INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY –
SINGLE IDENTITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Context

- Identity management involves managing the list of authorized users who can access the network and the applications supporting KU.
- Currently students and researchers must have more than one login ID and password if they take classes or work on multiple campuses.
- The added complexity of managing two different systems and making them work together generates unnecessary IT work, especially in the implementation area.

Goals

- Transition to a single identity management system (SIMS) for all KU campuses.
- Create one KU ID format for all students, faculty, and staff.

Challenges

The transition to a single identity management system has significant risks that can be mitigated through careful planning and extensive cross-campus communication

- There is some concern that everyone with a KU ID will be impacted either directly or indirectly.
- Because of the nature of identity management, there are risks that some of these changes will be disruptive and could lead to downtime for some services and users.
- There are multiple entities involved in the change. Coordination through consistent communication will be necessary to assure an optimal implementation.
- There is a lack of agreement between the KU Lawrence and Medical Center campuses in regards to the details of how to achieve the long term goals for identity management and active directory.
- Resources available to implement the initiative are limited; there are concerns that current projects will not be completed and/or the SIMS project will not meet the set timeline due to this constraint.
- KUMC is actively working to replace their GroupWise email system. This could impact the costs and savings projections presented in the SIMS business case.

Opportunities

Anticipated results of approximately $0.3–0.4M in benefits for the University can be realized once SIMS is fully implemented, through:

- Students' ability to access all online materials across campus boundaries using a single ID and password
- Fewer IT staff required to support the administration of identity management software
- Less costly and greatly simplified future implementation and upgrades of enterprise software applications.