ESPRESSO UPDATE
(ESTABLISHING SUGGESTED PRACTICES REGARDING SINGLE SIGN ON)

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ALA, June 25 2011
Problem Statement

- Effectively and efficiently get ALL the “right” users to licensed external resources (even from the “open web”), utilizing single sign-on (SSO) technologies?
The Challenges

Authentication has become complex for several reasons:

- Users have more options as to how and where to enter a publisher’s site, making a consistent, coherent user experience more difficult.
- Users may experience multiple authentication mechanisms. The user’s physical location could affect the browser flows and authentication mechanisms they see.
- Publishers must present and support multiple authentication mechanisms with a simple to use authentication interface.
- Campuses have deployed various approaches to authentication, some requiring users to be able to use, handle, and manipulate proxy-prefixed URLs that are incomprehensible to the average person.
Goal of the Recommendations:

- Specifically address:
  - typical browser flows
  - the sequence of pages presented to users
  - page layout, what information to include in each of those pages
  - consistent GUI elements
  - additional features and functionality to provide users with added value.
- Provide users with a consistent experience across a multitude of sites and situations.
- Reduce user confusion and aborted sessions during the discovery/login process by using a consistent set of visual elements
- Be straightforward and easy to implement for both IDP and SP sites.
Deliverables

• Standardizing Terminology
• Standardizing user interface presentation for authentication
• Identify approaches that allow federated search technologies to leverage existing Web SSO authentication user sessions when contacting backend Provider sites
• Provide plans for the promotion and adoption of these Recommended Practices
Next Steps

- Comment Review (Comments ended June 22nd)
- Working group vote
- NISO Topic Committee vote
- Document publication
- Standing Committee creation
Questions and More Information

- SSO website: [www.niso.org/workrooms/sso](http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sso)
- SSO Interest Group list: [www.niso.org/lists/ssoinfo](http://www.niso.org/lists/ssoinfo)
- SSO Charge: [www.niso.org/workrooms/sso/charge](http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sso/charge)

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