Identity and Web Services: A Marriage Made in Heaven?

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What Do We Mean By Identity?

- Who/what has an identity?
    - > Users, applications/services, objects
- Real value only realized by removing anonymity
- Web service messages carry *credentials* to assert identities of sender, end user, intermediary
- Credential forms include:
    - > Username/password
    - > Digital signature
    - > SAML assertion

Three Views of Identity for Web Services
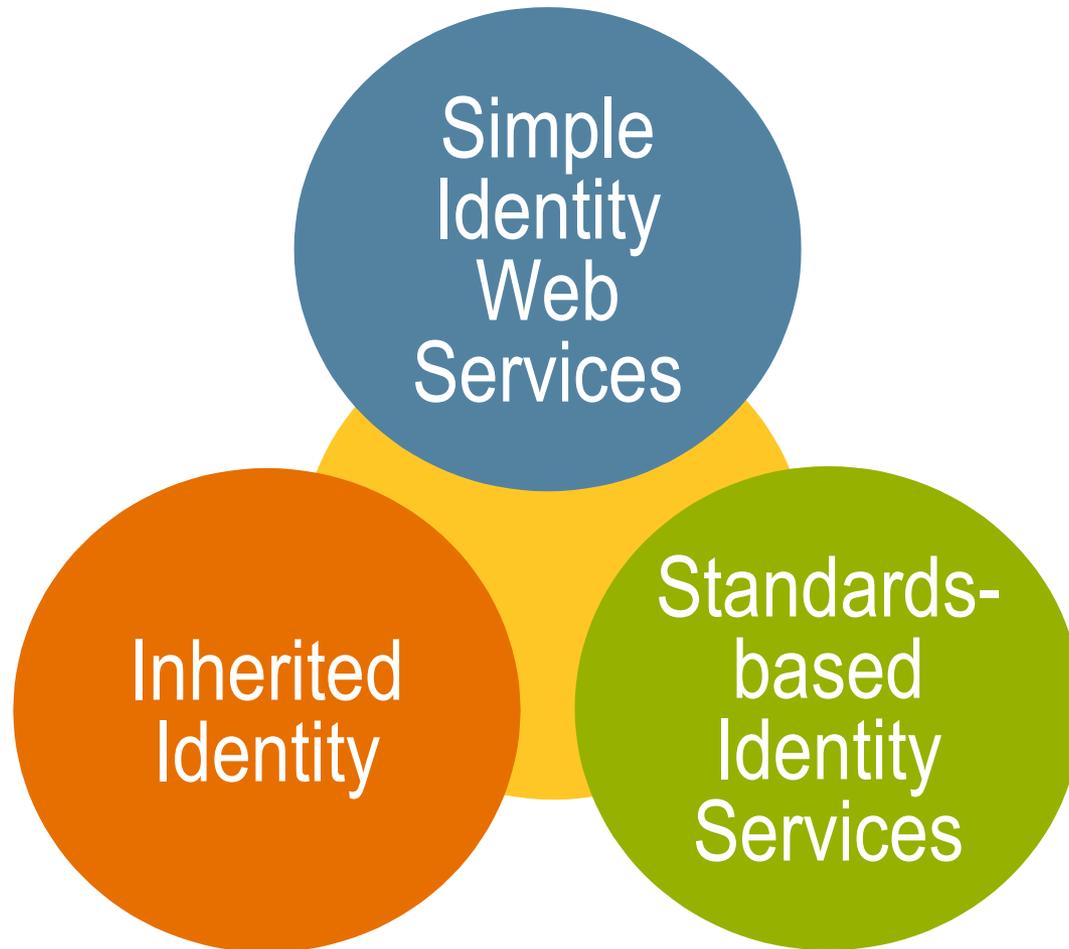
Simple Identity Web Services

- Support in the IDE
- SOAP *and* RESTful Web Services
- Manipulating identity information directly
  - > Authenticate
  - > Authorize
  - > Audit (Log)
- Code sample:
  - > *token = svc.authenticate(tbUserName.Text, tbPassword.Text);*
- Implemented in Sun Identity Management products

Standards-based Identity Web Services

- Vendor-neutral – industry-wide support
- Several standards in play
    - > SAML, ID-WSF, WS-*, XACML...
- Pre-built, configurable services that provide, exchange and consume identity tokens
    - > e.g. ID-WSF Discovery Service
- Provides the infrastructure for secure Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) / Business Integration (BI)

Inherited Identity

- Authentication handled in the container
- Developer is insulated from changes to authentication mechanisms, policy
- Identity manipulated via Java EE Security model
  - > request.isUserInRole(ADMIN_ROLE)
- JSR 196 provides an abstraction for Java EE containers
  - > Plugin provided with Sun Java System Access Manager/OpenSSO

Resources

- Sun's Open Source Identity Management Community
  - > http://identitymanagement.dev.java.net
- Superpatterns
  - > http://blogs.sun.com/superpat
- Wizard of IDM
  - > http://blogs.sun.com/wizidm
- Using Identity to Secure Web Services hands-on lab
  - > Lab5410 - Thursday 9:30am in Hall E130

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