

Identity Management

Alberto Pace
CERN, Information Technology Department
alberto.pace@cern.ch



Computer Security

- The present of computer security
 - Bugs, Vulnerabilities, Known exploits, Patches
 - Desktop Management tools, anti-virus, anti-spam, firewalls, proxies, Demilitarized zones, Network access protection, ...
- ◆ This is no longer enough. Two additional aspects
 - Social Engineering
 - "Please tell me your password"
 - Require corporate training plan, hunderstand the human factor and ensure that personal motivation and productivity is preserved
 - Identity (and Access) Management





- Identity Management (IM)
 - Set of flows and information which are (legally) sufficient and allow to identify the persons who have access to an information system
 - ◆ This includes
 - All data on the persons
 - All workflows to Create/Read/Update/Delete records of persons, accounts, groups, organizational unit, ...
 - All internal processes and procedures
 - All tools used for this purpose



More definitions

- Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Access Management
 - ◆ For a given information system, the association of a right (use / read / modify / delete / ...) and an entity (person, account, computer, group, ...) which grants access to a given resource (file, computer, printer, room, information system, ...), at a given time, from a given location
 - Access control can be physical (specific location, door, room, ...) or logical (password, certificate, biometric, token, ...)
 - ◆ Resources can also be physical (room, a terminal, ...) or logical (an application, a table in a database, a file, ...)



Typical misunderstandings

- Identity management
 - ◆ The LDAP directory of users with password hashes
 - The password expiration policy
- Access management
 - Portal web site to centrally manage group memberships or permissions



Why Identity Management?

- Legal Constraints
 - In many areas there is a legal obligation of traceability
 - Basel II (Global Banking financial regulations)
 - Sarbanes Oxley Act (SOX) in the US
 - ◆ 8th EU Privacy Directive + national laws in Europe
- Financial constraints
 - Offload IT experts from administrative tasks with little added value (user registration, password changes, granting permissions, ...)
- Technical opportunity
 - Simplification of procedures, increased opportunity
 - Centralized security policy possible



Implementing IM / IAM

- It is an heavy project, there are many parameters
- Overall strategy
 - Be realistic. Base the project on "short" iterations (4 8 weeks)
 with clear objectives and concrete results at each iteration
 - Understand the perimeter of the project.
 - Services included / excluded
 - One single project cannot fix all existing and cumulated projects
 - Understand the stakeholders
 - Who is affected
 - Who pays
 - Ensure to have management support
 - Inventory, simplify, streamline and document all administrative procedures



Aware of legal constraints

- Laws are different in each country
- Laws depend on the type of institute
 - Public funded, Government, Privately owned, International Organization, ...
- Laws depend on the sector of activity
 - Archiving, traceability, retention of log files and evidences
- Not easy to find the good compromise between security / accounting / traceability and respect of privacy / personal life



IAM Architecture

- ◆ The AAA Rule. Three components, *independent*
- Authentication
 - Unequivocal identification of the person who is trying to connect.
 - Several technologies exist with various security levels (username / password, certificate, token, smartcard + pin code, biometry, ...)
- Authorization
 - Verification that the connected user has the permission to access a given resource
 - On small system there is often the confusion between authorization and authentication
- Accounting
 - List of actions (who, when, what, where) that enables traceability of all changes and transactions rollback



More IAM Architecture

- Role Based Access Control (RBAC)
 - Grant permissions (authorizations) to groups instead of person
 - Manage authorizations by defining membership to groups
- Separations of functions
 - granting permissions to groups (Role creation)
 - group membership management (Role assignment)
- Be aware!
 - RBAC should be a simplification
 - Keep the number of roles to a minimum



IAM Architecture components (1/3)

- Process and workflow well defined
 - What are the "administrative" requirements to be "authorized" to use service "xyz"
 - "administrative" means that you have all information in the IAM database
 - You can define rules and process to follow. You can implement a workflow.
- If you can answer this question, you can automate
 - If you can't, you have a problem
 - Putting an administrative person to "manually handle" the answer to that question won't solve the problem in large organizations



More IAM Architecture components (2/3)

- (web) Portal for person and account registration
 - Used by the administration to create identities
 - Approval, workflow and information validation depends on the type of data
 - Examples requiring validation by the administration, approval or workflow: Name, passport no, date of birth
 - Examples available in self service to end-user: Password change, preferred language, ...
- Service-specific interfaces to manage authorization
 - ◆ This is typically platform and service dependent
 - Allows assignment of permissions to groups or accounts or persons
 - Authorization can be made once to a specific group and managed using group membership



More IAM Architecture components (3/3)

- (web) Portal to manage group memberships
 - Indirect way to manage authorizations
 - Must foresee groups with manually managed memberships and groups with membership generated from arbitrary SQL queries in the IAM database
 - Must foresee nesting of groups
- Single-Sign-On (SSO) services
 - aware of group memberships
 - Authentication portal for web-based applications
 - Kerberos services for Windows and/or AFS users
 - Certification authority for grid users
- Directories, LDAP, ...
- A well thought communication plan to inform all users



Experience at CERN

- CERN has an HR database with many records (persons)
- 23 possible status
 - Staff, fellow, student, associate, enterprise, external, ...
- Complicated rules and procedures to create accounts
 - Multiple accounts across multiple services
 - Mail, Web, Windows, Unix, EDMS, Administration, Indico, Document Server, Remedy, Oracle, ...
 - Multiple accounts per person
 - Being migrated towards a unique identity management system with one unique account for all services



CERN Today

UNIX Services



HR Database

Identity Management



Account Database

Management

Group/Role Membership Mailing List Database

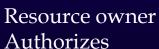
Windows Services

Indico Services

Web Services

Mail Services Authenticated and authorized end-user receiving services

Administrative Services



Document Management





CERN Plan

UNIX Services



HR Database Windows

Services

Identity Management

Unique account For all services

Indico Services

E-group
Integration
Authori
with HR
is done -, ...
resource owner

Account Database

Web Services

Global E-Group management Mail Services

Authenticated and authorized end-user receiving services



Group/Role Membership Management

Resource owner Authorizes

Administrative Services

Document Management

Custom E-groups

Managed by resource owner



CERN Plan



Identity Management (Made by CERN Administration)

HR Database

Accounts

Automated procedures

> Default E-groups

Account Database

Global E-Group management

Unique set of groups / roles (for all services)

Computing Services at CERN:

Mail, Web, Windows, Unix, EDMS, Administration, Indico, Document Server Remedy, Oracle, ...

Authentication Group membership

Authorization management

Custom Groups membership management

Access granted

Authenticated and authorized end-user receiving services

Resource owner or Service manager Authorizes using

- User Accounts
- Default E-groups
- Custom E-groups



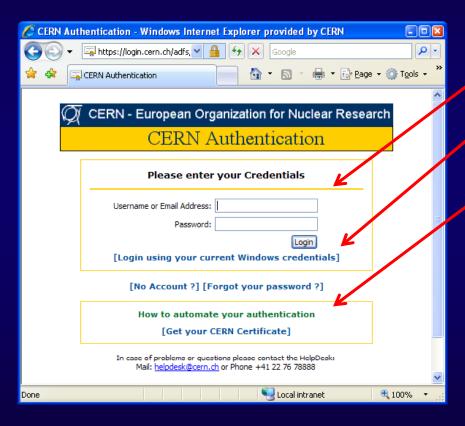


CERN Plan summary

- Central account management
- Only one account across services
 - synchronize UNIX and Windows accounts
- Use Roles/Groups for defining access control to resources
 - No more: "close Windows Account, keep Mail account, block UNIX account"
 - But: "block Windows access, allow Mail access, block AIS access".



Single Sign On Example



Username / Password

SSO using Windows Credentials

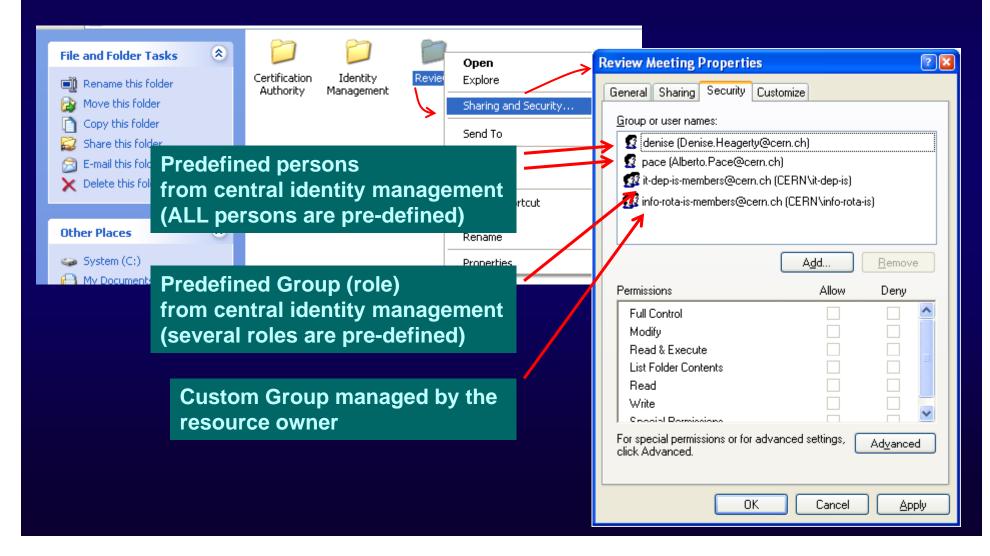
SSO using Grid Certificate

DEMO

- Open a Windows hosted site:
 - http://cern.ch/win
 - Click login, check user information
- Open a Linux hosted site:
 - http://shib.cern.ch
 - Check various pages
- Go back to first site
 - Click logout

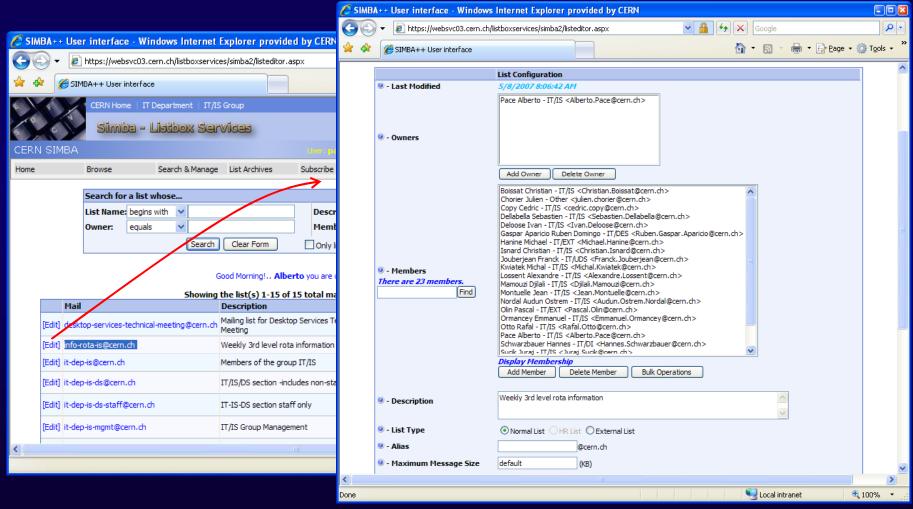


Example





Managing custom group example





Errors to avoid

- Legal
- Organizational Factors
 - Lack of management support, of project management / leadership
 - No clear and up to date communication
 - Inform user of constraints and benefits
 - **♦** RBAC with too many roles
- Technical
 - Incorrect estimation of quality of existing data
 - Implement an exception on each new demand
 - Lost mastering of technical solutions



Conclusion

- Necessary to resist to pressure of having
 - "Custom" solution for "special" users
 - Exception lists
- Security in focus
 - Complexity and security don't go together
- **◆** Once identity management is in place ...
 - ... you wonder why this was not enforced earlier