Understanding JWT/CWT, OpenID and Related Ecosystem

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JWT, OpenID Connect, CWT, and Verifiable Claims

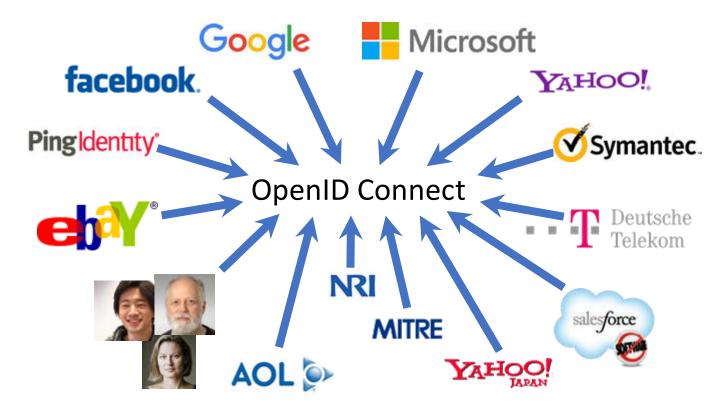
Michael B. Jones – Microsoft and John Bradley – Yubico W3C Workshop on Strong Authentication and Identity December 10, 2018

JSON Web Token (JWT) – RFC 7519

- Representation of claims in JSON
- Can be signed with JSON Web Signature (JWS) RFC 7515
- Can be encrypted with JSON Web Encryption (JWE) RFC 7516
- Algorithms used extensible using IANA JOSE Algorithms Registry
 - For instance, ed25519 added and secp256k1 being added
- By design, does not use any form of JSON canonicalization
 - Base64url encodes values to maintain content integrity instead
- JWTs used by OpenID Connect, many other applications

ID Token Claims Example

```
"iss": "https://server.example.com",
"sub": "248289761001",
"aud": "0acf77d4-b486-4c99-bd76-074ed6a64ddf",
"iat": 1311280970,
"exp": 1311281970,
"nonce": "n-0S6_WzA2Mj"
}
```



What is OpenID Connect?

- Simple identity layer on top of OAuth 2.0
- Enables RPs to verify identity of end-user
- Enables RPs to obtain basic profile info
- REST/JSON interfaces → low barrier to entry
- Described at http://openid.net/connect/

You're Probably Already Using OpenID Connect!

- If you have an Android phone or log in at AOL, Deutsche Telekom, Google, Microsoft, NEC, NTT, Salesforce, Softbank, Symantec, Verizon, or Yahoo! Japan, you're already using OpenID Connect
 - Many other sites and apps large and small also use OpenID Connect

OpenID Connect and Verifiable Claims

- Aggregated and Distributed Claims
- Self-Issued Identities
- Representation of Claim Verification Information

OpenID Connect: Aggregated and Distributed Claims

- OpenID Connect Core §5.6.2
- Defines how JWTs can contain claims signed by others
 - Issuers of aggregated and distributed claims can be different than JWT issuer
- For example, credit score signed by credit agency and payment information signed by bank
- Aggregated claims pass 3rd party claims by value
- Distributed claims pass 3rd party claims by reference

OpenID Connect: Self-Issued Identities

- OpenID Connect Core §7
- Digital identity controlled directly by you
 - Backed by public/private key pair
 - Sometimes called "user-centric identity" or "self-sovereign identity"
- Claims in self-issued identities
 - Self-issued claims signed by you
 - Aggregated and distributed claims signed by 3rd parties
- Implementations in Japan and at Microsoft

OpenID Connect: Representation of Claim Verification Information

- Syntax for providing metadata about claims along with claims
 - For instance, saying that name, address, and payment info validated by a particular bank
 - At a particular time
 - In a particular jurisdiction
 - Under a particular legal framework
- Also ways of requesting claims with particular validation information
- New work proposed by Torsten Lodderstedt at most recent IIW
 - Ideas contributed to OpenID Connect working group

CBOR Web Token (CWT) – RFC 8392

- Binary equivalent of JWT
 - Uses CBOR RFC 7049 instead of JSON
- Secured with CBOR Object Signing and Encryption (COSE) RFC 8152
- Can be more compact than JWTs because no base64url encoding
- Good fit for IoT applications and bandwidth-constrained channels

IndieAuth

OAuth for the Open Web

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W3C Social Web Working Group

- Chartered to create open APIs for social networking, to enable social communication on the web
- Active from July 2014 to February 2018
- Identity and authentication was out of scope for REC-track documents

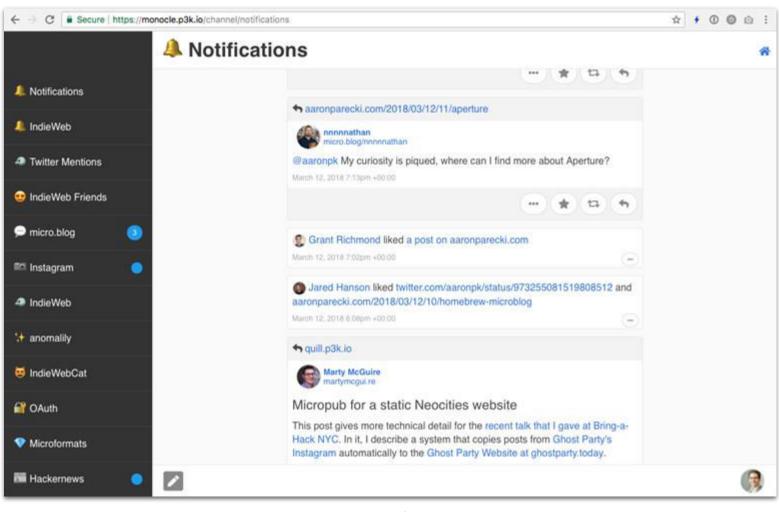
W3C Social Web Working Group

W3C Recommendations Published:

- Webmention
- Linked Data Notifications
- Micropub
- Activity Streams
- WebSub
- ActivityPub

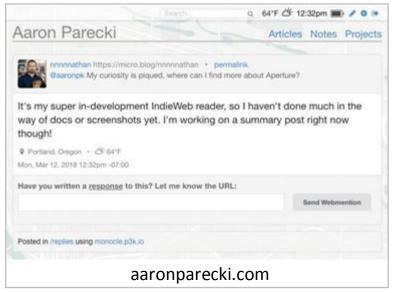
W3C Notes Published:

- Social Web Protocols
- JF2
- Post Type Discovery
- IndieAuth

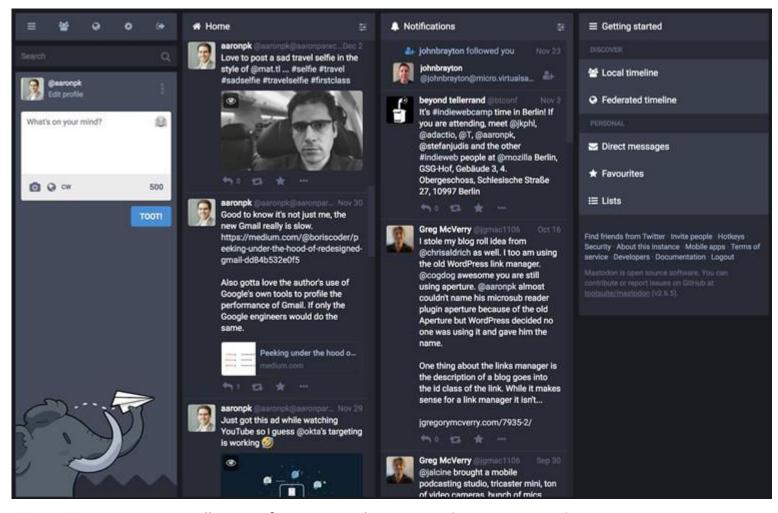


aaron.pk/reader









Follow me from Mastodon: aaronpk@aaronparecki.com

How can I comment on this

[blog post, photo, issue, etc]

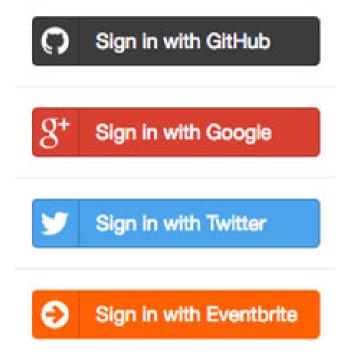
without having an account there?

that lets me post to my account?

How can I sign in to an app

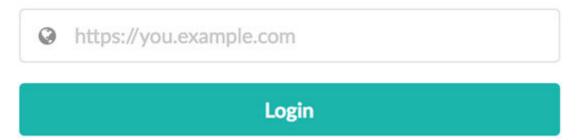


Traditional OAuth



IndieAuth: Bring your own identity

Sign in with your domain



URLs for Identity

- aaronparecki.com
- mastodon.social/@aaronpk
- gitlab.com/aaronpk
- twitter.com/aaronpk

IndieAuth Summary

- User IDs are URLs bring your own identity
- Applications are identified by URLs no pre-registration necessary
- Authorization server is discovered from the user's URL
- User ID is returned at the end of the OAuth exchange

Sign in to Aperture https://aaronparecki.com Log In



This app is requesting the following scopes. You can edit the scopes that will be granted to this application.

Publishing

create

Allows the application to create posts and upload to the Media Endpoint

update

Allows the application to update posts delete

Allows the application to delete posts

media

Allows the application to upload to the Media Endpoint

▶ Channels



✓ Approve

Reading

read

Allows the application to read content from channels

follow

Allows the application to follow and unfollow feeds

channels

Allows the application to manage your channels



IndieAuth Providers









and more!

- Selfauth PHP
- Dobrado PHP
- Acquiescence Ruby
- Cellar Door Node.js
- Microblog.pub Python

indieweb.org/IndieAuth

IndieAuth Summary

An extension to the OAuth authorization code flow

- Prompt user for their identity (URL input, browser extension auto-fill, etc)
- Discover user's authorization endpoint
- Send the user there to ask their permission
- On the redirect back, exchange the authorization code for an access token and the user's canonical URL

Learn More

https://indieauth.net

https://aaronparecki.com/2018/07/07/7/oauth-for-the-open-web

indieweb.org aaronpk.com