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# SWITCH

The Swiss Education & Research Network

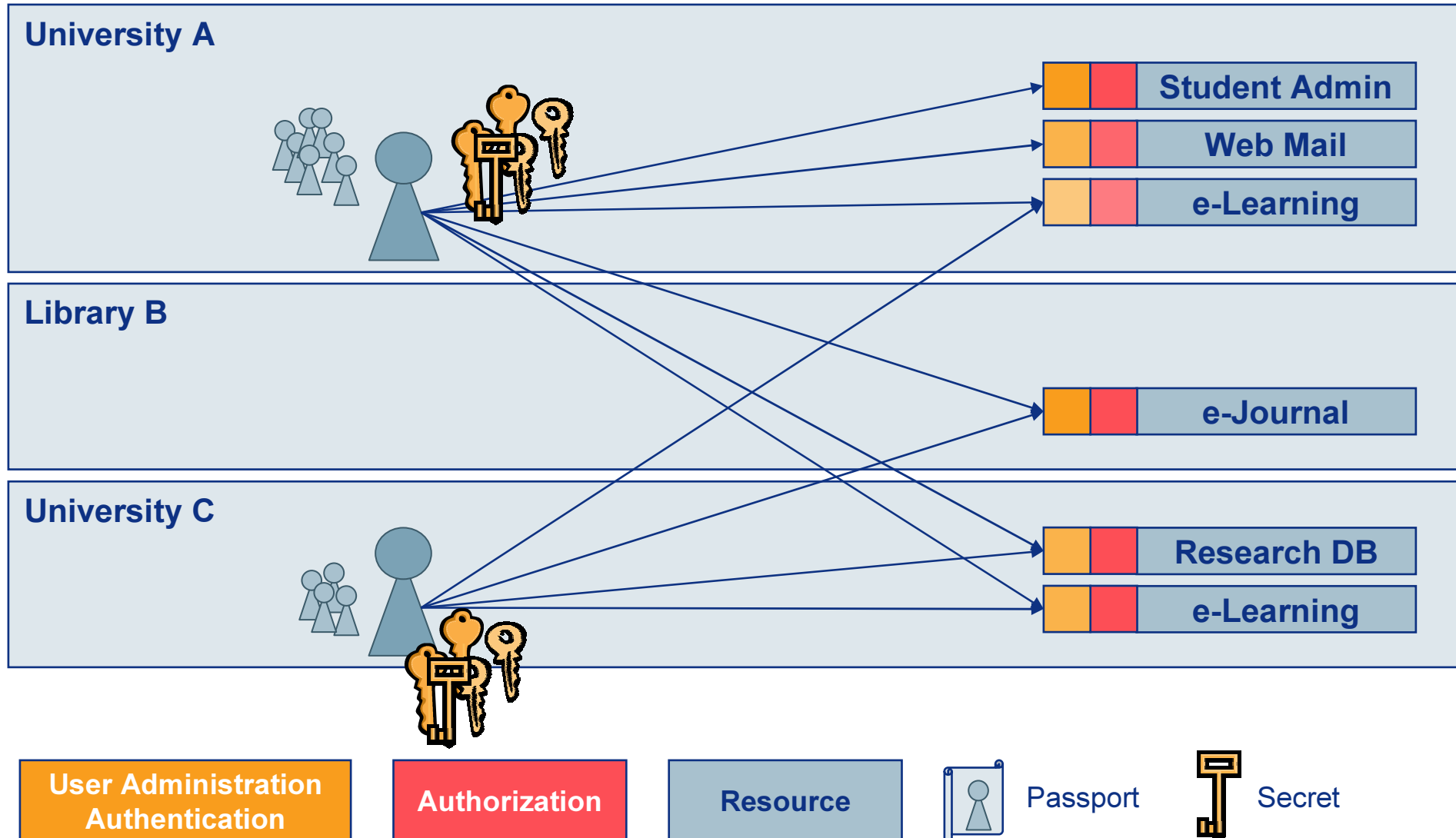
## Concept and Benefits of an AAI

Christoph Graf, SWITCH

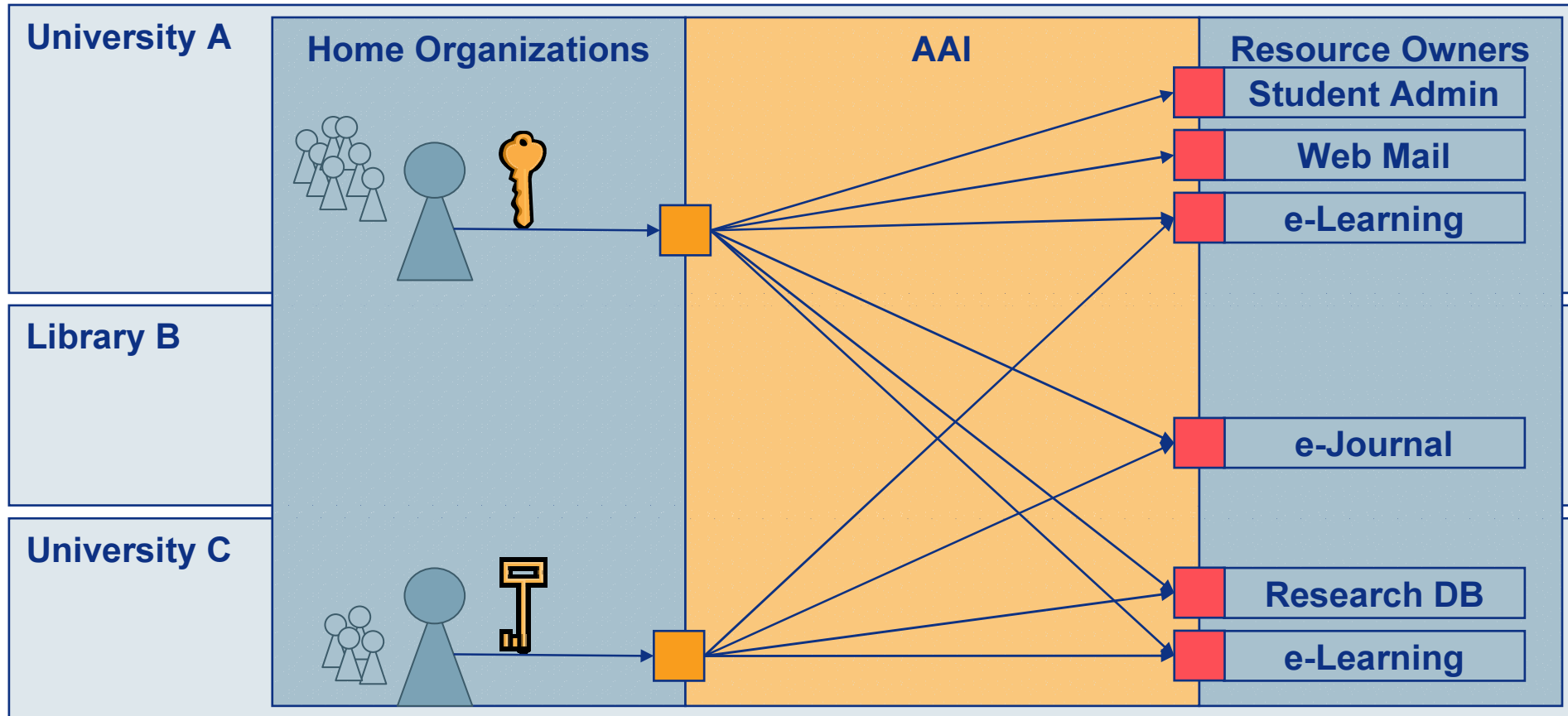
December 3, 2003



# Today, without AAI



# Tomorrow, with AAI



User Administration  
Authentication

Authorization

Resource



Passport



Secret

# Advantages of an AAI

<b>Virtual Mobility</b>	AAI is a requirement if students of different universities wish to use common resources, and it is the basis for initiatives such as the Swiss Virtual Campus.
<b>Information protection</b>	AAI simplifies the protection of information by applying standardized mechanisms. Resource owners can concentrate on the protection of their resources without having to implement an entire system including registration and authentication.
<b>Remote access</b>	AAI makes it possible to authorize users based on personal attributes of a user instead of IP addresses. User authorization thus becomes location-independent.
<b>User friendliness</b>	After a single registration a user can access a number of resources. Only one authentication technology is applied.
<b>IT efficiency</b>	Standardized AA systems and cooperation among IT organizations improve the efficiency in the implementation and operation of security solutions.
<b>Administration overhead</b>	Without AAI, a user has to register with various organizations. It is feared that the administrative overhead of individual organizations will increase dramatically. AAI counteracts this tendency.
<b>Image</b>	Complicated and inconsistent AA mechanisms, or isolation of resources and user groups, respectively, is no longer state of the art. Not having an AAI will damage the image in the long run.