

UK Federation 101

Ian A. Young
EDINA, University of Edinburgh
(and the UK Federation)

Internet2 Fall Member Meeting, 7 Dec. 2006

Shibboleth Development and Support Services

One of the major project outputs has been the SDSS development federation, which has acted as a precursor to the UK Federation.

Other major output has been Shibboleth-enabling a number of production services hosted by EDINA.

What is the UK Federation?

- *UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research*
- *Primary use case:*
 - *access to licensed resources*
 - *for all parts of UK Education and Research*
- *Secondary and longer term:*
 - *e-learning and e-research collaborations*

Primary use case comes from the intention to move away from the very successful but proprietary Athens authentication system. Athens remains an important part of the UK landscape.

What is the UK Federation?

- *Supported through JISC and Becta*
- *Operated by UKERNA*
- *Technology core is Shibboleth*
- *Officially opened for business last Thursday*
- *Initial membership taken from SDSS Federation*

JISC: Joint Information Systems Committee
Becta: British Educational Communications and Technology Agency
Both of which live under the Department for Education and Skills

UKERNA: United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association
who also operate JANET

As well as Shibboleth:
UK Shibboleth-alikes (AthensIM, Athens gateways, Guanxi, at least one DIY SP)
Non-Shibboleth SAML products (Novell, GridShibb etc.)
Non-SAML products (Microsoft ADFS)

Current Membership

- *111 entities*
- *IdPs (excluding tests)*
 - *14 institutional IdPs*
 - *2 departmental IdPs*
 - *4 misc., including ProtectNetwork and TypeKey*
- *12 production SPs*
- *19 JISC funded projects*

See web site for details and updates

Strictly speaking, these are all temporary members pending signing of Rules of Membership

Rules of Membership

- *Lightweight agreement*
- *No charge for membership*
- *Members may own multiple entities*
- *Single membership class*
- *Optional “user accountability” section*
- *Supplemented by recommendations*

Technical Recommendations for Participants
Federation Technical Specification

not intended to be static documents

Recommendations for Use of Personal Data

role of standard contracts to regulate some aspects

Eligibility: Primary

- *Primary constituents:*
 - *Universities*
 - *Colleges*
 - *Research council funded establishments*
 - *Schools (K-12)*
 - *Other publicly funded bodies, subject to funding*
- *Total $\approx$ 12-18M end users*

Many Small Organisations

- *Example: 30K schools, 3M students*
- *Do not have resources to participate alone*
- *Administrative problems for fed. operator*
- *Can use shared, outsourced IdPs*
- *UK Federation uses scoped attributes to indicate organisation*

Further education similar in some ways

150 Local Authorities

10 Regional Broadband Consortia

Eligibility: Partners

- *Anyone who serves a need for the primary constituents:*
 - *Commercial service providers*
 - *Outsourced identity providers*
 - *Outsourced service providers*
 - *Academic partners*
- *Not necessarily in the UK*

Contact

- *Federation:*
 - *<http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/>*
- *Speaker:*
 - *ian@iay.org.uk*