Privacy matters in directories

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Seville, June 21th 2007

Outline

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Defintions

¿Contradictions?. . .

According to D.R.A.E.

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Directory

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Privacy

1. f. Part of private life that a person has the right to protect form any kind of intrusion.

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Privacy

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Private

2. adj. Particular y personal of each individual.

3. adj. Something that is not a public or state property, but belongs to individuals.

Institutional mandate
that starts the problem

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that starts the problem

Public institutions must serve the public so they need to. . .

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Public institutions must serve the public so they need to...

- Offer information about themselves

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- Offer information about themselves
- Offer information about their members

Institutional mandate
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Public institutions must serve the public so they need to...

- Offer information about themselves
- Offer information about their members
- Collaborate amongst them

Users' needs

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Users want

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- To find others for communicating

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- To find others for communicating
- To be found by possible partners for projects

Users' needs

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- To be found by possible partners for projects

but they do not want

Users' needs

Users want

- To find others for communicating
- To be found by possible partners for projects

but they do not want

- their data exposed

Legal matters
in the problem

Legal matters
in the problem

- People's right to privacy

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in the problem

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  Persons have the right to conceal their data

Legal matters
in the problem

- People's right to privacy
  Persons have the right to conceal their data
- Internet searchable directories may be international transfers of personal data

Technical requirements
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- The directory should be accessed directly
- Enforce the policy regardless the access method.
- Different treatment for
  - Inside searches
  - Outside searches
- Reduce the administrative burden

Different approaches
for solving the problem

Different approaches
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- Lawyers approach

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Close the directory

Different approaches
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Close the directory

- Users approach

Different approaches
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- Users approach

  None

Different approaches
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- Technicians approach

Different approaches
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  Open the directory

Points to find a solution

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- Put control on the hands of the user

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- Put control on the hands of the user
- Policy is defined by the organization

Points to find a solution

- Put control on the hands of the user
- Policy is defined by the organization
- Abide by the law

Two sides of a coin

user side / server side

Two sides of a coin
user side / server side

- User side

Two sides of a coin
user side / server side

- User side
  The user must have control of her data

Two sides of a coin
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- Server side

Two sides of a coin
user side / server side

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  The user must have control of her data
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  The solution must work whichever the interface

The user decides about his data

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We need:

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We need:

- An interface for setting user preferences

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  We know what to do

The user decides about his data

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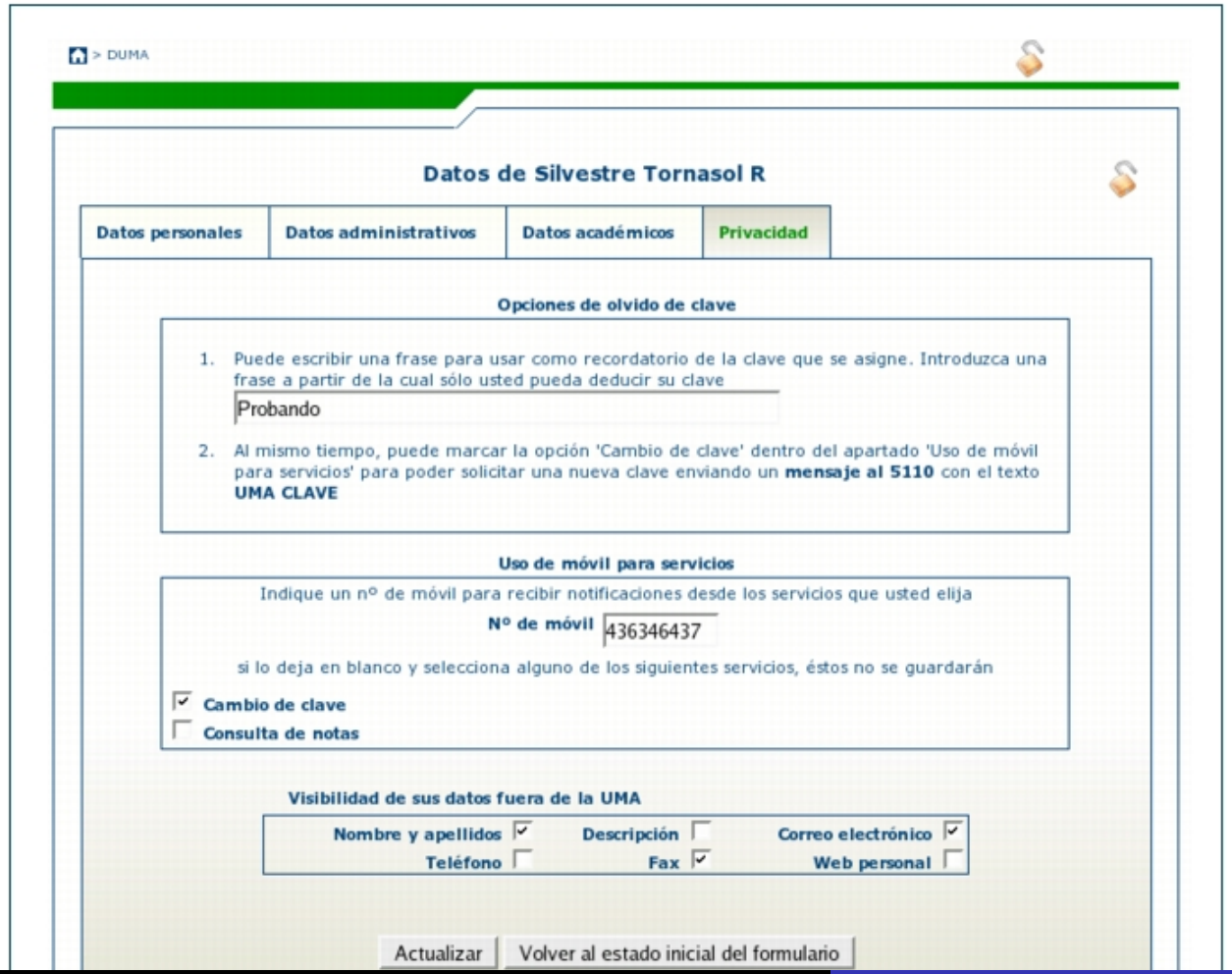
- An interface for setting user preferences
  We know what to do: design a nice web form

The user decides about his data

via a nice web form



The user decides about his data

We need:

- An interface for setting user preferences
  We know what to do: design a nice web form
- Directory attribute for holding the preferences

The user decides about his data

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irisUserPrivateAttribute

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schacUserPrivateAttribute

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because Europe likes the idea

The institution sets the policy

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- Policy enforcement whichever the interface

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- Policy enforcement whichever the interface
  Application level control is discarded

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- Policy enforcement at server level

The institution sets the policy

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  using OpenLDAP ACLs

Summary

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- Lawyers seem happy

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Summary

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- And it even

WORKS

and we will be pleased to show it to anyone willing to

Revealing our attributes

though in a partial and virtual way

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Definitions

LDAP, *Lightweigth Directory Access Protocol*

Source: Wikipedia.org

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- The present version is LDAPv3, defined in RFC 3377

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+ Free Open Source implementation of LDAP protocol.

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+ Free Open Source implementation of LDAP protocol.
+ The software is developed by the OpenLDAP Project and is distributed under its own license: *OpenLDAP Public License*.

Source: Wikipedia.org

Definitions

ACL, Access Control List

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+ Computer security concept used to enforce privilege separation.

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Definitions

ACL, Access Control List

- Computer security concept used to enforce privilege separation.
- It's a means of determining access rights to a certain object depending on certain characteristics of the process that makes the request, mainly the identity of the process user.

Source: Wikipedia.org

OpenLDAP ACLs I

Privacy policy for students

irisUserPrivateAttribute may have a value of *all* or may be empty, denying or allowing access to ALL optional attributes, defined in *attrs*. Actually, our present policy for student personal data, denies access to the whole entry.

Deny access to all attributes

```
access to dn.subtree="idnc=usr,dc=uma,dc=es"
        filter="(&(eduPersonAffiliation=student)
                  (irisUserPrivateAttribute=all))"
        attrs=entry
        by * none
```

OpenLDAP ACLs II

Privacy policy for students

If a student clears her irisUserPrivateAttribute, then the system allows access to the entry and, then, to the policy permitted attributes, so they may be shown.

Allow access to permited attributes

```
access to dn.subtree="idnc=usr,dc=uma,dc=es"
        filter="(eduPersonAffiliation=student)"
        attrs=entry,displayName,mail,telephoneNumber
        by * read
```

OpenLDAP ACLs III

Privacy policy for non students

The organization may decide that an entry should not appear in searches. Then irisUserPrivateAttribute receives the value *entry*.

Blocking all access

```
access to dn.subtree="idnc=usr,dc=uma,dc=es"
        filter="(irisUserPrivateAttribute=entry)"
        by * none
```

OpenLDAP ACLs IV

Privacy policy for non students

The user may decide which attributes should be hidden to anonymous searches, from a set defined by the organization's policy. irisUserPrivateAttribute holds the names of such attributes. In case the search is done by a bound user, the attribute is shown.

Blocking access to the phone number

```
access to dn.subtree="idnc=usr,dc=uma,dc=es"
        filter="(irisUserPrivateAttribute=telephoneNumber)"
        attrs=telephoneNumber
        by users read
        by * none
```

OpenLDAP ACLs V

Privacy policy for non students

The user may decide to hide all attributes in the set defined by the organization's policy. In such case, irisUserPrivateAttribute holds a value of *all*. If the search is done by a bound user, the attributes are shown.

Blocking access to all attributes

```
access to dn.subtree="idnc=usr,dc=uma,dc=es"
        filter="(irisUserPrivateAttribute=all)"
        attrs=mail,telephoneNumber,facsimileTelephoneNumber
        by users read
        by * none
```