



Maintaining a sustainable Future for IT in Higher Education

Wednesday 15th June 2011

Time: 12:00 - 12:30

Yes, I am a Student. Give me a Discount!

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Abstract:

We need to authenticate and verify our staff and students, and how do we do it, and why? The obvious is to allow users to interact with our network and systems. We use user/password techniques or SmartCards with PIN-code or whatever technology to let legitimate users use the institutions resources. But if we want to let others know that the user is a staff or a student at an institution (verification), how do we do it then? The traditional way is to allow other organisations or individuals to check with our student or staff registrar office if the person is a student/staff or not. This is a cumbersome activity for the institution. It takes staff time to fulfil the inquiry and the institution may also have doubts if they can or should give this information away. But what do we do if we want to have this service for students and staff, to give them benefits such as discounts and advantages, to be connected to the institution? We have to verify for the supplier that the person who is claiming to be a student or staff really is that. And it has to be in a context that is reliable and available and cost effective. In short, it is a matter of trust. This is the story of the E-service "True Student", defined in the e-me research project and deployed as an e-service at the University of Umea as the "Give Permission".