach this case from the technical perspective that can create a settlement between both parties (the government and the online media publishers) based on the mutual interests, and taking into consideration the added values of the online business in general and the online media from the wider scope of the digital economy and the return of these online businesses on the country's economy and development, this work aims to propose a technical solution for the identity management of the online transactions that are related to these law amendments, such as the users comments.

2. The Need for Strategic Business and Technical Management Solutions for the Electronic Press and Publications Law in Jordan

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in Jordan initiated the national e-commerce strategy in the late of 2008 as an on-going long term project with a goal to enhance the Jordanian businesses performance through the introduction of e-commerce value added transactions as well as to fight the unemployment in the society by introducing a new field of business to the market, a strategy that aims to increase the gross revenue of the ICT sector in the country. The strategy is built on many factors that are considered as enablers for e-commerce in Jordan, these factors are related to the supportive regulatory frameworks, security, reliability, and awareness to the society in order to increase the e-commerce adoption within the country (Jordanian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, 2013). The e-commerce strategy recognizes the security issue as important to stimulate the starting up online businesses, the strategy also states that the lack of awareness among potential e-commerce traders on the importance of security for e-commerce viability is one of the main hurdles to implement Jordan National e-commerce strategy. The ministry of Information and Communication Technology ranks the security factor as high priority for this strategy and specifies that its target is to raise the awareness on e-commerce security strategy among the e-commerce adopting companies in Jordan, and to ensure that about 90% of the e-commerce websites conform to the security guidelines (Jordanian Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, 2013), though look promising, it seems that the guidelines are still under planning. In order to support the strategic governmental approach in boosting e-commerce sector in Jordan, part of the assurance given to the e-commerce traders should focus on securing their transactions online, because higher security online lead to more trust in the online transactions, for this reason an Identity Management (IDM) is fundamental.

The digital Identity management (IDM) is a broad administrative area that refers to the process of controlling information about users on computer, this process defines the management information principles, the authentication and authorization of information that verify the identity of a user or information, and the level of access that the users are allowed to have, or the actions that the users are authorized to perform based on these information that they access (Lee, 2003).

Another broad explanation by (OECD, 2009) defines Identity Management as "the set of rules, procedures and technical components that implement an organisation's policy related to the establishment, use, and exchange of digital identity information for the purpose of accessing services or resources".

The main goal of the digital identity management is to improve and increase the productivity and security while decreasing costs associated with managing users and their identities, attributes and credentials. According to A10 Networks (2006) and (OECD, 2009) reports, these effects can be described as the following:

1. Costs savings

The identity management benefit is realized by automation, increased efficiency and also the removal of redundant physical tasks. Reduced help desk costs and improved service through the self-service of password changes, and reduced costs associated with the creation and revocation of user access rights to internal and external resources to the organisation. (A10 Networks, 2006)

2. Reinforcement of Productivity

The users in an organisation will have less time and quicker access to various resources they require for performing their tasks through Identity Management. This helps to meet all the users' needs, keeping them productive and satisfied as the identity management enables users to get better service through the elimination or reduction of errors, increasing productivity and processing requests faster to obtain quicker results, which consequently leads to better services to all the clients (A10 Networks, 2006) (OECD, 2009).

3. Increased Security

An important advantage of making use of identity management is that it enhances security. It increases the capability to have proper controls within a certain environment, this means the ability of ensuring that only proper individuals will have the right access to the right resources in the particular fields only and nothing more than their specified privileges. This avoids security threats that can emerge from active accounts without a valid owner or unapproved configurations. (A10 Networks, 2006) (OECD, 2009).

OECD (2011) report also calls for governmental strategies to support and promote digital identity based on consideration to the awareness programs and the latest technology advancements in order to increase the security

in the cyber space. The aim is to increase the e-commerce transactions to benefit the economy on the wider scale.

2.1 The importance of Digital Identity Management to the Digital Economy Development

Despite the continuous dedication from the different leading countries to explore strategies to build their digital identity models in order to secure the electronic transactions and boost the e-commerce development as a whole, still, many developed countries are facing challenges with these endeavours.

The U.K government introduced a digital economy act 2010, an act that created a long controversy between among the different involved parts in the online connectivity. The law aimed to identify and block the online copyright infringements and to protect the content creators from having their work illegally copied. However, the controversy was on how to implement the act, for instance, some ISPs saw that the internet accessibility is considered a human right and shouldn't be subject to censorship or blocking, while the content creators wanted stricter policy against the online copyright infringers, such as the illegal downloaders.

Recently, the parties seem to have reached an agreement to implement a voluntary copyright Alert programme that is expected to be launched in 2015. This programme enables the rights holders to send warning messages to the copyright infringers to warn them of the illegality of violating the copyright. The mechanism starts with the content holders identifying the IP addresses, devices, or locations they believe the copyright infringement occurred through, and then sending a "Copyright Infringement Report to the related ISP, which in return will identify the IP owner and will display an alert message to that user about his infringement to the copyright(Lee, 2014).

In this mechanism, the content holders identify the online infringers through methods such as "listening in" to traffic on Bittorrent networks, which identifies the peer to peer communication. (Giblin, 2014)

Spain introduced the electronic ID document for its citizens, this ID enables more secure G2C transactions between the citizens and the government online (OECD, 2012).

Other types of digital identity organisation are in mobile transactions, for instance, Finland implemented a new amendment to the Communication Market Act, and such amendment grants the authorities the right to order the telecommunication companies to deactivate any number that is involved in a fraudulent SMS service (OECD, 2013).

One extreme application of digital identity management exists in Uzbekistan, a country that passed a controversial control over the online media. According to Kendzior(2012), some of the published writings online stimulated on violence against the government, according to Kendzior (2012), in 2003, some of the online published writings of the government opponents in Uzbekistan incited violence, in return, the government passed a new law that treated the online publications as the traditional offline ones, this entails the online media websites to register their identity details with the government before operating, some details include information about the editors and the staff, and copies of the publication.

2.2 How to Reach a Compromise in the Press and Publication Law Issue?

First, it's worth mentioning that any solution should be agreeable as much as possible so that it eliminates the current conflict between the government and the oppositional civilian society on these law amendments and therefore, when addressing the differences between both parties some of the suggested solutions should depend on the nature of the controversy, hence we defined these issues in the following concept:

The Technical Identity Management Matters: these are dealing with the technical aspects of some articles in the new law, such as the user comments and the identity of the website and its activities.

In order to look for the best identity management approaches, it's necessary to be able to understand the different available types of identity management systems to envision the most suitable solution for the case in our hands. Apparently one of the issues in the latest law amendments is that the user comments are subject to legal pursuits if proven defamatory, moreover, the legal pursuits can involve the source of the published news reports that can be received from the online senders from different geographical locations, therefore, the mechanism that will enable hundreds of online websites to preserve the identity of their active users(the ones who directly interact with the online news websites) such as the commentators, reports senders, and articles writers, such mechanism will largely depend on the type of identity management system.

From our study on the latest law amendments we found that the most efficient way for the websites to preserve the online commentators' identities is through an identity management system that enables the websites to identify the digital identities of their active users.

3. Types of Available Identity Management Systems

There are different identity management systems that vary according to the level of complexity and business purposes; one of these systems is the federated identity management system, which includes different organisations websites forming a trust circle. This circle enables the user to enter all the different websites using one central login credentials instead of creating multiple user names and passwords, the concept is that each of

these forming parties of the circle can be an identity provider, in which a user can sign up and then uses his sign up credentials to login to all the different parties (websites) of the circle. Obviously this type of identity management method depends on the high trust between the different organisations in the circle (Myllyniemi, 2006). (Myllyniemi, 2006) also states some other identity management systems that were developed by an open-source community using a single sign-on method, such as OpenID, and OpenSSO project. These systems use the URLs as identity identifiers instead of sign-ups on the different websites, this type of identity verification is also used on blogs and wikis where users don't have to login in order to post their comments. OpenID also works with email services such as Yahoo and Gmail, the concept is that one single Id obtained from OpenID network can enable the user to login through the different services that are included on OpenID instead of creating multi user accounts. Other types of identity systems are more used when strong verification is needed and more complex usage is required, such as Tupas Identity system that is adopted by the Finnish Bankers' Association for governmental and commercial usage and has very strong authentication mechanism.

From the study of the latest amendments to the press and publication law in Jordan, there is a strong need to entrench the Jordanian news websites with an identity system that is recognized by the formal authorities in order to comply with the law, such identity system can help in supporting the legal position of the individuals and disapprove any counter claims, the technical identity that is required by the new law is related to the online readers who post comments on the news websites, the new law requires the websites to keep the information about the sender of the *comments* for at least *six months*, so that any raised legal suit can target the real online abusers(IMS, 2013).

From our examination, we found that among all the hundreds of news media websites that we examined, none of these that enabled the online commentary feature to the users required any strong verifications, these websites simply allow any user to post a comment by just asking the user to enter his name (which can be any nickname), and then write his/her comments, some other websites require the user's email, however, most of these websites indicate that the user's email will not be published once entered. We see this current mechanism of authentication malfunctioned because it can be circumvented through different scenarios such as:

- Posting a comment from a device that has a different IP address than the commentator's physical identity location.
- Circumventing the IP address through web proxy and IP address hiding or changing applications.
- Posting publishable Critical comments or writing online articles using fake names that might represent real people names in an intent to harm other people's reputation, in this case the website editor might not be able to recognize the fallacy of the users identity and can be held the responsibility if the victims of any depicted defamation decided to pursue a lawsuit against the media website.

These scenarios can weaken the claimant allegation if targeted by any abusive online comments in identifying the real abusers, but can certainly result in holding the publisher the complete responsibility of the claimed damage, therefore, the need for a strong identity system that is strongly authenticated and verified as well as easy to use by the online users is a basic requirement to comply with the new law.

Securing a reliable verification method on the online news websites is an essential point to comply not only with the new press and publication law in Jordan, but also to protect the victims of the online crimes such as defames, as well as to help the online news agency to avoid more severe consequences such as the complete block of its service.

3.1 The Concept of Trust Circle and the Federated Identity System: the Technical Aspect

For the best technical organisation of the Identity Management system, our proposal is to form a trusted circle that consists of all the online media publications that already conformed their businesses with the press and publication law in Jordan. This means that in order for a certain website to be added to the trusted circle, the website should have already obtained a license from the government so that it can join the trusted circle. The trusted circle aims to link all the different news websites in order to enable them have their identities and services digitally authorized, the circle will also help the online users to have a single sign up feature that will facilitate their interactions with the online news websites as well as help the websites to identify their users identity since the new law requires the websites to keep the information about their online comments owners for at least six months. Here the responsibility of this technical organisation should be made in cooperation between the formal authorities and the websites that are under the umbrella of the press and publications law. The trusted circle should have two main tasks, these are:

- 1) Ensuring that the news websites that have active licenses are added to the circle.
- 2) Managing the online interactive users: for the purpose of this study, we define the interactive users as the ones that interact with the online media' accounts either through online comments, written publishable articles, or news reporting.

3.1.1 Managing the News Websites

Managing the websites that are under the circle shouldn't mean that the formal authority should have a control

over the databases of those websites, but instead it means that the digital trust circle should control the process of adding, deleting, and rejecting the websites existence, such decision depends on the legal status of the website, and whether it is formally licensed or not. If the website has completed the license procedures, then it can be added to the trust circle, but if it hasn't obtained the needed license for its business then the trusted circle will not add that online media website to its database until the website is fully authorized by the formal authorities. Assuming that the website is licensed but for one reason or another has violated the condition for its existence, or that its owner closed his website, or if any other condition caused the website license to be invalid, then the website should be removed from the trusted circle.

The following figure 1 describes the process of the proposed Federated circle organisation for the News Websites in Jordan.

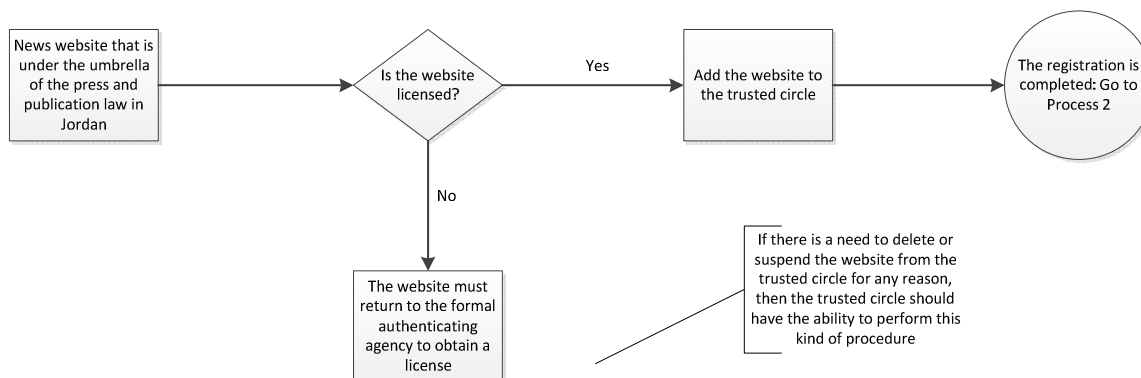


Figure 1: The Suggested Process for Organising the Online News Websites in Jordan through the Federated Identity System

3.1.2 Managing the Online Commentators Identity

The process of managing the online users' comments on the news websites depends on facilitating the users' interaction with the websites. Basically, the users' main interaction is seen through the posted comments, but users can also interact with the websites by sending news reports and participating in the information feeding process. Taking into consideration the large numbers of exiting news websites in Jordan currently that are supposed to be under the umbrella of the press and publication law, one can assume that in order for these hundreds websites to gain genuine information about the identity of their online commentators, there should be a mechanism to identify the true identities online. If the users post their comments without any kind of online identity validation, they can do so by using misleading identities, such as different IPs from different computers, or even IP circumventing tools. For a user identity to be rightly verified online, there should be a unique unblemished key that identifies the users, what we suggest is that this verification process to depend on the mobile phone verification, since the mobile penetration in Jordan is extremely high, according to the Jordanian telecommunications regulatory commission statistics, the mobile penetration rates in Jordan reached 140 percent of the society in 2012 comparing to 120 percent in 2011, while the internet penetration rose to 67 percent of the society in 2012 comparing to 50.5 percent in 2011(Ghazal, 2013). The proposed online identity validation method works by getting the user's phone number and sending a verification code to the user, which will be a unique code that enables the user to post his/her comments on all the websites that are members of the online federated trust circle. Since we assume that sooner or later the online media websites that are looking to comply with the new law amendments would have to find a unique sign up method for their users, using our proposed online federated identity management system means that a single code can enable the user to interact with hundreds of websites without having to sign up every time he/she wants to post his comments, send news or any other publishable materials to the website. This method will be able to verify the genuine online users without any misinterpretation of the users identity, the federated trust circle should be responsible in generating the unique registration codes for the online users and then sending them to the entered mobile phone numbers, after that the user can use this unique number every time in every single interaction with each website. We choose the mobile phone number as a verification method because every Jordanian or anyone who uses a Jordanian phone number must register and verify his details with the Jordanian telecommunication companies that work under the Jordanian law. So if any kind of legal tracking is formally required, then the online user can be found from his verification code, since the attached phone number to this code is already stored in the trusted circle.

It should be noted that this is not the exclusive mode to verify the online users identities, however, with the absence of unique and untarnished digital identities verification tools provided or even identified by the government such as the electronic id numbers, the method that we suggest is discretionary to solve the issue of validating the online commentators identities and without causing cumbersome to the online commentators by

having them sign up their details on every single website they want to communicate online with. We find a gap between the requirements of the formal authorities to keep archived details about the online commentators' identities and the reliable verification method of the archived commentators' identity through which any legal responsibility can occur. In other words, any fake used identities can hold the responsibilities of the published comments, written articles, or reported news headlines to the wrong person as a result of identity circumvention tools that was mentioned previously and due to the lack of genuine identity authentications provided by the government to solve this issue.

It should be noted that the proposed trusted identity circle should play the verification role once the online commentator enters his/her unique identity key at any news website that is recognised by the trusted circle. This process is exactly similar to verifying the Visa card number once entered on an e-commerce enabled website, as this method involves a third party verification before proceeding the transaction. Again to ensure that the websites data is unadulterated and that the privacy is maintained, the role of the third party (the federated identity system) should be limited to creating and verifying the unique users' identity keys in addition to adding and removing websites to the trusted federated identity circle.

3.1.3 Other Issues to be considered

Almost all the hundreds of Jordanian news websites that we scanned so far have the features of enabling the users to report news headlines, some types of news reported by individuals and published by the websites can be deemed defamatory by the targeted groups, according to the press and publication law amendments, any online website that is considered under the press and publication law is accountable for everything that it publishes. However, the latest amendments focused only on the users' accountability through the online comments, but the reported news by the users still a vague issue in the accountability, since some parties can argue that the reporting individuals are considered as part of the secret sources that are protected in the press profession. However, the issue of verifying the identity of the online reporters still can be circumvented since most of the websites require the reporters to enter their names and phone numbers before sending the news reports and these fields can be easily manipulated, other websites also require the reporters to enter their emails, and the information entered can also be misleading.

Some websites don't allow the opened reporting facilities, instead, they only accept reporting through their contact emails, this means that the user have to send an email to the website's contact email in order to report a news or a public issue, this feature can also be manipulated if the online reporter sends an email from a fake email using a fake IP address. Actually these issues can be tackled through the entering of the unique online key that the user obtained from the federated identity system. So this scenario calls for another need for a valid and recognised formal identity that can identify the abusers (if any) online.

The following figure describes the process of managing the online interactive users' identities through the federated identity system.

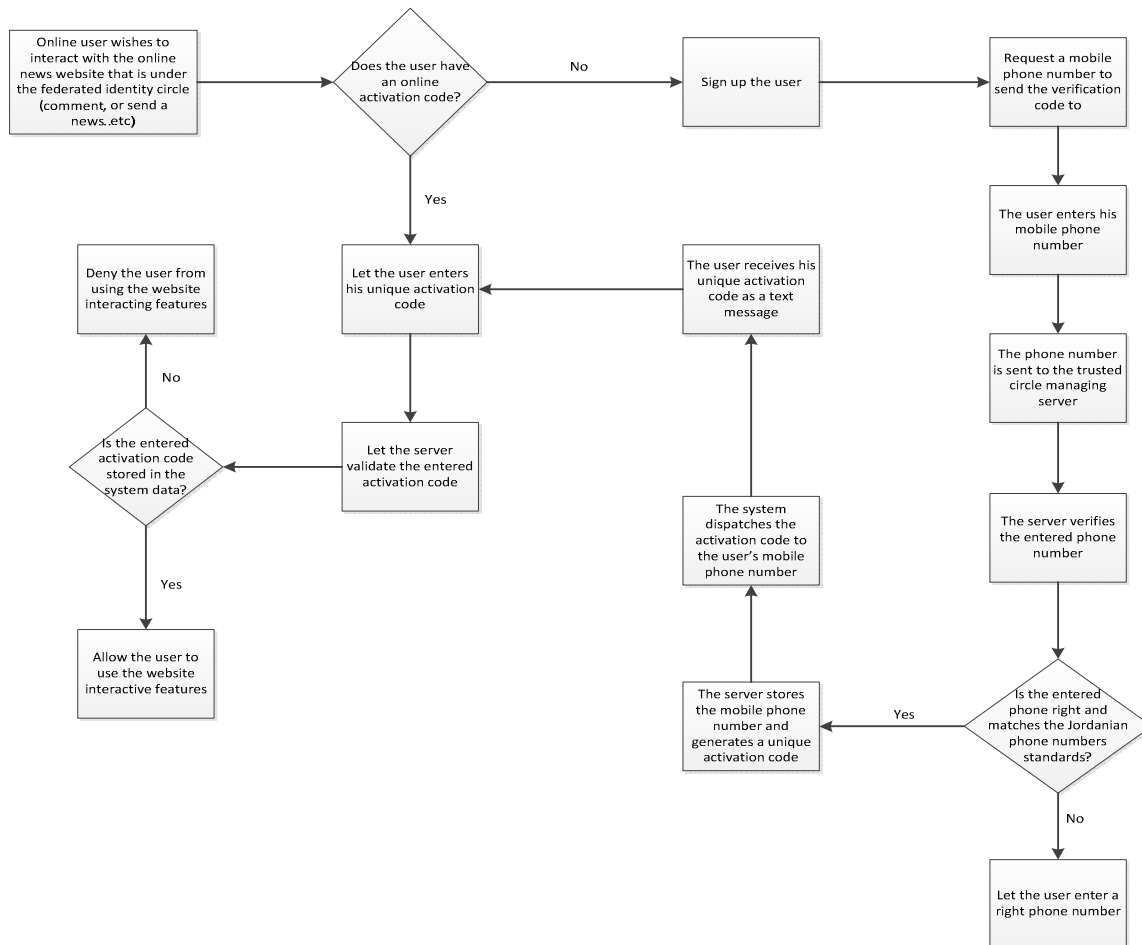


Figure 2: The Suggested Process of Managing the Online Users Identity by the Federated Identity Circle

3.1.4 Other Responsibilities

The identity of the published materials are also critical and can hold the news website accountable as they entail legal consequences against the website that publishes fake reports with contain unreal evidences. For instance, if a website publishes a report about a corruption case and includes a copy of an online contract that the online web editor believes to be genuine, then the website can be held accountable if the published evidence was proven to be fake and defamatory, in this case, there are set of methods that can be performed by the web editor to verify the originality of the deemed online evidence, for instance, some Photoshop detecting tools are available online, such as Google image and other websites, however, remarking the differences between the Photoshop image dimensions and the real photos from an IT perspective can be sensitive, different image scales can vary in some features such as the contrast of the image.

The Information Technology science is developing, therefore, the online business standards should develop in similar paces, and these technical standards should be defined and introduced with the aid of the government since there is no formal unified structure that combines all the different e-commerce or the online media practitioners such as e-commerce syndicates or related formal foundations in Jordan currently.

4. Testing Method

First, it's worth mentioning that the process of amending the laws in Jordan should be passed and proposed by the Jordanian Parliament and not from the side of the government. Therefore, our assumption is that the right part to address here are the parliament members who most of them actually announced their support to this law obviously when they passed it in the parliament, however, a good number of the parliament members are considering ideas to modify the law, but are seeking proposals from the journalists involved, while other parliament members are trying to do self-effort proposals to solve this issue.

The government has been defending the law since the time it was suggested and the latest statements of the government officials don't look like they are considering any changes in the law, so what we decided is to consider the base of the decision cycle process that is reasonably initiated from the online media sector as we believe that their agreement on a middle solution can be effective to put more pressures on the government to

modify the controversial points in the law.

In order to test the acceptability of our suggested technical organisation of the online media publications using the proposed identity management system and the right business organisation structure, we made contact with the top ten public and viewed online media websites from our perspective, when determining the popularity of a media website we considered different criteria such as the good online presence of the website, including the online social media, the number of social media fans, and the continuous activities on the fan pages, as well as alexia and Google web index rankings that are based on daily hits. From our daily contact with the society we recognized that an ordinary Jordanian citizen views between three to five daily news websites at maximum. We also had some contact with five famous electronic writers to explore their conservation over the new law and the saleability of our proposed ideas.

We used both open and closed-ended questionnaire approaches in order to stimulate the interviewees to provide us with more details about their objections on the new law; the interviews were held on phone directly with the online media chief editors and the freelance news writers. We chose to include the online freelance writers in our questionnaire since we believe they represent the types of users who already interact with the online websites through their written articles.

When asked about their remarks on the new press and publication law, all the ten news websites editors or the officials of those websites mentioned that the online comments as a hurdle in the law, and all the ten agreed that it's almost impossible to determine the source of the comment, which is a required stipulation in the law, three of the website editors mentioned that the readers' comments shouldn't be considered as part of the published material from the beginning.

One of the contacted officials said that despite his objection on the online comments issue, he supports organising the online media as he believes that this media has turned into an extortion tool that is used against the people for the sake of benefits. Eight of the ten website officials said that they also have a problem in defining the term "offensive comment" as they see this term elastic and subject to different interpretations that can be intentionally used against the media website and makes them subject to legal extortion. However, two out of the ten interviewed websites officials said that they can recognize the offensive comments from the inoffensive ones, and claiming that the comments are hard to be classified is unrealistic, since any defamatory or unconfirmed claims are obvious to be noticed and therefore need not to be published.

Four of the chief editors mentioned that blocking the websites is not the right way to punish the online media on their violations, since the law gives the victims of the online offenses the option to sue the website and receive compensations on the damages that they were subjected to. The electronic writers mentioned that they noticed many articles that seem to be written by fake names and without hints of the real identity of the writers, and some of these articles were defamatory, when asked if they could ever think of writing an extremely critical article and use fake names, all of them said that they are responsible of what they write and don't need to hide their identity, however, they believe that some websites could publish such defamatory articles for the sake of publicity.

4.1 Testing Our Technical Organisation Method

After we conducted the open question style about the participants' remarks on the new Jordanian press and publications law, we started to figure out the echo of our technical proposal for the organisation using the federated identity system and the unified registration number as an organising mechanism for the online interaction with the online media websites. Actually its worth mentioning that most of the online chief editors were lacking the complex knowledge in the Information Technology, meaning that their knowledge limitation in the IT matters seemed to be confined in the basics, such as the IP address definition, but they didn't have a previous understanding of the identity management systems, so we tried to simplify our method for them as much as possible.

About eight of the participants said that they don't mind any kind of mechanism that ensures the protection for the websites administrators in the matter related to identifying the source of the online comment, especially since in their opinion; the government doesn't seem to provide more solutions for this issue in the time being. Other two participants said that they see the internet as an open space and they see this kind of controlling in the current law is as a freedom limitation, when we asked about whether they object on our proposed technical method, they said that their principle is that the controlling is unneeded because the chief editors can easily recognize the deemed offensive online comments, therefore have the ability to ban these comments from being published on their websites, but regarding the technical proposal they didn't mind it as a last solution if it solves the problem in their opinion.

We did examine the online writers' opinions as an online interactive users with the news media websites, when we asked them if they accept to enter any unique code number that can expose their real identity to the formal authorities and can indulge them into legal pursuits when writing their online comments, all of them said that they won't have any problem since they never tend to write defamatory or offensive comments

online and this process can be helpful in controlling the online offensive behaviour. However, 2 of the interviewees mentioned that they doubt that if this method is to be applied then the people will be not be inclined to write their online comments on the news media websites, and they will immigrate to the social media space instead.

5. Conclusions

The current amendments to the Jordanian press and publications law have been considered a source of argument between the government and the online media representative groups as well as different parts of the civilian society. So far all the efforts that have been made were either concentrated in cancelling the whole passed amendments in the law or supporting the new regulations, still no single effort has tried to make a technical compromise between both opinions.

The necessity to regulate the online publications and protect the citizens from being subject to offences online either intentional or unintentional should not be based on controlling the users freedom, but rather in saving the people's rights through a wise application of the law, to avoid the collective punishment and determine the responsible people of the offensive act.

A systematic approach for identity management is necessary, such system should be able to verify the exact details of the users and serve as a gathering umbrella to all the media websites that are subject to the press and publication law in Jordan. Using the method of Federated Identity Management will help in reducing the hurdles on the users who need to do multiple signups in order to interact with every online media website in Jordan. The system will also contribute to protecting the people's identities from being used improperly, such as having their identity impersonated through fake names in the online comments or articles, or other types of identities misusing online.

It should be noted that this method might not solve the whole problem in the online space or even might lead to extended forms of online censorship in the future, for instance, more than two million Jordanian netizens now use facebook and other social media websites (Ghazal, 2013), and most of the news media websites have established their presence on these websites that are outside the scope of the press and publication law in Jordan. Moreover, the "facebook only" news pages that established their presence and activity only on facebook and those news groups have no clear identities, and the users can still enter those fan pages and post offensive comments and defames, so the process of the online mess can still occur, but the question is will this represent a reason to extend the online censorship regulations in Jordan in the near future?

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