



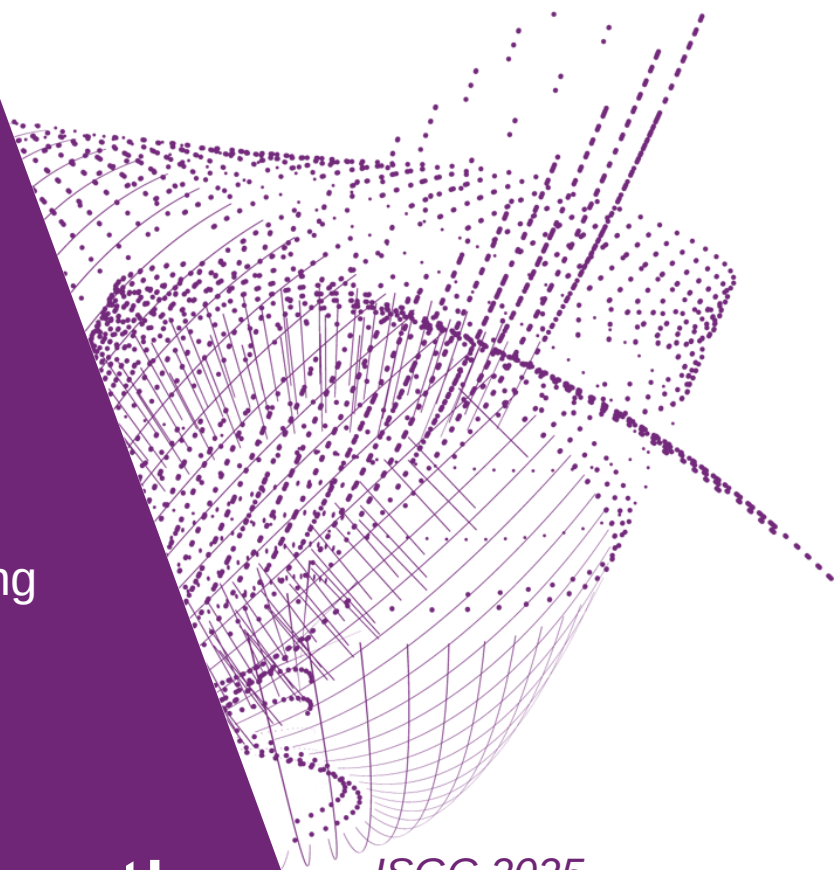
Maastricht University

How trust and identity enable
global infrastructures for distributing computing

In Infrastructures ... we Trust!

ISGC 2025

David Groep, March 2025



Collaborations: from small ...



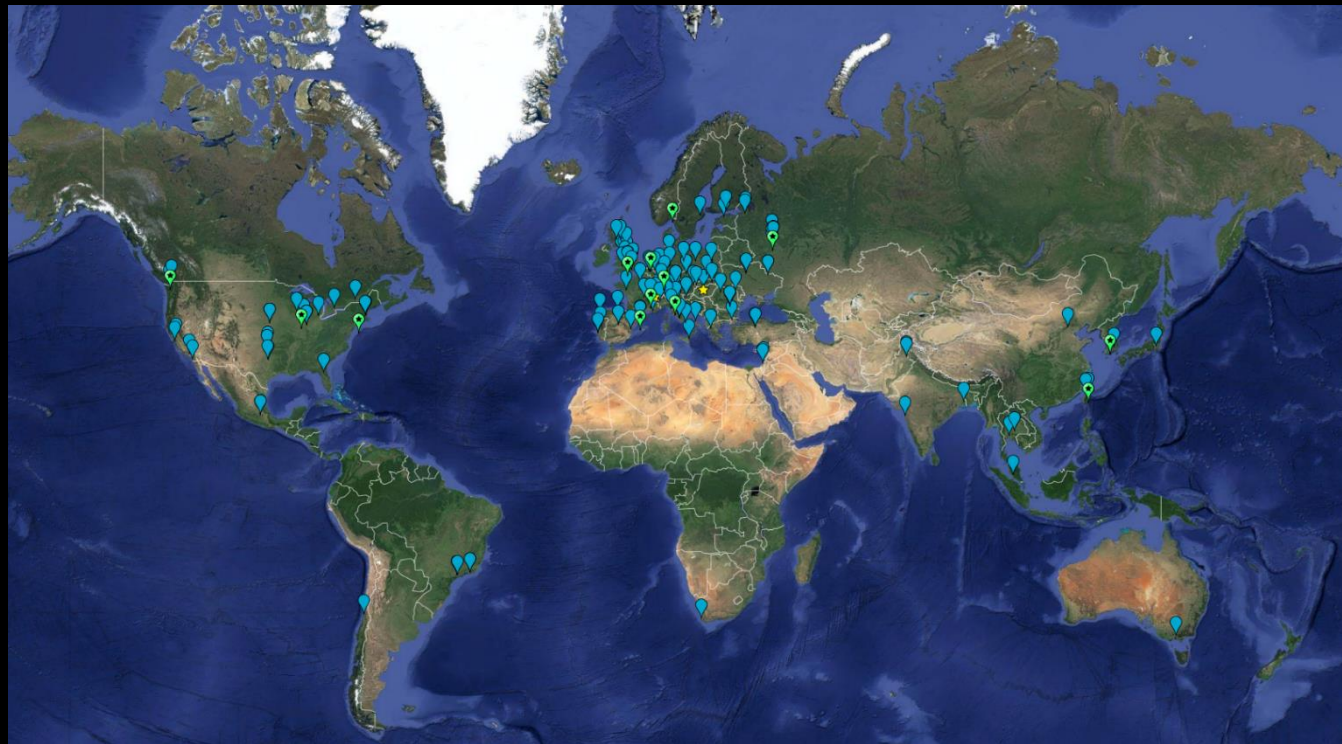
Nikhef user room H1.37 – terminal stations in the early 1990's – image source: Nikhef

... to large collaborations (and shown here is a subset ...)



a small part of the CMS collaboration in 2017, photo credit CERN on behalf the CMS collaboration, CMS-PHO-PUBLIC-2017-004-3

How many interactions? And just how many logins?



Worldwide LHC
Computing Grid (~ 2024)
~ 1.4 million CPU cores
~ 1500 Petabyte
disk + archival

170+ institutes
42+ countries
13 'Tier-1 sites'
some multi-community:
NL-T1 @ SURF & Nikhef

Earth background: Google Earth; Data and compute animation: STFC RAL for WLCG and EGI.eu; Data: <https://home.cern/science/computing/grid> ;
LHC Computing Grid: wlcg.web.cern.ch, EGI: www.egi.eu; ACCESS CI: <https://access-ci.org/>, NL-T1 and FuSE: fuse-infra.nl, <https://www.surf.nl/en/research-it>

Do we ask for ~ 12 000 x 170+ passwords for everyone?



Image "trust fall" by Barret Anspach (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/anspach/954545>) used under CC-BY-2.0 license

Of course not!

But 12 000 people is still a lot,
*and many more than you would
trust with your bank PIN ...*

Yet we have found mechanisms to
collaborate beyond the canonical
~150 people ("Dunbar's number")

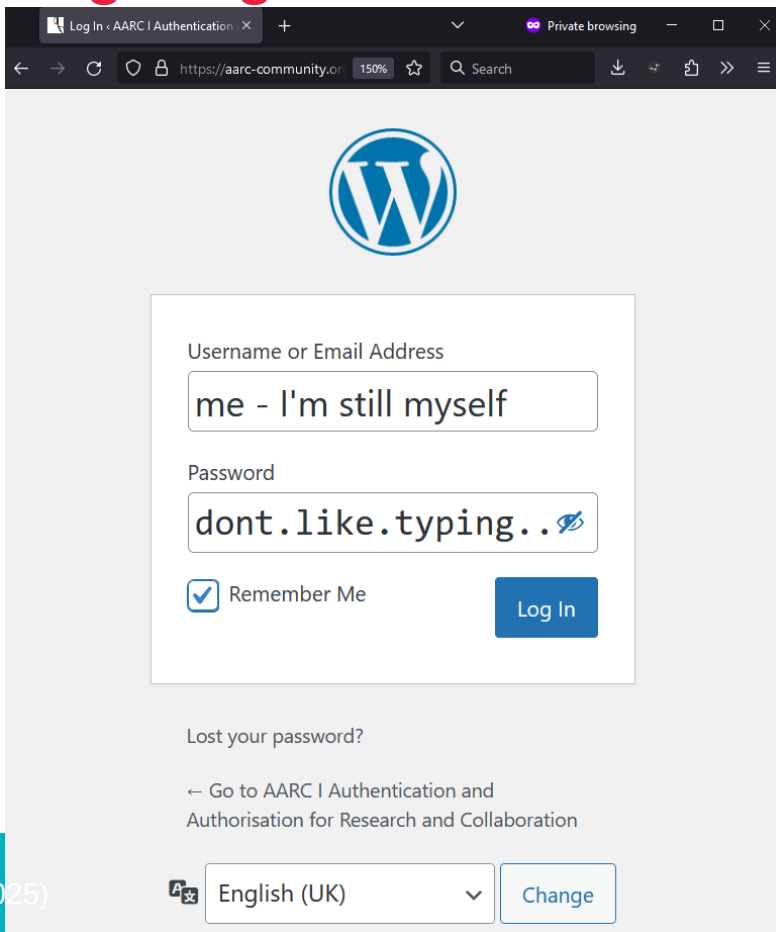
but what we built, may both be unique
for our 'high-trust' research community
... and be an example for others

When you are asked to login again ...

Authentication

demonstrating 'you are you'

- ***authenticator***
'you' remains same 'you'
- ***vett ed identity***
'you' can be pseudonymous
'you' can be a vetted person



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying 'https://aarc-community.org'. The page features the WordPress logo at the top. Below the logo is a login form with the following elements:

- A label 'Username or Email Address' above a text input field containing 'me - I'm still myself'.
- A label 'Password' above a text input field containing 'dont.like.typing..' with an eye icon for toggling visibility.
- A checkbox labeled 'Remember Me' which is checked.
- A blue 'Log In' button.
- A link 'Lost your password?' below the form.
- A footer section with a left arrow, the text 'Go to AARC I Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration', a language dropdown menu set to 'English (UK)', and a 'Change' button.

Self-asserted or 'pseudonymous' often not enough

*state of EU DataGrid and
HEP computing in ~2000*



NATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR KERNFYSICA EN HOGE-ENERGIEFYSICA

Guest / students form (please)

1. This form is completed in connection with:

☐

work experience

☐

otherwise, viz.

CERN/User Registration

CERN COMPUTER CENTRE - USER REGISTRATION

<http://cern.ch/it/documents/ComputerUsage/CompA>

To be returned to the User Registration box at the entrance of the CERN Computer Centre, completed by a user who requires a computer account, and is not yet registered in another group.

To be completed by the User :

It is MANDATORY to provide the following information, which will be treated confidentially and only be used for ensuring the correct supply of the computer resources.

FAMILY NAME(S):

FIRST NAME(S):

SEX [M] [F] BIRTHDATE: Day Month Year

HOME INSTITUTE/FIRM:

NATIONALITY: *CERN SUPERVISOR.....

*CERN DEPARTMENT: *CERN ID NUMBER (as on CERN card).....

To be completed by the Group Administrator:



Fermilab

For Office Use Only

ID:		Action:		ID Exp:	
Insurance:		Medical:		Safety:	
Computer:		Stkrn:		Family:	
NON-473:		Sensitive:		Verifier:	
				Date:	

Name:

SWIETZER

JOHN

JAMES

Last

First

Middle

University or Institution Name:

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Telephone:

850-644-XXXX

Experiment/Department:

Exp. / Dept.

D0

Spokesperson

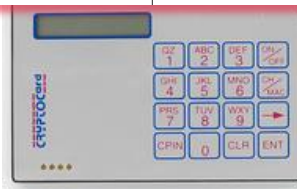
WOMERSLEY/WEERTS

Home Institution Contact

SHARON HAGOPIAN

Contact Telephone

850-644-4777



Scaling credentials: per service per user

Many start with *credentials* dedicated to each service where you need access

- In a multi-organizational system becomes

$$\mathcal{O}(n_{\text{services}}) * \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{users}})$$

- usually creates a strong link to authorization:

*different accounts for different roles,
multiplying the number of credentials per user*

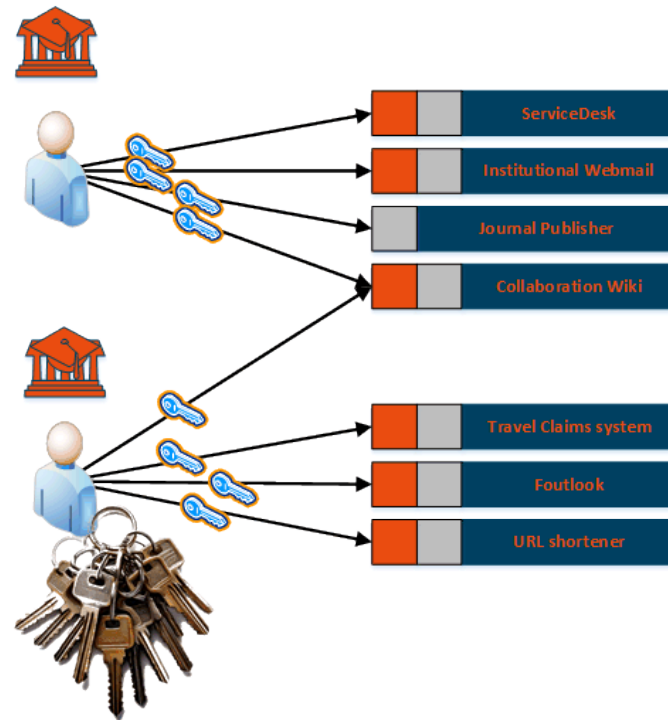


Image inspired by AARC NA2 training module “Authentication and Authorisation 101” – keychain image created by generative AI

bilateral 'SSO': a single service, or a single identity source

#credentials required?

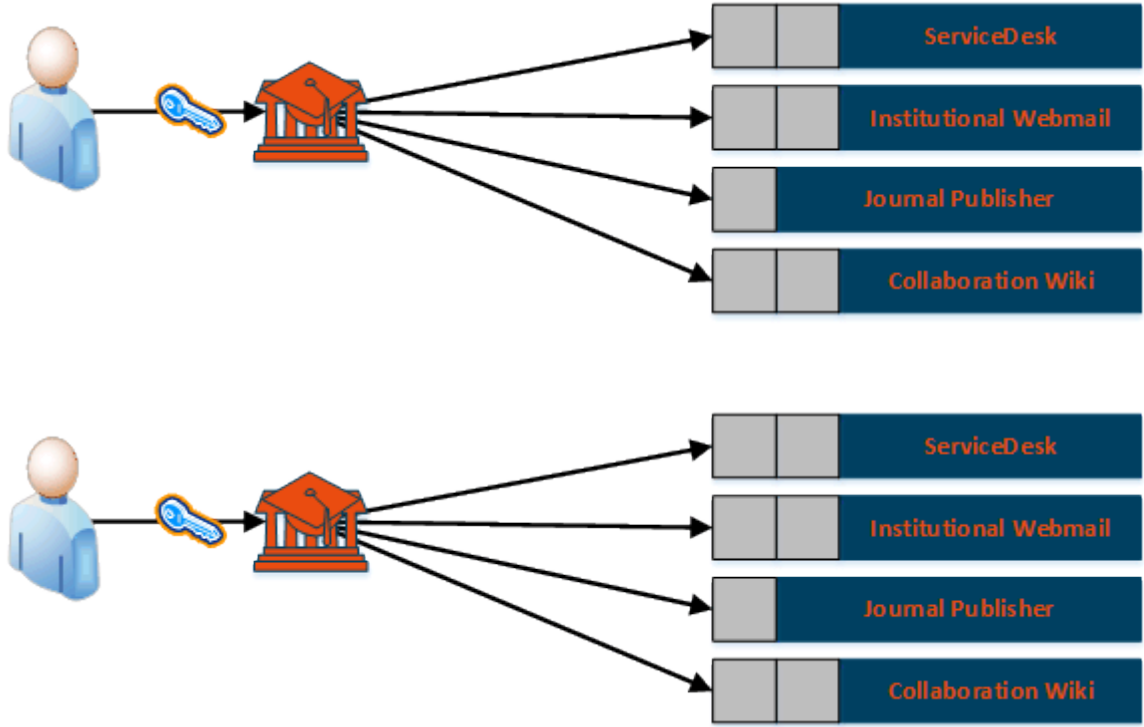
from previously

$$\mathcal{O}(n_{\text{services}}) * \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{users}})$$

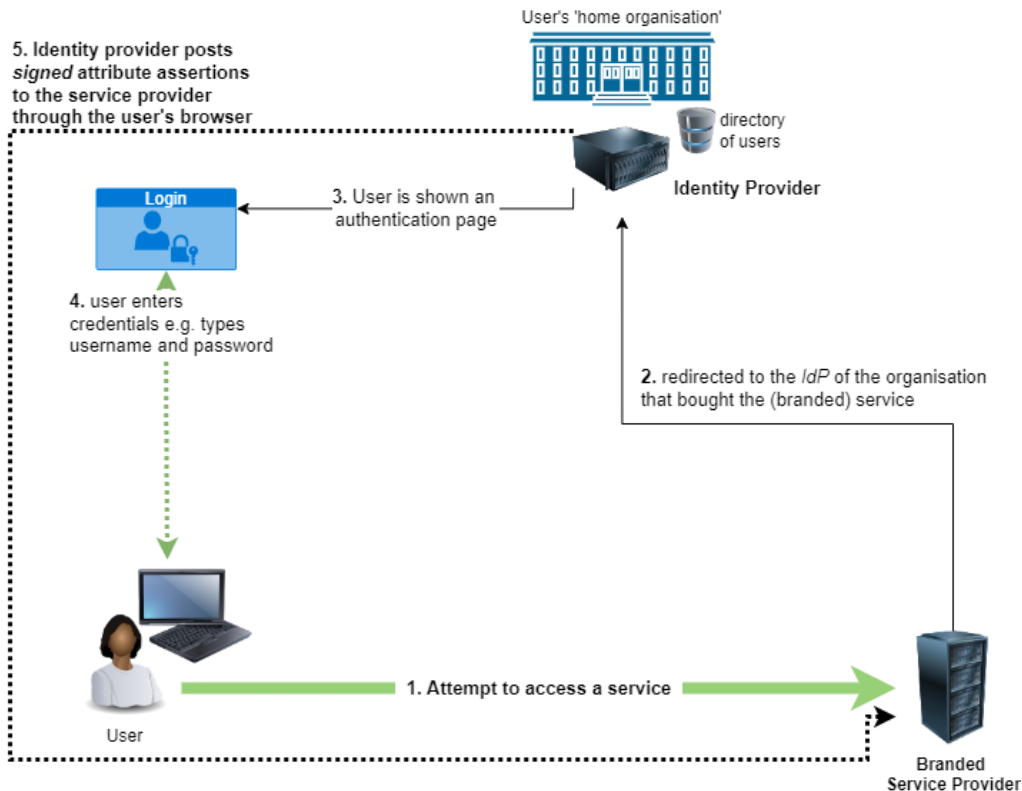
to

$$\mathcal{O}(n_{\text{users}}) + \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{services}} * n_{\text{home-orgs}})$$

in first order at least



Single sign-on – why your browser keeps loading things



```
Extension: (SAML-tracer) - SAML-tracer — Mozilla Firefox
X Clear II Pause Autoscroll Filter resources Colorize Export Import
GET https://commute.nikhef.nl/
GET https://commute.nikhef.nl/favicon.ico
GET https://commute.nikhef.nl/commute/?auth=nikhef-ssso
GET https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/saml2/idp/SSOService.php?SAMLRequest=fvJL SAML
GET https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/module.php/nikhef/loginuserpass.php?AuthState=_9d4f7
GET https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/module.php/consent/getconsent?StateId=_9d4f753ffc12c
GET https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/resources/icons/favicon.ico
GET https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/module.php/consent/getconsent?saveconsent=1&StateId=
POST https://commute.nikhef.nl/simplesaml/module.php/saml/sp/saml2-ac.php SAML
GET https://commute.nikhef.nl/commute/?auth=nikhef-ssso
GET https://commute.nikhef.nl/favicon.ico
```

Glossary

'SAML' is the "Security Assertion Mark-up Language" an XML blob with information, usually digitally signed

```
HTTP Parameters SAML Summary
Version="2.0"
IssueInstant="2025-02-28T11:49:04Z"
<saml:Issuer>https://sso.nikhef.nl/sso/saml2/idp/metadata.php</saml:Issuer>
```

SAML-tracer plugin by Tim van Dijen (SSC-ICT) et al.
<https://github.com/simplesamlphp/SAML-tracer>

User-centric identity: 'I take my passport anywhere by myself'

Your 'home organisation' does not have to be in the loop ...



user-centric trust: you yourself hold a credential from a trusted third party and can use it *without having to ask 'home' each time*:

- Public Key Infrastructure client certificates ("X.509")
- Verifiable credentials in wallets
- *and who remembers CardSpace?*

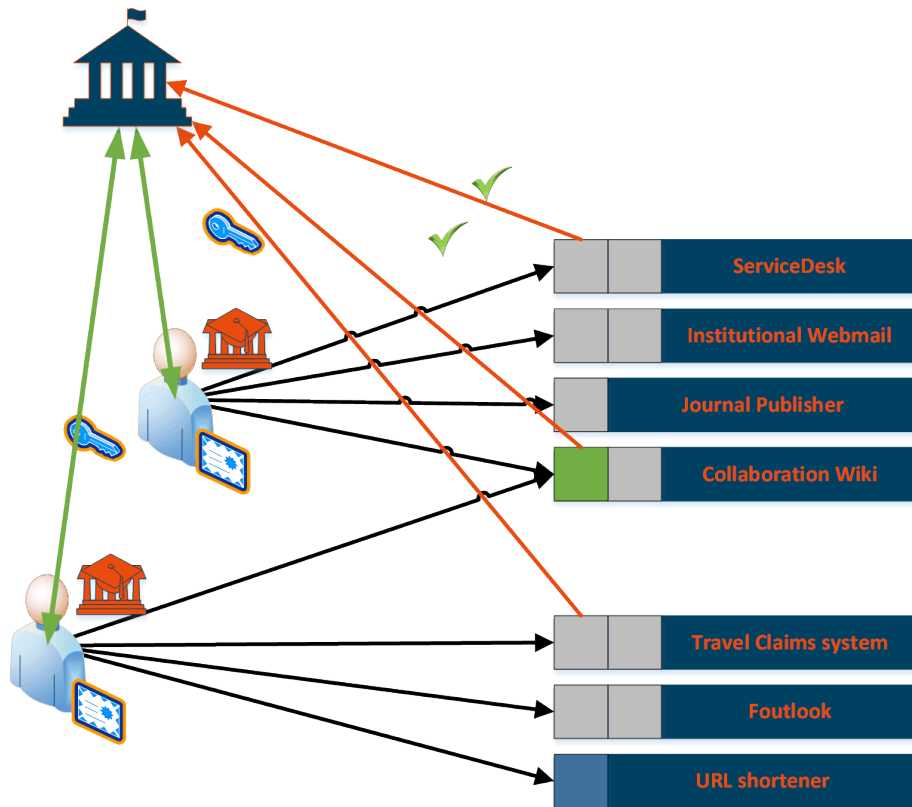
Passport image: cropped from original by Jon Tyson on Unsplash <https://unsplash.com/photos/Hid-yhommOg>

User-centric AAI

A **trusted authority** giving the user a 'self-managed' credential, like a passport

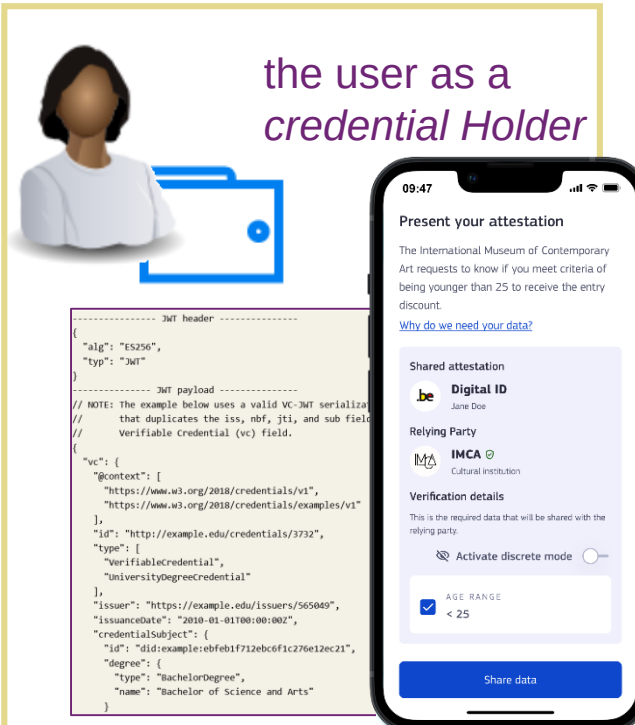
- a personal authentication digital certificate
- a verifiable credential in a wallet
- ...

verified (on-line and also offline)
at the original trusted issuer
or at an independent trusted verifier



Identity wallets, held by the user, are another

the user as a *credential Holder*



```
----- JWT header -----
{
  "alg": "ES256",
  "typ": "JWT"
}
----- JWT payload -----
// NOTE: The example below uses a valid VC-JWT serialization
// that duplicates the iss, nbf, jti, and sub field
// Verifiable credential (vc) field.
{
  "vc": {
    "@context": [
      "https://www.w3.org/2018/credentials/v1",
      "https://www.w3.org/2018/credentials/examples/v1"
    ],
    "id": "http://example.edu/credentials/3732",
    "type": [
      "VerifiableCredential",
      "UniversityDegreeCredential"
    ],
    "issuer": "https://example.edu/issuers/565049",
    "issuanceDate": "2018-01-01T00:00:00Z",
    "credentialSubject": {
      "id": "did:example:ebfeb1f712ebc6f1c27612ec21",
      "degree": {
        "type": "BachelorDegree",
        "name": "Bachelor of Science and Arts"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

Present your attestation

The International Museum of Contemporary Art requests to know if you meet criteria of being younger than 25 to receive the entry discount.

[Why do we need your data?](#)

Shared attestation

Digital ID
Jane Doe

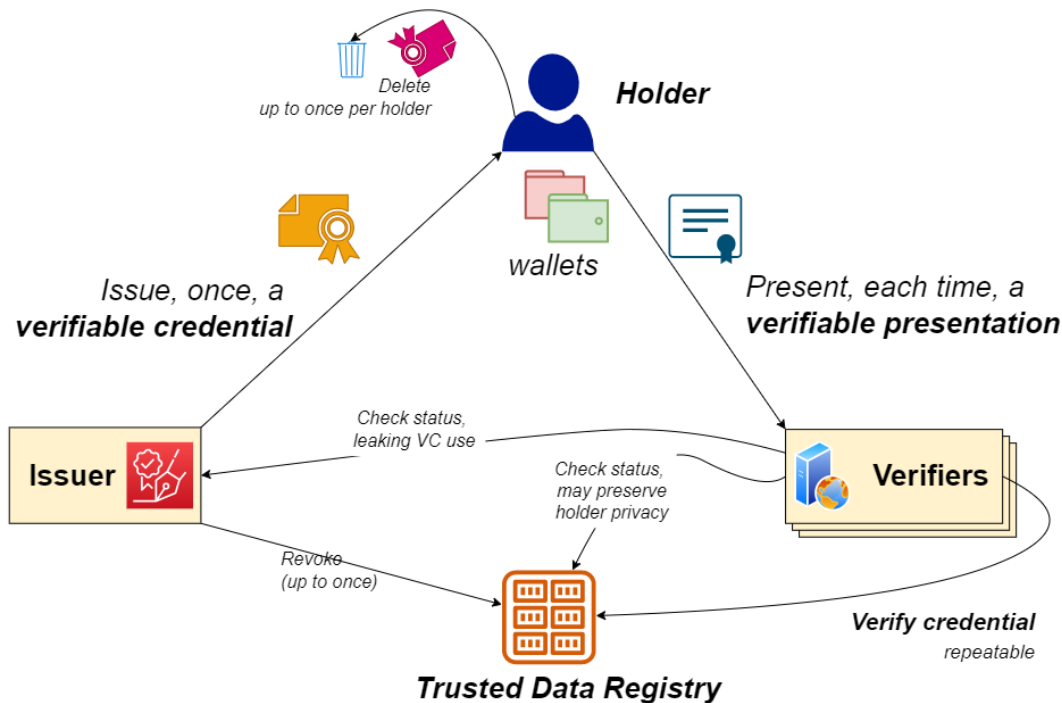
Relying Party
IMCA
Cultural Institution

Verification details
This is the required data that will be shared with the relying party.

☐ Activate discrete mode

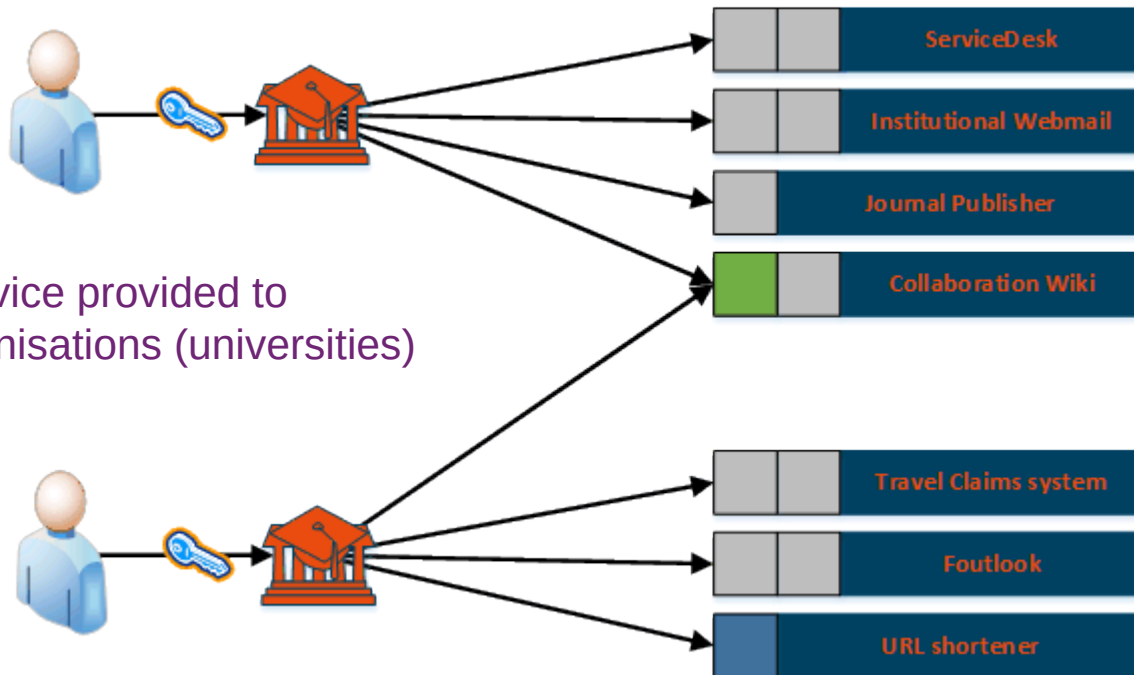
☒ AGE RANGE
< 25

Share data



Flow diagram inspired by: Lifecycle Details (5.1), Verifiable Credentials Data Model v1.1, W3C Recommendation 03 March 2022, <https://www.w3.org/TR/vc-data-model/>
EU eID Wallet from https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/european-digital-identity_en
Anpimage: European Commission, at <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/sites/display/EUDIGITALIDENTITYWALLET/Security+and+Privacy>

Can we scale better with an 'federated' Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure ('AAI')



with one service provided to several organisations (universities)

we will get to authorisation in a bit ...

Where are 'you' in the federated space – discovery!

The diagram illustrates the federated login process through HARICA, showing the user's journey from the HARICA login page to the institution selection page, and then to the specific institution's login page (Nikhef, CERN, or Maastricht University).

Harica CertManager (Private browsing) shows the HARICA login page. The **Academic Login** button is highlighted with a red box.

Access to HARICA shows the **Choose Your Institution** page. Recent institutions listed include **Nikhef**, **CERN**, and **Maastricht University**. The **Academic Login** button is highlighted with a red box.

Arrows indicate the user's selection of an institution, leading to the respective login page:

- Nikhef** (Nationaal Instituut voor subatomaire fysica) login page.
- CERN Single Sign-On** login page.
- Maastricht University** login page.

An example cross-institutional service by HARICA, the GEANT TCS G5 provider, presenting a SeamlessAccess.org discovery page

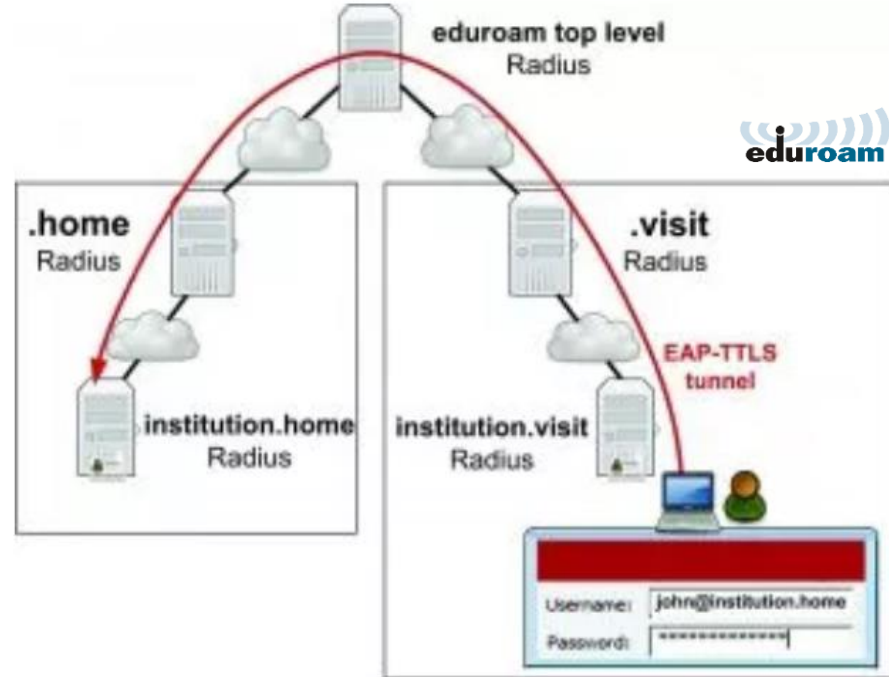
The federation you most likely know ...

service-specific trust
between organisations

hierarchical server path, based on
a network-specific secure exchange

sending your credentials back
to *only* your home institution

found via <anon@domain.name>

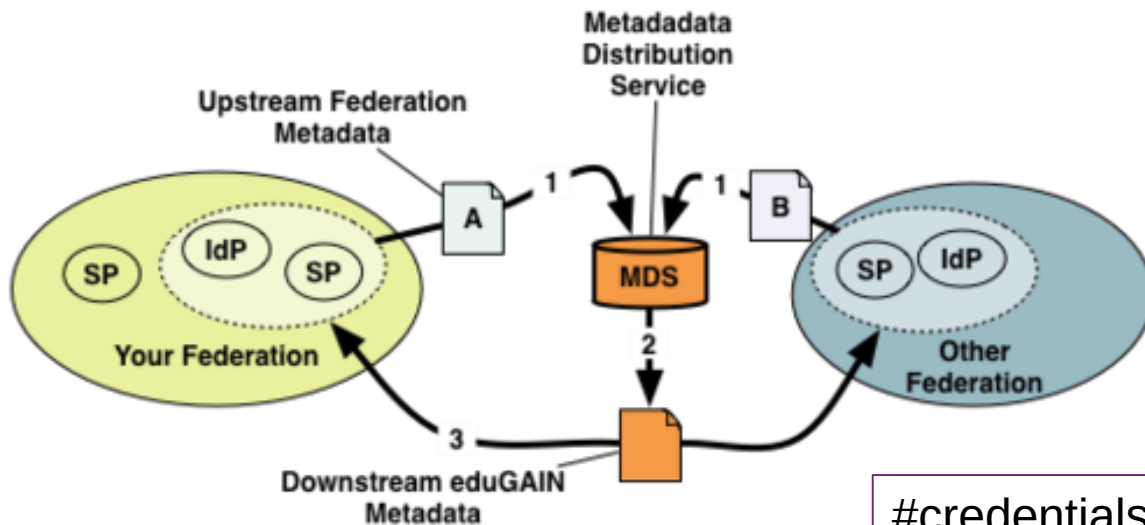


eduroam image from <https://eduroam.org/how/>, GEANT ; RADIUS: RC2865 <https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2865>; see also freeradius.org

We live in a federated world!



Meta-data and trust in IdP-SP 'multi-lateral' federations

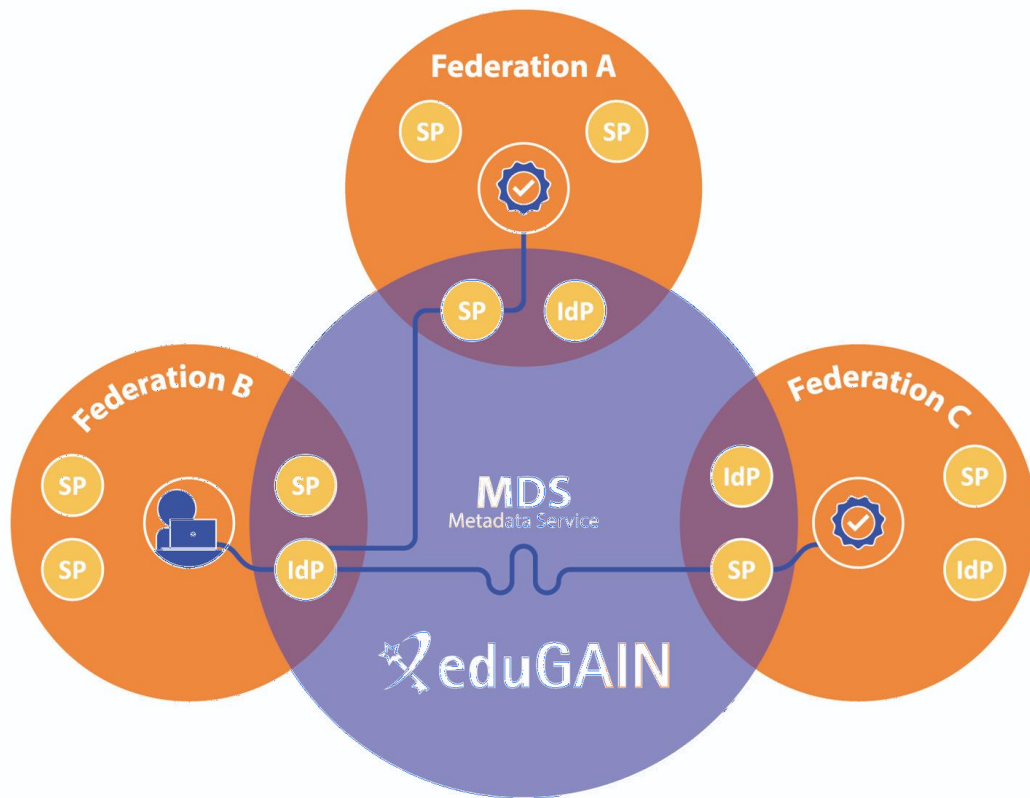


Listing of all entities (1872), 42 federations				
1	IdP: 29 Mayis University Entity ID: https://kumlik.29mayis.edu.tr/simplesaml/saml2/idp/metadata.php Entity categories: Data Protection Code of Conduct v1, REFEDS Research and Scholarship Registrar: YETKIM Org: Istanbul 29 Mayis University	ECGS		Entity details
2	IdP: A*STAR - Agency for Science, Technology and Research Entity ID: https://a-star.singaren.net.sg/simplesaml/saml2/idp/metadata.php Entity categories: REFEDS Research and Scholarship Registrar: Singapore Access Federation - SGAFF Org: A*STAR - Agency for Science, Technology and Research	ECGS		Entity details
3	IdP: AAF Virtual Home Entity ID: https://who.aaf.edu.au/idp/shibboleth Entity categories: REFEDS Research and Scholarship SIRTFI: asserted Registrar: AAF Org: AAF Virtual Home	ECGS		Entity details
4	IdP: AARNet Entity ID: https://shibboleth.aarnet.edu.au/idp/shibboleth Entity categories: REFEDS Research and Scholarship SIRTFI: asserted Registrar: AAF Org: Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet)	ECGS		Entity details
5	IdP: ACCESS CI Entity ID: https://access-ci.org/idp Entity categories: REFEDS Research and Scholarship, http://id.incommon.org/category/registered-by-incommon SIRTFI: asserted Registrar: InCommon Org: National Center for Supercomputing Applications	ECGS		Entity details
6	IdP: ACOnet staff Entity ID: https://idp.aco.net/idp/shibboleth Entity categories: Data Protection Code of Conduct v1, REFEDS Research and Scholarship Registrar: ACOnet Identity Federation Org: ACOnet staff	ECGS		Entity details
	IdP: AIRCentre Entity ID: https://ido.aircentre.com/idp/shibboleth	ECGS		

#credentials required?

from $\mathcal{O}(n_{\text{users}}) + \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{services}} * n_{\text{home-orgs}})$
to $\sim \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{users}}) + \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{home-orgs}}) + \mathcal{O}(n_{\text{services}})$

MDS meta-data flow: <https://wiki.geant.org/display/eduGAIN/Metadata+Flow+in+eduGAIN>
eduGAIN meta-data <https://mds.edugain.org/edugain-v2.xml> ; table excerpt from
<https://technical.edugain.org/entities> showing only R&S IdPs, i.e. those supporting research ...



78

Identity Federations

5100+

Identity Providers

3600+

Service Providers

eduGAIN image: Davide Vagheti, GARR for GN*.*

We progressed a lot since 2003 with identity federation

NIKHEF
NATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR KERNFYSICA EN HOGE ENERGIEFYSICA

Guest / students form (please with a copy of your identity card)

CERN User Registration Date: 01.03.2004

CERN COMPUTER CENTRE - USER REGISTRATION FORM
<http://cern.ch/it/documents/ComputerUsage/CompAccountRegistrationForm-English.pdf>

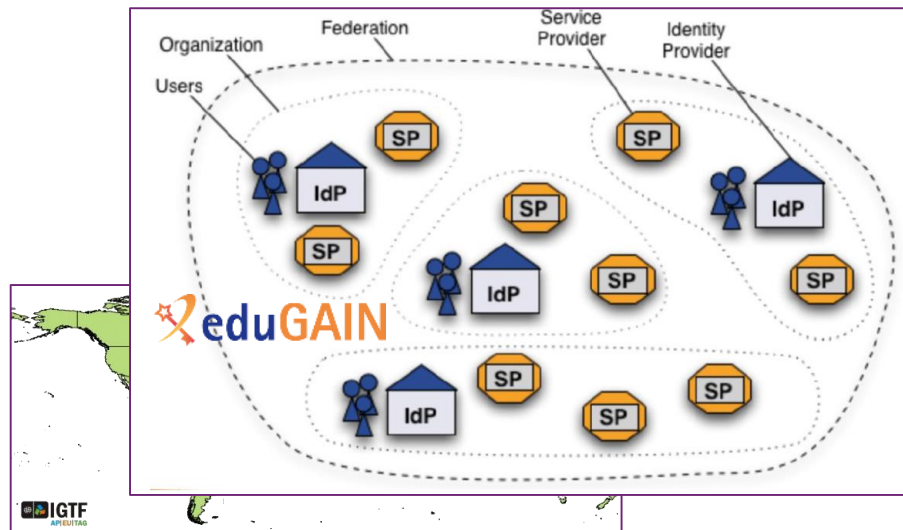
To be returned to the User Registration box at the entrance of Building 513, after being completed by a user who requires a computer account in a Central Service provided by IT Department, and is not yet registered in another group or system or has already signed it before.

To be completed by the User :
It is MANDATORY to provide the following information (except those with an *). It will be treated confidentially and only be used for ensuring correct identification.
Supply name as registered by the Users' Office or HR Division.

FAMILY NAME(S):
FIRST NAME(S):
SEX [M] [F] BIRTHDATE: Day Month Year
HOME INSTITUTE/FIRM:
NATIONALITY: *CERN SUPERVISOR.....
*CERN DEPARTMENT: *CERN ID NUMBER (as on CERN card).....

To be completed by the Group Administrator:

Exp / Dept.	Spokesperson	Home Institution Contact	Contact Telephone
D0	WOMERSLEY/WEERTS	SHARON HAGOPIAN	850-644-4777



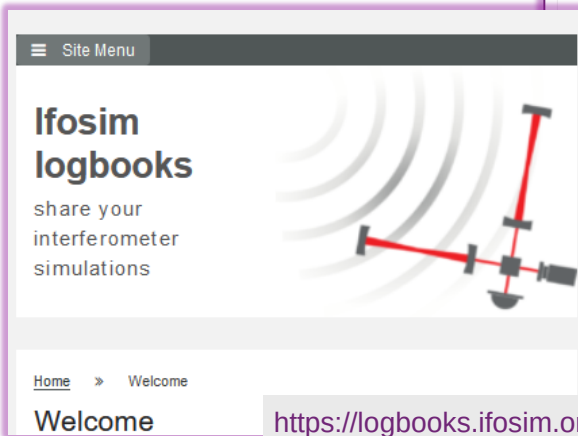
For eduGAIN federation the IdPs provide authentication from the home organisation, for the user-centric PKIX IGTF trust fabric, the CAs do. Then **Service providers** perform **authorization**,
... maybe using attributes provided by the IdP. But do they get them??

Right-hand image: Shibboleth IdP federation, Lukas Hammerle, SWITCH (CH), user-centric PKI credentials: Interoperable Global Trust Federation, <https://igtf.net/>

Federated Success!

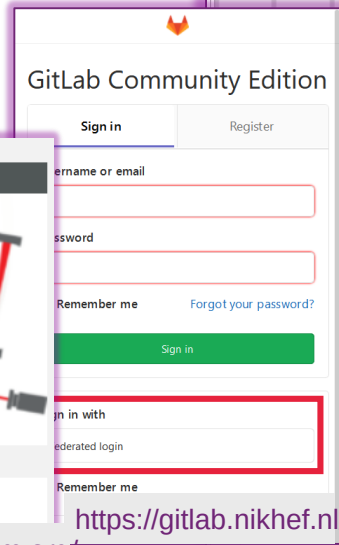
Login to GW's ifosim.org, to
gitlab, or ... via the service proxy

*with any eduGAIN IdP
for user authentication*



<https://logbooks.ifosim.org/>

ifosim federated AAI integration implementation by Mischa Sallé; per-country



<https://gitlab.nikhef.nl/>

Nikhef Nationaal instituut voor subatomaire fysica

Je hebt eerder gekozen voor authenticatie bij **IGTF Certificate Proxy** [Inloggen bij IGTF Certificate Proxy](#)

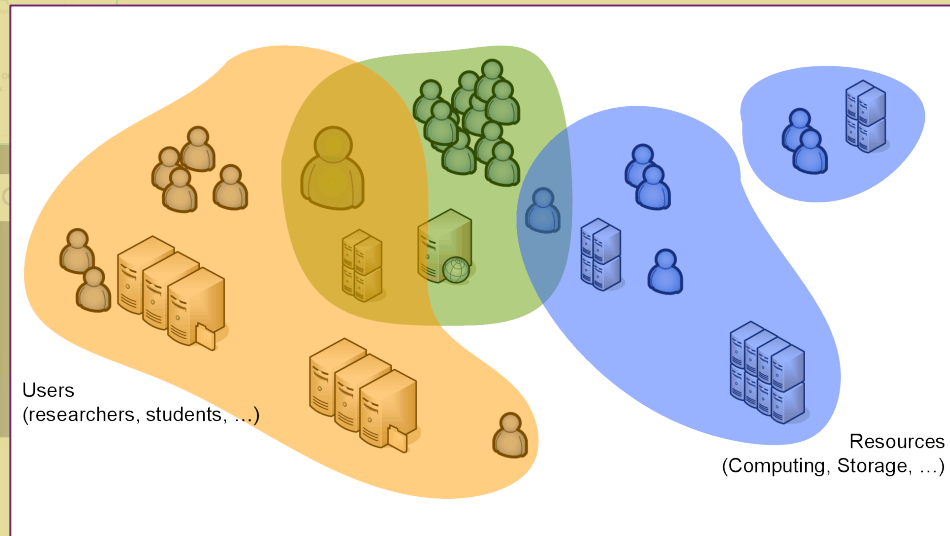
Preferred	Global	IGTF	Pan-European	AM	AT	AU	BE	BR	BY	CA	CH	CL	CN	CO			
CZ	DE	DK	DZ	EC	EE	ES	FI	FR	GE	GL	GR	HR	HU	IE	IL	IN	IR
IT	JP	KR	LB	LI	LT	LU	LV	MD	MK	MO	MY	MX	NC	NL	NO	OM	PF
SE	SI	SG	UA	UG	UK	US	ZA	experimental	NZ	KG	RO	MT	AL				
TR	CY	PK	ZM	RU	MA	HK	FO										

Trapsgewijs zoeken

BBMRI-ERIC
DARIAH
Ecole Nationale des Chartes
Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers
Edmund Mach Foundation - Istituto Agrario di San Michele all'Adige
EGI Foundation
Frantisek Krizik Grammar School and Primary School, s.r.o.
Hubrecht Institute & Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute (KNAW)
Institut Mines Telecom Business School & Telecom SudParis (new debug)
Mykolas Romeris University
Nuclear Research and consultancy Group
Observatoire de la Côte d'Azur
oldr3 Institut Mines Telecom Business School & Telecom SudParis
Pilsen City Library

<https://wayf.nikhef.nl/>

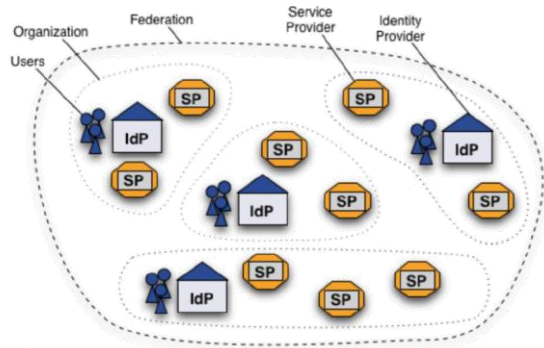
Science infrastructures using our R&E 'federated access'



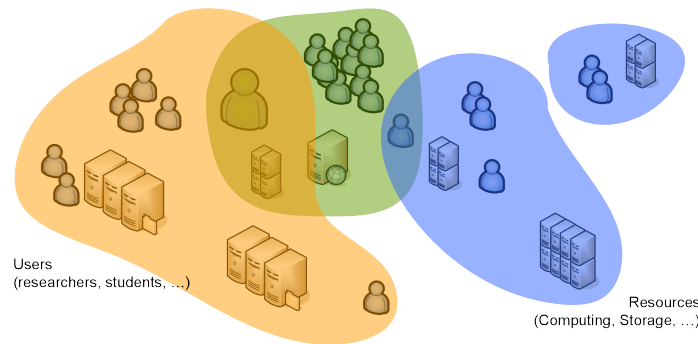
Images: CERN <https://lhc.web.cern.ch/>; HADDOLCK, WeNMR, @Bonviniab <https://wenmr.science.uu.nl/>; Virgo, Pisa, IT; artist impression Einstein Telescope EMR region; EOSC portal in 2023, EGI catalogue <https://www.egi.eu/>

They look similar, yet they are not ...

In the **Identity federation** picture, the source of authority is the *home organisation* via its IdP



In the **Community** picture, the source of authority is *the community itself*

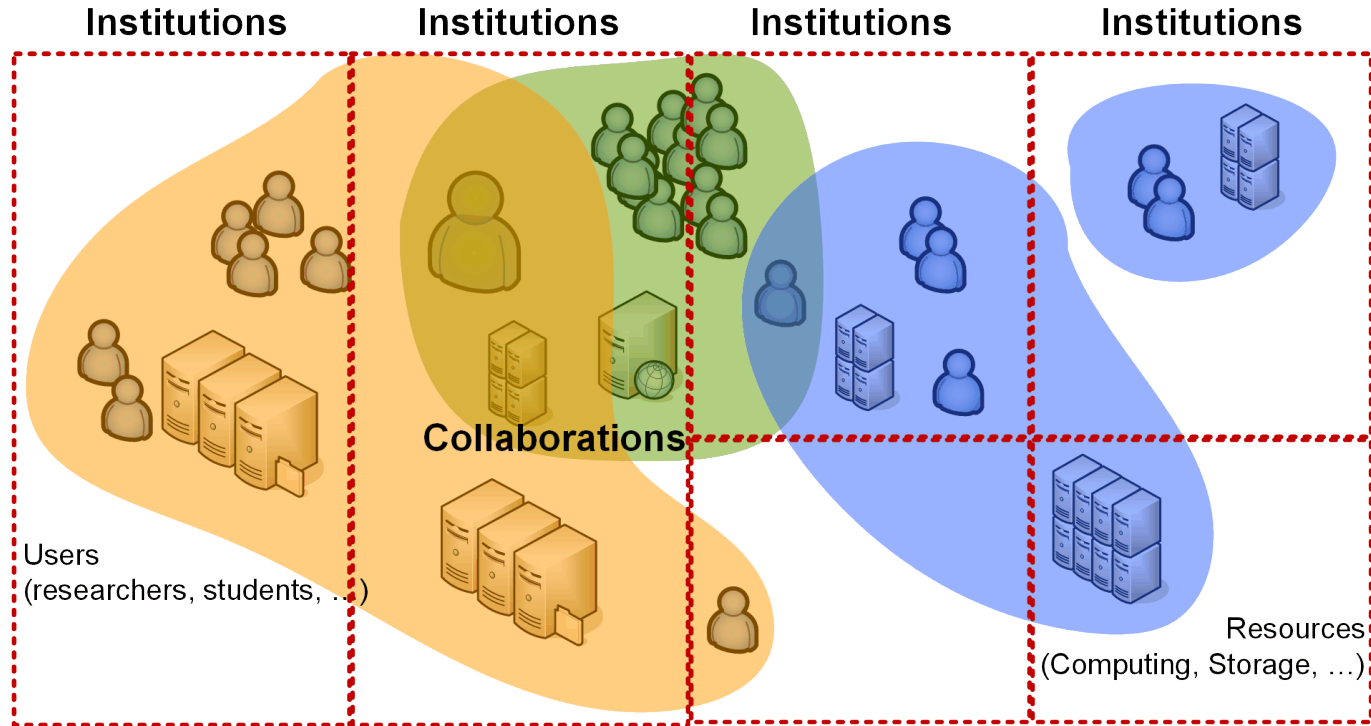


the AuthN-AuthZ separation is fundamental

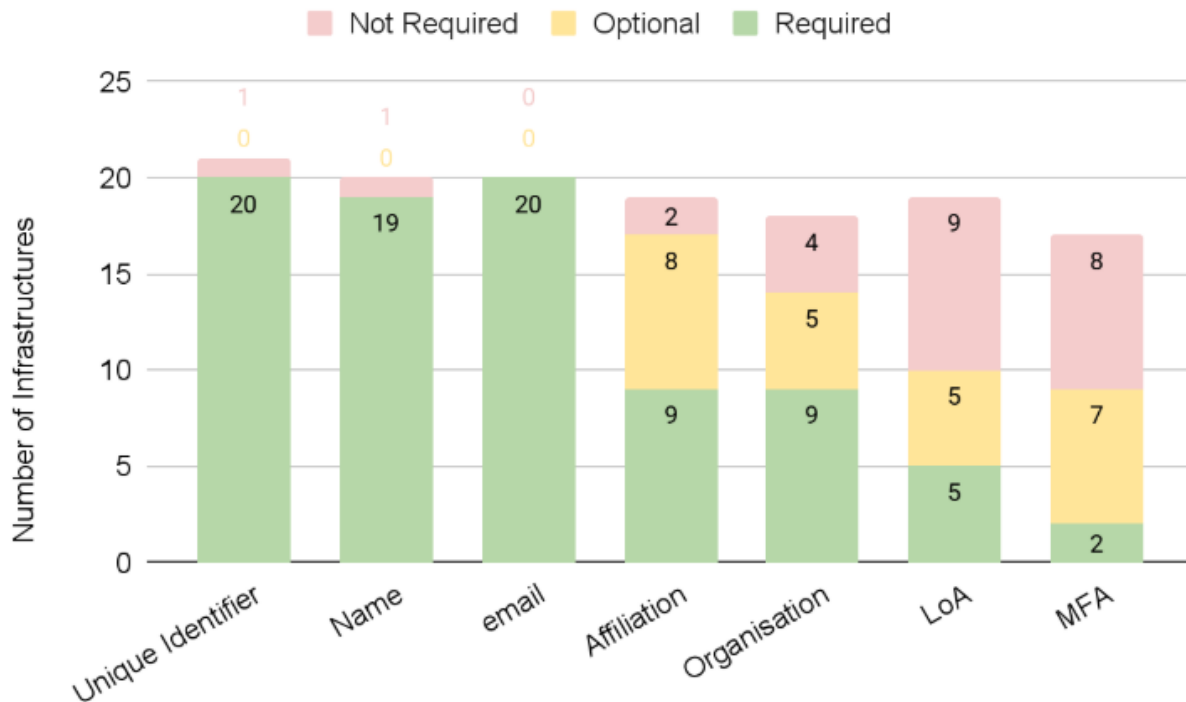
to the Federated (R&E) AAI, global IGTF PKI, VOMS, 'AARC BPA' AAI architecture ...

Right-hand image: Shibboleth IdP federation, Lukas Hammerle, SWITCH (CH)

Since collaborations and institutions slice in different ways



Research Infrastructures: what they *actually* need from ‘home’



Glossary

Affiliation: what *type* of entity are you (student, faculty, alumnus, ...)

LoA: level of authentication assurance (like passport identity vetting and ‘freshness’ of data)

MFA: multi-factor authentication (password, 6-digit code, SMS, fingerprint)

Source: Marina Adomeit, Janos Mohasci, *et al.* AARC TREE Use-case collection and analysis (D3.2), 2025 (under review)

The one infra that did ‘not need a unique identifier’ actually stated: “<our infra> assigns own identifier upon registration” – so the unique identifier is *still* there!

For starters: sharing good user identifiers is non-trivial 😞



of 6019 identity providers
in 77 federations,
only 1994 support R&S or Personalised access **33%**

For IdP Operators

What attributes should be released by an R&S IdP?

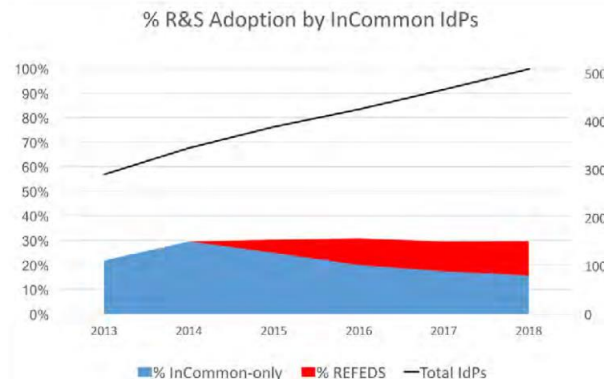
The Research & Scholarship specification defines a bundles of attributes that Identity Providers are encouraged to release to R&S services:

- personal identifiers: email address, person name, eduPersonPrincipalName
- pseudonymous identifier: eduPersonTargetedID
- affiliation: eduPersonScopedAffiliation

Category support is defined as follows:

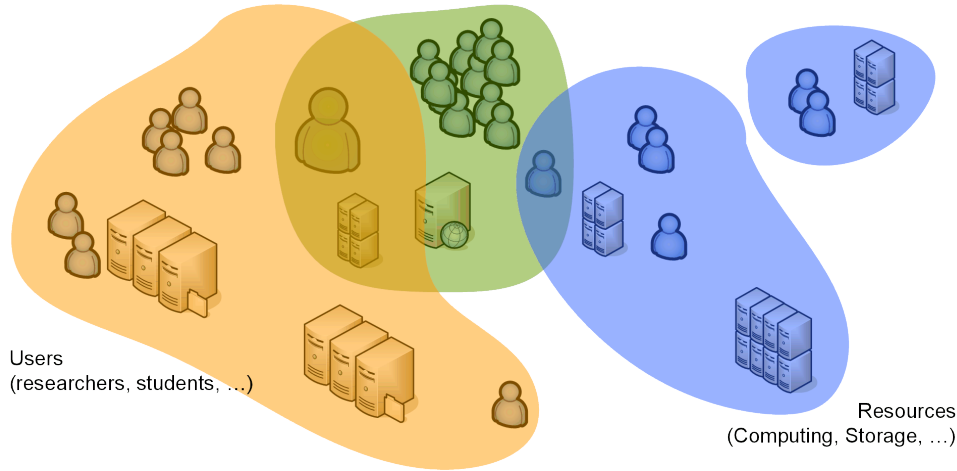
An Identity Provider indicates support for the R&S Category by exhibiting the R&S entity attribute in its metadata. Such an Identity Provider **MUST**, for a significant subset of its user population, release all required attributes in

~ constant since 2018 😞

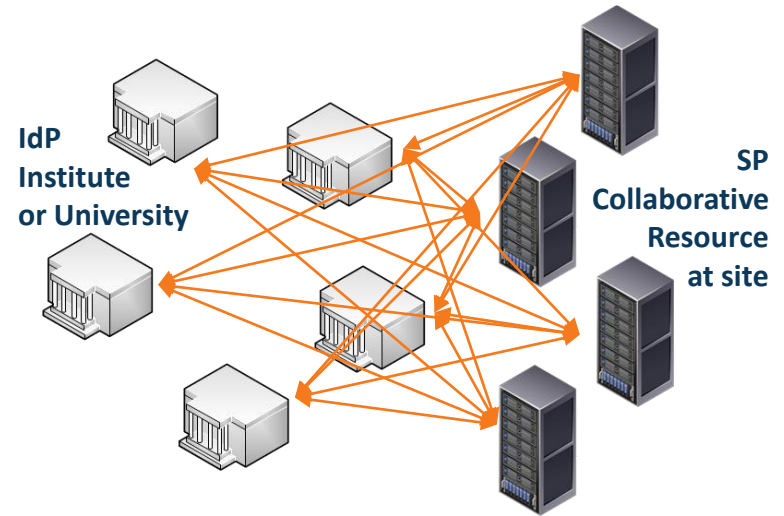


Graph: InCommon: Attributes-WG-Recommendations-May2018.pdf; Entity Category stats as per 2025-03-03, from <https://technical.edugain.org/entities>

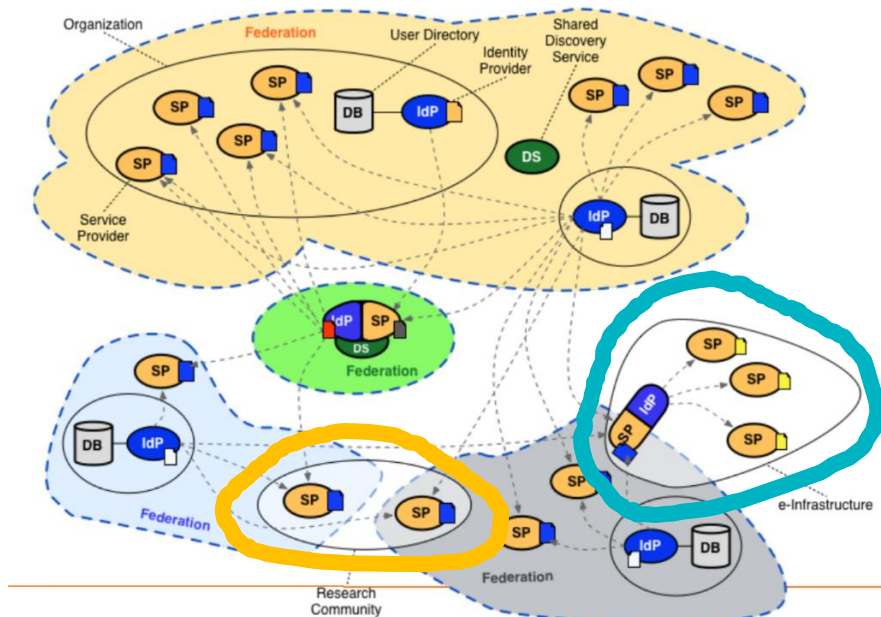
A fundamental scaling issue remained unique to research



for identity and user data
'n x m' agreements remain(ed)

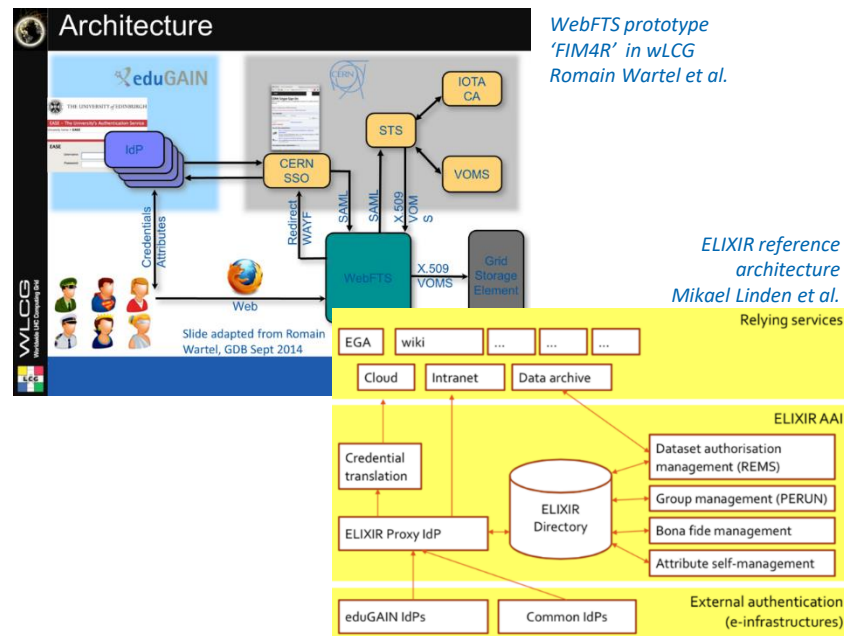


Managing complexity: distributed diverse identity sources



they were composed of many services
each of which had to manage federation complexity

Community images: Romain Wartel, CERN; Mikael Linden, CSC; Federation image (R): Lukas Hammerle, SWITCH

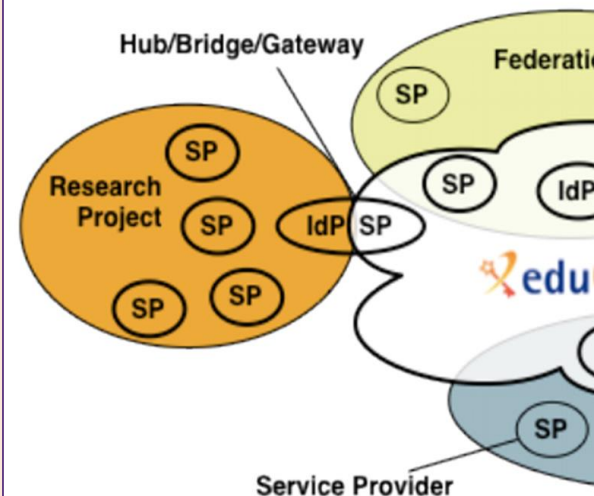


but most communities had started to invent
their own 'proxy' model to abstract complexity

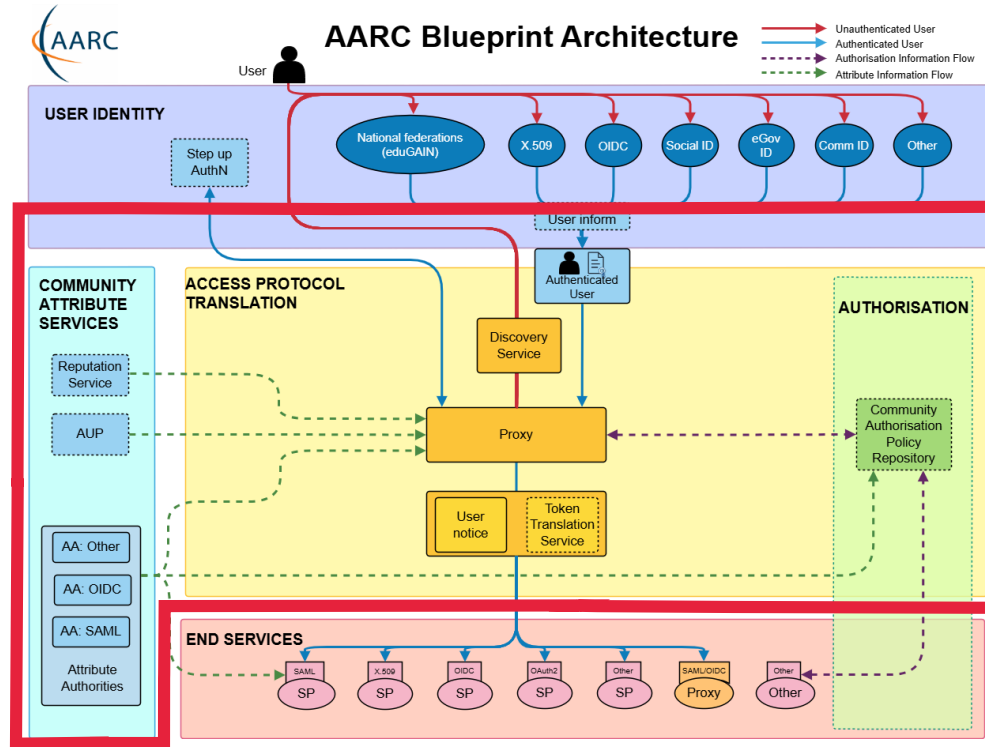
The IdP-SP bridge

- Access services using **identities from users' Home Organizations**,
- but **hide complexity** of multiple IdPs, federations, and different technologies for authentication and authorisation
- **One persistent identity** across all the community's services through **account linking**
- **Access services based on role(s)** users have **in the collaboration.**
- For both **web** and **non-web** resources
- Integration of **guest identity solutions**
- **Support for stronger authentication assurance** mechanisms

often known as proxy!



AARC Blueprint – making the bridge a first-class citizen



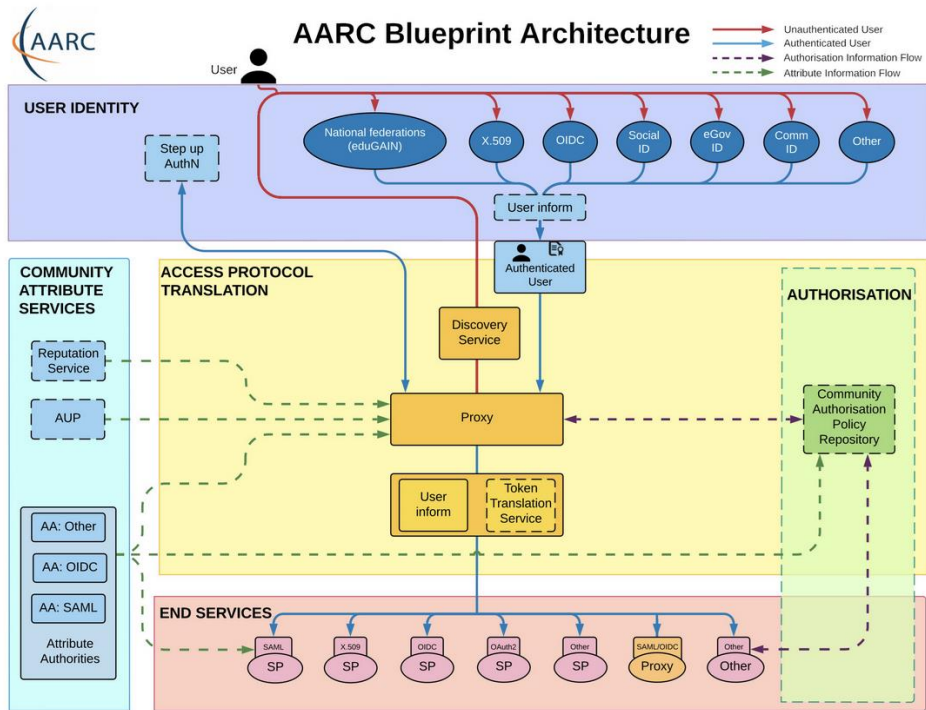
Manage users and access rights

with interoperable **building blocks** for 'AAI infrastructure' architects

that are

- technology-agnostic
- have multiple implementations
- come with policy templates & good practice guides

More than just nice colours



<https://aarc-community.org/guidelines/>

Not sure how to begin with the AARC Blueprint Architecture? There are plenty of guidelines available but it can be a minefield at first. You probably want to start by designing the high level approach of your infrastructure based on the AARC Blueprint Architecture. There are several general topics you should consider, such as Data Protection (AARC-G042) and Federated Security Incident Response (AARC-I051). Here you can find common questions matched to the relevant Blueprint Architecture component, along with links to guidelines that can help.

Community Attribute Services:

- How should attributes from multiple sources be aggregated? AARC-G003
- How should I express the home institute of a user? AARC-G025
- How should I express the identifier of a user? AARC-G026
- What are the best practices for running my Attribute Authorities securely? AARC-G071
- Which Acceptable Use Policy should I use to facilitate interoperability? AARC-I044
- How should I infer the affiliation of a user? AARC-G057

Authorisation:

- How should I manage authorisation information from multiple sources? AARC-G006
- How should group and role information be expressed to facilitate interoperability? AARC-G002
- How should resource capabilities be expressed? AARC-G027

End Services:

- My service needs to act on behalf of the user – how should I handle credential delegation and impersonation? AARC-G005
- My services are not web based, how can I use identities from the proxy? AARC-G007
- How should Services hint which IDP they would like users to use? AARC-G049
- Which Security practices should I follow? AARC-G014

User Identity:

- How should I integrate Social Media Identity Providers? AARC-G008
- How should users link accounts, and how does that affect Assurance? AARC-G009
- How should services indicate that they would like users to authenticate with multifactor authentication, and how should my proxy forward that information? AARC-G029

Assurance:

- How should assurance information of external identities be calculated? AARC-G031
- What can I say about assurance of identities from social media accounts? AARC-G041
- How is assurance impacted by account linking? AARC-G009
- How should assurance information be shared with other infrastructures? AARC-G021
- Which Assurance Profiles should I use, there are so many! AARC-I050

Access Protocol Translation:

- Which best practices should I follow for my Token Translation Services? AARC-G004
- How should I translate from Identity Federation information to X.509 certificates? AARC-G010

Proxies:

- How can I ensure that my proxy is able to accurately claim that it supports best practices in Identity Federation? AARC-G015
- How should I express the home institute of a user? AARC-G025
- How should I express the identifier of a user? AARC-G026
- How should I express assurance information for users when interacting with another proxy? AARC-G021
- How can my proxy simplify the discovery process for end-users? AARC-G061
- How can my proxy route the user to the correct discovery service? AARC-G062

What next? Are you looking for a kick start with your policies? Take a look at the **Policy Development Toolkit** which provides a set of templates.

Policy	Infrastructure Management	Services (aside by)	Users (aside by)
Service Operations Security Policy	Infrastructure Management (for baseline) & Research Communities (for community specific restrictions)	Users (aside by)	This is a template for the acceptable use policy that users must accept when using Research Infrastructure. It is augmented by the Research...
Acceptable Use Policy	Infrastructure Management (for baseline) & Research Communities (for community specific restrictions)	Users (aside by)	This is a template for the acceptable use policy that users must accept when using Research Infrastructure. It is augmented by the Research...

Showing 1 to 9 of 9 entries

Previous Next

“Your attention to detail is appreciated”

Even a simple challenge ...

“How to communicate
affiliation of a user with the community”

needs standards for interoperability!

- [AARC-G025 –
Guidelines for expressing affiliation information](#)
- [AARC-G057 –
Inferring and constructing voPersonExternalAffiliation](#)

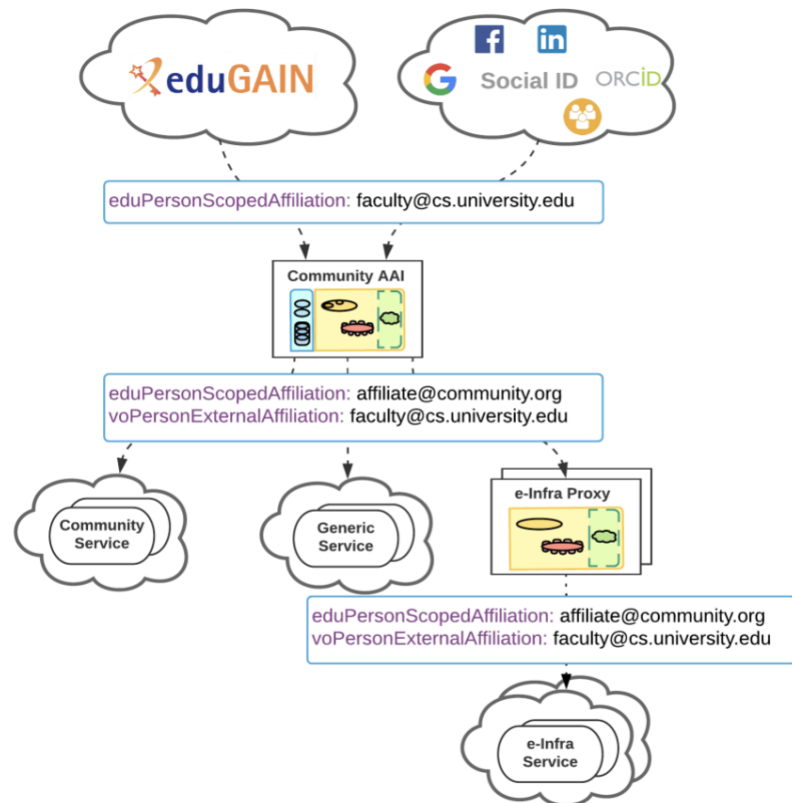
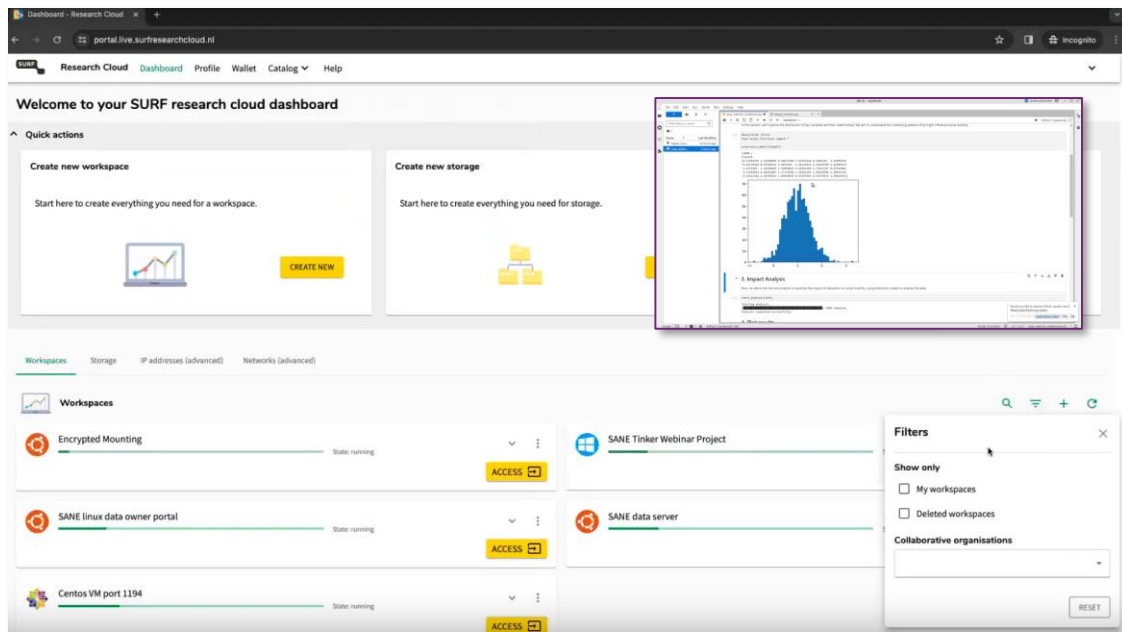
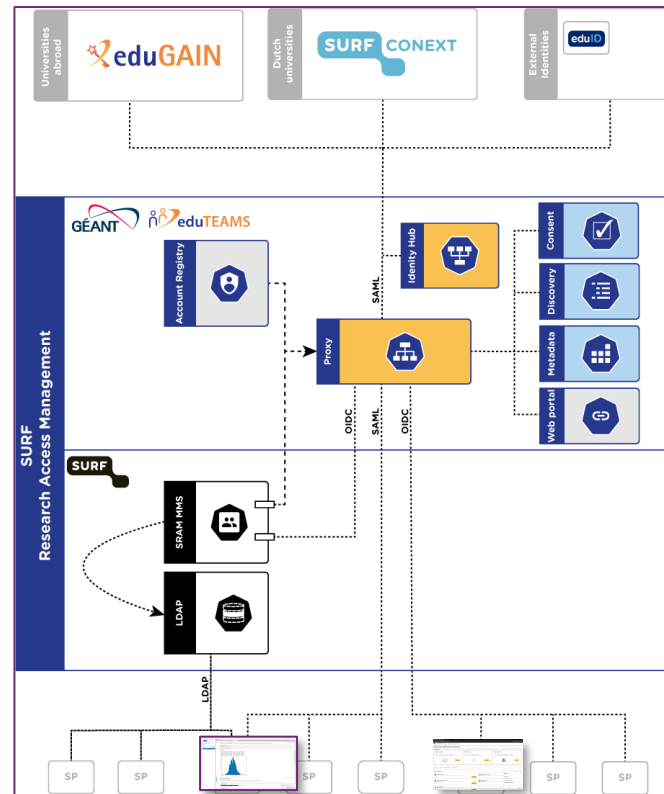


Image: Guideline AARC-G025 (AARC community); quote from the MoinMoin wiki software

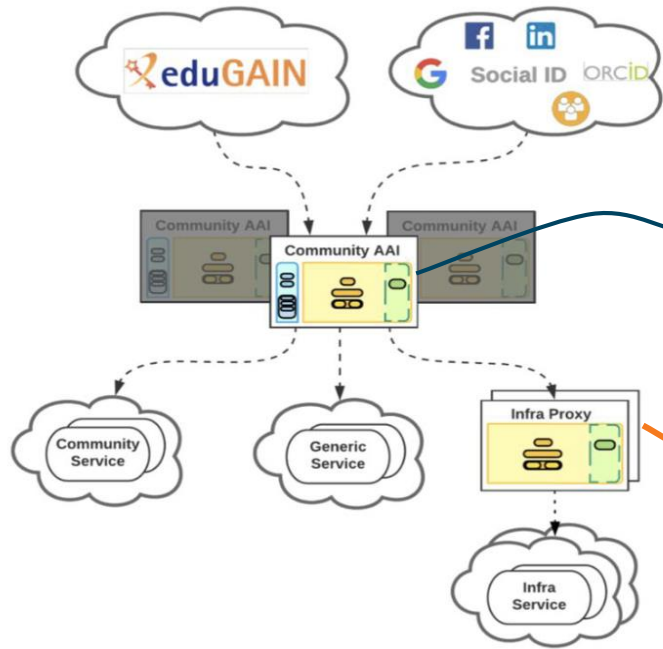
Example: SURF Research Cloud Secure Supercomputing



SURF SRAM architecture, Raoul Teeuwen *et al.* from <https://servicedesk.surf.nl/wiki/display/IAM/Dienstbeschrijving+SURF+Research+Access+Management>
SURF Research Cloud capture: from Introduction to SANE (Secure Analysis Environment) webinar February 2024, by Martin Brandt *et al.*, SURF <https://www.surf.nl/themas/onderzoeksinfrastructuur/sane-veilige-omgeving-voor-analyse-van-gevoelige-data>



... but one proxy is not enough in a research cloud



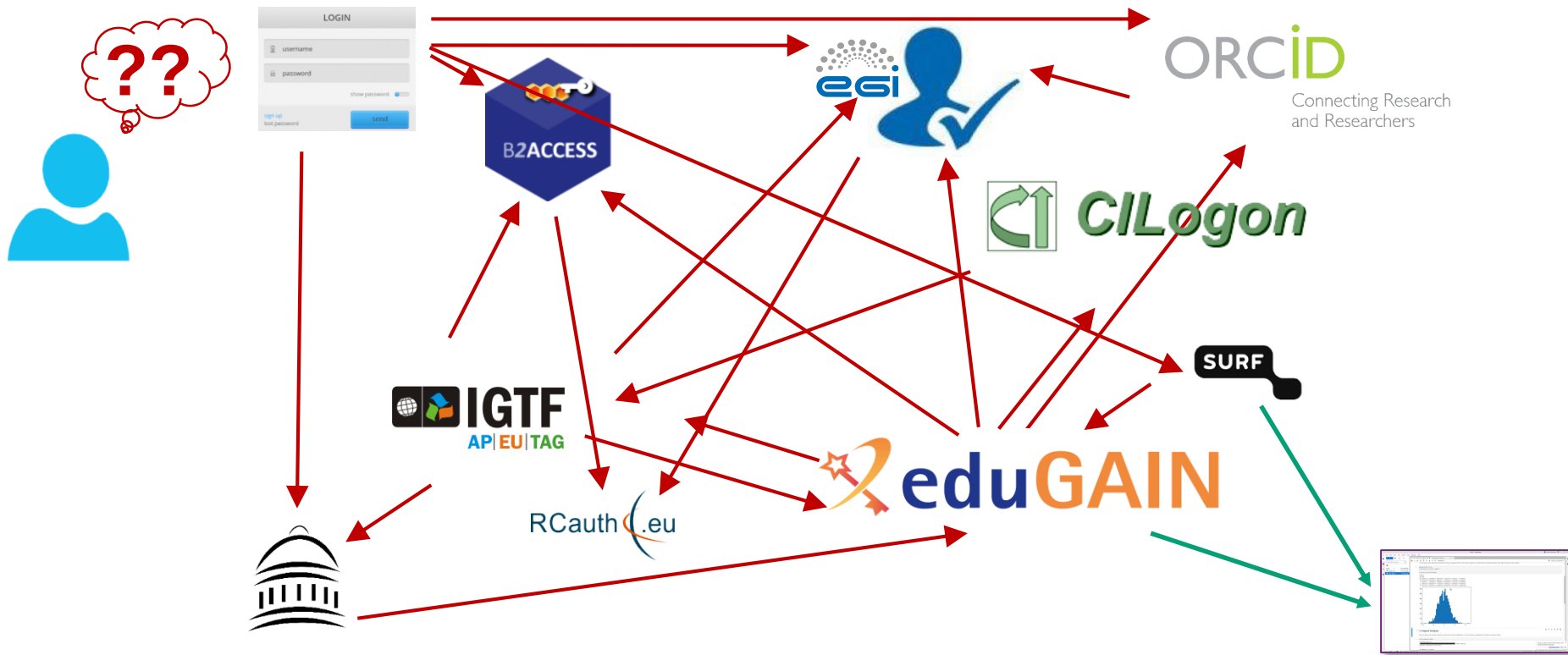
Community AAI

streamline researchers' access to services, both those provided by their own infrastructure as well as the services provided by shared infrastructures from other communities.

Infrastructure Proxy

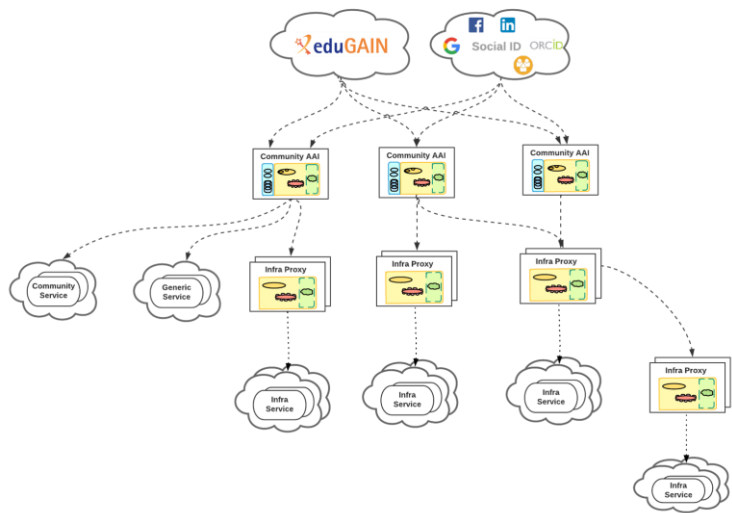
enables Infrastructures with large number of resources, to provide them through a single integration point, where the Infrastructure can maintain centrally all the relevant Policies and business logic for making available resources to multiple communities

Identity spaghetti: 1-loop, 2-loop and higher order diagrams

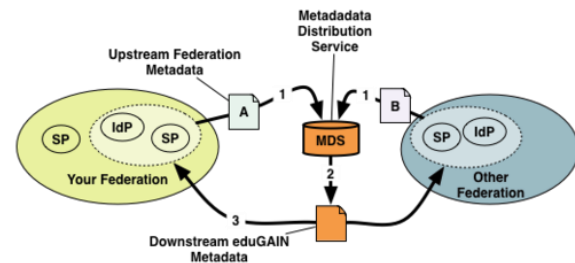


We have seen many arrows before ... it needs federation!

Identity, community, infrastructure proxies and services form a **federation of proxies**



- bilateral registration
but then you have a scalability issue again
- meta-data distribution of trust paths
 - **OpenID Federation**
 - **SAML** meta-data
- discovery and identity provider hinting



European Open Science Cloud federation (2023 edition)

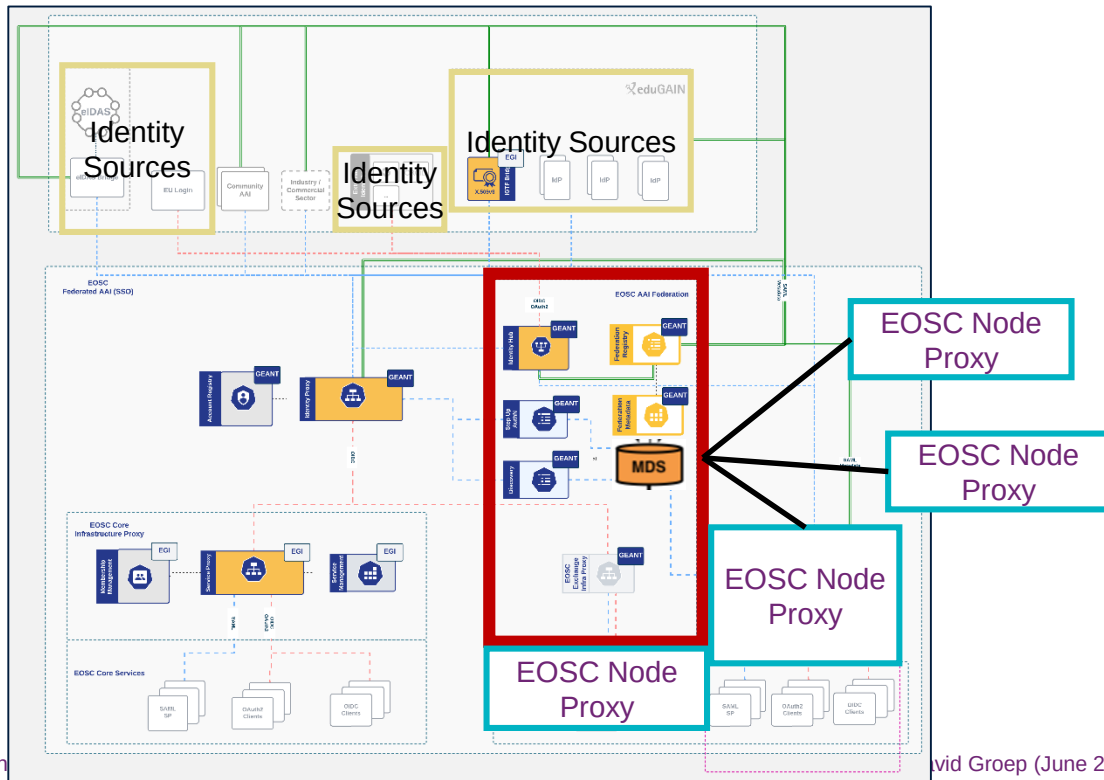
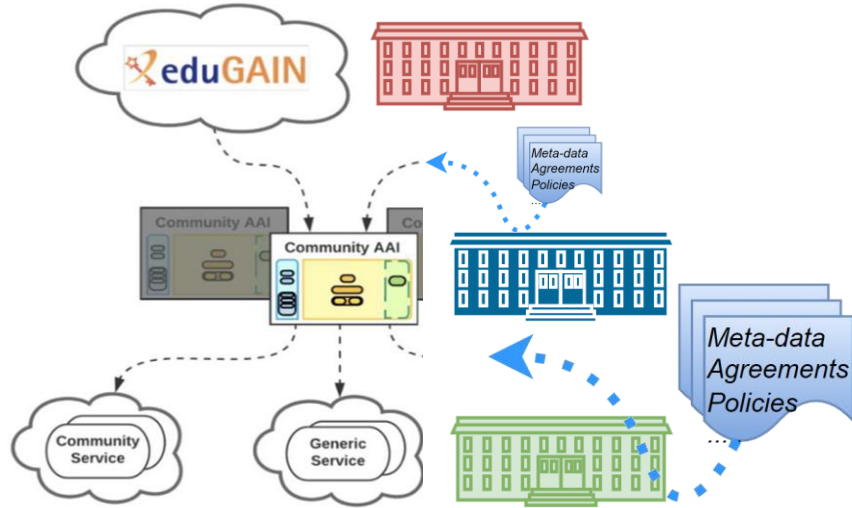


Image: EOSC AAI for the EOSC Core and Exch

David Groep (June 2023)

And we need to 'decorate' the arrows with trust



Each side of each arrow has *independent* parties

- we allow *them* to do part of the work we would otherwise do
- to make it easier and faster for users to perform their research
- but **we relinquish some control** beyond our organisation, our own policies, our own jurisdiction

Why would we trust them to do that?

Structuring trust 'between boxes and arrows' is complex!

Home page > Policy > Policy Development Kit

Policy Development Kit

Accessing, using, and operating services for research in today's world, as a rule, is inherently distributed, where home organisations. In this complex environment, the question of trust for users, resource providers, and other

A set of policy documents is necessary to regulate and facilitate this trust. These policies outline the operational infrastructure to properly provide services. The policies principally cover security measures, resource management,

What is the Policy Development Kit?

The Policy Development Kit (PDK) offers **policy templates** to provide a head start for the **Blueprint Architecture**. The policies are there to provide a starting point, so that Research

In addition to the templates, the AARC community over the years has also developed:

- A **How-to-use** is available to learn more about policies for the AARC Blueprint Architecture.
- A **Training module** on the **GDPR Code of Conduct**
- A **Training Module** on **Policies for processing personal data**

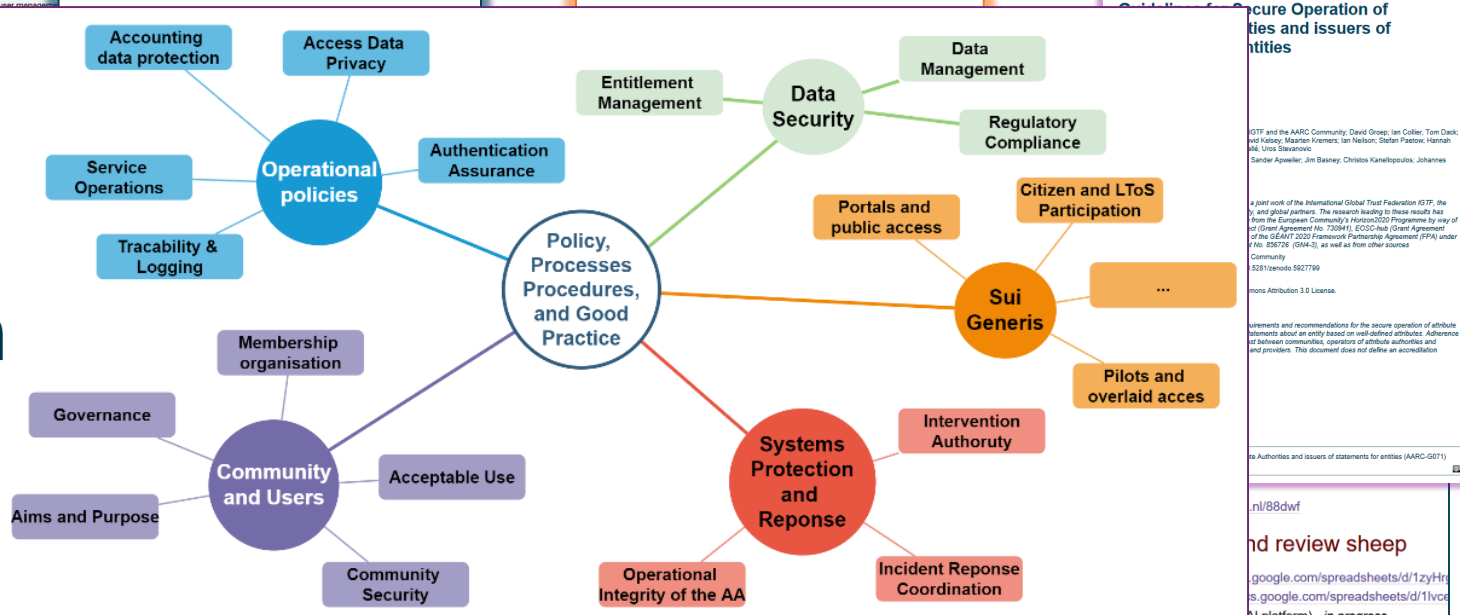
Document	Who should complete the template?	Audience
Top Level Infrastructure Policy	Infrastructure Management	All Infrastructure Participants (abides by)
Incident Response Procedure	Infrastructure Management	Infrastructure Security Contact Services (abides by)

Document	Who should complete the template?	Audience
Privacy Policy	Infrastructure Management (for general policy) & Services (for service specific policies)	Users (view)

Document	Who should complete the template?	Audience
Privacy Policy	Infrastructure Management (for general policy) & Services (for service specific policies)	Users (view)

Preliminary Policy Recommendations for the LS AAI (application to R&S and CoCo)

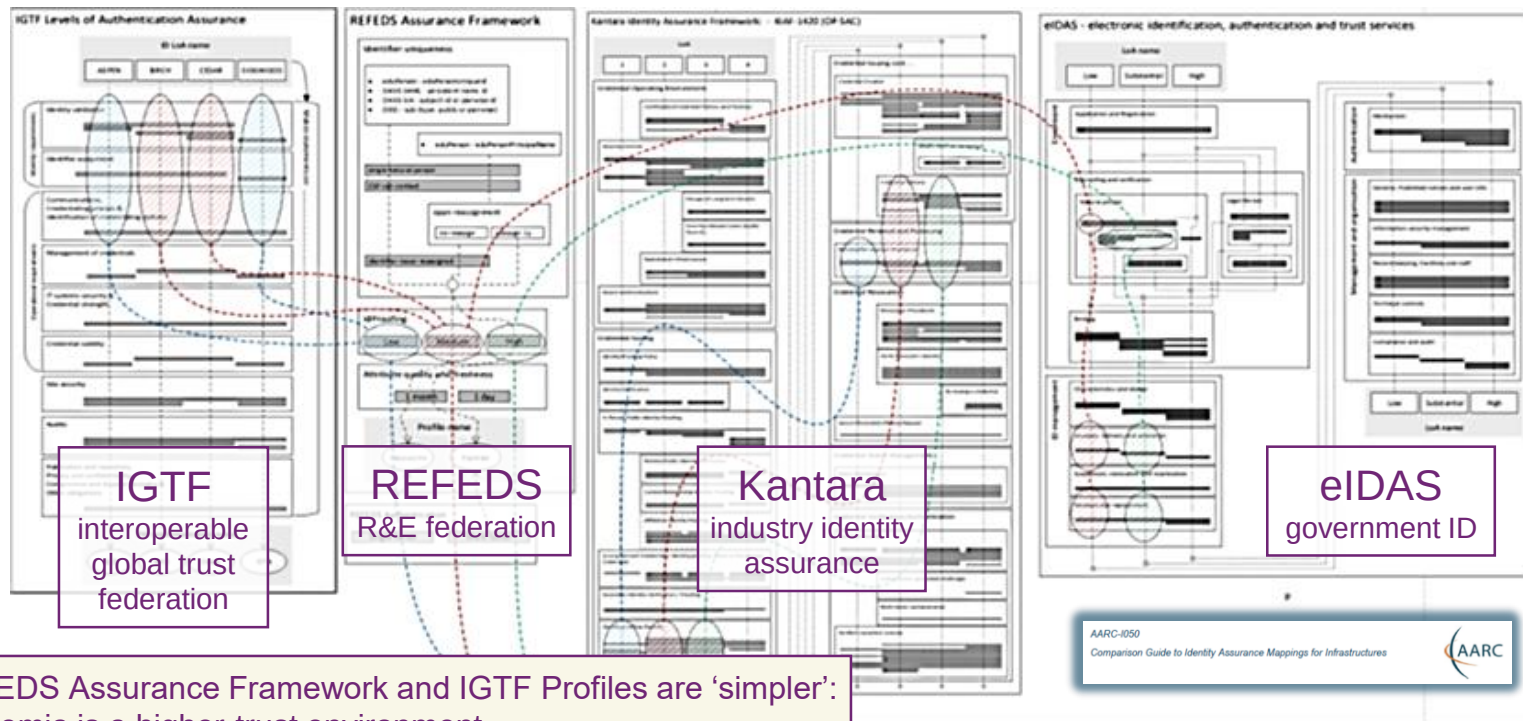
Data Protection Impact Assessment - an initial guide for communities



<https://aarc-community.org/policies/policy-development-kit/>

• SURF SRAM - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vce>

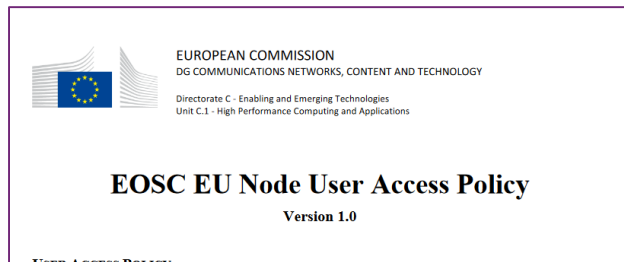
And even a simple 'Who are you?' is not always easy ...



REFEDS Assurance Framework and IGTF Profiles are 'simpler': academia is a higher-trust environment, leveraging self-assessed peer review

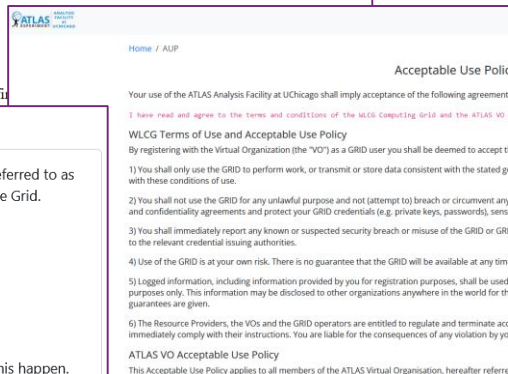
Source: <https://aarc-community.org/guidelines/aarc-i050>, Ian Neilson et al.

Helping community and users: how much clicking through?



1. Purpose

This User Access Policy ("UAP") defines



Acceptable Use Policy

This Acceptable Use Policy applies to all members of Xenon Virtual Organisation, hereafter referred to as the VO, with reference to use of the European Grid Infrastructure (EGI), hereafter referred to as the Grid. The BiG Grid Executive Team owns and gives authority to this policy. Goal and description of the Xenon VO

The Xenon VO xenon.biggrid.nl is the incubator grid community for work on the international Xenon 1T and related experiments in the search for dark matter. Members of the VO will work to build, understand and analyse the detector and results related to the Xenon experiment and to "Monte-Carlo" studies that will be used to design, build and understand the detector, as well as work with the supporting computing infrastructure to make this happen. Members and Managers of the VO agree to be bound by the Grid Acceptable Usage Rules, VO Security Policy and other relevant Grid Policies, and to use the Grid only in the furtherance of the stated goal of the VO.

EGI Configuration Database Acceptable Use Policy and Conditions of Use (AUP)

This Acceptable Use Policy and Conditions of Use ("AUP") defines the rules and conditions that govern your access to and use (including transmission, processing, and storage of data) of the resources and services ("Services") as granted by the EGI Federation, and the Virtual Organisation to which you belong, for the purpose of meeting the goals of EGI, namely to deliver advanced computing services to support researchers, multinational projects and research infrastructures, and the goals of your Virtual Organisation or Research Community.

1. You shall only use the Services in a manner consistent with the purposes and limitations described above; you shall show consideration towards other users including by not causing harm to the Services; you have an obligation to collaborate in the resolution of issues arising from your use of the Services.
2. You shall only use the Services for lawful purposes and not breach, attempt to breach, nor circumvent administrative or security controls.
3. You shall respect intellectual property and confidentiality agreements.
4. You shall protect your access credentials (e.g. passwords, private keys or multi-factor tokens); no intentional sharing is permitted.
5. You shall keep your registered information correct and up to date.
6. You shall promptly report known or suspected security breaches, credential compromise, or misuse to the security contact stated below, and report any compromised credentials to the relevant issuing authorities.
7. Reliance on the Services shall only be to the extent specified by any applicable service level agreements listed below. Use without such agreements is at your own risk.
8. Your personal data will be processed in accordance with the privacy statements referenced below.
9. Your use of the Services may be restricted or suspended, for administrative, operational, or security reasons, without prior notice and without compensation.
10. If you violate these rules, you may be liable for the consequences, which may include your account being suspended and a report being made to your home organisation or to law enforcement.

The administrative contact for this AUP is: operations@egi.eu

The security contact for this AUP is: abuse@egi.eu

The privacy notice is located at <https://gocdb-preprod.egi.eu/privacy.html>.

[Return to GOCDB homepage.](#)

Good common practice: the WISE Baseline AUP

Acceptable Use Policy and Conditions of Use

This Acceptable Use Policy and Conditions of Use ("AUP") defines the rules and conditions that govern your access to and use (including transmission, processing, and storage of data) of the resources and services ("Services") as granted by {community, agency, or infrastructure name} for the purpose of {describe the stated goals and policies governing the intended use}.

<To further define and limit what constitutes acceptable use, the community, agency, or infrastructure may optionally add additional information, rules or conditions, or references thereto, here or at the placeholder below. These additions must not conflict with the clauses 1-10 below, whose wording and numbering must not be changed.>

1. You shall only use the Services in a manner consistent with the purposes and limitations described above; you shall show consideration towards other users including by not causing harm to the Services; you have an obligation to collaborate in the resolution of issues arising from your use of the Services.
2. You shall only use the Services for lawful purposes and not breach, attempt to breach, nor circumvent administrative or security controls.
3. You shall respect intellectual property and confidentiality agreements.
4. You shall protect your access credentials (e.g. passwords, private keys or multi-factor tokens); no intentional sharing is permitted.
5. You shall keep your registered information correct and up to date.
6. You shall promptly report known or suspected security breaches, credential compromise, or misuse to the security contact stated below; and report any compromised credentials to the relevant issuing authorities.
7. Reliance on the Services shall only be to the extent specified by any applicable service level agreements listed below. Use without such agreements is at your own risk.
8. Your personal data will be processed in accordance with the privacy statements referenced below.
9. Your use of the Services may be restricted or suspended, for administrative, operational, or security reasons, without prior notice and without compensation.
10. If you violate these rules, you may be liable for the consequences, which may include your account being suspended and a report being made to your home organisation or to law enforcement.

<Insert additional numbered clauses here>

The administrative contact for this AUP is:

{email address for the community, agency, or infrastructure name}

The security contact for this AUP is:

{email address for the community, agency, or infrastructure security contact}

The privacy statements (e.g. Privacy Notices) are located at: {URL}

Applicable service level agreements are located at: <URLs>

Purpose binding

ensure use is as intended for access grant

Terms and Conditions

research data access conditions, permits, grant conditions

WISE Baseline AUP

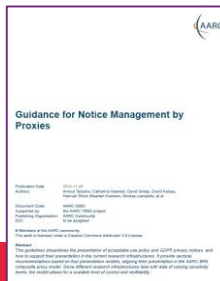
common 10 commandments that allow seamless cross-sectoral user movement

Service level agreements

promises and recourse

Privacy notice references

for access personal data policies



<https://wise-community.org/wise-baseline-aup/>

It all started here!



AUP – The Taipei Accord

- (1) You may only perform work, or transmit or store data consistent with the activities and policies of the Virtual Organizations of which you are a member, and only on resources authorized for use by those Virtual Organizations.
- (2) You will not attempt to circumvent administrative or security controls on the use of resources. If you are informed that some aspect of your grid usage is creating a problem, you will adjust your usage and investigate ways to resolve the complaint.
- (3) You will immediately report any suspected compromise of your grid credentials or suspected misuse of grid resources to incident reporting locations specified by the Virtual Organization(s) affected and credential issuing authorities as specified in their agreements and policy statements.
- (4) You are aware that resource providers have the right to regulate access as they deem necessary for either operational or security-related reasons and that your use of the Grid is also bound by the rules and policies of the organizations through which you obtain access, e. g. your home institute, your national network and/or your internet service provider(s).

29 Apr 05 OSG Acceptable Use and Incident Response 8

Bob Cowles *Acceptable Use Policy and Security Incident Response Strategy in the Open Science Grid – ISGC, 29 April 2005*

What about *unacceptable* use? “who dunnit” essential for incident response, but *what* have we just built?



So we have federation and single sign-on ...
... but can we respond if something goes haywire?
... can we share security incident information when needed?
... timely and confidentially, protecting everyone's reputation?

left: eduGAIN inter federation in 2025 (<https://technical.edugain.org/status>); logos on the right from the European e-Infrastructures and ESFRIs; center graphic: AARC

'Sirtfi' – what makes federated security different?



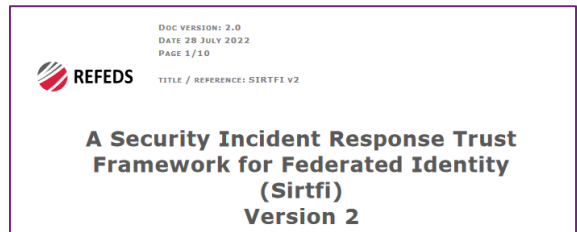
Organisations probably do 'something reasonable' for their own security ... but may not realise the implications for others

Sirtfi targets coordinated **response in a federated context**:

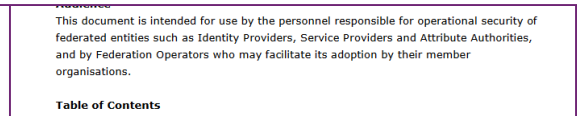
1. Enable **communication** and coordination in managing federated security incidents
2. Relevant **event data** is available to help collaborating incident responders.
3. **Security protections are applied** to federated transactions

Define capabilities for security incident response an IdP or SP **organisation can self-asserts** in federation meta-data

<https://refeds.org/sirtfi>



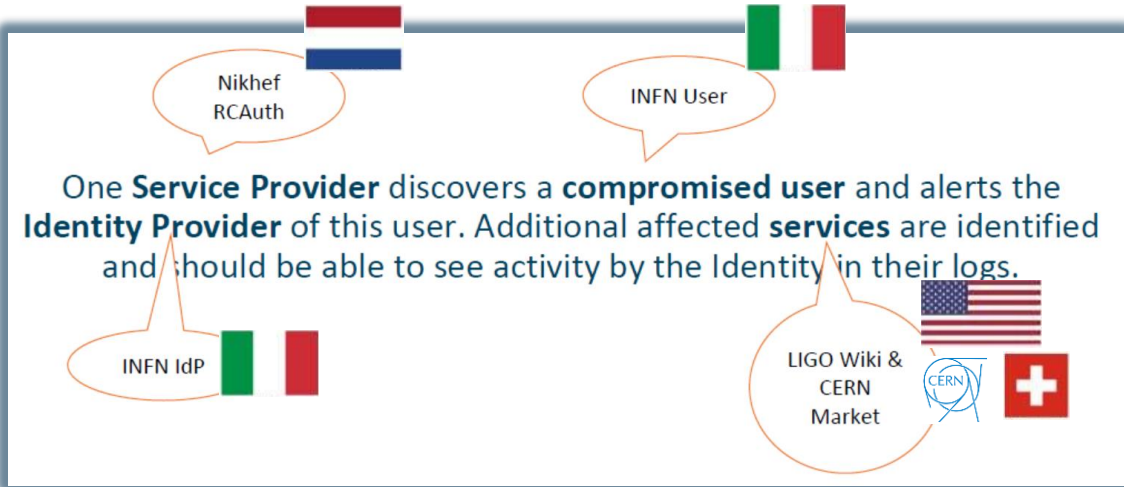
- [IR3] Notify security contacts of entities participating in Sirtfi when a security incident investigation suggests that those entities are involved in the incident. Notification should also follow the security procedures of any federations to which your organisation belongs.



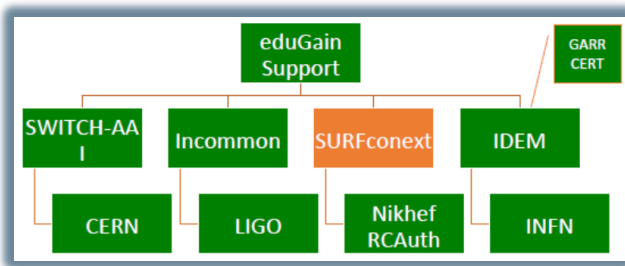
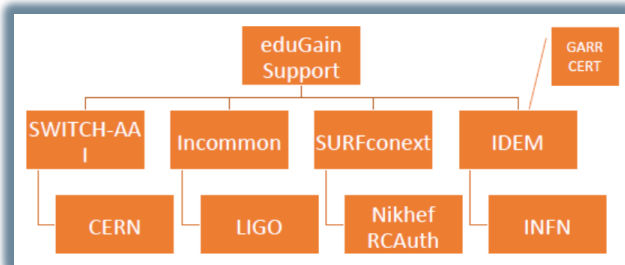
- Operational Security
- Incident Response
- Tracability
- User Rules & Conditions

A federated community security challenge

Can we coordinate our collective R&E response?
'security challenges' based on the *Sirtfi* contact model

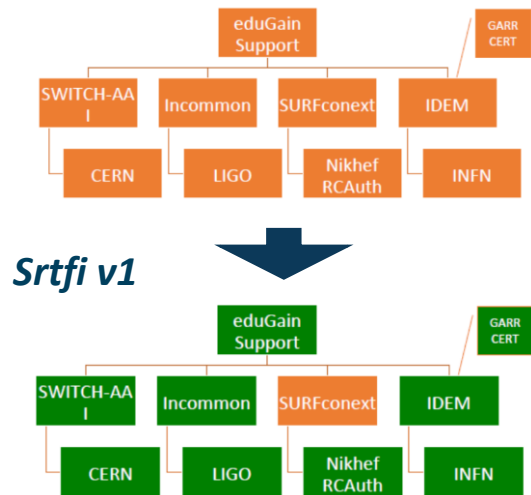


Report-outs see <https://wiki.geant.org/display/AARC/Sirtfi+Communications+Challenges%2C+AARC2-TNA3.1>



parties involved in response challenge

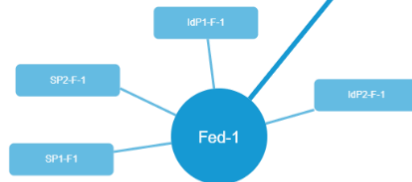
Response across IdP-SP Proxies: the limits of Sirtfi version 1



Default Fed as proxy

Fed-1

No direct Coordinating team - Participant Communication

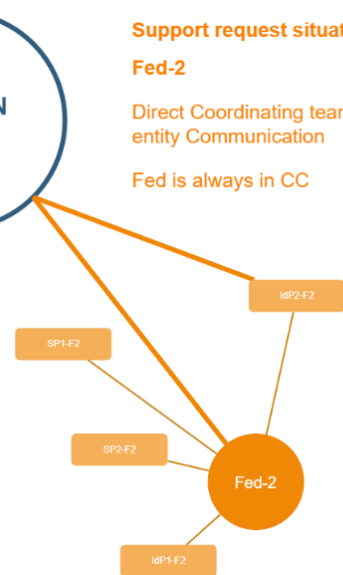


Support request situation

Fed-2

Direct Coordinating team - end entity Communication

Fed is always in CC



Trust ... but verify



Communication:

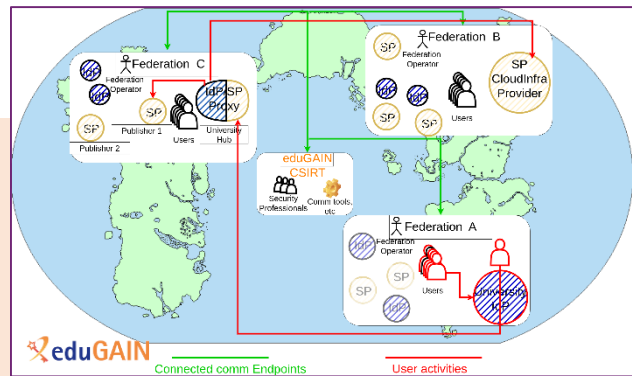
- Endpoints valid?
- Form/Content OK ?

Containment

- Ban "malicious" users
- Find/Stop malicious processes
- Find submission IP

Forensics

- Basic Forensics on binary
- Network traffic



Nikhef

Nikhef CSIRT Traceability Challenge

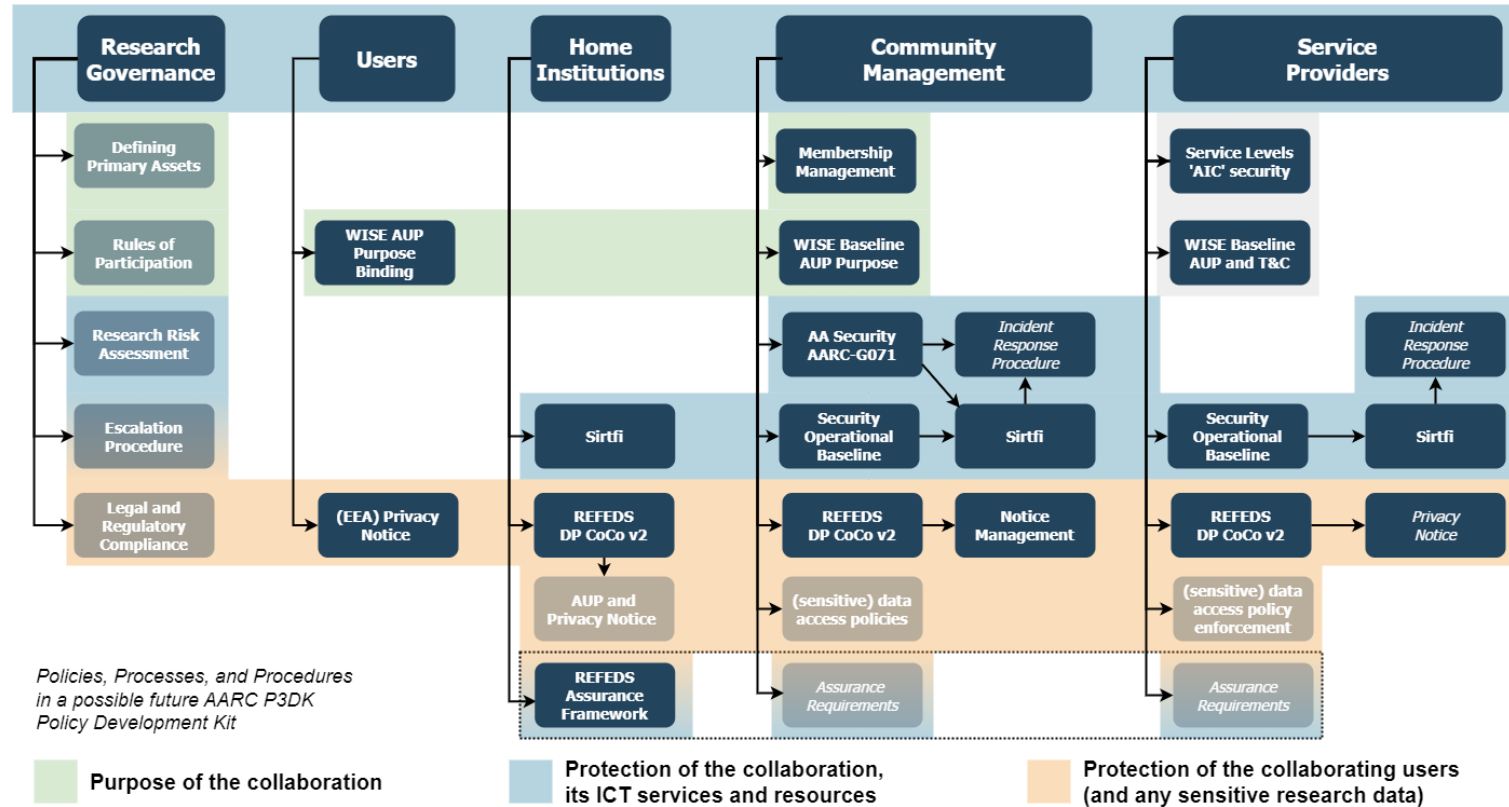
Introduction

Deze Traceability Challenge bestaat uit drie onderdelen, in (naar verwachting) oplopende moeilijkheidsgraad. Iedere challenge begint met een externe trigger – aan het eind van dit document staan de hints en de goede (of in ieder geval: de 'gewenste') oplossing.

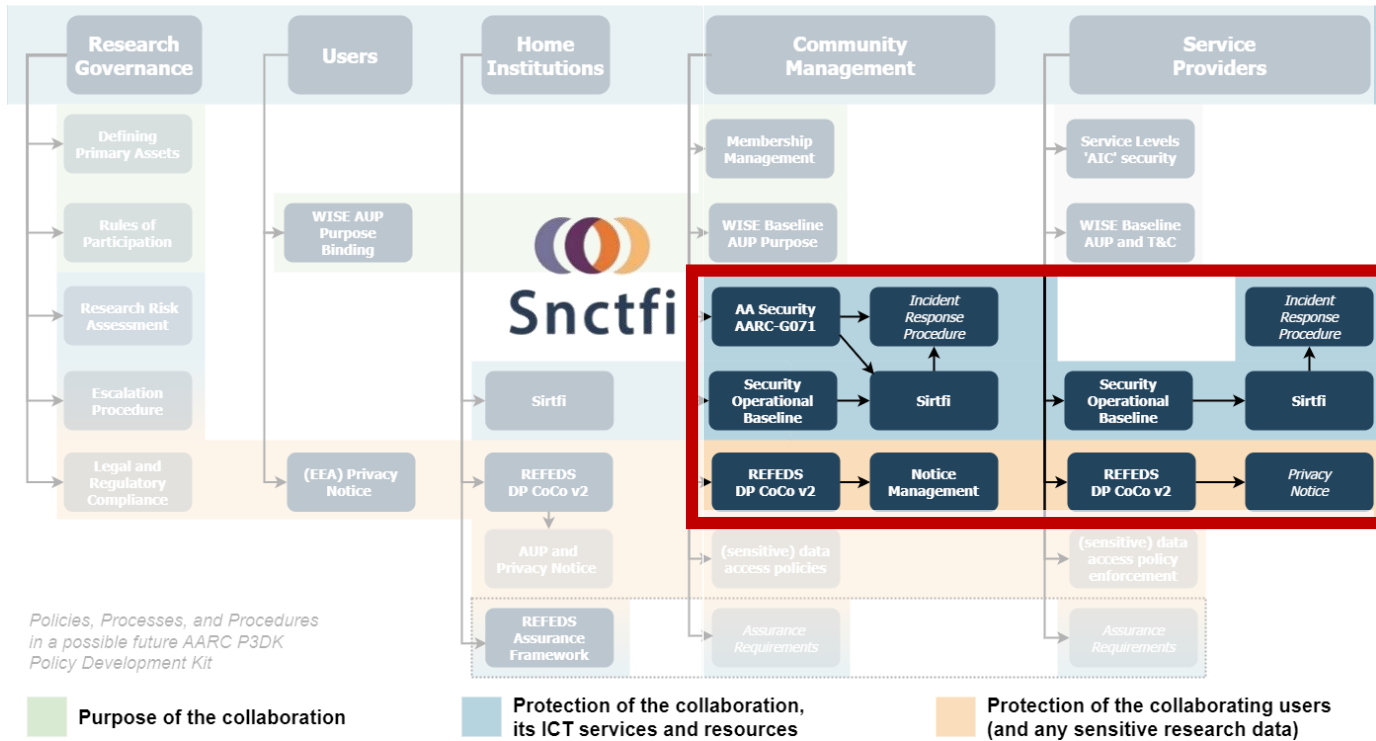
Veel plezier!



Policy Development Kit: simplify by re-using good practice



Providers manage complexity for research communities



communities sourcing 'well-operated' community platforms

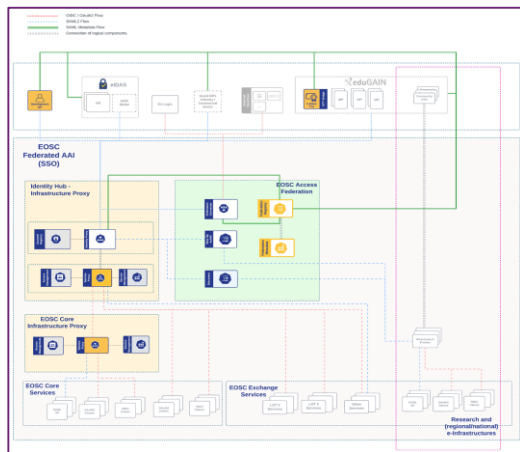


and a few more ...

through their scale gets federations to trust our AARC 'middle boxes'

Enabling research: using the 'EOSC' with federated login

AARC compliant federation of 'national' and 'thematic' nodes in the European Open Science Cloud
linked with other 'data spaces' and infrastructures



 **eOSC** | Federation



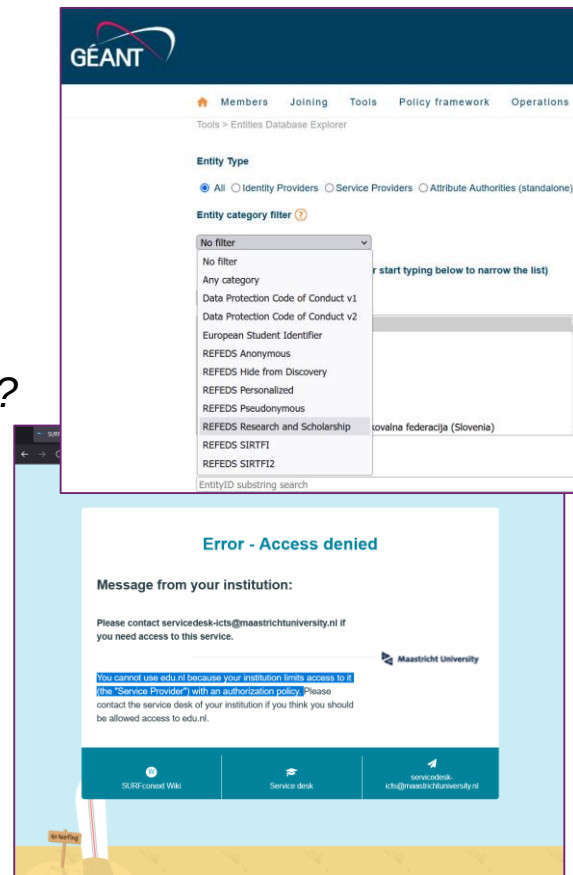
The organisations invited to join the March 2025 kick-off workshop for the build-up phase of the EOSC Federation. All of the organisations are among the membership of the EOSC Association.

<https://eosc.eu/eosc-about/building-the-eosc-federation/contributing-to-the-build-up-phase-of-the-eosc-federation/>; See also <https://wiki.geant.org/display/AARC/EOSC+AAI>

And it needs everyone to work together

To scale trust in research infrastructures,
we need to keep challenging ourselves ...

- *for eduGAIN: do we choose more trustworthiness and target baseline assurance, or more inclusiveness, but maybe less trust?*
- *for your university IT department: prioritize the primary mission of education and research, as both are now globally connected*
 - ‘we can use existing services from outside’
 - ‘we can contribute in collaborations in education and research’
 - ‘we teach our students to understand, study, and work with interconnected services and systems that are globally connected’*... rather than get stuck in an enterprise egg-shell approach?*
- *do our networks support a perimeter ‘fit for collaboration’?*



Images: <https://technical.edugain.org/entities>, Maastricht University blocking access to ... a privacy-friendly URI shortener ☹,

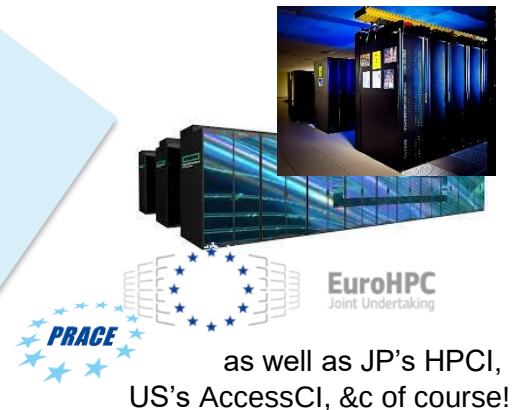
Make and treat computing as the research instrument it is today – institutionally and globally



Institutional:
Nikhef “Stoomboot”
Analysis Facility



National Infrastructure
SURF Snellius HPC



**There are today as much
part of science
as detectors are to physics
*and: users should move
seamlessly between tiers***

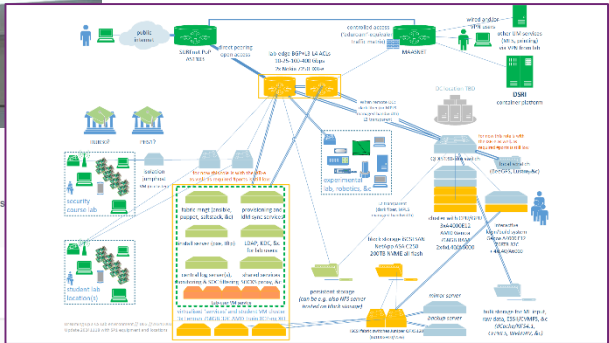
Photos: Nikhef NDPF, DelftBlue/TU Delft, SURF Data Repository, Snellius, SURF @ DigitalReality; EuroHPC images: EuroHPC, LUMI Consortium, Jules Verne consortium

just slightly more organised than research ... I hope!

A wide-angle photograph of a large computer lab. Numerous students are seated at long desks, each equipped with a computer monitor. The students are focused on their screens, which display various web applications and documents. The lab has large windows in the background, and the overall atmosphere is one of a busy, organized learning environment.

SRAM API 1.0

[Documentation for the public APIs of SURF Re](#)



Organisation

All endpoints for organisations using an organisation API token

POST	/api/collaborations/v1	Post a new collaboration.	post_api_collaborations_v1	🔒
DELETE	/api/collaborations/v1/{co_identifier}	Delete collaboration.	delete_api_collaborations_v1_co_idenfier_	🔒
PUT	/api/collaborations/v1/{co_identifier}/members	Update collaboration membership.	put_api_collaborations_v1_co_idenfifier_members	🔒
DELETE	/api/collaborations/v1/{co_identifier}/members/{user_uid}	Delete collaboration membership.	delete_api_collaborations_v1_co_idenfifier_members_user_uid_	🔒
PUT	/api/collaborations/v1/{co_identifier}/units	Update collaboration units.	put_api_collaborations_v1_co_idenfifier_units	🔒
PUT	/api/collaborations_services/v1/connect_collaboration_service	Connect service to collaboration.	put_api_collaborations_services_v1_connect_collaboration_service	🔒
PUT	/api/collaborations_services/v1/disconnect_collaboration_service	Disconnect service from collaboration.	put_api_collaborations_services_v1_disconnect_collaboration_service	🔒

Photo by [sunrise University](#) on [Unsplash](#); network diagram: FSE CS Lab, Maastricht University; SRAM API: <https://sram.surf.nl/apidocs/>

So: did we solve this inherently-cross-domain issue ... ?

Both Yes and No

Authentication and authorization 'AAI' infrastructures enable research every day

Building an *interoperable* system that enables multi-domain resource sharing remains a challenge

site map: WLCG sites 2021, visualization: CERN IT

The AARC Blueprint – a very digestible architecture ... so



Photo credit: Marcus Hardt

The AARC Blueprint – take a piece and feed collaboration!



Photo credit: Marcus Hardt



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So let's digest all this ...



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