



REFEDS

Towards Interoperability of Research and Education Federations

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Background

■ It started off

Services within institutional borders

- ◆ Network access
- ◆ Web single sign-on
- ◆ Identity management
- ◆ Authorization engines
- ◆ PKIs
- ◆ Directories

■ Then

Need for collaboration beyond institutional borders

Federations

■ Now

Need for collaboration beyond federation borders

Confederations



What to Confederates?

- Web-based AAls
 - ◆ Shibboleth based
 - ★ Established: Finland (HAKA), Switzerland (SWITCHaai)
 - ★ Setting up in progress: UK
 - ★ In preparation: Denmark, Germany, Sweden (SWIF)
 - ★ Regional activities: Belgium, France
 - ◆ Non-Shibboleth based
 - ★ A-Select: The Netherlands (SURFnet)
 - ★ Moria: Norway (FEIDE)
 - ★ PAPI: Spain (RedIRIS)
- eduroam
- Grid infrastructures



What is REFEDS?

- REFEDS aims to define procedures and guidelines to allow different federations to inter-operate
- REFEDS met for the first time during the TERENA Conference in 2005
 - ◆ to follow up on an initial attempt to tackle inter-federation issues (Cotswolds)
 - ★ with a more practical approach
 - ◆ to agree on a roadmap for the activities to be undertaken
- 3 short meetings have taken place since TNC05



REFEDS work items & status

- Data protection directive and federations
 - Finding a common denominator among the different policies
 - Level of Assurance (LoA)
 - Federations Peering
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- Lots of discussion on the mailing list
 - ... But still no guidelines ready yet ☹️



Future

- (Con-)federating seems to be the way to go
- Big interest in the *confederation model*
 - ◆ but it is still not defined in detail
- REFEDs can do more
 - ◆ finding a common denominator among the various policies of the major federations
 - ◆ suggesting a trust model for the confederations
 - ◆ defining the set of the information to exchange among various federations



Links

- REFEDS Web Page
 - ◆ <http://www.terena.nl/activities/refeds/>

- REFEDS Mailing List Archive
 - ◆ <http://www.terena.nl/mail-archives/refeds/>

- Next REFEDS Meeting will take place in May 2006 during TNC06
announced on the list