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Identity Management to Support Hybrid Cloud Environment - Lessons Learnt at The Technische Universität München And The Leibniz Supercomputing Centre

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Abstract:

Nowadays Higher Education Institutions need to respond quickly to the requirements of their users. For this lightweight IT architectures are the instrument of choice, also in terms of Cloud Computing. At the Technische Universität München (TUM) we have already gained experience with this kind of IT-Services. One of our major IT service providers, the Leibniz Supercomputing Centre, is offering various kinds of Cloud services to the Bavarian research community like computing services, network facilities or email as a service.

Our exertions at TUM's IT Management focus on offering well integrated IT services to our users. For this, it is vital that our users do not experience any break in the IT usage. Therefore, Identity and Access Management (IAM) plays a vital role. It is its mission to offer appropriate technical means to support the smooth integration of all different kind of applications and services. At EUNIS 2008 we have already presented some of our IAM's technical backbone. In this article we concentrate on the lessons learnt in establishing a comprehensive IAM infrastructure.

For this, we present our IAM landscape consisting of various modules to support the manifold requirements of a Hybrid Cloud environment. These modules are provisioning, authentication and authorization services and Federated Identity Management. Afterwards, we discuss the pros and cons of every module. This discussion includes amongst others maintenance efforts, usability, and reusability or security issues. Then, we outline our future plans to integrated more specific user types like administrative roles within our IAM concept.