

working-with-saml-metadata

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The InCommon Federation and research and education (R&E) identity federations worldwide rely on the [Security Assertion Markup Language \(SAML\)](#) to perform federated authentication and access management.

The [SAML metadata](#) standard belongs to the family of SAML standards. A SAML metadata document describes a SAML deployment such as an Identity Provider or a Service Provider. Deployments share metadata via federation-operated metadata registries to establish a baseline of trust and interoperability.

In addition the main SAML metadata standard, InCommon and the global R&E federation community also rely on a number of metadata extensions such as [SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes](#) and [SAML V2.0 Metadata Extensions for Login and Discovery User Interface Version 1.0 \(MDUI\)](#) to improve interoperability.

When interoperating with services registered in the InCommon Federation, you'll need to publish your Identity Provider (IdP) or Service Provider (SP) metadata using [Federation Manager](#).

A note to system administrators: This published metadata is what your fellow InCommon Federation participants rely on to locate and integrate with your IdP or SP. A copy of metadata that may reside on your server has no bearing on interoperation within the InCommon Federation.

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References

- [Wikipedia entry on SAML metadata](#)
- [Metadata Schema for the OASIS Security Assertion Markup Language \(SAML\) V2.0. OASIS Standard: <http://docs.oasis-open.org/security/saml/v2.0/saml-schema-metadata-2.0.xsd>](#)

- SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes: <https://wiki.oasis-open.org/security/SAML2MetadataAttr>
- SAML V2.0 Metadata Extensions for Login and Discovery User Interface Version 1.0: <https://wiki.oasis-open.org/security/SAML2MetadataUI>