eduGAIN’s Future is now

Pål Axelsson
*SWAMID, member of eduGAIN Future WG*

eduGAIN Townhall, Stockholm, October 2023

www.geant.org
Agenda

• eduGAIN’s Overview
• Current model Challenges
• Community Recommendations
• What is going to change
• Some conclusions
“eduGAIN interfederation service connects identity federations around the world, simplifying access to content, services and resources for the global research and education community”
Inter-federated Access

Federation Blue

Federation Green
A complex ecosystem

Full mesh federation

Hub and spoke distributed federation

AAI Proxy

Research Infrastructure AAI

Federation A

Federation B

Federation C

Hub / Proxy

-eduGAIN
Does it work?
eduGAIN Global Coverage

79 Federations
9064 Entities
5441 Identity Providers
3642 Service Providers
Users trust Home Organisation

HomeOrg/Providers trust Federations

Federations trust eduGAIN

Do users trust eduGAIN?

Do users even know eduGAIN?
eduGAIN Metadata Creation and Distribution
Entities' Compliance to Standards
What could Possibly go wrong?

- Complex environment
- User expectations
- New technologies adoption
- Slow governance model
eduGAIN Futures Working Group

REFEDS

Baseline Expectations

Identify key issues with current eduGAIN service

Review the governance model
# eduGAIN Futures WG Problem Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Statement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **01** Complex service experience | - Almost 9000 entities  
- Service experience varies wildly |
| **02** Unpredictability | - Information exchanged between IdP A and SP B?  
- Hard to rely on eduGAIN without predictable outcome |
| **03** Diverse policies and processes | - Federations have their own policies and processes  
- Interaction with eduGAIN/participants is often inconsistent |
| **04** Variable service offerings | - Differences in funding, stuffing and service level  
- Service offerings varying accordingly |
| **05** Slow response to change | - Entities and Federation Operators are often slow to adopt changes to security standards and policy requirements |
| **06** Delays in decision making and new Technologies | - EduGAIN itself is slow in taking decisions and embracing new technologies |
| **07** Unclear mission and branding strategy | - Mission, role and brand of eduGAIN are unclear, leading to different expectations |
eduGAIN Futures WG Recommendations

- enforce contacts
- eduGAIN CSIRT
- interop SAML Profile
- filter individual entities
- Sirtfi, Privacy Reqs, Assurance
- attributes release profiles
- consistent metadata publishing
- eduGAIN strategy and mission
- clear compliance checking
- new technologies roadmap
- elected Steering Committee
- Federations information audit
- improve joining process
Actual changes

 Governance

- Constitution update
- eduGAIN Steering Committee
- eSC Election
- eSC Chair appointment

 Policy

- eduGAIN Interoperable SAML Profile
- New requirements for Federations and Entities
- eduGAIN Declaration and MRPS updates

 Technology

- Support entity-level metadata updates (filtering)
- New compliance checking system
- Activate community Pilots/Labs on new technology stacks
Additional technology stacks and profiles for eduGAIN?
Conclusions

- **eduGAIN is a great success**

- **Main challenges**
  - High complexity/Low consistency/Slow governance/Legacy Technology

- **Change process**
  - Futures WG Recommendation on Governance/Service/Tech

- **Adoption of new technologies involves new trust model**
Thank you

Any questions?

www.geant.org