User-Managed Access (UMA)

Kantara UMA Work Group
http://tinyurl.com/umawg

This presentation aims to whet your appetite for solving truly interesting and challenging problems of privacy-enabled data-sharing, by introducing you to the new User-Managed Access technology.
This quote from Ann Cavoukian perfectly captures the aspirations of many of us who have been working at the nexus of self-determination, identity, privacy, online data-sharing, and trust. What many people mean when they say “quickly determine” is to “quickly find out” – to “be disclosed to”. With our work on User-Managed Access, we’re trying to expand it to mean to “quickly control” – to “have an effect on”. This is a big leap. It’s not easy, but we’ve made a lot of progress.
Today we see individuals sharing data with themselves, so to speak, by connecting two applications that operate on the same person’s behalf. For example, Twitter enables this when you allow third-party applications like Backupify or Tweetizen to do things with your Twitter stream. It uses OAuth to accomplish this.

We also see people sharing things like calendars and photo albums selectively with friends by having the web app email so-called private URLs to these people. This is effective, but not very secure.

We need a unified way to **securely and meaningfully control**, and get a **global view** on, sharing in all these cases – and more, including sharing with organizations such as health care providers and e-commerce companies. UMA does this by building on top of the OAuth technology already in wide use.
A team at Newcastle University has deployed a beta version of an UMA-compliant authorization manager at SMARTAM.net. It works with a corresponding set of UMA-compliant host and requester applications. You can store photos at a site called gallerify.me but control their access over at SMARTAM.net. You can require that requesting parties prove who they are, and you can also require them to agree to your photo licensing terms before they get access. The Newcastle University team has begun to open-source their UMA implementation.
In a nutshell, UMA is...

- A web protocol that lets you control authorization of data sharing and service access
- A Work Group of the Kantara Initiative that is free for anyone to join and contribute to
- A set of draft specifications that is free for anyone to implement
- Undergoing multiple implementation efforts
- Slated to be contributed to the IETF shortly
- Striving to be simple, OAuth-based, identifier-agnostic, RESTful, modular, generative, and developed rapidly
Thank you

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If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with the group chair, Eve Maler, at eve@xmlgrrl.com.