



Single Sign-On for the Internet: A Security Story

eugene@tsyrklevich.name

vlad902@gmail.com

BlackHat USA, Las Vegas 2007

How do you manage your 169 Web 2.0 accounts today?



Does your “SSO” consist of

A login

(e.g. johndoe)

+

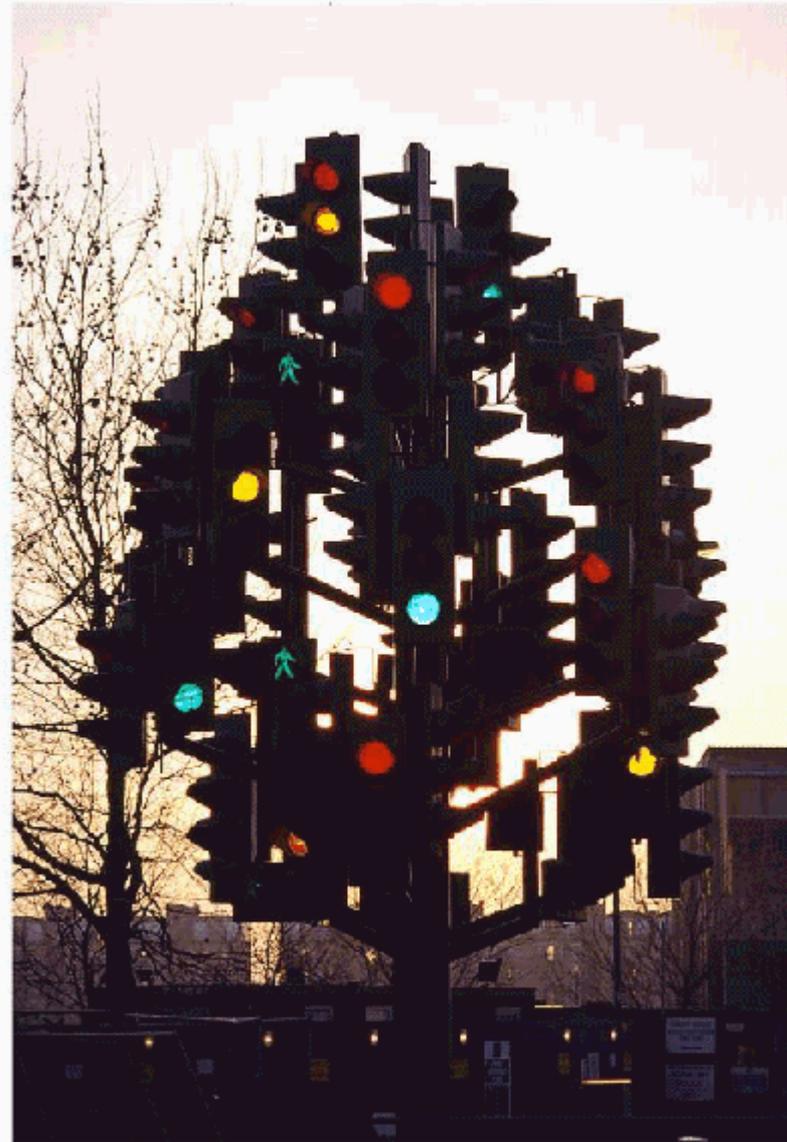
2 passwords

(one insecure for web 2.0 sites and one secure for banking sites)

?

Attack #1

- a. Fail a user's login
- b. Observe the user try every single combination of their username and password, including the secure password..



Oliver Collin - London - 2003 ©

Lesson #1

Complexity
breeds
insecurity



One login to rule them all...

...a story about reducing complexity



Proves that a user owns a URL

You get to choose who manages your identity
e.g. <http://john.doe.name/> or <http://jonny.myopenid.com/>



Answers the who? question (authentication)

are you john.doe.name?

Does NOT answer the what? (authorization)

is john.doe.name allowed to access this page?

How?

(demo)

Sign in with OpenID Help



[Home](#) [Sign up](#) [Everybody's Claims](#)

Search [Go](#)

Sign in with OpenID [What is OpenID?](#)

Examples:

- <http://you.myopenid.com/>
- <http://username.livejournal.com/>
- <http://first.last.name/>
- [=example.iname](mailto=example.iname)

Don't have an OpenID? [Sign up](#) to get one now.



SIGN IN

About this page

[Dismiss](#)

If you have a MyOpenID account, sign in here. [Sign up](#) if you don't yet have an account.

Notice

[Dismiss](#)

You must sign in to authenticate to <http://jyte.com/> as <http://eugene.tsyrklevich.name/>.

- [Sign in with an SSL certificate](#)

Username

Password

Stay signed in

YOUR PERSONAL ICON

OPTIONS

[Home](#)

[Sign Up](#)

[Recover Account](#)

[OpenID Site Directory](#)



FreeYourID.com



OPENID VERIFICATION

A site identifying as **http://fjyte.com/** has asked us for confirmation that **http://eugene.tsyrklevich.name/** is your identity URL.

[What exactly do these buttons do?](#)

YOUR PERSONAL ICON

YOUR ACCOUNT

YOUR OPENID:
<http://eugene.tsyrklevich.name/>

- Home
- Registration Personas
- Account Settings
- OpenID Site Directory
- Your Affiliate Sites
- Sign Out



FreeYourID.com

Signed in as eugene.tsyrklevich.name (Sign Out) Help



Home You Make a Claim Groups Everybody's Claims

Search Go

Featured Newest Most Votes Discussed Solid Contested Recently Commented My watched Watched conversation

Advanced Search

Tags

- [culture](#)
- [food](#)
- [humor](#)
- [internet](#)
- [jyte](#)
- [language](#)
- [life](#)
- [music](#)
- [philosophy](#)
- [politics](#)
- [programming](#)
- [psychology](#)

Newest claims

Showing 1 to 10 of 30689 total. Next 10

1	0
+	-

Cheese.

By [darraghq.myopenid.com](#) 1 minute ago

1	0
---	---

The Jerry Springer show is the most democratic show on television.

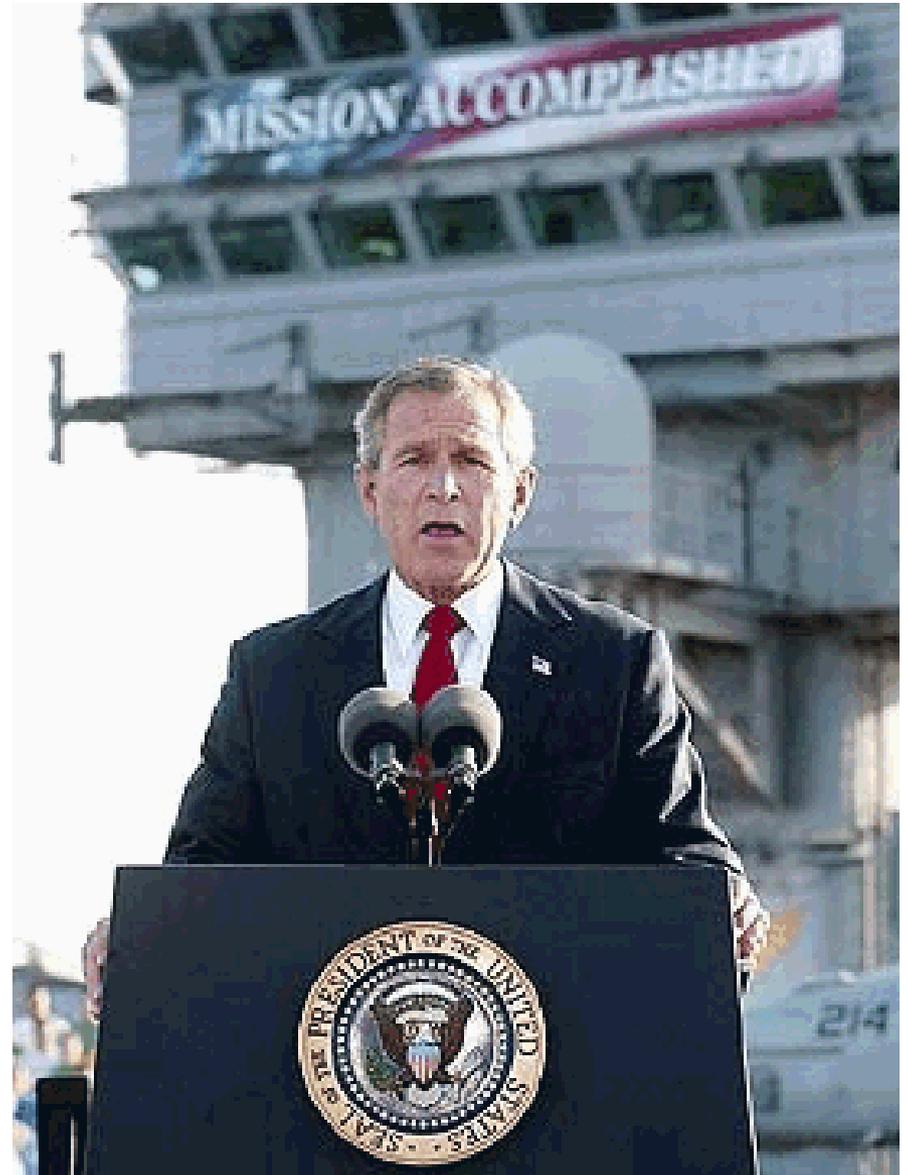
By [darraghq.myopenid.com](#) 6 minutes ago

0	1
---	---

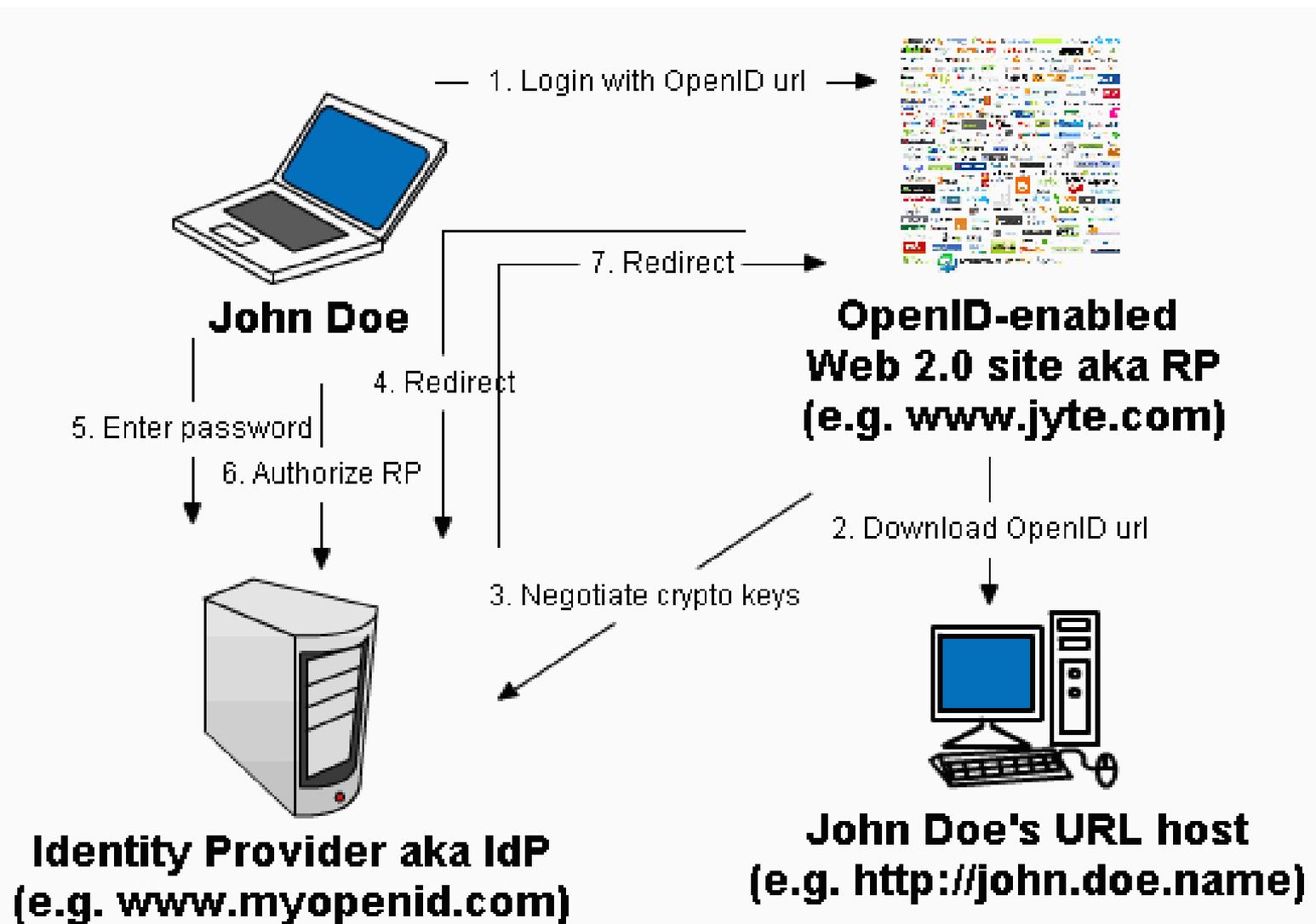
I have read "The Attention Economy: The Natural Economy of the Net" by Michael H. Goldhaber.

By [Ivan FXS](#) 25 minutes ago

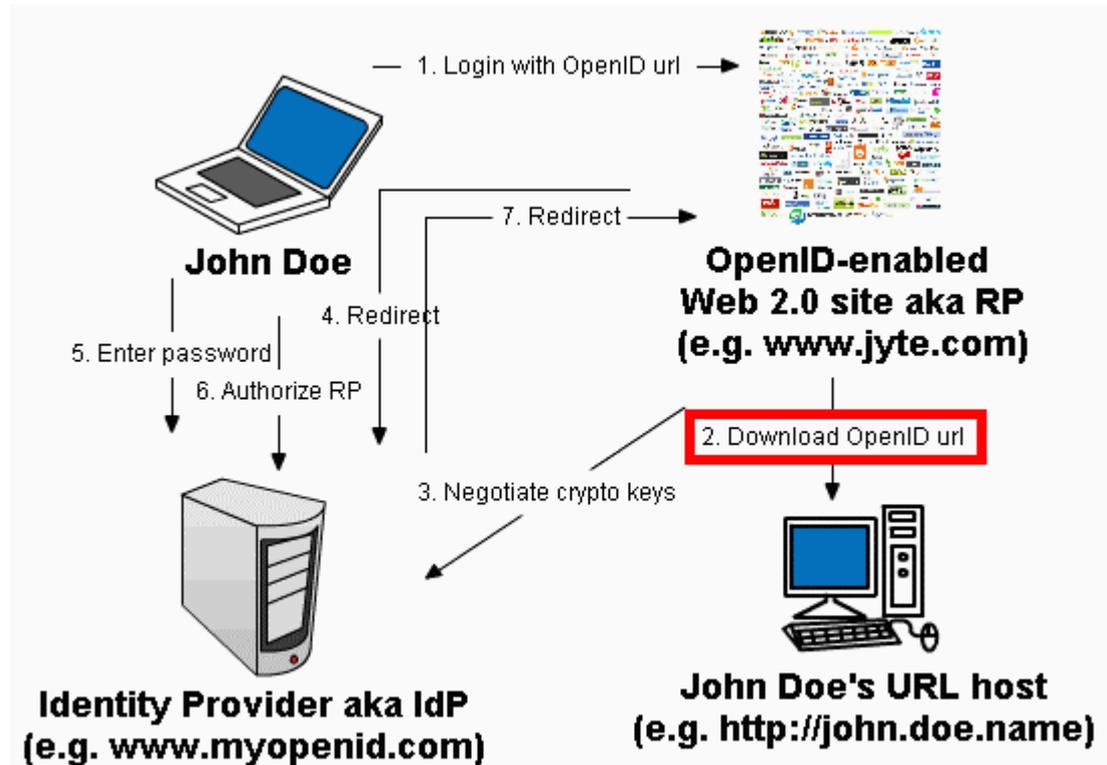
That was easy!



Oh. Never mind.



Let's start at the beginning



Attack #2 – Which one are you?

<http://nsa.gov:1/>, <http://nsa.gov:2/>, ...

<https://192.168.1.15/internal/auth?ip=1.1.1.1>

<http://localhost:8080/>

<http://www.youtube.com/largemovie.flv>

<http://www.tarpit.com/cgi-bin/hang.pl>

<file:///dev/null>

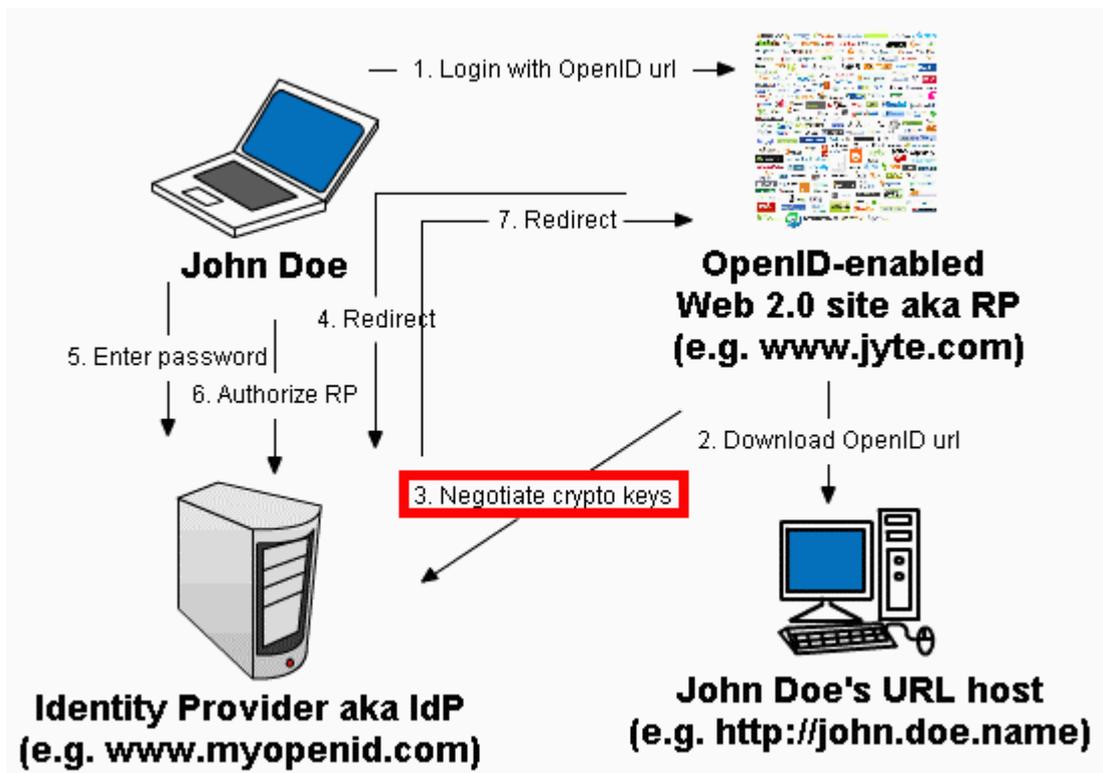


Lesson #2

Flexibility and security
do not get along

(or, why it's important to be less
flexible and more paranoid)

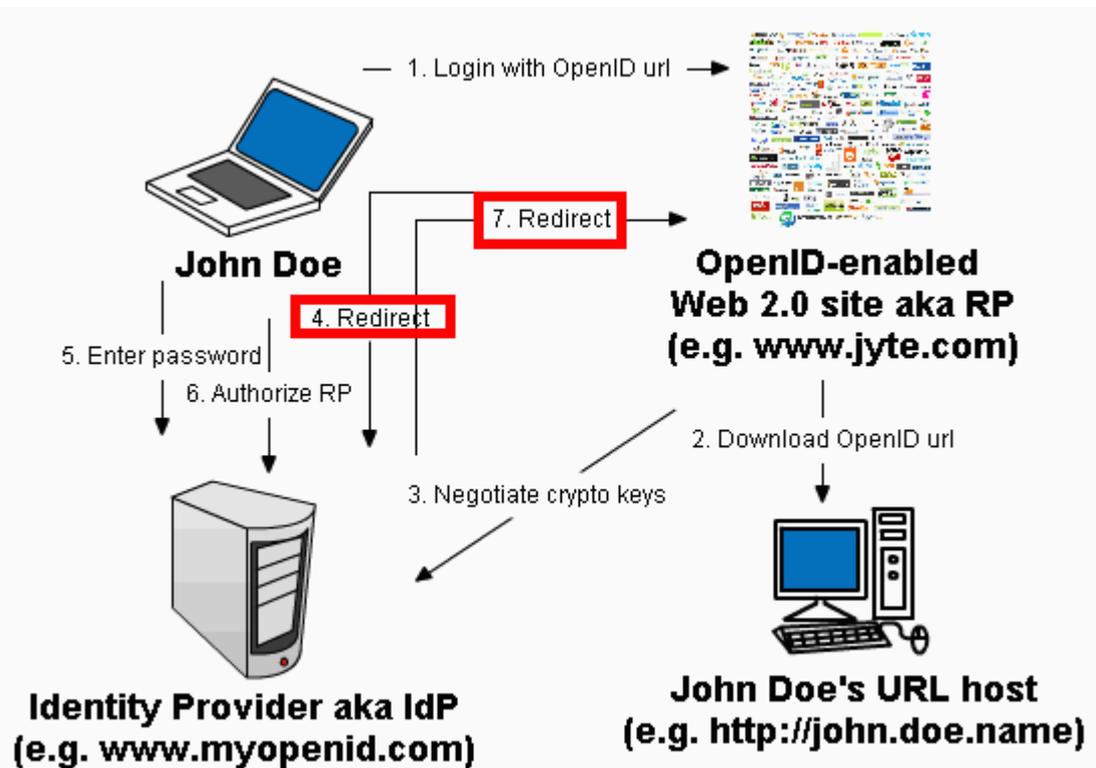
Everybody loves crypto



“associate mode”

Why is crypto required?

to protect request & response URLs



Shared symmetric key is generated using Diffie-Hellman

```
POST /server HTTP/1.0
Host: www.myopenid.com
Content-type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
Content-length: 504
```

```
openid.mode=associate&openid.assoc_type=HMAC-SHA1&
openid.session_type=DH-SHA1&
openid.dh_consumer_public=QVlowpfJ31QmJPmvHFs6gIHE63FliBDAPH%2F693U
k3arIaMvhVcLx4kQyQhy5G00OOJvVNwsVciFVxN0%2BiuKnFtmPn7gjjq3yjKzf5
NT5iDz35QZx1Z7WGwVgGRYiYyrNne1RgKJu3EvpMHDhL7KxwCyq%2B2gIsO
jwezBD8K VyuxM%3D&openid.dh_modulus=ANz5OguIOXLSDhmYmsWizjEOH
Tdxfo2Vcbt2I3MYZuYe91ouJ4mLBX%2BYkcLiemOcPym2CBRYHNOyyjmG0mg
3BVd9RcLn5S3IHHoXGHblzqdLFEi%2F368Ygo79JRnxTkXjgmY0rxlJ5bU1zIKaS
DuKdiI%2BXUkKJX8Fvf8W8vsixYOr&openid.dh_gen=Ag0%3D%3D
```

Attack #3 - Diffie-Hellman is vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks!

The spec suggests running DH over https to improve protocol security

So what's the point of using DH in the first place?

Lesson #3

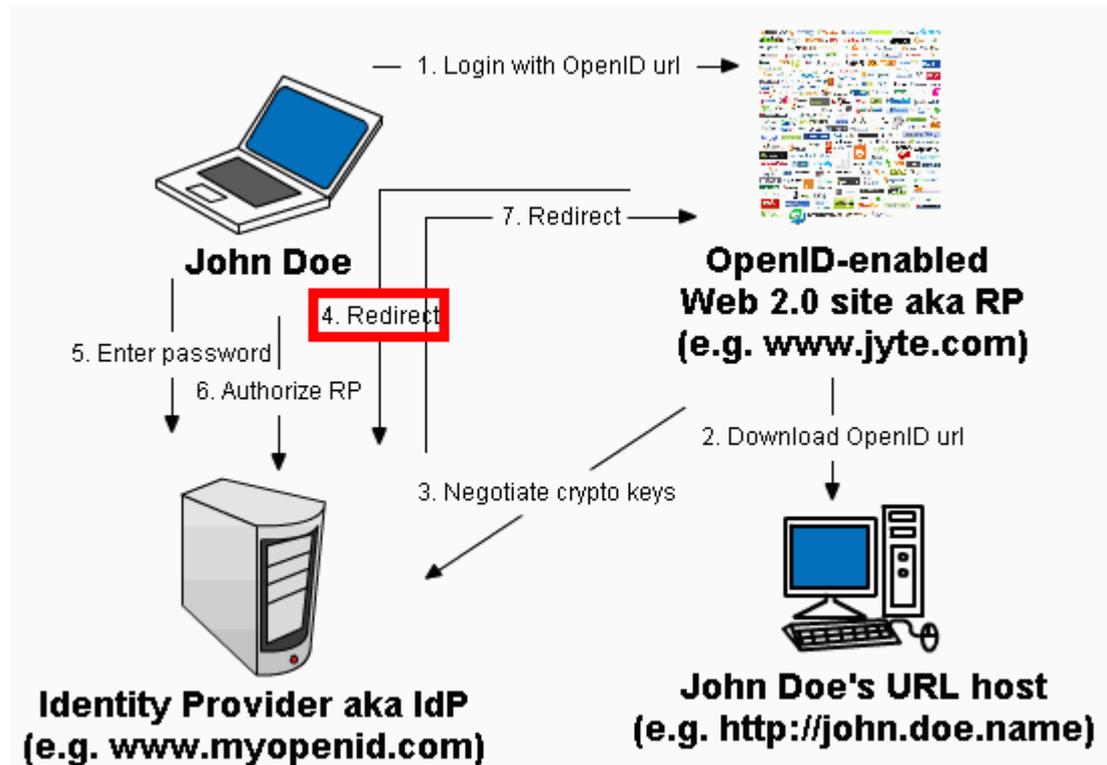
Home brewed
crypto is a no no

(or, why you should
stick to https)



"Never, ever, think outside the box."

Where are you going?



This way! No, that way!

```
<html><head>  
<link rel='openid.server' href='http://www.myopenid.com/server' />  
<link rel='openid.delegate' href='http://eugene.tsyrklevich.name' />  
<link rel='shortcut icon' href='/grf/favicon.ico' type='image/ico'>  
<title>http://www.intruders.tv/</title></head>  
<frameset rows='100%,*' border='0'>  
  <frame src='http://www.intruders.tv/' frameborder='0' />  
  <frame frameborder='0' noresize />  
</frameset></html>
```

Location: [http://www.myopenid.com/server?
openid.assoc_handle=%7B HMAC-SHA1%7D%7B4..&
openid.identity=http%3A%2F%2Fjohn.doe.name%2F&
openid.mode=checkid_setup&
openid.return_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com%2F&
openid.trust_root=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com%2F](http://www.myopenid.com/server?openid.assoc_handle=%7B HMAC-SHA1%7D%7B4..&openid.identity=http%3A%2F%2Fjohn.doe.name%2F&openid.mode=checkid_setup&openid.return_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com%2F&openid.trust_root=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com%2F)

Attack #4a

Phishing with malicious RPs

Sign In - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help del.icio.us

https://www.myprecious.com/signin_password?tid=9cd05872

myOpenID
SECURE OPENID PROVIDER

SIGN IN

About this page [Dismiss](#)

If you have a MyOpenID account, sign in here. [Sign up](#) if you don't yet have an account.

Notice [Dismiss](#)

You must sign in to authenticate to <http://jyte.com/> as <http://eugene.tsykrlevich.name/>.

- [Sign in with an SSL certificate](#)

Username <http://eugene.tsykrlevich.name/>

Password

Stay signed in

[Sign In](#) [Cancel](#)

YOUR PERSONAL ICON

OPTIONS

- [Home](#)
- [Sign Up](#)
- [Recover Account](#)
- [OpenID Site Directory](#)


FreeYourID.com

[Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Privacy](#)

[Blog](#) | [About Us](#) | © 2007 JanRain, Inc.
MyOpenID™ and the MyOpenID™ website are trademarks of JanRain, Inc.

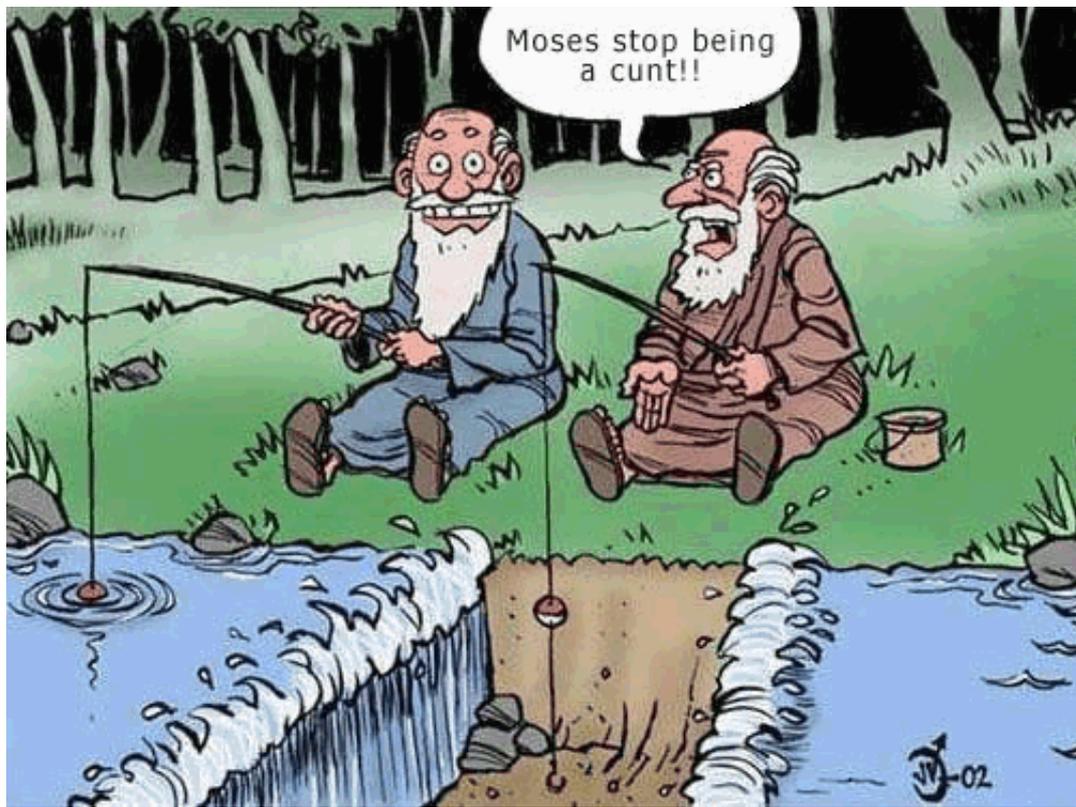
Attack #4b

Phishing with malicious URL hosts



The screenshot shows the source code of a web page in Mozilla Firefox. The browser's address bar displays the URL `http://eugene.tsyркlevich.name/`. The source code is displayed in a text area, and two lines of code are highlighted with a red box:

```
<html><head>  
  <link rel='openid.server' href='http://www.myprecious.com/server' />  
  <link rel='openid.delegate' href='http://eugene.tsyркlevich.name' />  
  <link rel='shortcut icon' href='/grf/favicon.ico' type='image/ico'>  
  <title>http://www.precious.com</title></head>  
  <frameset rows='100%,*' border='0'>  
    <frame src='http://www.intruders.tv' frameborder='0' />  
    <frame frameborder='0' noresize />  
  </frameset></html>
```

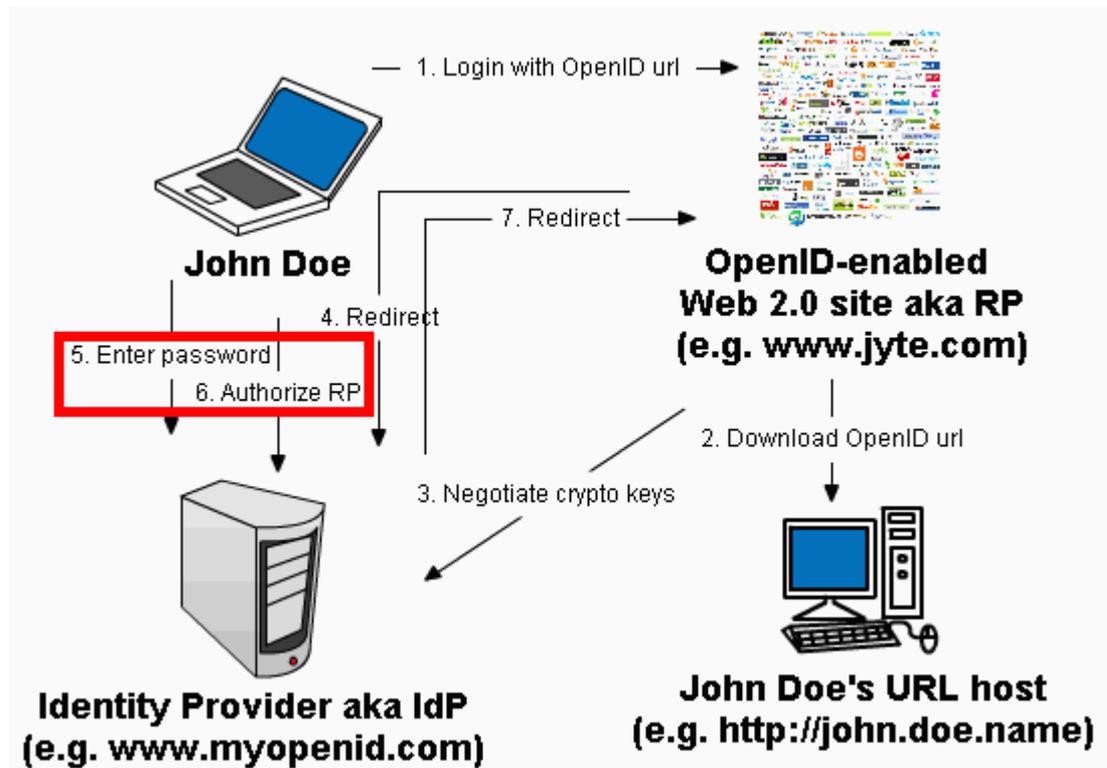


Lesson #4

Phishers 1 – OpenID 0

(or, why Johnny will never learn to read URLs)

Let me in!



Once signed in, you will no longer need
to re-enter your password for other
OpenID enabled sites



Convenient, eh?

In other words...

your identity provider receives and
processes ALL your login requests
on your behalf

...privacy, anyone?

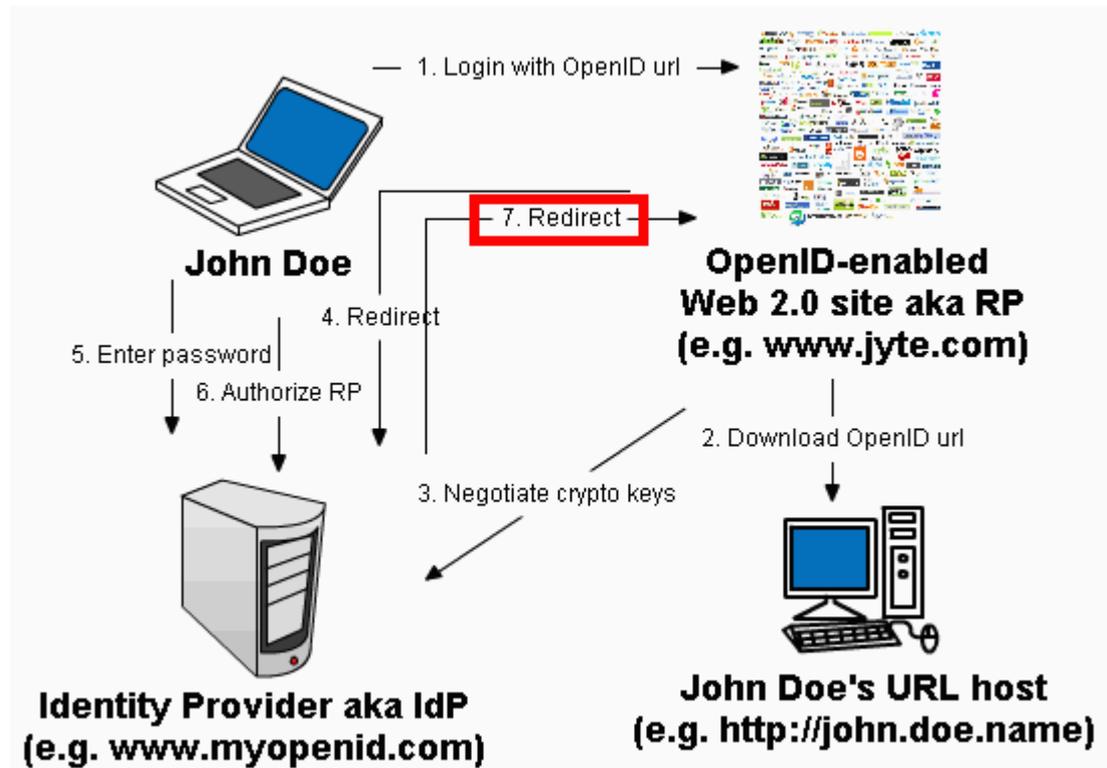
Lesson #5

OpenID makes
privacy difficult

(or, why some paranoid
users might want to use
one OpenID login per site)



Not another redirect!

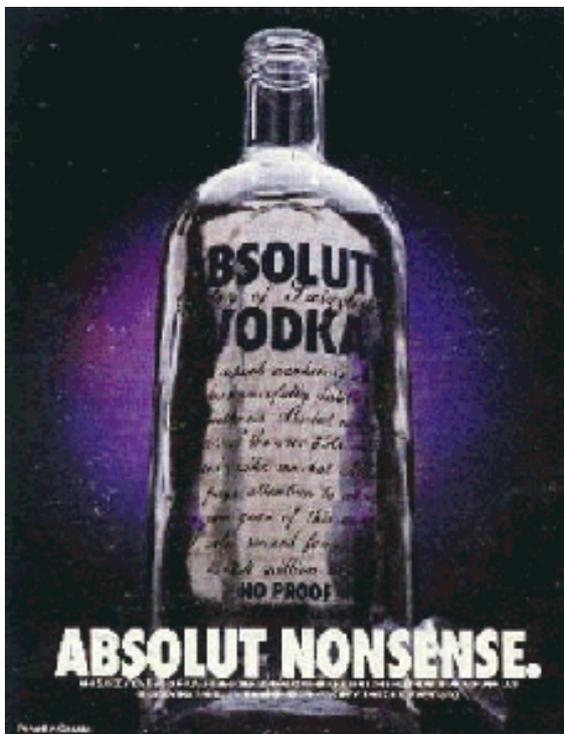


Attack #6 – Replay attack

Location: [http://www.somesite.com/finish_auth.php?
openid.assoc_handle=%7BHMAC-HA1%7D%7B47bb..&
openid.identity=http%3A%2F%2Fjohn.doe.name%2F&
openid.mode=id_res&
openid.return_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com&
openid.sig=vbUyND6n39Ss8IkpK119RT83O%2F4%3D&
openid.signed=mode%2Cidentity%2Creturn_to&
nonce=wVso75KH](http://www.somesite.com/finish_auth.php?openid.assoc_handle=%7BHMAC-HA1%7D%7B47bb..&openid.identity=http%3A%2F%2Fjohn.doe.name%2F&openid.mode=id_res&openid.return_to=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.somesite.com&openid.sig=vbUyND6n39Ss8IkpK119RT83O%2F4%3D&openid.signed=mode%2Cidentity%2Creturn_to&nonce=wVso75KH)

Problems with Nonces

- a. Not part of the OpenID spec (v1)
- b. Do not actually protect against active attackers!

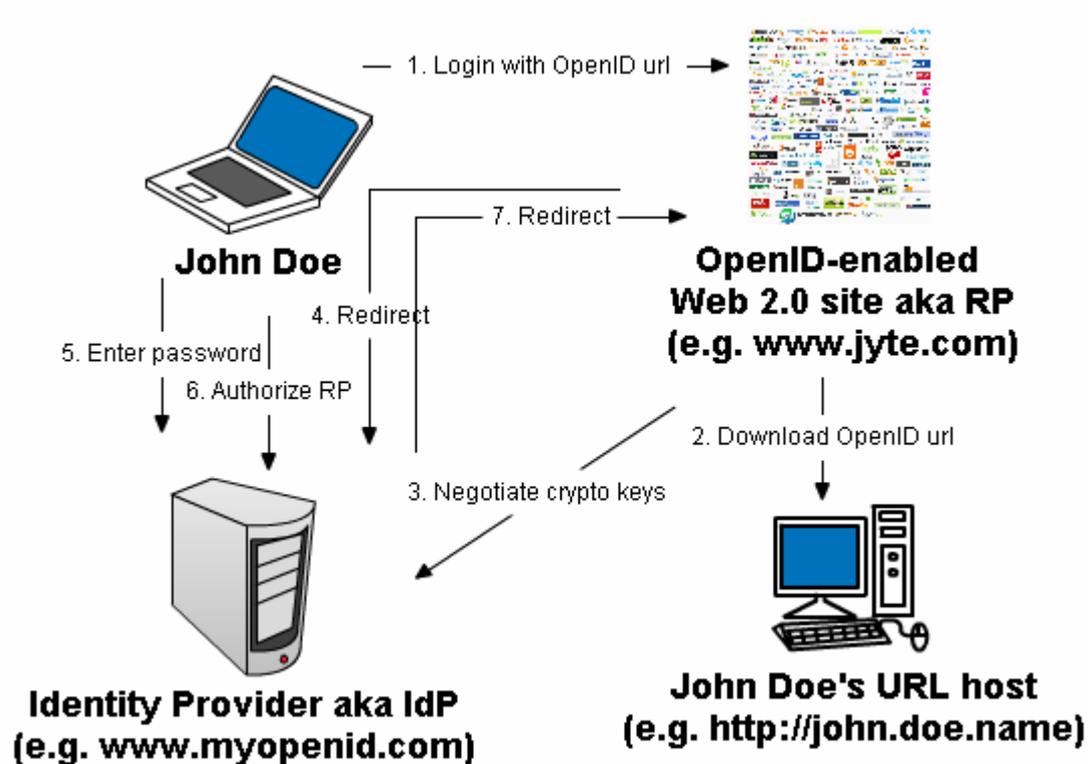


Lesson #6

Nonces are nonsense

(or, why you must be drinking absolut kool-aid if you believe nonces will protect you against an active attacker)

I am secure once I am logged in though, right?



Attack #7 – Cross-site request forgery

```
<html><body>
```

```
<iframe id="login"
```

```
src="http://bank.com/login?openid_url=john.doe.name" width="0"  
height="0"></iframe>
```

```
<iframe id="transfer"
```

```
src="http://bank.com/transfer_money?amount=100&to=attacker"  
width="0" height="0"></iframe>
```

```
</body></html>
```

Lesson #7



OpenID robs you of control

(or IdP, not RP, makes the security decisions)

Is it really all that bad?!

No!

OpenID can make your logins far more secure than they are today!

How?!

Only one service to secure so we can afford to use

- Client-side certificates
 - SecurID
 - Smartcards



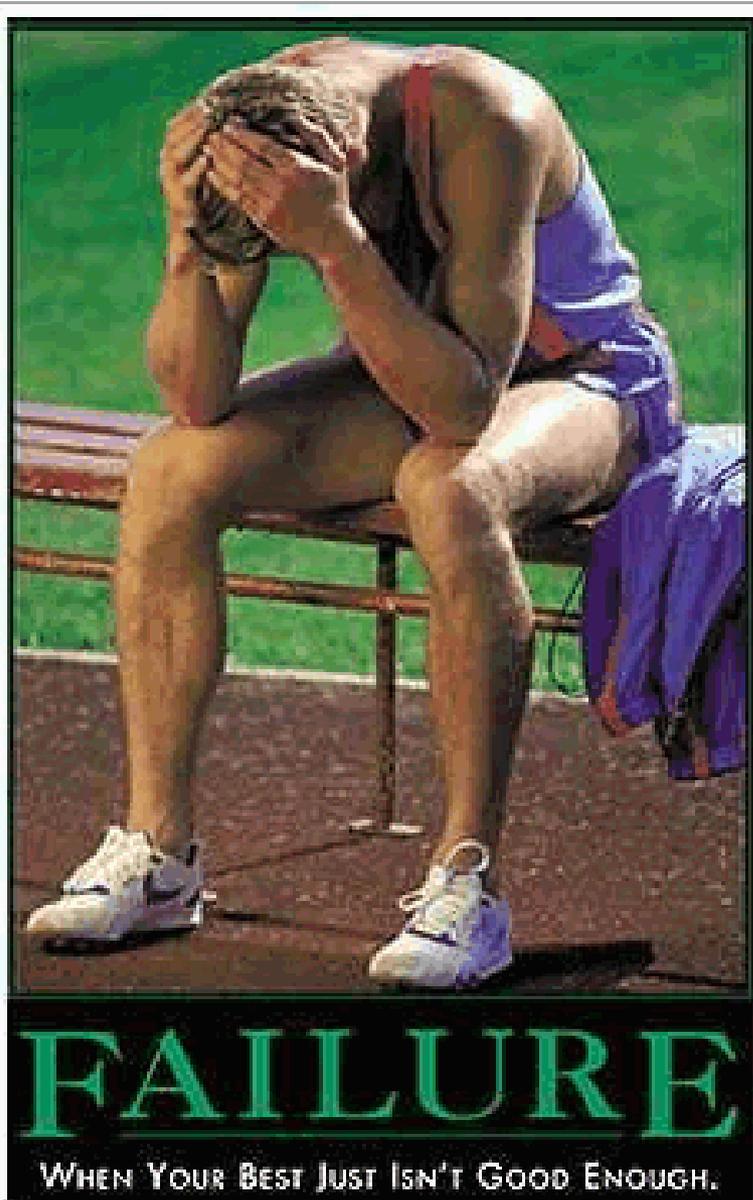
Lesson #8

There is only 1 front door with OpenID

(or, how I got over my privacy and learnt to love OpenID)

Lessons Learnt

1. Complexity breeds insecurity
2. Flexibility and security do not get along
3. Home brewed crypto is a no no
4. Phishers 1 – OpenID 0
5. OpenID makes privacy difficult
6. Nonces are nonsense
7. OpenID robs you of control
8. There is only 1 front door with OpenID



Is OpenID doomed?

Absolutely not

It's a great system
solving a very real problem

But its security and
privacy concerns
need further thought

Thanks!

Try it today.

<http://www.openid.net/>

<http://www.freeyourid.com/>

eugene@tsyrklevich.name

vlad902@gmail.com

Primary adoption vector:
grassroots, Web 2.0 applications

