Trust, identity and mobility

eduroam, eduGAIN, REFEDS, AARC, TF-MNM, Schema for Academia

The development and deployment of mobile technologies and the use of network middleware to support interoperable roaming services have become key activities among national research and education networking (NREN) organisations and academic research institutions. Over the years, GÉANT has focused on developing activities to broaden the deployment of middleware and federated identity technology and standards globally.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING
Collaboration across teams, geographical locations and disciplines is crucial to GÉANT. Providing a mechanism to facilitate and support the development of new ideas, products and services, the GÉANT task forces are forums for exchanging and promoting ideas, experience, knowledge and best practices as well as fostering collaborations among NRENs and academic and research institutions.

Mobility task force
GÉANT plays a significant role in the development and deployment of mobile technologies and network middleware through TF-MNM - the Task Force on Mobility and Network Middleware.

Goals of TF-MNM are:
- to provide a forum for the global coordination and support of eduroam;
- to liaise with industrial stakeholders and standardisation groups, such as the IETF, IEEE and Wireless Broadband Alliance and initiatives globally;
- to address security and trust issues related to federated, network middleware, mobile and location services;
- to coordinate and provide support to the research and education community and GÉANT activities and task forces.

Developing WiFi-as-a-service and finding ways to create more partnerships with commercial ventures (to be able to expand more quickly) are currently priorities of TF-MNM. Security incidents are also a new focus for the task force, as well as securing the eduroam RADIUS infrastructure from security vulnerabilities such as Heartbleed.

SCHAC
SCHAC (Schema for Academia) is a collection of common schemas that facilitate inter-institutional data exchange. GÉANT revitalised SCHAC in 2014, responding to community demand for a well-structured and maintained attribute schema. All SCHAC-related online documentation and tools were harmonised into one single specification, and an editorial board was appointed. Now there’s a coherent SCHAC schema, available via the REFEDS wiki.

As of 2015, SCHAC is managed via REFEDS to ensure more global coordination with other relevant schemas and global activities.

FIND OUT MORE
You can find more information online about all GÉANT activities in this area: www.geant.org
Or you can email us at: info@geant.org

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For 10 years REFEDS (Research and Education Federations) has been addressing the needs of existing and emerging research and education identity federations around the world to collaborate on inter-federation issues.

Managed by GÉANT, which provides secretariat support for the group, REFEDS has grown from a talking shop of interested parties sharing ideas to a sponsored initiative delivering an annual plan of work to improve interoperability between identity federations.

Entity categories
In 2014, REFEDS’s first entity category was formally approved by the REFEDS Steering Committee and was made available for use by research and education identity federations. The research and scholarship entity category helps identity providers to securely release a set of attributes, including personal data, to a service provider that has proved it needs the information in order to provide an effective service to users. Two more categories are under discussion.

REEP
REEP will allow organisations to use a single central point to store their metadata, which can then be downloaded and consumed by multiple federations. This means that users have to keep their information up-to-date in only one place. The REEP service is built on the REFEDS-funded PEER (Public End Entity Registry) software.

Discovery
Guidelines offer recommendations for service providers to implement federated login in a way that improves the user experience.

Metadata Explorer Tool
Shows the number of services offered by different federations and visualises the number of identity providers per federation.