



in three minutes...

Neil Blakey-Milner
<http://nxsy.org/>

What is OpenID? (1)

- Technically:
 - A means for web sites (**Relying Parties** or **Consumers**) to verify the identity of a user via a URI (**Identifier**), by asking the server (**Identification Provider**) designated there, without the user ever providing a party to anyone by the Identification Provider.

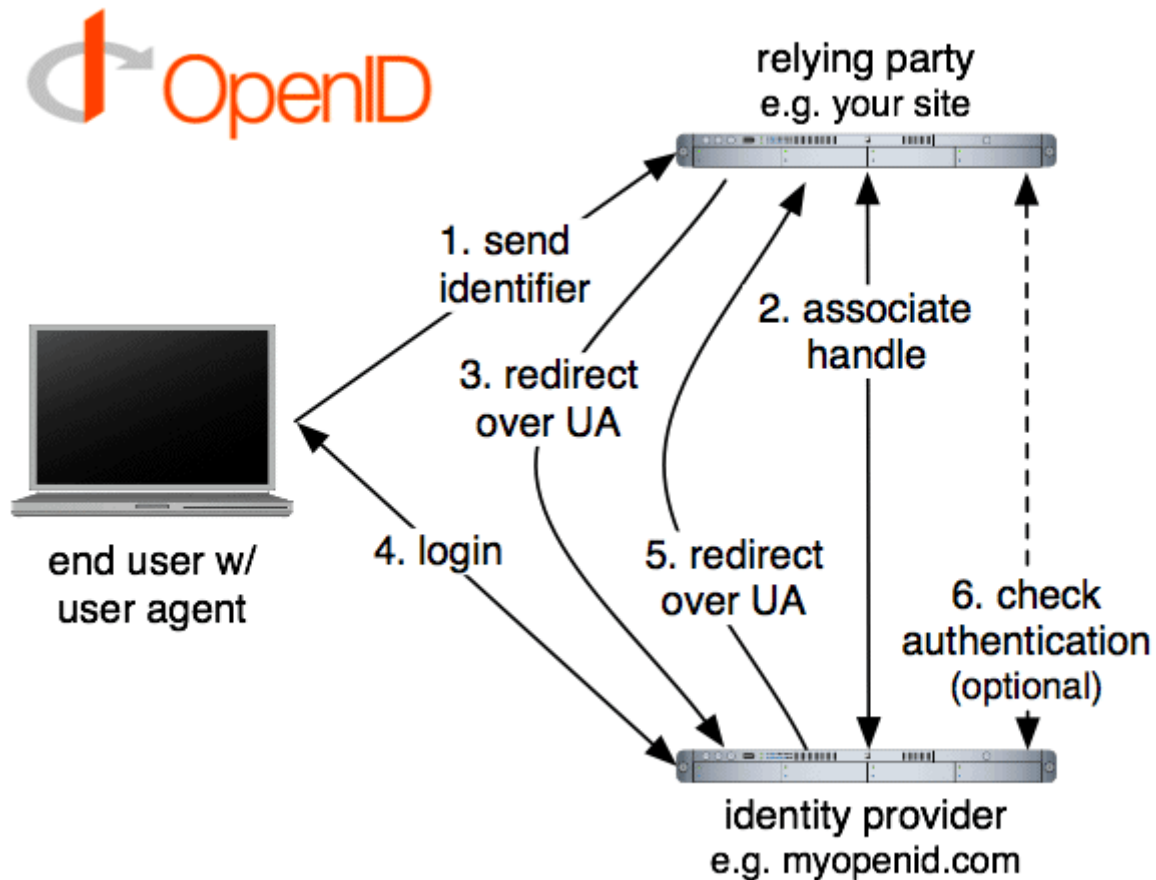


What is OpenID? (2)

- For Users:
 - A way for you to only have to remember one username and one password for the rest of your life (assuming the sites support OpenID)
 - A way to avoid sites learning what your general-purpose password is, or the algorithm by which you generate your passwords



How does it work?



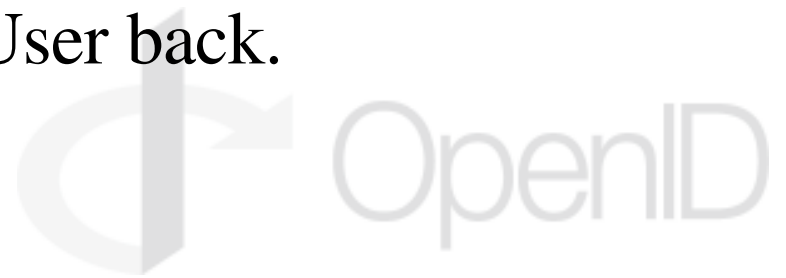
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/keepthebyte/347821691/>

No, really, how does it work?

- Multiple modes
- Most common:
 - Web site (Relying Party) contacts the URI given, looking for the server (the Identity Provider) to ask for confirmation of identity
 - Relying Party sets up a shared-secret between itself and the Identity Provider
 - The User is sent to the Identity Provider to validate the request.

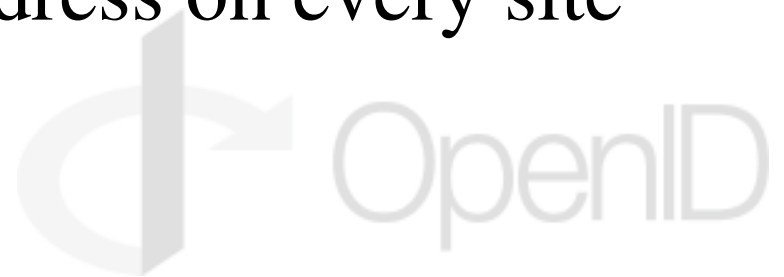
No, really, how does it work? (2)

- Most common (2):
 - The Identity Provider verifies the User's password (or from a session), and asks the user if they want to share their Identity and any additional information about themselves with the Relying Party
 - The Identity Provider sends the User back to the Relying Party with a special identifier that proves that the Identity Provider is the one sending the User back.



Wow!

- If the User tells the Identity Provider to always share the data with the Relying Party, then the User may not even have to do anything to log in.
- Relying Parties can request additional information about the User, and can keep that up to date from what the Identity Provider provides (ie, no need to change your name or email address on every site you use when it changes)



So, what's my identifier?

- Any web page URL.
- Can delegate to another server, with another identifier
- The Relying Party only ever records the web page URL (the Identifier) you supplied
- You can swap between Identity Providers without any lock-in – sites will just start using the new server you point to...

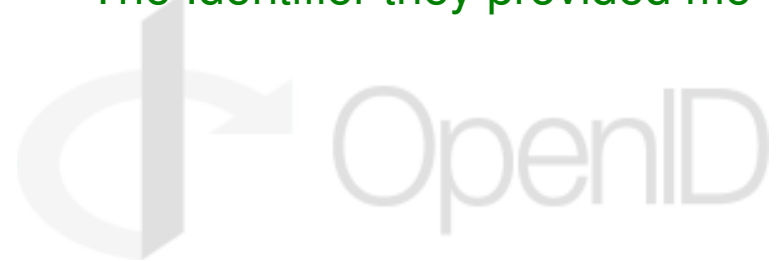


Ok, so how do I do that?

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<link rel="openid.server" href="http://idbook.co.za/server">  
<link rel="openid.delegate" href="http://nbm.idbook.co.za/">
```

The provider I signed up with

The Identifier they provided me



Where do I get an OpenID?

- Well, you might already have one...
 - Livejournal users
 - Wordpress.com users
- They're easy to get
 - myopenid.com
 - And soon...



How do I add OpenID to my app?

- Libraries available for:
 - Python! (the original JanRain OpenID binding)
 - Ruby, Perl, PHP, Java, .NET
 - Even ColdFusion...
- <http://www.openidenabled.com/openid/libraries/>



Where can I find out more?

- openid.net – general information
- openidenabled.com – developer information
- planet.openid.net - blog entries of those talking about OpenID



How'd I do for time?

- Questions?

