



NIH-EDUCAUSE PKI Interoperability Project

Electronic Grant Application With Multiple Digital Signatures

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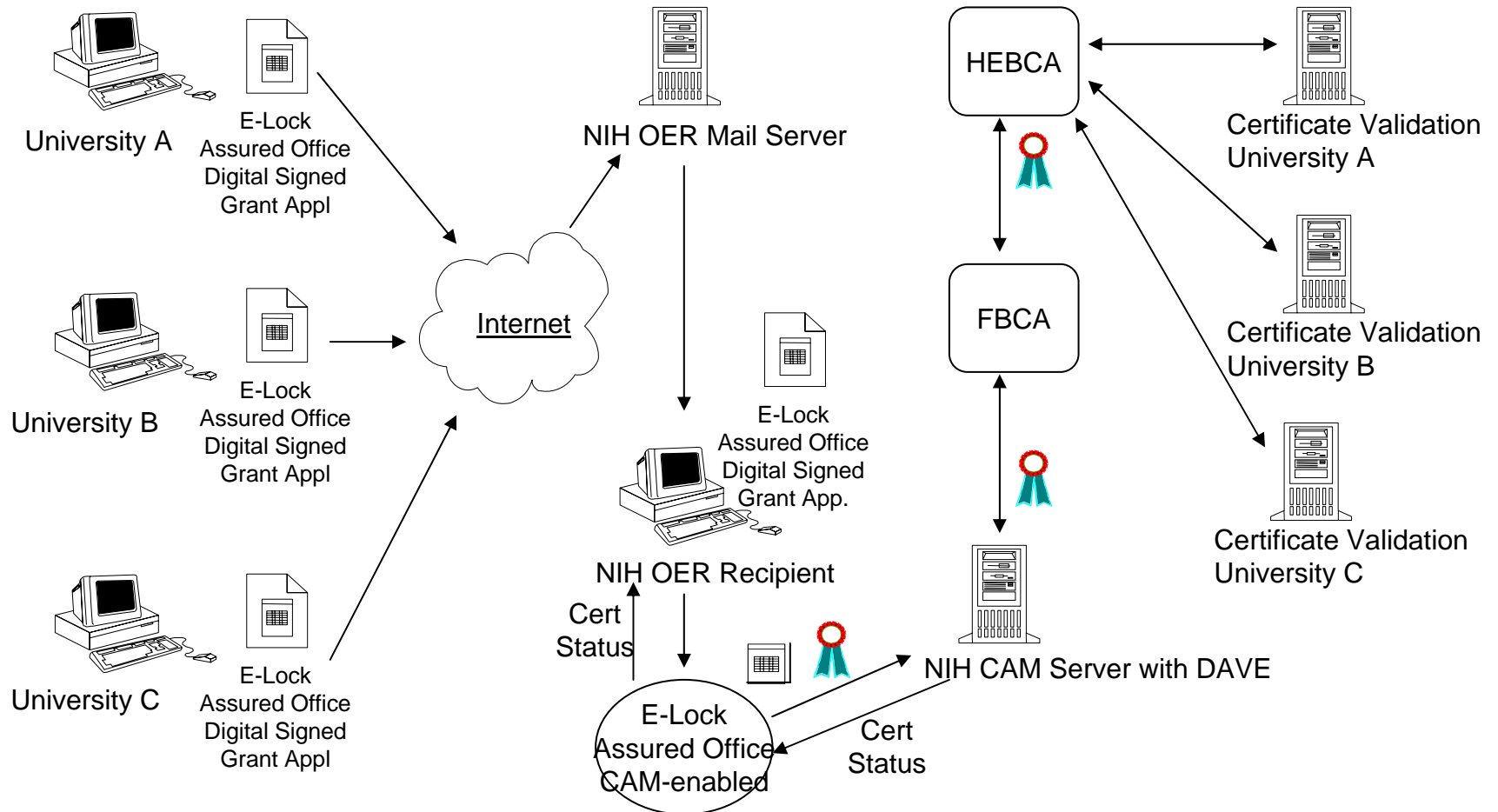


Project Goals

- Receive grant applications in electronic form signed with two different, validated, digital certificates each
- Use digital certificates issued by Institutions
- Demonstrate interoperability among four different CA vendors' products, including two different PKI service providers



Project Concept of Operations (CONOPS)





Project Accomplishments to Date

- Receipt of digitally-signed electronic submissions from UAB, UWM and Dartmouth with..
- Successful verification and validation of digital signatures from 3 CA vendors - RSA, iPlanet and Entrust, respectively
- In other words, *it works!*
- Project received the *Management and Leadership Best Practices Award* from the Potomac Forum and an *E-Gov Pioneer Award*.



Implications for PKI Users/Issuers

- Robust infrastructure supports secure inter-domain information exchange
- Focus on PKI-enabling local applications rather than on building cross-PKI communications
- Allows organizations to choose from among many vendors
- Relying parties do not have to issue, and manage, digital credentials



Lessons Learned

- Solving directory issues is the key to interoperability
- No vendor's X.509v3 certificate is like any other's
- Protocols for everything are in flux
- **There are NO show-stoppers**



Participating Institutions



University of California Office of the President



**University of Texas -
Houston**

Georgetown
UNIVERSITY





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