

Federated Identity within NMCI

Speaking Abstract

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Identity Federation has been described by The Burton Group as “the agreements, standards, and technologies that make identity and entitlements portable across autonomous domains”. As NMCI is involved in managing the connection of disparate divisions, Communities of Interests (COIs), and applications online, it must first be able to trust the external electronic identities of personnel that access their web sites. At the same time, their shared users need the convenience of being able to easily move from application-to-application across these multiple domains. Including real-world case studies, this session will describe how *federated identity* enables organizations to increase their ROI and share trusted identities across the boundaries of the NMCI network – with contractors, autonomous fleet departments and US Navy personnel, and the various COIs.

As digital identities are authenticated within this “circle of trust,” organizations can be assured that their enterprise resources are protected from unauthorized users. For users, the benefits include increased convenience and productivity, broader access to information and services, and control over what personal information is shared and with whom. In turn, an enhanced user experience can increase user satisfaction and loyalty. This can be further enabled by single sign-on (SSO), whereby an individual only needs to be authenticated once in order to move easily from application to application and domain to domain.

This session will also cover standards and industry organizations in support of federated identity including; SAML, an XML-based language that allows for web services to efficiently and securely exchange information about the authentication and access rights granted to a user or web service; the Liberty Alliance, a consortium of more than 150 companies that are working together on specifications for federated identity, SSO and web access management; and WS-Federation, a specification for federating security tokens.