

# InCommon Steering Meeting: COVID-19 Impacts and Progress

InCommon has developed a [webpage to track work with the community on COVID-19](#) related issues. This write up highlights three items on that list.

## Move to Online Training

[InCommon Academy](#) offers a spring and fall training series for those interested in the InCommon Trusted Access Platform. Our first class of the year was scheduled for mid-March with classes in May and two more in June. We also planned [BaseCAMP](#) for June 23-25 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. In early March, we decided to run all of our programs virtually given the COVID-19 impacts.

### **InCommon Academy**

Prior to 2019, the only F2F training session we offered was Shibboleth Installation and Configuration. Last year, we started growing our training to cover all of the Trusted Access Platform components. We added new courses for Grouper, COmanage, and midPoint.

In 2020, we initially planned to move all of the training content to Canvas and deliver one Shibboleth online course. We are now fast tracking that. All of our Spring courses will be using last year's approach but taught online. Fall courses will all be delivered from the LMS, and the fees will be the same. Current registrations are tracking lower than normal but we are cautiously optimistic:

- COmanage - 10 registrations - May 19-20
- Grouper - 12 registrations - Grouper June 2-3
- midPoint - 1 registration - June 16-18
- Shibboleth - TBD for spring class

### **BaseCAMP**

We have moved BaseCAMP to a virtual format and are extending the agenda to 5 days with 4 hours of content/discussion on each day. We just announced the new format and dates of July 20-24, 2020. There are 4 individuals registered. Fee has been reduced by \$150 to \$550 for most folks and \$450 for those new to the Federation/Certificate only campuses.

## eduroam and Growth

Since mid March, we have seen an uptick in interest around eduroam as a way to offer wireless access to remote students without access to wireless as a result of COVID-19 school closures and our promotion of a proposed eduroam Regional Program for K-12. These include:

- University of Delaware/RIT/EDUCAUSE
  - Primarily interested in community hotspots and creating a map/SP locating resource that includes specific social-distancing parking spaces on campus.
- KINBER
  - Pennsylvania Regional. Serve Higher Ed, K12s, libraries.
  - Interested primarily in library and K12 deployments
  - Are focused on getting their own deployment up, still in fact-finding mode. New personnel have taken over eduroam work.
- ARE-ON
  - Arkansas Regional. Serve Higher Ed, only a few K12s.
  - Currently looking into having 10-15 smaller community colleges sign up individually with ARE-ON paying their fee.
- IRON
  - Idaho Regional. Mainly Higher Ed and research, some K12s
  - In fact finding mode right now
- MDREN and University of MD System
  - Maryland Regional. Primarily interested in K-12 and community colleges
  - UMD is interested in system-wide access, and in a handful of community colleges.
- Edge
  - New Jersey Regional.
  - Conversation pending, most likely interested in K12 and smaller colleges.

### Action Plan

- Developing a [blog with information about eduroam today](#) and how to connect in, including a cell phone app that uses the location service to find the nearest hotspot.
- Possibly offering IAM Online relating to how individuals have leveraged eduroam to address remote access to their campus networks for those without connectivity at home.

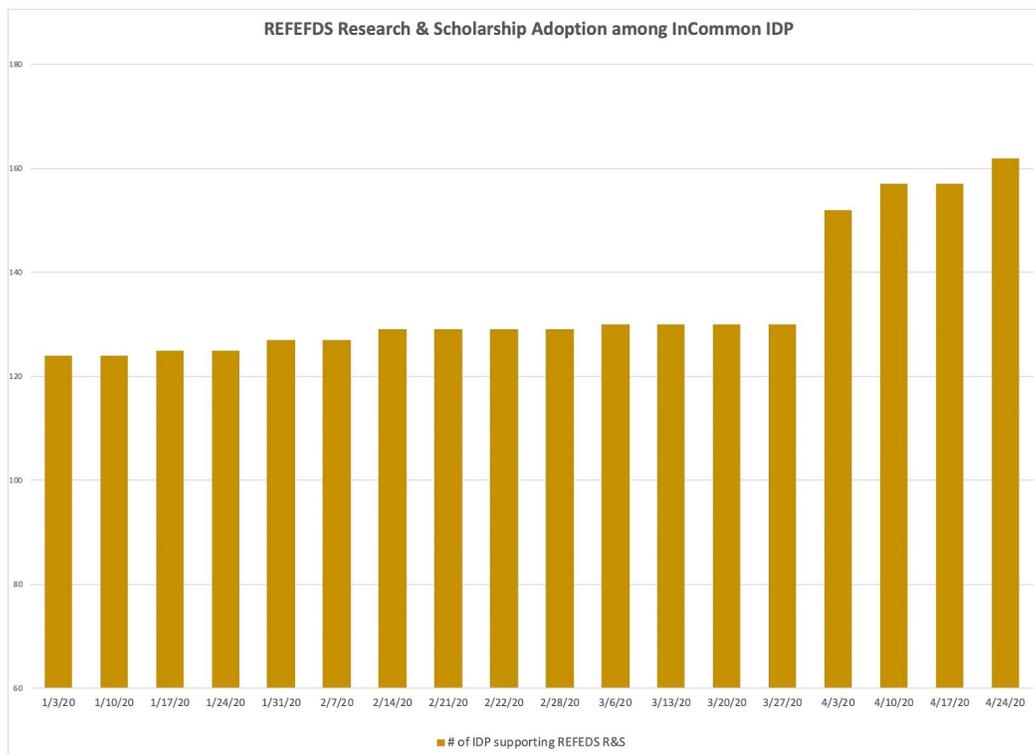
## Push for Research and Scholarship

Support of global REFEDS Research and Scholarship (R&S) Entity Category enables researchers access to qualified Service Providers to “just work.” The research community has said that supporting R&S across all IdPs in the federation is the single best thing we can do to enable research.

In early March, we had 131 identity providers out of 556 supporting it. We received a note from a service provider supporting COVID-19 research which prompted us to promote R&S in this context. First notes went out on March 26 and 31 with two subsequent notes sent to CIOs.

We’ve seen 31 IdPs move to REFEDS R&S and now have a total of 162. For information on the schools that have flipped, see:

<https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/federation/refeds-r-and-s-dashboard>



### Issues

- It's difficult to explain R&S. There's a REFEDS group starting to work on that (again). In the past, InCommon has used the slogan "Get Collaboration Ready."

- InCommon originally developed R&S and we still have about 53 schools supporting the old spec.

#### Next Steps

- We hope to be receiving an email from a well-known individual in the NIH space that we can use to forward the cause.
- We will continue to promote the REFEDS R&S for another month.
- We are officially deprecating the InCommon R&S specification in favor of the REFEDS one and conducting a communications plan to move campuses over.