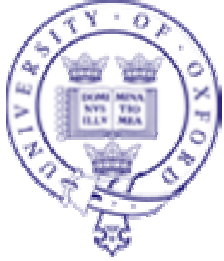




Digital Certificate Operation in a Complex Environment

Matthew J. Dovey
Oxford University Computing Services



Aim

- ...to provide a detailed evaluation and implementation of digital certificate services at the University of Oxford...
- ...to evaluate authenticated access to both local and remote resources by a variety of user types...



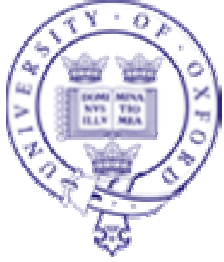
Summary of deliverables

- Evaluation reports for different stages of the process
- Copies of policies and overall Certificate Practice Statement
- Details of systems architecture and any open source adaptations
- Project Web site
- Summative report – practical manual



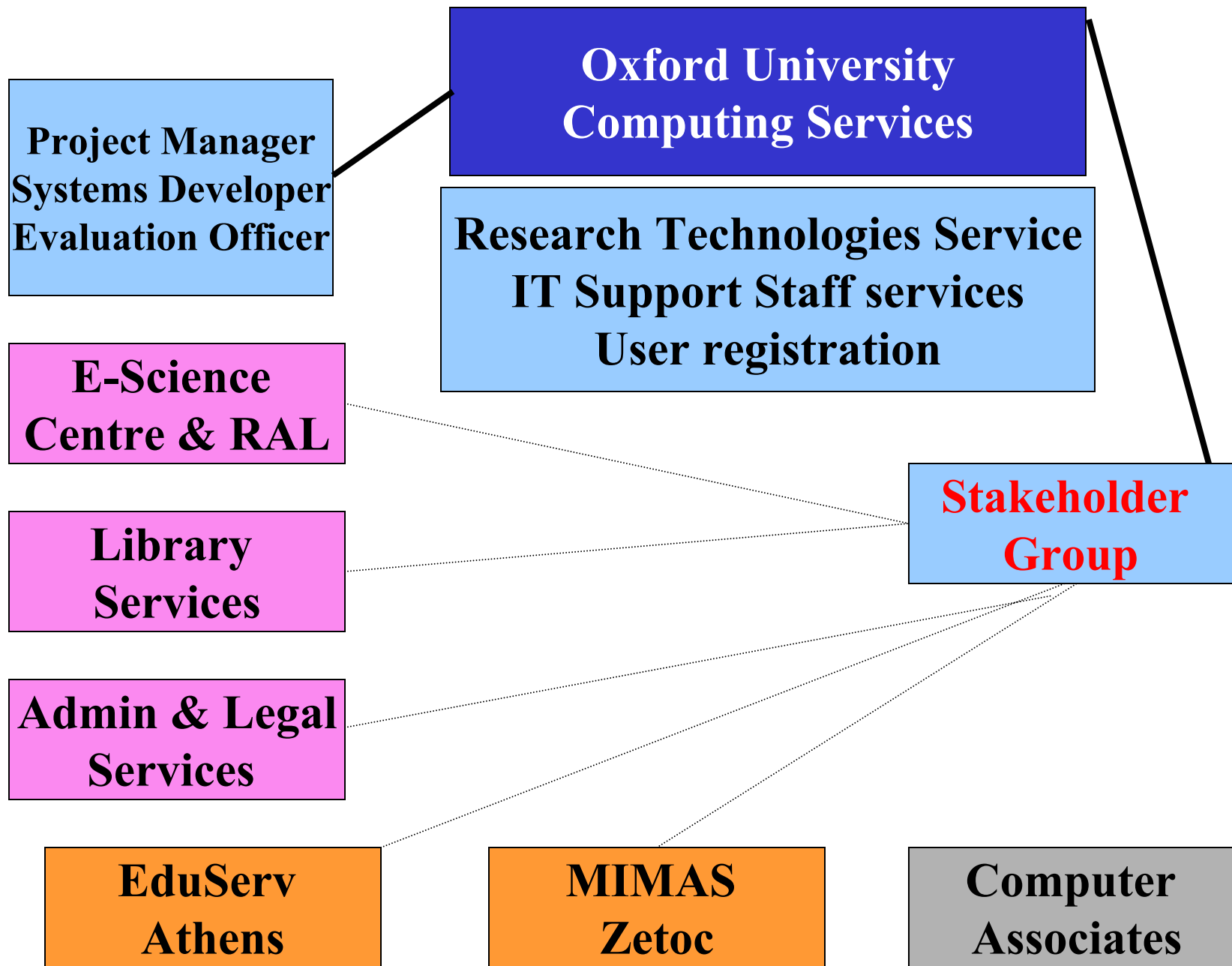
Institutional context

- **Oxford University is large and complex**
- **Oxford hosts regional e-Science Centre**
- **Computing services includes secure access to web-based email; LDAP services; VPN service**
- **Desires secure access to central IT support applications**
- **Desires to optimise access to licensed content**
- **Developing account management packages for RDN Subject Portals Project**

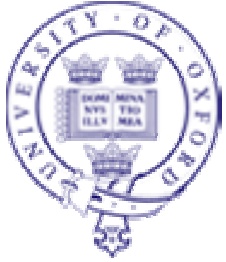


Partners

- Oxford University Computing Services
 - Research Technologies Service
- Oxford University Library Services
 - Systems and Electronic Resources Service
- EduServ (Athens)
- MIMAS (Zetoc)
- Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (e-Science Centre)



Organisation



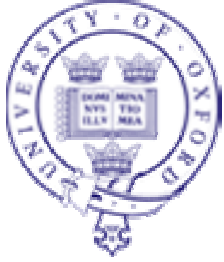
Primary tasks I

- Modelling of administration and system architecture
- Development of infrastructure/administration components
 - Including: server-side security; attribute server; certificate issuing service; storage and use of certificates; certificate revocation; bindings to existing services
- Certificate policy & practice statements



Primary tasks II

- **IT support staff services**
 - Access to IT support services certificate compliant
- **Athens Devolved Authentication**
 - Access to remote resources via Athens SSO and digital certificates
- **Mimas – Zetoc**
 - Direct access to Zetoc services
- **e-Science**
 - Provide institutional solution to management of certificates within regional e-Science community



Summary

- Development and implementation of digital certificate services within a large, complex university
- Practical project with dedicated evaluation
- Investigating administrative, legal, library and technical issues
- Commitment to open source solutions
- Will explore development of consultancy/advisory service beyond project



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