Why Use InCommon Federation?

- Federation organizations such as InCommon allow SPs to avoid issuing secondary credentials to individuals because they trust a user’s home institution to validate identity.
- The exchange of information, as appropriate, about federation users and resources can make it easier to enable collaboration.
- All InCommon participants agree on the same policies and procedures related to identity management and the passing of attributes.
- Instead of one-to-one relationships, federation allows one-to-many relationships.
- Federation does require negotiating attribute release for individual applications; however, the technical implementation is streamlined and does not require extensive customization.

Federation Benefits

- Single sign-on is much more convenient for users.
- Services no longer manage user passwords.
- Reduced service desk load.
- Standards-based technology.
- Privacy is under the control of the home organization and the users themselves.

Learn more about federation and Harvard’s Identity & Access Management program at iam.harvard.edu