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Access management – an introduction to the vision and the issues

keynote Item

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Access management – an introduction to the vision and the issues

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Outline of talk

- The vision
- The context
- The building blocks
- Some obstacles
- The JISC 06/02 projects
- The JISC service specification
- The issues
- The vision again – what the user gets

The vision

- Simple searching
- Improved access
- Security for sensitive data
- Privacy for individuals
- Resource sharing
- A national scheme
- Access any time anywhere

The context

- Increased user mobility
- Demand for 24x7 services
- Shared work practices (study, teaching, research)
- eScience and the Research Grid
- HE/NHS collaboration
- Research Support Libraries Group (imminent report and recommendations)

The building blocks

- JISC's Information Environment
- E-content services and digitisation projects
- ATHENS service
- Cross-catalogue search facilities
- Walk-in reference access library schemes
- Reciprocal library borrowing schemes
- UK Computing Plus
- Portals and integration technologies

Some obstacles

- Fear of swamping
- Local demand for library and PC facilities
- Supplier restrictions on access
- Security inadequacies
- Lack of consistency
- Complexity of licence deals

The JISC 06/02 projects

- Recognised need for next step in access management
- 10 projects selected to investigate better methods for the three As:
 - Authentication
 - Authorisation
 - Accounting

The JISC service specification

- ATHENS contract ends 31 July 2003
- Successor production service sought for 3-5 years from August 2003
- Tenders to address:
- Registration and identity management
- Authentication and authorisation
- Accounting and administration
- Standards and service levels

The issues (1)

- Simplicity: for both users and administrators of the successful scheme
- Security: to be appropriate for purpose(s)
- Privacy: information about the individual user to be protected
- Audit trail capability
- Avoidance of single point of failure

The issues (2)

- Wide adoption, especially by information providers
- Interoperability with existing HE/FE infrastructures
- Appropriate separation/interaction of authentication and authorisation
- National v institutional roles in the service

The issues (3)

- Complexity of user attributes
- Trust – with minimum intrusiveness
- Potential clash between security and usability
- Scalability

The vision again: what the user gets

- Single password, signs on only once
- Accesses all relevant and authorised information sources
- Can wear any number of authorised hats
- Can expect appropriate level of data security
- Can access relevant and authorised information from anywhere at any time