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eduGAIN futures

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eduGAIN Futures Working Group

- When eduGAIN was about 10 years old a working group was created to see how we can do eduGAIN better
- eduGAIN is not broken but far from perfect

- **Goal 1:** To review the REFEDS Baseline Expectations document and make proposals for changes to eduGAIN to support the baseline.
- **Goal 2:** To identify key issues with current eduGAIN service provision and make recommendations for improvements (e.g. support mechanisms for CoCo and R&S, lack of service offer to Service Providers, technology support for OIDC etc).
- **Goal 3:** To review the governance model for eduGAIN and make recommendations for improvements.

eduGAIN Problem Statements

1. With over 8000 entities included in eduGAIN, the number of different variables in the service experience between Identity Provider (IdP) and Service Provider (SP) has become extremely complex.
2. The inability to predict what information will be exchanged between IdP and SP makes it difficult for services to rely on eduGAIN interfederation to offer services.
3. The very different policies, processes and technical architecture (including security)adopted by Identity Federations in how they interact with eduGAIN causes confusion.
4. The different funding, staffing and service levels at Identity Federations makes the service offer variable across the eduGAIN environment.
5. Entities and / or Federation Operators are slow to change and match changing security, regulatory and policy requirements.
6. eduGAIN itself is slow to make decisions and necessary changes to its service model and other technological advances.
7. The mission and role and brand of eduGAIN is unclear, leading to different expectations.

Implementing baseline expectations - Goal 1

- Enforce the use of technical, management and security contacts for Federation Operators and implement regular testing for responsiveness of security and technical contacts
- Upgrade the eduGAIN technical infrastructure and policy process to allow eduGAIN to filter individual entities
- Support the implementation of the eduGAIN CSIRT and develop robust security incident response practises in conjunction with Identity Federations

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- Define clear guidance / policy as to the required standard for "authentic, accurate and interoperable metadata" for eduGAIN - a review of the eduGAIN SAML Profile to make clear statements about what authentic, accurate and interoperable eduGAIN metadata should be
- Create a roadmap to upgrade all entities to support Sirtfi, Privacy Requirements, and the REFEDS Assurance Framework and make a formal part of the eduGAIN policy requirements within the SAML profile. This should be a staged approach and where applicable (e.g. CoCo might not be used everywhere)

Service model discussion - Goal 2

- Establish 3 consistent profiles to be met by Identity Providers with increasing levels of functionality (anon,pseudon, personalized). Anonymous would be a required category, the other two optional but clearly flagged
- Have a consistent approach to how federations are expected to publish eduGAIN metadata upstream and downstream and manage federation metadata refresh
- Create an eduGAIN strategy with clear mission statement. stakeholder engagement approach (e.g. with SeamlessAccess, eduTEAMS, REFEDS etc)

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Service model discussion - Goal 2

- Improve the structure, communication and usage of the eduGAIN "check" tools
- Monitor emerging technologies and their interaction with eduGAIN / to ensure that changes in the identity landscape are effectively addressed and a roadmap for supporting new technologies can be created

Governance discussion - Goal 3

- The eduGAIN governance model should be changed to introduce a geographically balanced elected Steering Group, with the current Steering Group changed to an(bi)annual assembly.
    - Additional supporting advisory groups on policy and technical issues should be considered Non-member observers from representative groups could also be considered for the new Steering Group

Governance discussion - Goal 3

- Improve consistency and reliability of data held about Identity Federations
  - This should include implementation of the eduGAIN report tool, an annual audit process for Identity Federations and a review process when federation policies / people change
- Improve the joining process for new Identity Federations

And now then?

- The report was finished in December 2022
- Report available at https://wiki.geant.org/x/OQAtEQ

The work has just begun but things has already changed...

eduGAIN eduGAIN Policy Framework is updated!

The update is based on the Whitepaper: eduGAIN Futures WG recommendations and applies since January 2024

eduGAIN Constitution has been changed, therefore all members will need to sign the updated eduGAIN Declaration

- Further information will be sent out later this year
- Send any question about this process to support@edugain.org

The current version of the policy framework is published at https://edugain.org/governance/

- The page is not yet fully updated but the current Constitution and Steering Committee Terms of Reference are published

The governance of eduGAIN has changed

eduGAIN Steering Group is replaced by

- eduGAIN Assembly
  - 1 delegate and 1 deputy of all member federations
- eduGAIN Steering Committee
  - 4 member representatives from eduGAIN Assembly
  - 2 broader community representatives
  - eduGAIN Service Owner (ex-officio)

eduGAIN Executive Committee

- Representatives from organisations that funds eduGAIN operations

eduGAIN Service Team and Secretariat

- Daily operations of eduGAIN

Current eduGAIN Steering Committee members

- Pål Axelsson (Member SWAMID, 2024-2025, chair)
- Thijs Kinkhorst (Member SURFconext, 2024-2025)
- Francisca Martin-Vergara (Community, 2024-2025)
- Jonathan Eagan (Member CAF, 2024)
- Muhammad Farhan Sjaugi (Member SIFULAN, 2024)
- Slavek Licehammer (Community, 2024)
- Davide Vaghetti (Ex-officio, vice-chair)

The steering committee is appointed by the eduGAIN Assembly with a staggered 2 year term

eduGAIN Futures report - Current progress of recommendations

3.1 - New governance model is implemented

3.3 - Candidate Process is improved (https://wiki.geant.org/x/UIBwG)

eduGAIN Steering Committee focus on the eduGAIN Futures whitepaper

3.2 - together with 1.1

- Ongoing discussions on how to maintain federation information such as federation policy updates and contact information
- The REFEDS WG Metadata about federations may support the recommendation

1.2 - Filtering out single entities in eduGAIN is sensitive and discussions about criterias has started

eduGAIN Steering may create working groups to discuss individual recommendations

Thank you

Any questions?

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