InAcademia update
REFEDS

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www.geant.org
1. Is this user a student?

2. Please authenticate with your university

3. IdP responds – Affiliation = student

4. Yes/No
What is InAcademia?

• Service to validate whether an end user is affiliated with academia

  The real-time, digital equivalent of asking a student to show their student card to access or buy discounted or specialist services and products

• Builds upon eduGAIN to consume federated academic identities

• End users authenticate in the same way as to other federated services

• Provides merchants with a quick, easy, reliable and secure way to verify academic identities

• Reduces burden for Identity Providers and Federation Operators in onboarding service providers, especially the long tail

• It is privacy preserving and helps with GDPR compliance
Simplified technical overview

All eduGAIN IdPs allowed

SAML2.0 SP in eduGAIN

Components:
- (A) Service Providers
- (B) InAcademia Core Service
- (C) Identity providers
- (D) Discovery Service
- (E) InAcademia Selfservice Registration

Flows:
1. Service requests validation
2. User selects home institution
3. User logs in at institution
4. Service registers at Registration Interface
What problems we are solving?

• For many organisations offering simple services, joining R&E identity federations presents a barrier. Such organisations have difficulties to deal with complex and diverse environment in eduGAIN.

• Identity federations need to invest effort to support them in order to make use of federated identity.

• Enhance privacy by minimising the release of personal data to third parties.

InAcademia deals with the complexity of the eduGAIN ecosystem and presents a unified interface to specific services.
What opportunity does this bring?

- R&E Identity federations and eduGAIN established to support the R&E community
- Academic identity is now global and has a value to the non-R&E world
- This enabled commercial organisations (merchants) to build successful businesses from the value of the academic identity
- These companies make significant profit without contributing back to the community from which the capability comes

InAcademia was, in part, devised to address this and in doing so leads to opportunities for sustainability and future growth
Target Audience

• Potential customers:
  • third-party merchants (service providers) outside the GÉANT community’s existing customer base who require only a simple ‘yes/no’ validation response
  • not marketed towards end users, support services are only offered to the merchants themselves

• Such third-party merchants could be either:
  • non-commercial (therefore, eligible to use the service free of charge), or
  • commercial/retail organisations (who would be charged to use the service)

To serve these markets we introduce two editions: ‘Commercial' and ‘Community'
InAcademia's positioning

• Offers two different approaches
  • **Commercial Edition** - paid for by the commercial entities, creating a new source of income
  • **Community Edition** - free to use for the non-for-profit R&E organisations

• Same governance and shared infrastructure
• Delegates registration and onboarding of Community edition merchants to federation operators (who want to)
• Extends the existing eduGAIN ecosystem
Value Proposition for R&E Identity Federations

For Federation Operators InAcademia provides:

• **Lighter weight option for Service Providers (SPs):** entry-level, low-maintenance alternative using federated identity

• **Extends eduGAIN,** adding value to the existing ecosystem

• **Incentive for** identity providers to join eduGAIN

• **Reduction in support load:** we take care of the administrative, technical and support burden of onboarding services

Lowers support needed for SPs, leads to greater number & variety of services available to users
Value Proposition for Institutions

For Institutions InAcademia helps to:

• Provide a **privacy preserving** way to prove affiliation
• **Hassle free** for students
• **Reduce GDPR risks** due to limited attribute release (‘Yes/No’ answer)
• **Add** value to the existing ecosystem
• **Reduce support load**: we take care of the administrative, technical and support burden of onboarding services

Leads to greater number & variety of services available to users, makes it more valuable for IdPs
Value Proposition for Merchants

For Merchants InAcademia:

• Provides a **uniform experience** for Merchants (and end users)

• **Hides the complexity** of the heterogeneous landscape of R&E Identity Federations and Identity Providers

• Uses the widely adopted **OIDC protocol**, already in use by many commercial entities (also supports SAML)

• Removes the need to check the affiliation manually, in privacy invasive manner

_Simple, trustworthy and privacy preserving_ validation of “student-ness”, in _real time_
InAcademia in GÉANT Project

- Production-grade infrastructure implemented, with OLA in place
- Completed due diligence (GDPR, IPR, VAT, Procurement)
- Processes to invoice and accept payment are in place
- Fit-for-purpose Terms & Conditions to onboard merchants
- Software and pen-testing completed
- Support model will be enhanced to include eduGAIN support

Business pilot generated real validations from real users
InAcademia Governance

• InAcademia is operated by GÉANT on behalf of participating NRENs
• We envision a governance structure, similar to eduGAIN:
  • InAcademia Constitution
  • InAcademia Steering Committee
  • InAcademia Service Operator
• Eligibility criteria for Commercial and Community edition are defined by InAcademia Steering Committee
• Federation operators will act as registrars of services for Community edition
• InAcademia Service Operator is:
  • Registrar of last resort for the Community edition
  • Registrar for Commercial edition
Participating Federations

• Offered in collaboration with NRENs/Identity Federations to commercial merchants within EU Member States or where GÉANT is VAT registered
• Test and confirm interoperability within Federation
• Promote InAcademia to IdPs and new merchants:
  • Identify/introduce new commercial and/or community merchants
  • Register community edition merchants
  • Maintain long-term relationships with merchants in-country
  • Be the 'voice of the customer' in proposing service developments
  • Problem solving with IdPs
Proposed Roll Out Strategy

• Complete business pilot end December 2019
• **Launch Community Edition winter 2019/2020** (free-to-use production-grade service)
• **Launch Commercial Edition to Federations in European Member States*** Q1-2020 (pay-to-use production-grade service)
• Considering other regional models
• Talking to other worlds regions on how to extend the InAcademia service to merchants beyond EU

* VAT constraints apply
Thank you!