

UK Academic SDI

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UK ASDI Key Facts

What:	Data services, map services, Portal (discovery), gazetteer service, geocoding and geoparsing, data repository Licensed and open content e.g. Digimap, Landmap, Go-Geo!, GeoConvert
When:	First online service on stream in 1994
Who - Suppliers	Services (clients + servers) mainly provided by EDINA and Mimas
Who - Customers	Joint Information Systems Committee, ESRC and some project funding from other RCs
Who - Users	Staff and students and UK Higher and Further Education Institutions (HFE)
Uptake	Huge - Potentially all HFE institutions (500) e.g. Digimap OS: 150 subscribers, 46K registered users
Web services	Adopted OGC standards early. WMS since 2001, WFS and WCS in last few years. ** But not 'public' access! Active in SDI projects e.g. ESDIN Whose standards in whose infrastructure???

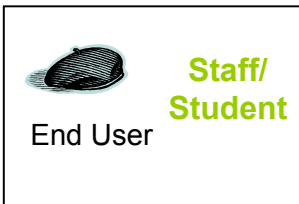
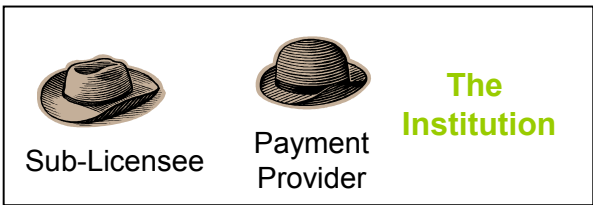
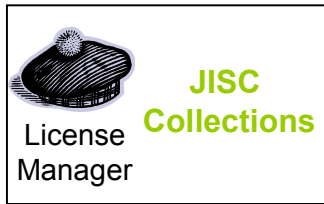
Licensing and access management

- JISC responsible for negotiation of licensing and payments to data suppliers
- Assesses new data: strategic (fit), business (meets need, affordable, value for money), licensing, benefits (ongoing)
- Final arrangements are can be complex & need managing

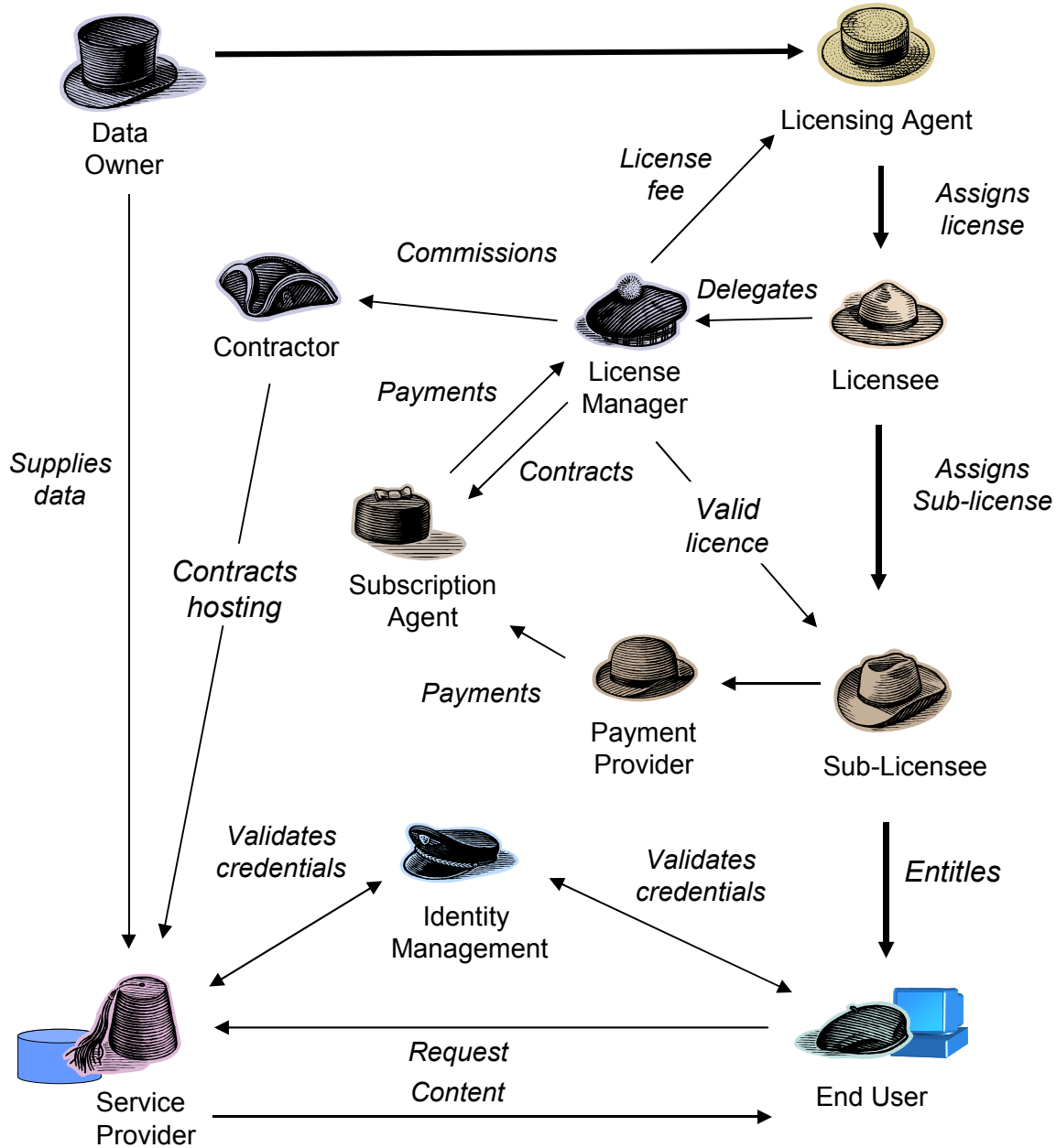


Digimap – OS Collection

The Actors and Roles



Flows

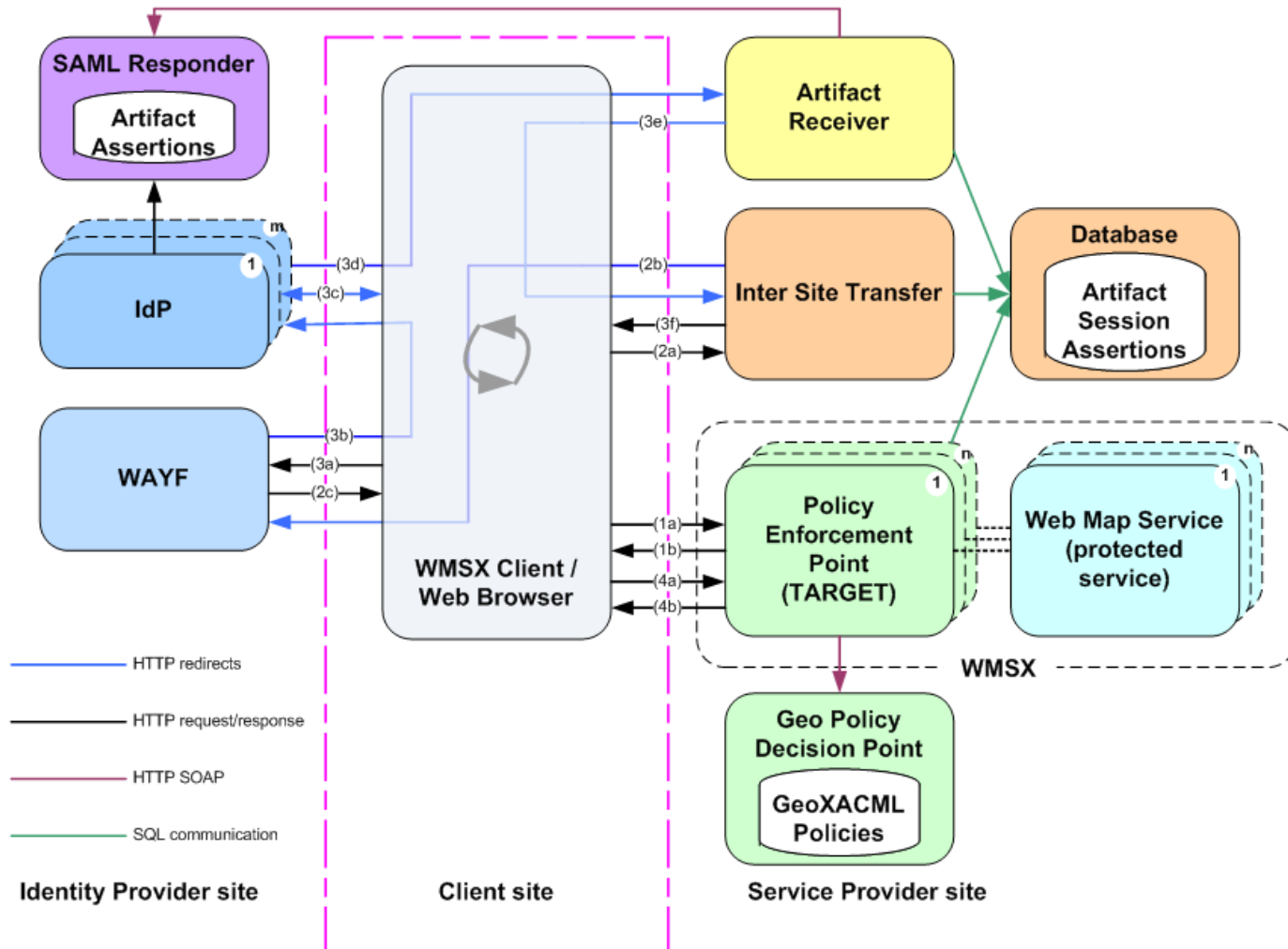


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- Access management done through existing HFE authentication mechanism
 - UK Access Management Federation (Single Sign On via Shibboleth)
- Securing web services has proved problematic
 - OGC has not moved fast enough
- Initiated a project to investigate – See-Geo
 - Produced a service provider architecture to protect access to WMS (& potentially other W*Ss) without modifying the interface
 - Employed GeoXAML and integrated with Shibboleth
 - Demonstrated in a European Cross Border use case
 - Now looking to implement on top of EDINA and Mimas production services
 - Promoting as example of best practice

Securing OGC Web Services using Shibboleth and GeoXACML

Architecture



Understanding our users

- During the early years, find your champions in the user community
 - e.g. university map librarians
- Ensure that it meets and continues to meet user needs
- Make sure that the services allow users to pursue their 'business' activities
 - that licence and T&Cs – responding to a changing environment
- Monitor usage patterns (see next slide)
- Engage with the community (events, consultations, surveys)
 - can be difficult if very large and diverse
- Beware becoming 'part of the furniture'



Long term sustainability

- It's difficult...
 - options for revenue generation limited
 - + need to ensure the necessary resources exist to keep pace with a fast-moving area and changing user requirements
- Get the usage...
 - to get institutional buy in, its important that the user base is very wide – not just something for geographers
- And show the value...
 - “91% of users now conducting research/teaching they would not have been able to do previously...”
 - “in 2004/5, users downloaded over £15m worth of maps & data”
- Make sure what we do is viewed as a service not a project – i.e. it's here for the long term
- Overtime, need to be viewed as being key part of the (overall) infrastructure
- Ensure win-win situation for all i.e. funders, data providers, users
- Work hard at the relationships

