

Deploying web user authentication with Shibboleth

Sören Preibusch

Then said they unto him, Say now Shibboleth:
and he said Shibboleth



Shibboleth

raven: Elise Øygaard

Agenda

1

what, why, when: Shibboleth basics

2

how: Interaction scenarios

3

who: privacy issues

4

whoops: pitfalls and hints

What is Shibboleth?

- The Shibboleth System is a
 - ▬ standards based,
 - ▬ open source software package
 - ▬ for web single sign-on
 - ▬ across or within organizational boundaries.
- It allows sites to make
 - ▬ informed authorization decisions
 - ▬ for individual access of protected online resources
 - ▬ in a privacy-preserving manner.



Shibboleth[®]

<http://shibboleth.internet2.edu/about.html>

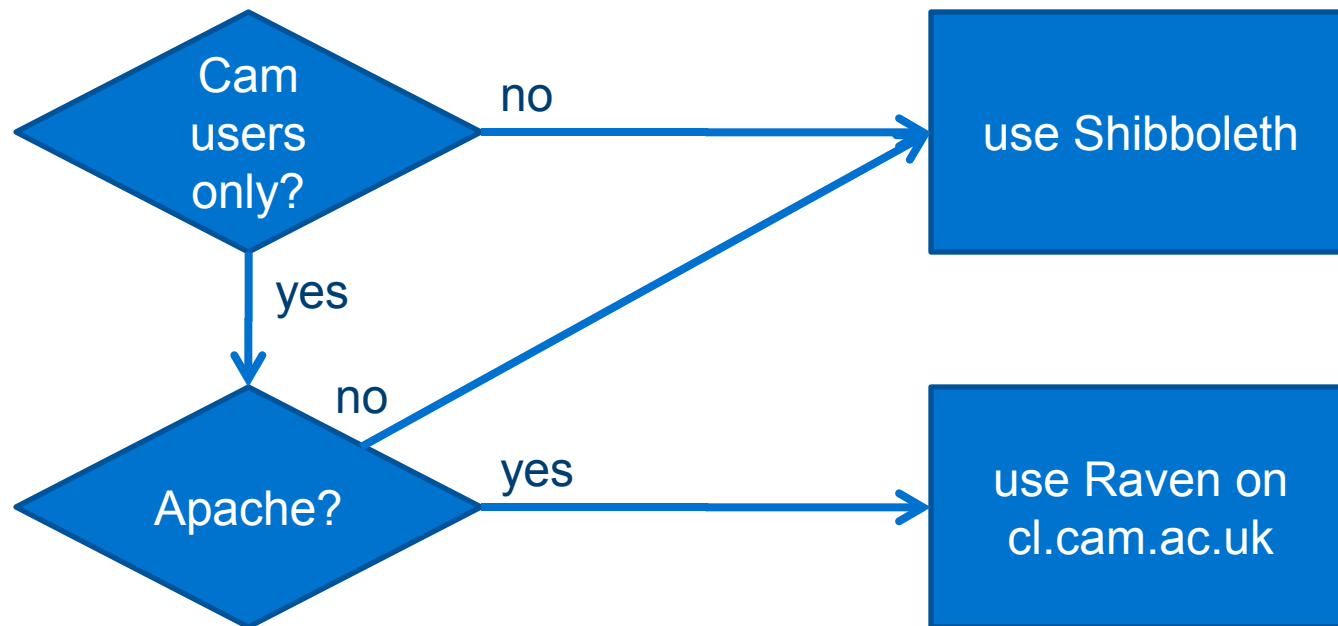
Shibboleth in practice

- Authentication and authorisation system for Web resources
- Similar to **Raven**, but
 - ▬ standardised
 - ▬ globally cross-organisational
 - ▬ successor to Athens (funding stopped June 2008)
 - ▬ perceivedly slower
- cf. eduroam



Why and when

- authenticate people – not IP addresses
- do not proliferate authentication systems



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Example: Shibboleth authentication (1)

The screenshot displays the EDINA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Help & Support', 'About', 'Feedback', 'Contact', and 'Site Map', along with a search box. The EDINA logo is prominently featured, accompanied by the tagline 'providing resources for staff and students in higher and further education in the UK and beyond'. Below the logo, there are dropdown menus for 'Services' and 'Projects'. The main content area is organized into three columns of service categories: 'Reading & Reference', 'Maps & Data', and 'Multimedia & Education'. Each category includes a list of specific services and links. A right-hand sidebar contains a 'News, Training & Events' section with recent updates and a 'Quarterly Newsletter' link. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Ways to contribute online', 'Our projects and middleware', and 'For library and support staff'. The JISC logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

Help & Support | About | Feedback | Contact | Site Map | Search Site: Go

EDINA[®] providing resources for staff and students in higher and further education in the UK and beyond

Services Go Projects Go

- Reading & Reference
 - Article References
 - CAB Abstracts
 - Land Life Leisure
 - Journal Catalogues
 - SUNCAT (UK)
 - SALSER (Scottish)
 - E-books
 - The Statistical Accounts of Scotland
 - Deposit Academic Papers
 - the Depot
- Maps & Data
 - Geo-data Portal
 - Go-Geol
 - Maps & Datasets
 - Digimap - Ordnance Survey
 - Geology Digimap
 - Historic Digimap
 - Marine Digimap
 - UKBORDERS
 - Agricultural Census Data
 - agcensus
 - Deposit Data
 - ShareGeo facility
- Multimedia & Education
 - Film, Images & Sound
 - Education Image Gallery
 - Film & Sound Online
 - NewsFilm Online
 - Learning Materials
 - Jorum User
 - Deposit Learning Materials
 - Jorum Contributor

= open to all What services can I use?

EDINA is a JISC National Data Centre based at the University of Edinburgh | Accessibility | Acknowledgements

JISC

Example: Shibboleth authentication (2)

The screenshot shows the EDINA Digimap Collections website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Help & Support, About, Feedback, Contact, Site Map, and a search box. The main header is blue with the text "Digimap Collections". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: EDINA > Digimap Collections".

The main content area is titled "Login to Digimap Collections" and includes the following text: "Online maps and spatial data of Great Britain for UK HE and FE." Below this is a "Login" button with a right-pointing arrow, followed by the text "via UK federation. [info]". There are also links for "To which Digimap Collections does your institution subscribe?" and "Having trouble logging in?".

A notice states: "Digimap will be making use of the 'at risk' period between 17.30 and 20.00 hours on Tuesday 26th May. All Digimap collections will be unavailable between these times. We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

Logos for partner organizations are displayed: Ordnance Survey, LANDMARK Information Group, OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium, Inc.), SeaZone, and British Geological Survey (NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL).

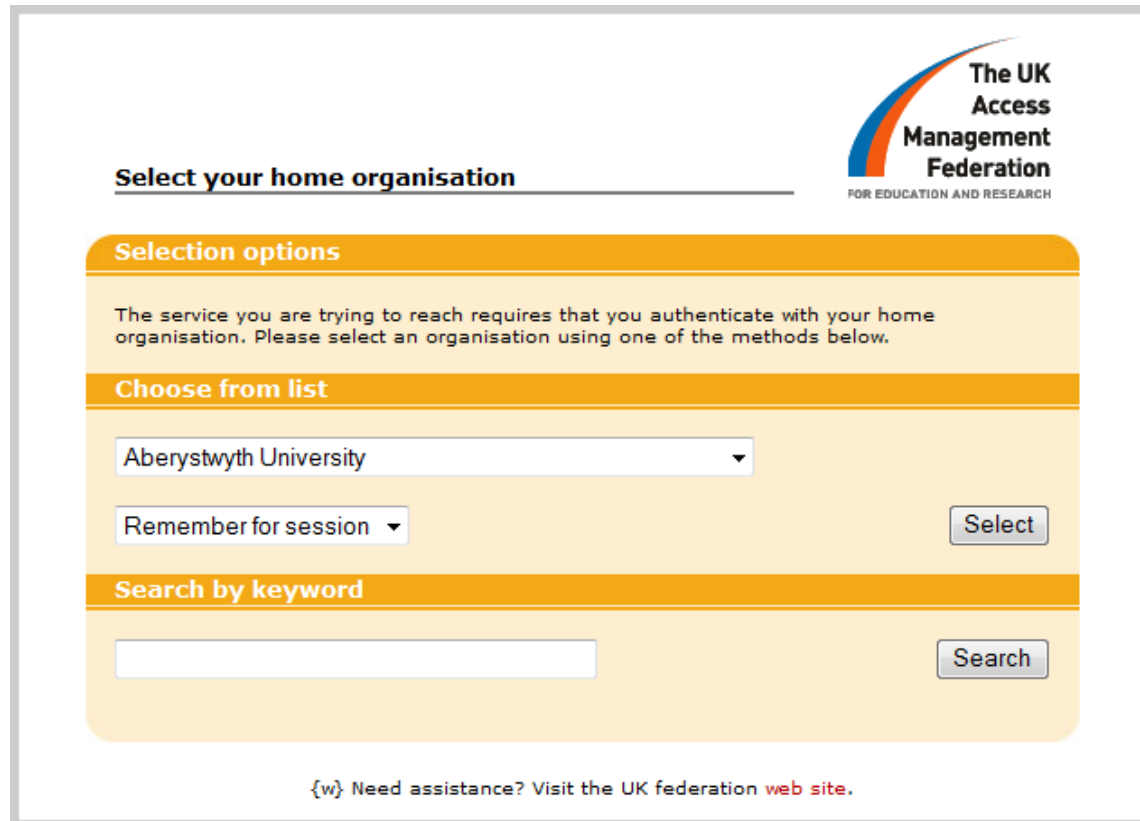
On the left, a "Digimap Collections Menu" is visible with items: Login, Description, Access & Subscription, Help & Support, and EDINA News & Events. Below the menu is the text "For Library & Support Staff".

On the right, a "Related Links" section includes "Maps & Data" and links to agcensus, UKBORDERS, Go-Geo!, and Digimap Blog. Below that is a "Digimap News" section with the heading "Check out ShareGeo!" and text describing the facility, along with a link for more information.

At the bottom, a footer contains the text: "EDINA is a JISC National Data Centre based at the University of Edinburgh | Accessibility | Acknowledgements" and the JISC logo.

invitation to login

Example: Shibboleth authentication (3)



The UK Access Management Federation
FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Select your home organisation

Selection options

The service you are trying to reach requires that you authenticate with your home organisation. Please select an organisation using one of the methods below.

Choose from list

Aberystwyth University ▼

Remember for session ▼


Search by keyword

{w} Need assistance? Visit the UK federation [web site](#).

[https://wayf.ukfederation.org.uk/shibboleth-wayf/...](https://wayf.ukfederation.org.uk/shibboleth-wayf/)


Example: Shibboleth authentication (4)

[help](#)

 UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Raven Authentication Service

University of Cambridge > Computing Service > Raven



RAVEN

The web resource you requested requires you to identify yourself [\[help - why am I seeing this?\]](#). This resource calls itself '**the Raven/Shibboleth authentication server**' and is provided by the website `shib.raven.cam.ac.uk`. You should only proceed if you are happy to be identified to this site.

User-id:

Password:

override login options for this session?

[\[help\]](#)

Always quit your web browser when you have finished accessing services that require authentication. Do not disclose your Raven password to anyone and only enter it on web pages with URLs that start `https://raven.cam.ac.uk/`. Please report attempts to obtain your password by other means.


UCS

The Raven web authentication system is provided and managed by the [University Computing Service](#).
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<https://raven.cam.ac.uk/auth/authenticate.html?...>


Example: Shibboleth authentication (5)

[help](#)

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Raven Authentication Service

University of Cambridge > Computing Service > Raven



Information Release

I agree to the following information being disclosed to 'EDINA: Digimap (live)' both now and when I access this site in the future.

eduPerson Principal Name: sdp36@cam.ac.uk

Anonymous identifier: Lmju6PfXZg1TM2zeOBEURCv2rtI=@cam.ac.uk

Status: member@cam.ac.uk
member@eresources.lib.cam.ac.uk

Entitlement: urn:mace:dir:entitlement:common-lib-terms

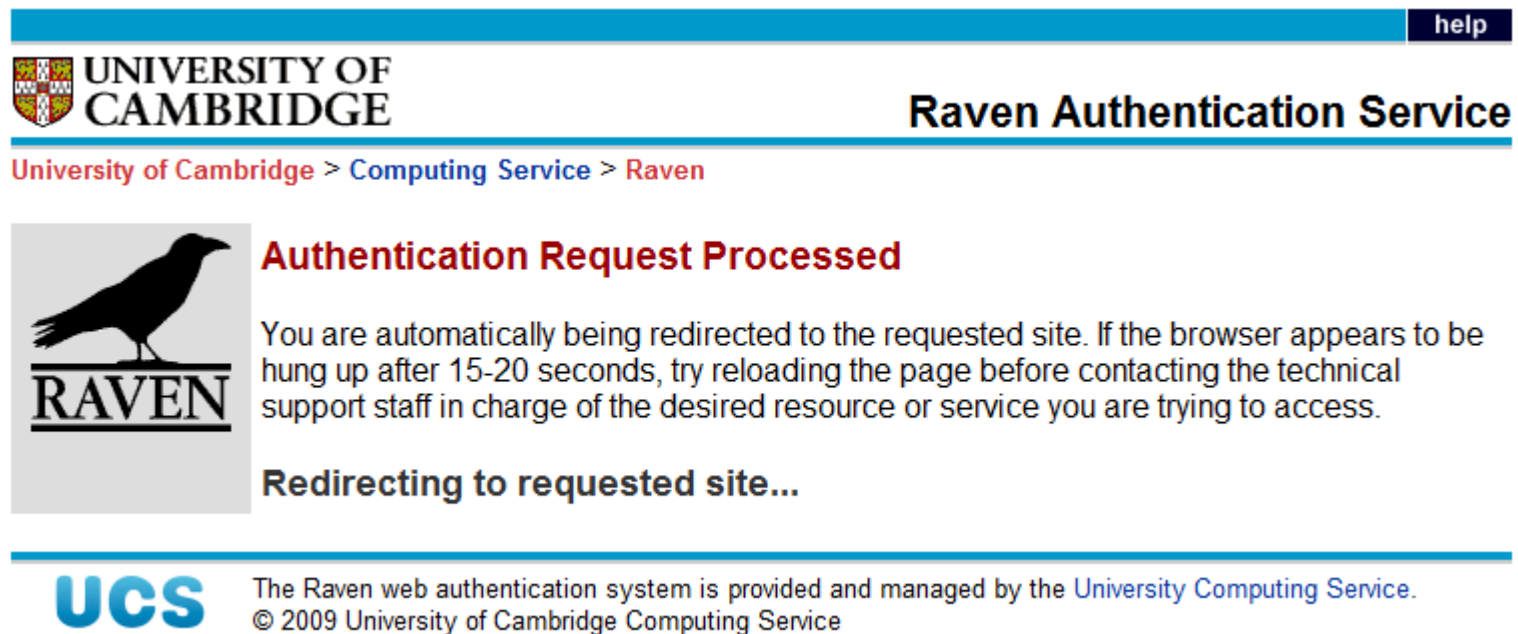
[\[help\]](#)



The Raven web authentication system is provided and managed by the [University Computing Service](#).
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<https://shib.raven.cam.ac.uk/arpviewer/...>

Example: Shibboleth authentication (6)




The screenshot shows the Raven Authentication Service interface. At the top right is a 'help' button. The University of Cambridge logo and name are on the left, and the service title 'Raven Authentication Service' is on the right. A breadcrumb trail reads 'University of Cambridge > Computing Service > Raven'. Below this is a large grey box containing a raven logo and the text 'Authentication Request Processed'. The text explains that the user is being redirected and provides instructions on what to do if the browser hangs. Below the main text is the status 'Redirecting to requested site...'. At the bottom left is the UCS logo, and to its right is a footer with copyright information.

help

 UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Raven Authentication Service

University of Cambridge > Computing Service > Raven

 **Authentication Request Processed**

You are automatically being redirected to the requested site. If the browser appears to be hung up after 15-20 seconds, try reloading the page before contacting the technical support staff in charge of the desired resource or service you are trying to access.

Redirecting to requested site...

UCS The Raven web authentication system is provided and managed by the [University Computing Service](#).
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<https://shib.raven.cam.ac.uk/shibboleth-idp/...>

Example: Shibboleth authentication (7)

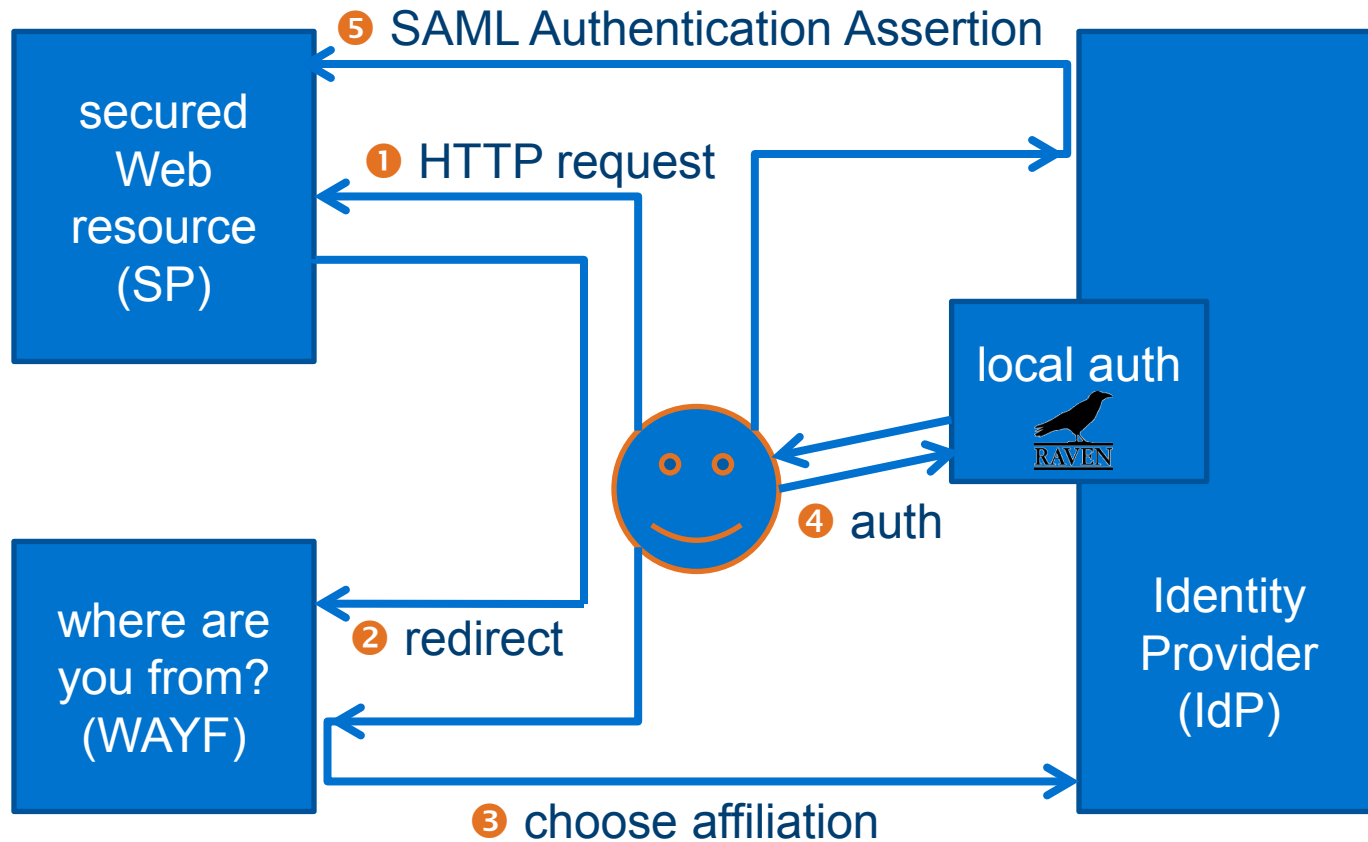
The screenshot shows the Digimap website interface. At the top left is the Digimap logo, and at the top right is the EDINA logo with a "Log-Out" link. The main content is organized into several sections:

- TODAY'S MESSAGES:**
 - Licence Numbers:** A message explaining that users are asked for a "Digimap Licence Number" and should use their institution's OS Educational Copyright Licence number. A link to a blog post is provided.
 - Digimap Blog** and **Digimap News** links.
 - Check out ShareGeo!** A message about ShareGeo as a new geospatial data repository where users can add their own datasets for sharing.
- Map and Data Collections:**
 - Ordnance Survey Collection †**: Contemporary Ordnance Survey maps and map data. Includes a "More information" link.
 - Historic Digimap †**: Historical Ordnance Survey maps from 1843 to 1996. Includes a "More information" link.
 - Geology Digimap †**: Current British Geological Survey map data and Lexicon of named Rock Units. Includes a "More information" link.
 - Marine Digimap †**: Hydrographic and marine data from SeaZone Solutions Ltd. Includes a "More information" link.
- Find and Share:**
 - Go-Geo! †**: Search for geospatial data, information and services. Includes a "More information" link.
 - ShareGeo (Beta) †**: Find, contribute and share geospatial data with others. Includes a "More information" link.
 - GeoDoc †**: Create geospatial metadata for publication in Go-Geo!.
- Tools/Developer's Area:**
 - A message stating: "This is a new area which will be available in the near future. In the meantime, find out about the GeoCrossWalk gazetteer and Digimap mapping APIs in the Ordnance Survey Collection. Separate registration will be required in order to use these."

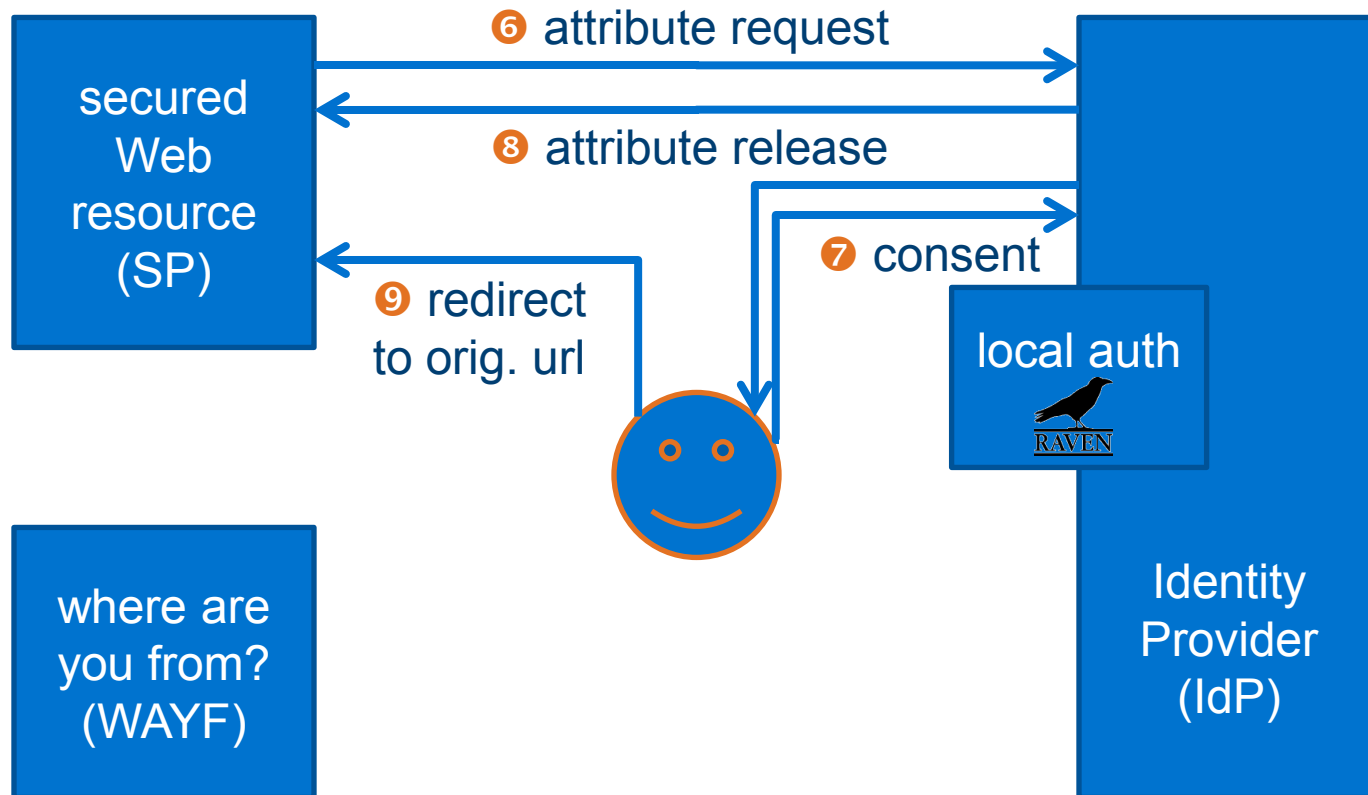
At the bottom, there is a JISC logo with the text "JISC † JISC funded † JISC supported". The footer of the page reads "© University of Edinburgh."

<http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/>

Shibboleth interaction revisited: authentication



Shibboleth interaction revisited: authorisation



Jon Warbrick

Scaling up

- **rôle-based** authorisation (e.g. member@cam.ac.uk)
- **federations** for institutional trust (e.g. UK Federation)

- IdPs and SPs agree on
 - ▬ trust (authentication)
 - ▬ attribute semantics (authorisation)

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Attribute release

- SPs may communicate needed attributes
- attribute release governed by IdP
- IdP may favour some federations (e.g. Raven / Ucam Federation)
- user has **take-it-or-leave-it** choice

- pseudonyms (RBAC) and identities (only one at a time)

UK federation core attributes

I agree to the following information being disclosed to 'EDINA: D...
and when I access this site in the future

eduPerson Principal Name:	sdp36@cam.ac.uk
Anonymous identifier:	Lmju6PfXZg1TM2zeOBEURCv2rtI=@cam.ac.uk
Status:	member@cam.ac.uk member@eresources.lib.cam.ac.uk
Entitlement:	urn:mace:dir:entitlement:common-lib-terms

[\[help\]](#)



Ucam federation attribute release

Shib-Application-ID: default
Shib-Session-ID: _c0582d05b229d54d085a14fb74ee1003
Shib-Identity-Provider: https://shib.raven.cam.ac.uk/shibboleth
Shib-Authentication-Instant: 2009-05-18T11:36:59.165Z
Shib-Authentication-Method: urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:am:unspecified
Shib-AuthnContext-Class: urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:1.0:am:unspecified
affiliation: member@cam.ac.uk;member@eresources.lib.cam.ac.uk
cn: S.D. Preibusch
displayName: Sören Preibusch
entitlement: urn:mace:dir:entitlement:common-lib-terms
epn: sdp36@cam.ac.uk
instID: CL
jdInst: CL
mail: sdp36@cam.ac.uk
mailAlternative: Soren.Preibusch@cl.cam.ac.uk
misAffiliation: student
ou: Computer Laboratory
persistent-id: https://shib.raven.cam.ac.uk/shibboleth!https://elbe.ad.cl.cam.ac.uk/local-only!/K48zwTsLnLfwAKBerFuV597VKs=
sn: Preibusch
targeted-id: /K48zwTsLnLfwAKBerFuV597VKs=@cam.ac.uk
telephoneNumber: 63668 (Computer Laboratory office)
remote-user: sdp36@cam.ac.uk

lookup.cam.ac.uk

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the Cake Survey

Cake Feedback

Dear DTG member,

Please help us to improve our Monday cake supply for the upcoming term by completing the short questionnaire below.

In kind appreciation of your cooperation,
Sören & Usman

1. I am a regular participant of the DTG Monday meeting.

- yes
 no

... and of the Monday cake session.

- yes
 no

2. My preferred cake variety so far has been:

- chocolate cake
 double-chocolate cake
 triple-chocolate cake
 double-chocolate gateau
 cheese cake
 profiterole gateau
 lemon cake
 lemon-cheese cake
 Madeira party cake

3. Please indicate your satisfaction with the following supermarkets and bakeries from which we have sourced in the past:

- Asda
Fitzbillies
Sainsbury's
Tesco

We are also considering alternative suppliers:

- Aldi
Waitrose

4. I would like to see more regional specialities.

5. I suffer from allergies and incompatibilities.

6. I have dietary requirements.

7. I am a responsible consumer.

Shibboleth installation on IIS 7

- installing Raven on **IIS 7** will mess up the system
 - some non-default IIS modules needed
 - Shibboleth comes as binary installer, restart required
 - integrates as ISAPI module
 - SSL support optional
 - no interference with existing auth mechanisms
- ⇒ roughly hassle-free

Configuring Shibboleth

- XML configuration files, pre-configured by UCS
- Server details: `<Site id="1" name="elbe.ad.cl.cam.ac.uk"/>`
- Redirects: `<ApplicationDefaults id="default" policyId="default" entityID="https://elbe.ad.cl.cam.ac.uk/local-only/" homeURL="https://elbe.ad.cl.cam.ac.uk/local-only/" REMOTE_USER="eppn persistent-id targeted-id" signing="false" encryption="false">`
- SSL: `<Sessions handlerSSL="true"`
- miscellaneous metadata (contact information, ...)

Defining access control rules

```
<RequestMapper type="Native">
  <RequestMap applicationId="default">
    <Host name="elbe.ad.cl.cam.ac.uk">
      <Path name="local-only" authType="shibboleth" requireSession="true">
        <AccessControl>
          <!-- <Rule require="groupID">101065</Rule> -->
          <!-- <Rule require="instID">CL</Rule> -->
          <RuleRegex require="user">@cam.ac.uk$</RuleRegex>
        </AccessControl>
      </Path>
    </Host>
  </RequestMap>
</RequestMapper>
```

Expressive language for access control rules

- individual enumerable users
`<Rule require="user">arb33@cam.ac.uk acr31@cam.ac.uk</Rule>`
- explicit rule disjunction
`<OR> <Rule ... /> <Rule ... /> </OR>`
- regular expressions:
`<RuleRegex require="user">@cam.ac.uk$</RuleRegex>`
- lookup.cam group membership
`<Rule require="groupID">100852</Rule>`
- lookup.cam institution membership
`<Rule require="instID">CS</Rule>`
- authentication only / optionally

Debugging is hard!

Joining the Ucam Federation

- Federation stores metadata about SP
- IdP displays SP-specific metadata during authentication
 - ≡ “I agree to the following information being disclosed to 'unknown Service Provider' ...”
- Advantages:
 - ≡ named SP
 - ≡ more attributes
 - ≡ hassle-free

Additional resources

- <https://wiki.csx.cam.ac.uk/raven/Raven/Shibboleth>
- raven-support@ucs.cam.ac.uk
- "cs-raven-discuss" mailing list
- <http://shibboleth.internet2.edu>

Thank you very much.

Questions and comments

are welcome and highly appreciated.

sdp36@cam.ac.uk