

Link to 2020 ACAMP wiki

Title: Should FEDS adopt commercial student verification services like VerifID

Advance CAMP Thursday Nov19,2020

10:10-11:00 am ET

Room - Stable

CONVENER: Mark Williams and Michelle Williams

MAIN SCRIBE: Laura Paglione

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS:

# of ATTENDEES: 18

#### DISCUSSION:

Language used during this session:

- Services: VerifID / InAcademia;
  - Vendors - those who are using the services (e.g., SheerID / Unidays);
  - FEDS (Research & Education access federations)
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- Attendees include some service providers (VerifID & InAcademia) and vendors (SheerID & Unidays)
  - Goal for today - discuss the challenges that the federation seek to address related to commercial entities using the federation services for commercial purposes
  - Background:

- Mark Williams: Jisc moved commercial vendors to be served by this service - also puts Jisc in the position of being a service provider (and learn a bit more about the challenges around attribute release)
  - Michelle - help? It turns out that I'm a terrible scribe...
- Jim (SheerID) - found services easy to integrate with; happy with both services. A significant number of students that want to be verified can do so with these services. SSO is becoming a dominant way to do verifications; in the US there are other sources
- David Langenberg: In the age of COVID - the challenge of a student being able to show their ID card to show that they are a student... anywhere in the country...
  - Currently verification to be able to issue ID cards to students is limited because of closed / limited-access campuses
- Alan Buxey: These services provide a proxy behind which all of these services hide. Is this a problem?
  - InAcademia was designed to be able to accommodate smaller SPs because it would be easier for them to participate - they wouldn't need to know the full extent of FIM to be included in this type of verification.
  - Klaas/ Mark: have thought about these things in the past, for example, proxy services that decorate identity. InAcademia is the opposite - removing attributes before passing along the information. There will likely be additional use cases in the future that may extend the capabilities of this type of services (i.e., limit mission creep)
  - Michelle: The services behind the proxies are exposed/listed. Alan: though IdPs are not able to selectively decide which attributes to release to each - there is only one service in the eyes of the IdP.
- Integration at point of sale (for example in physical shops) - some places do this already. Interesting extension - "digital ID card"
- With more use, the services get proven and adoption is more likely.
- Also non-commercial services that can take advantage of these services - for example, student associations. These types of long tail services can add value to the students even if there is no/little monetary value to the services.
- If the access policies were to change by federations (for example, to change the types of entities can directly participate in the federation), these services would provide a place for these entities to still engage with the community.
- Those using these services are keenly aware of data collection and privacy needs, particularly across countries. Some of the newer
- Enabling student verification at point of sale... This is often a challenge because of the point of sale platforms. With digital platforms like Square / various wallets / etc - there are more opportunities for services to look at.
- Do any of the solutions have, say, a phone app that maybe shows a QR code that indicates that someone is a student. - Services are relying on others (vendors) to do this - Mark mentioned a student data app - verifying that those using the app are students.
- David - looking at the possible introduction of virtual ID cards

- Guy Halse - Interesting to use payment models - using a QR code-based process that triggers a back-end process - and then include “student-ness” into the payment mechanisms
- Challenges with wi-fi - Can this be provided without the need of current access
- Will be interesting to look at the broad use cases, including likely future cases.
- Jim: How do the service gauge success? What are the metrics?
  - Member feedback/satisfaction
  - Student experience (% of students that can be successfully verified)
  - Financials
- Perhaps some of these services can help drive prospective IdP adoption of the federations - direct benefits for the federation entities, particularly to smaller institutions. Good incentive to set up an IdP (with wider-spread benefit as a result) - particularly in countries where the IdP coverage is low (maybe 3-4 IdPs are included in a federation, but there might be 100 universities in the long tail.) more like eduroam