# SMART User Experience Study

Introduction

User-Managed Access (UMA)

Today's Web applications allow users to create and publish various information and resources on the Web. For example, users can use Facebook to store their personal information and photos and they can use Google Docs to create online documents. All these online resources are often shared with other users and services on the Web and this requires access control mechanisms to be put in place as users are often concerned about maintaining privacy and keeping their data secure.

User-Managed Access (UMA) is one such mechanism that aims to fit precisely to the needs of today's Web environment. A User can use a single application (called the Authorization Manager) to define who can access resources and information stored at various user's Web applications and how. A user achieves that by defining sharing settings using his AM. For example, a user could define that his Facebook photos should be shared with his family only while his personal information from Facebook and documents stored at Google Docs should be shared with his professional colleagues. Moreover, a user could impose additional constraints on these sharing settings by defining that only those who are over 18 years old would have access to some photos.
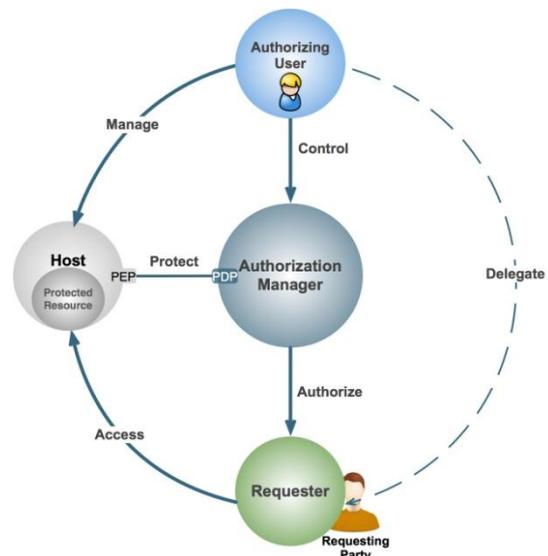
SMART

SMART (Student-Managed Access to Online Resources) develops a model Authorization Manager (**smartam**) that will allow students and academic staff to define their preferred sharing settings for their Web applications used within and outside their Higher Education institution.

Study

Scenario

You are an avid Web user who uses different Web applications to create and store various information and resources. In particular, you use Facebook to store your personal information and all kinds of photos. Moreover, you use Google Docs to create and manage online documents that you use for your work.

You want to share some of your pictures from Facebook and documents from Google Docs with other Web users. You want to define who can access what information. Additionally, you want to apply some restrictions to your settings – for example, you want to allow only those who are over 18 years old to have access to some of your files (e.g. photos or documents).

Aim of this study

As a participant of our study, you will use a prototype Web application, called **smartam**, to define sharing settings for exemplar resources and information stored at Facebook and Google Docs applications. You do not have to have an account on either Facebook or Google Docs as you will be defining these settings for some exemplar information (photos, documents, etc) only. We will then ask you about your experience during this study which will help us improve **smartam** so that you can protect your real Web resources.

Contact Information

If you are interested in participating in the SMART User Experience study, please contact a SMART team member and we'll send you the necessary information to complete the survey online.

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