Metadata Distribution Service Documentation

The InCommon Metadata Distribution Service (MDQ Service) facilitates secure and trusted exchange of critical organizational identity, service location/capability, and contact information among identity providers and service providers.

Find and retrieve metadata for identity providers and service providers in InCommon and R&E federations around the world using the InCommon Metadata Distribution Service.

Working with the metadata service

- Introducing Per-Entity Metadata (MDQ) Service
- Information on Migrating to the MDQ Service

Production environment

Configure your software to use InCommon metadata in production.

- Locating the production metadata
- Configure Shibboleth identity provider
- Configure Shibboleth service provider
- Prefetch an entity with Shibboleth
- Configure other software
- Metadata signing key for the Production environment

Preview environment

The "preview" MDQ Service environment allows you to validate your service against upcoming changes to the MDQ Service.

Preview environment status: the preview environment current mirrors the production environment.

- Locating the preview metadata
- Configure Shibboleth IdP for Preview MDQ environment
- Configure Shibboleth SP for the Preview MDQ environment
- Prefetch an entity with Shibboleth in the Preview MDQ environment
- Configure other software
- Metadata signing key for the Preview environment

References

Find out the latest features and changes to the MDQ Service.

- Measure MDQ performance
- Metadata Query Protocol
- Legacy metadata aggregates
- Tagging Per-Entity Metadata (for release policies, etc)

Other Federation topics

search Visit the InCommon Federation Library wiki

Happenings

ⓘ **Keeping everyone safe - we are moving legacy metadata signing online.**

To comply with the State of Michigan's limited shelter-in-place /stay-at-home executive order, we are replacing our in-person metadata signing process used to sign the legacy metadata aggregate with a secure cloud-based signing process, originally developed for MDQ. To learn more, read on.

Additional Resources

- Online Metadata Signing FAQ

Want to see how adopting the MDQ metadata service affects your system's performance?

Here is an in-use memory graph at the moment a university switched to using MDQ in its production IDP servers:
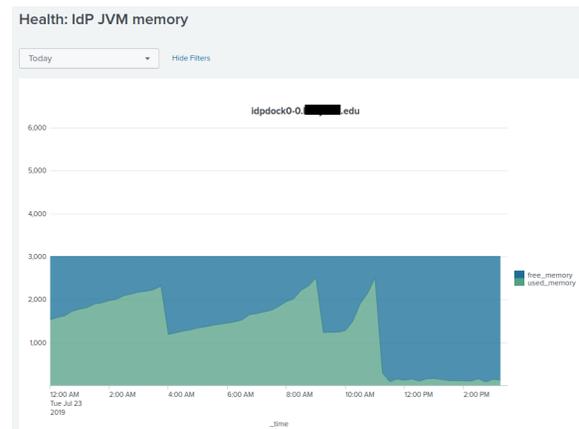
Great results from a Service Provider:
"We were able to switch to using MDQ. The service restarts in 5 seconds now versus 15 minutes."

Service Level Objectives

The production endpoints of this service are designed to meet the following requirements on a best-effort basis:

- 99.9% availability
- <= 200ms per request from clients on the Internet2 network
- Metadata validity window of no less than 5 business days (metadata is valid for 14 days, but may be signed infrequently over extended holiday periods)
- You can see the status of InCommon services on our status dashboard

It's worth noting that since launch, both the technology preview and production environments have had 100% availability.