



An Introduction to Access Management and the UK Federation

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Overview

- What is access management?
- What is Shibboleth?
- What is it used for?
- How does it work?
- The Benefits
- UK Access Management Federation
- Federations worldwide
- What's next..?

What is Access Management?



In this context = **Controlling access to learning resources**

Authentication

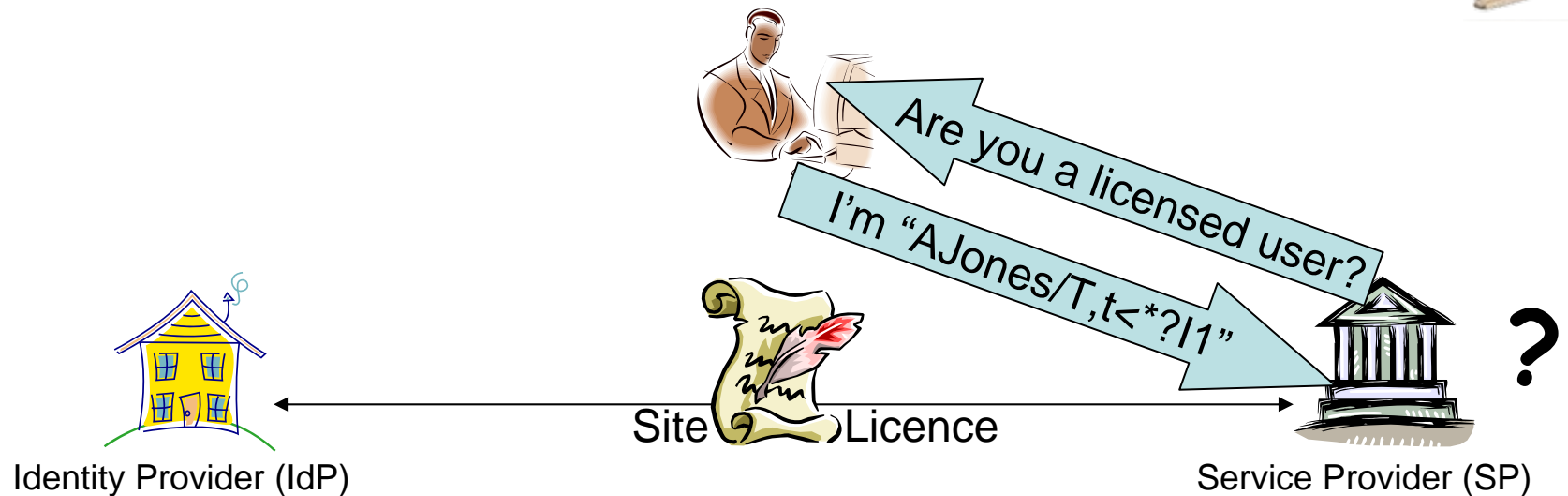
- Is a user who they say they are?
 - Identity

Authorisation

- What is the user allowed to access?
 - Rights



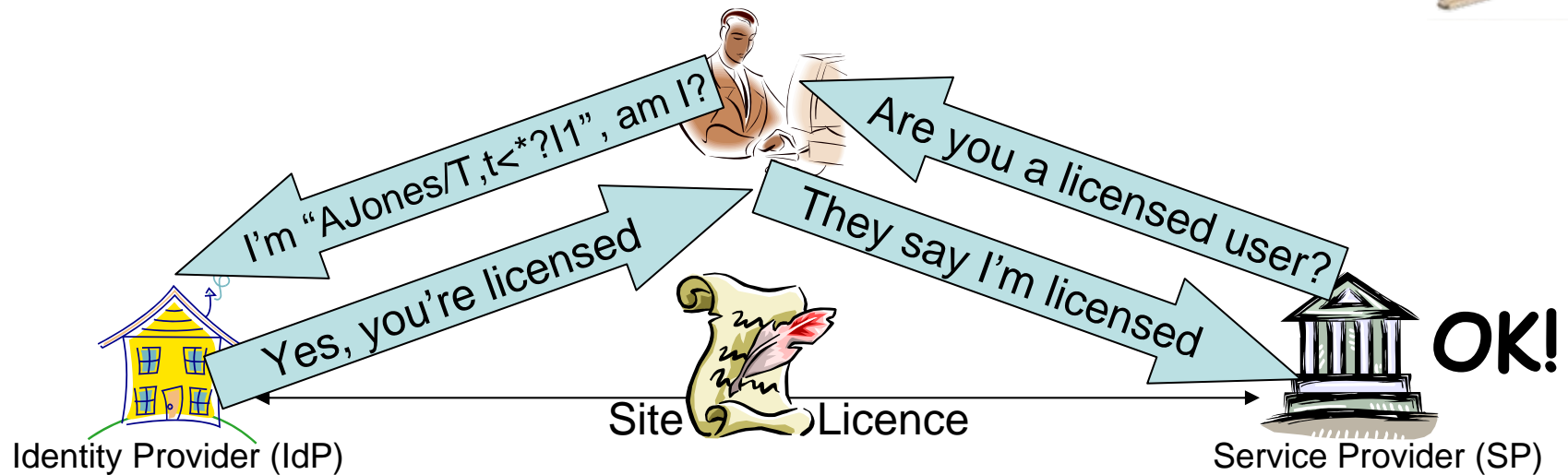
Legacy access management



- User's identity and personal data are known to all
- Publisher knows more than it wants and less than it needs



Federated Access Management



- User's identity and personal data are protected
- Publisher knows exactly what it needs



What is Shibboleth?

- An open source, standards-based solution to meet the needs for organisations to exchange information about their users in a secure, privacy-preserving manner
- Recommended software for UK federation participation



What is it used for?

1. Allows a user to access protected online web resources based on information asserted by their home organisation
2. Allows providers of online resources to control access to their services

What the user sees: Portal Login (LSE)



LSE Library



Login to us

Search


Electronic Library

















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- Search Library Catalogue and Journal Titles
-  1. IBSS : International Bibliography of the Social Sciences 
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-  4. Reference 
-  5. LSE Course Resources 
-  6. A-Z List of Electronic Resources 
-  7. Senate House Library : resources for LSE staff and students 
-  Collection for Shibboleth access testing 

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Quick Search Title, abstract, keywords Author e.g. j s smith
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Online tutorials in multiple languages are also available.



Attributes

- Permits fine grained Authorisation
- “Law Student” or “Staff Member” not individual username and password
- SP can only ask for what it needs



Benefits: for Users

- Much less need to disclose your identity
- Personal data kept between you and your home organisation
- Service providers can tailor services better
- (At least) one less password to remember
- Access to online resources from anywhere



Benefits: for Organisations

- Uses existing authentication infrastructure
- Can be used to protect internal resources
- Fewer support problems
- Easier to comply with regulatory requirements
 - *Data Protection Act 1998*



Benefits: for Service Providers

- No need to maintain your own user database
 - Authentication is done for you by home organisation
 - Can authorise per institution, role, and/or entitlement
- Reduction in user support
- Reduced data protection compliance burden
 - Less storage/processing of personal data
- Users take better care of credentials

What is the UK federation?

- A set of Rules that binds members:
 - Make accurate statements to other members
 - Keep federation systems and data secure
 - Use personal data correctly (DPA1998)
 - Resolve problems within the Federation
 - Not by legal action
 - Assist Federation Operator and other members

The UK Federation

- Launched November 2006
- For UK research, FE, HE and schools
- Organisations and institutions providing services to these sectors

Organisational Structure

- Joint funded by Becta & JISC
- Operational management by JANET(UK)
- Policy Board
- Technical Advisory Group



Support

- JANET(UK) helpdesk
- Configuration guides
- Training courses:
<http://www.ja.net/services/training/>
- Workshops to help organisations join the UK federation
- FAQs
- Website: www.ukfederation.org.uk/



What are the benefits?

- Provides consistency across the whole of education for access management
- Improves the user experience
- Pooling of experience and expertise
- Economies of scale for both sectors
- Provided to the education sector free of charge
- Facilitates sharing of content and collaboration across sectors



International federations

- Australia – AAF
- China - CARSI
- Denmark - DKAAI
- Finland - HAKA
- France – CRU
- Germany – DFN-AAI
- Italy – IDEM GARRaai
- The Netherlands – SURFnet Federation
- Norway – FEIDE
- Sweden - SWAMID
- Switzerland – SWITCH AAI
- USA - InCommon



What's next...?

- Widening participation: government, health, museums, libraries, service providers
- Development Roadmap

<http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/content/Documents/DevelopmentRoadMap>

- increase functionality
- enhance usability

- Confederations



Questions?

More info:

www.ukfederation.org.uk

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Ukfederation-discuss@jiscmail.ac.uk