Kuali Identity Management

Kuali Identity Management (KIM) is a system to handle permissions and users in a unified way across all Kuali applications. This is particularly important for schools that will ultimately be implementing two or more Kuali systems. KIM is a part of Kuali RICE, underpinning software that all Kuali applications use.

Kuali applications will communicate with KIM to determine what permissions a user has. KIM will also define workflow responsibilities.

Some important KIM concepts are defined below.

**Permissions**: These are the actions KFS needs to authorize users to perform. This might be anything that KFS or other Kuali applications restrict, such as who can initiate a certain type of document, who can view tax ID numbers in the application, or who can change the account number on an enroute financial document. Permissions are associated with a Role.

**Responsibilities**: These are workflow-related actions KFS needs users to perform. These can be approvals, acknowledgements or FYI reviews. Responsibilities are associated with a Role.

**Principal**: A person’s username in a particular system. It would be theoretically possible to allow users to have a different username (or principal) for each Kuali system.

**Roles**: Roles aggregate permissions and responsibilities. Roles can be assigned to Persons or Groups. So instead of “Persons” being assigned permissions directly, the permissions are assigned to Roles and the roles are then assigned to Persons. It’s not uncommon for a Role to be associated with more than one permission or responsibility.

**Group**: KIM groups are simply a way to associate multiple persons with a role. Unlike KFS, groups don’t have any special inherent permissions, they must be assigned to a Role in order to get permissions. Groups can also contain other groups.