eduID.africa Update

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Introduction

- Digital drive

    - Most R&E institutions in Africa are now digitally driven

    - Resources are either moving or already online

- There is a need for specific services to:

    - Support collaborative research activities

    - Provide resource access beyond and outside the institution

- Federated Identity Management at the core of the above activities

Development of R&E Services

- Service outreach to science communities, deployment of R&E applications and access to repositories

- Trust and Identity for seamless access

- Proactive Cybersecurity for NRENs and their Digital Assets

- Federated Identity Management for Libraries

But… FIM Challenges in Africa

- Different levels of maturity

- Inadequate capacity & expertise

- Limited government support

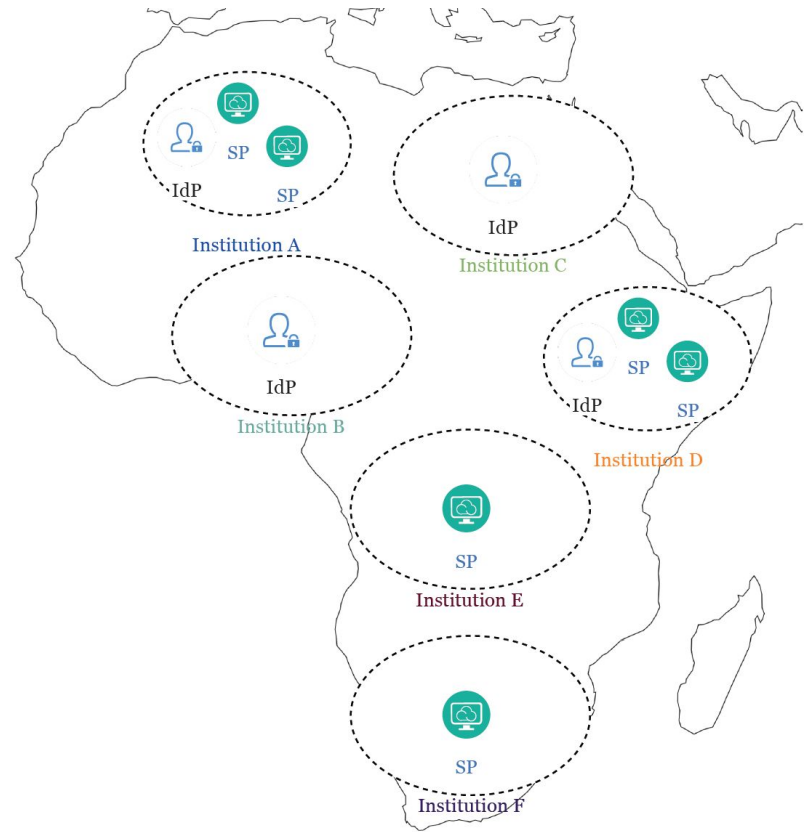- Insufficient researcher engagement

Concepts

- Federation (eduID.africa)

  - Organization of IdPs and SPs with a common set of rules and standards

- IdP (Identity Provider)

  - Store and verify a user's digital identity

- SP (Service Provider)

  - Service that supports federated access

Concepts

eduID.africa Identity Federation

eduID.africa: Goals

- Facilitate and simplify introduction of shared services across the federation
- Fastrack the rollout of identity federations in Africa
  - Develop guidelines/best practices
- Onboard institutions within the region and without a national federation in order to support collaboration
- Join eduGAIN to
  - Showcase the global reach of Federated Identity Management (FIM)
  - Grow users, institutions, and policy makers & stakeholders' interest in Identity Federations - with the aim of boosting adoption of FIM in Africa
  - Support the individual NRENs' processes to join eduGAIN

eduID.africa: Governance & Roles

- Governance delegated to the three Regional Research & Education Networks (UbuntuNet Alliance (East and South Africa), WACREN (West and Central Africa) and ASREN (North Africa))
  - Mandated to plan, manage and run the federation
- Management, legal, operations and security teams also drawn from the three entities

eduID.africa: Eligibility

- All R&E related Services and Identity Providers willing to *promote the adoption of Federated Identity Management (FIM) in Africa, with the purpose of promoting identity federations and eduGAIN in the continent*
    - **A continental workspace for users, services and institutions** to get direct experience and gain familiarity with consuming and providing federated services and identities.
- *Relevant services and identity providers who would benefit to join eduGAIN and FIM, who do not have a corresponding national identity federations*
    - Encouraged to join eduID.africa

eduID.africa: Technical & Policy Status

- **Technical**
  - Federation Registry (Jagger) in place
    - https://registry.eduid.africa/
  - Signed metadata stream available
    - https://registry.eduid.africa/signedmetadata/federation/eduid_africa/metadata.xml
  - First IdPs registered from the 3 AC3 clusters (ASREN, UA, WACREN)
  - Initial list of SPs identified (4 added to the federation)
  - Other tools (SATOSA proxy, PyFF,...) to support technical operations
  - Federation page/branding: Under review
- **Policy**
  - Federation Policy and MRPS   - Done
  - eduGAIN Declaration signing - Done
  - Governance, legal and technical structure - Done

eduID.africa: Security

- The three clusters coordinate to provide security support
  - General security mailing list will reach Security Teams in all of them
  - eduid@trustbroker.africa ⇒ eduid-operations@ren.africa ⇒ CSIRT queue
- Leverage RREN team/TBA for SIRTFI contacts where local teams don't have capacity.
  - Currently, RREN security teams ⇐ ⇒ federation operation teams
  - To be eventually moved to dedicated security teams when capacity allows
- Promote adoption of SIRTFI and R&S entity-category among participating institutions and services

eduID.africa: Capacity Building & Engagement

- Workshops & Trainings
    - Regional trainings by the AC3 cluster members
    - FIM, FedOps, eduGAIN & tooling
- Direct Support
    - eduID.africa as a template (expertise, experiences, best practices & documentation)
    - Establishment of new identity federations
    - Facilitate admission to eduGAIN
- Catch-All
    - Engage researcher communities to showcase benefits and promote FIM to stakeholders.

eduID.africa: Next Steps

- Source and improve on the service catalogue
  - Provide value to the prospective members
- 'Recruit' more IdPs to the federation
- Works on bootstrapping new federations (eduID.africa as a template/experience?)
  - Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia
    - *Somalia, Malawi, DRC, Tanzania,....*
- Join eduGAIN

Credits

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Thank You

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https://www.eduid.africa/index.html