Using a Shibboleth Trust Federation to create “Joint Classes” with LAMS

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A Trust Federation is a combination of technology and policy infrastructure that allows different organisations to collaborate in a secure and distributed way. Shibboleth is the world’s leading Trust Federation technology for the education and research sector, and Shibboleth Trust Federations are being rolled out in Australia (Australian Access Federation), New Zealand, UK, USA and many other countries. With support from the New Zealand Ministry of Education, LAMS has been adapted to run within a Shibboleth Trust Federation. Teachers at different educational institutions who are part of a federation can create “Joint Classes” in LAMS, where a teacher hosts a sequence that can be joined by teachers and students from other selected classes in the federation. The result is the creation of a “Joint Class” made up of students (and teachers) from two or more different educational institutions, potentially in different cities, states or countries. Joint Classes are created at the level of a LAMS sequence, rather than at a whole course/unit level, which allows a single course/unit to host different Joint Classes with different organisations if desired. Once LAMS servers join a Trust Federation, teachers can create their own Joint Classes immediately without requiring assistance from technical staff, hence empowering teachers and students to easily collaborate across organisational boundaries in a secure way.

For full paper, see to http://lamsfoundation.org/lams2007sydney/papers.htm

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