Leveraging National Federated Identity Services

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About DRI (http://www.dri.ie/)

- DRI is an interactive trusted digital repository for contemporary and historical, social and cultural data held by Irish institutions
- Exchequer funded; HEA PRTLI 5, €5.2M
- RIA (lead), NUIM, TCD, DIT, NUI Galway, NCAD
- Partners: academic, cultural, social, government
- Duration - Sep 2011 – Sep 2015
Vision

DRI links and preserves the rich data held by Irish institutions, providing a central internet **access** point, and **interactive** multimedia tools, for use by the public, **students** and **scholars**.
Goals

• Reduce administrative overhead
• Store as little personal information as possible
• Access control decisions
  o Institution, role (staff, student, alumni)
• Personalization
  ▪ Saved searches, bookmarks
• For users:
  o One less password
  o Simplifies registration
Edugate

- Federated access management system
  - SAML federation
    - IdP – authenticates users
    - SP – authorizes users based on IdP information
- Service provided by HEAnet
  - Ireland’s research and education network
- Allow users to access Edugate enabled services using credentials issued by their institution

Source: edugate.ie
Implementation

- **Application host**
  - Apache
  - Shibboleth SP (shibd + mod_shib)
  - Rails application

- **Local test IdP**
  - Useful for development
  - User accounts in LDAP
Implementation

- Ruby on Rails
- Devise
  - Authentication solution
- Omniauth
  - Multi-provider authentication
  - Implemented as strategies, e.g.
    - Facebook
    - Twitter
- Omniauth Shibboleth
  - SAML strategy
Please log in with your TCD username and Network Login Password

The provider of your service (shown below) is requesting that you authenticate with your Trinity College Dublin compute ID to this Identity Provider service for this authentication.

Service Provider: The Digital Repository of Ireland

Username: 
Password: 
Login
Welcome

The Digital Repository of Ireland is the national trusted digital repository for Ireland’s social and cultural data. On this site, you can browse and search both contemporary and historical collections from one location. We hope you enjoy your visit.

› Visit the DRI Project Website
Summary

• Adding Shibboleth to application
  o Straightforward, plenty of examples
• Registering with Edugate
  o Straightforward, once policies and agreements in place
• Configuring Shibboleth
  o Difficult
  o Documentation and tutorials available but still complicated
• Agreed standardised set of attributes
  o But not always available
• Goals?