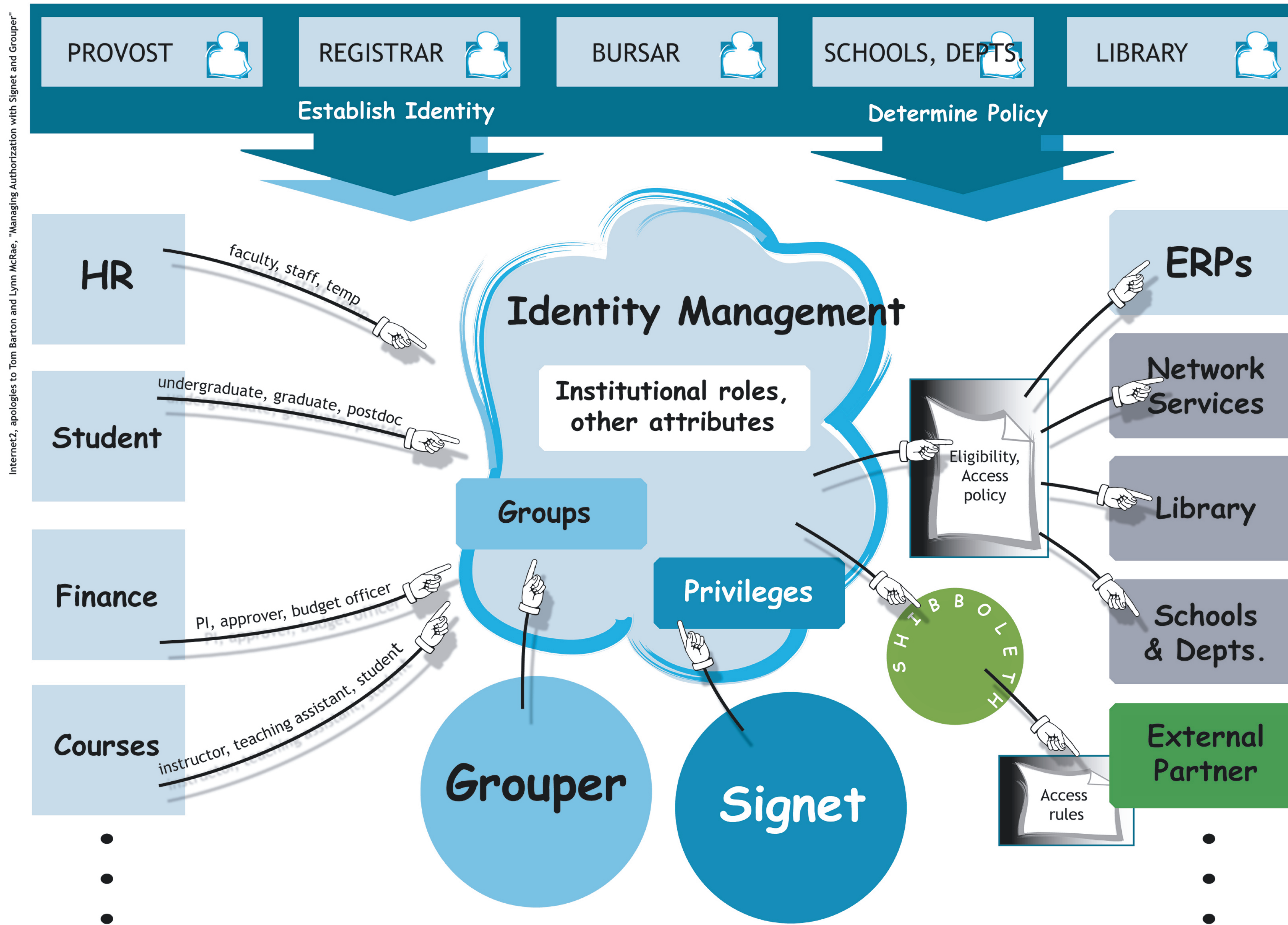


Grouper and Signet from Internet2



Authorization for services at Cornell is currently provided by a Permit Server system which was developed in-house over 10 years ago. The Permit Server provides membership information which can be used to make basic authorization decisions once the identity of a person has been established. While this service continues to meet a narrowly focused need, it doesn't lend itself well to the fuller set of capabilities and administrative features our customers expect from a central authorization service.

Cornell's Identity Management group has been closely following the efforts of two Internet2 Middleware initiatives: Signet and Grouper. Grouper will provide authorization information based on group membership. Signet will provide privileges and limitations for individuals and/or groups.

We are evaluating how well these applications might serve the Cornell environment. We've been collecting use cases as our engineers work with early versions of the software in cooperation with the Grouper and Signet development teams. As part of the project we will look at how the use of Signet and Grouper might be integrated into the current mechanisms used at Cornell for authenticating and authorizing to web-based applications. We will also look at migration strategies for phasing out the current Permit Server with the least possible impact to campus customers.

Further information on Grouper:
<http://middleware.internet2.edu/dir/groups/grouper/>

Further information on Signet:
<http://middleware.internet2.edu/signet/>

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