Internet2 Middleware Initiative
Internet2 Document

K. Hazelton for MACE-Dir
University of Wisconsin-Madison
July 5, 2005

Group and membership concepts

internet2-mace-dir-group-membership-200507.html

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Abstract

There are a growing number of situations where a standardized representation of an entity's group memberships would help support interoperation between multiple processes and systems. The Internet2 Middleware Initiative projects **Grouper** and **Signet** are two cases in point. This document proposes a simple information model for group and membership concepts. Other documents define recommended bindings or mappings from this information model to specific protocols such as LDAP and SAML.

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1. Specification

Entities (people, organizations, etc.) can belong to groups. Any given instance of membership relates one entity to one group. There are two ways to look at a given membership:

1) Entity E is a member of Group G, or

2) Group G has Entity E as one of its members.

Highlighted end of the association	Name of directional association	Multiplicity	Definition
Entity	isMemberOf	0..*	The entity at one end of the association is a member of the group at the other end
Group	hasMember	0..*	The group at one end of the association has the entity at the other end as one of its members

Author's Contact Information

Keith Hazelton
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1210 W. Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53706
US
Phone: +1 608 262 0771
EMail: **hazelton@doit.wisc.edu**
