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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