

Australian Access Federation

For Research and Higher Education

Introduction

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An Australian Government Initiative
Backing Australia's Ability



**australian access
federation**

What is the AAF?

Facilitates trusted electronic communications and collaboration within and between institutions of higher education and research in Australia and other organisations worldwide.



- User logs in to access resources
- Institution manages user's access credentials
 - Username and password and/or certificate
 - Attributes and other details that affect resource access
- Resource manager controls authorisation
 - What rules determine who may access a resource?
 - E.g., who you are or characteristics you have
- Federation sets policies and provides services
 - How members agree to exchange and handle information
 - Operates the central technology infrastructure
 - Provides support, packaging, training



- Research data and facilities
- Institutional repositories
- Cross-institutional course delivery
- Collaboration tools and shared services
- Trusted electronic communications
- Scholarly and information resource licensing



- Examples:
 - ANSTO Bragg Institute & Australian Synchrotron
 - Bureau of Meteorology
 - National Computational Infrastructure
 - Queensland Facility for Advanced Bioinformatics
- Benefits:
 - Facilitates access to national research investments
 - Reduces administrative overhead for managing access

- Benefits:
 - If repository contains objects that may not be accessed by the world at large but may be accessed by authorised members of the Australian HER community
- Examples:
 - Objects with copyright restrictions
 - Objects with commercialisation issues

- Benefits:
 - May provide a smoother user experience for students and staff in cross-institutional study programs
 - May reduce administrative overhead for providers
 - Potential to facilitate programs between Australian and international universities
- Examples:
 - Many universities share units, e.g. UQ shares mining and resources units with UWA.
 - Some degree partnerships exist, e.g. Open Universities Australia is a partnership amongst Curtin, Griffith, Macquarie, Monash, RMIT, Swinburne, and UniSA.

- Examples:
 - Data storage services
 - Application services
 - Real-time communications services
 - Wikis and other collaboration tools
- Benefits:
 - Productivity and collaboration benefits to the sector from shared services approach
 - AAF allows access to shared services to be scalable

- Examples:
 - Proving a sender's or receiver's identity
 - Providing a digital signature
 - Providing a trusted timestamp
 - Encryption so communications can only be read by the intended user
- Where you might use it:
 - Research applications and committee responses
 - Communication of research data or results
 - Student enrolment submissions and transcript requests
 - Student assignment submission and responses
 - Human resources communications

- Examples:
 - Elsevier Science Direct
 - EBSCOhost
 - Ovid Gateway
- Benefits:
 - More elegant than EZProxy/IP addresses
- Caveat:
 - A working solution is already in place in Australia
 - No urgency to use AAF for these if business case does not warrant it

- Builds on previous projects
 - CAUDIT PKI, eSecurity Framework, MAMS
- Funded by the Australian Government ~ \$4.8 M
- Lead Institution: UQ
- Partners





Thank you!



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