Overview

Background - the SAPIR project

Lessons learned

What is Shibboleth?

Access management

Benefits and implications

Demonstration
Enable SSO access to the Metalib portal system

Replace ATHENS authentication with SAPiR

Enable SSO access to the LORLS reading list management system
Patrons are not interested in systems, only services. Patrons make no distinction between services delivered by the Library. The Library IS the service.

Lessons learned:
Identifying a patron gives the ability to enhance different systems.
Identifying a patron across systems could deliver an enhanced, unified service.
Other systems/services
Institution level ‘shared’ passwords
IP authentication
On/Off campus
Current access management solutions
Manual registration of individual users for individual resources
Athens authentication
What constitutes an effective access management system?

Lynch Principles

Simplicity
Privacy for the user

for the user, institution and publisher

Reasonable terms

for the user, institution and publisher

Simplicity for the user, institution and publisher. Privacy for the user, institution and publisher. Good Faith between the institution and publisher. Trusted Intermediaries by the user, institution and publisher. Reasonable terms by the user, institution and publisher.

What constitutes an effective access management system?

Clifford Lynch of the Coalition for Networked Information (Lynch 1998) is white paper on authentication and access management defined key conceptual requirements and business relationships between librarians, libraries and users. His work was taken further by the 1999 workshop on Access Management organized by the US Digital Library Federation (Arms 1999), which identified five key components ‘for the design of systems that enable access for users while respecting the rights and interests of authors and publishers’.
Shibboleth is a biblical term and is the first recorded use of a ‘password’

Shibboleth means ‘ear of corn’

**Judges, ch12, v5-6**

The Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan opposite Ephraim. And it happened when (any of) the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me cross over," the men of Gilead would say to him, "Are you an Ephraimitite?" If he said, "No," then they would say to him, "Say now, 'Shibboleth.' " But he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it correctly. Then they seized him and slew him at the fords of the Jordan. Thus there fell at that time 42,000 of Ephraim.
What is Shibboleth?

User's institution → WAYF → Resource → User's institution
User database → WAYF → Resource → User database
What is Shibboleth?

Shibboleth is a secure transport system that binds systems together and allows their interaction. It securely transports trusted tokens related to an individual between the institution and the resource provider. It is session based rather than resource based.
Shibboleth is not:
A single sign-on system (e.g. Active Directory)
A repository for users and attributes
An access management tool that can register, authenticate and authorise users
An excuse to slay 42,000 patrons
Benefits and implications

For the Library:
Less overhead and complication than ATHENS administration
Correctly restricts access to protected resources based upon visitor attributes
Stricter compliance to licensing restrictions
Lower set up costs
Pressure on publishers to adopt more appropriate access management and licensing restrictions
Simplified access for users
Benefits and implications
For the Patron:
The simplicity of a single username and password
Personalisation of the Library service
Processes carried out are invisible
The only software needed is a web browser
Allows user mobility
Privacy regarding an individual’s personal information
Benefits and implications

For Publishers:

No licence fee (currently required for ATHENS)
Item level links are supported
eduPerson standard agreed to control access based on user attributes
Trust regarding minimum requirements for security measures
Methods of authentication:

- A unique username and password known only to the individual and the institution.
- A unique electronic token (e.g., smartcard).
- An anatomical feature unique to the individual (e.g., fingerprint).
Demonstration

http://www.emol.ac.uk/shibb.shtml

https://mclined-online.ncl.ac.uk
Demonstration
Newcastle University Library

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