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Recent developments in Account Linking - ALISE

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Account linking may be usefule at different places in the AAI Architecture. Over the past years, we have seen account linking at the Community-AAI, where multiple Home-Organisation logins may be used to log in to a single account at the Community. This typically allows linking attributes of services such as ORCID or Google. More recently this type of account linking is being integrated in an additional proxy above the Community-AAI. These additional proxies are known as "national Edu-ID". They aim to support researcher mobility by allowing links to several different, sometimes international, Home Organistions.

To complement these early (or northbound) linkings, we have designed and implemented a system for late (or southbound) linking of accounts. Our use case are users, that authenticate with their federated identity to a modern service inside a particular computer centre. Computer centres are often reluctant to invest early into new AAI systems. Their Unix-based infrastructure (HPC Clusters, Filesystems) therefore do not support federated identities. To allow our modern service to use this infrastructure for federated users, we need to know to which Unix account the federated user will be mapped, when logging in with an account local to the computer centre.

ALISE, the Account LIkning SErvice, does exactly that. The web interface asks the user to log in with the computer centre account. Once authenticated, federated identities my be linked to the computer centre account. The linkage information may be accessed via a REST API, so that our modern service may use this information.

The initial setup is working for the VEGA HPC Centre in Slovenia, where an instance of dCache needs to utilise local storage to read or write data, that a VEGA HPC user owns.

Topic

Trust and Security: Access control

Primary author: Dr HARDT, Marcus (KIT-G)

Co-authors: GUDU, Diana (KIT); ZACHMANN, Gabriel (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology); MILLAR, Paul (DESY)

Presenter: Dr HARDT, Marcus (KIT-G)

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