RESO Authentication and Authorization Workgroup

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Background

Mission: "this group was formed to create "a cohesive [authentication] strategy and facilitate the use of recognized protocols. This group is "tasked with researching existing industry methods and recommending the adoption of appropriate and proven technologies."

Immmediate Goal: To define authentication methods for RETS, primarily for a new (RESTful) API

Background

The goal is **NOT**:

- To solve the problem of managing passwords
- To decide implementation specifics not germane to secure interoperation
- To provide mechanisms for Single Sign-On
- To provide mechanisms for Federation of Identity

However, standards needed for our goal of secure RETS "back end" authentication may also have "front end" capabilities such as supporting SSO.

Background

Started in August. Two meetings so far.

Challenge: Few API-fielding stakeholders in work group.

Response: RESO community survey to solicit additional insight (successful) & resources (not sure yet).

Step 1: Use Cases (Matt L.)

1. Server-to-server authorization.

Example: A syndicator's recurring bulk download of listing data. What we mostly do today with RETS.

2. Typical three-way authorization of a user.

Example: A web application that interacts with the MLS, e.g., a real-time CMA.

Step 1: Use Cases (Matt L.)

3. Transparent three-way authorization of a user.

Example: A VOW provider's validation of eligibility for an existing customer.

4. Transparent, recurring "on behalf of" authorization of a user.

Example: Lead Management software that pulls leads from multiple sources for a given customer.

Step 2: Identification of Possible Standards-based Solutions

- Digest
- oAuth 1
- oAuth 2
- oAuth2 with SAML 2.0 Bearer Assertion
- SAML
- OpenID Connect

Not every approach will work for every use case.

Step 3: Research / Support

Document:

- How does standard cover use cases?
  - Provide Technical Examples (show calls)
- Suggest "options" within standards
- What toolkits are available?
- Pros and cons?

- Cal (FBS) created doc for oAuth2.
- Others have been solicited as per survey results

Step 4: Evaluation / Decision-Making

TO-DO – Select one or more approach

Evaluation Criteria

1. Addresses Use Cases
2. Ease of use
3. Use of existing standards
4. Use of (real estate industry) deployed standards?

Step 5: Documentation

TO-DO

Interoperability requires more “musts” than “mays”. Reduce choices for implementing the more complex standards.