ABSTRACT
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Identity Management as an Application Enabler

Initially created by the information technology industry, the Identity Management (IdM) concept has been increasingly recognized as a foundation for key new services by telecommunication network operators.

Indeed, since network operators "own" wireless and wireline access, so they "own" much information connected with their subscribers.

Based on those assets, network operators are in a unique position to offer a range of identity-based services—from home networking to straight-forward authentication services for enterprise, to a complex blend of services, including financial and medical transactions. Conversely, by *federating* data from multiple application providers, coupled with Single Sign-On (SSO), network operators can offer unique mash-up services.

The technology underpinning the development of such services is centered on *security* (i.e., interworking of a range of authentication, key exchange, and encryption mechanisms, along with appropriate policies). This presentation addresses the market trends as well as the trends in certain novel mechanisms to fill in the present technology gaps. These trends are also active topics in standardization bodies such as the ITU.