# **TU DELFT PERSONAL PAGE FOR DUMMIES**

## INTRODUCTION

Little coherent information can be found about how to deal with personal pages on the TU Delft web site. After asking around (a lot), trying out, and a bit of frustration, I put this document together to help others get started.

In case you are searching for the content of your (or someone else) personal page, do not use the TU Delft search function as it produces incomplete results. Use Google. If you do not believe me, try to find 'K. de Jong' (my secretary) using either option. And?

I cannot give any guarantees on the information below. Many decisions on what functions and structures to support and implement, and the future of personal pages seems to be quite random and poorly (= not) communicated.

Have fun.

Inald Lagendijk/ <a href="https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/r.l.lagendijk">https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/r.l.lagendijk</a> / 12.11.2017 / version 1.1

#### **BASIC CHOICES TO MAKE**

The basic setup is that every employee (staff member<sup>1</sup>) at TU Delft has a centrally managed personal page and a publicly accessible TU Delft www-directory. Using these two, various combinations can be made. Let me go over the basic options first, mention two alternatives, and then dive into details.

- 1. Leave your standard (centrally managed) personal page as is. The information it will display is easy to manage. And also pretty poor.
- 2. Simple adaptation of your standard (centrally managed) personal page with additional information, textual content only. Poor man's solution if your seek an easy way out.
- 3. More complex adaptation of your standard personal page by referring to content and webpages on your publicly accessible TU Delft www-directory. More flexible, but requires design of own pages.
- 4. Ask ICT, one of the O&O colleagues or someone who has editing rights on the new TU Delft web site to forward your standard personal page to self-managed content on your publicly accessible www-directory. In this case, you will be completely outside the (centrally managed) personal page structure, but still have content on a TU Delft www-directory. (Note: it is not clear that the forwarding option actually supported. However, some colleagues do build their personal pages in this way, see <a href="https://homepage.tudelft.nl/2x09j/">https://homepage.tudelft.nl/2x09j/</a> and <a href="https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/t.fiebig/">https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/t.fiebig/</a> One would think that redirecting/linking the second to the first would be desirable ...).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For many Americans, the word 'staff' implies 'support'. They find the word 'staff' in the link structure pretty confusing. It would have helped if the word 'academic' has been added for faculty members, and similar adjectives for other personnel categories.

In the first three cases you can edit the content yourself after the initial setup, while still enjoying the advantages and disadvantages of the centrally managed personal web pages. Advantages are that office, phone, and 'ancillary activities' (required by CvB) information are pulled from a central database and displayed on the personal page. This is obviously no longer true in the fourth case, in which case you will have to edit all information yourself. Disadvantages of options 1-3 are that the layout of the centrally managed personal web pages is pretty poor, and that key information displayed (such as courses and publication) is truly horrible to the point of being a disgrace to TU Delft. Also the web page is generated on-line, which is currently slow and faulty at times (no page, a partial page or an error are displayed).

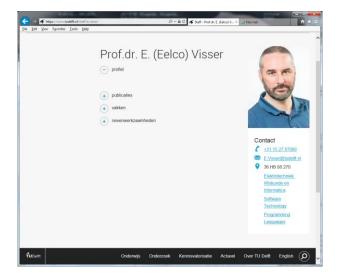
There are (at least) two other options that either involve someone with editing rights on the TU Delft web site (someone who has completed a TYPO3 course, ask O&O support first), or setting up a complete web server yourself.

- 5. Ask Marketing and Communications, one of the O&O colleagues or someone who has editing rights to replace the content on the standard personal page with something nicer. During the migration process, this was one of the choices provided.
- 6. Set up a complete web server is pretty overkill if it is only for a personal web page. Some research groups or projects make this choice as it provides them with maximum flexibility, and/or does not enforce TU Delft branding, which can be important for instance for EU projects.

I personally chose option 3. The reason is that I want to be able to edit my personal pages without having to go through a TYPO3 course. But I also have some content that is not specific for the research group, that I want to manage myself, and that requires downloads and visuals. The latter two are definitively not provided within the centrally managed personal web pages. Option 3 gave me a combination with sufficient editing possibilities.

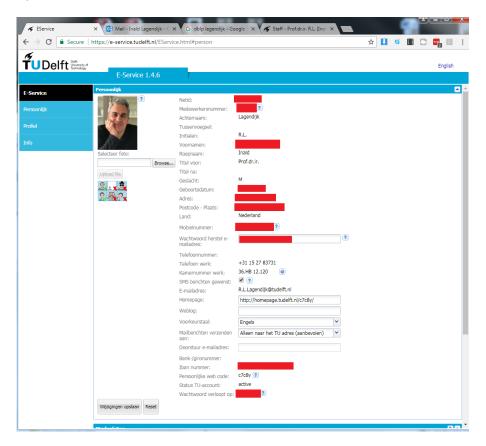
# **OPTION 1: LEAVE YOUR STANDARD (CENTRALLY MANAGED) PERSONAL PAGE AS IS**

Find your personal page and check what is on it. In many cases, this is the page that Google search returns as (one of) the top item. It probably looks something like this.

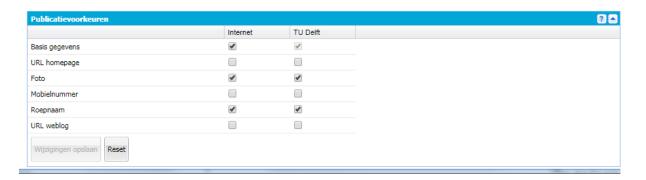


If you unfold the 'publications' or 'subjects' (they mean: *teaching* ... probably the developer did not speak English) topics, you will be shocked how horribly this has been done.

To select the information that is displayed in the right pane, go to <a href="https://e-service.tudelft.nl">https://e-service.tudelft.nl</a>. You need to logon with your netid, and sometimes the page does not open when using Internet Explorer. Google Chrome usually does the trick. The top of the page looks like this (option 'Personal'). The red areas contain personal information (which I took out here for obvious reasons).



The bottom of the page has display/publication controls, like this.

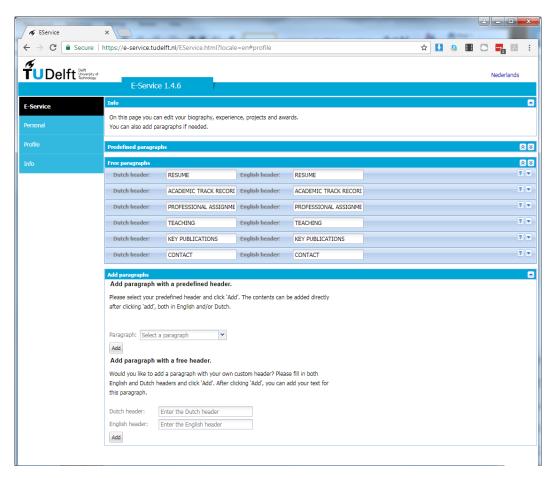


Several of these controls do not work. The 'URL home page' and 'URL weblog' do not have any effect – the URLs filled-in at the top part of the window are not displayed. Mobile numbers can be displayed, but the choice Internet vs TU Delft does not work, so if it is displayed, it displays to the entire internet (not really recommended).

In conclusion, if you leave your standard (centrally managed) personal page as is, you can upload a recent picture, play with the settings, but that is all. I guess that is what Eelco did at the time I took a screen shot of his personal page. Like many other colleagues, by the way. When you change your picture, the browser will not pick up the new picture unless you clear your browser cache. Don't ask me why.

## **OPTION 2: SIMPLE ADAPTATION OF YOUR STANDARD (CENTRALLY MANAGED) PERSONAL PAGE**

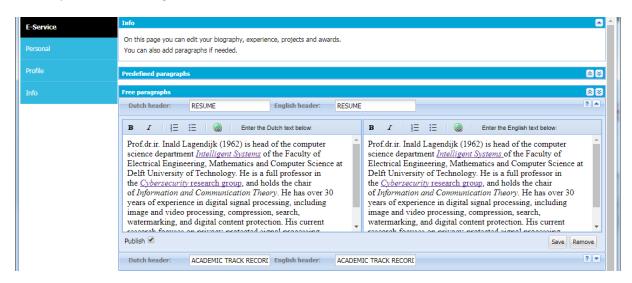
If you look at the menu on the left top of <a href="https://e-service.tudelft.nl">https://e-service.tudelft.nl</a>, you will see the option 'Profile'. In my case it looks like this (probably already changed when you read this document).



With the 'Add paragraph' you can add Sections within the 'Profile' part of your personal page. In the above, six Sections have been added. The Sections can be moved up and down, and textual content can be added, in English and Dutch. For one of my newly added Sections I included a screen dump on the next page to show what it looks like. The editing options are really limited, but at least hyperlinks can be added. I chose to use the same text for Dutch and English. It is not possible to leave one of the two text fields blank.

**Warning 1**. Be very careful when clicking 'Save' (in too much haste). If you miss that button and accidentally hit 'Remove', all text is deleted with no recovery option ... it happened to me ... multiple times. Yeah!

**Warning 2**. The pages time out at some point, but you can still enter content. If you then try to save the fresh content, the page restores its initial content and all fresh edits are gone. It happened to me ... multiple times. Yeah again!



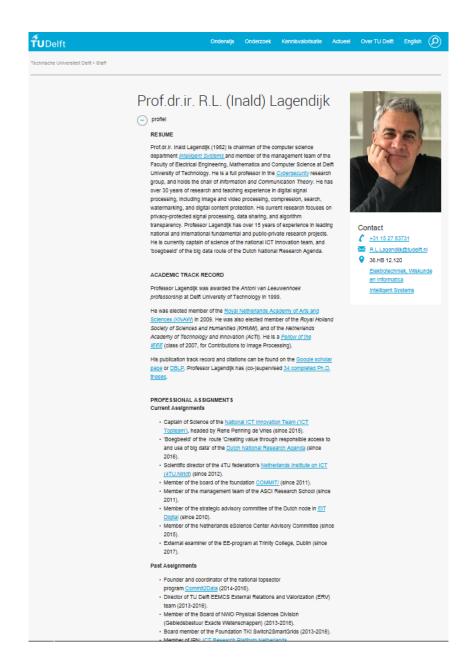
I have noticed that after making changes the displayed pages behave a bit randomly. Sometimes new content is displayed, sometimes not. I have no clue what is going on, but after some time it all seems to settle. One thing is that after editing a Section, the display order is sometimes messed up. Playing with the Section order a bit seems to help ... I think. The result of the edits that I did look something like what is shown on the next page.

Not too bad. I do not understand why the left 30% of the window is empty. Of course, the ugly 'publications' or 'subjects' buttons are still there, lurking and hoping to be unfolded by unsuspecting visitors. But at least they are way down and not directly visible<sup>2</sup>.

Finally, in today's digital world it would have been nice to have available links to e-mail, twitter, facebook, linkedin, skype ('call me now') and so on. Maybe we will see this option in a next version of the personal pages  $\odot$ .

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> I do not understand why the research group that I am part of (Cybersecurity) is not displayed in the right pane, while it is on most other personal pages (see Eelco's page). This seems to be a HR/PeopleSoft issue for department chairs.



## **OPTION 3: MORE COMPLEX ADAPTATION OF YOUR STANDARD PERSONAL PAGE**

Every employee has a personal home page space that is accessible as <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx/">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx/</a>. Here 'xxxxx' refer to a 5-character code that can be found on <a href="https://e-service.tudelft.nl">https://e-service.tudelft.nl</a>. In my case it says: *Personal web code: c7c8y*. Therefore my home page is <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y</a>. You can use this home page to build a complete website bypassing the personal page, see Option 4. Here I restrict myself to linking more complicated content from the personal page.

The content accessed via <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx</a> is stored in the www directory of your TU Delft central directory (the 'Personal Data' network disk). If you are on the TU Delft network, this directory and its content are directly accessible. If you are outside the TU Delft network, the directory (like all other directories) can be accessed via <a href="https://webdata.tudelft.nl">https://webdata.tudelft.nl</a>, or more

specifically via <a href="https://filr.tudelft.nl">https://filr.tudelft.nl</a>. Note that the directory contains a 'readme' file with the 5-character code of your personal home page.

If you put a file in the www directory, it can be accessed by web browsers, for instance the file that you are now reading is <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/TUDPersonalPageforDummies.pdf">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/TUDPersonalPageforDummies.pdf</a>.

Obviously, links to this content can be included on your personal page. For instance, on my personal page there is a link to VcDemo under 'teaching': <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/VcDemo.html">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/VcDemo.html</a>



The entire content of this page – including the faked blue bar at the top – is under my control.

## **OPTION 4: FORWARD YOUR STANDARD PERSONAL PAGE TO SELF-MANAGED CONTENT**

Using your TU Delft www-directory, the home page such as <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/</a>, you can build your own web page structure. You can use html editing tools, but realize that stuff like active content is not possible. You are simply bypassing the options of the TU Delft web server.

The default first page opened is the index.html file. I have chosen to put something simple there, redirecting back to my TU Delft personal page <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/index.html">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/index.html</a> (try it!). But of course if your personal page refers to <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx/index.html">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/xxxxx/index.html</a>, then you need to build your webpages from this starting point.

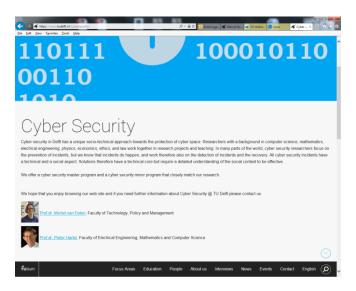
Warning. The 'readme' file in the www-directory says that the home page can be accessed by typing <a href="http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y">http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y</a> in the browser. That is not true. You do need the slash '/' at the end of the address, or otherwise an error will result.

You are now reading http://homepage.tudelft.nl/c7c8y/TUDPersonalPageforDummies.pdf

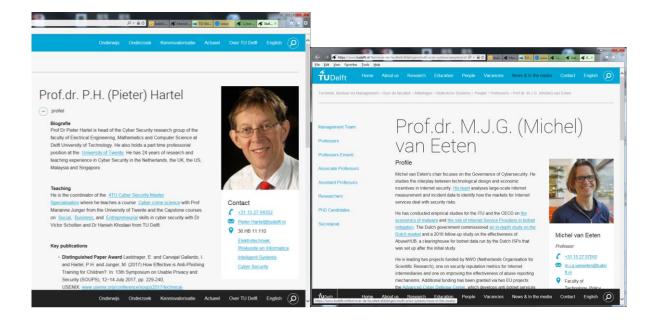
# **OPTION 5: REPLACE THE CONTENT ON THE STANDARD PERSONAL PAGE WITH SOMETHING NICER**

During the migration, it was possible to have the personal pages and research group pages customized for free. I believe this is no longer possible. However, group and personal pages can be

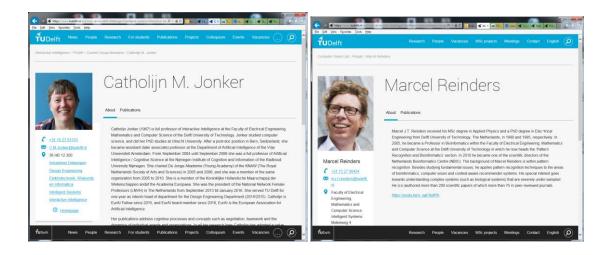
edited by those that are authorized. For instance, the cybersecurity research group at EEMCS decided to set up a page for all cybersecurity research at TU Delft.



The links still refer to the personal pages. Pieter selected option 2. Michel has the personal page replaced with a somewhat nicer structure, which links to the personnel overview of TPM. For EEMCS we currently do not have such a nice faculty-wide personnel overview, but only a super simple list for full professors only, see <a href="https://www.tudelft.nl/en/eemcs/the-faculty/professors/">https://www.tudelft.nl/en/eemcs/the-faculty/professors/</a>.



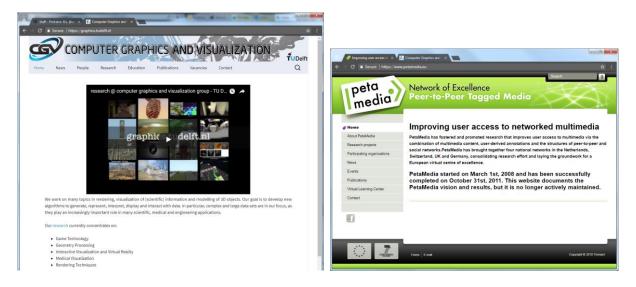
The II, MMC, and PRB research groups of the Department INSY had their personal pages customized. Here are two examples. The content of the publication tab is still empty. The advantage of this nicer setup is that the awkward 'publications' or 'subjects' buttons are gone. However, without being authorized, it is no longer possible to edit your own personal page.



#### **OPTION 6: SET UP A COMPLETE WEB SERVER**

If you really need complicated content, you probably want stick to your own server. This is what, for instance, the computer graphics and visualization (CGV) research group did. And that is what I did in the past with an EU project. Both examples are below. In the example of CGV, the web pages also contain personal pages, try <a href="http://graphics.tudelft.nl/~eisemann/">https://graphics.tudelft.nl/~eisemann/</a> and <a href="https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/e.eisemann/">https://www.tudelft.nl/staff/e.eisemann/</a>

TU Delft is not really in favor of this way of dealing with information about organizational units – such as research groups – but apparently the corporate policy is not enforced.



Of course, it is still possible to select any of the option 1-5 in combination with having a separate server for research group or project pages. In case you choose to set up and maintain an own server for research groups (or other organizational units), I would recommend to have the standard TU Delft personal page redirected to personal pages on the web server, as so to avoid maintaining copies of content.