Federated Identity for Scientific Collaborations: Policy Issues

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2nd Workshop on Federated Identity Systems for Scientific Collaborations
STFC at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in the UK
2-3 November 2011
About Me

• Project staff for:
  – Open Science Grid (www.opensciencegrid.org)
  – XSEDE (www.xsede.org) (TeraGrid follow-on)

• Member:
  – InCommon Technical Advisory Committee (www.incommon.org/about)
  – TAGPMA (www.tagpma.org)

• Project lead for:
  – CILOGon (www.cilogon.org)
  – MyProxy (myproxy.ncsa.uiuc.edu)
  – GSI-OpenSSH (grid.ncsa.uiuc.edu/ssh)
  – www.sciencegatewaysecurity.org
What is my definition of a community?

- Simply: A group of scientists working together, using common cyberinfrastructure
- Examples:
  - Virtual Organization in Open Science Grid
  - Science Gateway in XSEDE
  - Project in XSEDE
  - Research and Scholarship community in InCommon
  - CILogon user community:
    - Ocean Observatories Initiative users
    - DataONE users
What must a community do to be recognized?

- Register a new Virtual Organization with OSG (http://www.opensciencegrid.org/About/Getting_Started_with_OSG/Form_New_VO)
- Apply for an XSEDE Project allocation (https://www.xsede.org/allocations)
- Register an XSEDE Science Gateway (https://www.xsede.org/register-gateway)
- Register as an InCommon R&S Service Provider (https://spaces.internet2.edu/x/-IKVAQ)
- Request a custom CILogon instance (help@cilogon.org)
Federated ID Use Cases

1. Federating project-managed identities (example: LIGO/Virgo)
2. Linking project-managed identities with external identities
   – SAML + OpenID + ...
   – International inter-federation
3. Integration across browser and non-browser (thick client, command-line, etc.) apps
4. Multi-tier apps: portals, glide-ins, pilot jobs
Lessons Learned

• InCommon today supports **browser** SSO
  – SAML->X.509 bridges are common for non-web apps (CILogon, TERENA Certificate Service, etc.)
  – SAML ECP adopted by ~5 InCommon IdPs so far (http://www.cilogon.org/ecp)

• Attribute release is a major challenge today for SPs that want to support many IdPs

• Google OpenID is a popular “catch-all” IdP
  – US ICAM LOA 1 certified (http://openidentityexchange.org/certified-providers)
Overhead of On-boarding

- User may need to approve attribute release
- User may need to provide additional information during a service-specific registration process
- IdP must scale to many SPs
  - Attribute release policy using federation managed SP “tags”
  - Federation metadata for UI elements, public keys, etc.
- SP must scale to many IdPs
  - Apply to federation(s), not individual IdPs
  - Leverage federation metadata as with IdP
- User should not need to email IdP and SP administrators to make this work!

What do you consider to be an acceptable administrative overhead for a user to connect to a service WRT the actions that the user and actions that the IdP and SP administration have to perform?
Attribute Release Policies

• Per-Project / Per-SP doesn’t scale

• Alternatives:
  – Release defined attribute bundles (targetedID, “directory attributes”), with user consent, to projects/SPs approved (“tagged”) by federation
  – Handle attribute release problems at SP
    • Automated request to IdP for attribute release
    • Don’t leave user stranded – redirect to “catch-all” IdPs
Can IdPs serve many concurrent and distinct projects?

• Yes!

• Motivation
  – Expensive and inconvenient for every project to operate its own IdP(s)
  – Better to leverage cost of IdP operations across multiple projects

• How: General-purpose IdPs
  – Examples: University IdPs, IGTF CAs, Google OpenID, ProtectNetwork, Globus Online
  – Projects still need to manage their own attributes
Are there any efforts to bring harmonization of identity attributes across federations?

• Yes!

• MACE-Dir
  (http://middleware.internet2.edu/dir/)

• REFEDS
  (http://www.terena.org/refeds)
References

• A Roadmap for Using NSF CyberInfrastructure with InCommon (http://www.incommon.org/nsfroadmap)

• An Analysis of the Benefits and Risks to LIGO When Participating in Identity Federations (http://www.google.com/search?q=LIGOIdentityFederationRiskAnalysis.pdf)

• Federated Security Incident Response (https://spaces.internet2.edu/x/8o6KAQ)
Thanks!

Questions/Comments?

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