XRI Resolution:

Understanding the difference between identifier and identity

The land of identifiers

XRI Resolution (via XRI Resolver)

- Implements the association between an XRI identifier (given a set of input parameters) and an XRI Authority.
- Note that the only identity model *formally* supported by XRI resolution is that where the authority's identity is distinguished by its CanonicalID.

XRI Resolution Client

- Invokes the Resolver to establish an association between a given identifier and an XRI authority.
- May wish to use the "supported" identity model—that is, the one where CanonicalID distinguishes identity.

  For example, it could treat XRI identifiers that resolve to a given CanonicalID as *synonyms* to the XRI authority using that CanonicalID to distinguish its identity.
- May instead wish to use another model of identity and synonymity. May in fact wish not to support the notion of identifier synonymity at all.

The land of identity

XRI Authority

- Contains provisionable data, such as service endpoints, Refs, local identifiers (for example, *steve and *steven), contact agent (for GRS global authorities), etc.
- Contains non-provisionable data, such as the CanonicalID. (This determines the authority's identity!)
- Is managed by a namespace registry.

XRI Namespace Registry

- Stores XRI authorities within the same XRI namespace. This can be modeled as a node in the hierarchical authority graph.
- Assigns (local) CanonicalIDs to newly created XRI authorities. Well-behaved registries will never re-assign a CanonicalID to a second authority.
- Provisions XRI authorities—that is, allows the data associated with the authority to be modified.
- Provides the authority resolution service for the namespace: given a local identifier for an authority, this returns a metadata description of the authority in the form of an XRD.