eduGAIN CommsChallenge2020-12 Results

Introduction

Goal of this challenge is to assess a critical part of the eduGAIN communication infrastructure. In this first round the security contact addresses of Participants (see below) were tested. The security contacts email addresses were retrieved from the eduGAIN Database using the APIs published on the technical site. The procedure used to retrieve the email addresses is available on the GEANT gitlab:

https://gitlab.geant.org/edugain/edugain-contacts/-/blob/master/identity_federations_security_contacts.py

The security contacts stored in the eduGAIN Database can also be browsed on the Member Federations page:

https://technical.edugain.org/status

Participants

In the eduGAIN CommsChallenge2020-12 the following eduGAIN participants were challenged:

AAF, AAI-EDUHR, ACONET, AZSCINET, CAF, CYNET-IF, DFN-AAI, EDUID-CZ, FENIX, GRNET, HAKA, IDEM, INCOMMON, LEAF, LITNET-FEDI, LK-LIAF, PIONIER-ID, RIF, ROEDUNETID, SAFIRE, SIR, SURFCONEXT, SWAMID, SWITCHAAI, TAAT, TUAKIRI, UK-FEDERATION, WAYF

eduGAIN participants that didn't communicate their security contacts were excluded from the challenge.

Challenge timeline

- 2020-09-15 Communication challenge proposal presented to the eduGAIN Steering Group meeting.
- 2020-12-04 Announcement of the challenge dates to the eduGAIN Steering Group via the eSG mailing list.
- 2020-12-15 Start of the challenge.
- 2020-12-23 End of the challenge.
- 2020-12-23 Public report available (this wiki).

What was assessed

Besides the validity of the available contact addresses also the reaction time was measured. This information was collected to be used as input for a later discussion on response times. The community would need to define target reaction times, which are regarded to be useful to be used in security incident coordination situations.

Results

Validity of the contact addresses

Assuming that all contacted participants received the challenge mail and understood what action was expected from them we have a 86% success rate, in absolute numbers, 24 participants out of 28 have reacted.

Communication Challenge — CommsChallenge2020

Legend:
- 24 participants (86 %) have reacted
- 28 participants have been challenged
- 24 participants (86 %) have reacted within 24 h
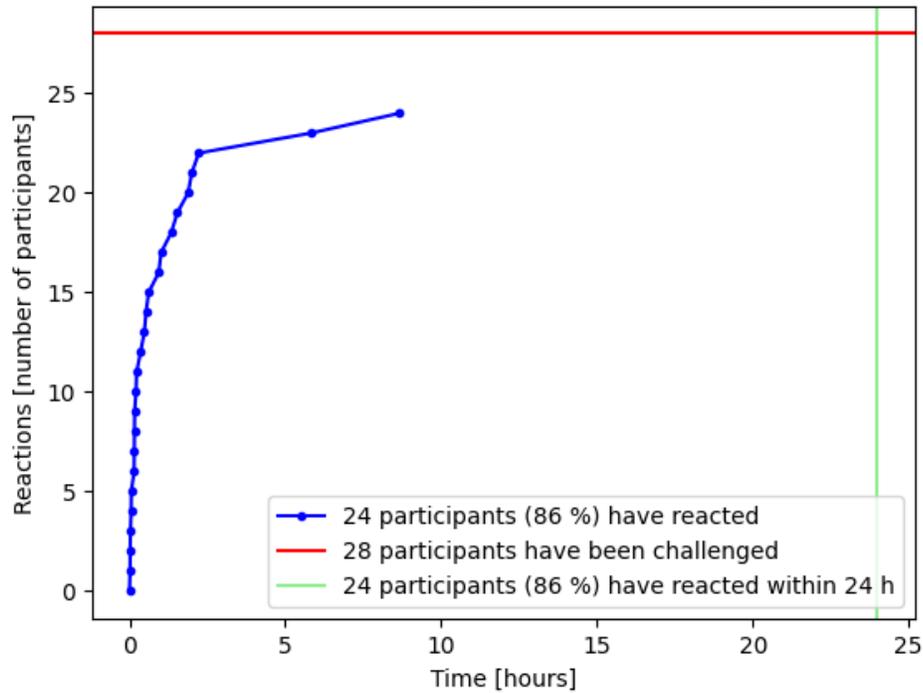
Reaction times

The graph above shows that the all reactions were recorded within 10h the majority within approx 2h. Given that almost all time zones were covered in this global exercise the reaction times are very good and indicate that the security contact addresses of the participants are also monitored during out-of-office hours.

Follow Up

The participants that have not reacted to the challenge mail will be contacted by eduGAIN support via alternative channels and a solution for the communication issues will be implemented and tested.