Body:

Motivation

In distributed information environments, access control (AC) is often treated as a second-class citizen. Additionally, the complexity and dynamics of IT environments as well as the contained amount and types of data increase rapidly. Existing concepts for managing access control on data or services are however insufficient to address this development. Already simple access control configurations in rather static environments are often complicated as well as intransparent and unintuitive for the user. Systems expect that the user comprehends the basic underlying principles of the AC system in order to configure and use its features, even though AC configuration is not a user's primary goal. Even experienced IT administrators struggle to keep up with large and heterogeneous environments, because current AC paradigms are too complex and laborious to use correctly or at all.

This project therefore researches new Methods for the visualisation, specification and design of AC systems. A central concern is the intuitivity of the user interaction: Providing a simple overview of the systems and actors involved, an intuitive way of specifying AC policies, as well as the possibility to have the system explain individual decisions to the users, allows a better and more natural integration of IT security into everyday tasks. The central goal of this project is to provide an intuitive access control system across heterogeneous parts and organisational boundaries, supporting temporary ad-hoc as well as long-term sharing of information.

Project abstract:

The "Wege in die Forschung II" program of Leibniz University Hannover offers two years of initial funding for young researchers, aiming to establish a new area of research. The "Access Control for Distributed Medical Research Information Systems" project addresses problems with the usability of access control visualisation and interaction with the user. Especially non-technical users struggle to configure sufficient protection for their digital assets. Technical aspects of this problem were evaluated and an initial prototype was created in order to test the planned infrastructure.

Project duration:
01.08.2010 - 31.07.2012

Bibsonomy show project publications:
0
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Project research areas:
Distributed Services
Security & Privacy

Project type:
E-Science

Research Area:
E-Science

Status of the Project: