

VO Platform

Technical Prerequisites for using SWITCHtoolbox



SWITCH

Serving Swiss Universities

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Solution for Virtual Organizations



- Virtual Organization pilot phase since October 2010
- Official service name: **SWITCHtoolbox**

What are Virtual Organizations?

Definition: *“A Virtual Organisation (VO) is a group of individuals collaborating through the use of online services”*

- (VO = People + Services)
- People can be from different organizations

Example VO individuals:

- Group of researchers in a research project
- Students working on a semester project
- Lecturers working on new e-learning content

VOs and Attribute Aggregation

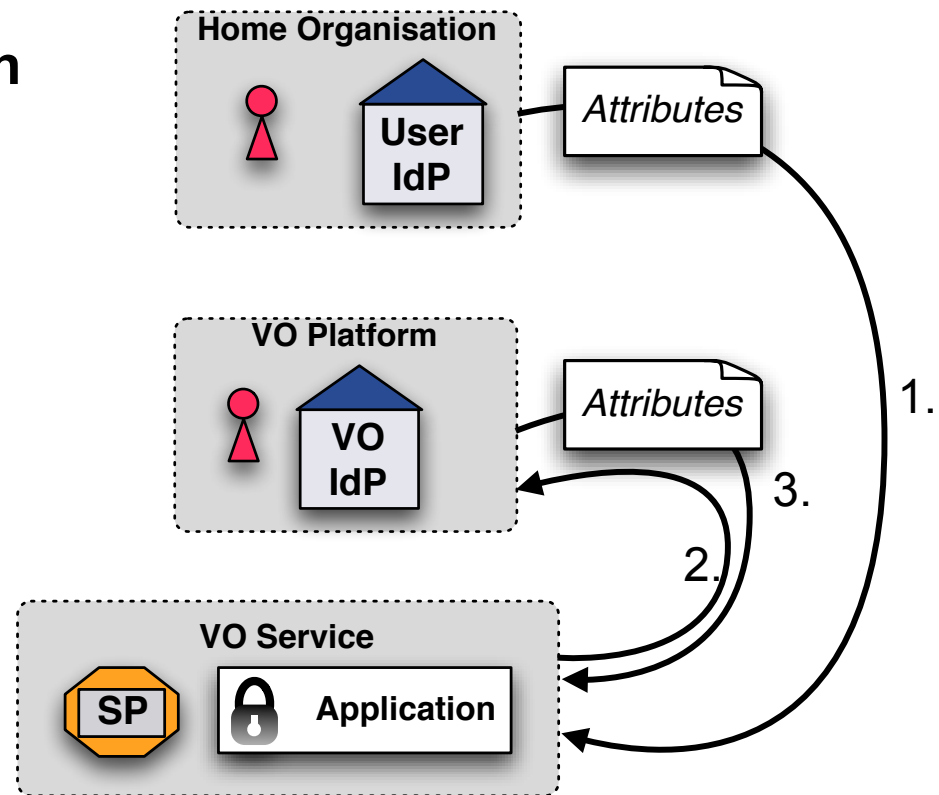
VO Service Provider must aggregate attributes!

1. User's Home Organisation

Attributes are set by user's Home Organisation

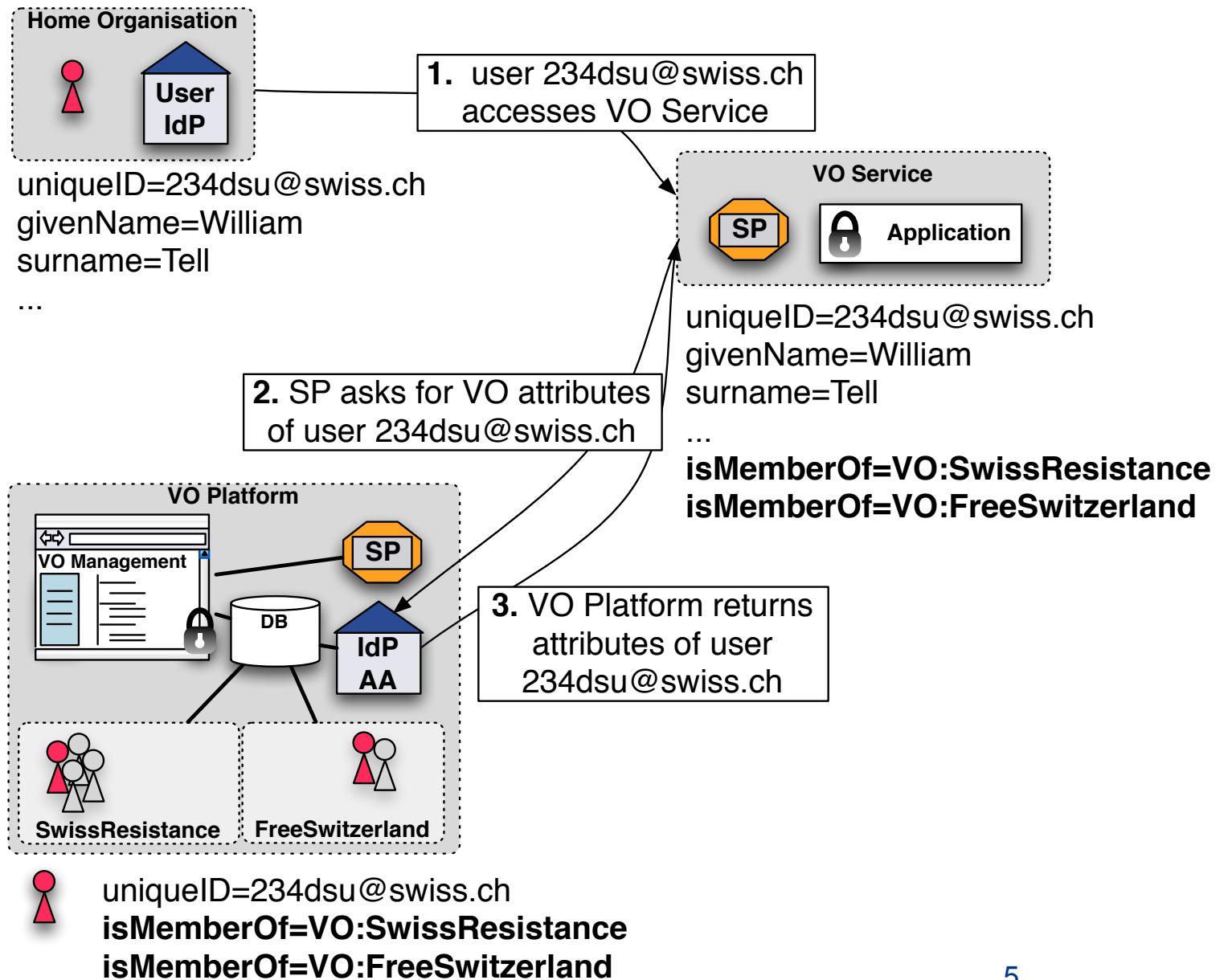
2. VO Platform

Attributes are set by VO administrator

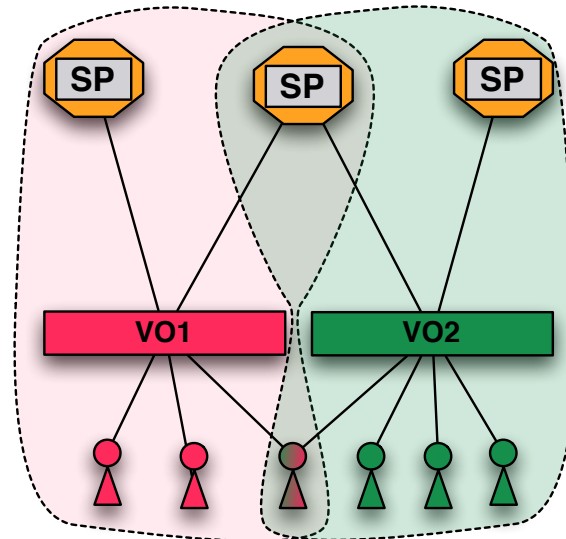


➔ **SP receives aggregated set of attributes**

Current Solution for Attribute Aggregation



Disadvantage of UniqueID



- UniqueID is always the same for a user
 - SPs subscribed by a VO could get information about user without the user's involvement (provided it knows the user's UniqueID)
- If a user is in multiple VOs that have subscribed the same SP, this SP knows in which other VOs this user is member
 - On second thought: If this SP also gets email address or a name from a user, it can

Future Solution for Attribute Aggregation

- User has different Targeted IDs depending on VO
 - Service only gets user info when user accesses it
 - Service only gets user information in context of a VO
- This approach works with PersistentID
- VOs and subscribed services are listed in metadata
 - Requires frequent metadata refreshes
- SWITCHtoolbox might use this new feature in summer 2011
 - Only users from IdPs meeting following requirements can use service

Shibboleth IdP Requirements

- Shibboleth 2.2 Identity Provider or newer
 - Supports new required role <AffiliationDescriptor>
 - Identity Provider 2.3 upgrade should be applied anyway!
- Additional Metadata Provider will have to be configured
 - Will check if Metadata has changed very few minutes
 - This is required to be able to immediately start using a toolbox