UTORauth API Proposal
The Proposal

• a new API to the UTORauth system will be designed using SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)

• a Java implementation of the API will be offered to application developers to help them develop using the J2EE standard
What is an API?

• **Application Programming Interface**

• an interface that a computer system provides to allow requests for service be made of it by other applications and/or to allow data to be exchanged between them
What is an API?
What is an API?
Why an API?

- protects developers against future upgrades of UTORauth
- hides unnecessary details of the internals of UTORauth
- standardized communication permits more complex queries to be performed
Why an API?

- currently, simple queries are supported by LDAP:
  - is terrylee a student?
  - should terrylee be given staff privileges?

- with the new API, queries of this type could be supported:
  - what courses is 0999999999 taking?
  - who is currently enrolled in CSC148?
Why J2EE?

• industry standard, widely used in business and university settings

• wide selection of free, commercial-grade offerings implementing this specification

• scalability is built into the J2EE application server, paving the way for future expansion
ObjectWeb

- Open Source initiative by Bull, France Telecom R&D and INRIA: http://www.objectweb.org/

- ObjectWeb provides implementations for many parts of the J2EE specification, notably the JOnAS application server

- Component based approach allows developers to choose which parts of the J2EE spec they will need for their application