**OAuth** is a standard that allows an application to access data that a user holds in a 3rd party application. In order to access the data, the user first have to authenticated into that 3rd party application; once we pass the authentication stage, then we are authorized to access the data. The really nice thing about **OAuth** is that you never have to reveal your username or password to the application.

A application would like a user’s valid email; one source of this might be from Google. So by using OAuth, the user can authorize Google to release this piece of information to the application.