Dataporten – an API platform for higher education
Proposal for TNC 2017

UNINETT has expanded its Identity ecosystem Feide with an API Platform for authorization, groups and data sharing, Dataporten – in production from March 2016.

Dataporten offers service providers access to the platform without need for any fees or contracts, and entirely based upon self service. Access to user data relies on informed user consent from end users.

The technical interface of Dataporten is OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect. The application will use OAuth tokens to access APIs providing user information and educational context, such as subjects, cohorts, study and more.

Dataporten also offers a self service interface for adding third party data sources that will be protected using the same OAuth authorization layer, proxying authorization data to the original API in a very developer friendly way. Third party data sources will end up in the API library of Dataporten Developer Dashboard.

Dataporten encourage application developers to split the data source and business logic away from the frontend, and exposing a re-usable API to connect the components.

Dataporten introduces new elements that also affects end-users, such as an improved identity provider discovery, introduction of an account chooser, an user-centric data/API grant dialog and more.

38 institutions has already started using Dataporten.
Andreas Åkre Solberg has been a Researcher in UNINETT since 2004. He is involved in several research activities on authentication and authorization infrastructures, and earlier led the research activity Identity Federations within the pan-European research programme GÉANT3. He has initiated several successful software projects including SimpleSAMLphp and Foodle. He has been part of both the Feide and Dataporten project, and worked with Identity Systems since the beginning of 2006. Prior to that, he worked with passive network monitoring in the department of research and development in UNINETT. Andreas graduated from the department of telematics at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim in 2004 with an MSc in communication technology specializing in teletraffic engineering.