Consent & Access Control for Patient Information

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PhD Seminar

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Motivation

Patients are empowered to play an active role in the management of their medical information



- increasing awareness of individual privacy
- -legislative-based measures
 - HIPAA U.S. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability, 96
 - PIPEDA Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, 00
 - PHIPA Personal Health Information Protection Act, 04
 - EU-DPD European Union Data Protection Directive, 95
 - punish not prevent

Motivation



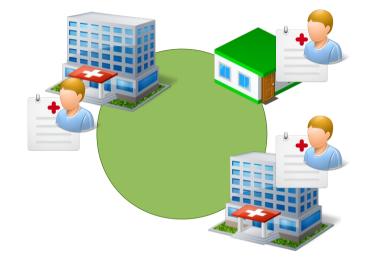


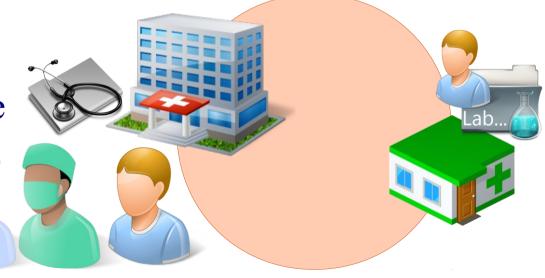
- **dispersed** over **heterogeneous** health information systems under the administration of **different security** domains
- managed by **multiple owners**
- dynamic circle-of-care membership with high churn

Motivation

Considerations

- -privacy & security policies
- heterogeneous security models across different administrative domains
- -multiple owners
- trusted links required for information exchange





Background

- challenges of consent application
- -knowledge engineering
- Proposed Model
 - control primitives
 - -POC ontological model
 - example scenarios
 - -handshake protocol

Conclusion

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House Keeping

- -breakdown roughly 40/20
- -questions

Background

- challenges of consent application

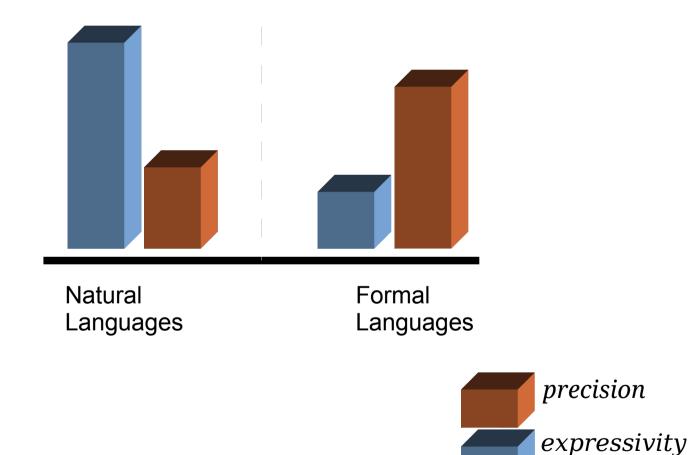
-knowledge engineering

Proposed Model

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Precision vs. Expressivity



Precision vs. Expressivity

high degree of *precision* (of interpretation) of *consent* preferences is a *must*

-*precision* can be *enhanced* by use of *formal languages*

'cost of precision' exponentially grows with an increase in required expressiveness

Precision vs. Expressivity

high degree of *precision* (of interpretation) of *consent* preferences is a *must*

-*precision* can be *enhanced* by use of *formal languages*

'cost of precision' exponentially grows with an increase in required expressiveness

consent expression and its application requires **maximizing** both **expression** and **precision**

Global Interpretation – Universal Semantics

given the *variances* in data and *security primitives*,
it is important to *establish* and *preserve* the *meaning* of *consent* rules and *policies*

e.g., considering RBAC, different security domains can describe the same role "physician" with different levels of access privileges

Coverage

- given a *finite expression space* of a language, it is difficult to express consent for all possible scenarios
 - instead, it is preferable to have *consent primitives offer transference* properties

Coverage

- transferring existing consent

applies(c, s_1)

Coverage

-transferring existing consent

$$applies(c, s_1) \land f(s_1, s_2) > t$$

similarity function

Coverage

-transferring existing consent

applies
$$(c, s_1) \land f(s_1, s_2) > t \rightarrow applies (c, s_2)$$

Universal Enforcement

$$R = \{r_1, r_2, r_3, r_4, r_5, \dots, r_k\} \land belongsTo(R, P)$$

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Universal Enforcement

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$$(r_1, r_2, r_4, r_5, \dots, r_k) \land belongsTo(R, P)$$

enforce C across D, where $D = \{d_1, d_2, \cdots\}$

Enforcement Guarantees

-validation

were the consent preferences applied properly?

- audit can it be confirmed for correctness?

Traditional Access Control Models

Limitations

- enforcement across security domains
 - requires pre-established trust relationship
 - predefined mapping of security models
- -multiple owners
 - traditional models are *system-centric* \rightarrow single owner where a *user-centric* approach is required

Traditional Access Control Models

Limitations

- traditional models result in implementations with static configurations
 - access control parameters/policies are predefined
 - leads to 'breaking-of-the-glass' scenarios

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Ontology

an ontology is a formal, explicit specification of a shared conceptualization (R. Struder 98)

- a *'domain-of-discourse'* is described using ontological concepts and the relationships between these concepts
- each ontological concept and relationship is unique (*precision of interpretation* = very high)
- the *expressivity* of an ontology ≡ construction (concepts and relationships linking the concepts)

Ontology

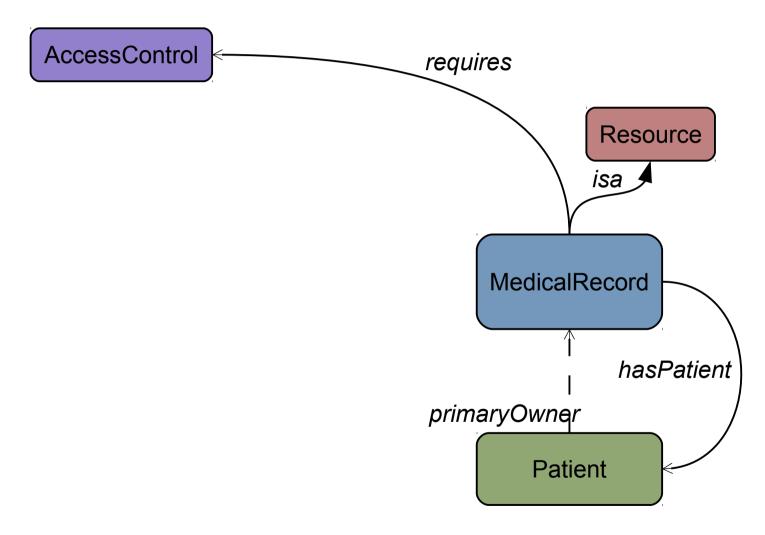
AccessControl





Patient

Ontology



Ontology

Let \mathcal{V} be a set of structured vocabulary, and \mathcal{A} axioms about \mathcal{V} , which are formulated in a formal language \mathcal{L} . Then an ontology \mathcal{O} is a sign-system:

$$\mathcal{O} = \left\langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A} \right\rangle$$

(Hussain 09)

Inference

- axioms are defined to infer *implicit knowledge* from *explicitly* stated *facts*

- axiom classes (not discussed)
- entailment rules (in N3)

Inference

- axioms are defined to infer *implicit knowledge* from *explicitly* stated *facts*

- entailment rules

$$\{f_{1}, f_{2}, f_{3}, \cdots, f_{n}\} \rightarrow \{a_{1}, a_{2}, \cdots\}$$

monotonic process

Inference

- axioms are defined to infer *implicit knowledge* from *explicitly* stated *facts*

- entailment rules (in N3)

triple representation: subject verb object.

```
{ ?R :isa :MedicalRecord; :hasPolicy ?POL.
?POL :hasScope :OptIn; :hasOverride :None.
?DR :isa :Doctor.
```

```
} => { ?DR : hasAccess ?R}
```

Inference

axioms are defined to infer *implicit knowledge* from *explicitly* stated *facts*

- entailment rules (in N3)

explicit facts

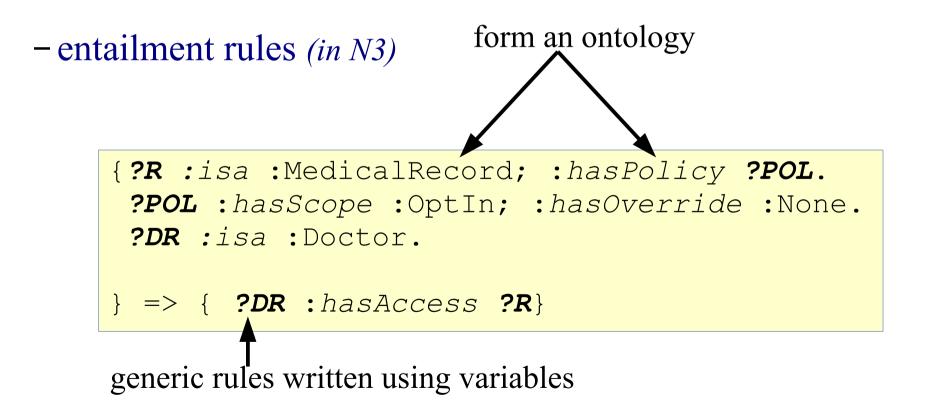
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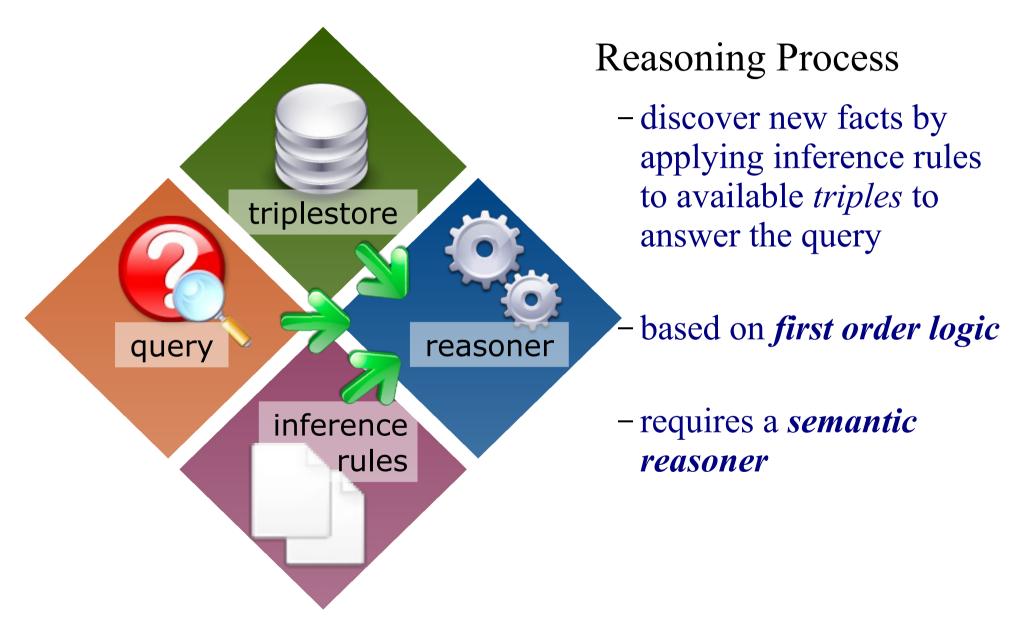
implied knowledge

Inference

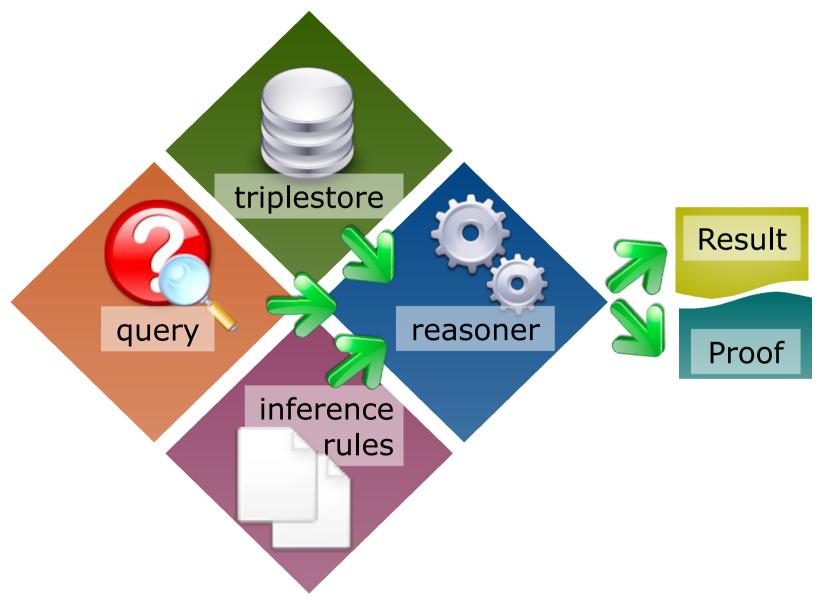
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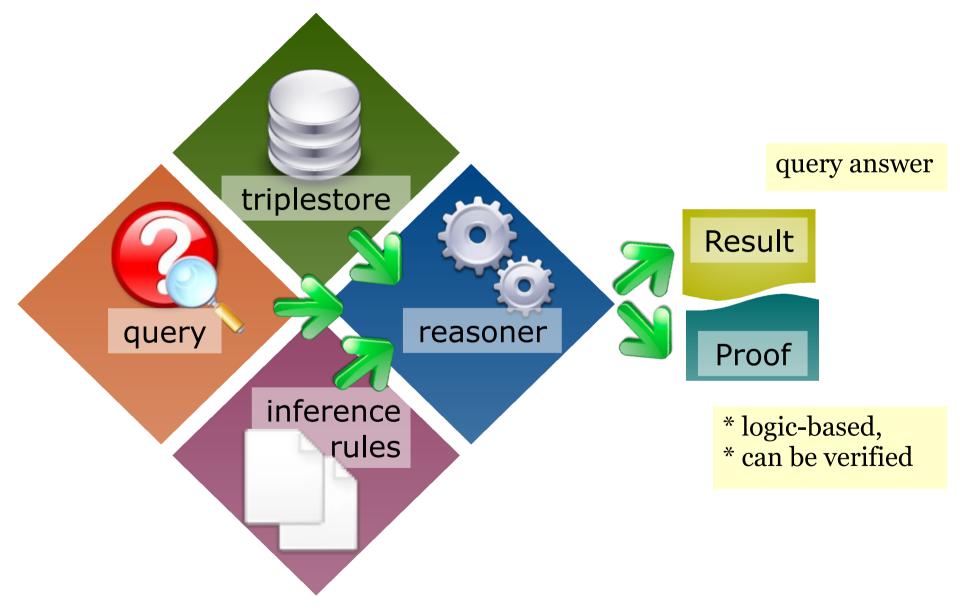
Knowledge Reasoning



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Knowledge Reasoning



Background

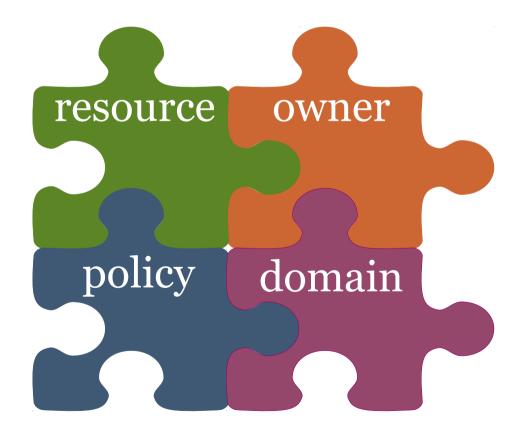
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Proposed Access Control Model

Control Primitives

define the building blocks of the proposed access control model



Resource

resource represents any *"entity"* for which access control is required

 $\forall t: requires(t, AccessControl) \rightarrow resource(t)$

e.g. medical records diagnostic images medical procedures

Resource

resource represents any *"entity"* for which access control is required

- a resource can be identified by
 - a specific resource identifier (such as record number)
 - a logical grouping of things

 $R_M = \{r \mid r \text{ is a mental health record}\}$

Resource

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- a resource can be identified by
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composite resource

 $R_M = \{r \mid r \text{ is a mental health record}\}$

this can be **<u>statically defined</u>** or can be **<u>inferred dynamically</u>**

concept hierarchy along **isa** relationship

rule-based inference

Resource

resource represents any *"entity"* for which access control is required

-resource provenance created(r,d) \rightarrow originatesFrom(r,d)

a resource may be transferred over $created(r, d_l) \wedge transferredTo(r, d_l, d_h)$ $\rightarrow owner(d_h, r) \wedge originatesFrom(r, d_l)$

Owner

an *entity* that is *allowed* to define rules for a resource

 $canDefine(e, r, p) \rightarrow owner(e, r)$

where: e is an entity r is a resource p is a policy

Owner

an *entity* that is *allowed* to define rules for a resource

$$canDefine(e, r, p) \rightarrow owner(e, r)$$

-multiple (resource) owners

- patients are primary owners of their information
- all other owners are considered secondary owners

Domain

an *administrative abstraction* for an entity governing a set of resources

-example,

• a hospital, or a family physician's office

- a *domain* is an *implied owner* for all resources that originate within its administrative control

Policy

a *set of rules* that *must be fulfilled* to grant access to a resource

- coarse-grained policy expressions
 - all treating physicians have access to my medical records
 - no one has access unless there is a life threatening emergency
- fine-grained policy expressions
 - Dr. Smith cannot access my mental health records

Policy

a *set of rules* that *must be fulfilled* to grant access to a resource

- linking *policies* to *resources*

```
hasPolicy(r, p) where:
```

r is a resource p is a policy hasPolicy(R, P)

where: R is a set of resources P is a set of policies

Policy

a *set of rules* that *must be fulfilled* to grant access to a resource

- linking *policies* to *resources*

$$hasPolicy(r, p) \qquad hasPolicy(R, P) \\ hasPolicy(xary1, OptIn) \qquad P = \{c_{pat}, p_{institutional}, p_{provincial}\} \\ R = \{r \mid r \text{ is a mental health record} \}$$

Policy

a *set of rules* that *must be fulfilled* to grant access to a resource

-policy *conflict resolution*

• *resources* are protected by *policies* defined by multiple *owners*

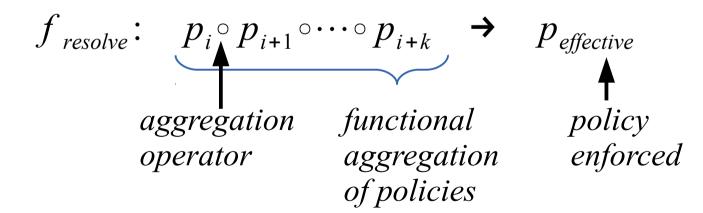
$$f_{resolve}: p_i \circ p_{i+1} \circ \cdots \circ p_{i+k} \rightarrow p_{effective}$$

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Policy

a *set of rules* that *must be fulfilled* to grant access to a resource

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$$f_{resolve}: C_{patient} \lor (p_{hospital} \land p_{province}) \rightarrow p_{effective}$$

Outline

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- -challenges of consent application
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Conclusion

$$\mathcal{O} \!=\! \left\langle \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{V} , \mathcal{A} \right\rangle$$

-choosing \mathcal{L}

- high degree of expressivity and precision
- computational completeness all decisions are guaranteed to be computable
- decidability

all computations will finish in finite time

 $O = \langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$

-choosing $\mathcal{L} = OWL-DL$

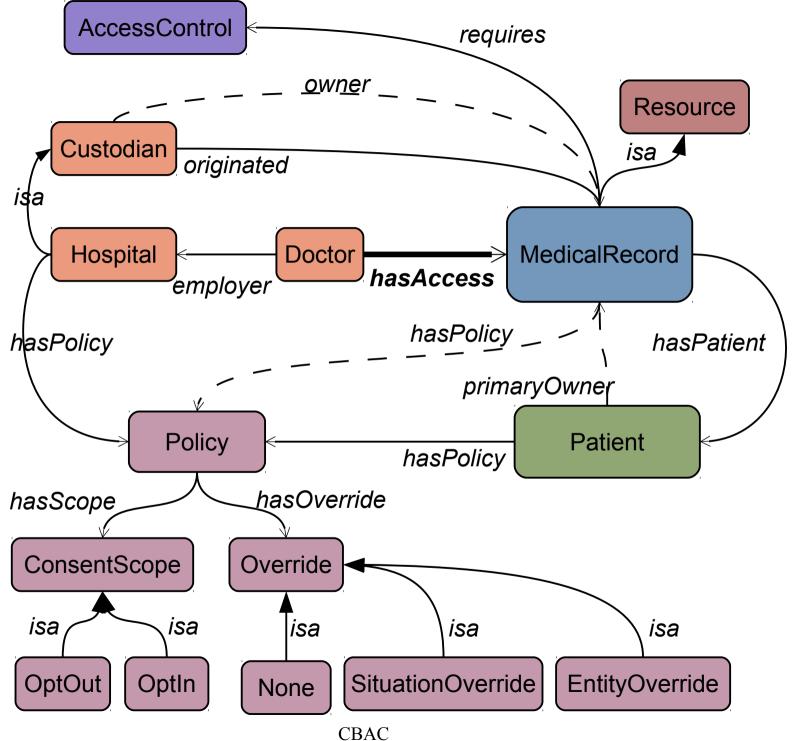
web ontology language (OWL)

- formal semantics
- machine processable serialization
- based on description logic (DL)

 $O = \langle \mathcal{L}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{A} \rangle$

-choosing $\mathcal V$

any structured vocabulary can be utilized as long as monotonic reasoning is not violated



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$$\mathcal{O} \!=\! \left\langle \mathcal{L} , \mathcal{V} , \mathcal{A} \right\rangle$$

- -defining $\mathcal A$
 - all *access control rules* defined *as entailment rules* using $\mathcal V$
- consent preferences expressed as a *policy*
 - a *policy* is a set of access control rules

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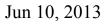
Proposed Model

Example Scenarios

- medical records as resources requiring access control
- -discovering resource owners
- OptIn
- OptIn & OptOut with conditions
- consent transitivity
- -validation of system made decisions
- -breaking-of-the-glass

Example Domain of Discourse

- 1 :H1 *a* :Hospital.
- 2 :Dr1 a :Doctor; :employer :H1.
- 3 :Dr2 *a* :Doctor; :*employer* :H1.
- 4 :P1 a :Patient.
- 6 :P2 a :Patient.
- 7 :R2 *a* :MedicalRecord; :*hasPatient* :P2; :*originated* :H1.



Example *Domain of Discourse*

Rule:

anything that is a medical record requires access control

1 {?R a :MedicalRecord} =>{?R :requires :AccessControl}.

Example *Domain of Discourse*

Rule:

anything that is a medical record requires access control

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<u>Query</u>

what entities require access control?

- 1 :R1 :*requires* :AccessControl.
- 2 :R2 :*requires* :AccessControl.

```
1 {?H a :Hospital.} => {?H a :Custodian}.
2
3 {?C a :Custodian.
   ?R a :MedicalRecord.
   R : originated \ C \ => \ (?C : owner \ ?R).
4
5 {?P a :Patient.
   ?R a :MedicalRecord.
   ?R :hasPatient ?P } => {?P :primaryOwner ?R}.
6
7 {?X :primaryOwner ?Y}=>{?X :owner ?Y}.
8
9 {?X :owner ?Y}=>{?Y :isOwnedBy ?X}.
```

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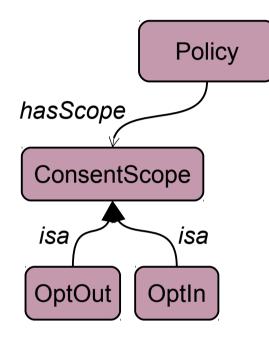
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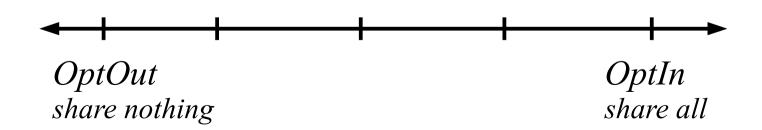
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6
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8
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```

- 1 :P1 :primaryOwner :R1;:owner :R1.
- 2 :P2 :primaryOwner :R2;:owner :R2.
- 3 :H1 :*owner* :R1, :R2.
- 4 :R1 :*isOwnedBy* :P1,:H1.
- 5 :R2 :*isOwnedBy* :P2,:H2.



Consent Expression





Optln Consent

- 2 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C1.
- 3 :P2 :*hasPolicy* :C1.

```
1 {?P :owner ?R; :hasPolicy ?P.}
=>{?R :hasPolicy ?P}.
```

Consent Transference: if a patient has a policy, then a record has the same policy by default if owned by the patient

OptIn Consent

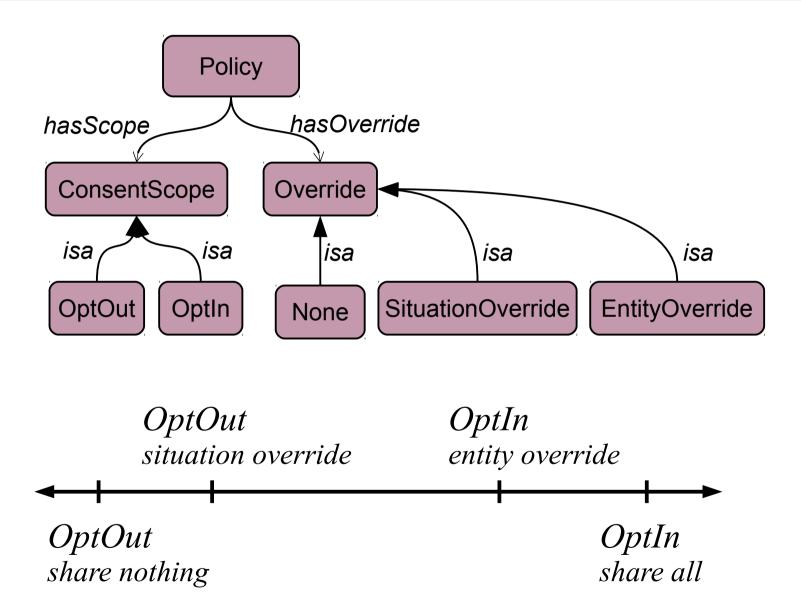
- 2 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C1.
- 3 : P2 : *hasPolicy* : C1.
- 1 {?P :owner ?R; :hasPolicy ?P.} =>{?R :hasPolicy ?P}.
- 1 {?R a :MedicalRecord; :hasPolicy ?POL. ?POL :hasScope :OptIn; :hasOverride :None. ?DR a :Doctor. } => {?DR :hasAccess ?R}.

Optln Consent

- 1 :P1 :hasPolicy :C1. :R1 :hasPolicy :C1.
- 2 :P2 :*hasPolicy* :C1. :R2 :*hasPolicy* :C1.
- 4 :Dr1 :*hasAccess* :R1,:R2.
- 5 :Dr2 :*hasAccess* :R1,:R2.

3

Consent Expression



OptIn/OptOut with Overrides

- 1 :C2 :*hasScope* :OptOut; :*hasOverride* :LifeEmergency.
- 2 :C3 :*hasScope* :OptIn; :*hasOverride* :Dr2.
- 4 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C2.
- 5 : P2 : *hasPolicy* : C3.



3

OptIn with Entity Override

```
1 { ?R a :MedicalRecord; :hasPolicy ?POL.
```

```
2 ?POL :hasScope :OptIn;
        :hasOverride ?DR_NOT_ALLOWED.
```

```
4 ?DR_NOT_ALLOWED a :Doctor.
```

```
5 ?DR a :Doctor.
```

```
6 ?DR :notEqualTo ?DR_NOT_ALLOWED.
```

8 } => {?DR : *hasAccess* ?R}.

3

7

OptOut with Situation Override

```
{ ?R a :MedicalRecord; :hasPolicy ?POL.
1
2
    ?POL : hasScope : OptOut;
          :hasOverride :LifeEmergency.
3
4
    ?P a :Patient; :owner ?R;
        :hasCondition :LifeEmergency.
5
    ?DR a :Doctor.
6
7 } => {?DR : hasAccess ?R}.
```

OptOut with Situation Override

- 1 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C2. :R1 :*hasPolicy* :C2.
- 2 :P2 :*hasPolicy* :C3. :R2 :*hasPolicy* :C3.
- 4 :Dr1 :*hasAccess* :R2.

Observations

3

- no one has access to medical record R1
- Dr2 does not have access to medical record R2

OptOut with Situation Override

- 1 :P1 :hasCondition :LifeEmergency.
- 1 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C2. :R1 :*hasPolicy* :C2.
- 2 :P2 :*hasPolicy* :C3. :R2 :*hasPolicy* :C3.
- 4 :Dr1 :*hasAccess* :R1, :R2.
- 5 :Dr2 :*hasAccess* :R1.

Observations

 Dr2 has access to medical record R1 but does not have access to medical record R2



3

Extending existing consent

- 2 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C4.; :*careTeam* :P1CareTeam.
- 3 :Dr1 :*isMemeber* :P1CareTeam.

Extending existing consent

- 1 {?D1 a :Doctor. ?D2 a :Doctor.
- 2 ?D1 :consults [:with ?D2; :about ?P].
- 3 ?P :*careTeam* ?CT.
- 4 } => {?D2 :*isMemeber* ?CT}.

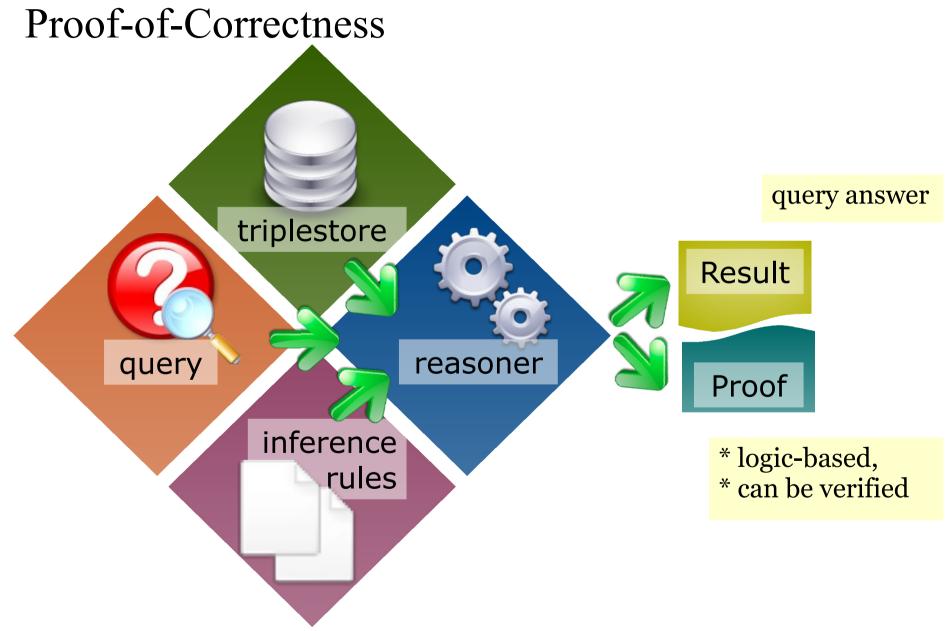
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Extending Existing Consent

- 2 :P1 :*hasPolicy* :C4.; :*careTeam* :P1CareTeam.
- 3 :Dr1 :*isMemeber* :P1CareTeam.
- 1 :Dr1 :*hasAccess* :R1.
- 2 :Dr2 :*hasAccess* :R2.





Proof-of-Correctness

- semantic proof

access control (inference) rules are applied against the knowledge-base graph to find evidence (sub-graphs) towards fulfilment of the query \rightarrow semantic proofs

Proof-of-Correctness

- semantic proof

access control (inference) rules are applied against the knowledge-base graph to find evidence (sub-graphs) towards fulfilment of the query \rightarrow semantic proofs

-validation

traverse the sub-graphs (semantic proofs) to decide if the same decision can be reached

Recall

```
1 { ?R a :MedicalRecord; :hasPolicy ?POL.
2
 ?POL :hasScope :OptIn;
          :hasOverride ?DR NOT ALLOWED.
3
4
    ?DR NOT ALLOWED a :Doctor.
5
    ?DR a :Doctor.
    ?DR : notEqualTo ?DR NOT ALLOWED.
6
7
8 } => {?DR : hasAccess ?R}.
```

{{:R2 a :MedicalRecord} e:evidence <kb.n3# 36>. 1 {{{:P2 a :Patient} e:evidence <kb.n3# 35>. 2 {:R2 a :MedicalRecord} e:evidence <kb.n3# 36>. 3 {:R2 :hasPatient :P2} e:evidence <kb.n3# 36>} 4 => {{:P2 :primary0wner :R2} e:evidence <kb.n3#_42>}} 5 => {{:P2 :owner :R2} e:evidence <kb.n3#_43>}. 6 7 {:P2 :hasPolicy :C3} e:evidence <kb.n3# 35>} => {{:R2 :hasPolicy :C3} e:evidence <kb.n3# 48>}. 8 9 {:C3 :hasScope :OptIn} e:evidence <kb.n3# 22>. {:C3 :hasOverride :Dr2} e:evidence <kb.n3# 22>. 10 {:Dr2 a :Doctor} e:evidence <kb.n3# 27>. 11 12 {:Dr1 a :Doctor} e:evidence <kb.n3# 26>. 13 {:Dr1 :notEqualTo :Dr2} e:evidence <log#kb>} 14 => {{:Dr1 :hasAccess :R2} e:evidence <kb.n3# 59>}.

Observations

- semantic proofs are also represented in *triple* format
 - \therefore can also be reasoned about \rightarrow automated validation
- semantic proofs provide built-in auditing mechanism

'Breaking-of-the-Glass'

Definition

when it is necessary to **ignore policy** in the interest of **patient safety**

 a common practice due to limitations of traditional access control models

'Breaking-of-the-Glass'

Definition

when it is necessary to **ignore policy** in the interest of **patient safety**

- -using consent transference
 - determine if existing consent policy can be applied
 - *breaking-of-the-glass* is exercised only when absolutely necessary

'Breaking-of-the-Glass'

Definition

when it is necessary to **ignore policy** in the interest of **patient safety**

- -using semantic proofs
 - extend semantic proofs in support of *breaking-of-the-glass* decisions
 - provides logic-based reasons for "why"

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- -challenges of consent application
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Purpose

establish if a requester is allowed to receive patient information

- is not a communication protocol
 - can be integrated into existing protocols as a "pre-step"

Purpose

establish if a requester is allowed to receive patient information

- 3 Phases Protocol
 - request for information
 - proof generation
 - proof validation

isTreating ► *P*

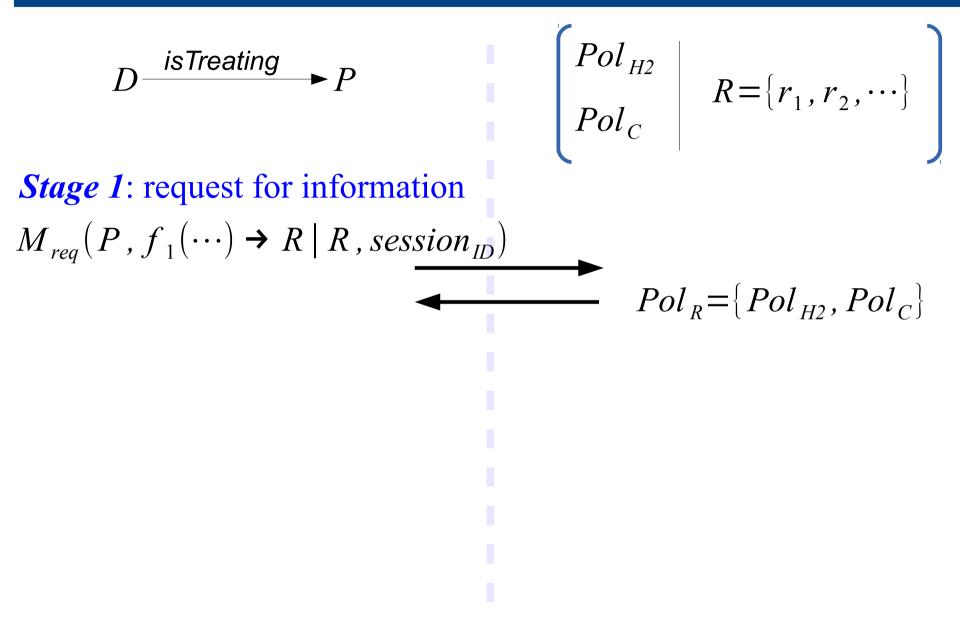
 $\begin{vmatrix} Pol_{H2} \\ Pol_{C} \end{vmatrix} \quad R = \{r_1, r_2, \cdots\}$

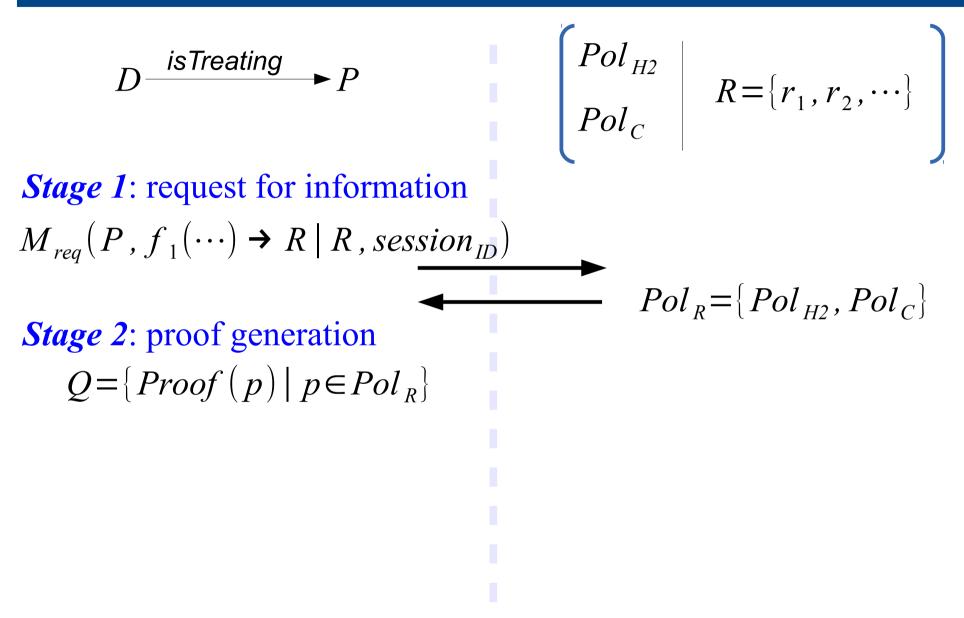
$$D \xrightarrow{\text{isTreating}} P$$

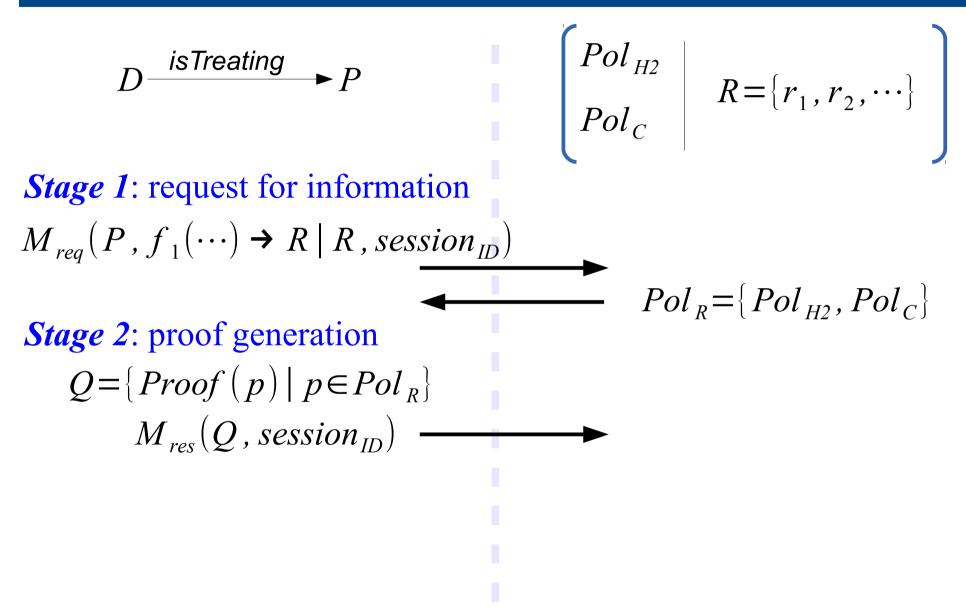
$$R = \{r_1, r_2, \cdots\}$$

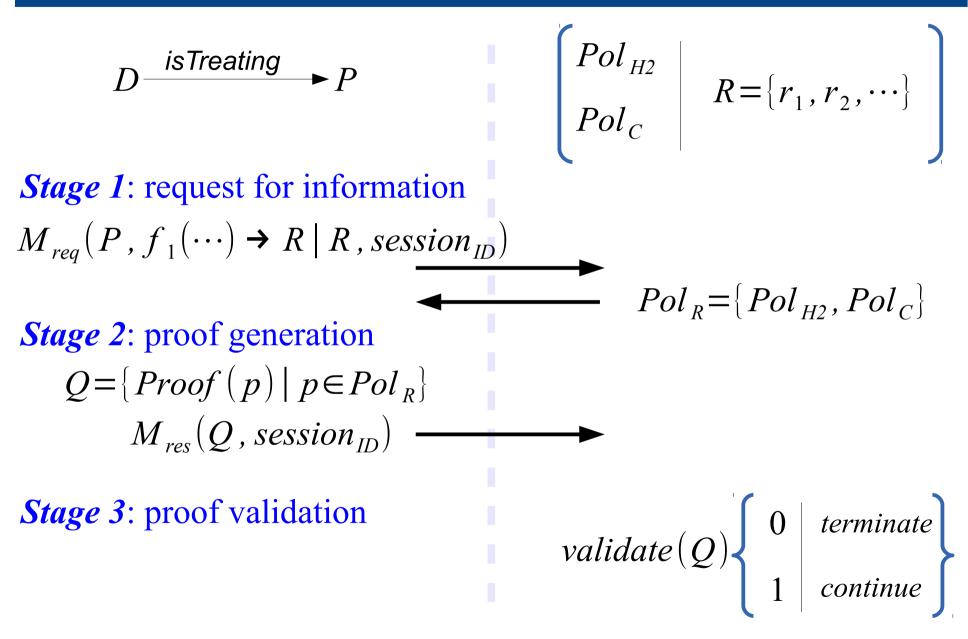
Stage 1: request for information $M_{req}(P, f_1(\dots) \rightarrow R \mid R, session_{ID})$

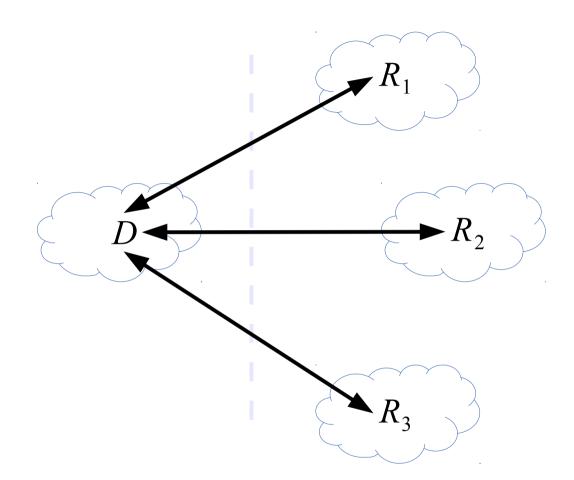
resolution function











Future Extensions

Trust

- utilizing semantic proofs to dynamically establish trust

Privacy

- -validation of semantic proofs requires access to raw information
 - utilize cryptographic primitives for proof generation *zero knowledge proof, cryptographic commitments, oblivious transfer*

Model as MAS (multi agent system)

- offload proof generation & validation to agents

Outline

Background

- -challenges of consent application
- -knowledge engineering
- Proposed Model
 - control primitives
 - -POC ontological model
 - -example scenarios
 - -handshake protocol

Conclusion

Conclusion

Access Control Model

- resource, owner, policy, domain
 - structured knowledge representation (ontology)
 - logic-based reasoning/inference
- offers high degree of expression & precision
- suitable for healthcare domain
 - multiple owners
 - heterogeneous administrative domains
 - built-in validation

Conclusion

Realization

- a simple proof-of-concept ontology
- applied to core healthcare scenarios

Integration

-*hand shake* protocol

Thank You!