SWITCHtoolbox and Group Management Tool

Light weight group management, access control and authorization





SWITCHaai Team aai@switch.ch

Agenda

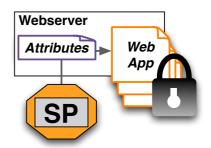
- The problem statement
- Two major cases
 - common attribute value(s) exists
 - no common attribute value(s) exists
- Two solutions
 - Introduce a common attribute value
 - Still no common attribute
 - Manage the group 'by hand'
 - Manage it with 'Group Management Tool' or 'Toolbox'

Situation

- Grant access to a specific group of people
- All users have an AAI account
- Overhead for group administration should be small

Real life example:

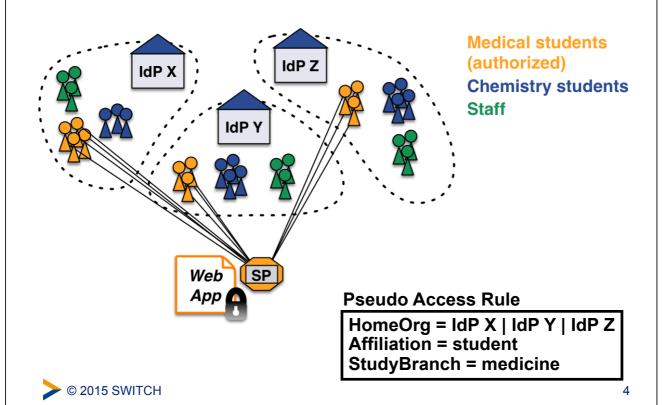
The slides of this workshop shall only be accessible by all people who attended the workshop.



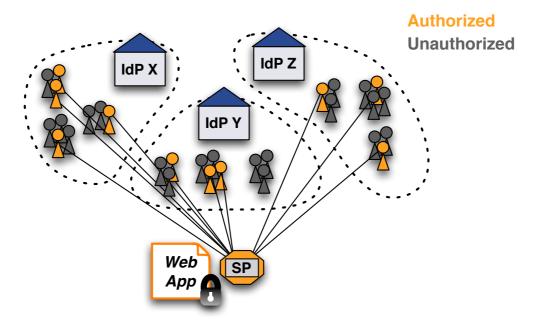
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Case 1: Users share common attributes



Case 2: No common user attributes



Without a shared user attribute, no simple access control rule can be created



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Solution 1: Create a common attribute

Add a common attribute to user's identity, e.g. an entitlement attribute

Pseudo Access Rule

Require entitlement urn:mace:rediris.es:entitlement:wiki:jra5

- Very simple solution
- Additional work for user directory administrator
 - Difficult to efficiently manage many entitlement values
 - Only IdP admin can manage access
 - Only works for users from same organisation

Solution 2.a: Use uniqueIDs or email

- Get unique IDs or email addresses from users
- Create access rules like:

Note: Email address is less suited, it might get reassigned!

Pseudo Access Rule

require uniqueID 465@idpx.ch 234@idpy.ch [...] require email hans.muster@idpx.ch pierre.m@idpz.ch [...]

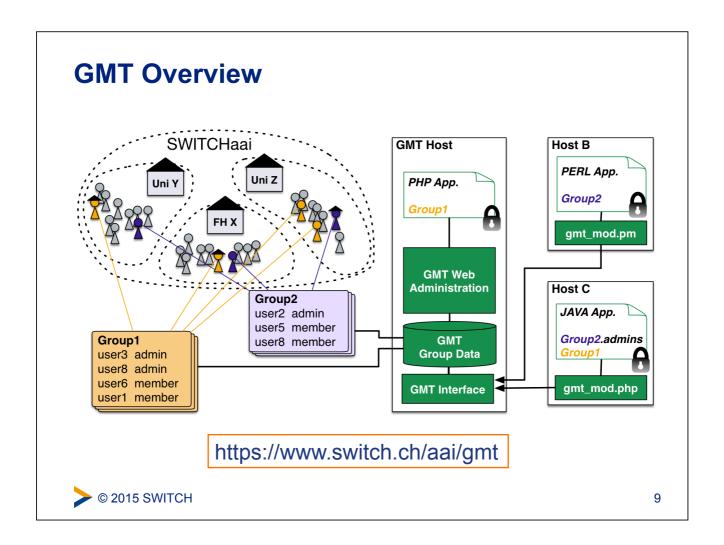
- Straight-forward solution
- SP administrator must know unique ID/email address
 - Difficult to efficiently manage for many users/apps
 - Only the SP admin can manage access

Solution 2.b: Group Management Tool

- Web based open source PHP tool developed by SWITCH
- Manages multiple groups to protect multiple applications
- Users can be:
 - invited to a group via email
 - added to a group with a shared group password
 - added to a group based on their attributes
 - moderated after they request to join a group
- GMT generates authorization files (for Apache and Shibboleth SP)
 - this option only works on the same host as the GMT
- API and libraries for authorization on remote hosts

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GMT Administration Interface

SWITCH Group Management Tool

Administration Interface



Group ExportGroup	Members	Authorization Files Add	Actions		
	3		Manage	Settings	Remove
OLAT	2	Add	Manage	Settings	Remove
Test Group 1	2	Manage 1 files	Manage	Settings	Remove
Test Group 2	3	Add	Manage	Settings	Remove
Test Group 3	2	Manage 1 files	Manage	Settings	Remove
Registered Users	6	Add	Manage	Settings	
Pending User Requests	3	-	Manage	-	
Pending Invitation Tokens	5	-	Manage	-	

© 2008 SWITCH GMT V1.1

Logged in as: Lukas Hämmerle (Global Administrator role class)



GMT Authorization File Example

- Multiple groups can write to same authorization file
- Example of an .htaccess file

```
# Group Management Tool: Apache Authorization File
# DON'T EDIT LINES THAT CONTAIN ###
# AND ALSO DON'T REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TWO DIRECTIVES
AuthType shibboleth
ShibRequireSession On

require placeholder never.match

###START:Test_Group_1###
require uniqueID 023sdf-345fdg-23401@unizh.ch
require uniqueID 3141324sdd592@ethz.ch
###END:Test_Group_1###
```



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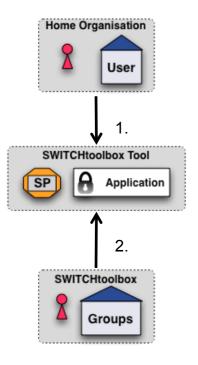
Solution 2.c: SWITCHtoolbox

- Service Provider aggregates:
 - identity information from users's IdP
 - group information from SWITCHtoolbox IdP
- Application receives group membership information like any other Shibboleth attribute
- Everybody can create groups
- Allows easy access control rules

Pseudo Access Rule

require isMemberOf https://toolbox.switch.ch/mygroup







Add a Service as Tool

- SP needs only minor config changes to become a tool
- Tool can be public or private
 - Public tools can be subscribed/accessed by many different groups
- SWITCH offers these public tools:
 - Document Filing, Discussion Forum, Mailinglist, SWITCHinteract, SWITCHcast, Wiki

https://www.switch.ch/toolbox/



Summary

- GMT and SWITCHtoolbox are similar
- GMT has to be installed and maintained yourself
 - Allows customization
 - Suited for few groups with few users
 - Only protects applications on same host or requires libraries
- SWITCHtoolbox is a service offered by SWITCH
 - Allows easier integration of application
 - Can manage many of groups and sub groups of moderate size
 - No software libraries required to protect remote applications
 - Multilingual

https://www.switch.ch/aai/guides/sp/access-rules/

