

Glossary – terms used in this document

- 1) eduGAIN OT – eduGain Operations Team (contact details are provided at the end of this document)
- 2) TSG – Technical Steering Group – consisting of delegates of Federations participating in eduGAIN
- 3) GÉANT Exec – the Executive Committee (Exec) which runs the project at an executive level

Joining and using eduGAIN

- 1) eduGAIN is primarily a metadata transfer service, however eduGAIN also adds elements of trust, by verifying the source of metadata information and by controlling that member federations code of rules is up to the minimum standard set by the eduGAIN policy. eduGAIN also ensures that Federations are ready for international cooperation, having their policies translated into English and provides links to these translations.
- 2) eduGAIN presents the aggregated metadata at <http://mds.edugain.org>. eduGAIN metadata set is signed with the eduGAIN MDS signing key. eduGAIN metadata set can be used in accordance with the eduGAIN Policy Framework Metadata Terms of Access and Use document. eduGAIN metadata is publicly available, however it is primarily intended for participating Federations to consume, possibly filter, resign and present to their members.
- 3) The eduGAIN metadata set cannot contain duplicate entries. If the same entity is published by two federations, only the one which has entered the set first will remain. The eduGAIN Operations Team (OT) will contact the Federations supplying conflicting entries in order to resolve the clash.
- 4) eduGAIN runs a test service using an identical technical infrastructure and is available at <http://mds-test.edugain.org>.
- 5) eduGAIN test service is not bound by the formal conditions of the eduGAIN production service and is provided mainly to test the technical infrastructure of a Federation before it formally joins eduGAIN.

Joining prerequisites

- 1) Federations should apply for joining eduGAIN only if they have previously read the eduGAIN policy documents (<http://www.edugain.org/policy>) and have at least one metadata entry ready to be added to the eduGAIN service.
- 2) Metadata sets supplied to eduGAIN SHOULD not contain non-production entries; the eduGAIN test service can be use for testing.
- 3) It is advisable that the Federation planning to join eduGAIN first enters the eduGAIN test service.

Joining the eduGAIN test service

- 1) Applying Federation MUST send an e-mail to edugain-ot@geant.net providing:
 - a) contact email address for eduGAIN related matters,
 - b) URL pointer to the metadata source for MDS.
- 2) Upon reception of this mail the OT will:
 - a) contact the Federation and set up a proper method of exchanging of the Federation signing certificate and the MDS signing certificate;
 - b) verify that the initial Metadata set is syntactically valid and contains the reference to the eduGAIN Policy Framework Metadata Terms of Access and Use document;
 - c) after obtaining the signing certificate from the Federation create a new entry in the test MDS service and notify the Federation that the service is ready to use.

Joining the eduGAIN production service

- 1) Applying Federation MUST send an e- mail to edugain-ot@geant.net providing:
 - a) contact email address for eduGAIN related matters,
 - b) URL pointer for the Federation page,
 - c) URL pointer to the English version of the Federation Policy ,
 - d) URL pointer to Metadata registration practice statement,
 - e) URL pointer to the metadata source for MDS,
 - f) a description or a pointer to a description explaining how the Federation takes care of the opt-in process by its members,
 - g) names of the delegate and deputy for the TSG.
- 2) Upon reception of this mail the OT will:
 - a) contact the Federation and set up a proper method of exchanging of the Federation signing certificate and the MDS signing certificate;
 - b) verify that the initial Metadata set is syntactically valid and contains the reference to the eduGAIN Policy Framework Metadata Terms of Access and Use document;
 - c) verify that the Federation page contains information which is sufficient to confirm that ***the Federation primarily serves the interests of the education and research sector;***
 - d) verify that all supplied pointers are valid and that the documents they point to are satisfactory;
 - e) contact the Federation with either a confirmation of acceptance of the supplied information or with requests for supplementary documentation or correction of what has been supplied.
- 3) Applying Federation MUST sign the eduGAIN Policy Declaration and:
 - a) provide a pointer to the scanned document
 - b) send the original signed paper document to the OT
- 4) Upon reception and verification of all relevant information the OT takes the steps described in the constitution to finalise the joining process. in certain cases this may involve passing the application through the eduGAIN TSG to the GÉANT Exec and may take some time
- 5) When the formal process has been finalised, the OT
 - a) adds the federation to the MDS production service,
 - b) notifies the Federation the service has been started,
 - c) update the eduGAIN participant list on the eduGAIN site.

Contact information

email – edugain-ot@geant.net

Paper documents should be sent to:

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