WLCG Authorization: from X.509 to Tokens

Authored by the WLCG AuthZ Working Group

PRACE-CERN-GÉANT-SKAO workshop on HPC, 29th September 2020



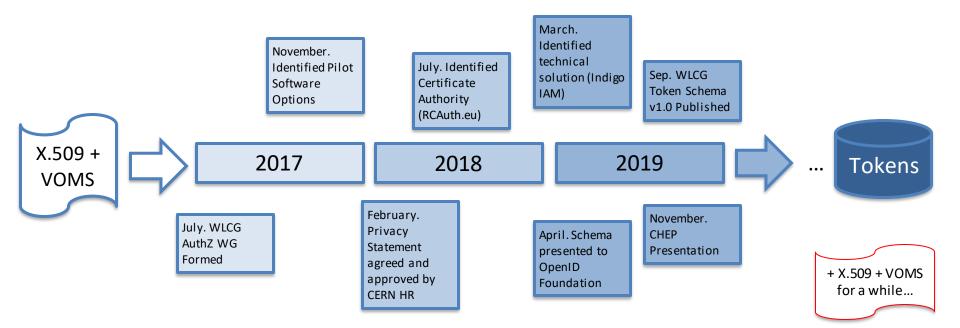








HEP Moving to Tokens





Why? Motivation

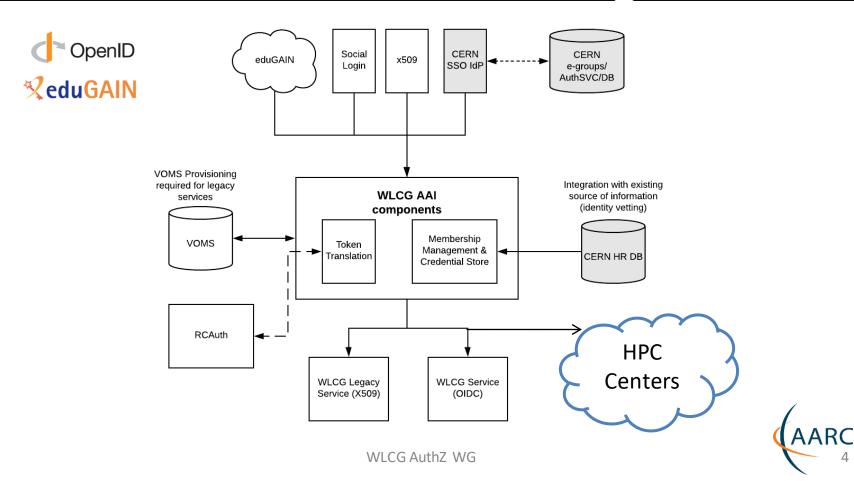
- Evolving Identity Landscape
 - User-owned X.509 certificates come with difficulties and significant support effort
 - − Better alternatives now exist → JWT Tokens over OAuth2 and OpenID Connect
- Technology Readiness
 - Increasing solutions for shielding users from the complexities of X.509 certificate management
 - Token-based authorisation widely adopted in commercial services and increasingly by R&E Infrastructures

Much work is ongoing to enable token based authorization in HEP infrastructure, with WLCG leading the way





What? Solution Design





Token Schema

- Published on Zenodo, September 25th 2019
- Allows middleware developers to enable token based authorization according to an agreed schema



Technical note Ope

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WLCG Common JWT Profiles

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This document describes how WLCG users may use the available geographically distributed resources without X 509 credentials. In this model, clients are issued with bearer tokens; these tokens are subsequently used to interact with resources. The tokens may contain authorization groups and/or capabilities, according to the preference of the Virtual Organisation (VO), applications and relying parties.

Wherever possible, this document builds on existing standards when describing profiles to support current and anticipated WLCG usage. In particular, three major technologies are identified as providing the basis for this system: OAuth2 (RFC 6749 & RFC 6750), OpenID Connect and JSON Web Tokens (RFC 7519). Additionally, trust roots are established via OpenID Discovery or OAuth2 Authorization Server Metadata (RFC 8414). This document provides a profile for OAuth2 Access Tokens and IDIC ID Tokens.

Automatic Zoom

WLCG Common JWT Profiles

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Version History:

 Date
 Version
 Comment





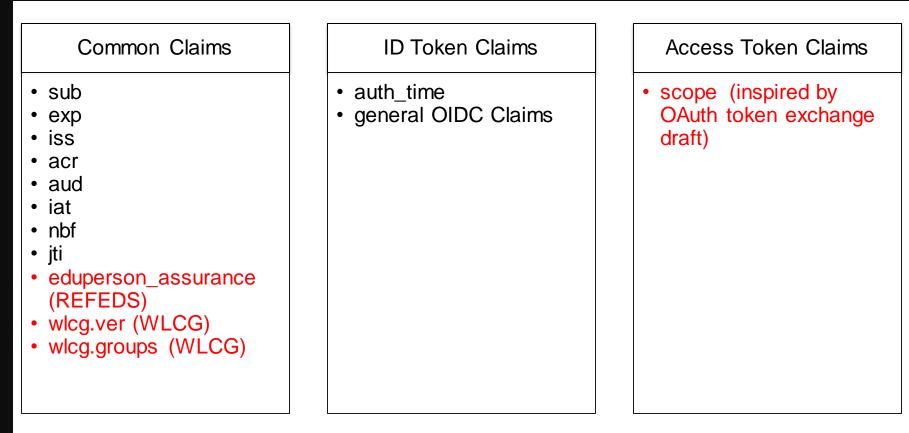


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https://zenodo.org/record/3460258



Token Claims





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Note: Where unspecified, the origin is RFC7519 or OpenID Connect core

Two forms of Authorization

Tokens Assert Group Membership

- Similar to VOMS Groups
- VOMS Roles are modeled as optional Groups

Tokens Assert Authorized Actions

- Called "Capabilities/scopes"
 - Specific ability to perform an action (optionally, at a specific path) e.g. storage.create /dir-1/dir-2/my-file (under the root directory of the given VO)

Capabilities are used by SciTokens (a sub-schema of WLCG Schema)





HPC Integration

- HPC centers would need to accept WLCG OAuth2 bearer tokens for authorization
 - Trust the few, closely guarded WLCG Token issuers
 - Support authorization mechanisms through groups and/or capabilities



 Possibly depending on the timescale, while not every supported VO has switched to tokens: support VOMS authorization as being used today

Questions?



WLCG AuthZ WG