

OpenID & SWITCHaai

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SWITCH

Serving Swiss Universities

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Overview

- ① Motivation
- ② Characteristics of Digital Identities
- ③ OpenID and its characteristics
- ④ Characteristics of SWITCHaai
- ⑤ Conclusion

Motivation

- Have you ever met one of these logos as an alternative to a login form?



- These are all external authentication methods with different properties
- Focus on OpenID & SWITCHaai

Some Characteristics of Digital Identities

- Professional vs. Private Digital Identities
- Assurance and Attributes
 - depends on registration process
- Acceptance and Reputation
 - depends on issuer
- Duration of Existence
- Data Trail

OpenID



- **What is OpenID?**

source: <http://openid.net>

- OpenID eliminates the need for multiple usernames across different websites, simplifying your online experience
- You get to choose the OpenID Provider that best meets your needs and most importantly that you trust. (...)

Sign In




E-mail:

Password:

Remember me

[Forgot password?](#)








Other ways to sign in:

-  [Sign in with OpenID](#)
-  [Sign in with Yahoo! ID](#)
-  [Sign in with a Google Account](#)

OpenID (2)

- Where to get an OpenID?
 - Many possibilities to choose from
 - Well-known sites
 - Even more others
 - Do it yourself!
 - ID may include your username!
 - Only OpenID 2 allows for pseudonymous usage

*Some well-known issuers
and their username format:*

 AOL	<code>openid.aol.com/screenname</code>
 Blogger	<code>blogname.blogspot.com</code>
 Flickr	<code>www.flickr.com/photos/username</code>
 Orange (France Telecom)	<code>http://openid.orange.fr/</code>
 Technorati	<code>technorati.com/people/technorati/username</code>
 Yahoo	<code>http://openid.yahoo.com</code>
 WordPress.com	<code>username.wordpress.com</code>

Characteristics for OpenID

- Professional vs. Private Identities
 - Mostly used for private activities
- Assurance and Attributes
 - Mostly self-asserted information and once verified e-mail address
- Acceptance and Reputation
 - Big players issue OpenIDs, but do not accept from others
 - Any issuer only accepted when identity does not really matter
- Duration of Existence
 - As long as issuer exists and user knows how to authenticate
- Data Trail
 - With OpenID 1.1 the service provider knows always the username or screenname

Characteristics for SWITCHaai

- Professional vs. Private Identities
 - Professional: Linked to job or study
- Assurance and Attributes
 - Based on student or staff registration process
- Acceptance and Reputation
 - Full acceptance and good reputation within SWITCHaai
- Duration of Existence
 - Terminates with job or end of study, unless organisation supports alumni accounts
- Data Trail
 - Anonymous usage possible with no user specific attributes at all
 - Currently: pseudonymous uniqueID allows tracking across services
 - In the future: service provider specific targetedIDs

Conclusion

- Two different application areas
- OpenIDs could be issued based on SWITCHaai identities
 - Does it make sense?
 - Mostly private OpenID usage vs. professional SWITCHaai usage
 - Base account terminates with job/study
- New developments to come - we will evaluate them
- Reference for the SWITCHaai & OpenID FAQ:

<http://www.switch.ch/aai/support/faq/#05>