

Discussion Draft: Confidential - October 2018

InCommon Trusted Access and Service Provider Platforms

Proposed Description and Packaging:

Scholarly and research collaborators can have easier access to online resources with a specialized and trusted identity and access management platform. The InCommon Trusted Access Platform and the InCommon Service Provider Platform are suites of software and services with integrated global trust that streamlines access to cloud and outsourced web services -- managed by Internet2.

Main Values:

By implementing this standards-based software platform, participating in the InCommon Federation, and joining the InCommon community, academic enterprises and collaboration teams can:

- Simplify access for faculty, staff, and students to cloud and global collaboration services using their institution's login—removing the need for new credentials or managing multiple passwords.
- Enable faculty, staff, students and collaborators to securely connect to services leveraging their trusted credentials
- Support access to web-based cloud services for business-to-business relationships as well as ad hoc scholarly collaborations regionally, nationally and around the globe, all from one platform
- Enable scholars and researchers to access over 300 collaborations worldwide
- Ensure appropriate authorization and security by enabling a tailored approach to role management and provisioning for user access
- Scale on-going change management with cloud and collaboration partners by leveraging InCommon, the US Trust Federation
- Significantly reduce operational burden by leveraging modern DevOps methodologies, streamlining installation and enabling automation
- Participate in a practitioner community that collaborates to develop best practices and security frameworks, identify requirements, and drive new functionality to address the evolving needs of US R&E Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Rest assured that user identities are not controlled by the corporate sector
- Benefit from architectural flexibility - adopt the whole platform or individual component(s)

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Options:

InCommon Trusted Access Platform Enterprise Edition

With the InCommon Trusted Access Platform **Enterprise Edition**, education institutions can **address unique enterprise relationships and access challenges**:

- Support the academic identity and access life-cycle of your constituents through near-time integration with business systems as well as enabling faculty, staff and students to use self-service and delegation to support collaborative work.
- Simplify trusted global access to peer work and collaboration for faculty, staff and students—through integration into the InCommon Federation (the US R&E Trust Federation)
- Securely and quickly provision, deprovision, and otherwise manage access to resources for students, staff, faculty, alumni, and other stakeholders:
 - academic and scholarly collaboration applications
 - class lists, club memberships, and team rosters
 - other federation-approved research services around the globe

InCommon Trusted Access Platform Teams Edition

With the InCommon Trusted Access Platform **Teams Edition**, academic, research, and scholarly project leaders can **address challenges associated with managing access for distributed team members and guests**:

- Enable members to use whichever authentication method they wish—social or trust federated credentials --- and link them together for ease of use
- Provide collaborative projects and services with the ability to invite remote collaborators and delegate access
- Securely and quickly provision, deprovision, and otherwise manage access to resources for guests and other distributed stakeholders.
- Use the functionality as a service or deploy as stand-alone software plugged into the InCommon Federation

InCommon Service Provider Platform

With the **InCommon Service Provider Platform**, academic, research, scholarly and corporate service providers can **address challenges associated with managing access to collaborative or protected resources**:

- Make it easier for customers and collaborators to connect to cloud and research services
- Improve security while reducing the operational burden of managing credentials and accounts--by leveraging trusted institutional credentials for access
- Realize increased security over time as the community-driven trust infrastructure evolves.
- Providers of research and scholarship services can reduce configuration efforts and management of access to services by leveraging global program to facilitate collaboration

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Focus Group Flow

Facilitator Introduction

On behalf of InCommon and Internet2, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate. Your input is key to ensuring that InCommon meets the needs of the R&E community today and in the future.

In short, this session's goal is to understand reactions and feedback to new proposed InCommon solution platform packaging and descriptions, which are based on outcomes of research conducted in the past 3 years.

As a key InCommon / Internet2 community advocate for Identity and Access Management, please be frank and honest with your thoughts and opinions, as they are crucial both to help clarify the value, which will in turn help to educate other IAM professionals with less exposure or experience.

The information you provide in this session will be shared only in aggregated and generalized results. We are recording the session only to ensure accuracy of follow-up reporting. Once reports are complete the recording will be destroyed.

Background

There are four reasons why Internet2 is looking to change how we talk about the trust and identity work with the community:

- TIER or the Trust and Identity in Education and Research refers to a short-term, jump-start program that aligned various software projects started almost twenty years ago and created an integrated IAM suite for the enterprise that's easier to install and maintain. The jump-start funding, provided by 49 higher education research schools, has ended and we're now looking to broaden the adoption audience for the resulting software.
- It is not clear to the community how the InCommon Federation and the software development relate to each other and what the value proposition is.
- While enterprise identity has been the focus of the work, the real value is when a person from an institution can access a service offered by another organization. That's a two-party platform. Our solutions need to address the entire community, including those providing services.
- We are well positioned to enable collaboration across diverse stakeholders in the education and research sector and connect them with global partners. Our solutions should focus on this key benefit.

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Discussion Questions (slides)

1. Do the names “InCommon Trusted Access Platform” and “InCommon Service Provider Platform” represent the solution portfolio well? Why or Why Not?
2. Does the proposed description and packaging outlined above reflect the core value you’d need when considering an ideal Identity and Access Management or Service Provider solution? Why or Why Not? Are there gaps between this statement and the value you would be looking for?
 - a. Research Audience (Teams Edition)
 - b. Higher Ed IT Audience (Enterprise Edition)
 - c. Sponsored Partners (Service Provider Platform)
3. Do the main values of the Platform address your needs for an ideal Identity and Access Management solution? Why or Why Not?
 - a. Are there gaps between these values and what you would most value?
 - b. Is the value clear? How could it be more clear?
4. When considering the Enterprise Edition option:
 - a. Is the value clear for your needs? If not, how could it be more clear?
 - b. What about it is most appealing for your needs?
 - c. What about it is least appealing for your needs?
 - d. Are there gaps you can identify that would better meet your needs, if present?
 - e. Would this help advance your organization’s Identity and Access Management goals?
5. When considering the Teams Edition option:
 - a. Is the value clear for your needs? If not, how could it be more clear?
 - b. What about it is most appealing for your needs?
 - c. What about it is least appealing for your needs?
 - d. Are there gaps you can identify that would better meet your needs, if present?
 - e. Would this help advance your organization’s Identity and Access Management goals?
6. When considering the InCommon Service Provider Platform option:
 - a. Is the value clear for your needs? If not, how could it be more clear?
 - b. What about it is most appealing for your needs?
 - c. What about it is least appealing for your needs?
 - d. Are there gaps you can identify that would better meet your needs, if present?
 - e. Would this help advance your organization’s Service goals?
7. Based on the description of the platform, does it provide significant value to higher education institutions, research organizations, sponsored partners and collaborators? Why or Why Not? How could/should it provide more?