Building on Success
From Identity Federation to Interfederation

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• Success stories of two European national federations
  ▪ Switzerland
    ▪ SWITCHaai Federation
  ▪ UK
    ▪ SDSS & UK Access Management Federation for Education and Research

• Interfederation
  ▪ Europe
    ▪ eduGAIN and GÉANT3 (2009 - 2011)
  ▪ US & International
    ▪ Federation soup, InCommon-USGov, …
SWITCHaai - The Swiss Federation

- SWITCHaai
  - SWITCH
    National Research and Education Network (NREN) for Switzerland
  - AAI
    Authentication & Authorization Infrastructure

- 1999
  AAI activity launched
- 2003
  Decision to use Shibboleth
- 2004
  Pilot Federation
- 2005
  Production Federation

http://www.switch.ch/aai/
SWITCHaai Federation in Spring 2009

>95% coverage in higher education

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AAI - Building on Success
Four Pillars for Success

1. Strong use case

2. Institutions adopt the AAI idea

3. Collaborative design and implementation

4. Well-staffed support team
Strong Use Case

- What makes a use case strong?
  - Use case with no other simple and scalable solution
  - Important also for the IT services
  - Some need of urgency to increase priority

- Use cases for AAI in Switzerland
  1. A national initiative to increase the use of LMS by jointly developing and sharing content (Virtual Campus)
     - A variety of e-learning platforms (LMS) with course material multiple institutions need to access
  2. Replace IP based AuthZ for access to e-journals
  3. Discounted notebook sale for staff and students
Institutions adopt the AAI Idea

• AAI is a chance to establish Identity Management
  ▪ Effort to implement IdM may be significant
  ▪ Adding AAI to existing IdM is simple

• What else to gain?
  ▪ Visibility for early adopters
  ▪ AAI also as local Web SSO system
    no longer direct LDAP access

• Situation in Switzerland
  ▪ Management of the universities was regularly briefed by SWITCH
  ▪ Good adoption - many took it as an opportunity
  ▪ Dedicated federal subsidies convinced further institutions
Collaborative Design and Implementation

• Collaboration from the beginning improves later adoption
  ▪ Many people and institutions involved from early on
    ▪ They also act as local promoters
  ▪ Better knowledge about the heterogeneous environment
  ▪ Better compatibility with existing processes

• Situation in Switzerland
  ▪ SWITCH coordinated the preparation and hired external experts
  ▪ Volunteers drafted for working groups
    ▪ All groups with representatives from larger and smaller institutions
      and from different geographic areas of the federated country.
Well-staffed Support Team

• Tailored documentation and tutorials
  ▪ Pre-configured for the federation
    ▪ Few changes to default configuration needed
  ▪ Step-by-step guide through the federation specific process to add an IdP or SP
  ▪ Beginners tutorial and hands-on 'Install Fests'

• Test environment
  ▪ Configuration similar to production federation
Well-staffed Support Team(2)

• Tools simplifying life for admins
  ▪ Manage metadata and default attribute release
    ➔ Resource Registry
  ▪ A home for 'homeless' users
    ➔ Virtual Home Organization
  ▪ User consent of attribute release at IdP
    ➔ uApprove
  ▪ Very basic user and role management for SP admins
    ➔ Group Management Tool

• Helpdesk to guide admins to the solution
  ▪ Mail and phone support in the own language

http://www.switch.ch/aai/tools/
Well-staffed Support Team (3)

- **Situation in Switzerland**
  - ca. 2 FTE for keeping the federation going
    - ca. 4 to 5 questions/problems per day
      [for 39 IdPs, 325 SPs, 17 partners in the federation]
    - not only answering questions…
    - review IdP/SP configs, update web documentation
talk to people, administrative overhead,…
  - ca. 2.5 FTE for new stuff