

# Using Sympa as a VO manager

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Serge Aumont, David Verdin - CRU

# In a nutshell

How to provide to VO a set of integrated tools?  
What usage of Sympa in group management?

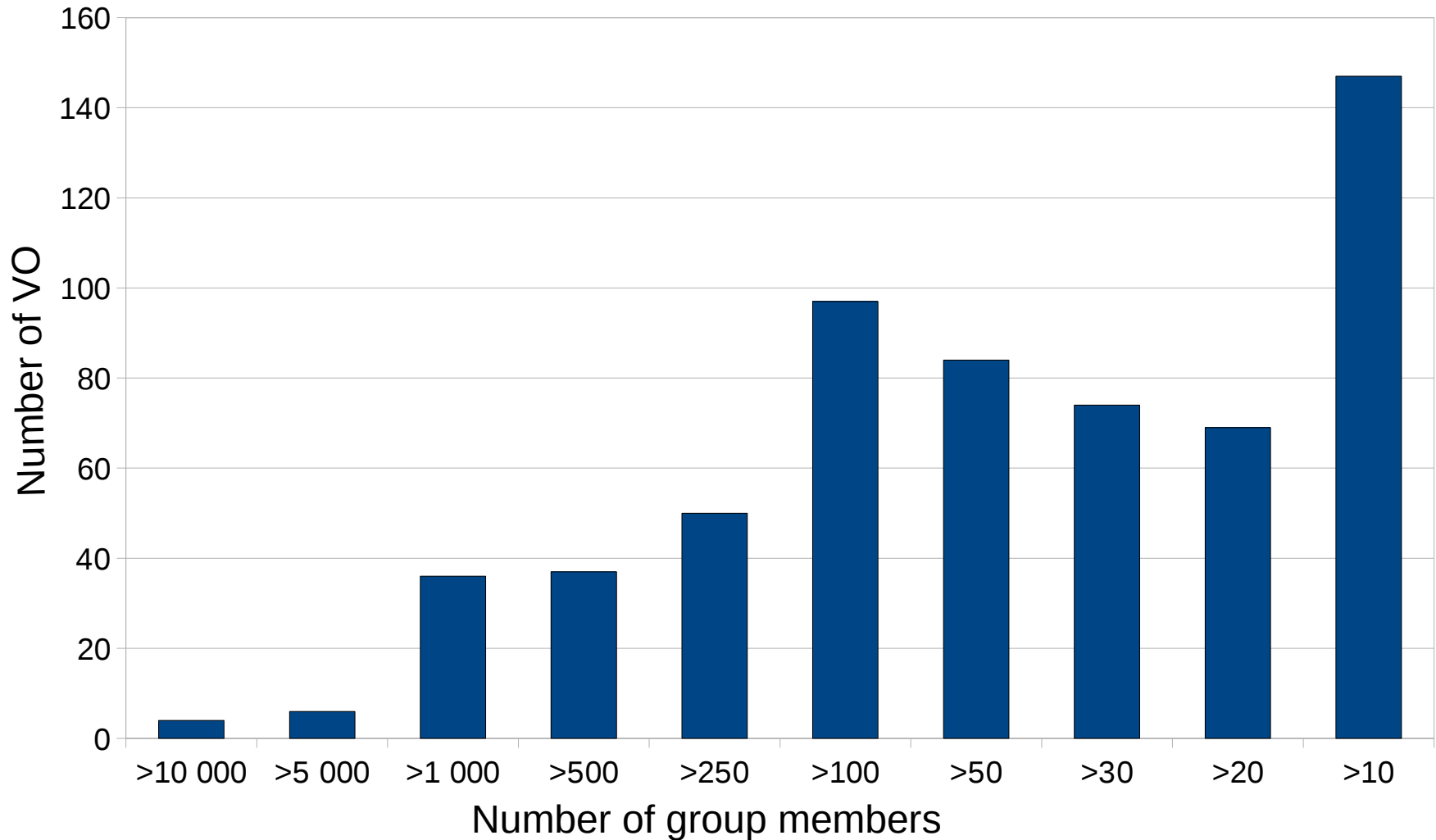
- Sympa = mailing list server
- A mailing list = a group
- Other applications use Sympa groups with the least changes possible: application domestication
- SOAP and Shibboleth as applications glue

# Our experience in VO

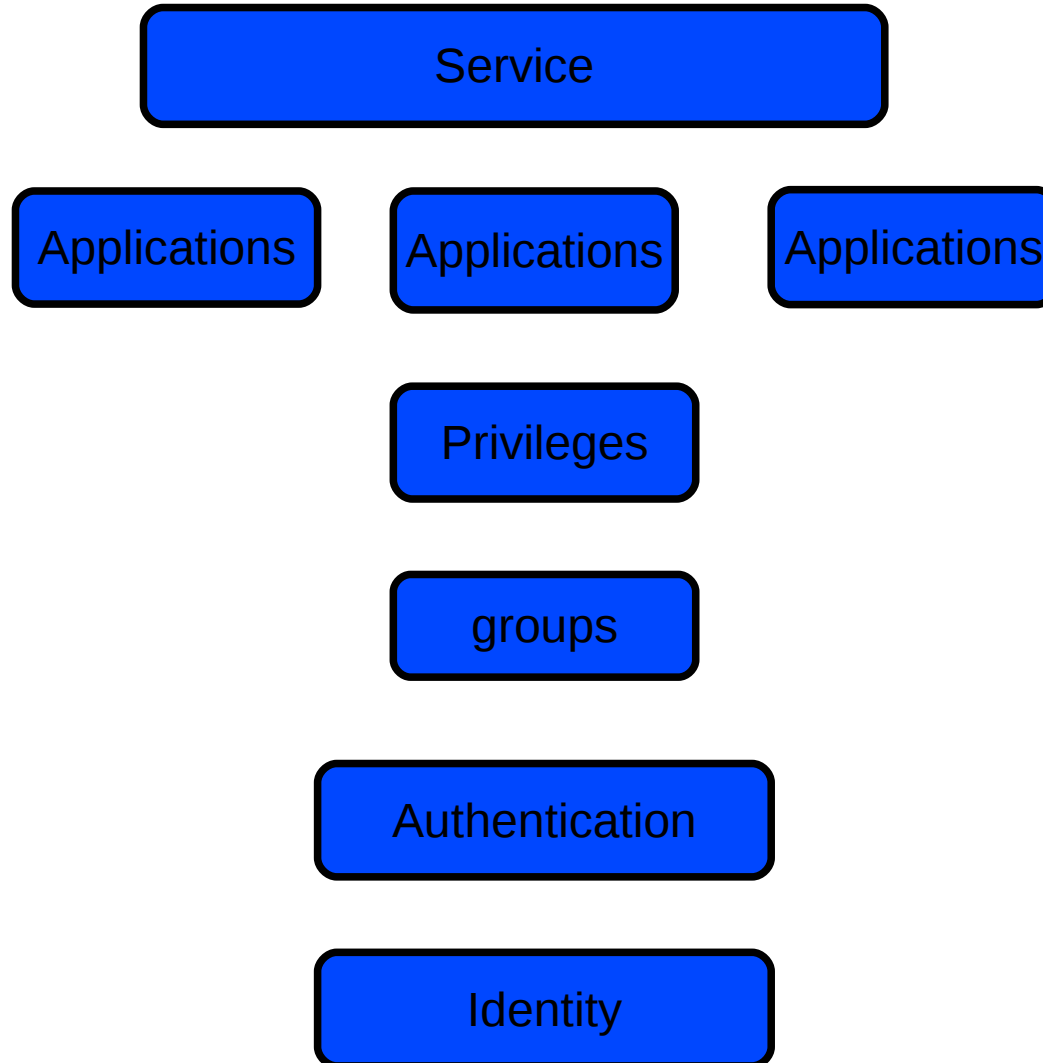
- A hosted service at national level for inter-university VO
- 280.000 registered users:
  - 600 VO
  - 250 other lists (newsletters...)
- 1/2 FTE to manage the service
- Much more people for the service development.

# Our experience in VO

## Groups size repartition(October 2009)



# VO Components



# What services do VO need?

- Information broadcasting
- Information gathering
- Document sharing
- Organization / scheduling
- Meeting

... and that's about it.

- Reporting
- Monitoring

... for group managers

# What services do VO need?

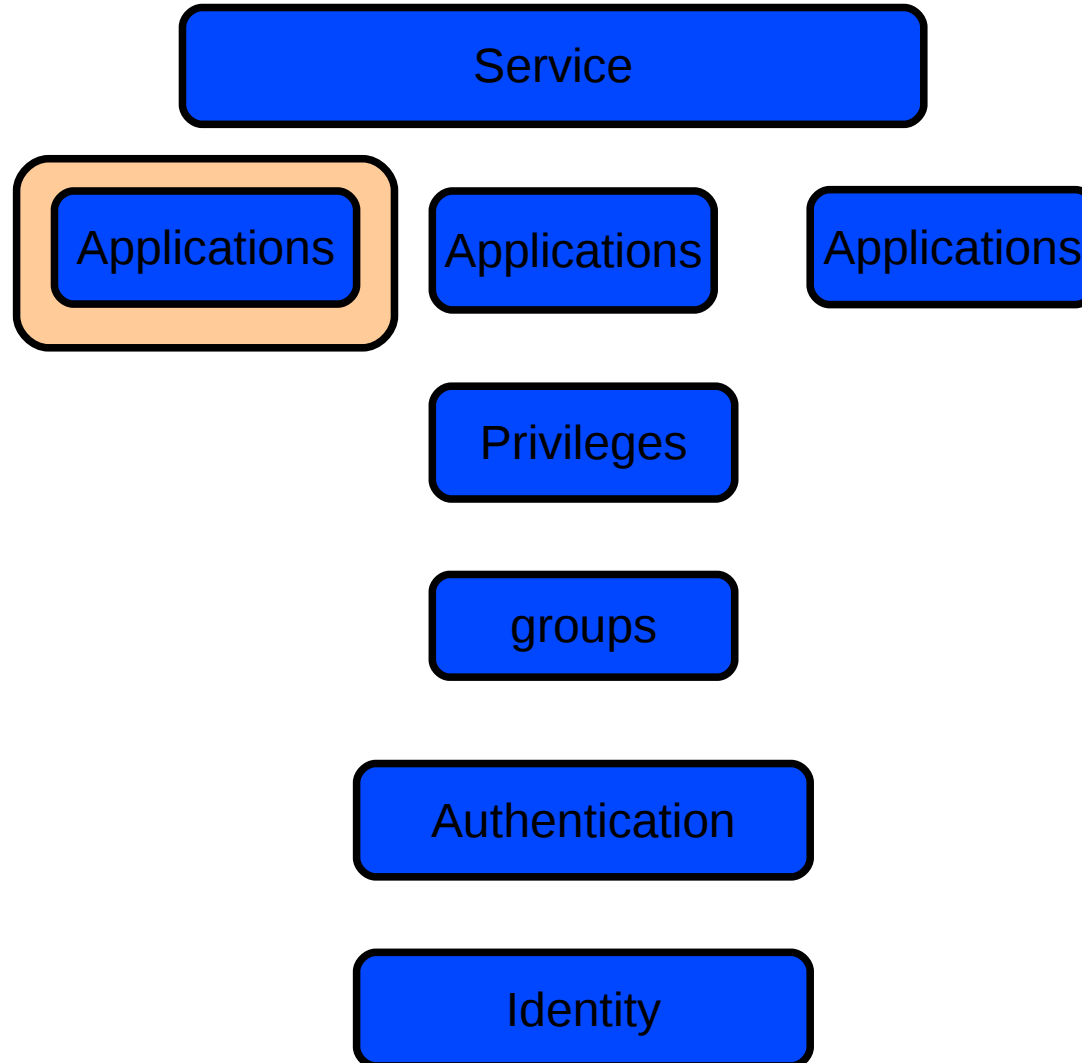
	Asynchronous	Synchronous
Push	Mailing lists Sympa	Private chat room Openfire Openmeeting?
Pull	Web 2.0 Dokuwiki Limesurvey doodle-like	-

Software applications selection must be demand driven.

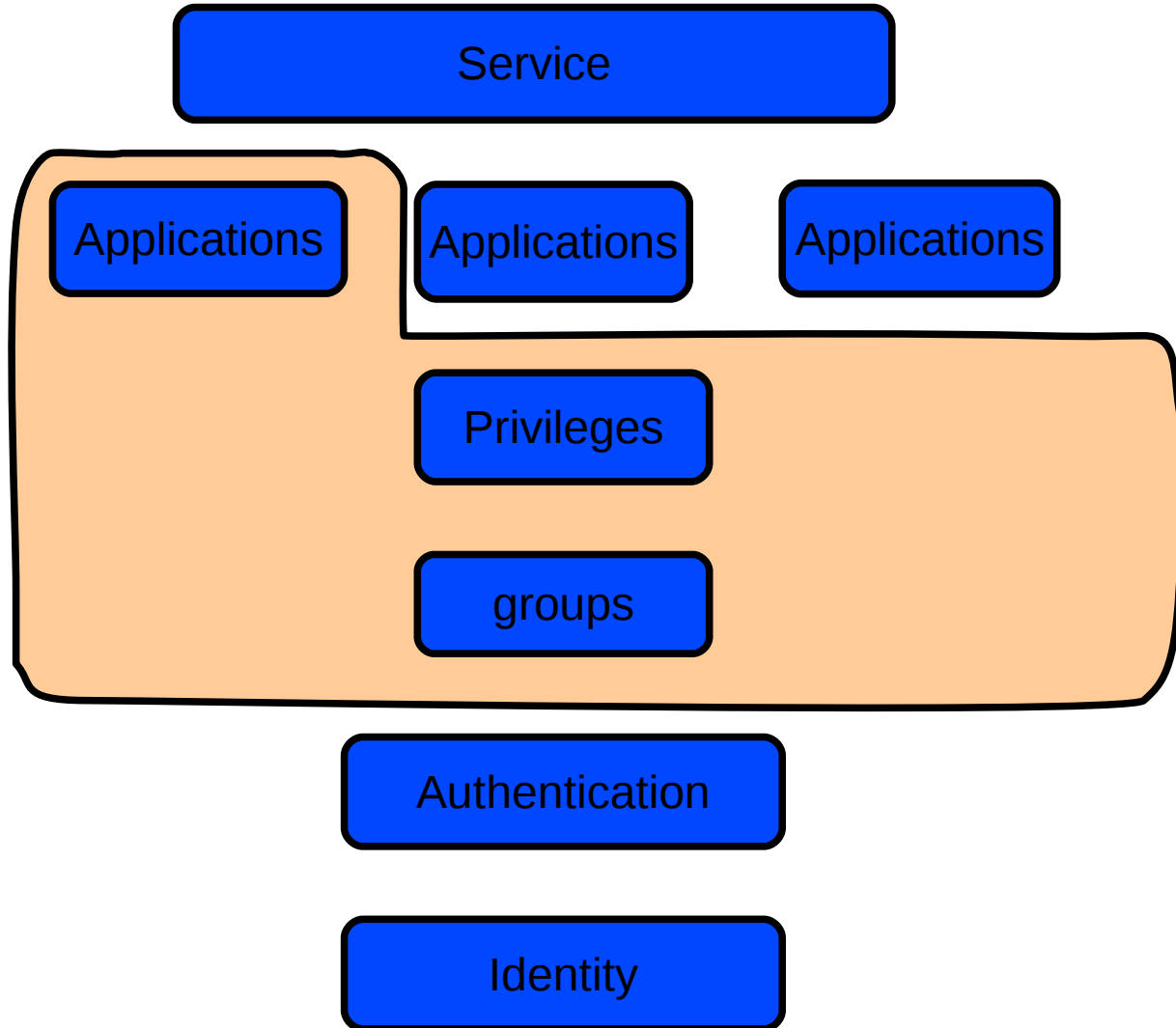
# Software management in our VO system

- Distribute our developments
- When needed: changes to other applications
  - > Only if the changes will survive (1/2 FTE to manage the service, remember?)
  - > Don't redo everything, domesticate « wild » existing applications.

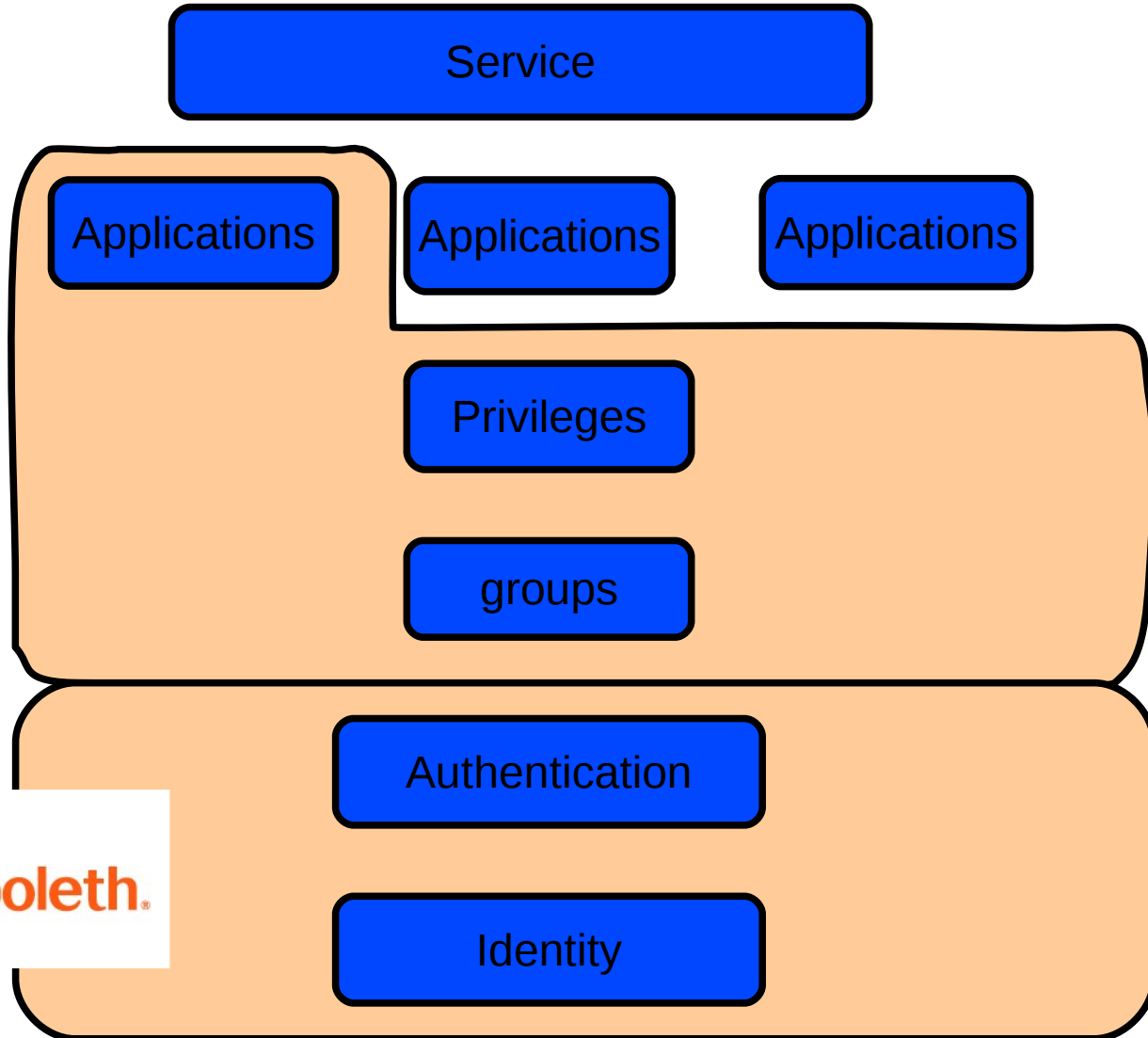
# Using Sympa as a VO manager



# Using Sympa as a VO manager



# Using Sympa as a VO manager



# Sympa as group manager

- Mailing list = group
  - Sympa allows group definition by :
    - Manual subscription
    - Other group inclusion
    - LDAP
    - RDBMS
    - Flat files (local or remote)
    - Other group inclusion (too)
- Internal datasource
- External datasource

=> Feed Sympa a list of emails,  
you get yourself a group

# Sympa as a group manager

- Building groups is not enough.
- Groups should also be shared with other applications
- Our solution: Sympa SOAP server

# Group management

All the group management is handled in Sympa, thanks to a dokuwiki plugin

The screenshot shows the Sympa web interface for the 'Universalistes' group. It includes a navigation bar with 'Création de liste', 'Admin Sympa', 'Liste des listes', and 'Accueil'. The main content area displays a list of group members and their contact information, such as 'david.verdin@cru.fr listmaster' and 'annonce-jres2007@cru.fr'. There are also sections for 'Vos préférences' and 'Vos listes'.

Sympa



Sympa-based access control

asks for group membership informations

Sympa  
SOAP server

SOAP request get-membership (user@xxx.fr)

The screenshot shows the Dokuwiki web interface for the 'Le wiki de la liste noustestons@cru.fr'. It features a search bar, a list of links, and a 'Super Access Control List Management' section. The 'Super Access Control List Management' section displays a table with columns for 'Permissions for namespace', 'Group', and 'Action'. The table lists permissions for 'Group ALL' and 'Group admin'.

Dokuwiki

Wiki administrator = list owner  
 Wiki users = list subscribers  
 ... you can still make adjustments in the wiki

# Single sign on

Sympa and Dokuwiki both have their own authentication sytem

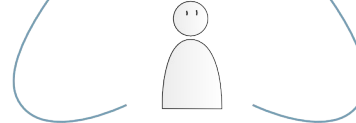
=> We need a SSO : Shibboleth

# Single sign on

① Shibboleth-based authentication



Shibboleth



**Universalistes**

Création de liste | Admin Sympa | Liste des listes | Accueil

david.verdin@cru.fr  
listmaster [Logout]

**Vos préférences**

**Vos listes**

**annonce-jres2007**  
Usage exceptionnel annonce JRES

**cru-cnl**  
groupe de travail commun CRU / CNL

**cru-ct**  
Cellule technique du Comité Réseaux des Universités

**ecorses**  
Ensemble des correspondants Sécurité de l'Enseignement Supérieur

**inscription-formation-subversion-31-mai-2007@cru.fr**  
Liste des inscrits à la formation Subversion du 31 mai 2007 à Rennes

**inscrits-jres-2007@cru.fr**  
pour l'admin du wiki de jres

admin | jplg@cru.fr  
Test invitation

admin | noustestons@cru.fr  
Tests universalistes

Sympa

② Sympa-based access control

asks for group membership informations



SOAP request get-membership (user@xxx.fr)

**LE WIKI DE LA LISTE NOUSTESTONS**

Vous êtes ici: index

Rechercher

Liste de liens :

- Accueil wiki
- Liste noustestons@cru.fr
- Intranet de noustestons
- Les pages publiques
- Page pour vous entrainer
- lien 4
- lien 5

Anciennes révisions  
Derniers changements  
Liens vers cette page  
Index  
Connexion  
Aide

**Le wiki de la liste noustestons@cru.fr**

Le service de wiki associé à une liste est tout juste ouvert. signaler les anomalies que vous pourriez constater.

**Super Access Control List Management**

This page displays the permissions of all pages and namespaces of a selected namespace. You can add new permissions for namespaces and pages.

Select namespace to administrate

Permissions for [jres] \* [Subtree]

Add new Entry

Permissions for Namespace priv*	Group	View	Edit	Upload	Download	Subtree	Efface
Group noustestons@cru.fr		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permissions for Namespace *	Group All	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group admin		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dokuwiki

# What fonctionnalities work now?

- Sympa
- Dokuwiki

## What's for later?

- Instant messaging
- Lime survey
- Webdav
- Doodle-like

Will provide :

- Multiple channel broadcasting
- Information gathering
- Advanced document sharing
- Full scheduling capabilities

# We will need to domesticate more apps

- Make Sympa groups information available through LDAP queries.
- Standards, not applications
  - SOAP
  - LDAP
  - SAML

What is the best interface between workgroup applications?

Thank you for your attention