

# 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.

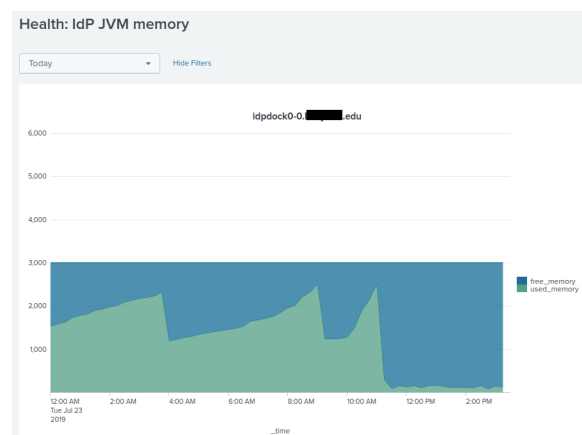
To comply with the State of Michigan's limited shelter-in-place /stay-at-home executive order, we are replacing our in-person metadata signing process used to sign the legacy metadata aggregate with a secure cloud-based signing process, originally developed for MDQ. To learn more, [read on](#).

Additional Resources

- [Online Metadata Signing FAQ](#)
- [MDQ Service Change Notices](#)

## 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
- $\leq 200$ ms 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.