

“The Identity Project” IDM and the academic community

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outline

- why you want to know about this project
- who are involved
- what we're doing
- how you can help

AM -> FAM -> IDM

- to connect people to resources:
 - Access Management (AM) - allows us to say who can access what (based on information such as personal affiliations, status, licensing, etc.)
- to connect people to remote resources, and enable effective inter-institutional collaboration:
 - Federated Access Management (FAM) - same as above, but passing info' between institutions
- to “do” effective FAM:
 - good IDM! - to make assertions to other organisations about your members, you need to know the information!

IDM in UK academia

- very varied
 - some “good”, some “bad”
 - some simple, some complex
 - some proprietary, some COTS
- different goals / different methods
 - different institutions have different ideas about IDM, so implementing in different ways
- a voyage into the unknown
 - have an idea but no conclusive facts & figures on where everyone is, and if they're compatible through FAM

“The Identity Project”

- funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee
 - 9 partner institutions
 - 8 main areas of work (next slides)
 - 7 weeks into the project
 - 6 key people in the project management team
 - 5 key bodies on steering committee (Partners/RUGIT/UCISA/JISC/UKERNA)
 - 4 the good of UK academia
 - 3 french hens (running out of ideas)
 - 2 main locations (Cardiff/London)
 - 1 year project

who are involved?

- lead institutions:
 - cardiff university
 - london school of economics and political science
- partner institutions:
 - birbeck college
 - goldsmiths college
 - imperial college london
 - queen mary university of london
 - royal holloway college
 - school of oriental & african studies
 - university college london

why these partners?

- interested in IDM issues
- diverse group of HE institutions
 - large/small; single/general subject focus; research/teaching focus; traditional/non-trad' student base;
- diverse range of IDM issues
 - inc. grid use / shib installs/ SSO / long-term inter-institutional collaborations / internal & shared dynamic VOs / range of users / library access schemes / NHS involvement
- successfully completed past project work in collaboration with other partners.

what we're doing

- eight main work areas
 - 1) broad survey of current IDM practice
 - 2) in-depth case studies of IDM practice
 - 3) investigate practise/policy around membership
 - 4) investigate how NHS links affects IDM
 - 5) investigate how grid infrastructure affects IDM
 - 6) identify common problems/solutions
 - 7) examine current tools for IDM
 - 8) identify best practice & future developments

broad survey of IDM

- purpose
 - to get a general understanding of where the majority of institutions are at with IDM (IDM/DS/willingness/etc)
 - more detailed studies of representative institutions
- benefits
 - help build a picture of what needs to be done to get ready for FAM
- deliverables
 - broad information on current IDM

in-depth case studies of IDM

- purpose
 - to get a deep understanding of how IDM currently works in a wide range of representative institutions
- benefits
 - help build a picture of what needs to be done to get ready for FAM
- deliverables
 - a template for an institutional audit of IDM
 - several case studies of current IDM practice

practice/policy of membership

- purpose
 - to understand how institutions currently define and classify “members”
- benefits
 - complying with legal requirements and license conditions requires a comprehensive set of policies and definitions in place
- deliverables
 - understanding of how these policies effect IDM

NHS effecting IDM

- purpose
 - to understand how having NHS links affects the needs of IDM
- benefits
 - the NHS are very strict about security (for obvious reasons) and potentially requires more from an IDM solution
- deliverables
 - understanding of how NHS links effects IDM needs

grid effecting IDM

- purpose
 - to understand how having grid infrastructure affects the needs of IDM
- benefits
 - the grid community are currently reviewing access management mechanisms, which potentially requires more from an IDM solution
- deliverables
 - understanding of how grid infrastructure effects IDM needs

examine current tools

- purpose
 - to investigate existing tools (proprietary and open source) that assists with managing users and identities
- benefits
 - an understanding of how these tools work, and how they would help different kinds of institutions
- deliverables
 - a study of the tools in an institutional context

common problems/solutions

- purpose
 - to identify core problems that all institutions will face when implementing IDM, and their solutions (if possible!)
- benefits
 - quite obvious!
- deliverables
 - Documentation of common problems & their solutions

identify best practice/future dev

- purpose
 - to identify good practise for IDM to enable institutions to operate effectively on the UK Access Management Federation, and identify areas where further work is required
- benefits
 - help institutions in understanding what is necessary to implement IDM for FAM
- deliverables
 - Recommendation reports

how you can help

- if you're from an academic institution...
 - please get in touch with me (letter or via email)
 - working with us during this project ensures your institution's point of view will be included
 - community consensus ensures the project is useful to all
- if you're from a vendor with IDM tools
 - please get in touch with me (letter or via email)
 - we want to investigate a wide range of tools
- Any suggestions are welcomed!

urls

- <http://www.identity-project.org/>
- <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/>
- <http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>

the end

- for:
 - ▶ more info
 - ▶ a copy of these slides
 - ▶ clarification of any points
 - ▶ meaningful discussion about IDM
 - ▶ meaningless discussion about ice-hockey
- email: smith@cardiff.ac.uk

