6 steps
to make life easier for Service Providers

How R&E federations can improve user experience and facilitate adoption of federated access

1

R&E federations should promote the adoption of eduPersonUniqueID

Many services operated by research and e-infrastructures require a unique, non-reassigned and persistent identifier. To date, Identity Providers release different persistent unique identifiers, but it is not predictable for service provider which one they will get. It would really help if all federations agreed to promote the use of eduPerson-UniqueID by their IdPs.

2

R&E federations should promote adoption of R&S entity category

REFEDS has standardised an approach called entity category [EC], which enables services to be grouped (by the federations) into categories; identity providers can then automatically release a defined number of attributes for that category. Such an approach, if widely adopted, would ensure that service providers get the attribute they need, in a more scalable way.

3

Identity Providers should not reassign user identifiers

eduPersonsPrincipalName or ePPN in short is a very used identifier. Some Identity Providers will choose never to reassign ePPNs. Others may opt for a break before reassignment. This of course creates confusion for the service providers. Because some organisations do reassign ePPNs, service providers need to have a way to re-evaluate from time to time whether an ePPN still belongs to the same person.

4

R&E federations should promote Sirtfi

Sirtfi defines a framework to enable organisations to effectively participate in incident response. By expressing compliance with Sirtfi, your organisation can increase the level of trust it holds within the community. By improving this trust, other organisations will be more likely to grant access or permit authentication. A joint approach to handle security incidents can only work properly if as many federations as possible participating in it.

5

Be cautious in filtering eduGAIN metadata

eduGAIN publishes the bundle of metadata downstream for the benefit of federation operators. Federations consume this bundle either as such or they filter out some entities. In the case in which filters are applied or federations create a curated eduGAIN stream, the user experience may be negatively impacted. Knowing that all services are available to all federations participating in eduGAIN in the same way improves the user experience and expectations.

6

Build the eduGAIN support help desk

Federation operators and service providers would know who to address with any kind of questions. eduGAIN could consolidate requests, manage them and channel them to the relevant federations.

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