Innovating in the Trenches: Enhancing ADFS and Azure for R&E

Alternate Title: Innovating in the Trenches: Bringing R&E Federation Capabilities to ADFS and Azure

Presenters’ Names / Affiliations

Chris Phillips, CANARIE; Johan Peterson, SWAMID

Five Keywords

Federation, Scale, Operations, Cloud, Strategy

Abstract

As early adopters, NRENs have, and continue to invest considerably in evaluating and evolving technologies and standards in order to deliver federated identity solutions. In a commercial cloud dominated environment, vendors like Microsoft have had to radically reinvent themselves to stay competitive but not necessarily with the same guiding principles as our community. As part of this evolution and adoption of federation for the enterprise, their identity related offerings and tools have matured over time yet still have some shortcomings in key areas that R&E federations require.

CANARIE and SWAMID have been working together on ways to bridge these gaps in a sustainable fashion. Not to replace existing solutions, but to augment and enable those who are operating ADFS as an IdP component in their federated identity solution. Rather than see this as a barrier, we saw it as an opportunity to capitalize on this tool’s capability and expand the circle of trust among federated identities via the integration of broadly used technology like ADFS.

Together CANARIE and SWAMID have assembled a solution set of native windows tools, and practices resulting in the ADFS Toolkit. The ADFS Toolkit helps ADFS administrators enhance their identity provider to more fully participate in a multi-lateral identity federation. Having another option to leverage pre-developed tools, lowers the barrier significantly for sites normally not able to participate in identity federations and thus increasing the reach for our researchers tapping into existing infrastructure and growing our community.

This presentation will provide a walk-through of the ADFS Toolkit solution set and share our experiences operating in our production federations with participating ADFS sites. We will also provide insight to our experience in porting the ADFS Toolkit to the AzureAD ecosystem.
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 Community Architecture Committee for Trust and Identity (CACTI) of Internet2, a member of the eduGAIN Steering Group and the Global eduroam Governance Committee, participates with IETF activities, and is an active participant in Internet2 working groups.

Johan Peterson

Johan Peterson is a ADFS technical expert in SWAMID, Swedish Academic Identity Federation, an access federation operating the eduroam and SAML trust fabrics in Sweden. Johan is also the IT-Architect in Linköping University where he’s spent the last 17 years architecting and designing their AD, Integration platform and has done a lot of work around their identities.