

Attribute Aggregation

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The Tao of Attributes
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Define our terms

- aggregation is bringing attributes together, but why and how
- all attribute usage is aggregated in some sense, ie even if RP is self-contained it depends on processes to manage person data, often with no acknowledgement of "authority" ...
- aggregation today typically means multiple external authorities instead of just one
 - within this, several styles/cases

Aggregation style 1

- assembling attributes from multiple authorities into common store
 - any particular entry (principal?) may only have attrs from one source
- F/ERO example
- motivation: caching, simplifying, adding authority?
- "static"?

Aggregation style 2

- assembling attributes from multiple sources to support a particular application context
- many use cases
 - resource access based on multiple affiliations
 - researcher using licensed resource based on both faculty affiliation and IEEE membership
 - enterprise adding local decoration to federated account
- "dynamic"

Aggregation style 3

- reconciling conflicting values of attribute from multiple sources for single entry/principal
- supporting policies that require (or can be affected by) attributes from multiple authorities
 - if citizen == US, then if role == XX

Observations

- distinguish ...
granularity of multiple-source attribute interaction
 - per-database, per-principal, per-access decision
- ... from mode of acquisition/transmission
 - out-of-band processes among IdPs, SPs
 - in-band with signon
 - "user-managed" (see Kantara UMA WG)
 - ...
- modes of transmission imply control points
 - backend guys can munge the batch file ...