

DIGITAL LOCKER

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Abstract: *Digilocker i.e. Digital Locker scheme is an electronic facility to the citizens of India to keep their documents such as PAN card, Aadhaar card and passport etc. in digital form. Before July 2015 sharing documents for different purposes was a difficult task as it was shared in physical form or in scanned form. Digital locker is key initiative with the aim of minimizing the use of physical documents and sharing of e documents. Use of physical copies of document creates huge overhead in terms of page storage, manual audits etc. Digital locker helps citizen to store the documents online and resident is linked to portal with Aadhaar card. This paper focus on components of digital locker, how useful it is and various challenges that could be faced by citizens of India.*

IndexTerms - Digital India, Digital Locker, Repository

Introduction:

Digital India program is a program of government of India with the vision to transform India in to a digitally empowered India. It aims at ensuring to government services are made available to India citizens electronically by reducing paperwork. Digital empowerment of citizens will pay emphasis on availability of digital services in Indian language. The initiative includes plans to connect rural areas with high speed internet networks. Some of the facilities provided through Digital India scheme are Digital Locker, e-education, e-health, e-sign and national scholarship portal.

Digital Locker helps India citizens to digitally store their documents. Like PAN card, Passport, mark sheets in digital form.

E-education is the learning facility supported by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology for imparting education using educational tools and communication media.

E-healthcare would cover online medical consultation, online medical records, online medical supply etc.

E-sign is an online electronic signature service to facilitate an Aadhaar holder to digitally sign a document.

National Scholarship Portal has made a single application form for the students for the **various** scholarship schemes. Currently, in India all the documents are in physical form. This means whenever a resident needs to share the document, he/she needs in physical form. Use of physical copies of documents requires high cost and inconvenience. Due to the nature of these documents not having a strong identity attached to it , anyone with same name can indeed misuse someone else's document. To solve all these problems government of India provide facility of Digital Locker under Digital India Scheme.

Digital Locker is one of the ambitious aspects of Digital India program. Digital locker facility help citizens to digitally store their documents like PAN card, Passport, mark sheets etc. in digital form. It provides secure access to documents. It aims at eliminating the use of physical documents and sharing documents in digital form.

Digital Locker provides an online personal storage space in the cloud to citizens. 10 MB of space is provided to each resident. The storage space allocation can be increased to 1 GB in subsequent release. For this citizen needs to link Aadhaar card to locker. User can also upload scanned copies of documents in digital locker and documents can be electronically signed using e-sign.

Digital locker will reduce the danger of losing important documents. Softcopy of these documents can be verified from Digilocker account. It is designed as a push as well as pull service, which means that it should allow departments to issue as well as request documents from users. It will save time effort and money as these documents will be made available anywhere and anytime.

Digilocker provides its services throughout all major departments namely Railways, Healthcare and also in other departments. Department of Electronics and Information Technology along with government of India initiated the facility of Digilocker scheme. We can upload pdf, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, gif types of files. These files can be accessed anywhere and we can view, download and upload our documents.

Components of Digital Locker:

It has three major components which are as follows:

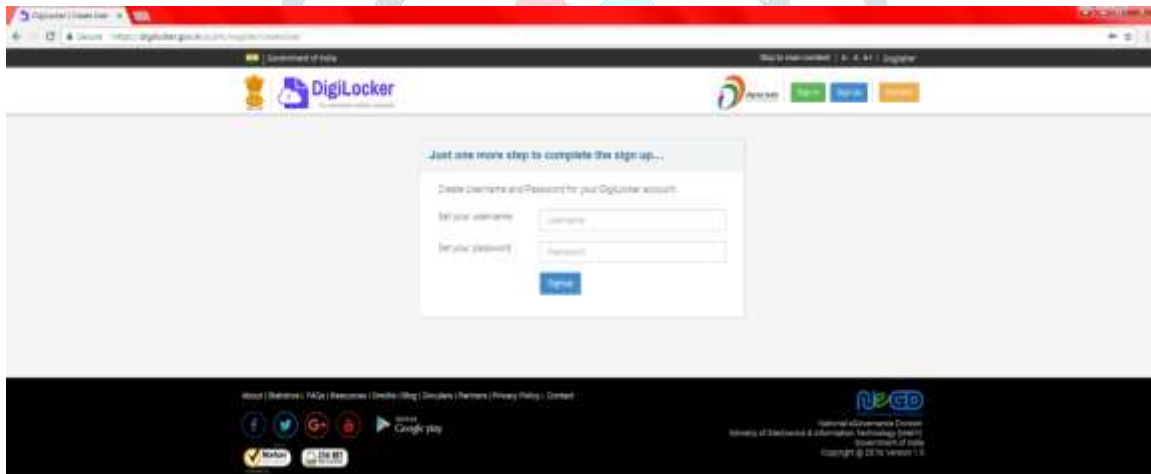
- **Repository:** It is collection of documents which are uploaded by the issuers.
- **Access Gateway:** A software application providing online mechanism for requestors to access e-document from repository in real time.
- **Digilocker portal:** Dedicated personal storage space to store the e-documents.

How to Access: Steps are as following:

1. Go to the site www.digilocker.gov.in
2. Home page appears on which we need to sign up.
3. Fill the mobile number of 10 digits.
4. One Time Password(OTP) will be received on registered mobile number
5. On next page, we can upload certificates or documents.
6. We need to select the document type and choose the file we want to upload.

7. With 'share' option, we can share uploaded documents with others.
8. For safety purposes, we can use e-sign.
9. We can easily access any document by simply clicking on it.
10. We can also remove document using 'remove' option.
11. The page now that appears has the option 'My Profile' which contains all the details of Aadhaar card as it was used at the time of login.
12. Since the digilocker is just like physical locker, when ones our work is over, simply click on logout option.

Following are some screenshots how screen appears:





Benefits of Digilocker:

1. **Minimize the use of physical documents:** As all the important documents are on e locker. There is no need to carry them in physical format.
2. **Sharing documents:** E-documents can be shared online with any organization.
3. **Secure access to documents:** It provides secured access to documents which are uploaded through scanning or issued by government authorities.
4. **Privacy:** it ensures privacy and authorized access to resident data.
5. **Authentication:** Ensure authenticity of e-documents and eliminate use of fake documents.
6. **Anytime/ anywhere access:** Resident can access documents anytime and anywhere. So it brings convenience factor.
7. **Dedicated personal space:** 10 MB space is provided to each resident. This may be increased to 1 GB in future.
8. **Reduce overhead:** reduces overhead of government departments and agencies.
9. **Quick Turnaround Time:** As all process is online. So it reduces the time taken to create document.

Challenges:

- Government has been working hard to make India Digital India. But efforts of government are not showing desired effects.
- Digilocker was launched before 2 years(approx.) for citizens of India but it does not seem to have interest too many so far. Less than 1% of Indians are registered here till now.
- Residents' who don't have Aadhaar card will find it difficult to convert their physical documents in to digital format.
- Citizens of India are not aware about advantages of digital locker. Because majority of population in India is illiterate.
- All the personal details at one portal may cause risk of data security. Any large linked database with personal information is a serious threat to citizen's data till date without any possibility of data theft.
- We can secure our documents with this site but why would do it if we have google derive like services.

Some Suggestions:

- Digital locker site and many other government sites and educational sites should be free in free WiFi provided by the govt. They should have special data packs for only these sites at very affordable prices so that a common man can easily access it
- It should be more secure. There are many techniques for securing passwords which can be used like shoulder surfing, dictionary attack, spyware etc.
- Before thinking of digital locker we should think about network services provided by service provider i.e. it's too slow.
- Make it mandatory for all issuers to automatically issue an electronic copy of the document in to the person's digilocker.
- Space provided by digilocker should be increased.
- We need to make all departments digital to accept the softcopy documents.
- Lockers should have two way authentications.
- Uploaded documents should be shared for read only communication.

Conclusion:

Digital locker minimizes the usage of physical documents and enables sharing e-documents. A move towards Digital Locker would result in more transparency, authenticity and destroy the corruption up to maximum extent. This is a good move to make India to Digital India. Thus for the program to be successful, there should be absolute coordination between various departments and government.

References:

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