



Cirrus Identity Bridge

Cirrus Helps Institutions Meet NIH Requirements with the Bridge Federation Adapter!

New NIH Requirements

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is strongly encouraging institutions to meet [new authentication requirements](#) by September 15, 2021, including:

1. Become a member of a Federation - join [InCommon](#) or an [eduGAIN](#) federation
2. Support the [REFEDS](#) multi-factor authentication (MFA) context so Service Providers (SPs) can request that Identity Providers (IdPs) perform MFA and for IdPs to notify SPs that MFA was used
3. Support the [REFEDS Research and Scholarship](#) entity category that releases a set of standard attributes between from IdPs to SPs
4. Support the REFEDS [Assurance Framework v1](#) that requires a unique identifier, an assurance of the identity (proofing) and attribute assurance.

Organizations that do not meet these requirements will be required to use an account from login.gov to access applications.

Compliance Challenges

Some of the challenges that institutions face to comply with the NIH requirements are:

1. [Azure AD](#), [Okta](#) and other commercial IAM solutions do not support multi-lateral federation required for integration with InCommon/eduGAIN. For ADFS users, the Cirrus Bridge can reduce the effort to implement REFEDS standards, and automate processing of metadata.
2. Limited budgets and/or skilled technical staff that can install, configure and maintain [Shibboleth](#), [CAS](#) or [SSP](#) to comply with the NIH requirements.

Cirrus Bridge Federation Adapter Solution

- Supports multilateral federation required by [InCommon/eduGAIN](#) for [Azure AD](#), [Okta](#), [GSuite](#) and other commercial SAML Identity Providers.
- Maps existing SSO system attributes to standard ones expected by federation service providers.
- Supports both the [REFEDS Research and Scholarship](#) standard for release of attributes and the [REFEDS multi-factor authentication \(MFA\)](#) context for MFA signalling. Cirrus will also assist organizations with the assertions needed for the REFEDS Assurance Framework.
- A DNS Add-On is available to quickly transition configurations to the Cirrus Bridge without changing your existing InCommon registration metadata.

For More Information:

- See the Cirrus Identity Blog to learn more about the challenges for supporting [Azure AD](#) and [Okta](#) in the federation.
- See the InCommon Technical Advisory Committee Identity Provider as a Service Working Group [final report](#) for analysis on ways to make federation participation more accessible through use of Identity Provider as a Service (IdPaaS) solutions like the Cirrus Bridge federation adapter.
- See the [InCommon Federation Library](#) for more detailed information.

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