

The privacy risks and rewards of distributed identity

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Overview

- What is distributed identity?
- Case study – Reach
- Case study - Liberty
- Privacy issues and privacy management



Distributed identity

- “Distributed identity is any identity management system which acts as an alternative to a national ID regime or the consolidation of government or sectoral data sets.”
- Examples:
 - » Standards
 - » Federated identity
 - » Identity broking
 - » Gateway services
- Claimed benefits:
 - » Security – ID fraud/theft and unauthorised access
 - » Convenience – single sign on or federated sign on
 - » Validation – signing of key documents (eg qualifications)
 - » Privacy? – setting privacy profiles, attribute broking and pseudonymity



Case study - Reach

- Reach is the Irish model for a single access system for related services (initially public sector)
- Users are given discretion over disclosure of personal information (via a Public Services Broker) to individual or multiple agencies
- The Public Services Broker is a trusted third party and maintains audit logs of access etc.
- Reach operates through the use of a smart card carrying a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN) protected by a PIN
- www.reach.ie



Case study - Liberty

- Liberty is a global standard for federated identity – personal information remains in the hands of the original collector and is shared amongst providers who comply with the standard
- Data does not have to be consolidated into a single database
- Additional Liberty services include:
 - » Affiliation – the ability to federate with a particular group of affiliated sites
 - » Anonymity – the ability to supply certain attributes without disclosing user identities
- Potential for use in discrete ‘communities’:
 - » Financial services
 - » Education
 - » Health
 - » Online government



‘Whole of Sector’ identity management

Australian initiatives:

- Education
 - » Unique client identifier
 - » Higher Education Identity Management System
 - » Skills Passport
- Health
 - » Electronic health identifier
- Government
 - » State based digital certificate developments
 - » National electronic authentication developments
 - » Ellison proposals



Privacy management

- Design
 - » Privacy Impact Assessments
 - Help to determine best options
 - Can also assist in design choices within each selected option
 - Must include consideration of rejecting the entire initiative
- Implementation
 - » Privacy Management Strategies
 - Allocate tasks, responsibilities and timelines
- Ongoing
 - » Privacy oversight, audits and review