

Notes from the Service Discovery Break-out session
EDUCAUSE Advanced Camp
June 19, 2008

We started our discussion with Roland Hedberg's EduRoam example. We talked about how one could discover the EduRoam service when at a foreign campus.

Tom Barton put forth the concept that there are Two basic scales:

- 1) Someday we will have 10-1,000 services available on a campus
- 2) Scholarly services to share interestin data

Mark Morgan –

- Uses define what discovery should be used...
- Many Name spaces you can query will have to co-exist.
- Implies different requirements and uses – for example: Describing the job might specify cost/memory/cpu requirements programmatically.

Mark McCahill – some services are ubiquitous and need to be provided – nce you know who you are we can provide a rich set of services.

It was decided that the EduRoam access service might not be a good example for this discussion.

It was decided it would be helpful to define what a Service Description would look like:

- What is the service?
- Where is it provided?
- How to call it
- capabilities
- cost
- requirements
- obligations
- operational context (security of physical machine – important especially when nations like Canada do not allow data to cross national borders)

There was discussion of licensing – compile vs runtime

Discussion of the 'What is the service' section:

Steve Masover – Users have no idea about what service they need or what to look for.

Rob Carter – How can we recognize that two services provide the same function? What if one service fails and we need to find another to replace it?

Mark Morgan – OGSA profile and service specification can help with this

Daniel Davis – Currently people use Google or other search engines to find services. UDDI does not work, instead you find the WSDL with google.

Tom – That is the current state -but can we make it better?

Ken Klingenstein – OASIS creating WG interoperable consent – consent service – Can a service be consent aware – this is important for Health care services.

Duffy Gillman – Promises, claims and consent relationships between humans as well as between humans and services.

Discussion of Directories:

- Would we have a single directory or an aggregation of directories?
- RNS – no single root node, each group could have a known root and others could use that to link to their entire set of services
- Is this so different from searching the internet for other resources?
- Could we have agreed upon common names?
- Light weight registration process to help provide a notion of authenticity
- Community-based service registries – much like the Gopher model

Discussion of Naming:

- RNS – all you need is an ENR to another's root
- SRV records – not widely accepted
- XRAS, iNames

Discussion of involving scholars:

- How to encourage scholars to participate and share data? Tenure? Culture-change
- Is there a distinction between data and services?
- Facebook for Scholars – place for scholars to link to services, rate services
- Popularity or “coolness factor” could help find services
- Need to lower pain threshold
- IBM's Many eyes given as an example - <http://services.alphaworks.ibm.com/manyeyes/home>