OpenID

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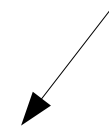August 2005

What is OpenID?

- an identity system
  - all the rage lately
- a protocol
  - gratis, libre
- not a service or company
  - not Passport
  - not TypeKey
  - not Sxip
- survives if companies turn evil or go out of business

Why?

lame

- no authentication way too common
- comment spam
- auth interop
  - Live Journal
  - TypePad
  - Movable Type
  - Dead Journal, WordPress, TextPattern, ...

Name:

Email Address:

URL: Remember Me? Yes No

Comments: (you may use HTML tags for style)

Preview   Post

Design Goals

- low barrier to entry
  - works with static HTML pages
  - no registration (no central server)
  - understandable identity (a URL)
    - no new namespace
    - no public keys (key revocation, etc...)
  - no SSL required
  - no browser plugins
- most simple protocol possible
  - other needs layered atop

What OpenID isn't...

- a trust system
  - need identity before you can have trust
- a solution for all identity problems
- perfectly secure
  - DNS spoofing
  - man-in-the-middle
    - between some parts

How's it work?

- proves "who" you are
  - one-time assertions w/ digital signature
  - see **openid.net** for specs
- not that you're a good person
  - spammers can/will/have setup OpenID servers
  - better than state of email today
  - Trust/reputation providers on their way
    - 5+ companies working on this
    - TrustRank

Chicken / Egg

- Live Journal / TypePad / Movable Type
  - all support OpenID server
  - OpenID consumer in LJ/MT
    - TypePad soon enough
- TypeKey
  - still speaks TypeKey. *also* speaks OpenID
  - an OpenID provider for people without their own
- 10M+ OpenID users who don't know it
  - already: Dead J/Greatest J/Live J interop

Why URLs as identity?

- already the convention
  - Comment by <u>Matt</u> at 7:23pm
  - mouseover to see which Matt
- users don't understand public keys
- users don't understand namespaces
- users do understand URLs
  - 10+ years of billboards and TV commercials
- you can click them
  - tangible

Why should you use OpenID?

- interop with others using OpenID
  - your users can mark external users leaving comments as "trusted" or "friends"
  - your users can bring their identity to other sites, thus advertising your service
- not theoretical, already in use
- can support OpenID + _____ in future
  - no reason to *only* support OpenID
- free
- open libraries for most languages