

# Aligning Federation Capabilities Globally

## Presenters' names / affiliations

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## Five keywords

Federation, Scale, Operations, Harmonisation, Strategy

## Abstract

Embracing the 'Reimagining Federations' session from last year's TNC, CAF, InCommon, and the UK federation have been collaborating on exploring a deeper level of integration of both architecture and operation of their respective federations and would like to share their progress and 'take the temperature of the room' to see if other operators share the same interests. Much like the NREN Global Network Architecture working group has sought a more efficient NREN network architecture, our small group has been looking at how we can more closely collaborate and leverage a common federation architecture in order to reduce duplication of effort and provide a more efficient and effective service for our membership.

The federation landscape has changed significantly with inter-federation via eduGAIN as the new normal. As we invest in our infrastructure to keep ahead of the demand our group informally compared and harmonized our roadmaps to the extent possible. With different areas of focus, our collaboration efforts took into consideration a more global view than just that in our own region so that the solution was more adaptable to others *by design*. Taking these extra steps has allowed us to have more interoperability and reuse of our respective activities and solutions. We believe that together we can produce more value for the community than working independently.

Recent topics that we have collectively worked on include:

- The next generation of trust delivery via MetaData Query protocol as explored through the Per-Entity Metadata Working Group in InCommon.
- The potential for shared infrastructure to deliver key federation services.
- The updates on the central discovery service taken on by CAF which UK federation and InCommon can partake in.
- The automation and commoditization of becoming an Identity Provider in CAF and inCommon using the latest tools for institutions to remain current.

This presentation is not a 'reveal' of one item, but a sharing of where we are in the journey and invitation to discuss some approaches we've gravitated to for deeper collaboration and equally important, a deeper dialogue with our peers on what topics we would like to fine tune. Some of these approaches and ideas seem pretty obvious, while others may be a little more controversial.

## **PRESENTERS VITAE**

### **Rhys Smith**

Dr Rhys Smith – Chief Technical Architect: Trust & Identity at Jisc – has a background in computer security and several years of experience of Identity Management and Federated Access. Rhys is a member of the Strategic Technologies group and is responsible for the overall architecture for all of Jisc's Trust & Identity services, which includes the UK federation, eduroam, Jisc Assent, and the Certificate Service. Rhys has a PhD in Privacy Loss and Exploitation in e-Commerce Preference Searching.

### **Chris Phillips**

Chris Phillips is the Technical Architect for CANARIE's Canadian Access Federation, an access federation operating the eduroam and SAML trust fabrics in Canada. Chris has a BSc in Computing from Queen's University in Kingston (1995) and has worked previously in the private sector through multiple acquisitions followed by just under a decade with Queen's working on internet scale systems for directory, mail, single sign on, and identity management systems that interact with Peoplesoft. Chris is also the Chair of the Global eduroam Governance Committee, a member of the eduGAIN Steering Group, participates with IETF activities, and is an active participant in Internet2 working groups.

### **Nick Roy**

Nick Roy is the Director of Technology and Strategy at InCommon, the US national research and education federation. He previously worked as a Technical Director in the identity and access management program at The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) and as an Identity and Access Management Architect at The University of Iowa.