Federated Access Management Briefing NHS-HE Forum

Henry Hughes
JANET(UK)

Overview

- Review of federated access management and the UK federation
- The benefits of federating, an educational perspective
- Drivers for National Library for Health
- Roadmap Scoping and Evaluation project

Federated Access Management and the UK federation

- **FAM is:**
  - A mechanism for allowing attribute based access control to local, national and international resources
  - 'Student @ OU' not 'Henry Hughes' – what SPs need

- **The UK federation is:**
  - The UK's educational federation, operated by JANET(UK)
  - Funded by JISC and Becta

- **Many federations now being established worldwide**
  - Education, government, commercial participation

Strategic benefits

- Consistent approach to access management throughout education
  - Consistent user experience
- Facilitates sharing of content and collaboration across sectors and international boundaries
- Based on internationally adopted open standard
  - SAML

Benefits for Users

- Much less need to disclose individual identity
- Personal data kept between individual and home organisation
- Service providers can tailor services better
- (At least) one less password to remember
  - Move towards single sign on
- Access to online resources from anywhere

Benefits for Organisations

- Easier to comply with regulatory requirements (Data Protection Act 1998)

- Uses existing authentication infrastructure

- Can be used to protect internal resources

- Fewer support problems

Benefits for Service Providers

- No need to maintain your own user database
  - Authentication is done for you by home organisation
  - Can authorise per institution, role, and/or entitlement
- Reduced data protection compliance burden
  - Less storage/processing of personal data
- Users take better care of credentials

Drivers for NHS Libraries

- The National Library for Health provides access management services on behalf of the NHS in England and the Department of Health, drivers were:
  - A strategic objective to deploy open interoperable standards;
  - Improved user privacy and reduced data protection responsibilities;
  - Simplified sign on to resources;
  - Other countries/sectors adopting shibboleth based FAM.

- NHS(England) Open Standards, Simplified Sign On Project : Roadmap Scoping and Evaluation project

NHS
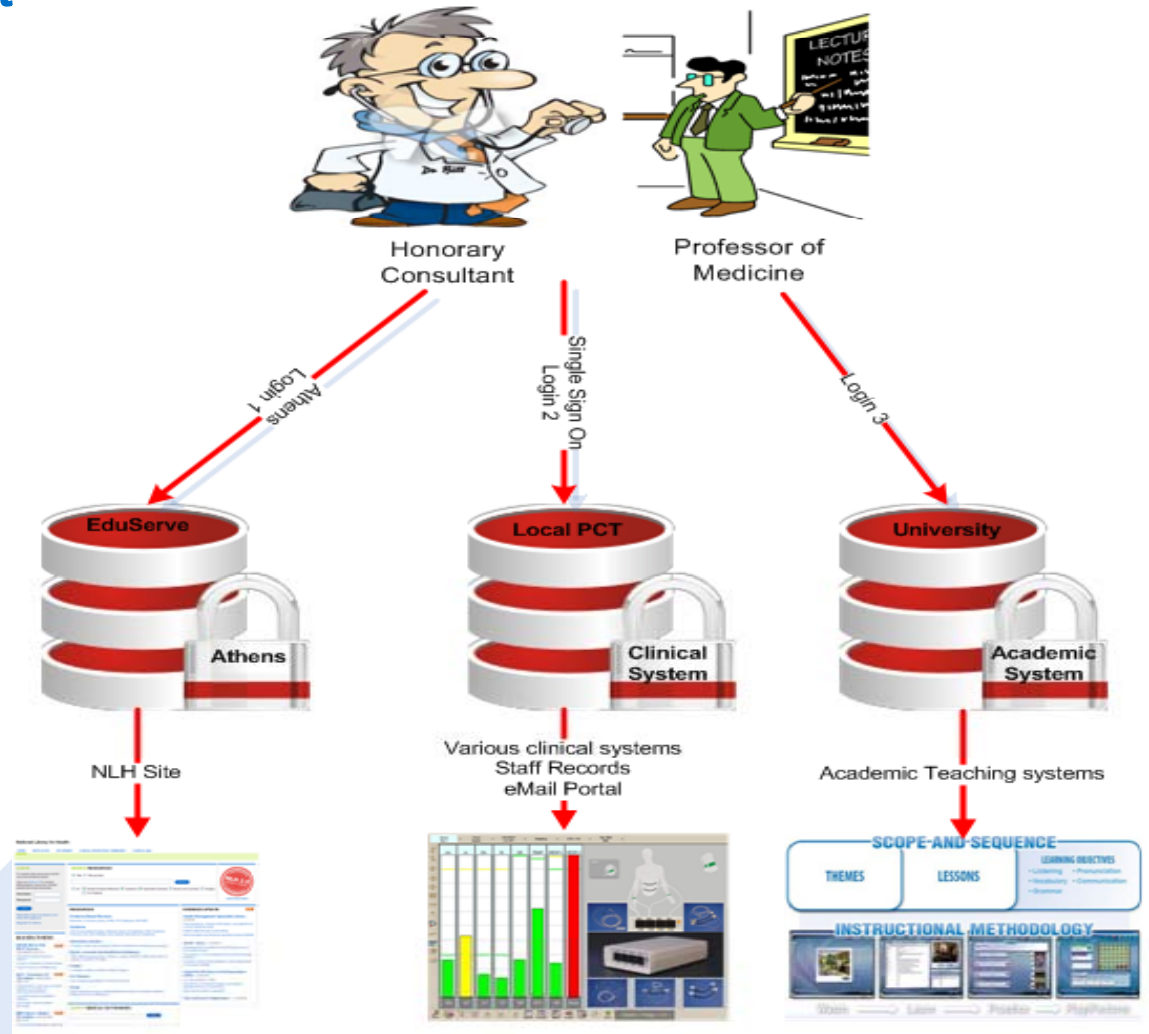**Institute for Innovation and Improvement**

Investigation into the
Implementation of Federated
Access Management for NHS
and HE

Rushma Panchal
Business Analyst, NLH

User Scenario 1: Specialist Registrar with teaching responsibilities as well as being a Student
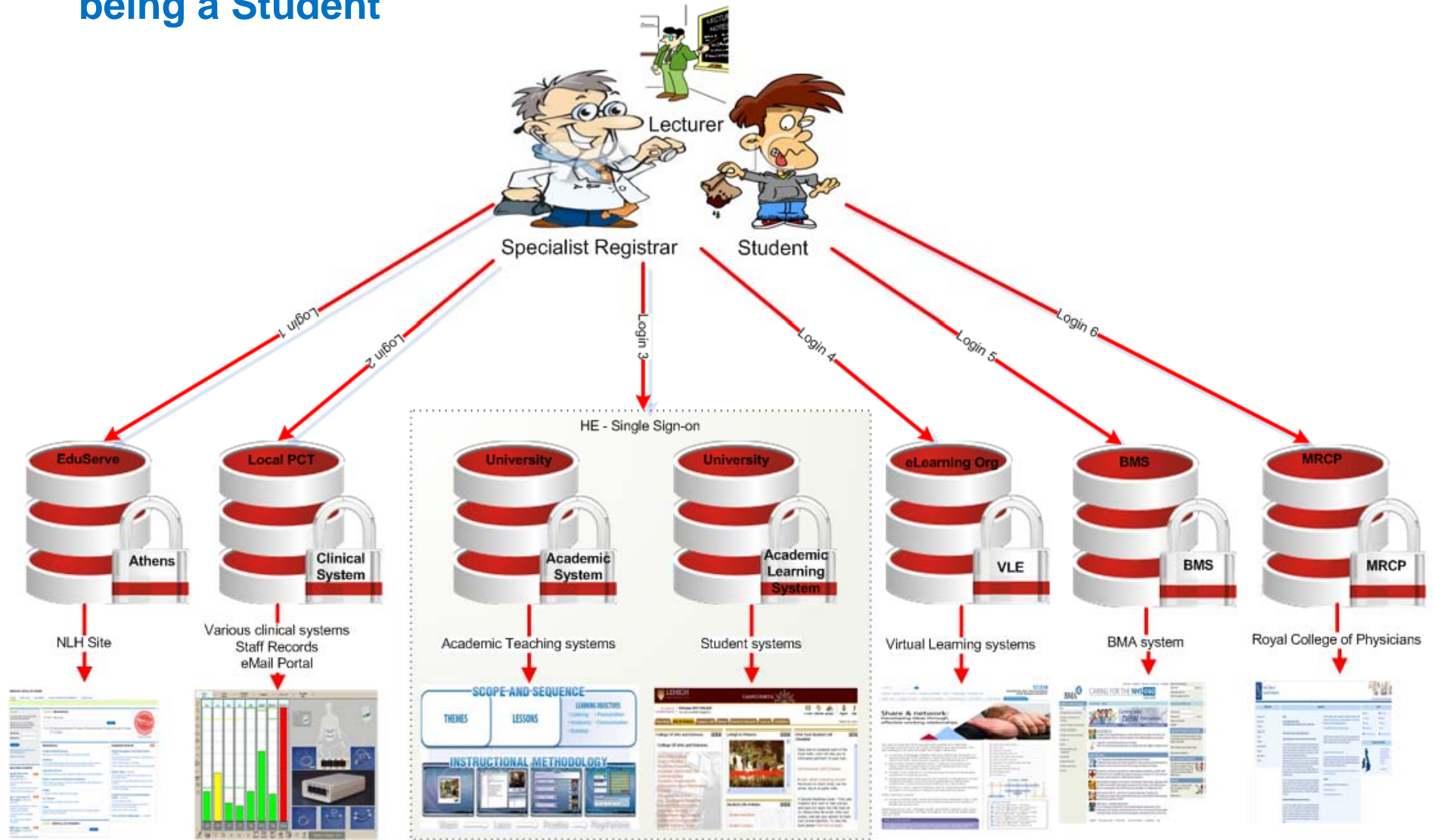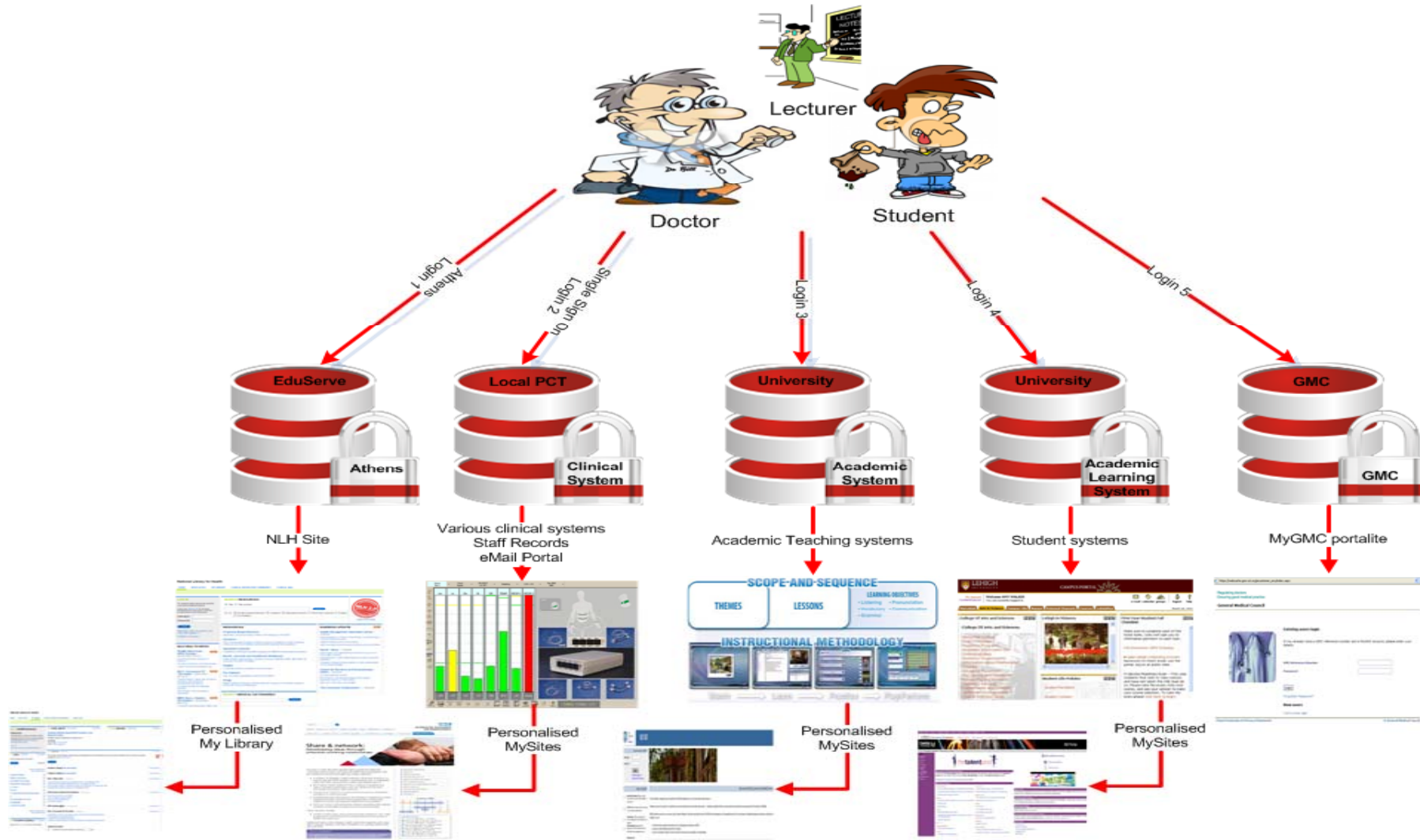
User Scenario 2: Professor of Medicine in HE who is an Honorary NHS Consultant
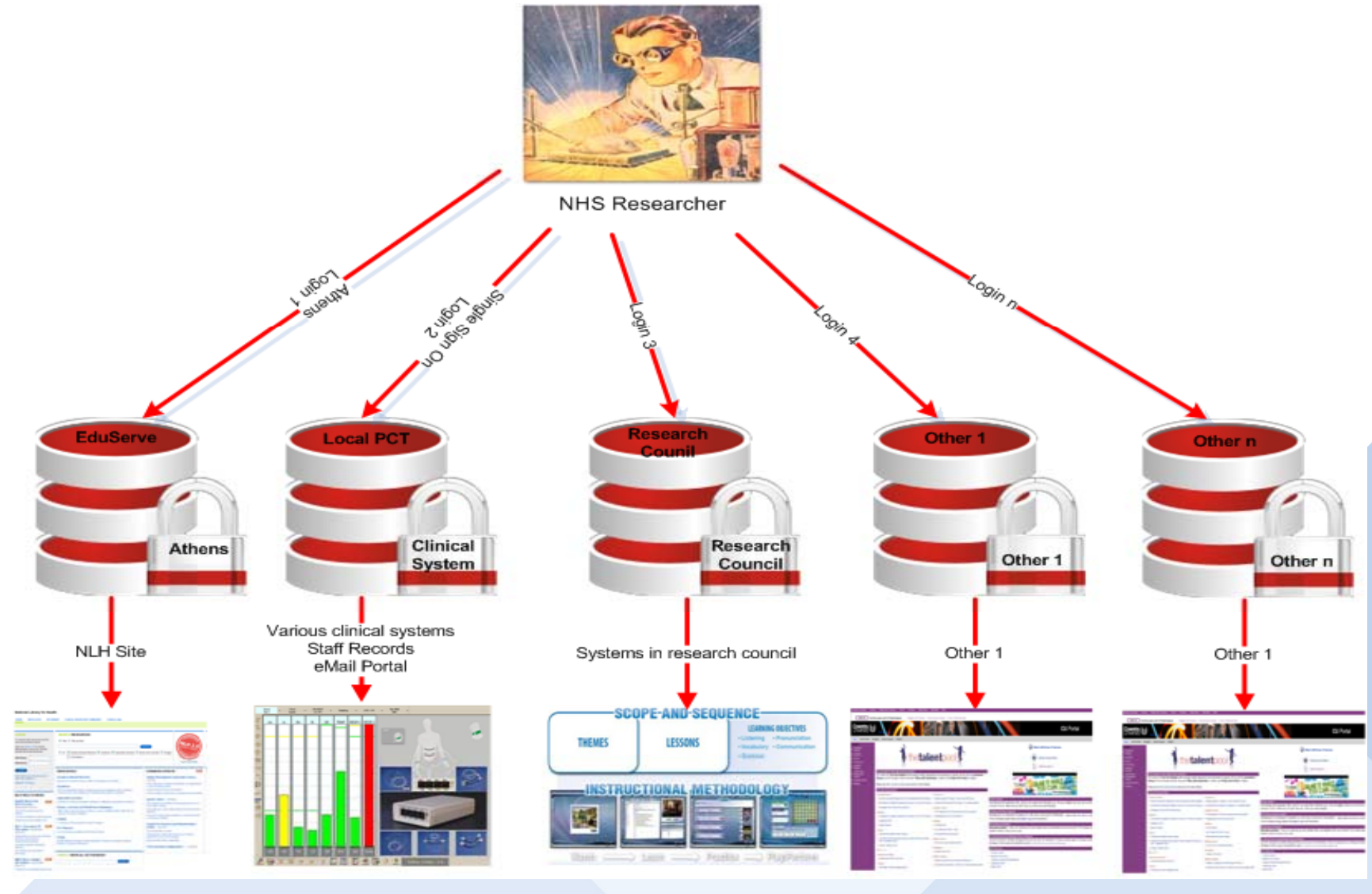
User Scenario 3: Personalisation

User Scenario 4: NHS Researcher

User Scenario 5: Student
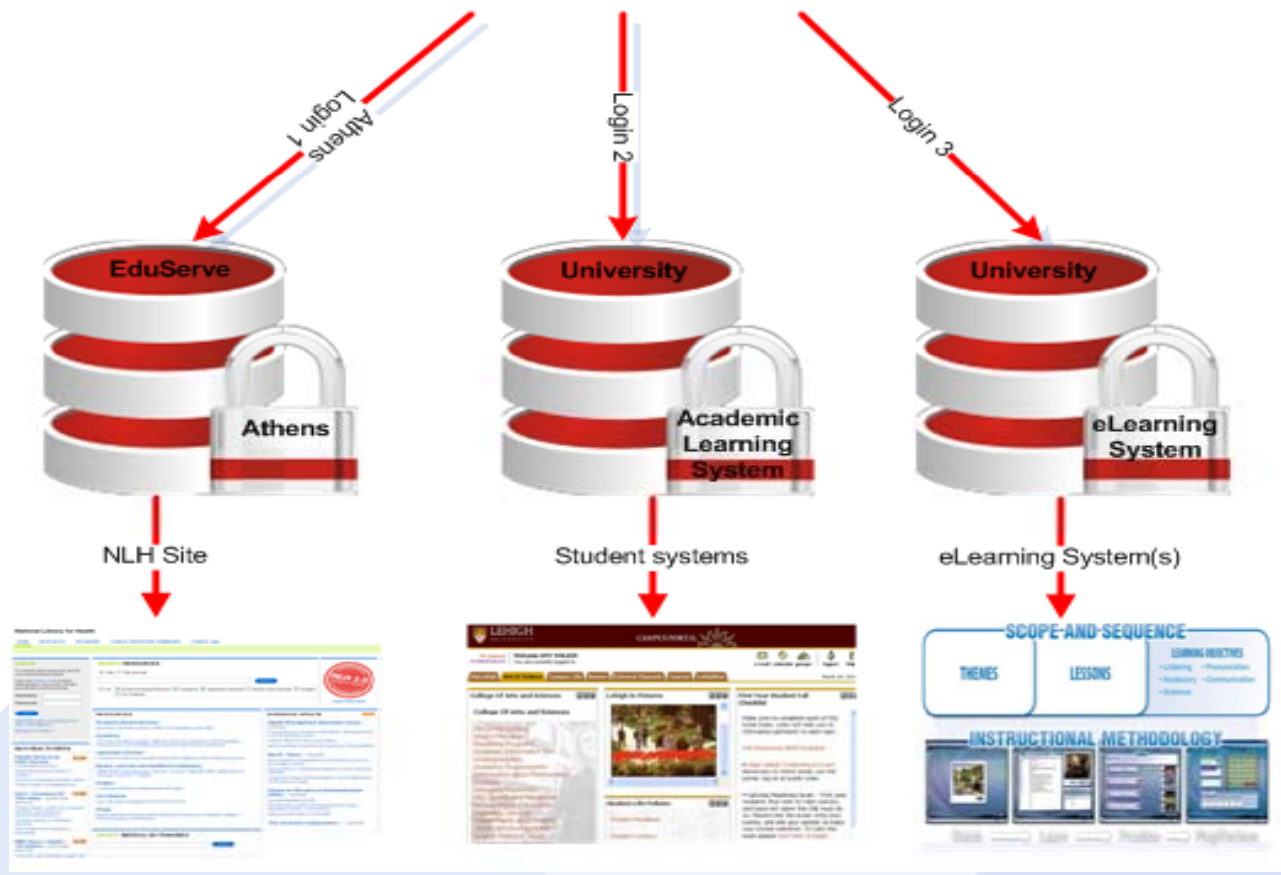
User Scenario 6: Placement Student

User Scenario 7: General Practitioner
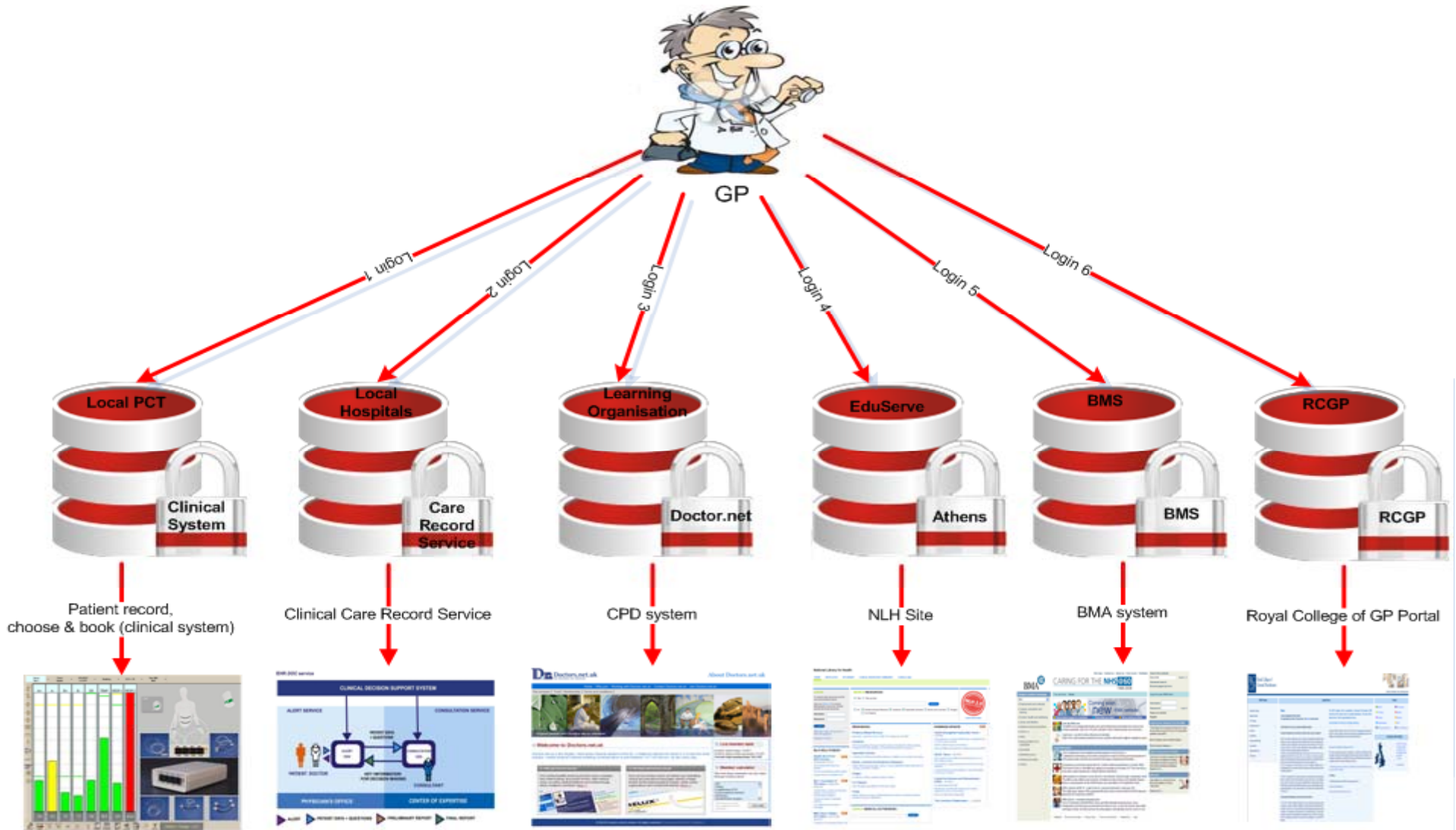
ODP Placement Student from Hull & York Medical School
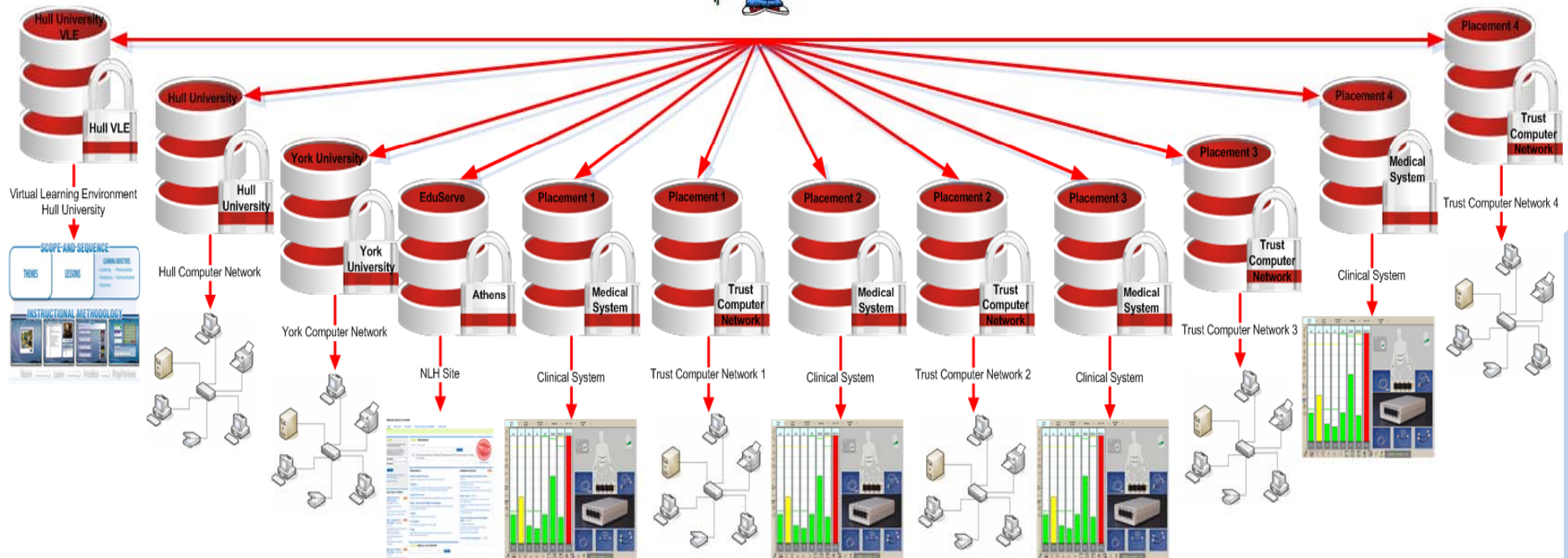
Early Results

- No common systems, processes and working practices in any trust/organisation. Therefore, these user scenario's maybe true in one but invalid in another.

- Some applications are accessed through the organisation network yet a secondary login to the application is required.

- NHS and HE systems are not integrated.

Summary

- Further work required on the User Scenarios

- Standards based approach could significantly help with the integration of authentication systems

- Opportunity to significantly improve the user experience and interoperation of systems between HE and NHS