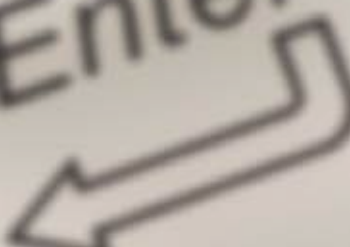




# The UK Access Management Federation

FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

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## Introduction

Supported by JISC and BECTA, and operated by UKERNA, the UK Access Management Federation provides a single solution to access online resources and services for education and research. To achieve this, organisations wishing to join the federation sign up to a set of rules and use access management technology compatible with the Shibboleth architecture.

In July 2008, JISC will withdraw funding for the existing Athens service provided to FE, HE and research organisations; Athens will then become a chargeable service. Organisations are encouraged to join the federation before this date.

## The benefits of the federation

Benefits of the new service include:

- permitting end users to log-in once per session for all service providers that are members of the federation
- non-chargeable service
- the ability for member organisations to control access to each other's resources
- use of standards-based software adopted internationally by both the education and commercial sectors
- authentication that takes place at the user organisation or at an outsourced identity provider, so no personal details need be released to third parties
- convergence of authentication mechanisms for internal and external services.

## Should my organisation join?

You should join the federation if staff or students at your organisation have a requirement to:

- access, or provide, online services or resources
- access services or resources from any location
- protect access to resources and privacy of users.

## Joining the federation

All organisations who wish to participate will need to join the federation by registering and agreeing to adhere to federation rules. In the schools sector, this is likely to be administered by the Regional Broadband Consortium or Local Authority.

## Who is eligible to join?

All education and research organisations and any commercial service provider to these sectors are eligible to join the federation.

## What is required from organisations?

- A letter signed by the prospective member organisation agreeing to be bound by federation rules, which are available at:  
<http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/library/uploads/Documents>
- A designated management contact authorised to be responsible for the organisation's membership.
- Server certificates are required to authenticate federation member organisations. The federation supports a number of server certificates, including those issued by the JANET Server Certificate Service:  
<http://www.ja.net/services/scs>

## Deployment options for organisations

Organisations should make a decision on the deployment options available, taking into consideration their technical resources and IT strategy for identity management. This can be managed in-house or outsourced to a third-party identity provider.

### In-house identity provision

Organisations that implement access management in-house should consider:

- **Directory development:** directories need to be correctly populated with user attributes that meet the federation standard.
- **Authentication development:** choose and implement an authentication system.
- **Identity Provider software:** choose and implement access management technology compatible with the Shibboleth architecture.

### Outsourced identity provision

Organisations that outsource their identity management function should:

- join the federation
- select an outsourced identity provider, who must also be a member of the federation
- agree a suitable data processing contract to cover any exchange of personal data.

For more information on joining the federation please refer to the federation website:

<http://www.ukfederation.org.uk/content/Documents/JoinFederation>

## **UKERNA**

UKERNA manages the networking programme on behalf of the higher and further education and research community in the United Kingdom. JANET, the United Kingdom's education and research network, is funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC).

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