INCOMMON GOES INTERNATIONAL: WHAT INTERFEDERATION COULD MEAN TO YOU

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What Interfederation Could Mean to You…

• What is interfederation: Trust Basics and eduGAIN

• Recommendations from the eduGAIN Policy and Community Working Group
  – Research Community
  – Campus Implementers
  – Privacy Officers

• Your questions here
Trust Basics: The Actors

- User
- Service Provider
- Identity Provider
- Federation Operator
Trust Basics: Federation is Shared

I have to trust what you do with my
- IdP: Data that I send you
- SP: Service that you use

Being comfortable with how my partners perform their roles is key.
Trust Basics: Federation is Fractal

Roughly speaking…
Concerns at the org level are the same at the national level are the same at the international level:
- Privacy and Intellectual Property
- Membership
- Risk
- Control over who my partners are

First step to trust is publish what you do
eduGAIN Requirements

- Publish public InCommon metadata subset for inclusion in eduGAIN and available to other federations and their members
- Make public eduGAIN metadata subset available to InCommon participants
- Be transparent about operations: Registration Practices, Policies, and notification of changes
- Help InCommon Participants and other federations dispute resolution, technical and policy questions
- Agree that an organization in the eduGAIN metadata only need follow the rules of its own federation
- Be bound by local law only
eduGAIN Policy Flow

GEANT (governing structure)

eduGAIN Service

EU National R&E Federations
(Gov funded; NREN run)

US R&E Federation
(Participant funded; I2 run)

Feds in Asia, Middle East, India, Africa, North & South America, ....
Looking at Interfederation Through Lenses

Research and the Individual

Privacy and International Context

Federation and Campus Operations
Interfederation for Research

Von Welch
Indiana University
Director, Center for Applied Cybersecurity Research (CACR)
Why Inter-federation for Research?

- Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO)
- Electromagnetic (EM) Follow-up on Gravitational Wave (GW) Triggers
  - LIGO signed 60+ MOUs
- 161 unique institutions, only 72 are U.S.
  - 26 countries including Australia, Canada, Chile, China, Germany, UK, Ireland, India, Mexico, Poland, United States
Why Inter-federation for Research?

• NIH / National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis in Chennai, India

• Fifty users part of International Center for Excellence in Research (ICER) collaboration

• Goal is migration from accounts at NIH to federated identity
What should IdPs and SPs be doing?

1. Join InCommon or appropriate federation and run a IdP/SP.

2. Join EduGAIN R&S to release/accept attributes needed for identifying researchers.
InCommon Privacy Implications

Susan Blair
Chief Privacy Officer
University of Florida
Steps to Understanding Privacy Implications

• InCommon Privacy Policies
  – Notice
  – InCommon Web Pages
    • Information We Collect
      Client Information: Internet domain and address
      Essential Technical Data
      Non-essential and “cookie pathway
    • Personal Identification Information (PII)

• Global View of Privacy Vectors
  – USA: Business Vectors, i.e. Health, Finance, etc.
  – European Union and Beyond: Personal Data Vectors
  – Safe Harbor Allowances
Dynamics of International Privacy Law

• Rapidly Evolving Regulatory Environment
  – China’s Counter Terror Law - new
  – Russia’s Federal Law on PII - amended

• “Don’t try this at home” or “Buy versus Build”
  – International Association of Privacy Professionals
  – Websites or White Papers
    • Bloomberg BNA: “Privacy Laws in Asia”
    • Legal Firms Websites: Hogan Lovellis, Hunton & Williams, Sidley Alerts, Baker Hostetler
References or Authority Sources

Note: Interfederation Research Participants are responsible for investigating and compliance with international privacy law of the countries where research occurs or research subjects reside. Recommended sources are not substitute for “boots on the ground” legal advice.


• “Global Privacy & Security Law”, Aspen Publisher

• “Global Privacy Research Report”, Nymity

• “Privacy Tracker”, International Association of Privacy Professionals
Interfederation, Operations Perspective

James Jokl
Chief Enterprise Architect
University of Virginia
Chair, InCommon TAC New Entities Working Group
New Entities and InCommon Metadata

- For ten years, entities in the InCommon metadata have been homogeneous
  - Entities operated by InCommon participants
  - Entities governed by InCommon agreement
- Sites safely assume that every entity in the metadata file matches those expectations

- This is all about to change . . . in a big way
New Metadata Entity Considerations

- Several Use Cases
  - K-12
  - Proxies
  - Interfederation data - eduGAIN

- Policy Considerations
  - What are the potential issues?
  - What will an existing InCommon SP or IdP need to know to work with each new entity?
New Entity Strategy

- Provide a single metadata aggregate
  - Trivial for sites to leverage the new entities
  - Sustainable within the federation
- Mark all entities with new Registrar attribute
  - Sites can easily maintain current behavior
- Proxies require policy consistency
- Provide sites with mechanism to add additional attributes to their entity metadata
- K-12 and other new entity considerations
Campus Actions

- Watch for the new international federation white paper.
- Watch for the new Participation Agreement and Federation Operating Practices.
- Participate in the comment period
- Review
  - https://spaces.internet2.edu/display/NewEntities/Recommendations
- Decide your strategy:
  - Do you want your users to access global services? If so, you will need to export.
  - Do you want your services to be accessible to users elsewhere? Consider Research and Scholarship Tag and export.
  - What’s your approach to risk vs opportunity?
Q&A / Panel Discussion
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