

# Who Am I Viewer Component

## Problem To Be Solved

The user needs to know whom the service (uPortal/Sakai/Kuali Student) thinks it is talking to. Specifically they would like to be able to ask the service:

- What login id or credential did I use to authorize this session?
- What person name do you have associated with my authentication identity?
- What other keys do you have to my identity (student number, employee number etc)?
- What roles associated with my identity are you using to select and personalize the content you are displaying?

## Interaction context

The user has logged in to the service, but may be unsure of their status. Querying the "Who am I" service will assure them that the service knows who they are. This is especially important to someone who has different credential sets for engaging the service in different ways.

## Current Solutions

Services commonly attempt to fulfill the requirement by displaying a welcome message at the top of the screen: E.g. "Welcome Fred Flintstone" or "Hello mburns" or "Greetings 31415927". Some users do not want their personal identifiers displayed in this way.

## Discussion

Users frequently engage services through personas. (We're using the word persona with its identity management meaning - briefly, it means the role, or set of roles the user adopts for the session - e.g. I'm logging in as a student, I'm logging in as a parent, I'm logging in as an instructor.) This means that the answer to the question "Who am I" does not always have the same answer for a particular user. If the user has authenticated through a federated identity provider, the answer may be something like "You're a librarian at Enormous State University". But even if we don't consider such extended cases, it's very useful for the user to be able to confirm their identity.