Assurance at SWAMID
Case study: Ladok

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Fredrik Domeij, Ladok Consortium (and SWAMID Operations)
The Ladok system

- Ladok is the major Student Information System of higher education institutions in Sweden
- Owned by the Ladok Consortium consisting of 40 member universities (all but one Swedish HEI with more than 500 students)
- Includes all students, programmes, courses, registrations, grades and qualifications/diplomas
- 30,000 active employee users, 450,000 active student users
- Authentication using SWAMID, the Swedish Academic Identity Federation
Identity Assurance of users

In May 2022, the Ladok Board of Directors decided that:

- After 2023-07-01, all employees must use **confirmed** accounts to login to Ladok
- After 2024-01-01, all students with a Swedish personal identity number must use **confirmed** accounts to login to Ladok

No date is yet set on requirements for foreign students (without a Swedish personal identity number)

*Unconfirmed* account = SWAMID AL1 ≈ RAF low
*Confirmed* account = **SWAMID AL2** ≈ RAF medium
*Verified* account = SWAMID AL3 ≈ RAF high
Proposed process of activation of requirement

1. Make sure the organisation is certified for SWAMID AL2
2. Request users to get their account confirmed
3. Make sure the organisation has a great errorURL in the federation
4. Activate the warning months before the requirement

Proposed timeline

1. Get certified during fall of 2022
2. Confirm all employees during spring of 2023
3. Confirm all students during fall of 2023
Confirmed identity in SWAMID

Greatly simplified in Sweden due to the Swedish Personal Identity Number that is assigned at birth/immigration by the Swedish Population Register.

Methods of confirming identities:

1. Authenticating the user using their Swedish E-identification
2. Authenticating the user using another already confirmed SWAMID account
3. In-person identification at a Service Desk using either a Swedish driving license, a national identity card or a passport
4. Postal mail to the registered address of the user, according to the Swedish Population Register
5. Other equivalent method
Process for SWAMID AL2 certification

Process to be allowed to assert confirmed identities in SWAMID

1. Describe routines including identification of users and password recovery in an *Identity Management Practice Statement (IMPS)*
2. Get the IMPS accepted by SWAMID
3. Implement the routines described
4. Confirm identities of users
Outcome for Ladok

- 38 of 40 higher education institutions activated requirement of confirmed users on or before 2023-07-01
- All are expected to comply by 2023-10-15
What we learned

• Adoption of identity assurance in an identity federation is greatly enhanced when a "killer service" requires it
• Direct contact with representatives of all higher education institutions was very valuable
• Higher education institutions have “more important” things to do than improve processes of identity management
• Change takes time
  • Inform of upcoming requirements changes in time
  • Repeat information, make sure it gets through
What we learned

• Always have a backup plan (not necessarily communicated)
  • Some members didn’t make it in time

• The REFEDS Deployment Profile for errorURL is great
  • Helps direct unconfirmed users to their organization’s support pages regarding confirmation of user accounts - during the transition and beyond

• The Ladok feature where users were informed of upcoming requirements together with the errorURL link helped the users a lot

• It simplified that all IdPs in SWAMID signal their assurance certification in metadata
Questions?

Fredrik Domeij
• eduGAIN Slack
• fredrik.domeij@umu.se