

entity-categories

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An **entity category** describes a set of characteristics or capability of interest to the federation community. We express an entity's (an identity provider or a service provider) qualification, adherence, or support for a category by tagging it with a digital "badge", or entity attribute in the entity's federation registered metadata.

Research & Education identity federations around the world tag metadata with these entity attributes to convey to participants what to expect from each registered entity.

Depending on the entity category's nature, an entity attribute may be formally assigned by the federation. Where no external vetting is required, an entity's operator may self-assert support or qualification for a entity category.

Attribute Release Entity Categories

REFEDS Research & Scholarship

The REFEDS Research & Scholarship (R&S) entity category aims to streamline researchers' access to on-demand collaboration and other federated services by certifying those services as meeting specific criteria for purpose, security, and operational maturity.

REFEDS Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity (Sirtfi)

The REFEDS Security Incident Response Trust Framework for Federated Identity (Sirtfi) category indicates entity's compliance with REFEDS's framework for security incident response.

REFEDS Anonymous Access

The Anonymous Access entity category enables authenticated, anonymous, privacy preserving access to online resources.

A Service Providers in the Anonymous Access entity category offers services requiring an IdP to successfully authenticate a user. It however does not wish to receive personalized data in order to grant access.

Identity Providers may indicate support for this Entity Category to facilitate discovery and improve the user experience at Service Providers.

REFEDS Pseudonymous Access

The Pseudonymous Access entity category enables authenticated, anonymous, privacy preserving access to online resources.

A Service Providers in the Pseudonymous Access entity category offers services requiring an IdP to successfully authenticate a user. It does not require personal data other than a pseudonymous user identifier to offer personalization across user sessions.

Identity Providers may indicate support for this Entity Category to facilitate discovery and improve the user experience at Service Providers.

REFEDS Personalized Access

The Pseudonymous Access entity category enables authenticated, personalized access to online resources.

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Get help

Can't find what you are looking for?

A Service Providers in the Personalized Access entity category offers services requiring an IdP to successfully authenticate a user. In addition, it needs to receive a small set of personally identifiable information about its users in order to effectively provide services to the user or to enable the user to signal their identity to other users within the service.

Identity Providers may indicate support for this Entity Category to facilitate discovery and improve the user experience at Service Providers.

Other Entity Categories

Registered by InCommon

The Registered By InCommon Category indicates that the entity metadata is registered by the InCommon Federation. It also expresses that the registered entity meets the terms of the InCommon Participant Agreement.

REFEDS Hide from Discovery

The REFEDS Hide From Discovery category tags identity providers that wish to be excluded from general-purpose discovery service. An example use is that an IdP registering in federation metadata is not ready for live production use; a user should not be able to choose it when looking for his/her home organization's IdP in a discovery service.

Deprecated Entity Categories

(deprecated) InCommon-only Research & Scholarship

This is a deprecated entity category. It has been replaced by the REFEDS Research and Scholarship entity category. See [Research and Scholarship Category](#) for more information.

(deprecated) InCommon Bronze and Silver

InCommon Bronze and Silver are entity categories defined under the [InCommon Assurance Program](#). They indicate compliance with NIST Assurance Levels 1 and 2, respectively. The InCommon Assurance Program is closing, so these categories have been deprecated.

Additional Information

To learn more about other Entity Categories in use or being planned, see [REFEDS Entity Categories](#) page.

The [SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes](#) is a standards-based *Entity Attribute Profile of SAML Metadata*.

Also see [The Entity Category SAML Entity Metadata Attribute Type](#) (draft-macedir-entity-attribute-00.xml)

An **entity attribute** is a SAML Attribute in a container of type **mdattr:EntityAttributeType** defined by the [SAML V2.0 Metadata Extension for Entity Attributes](#), an entity attribute profile of SAML metadata.

An **entity attribute profile of SAML metadata** describes how SAML Attributes and Assertions may be added to SAML metadata extensions.

An **entity category profile of SAML entity attributes** describes a specific entity attribute for categorizing entities according to some Entity Attribute Profile of SAML Metadata.

A **service category** is a group of service providers with a common purpose. For example, the [Research & Scholarship category](#) is a service category whose goal is to make attribute release more scalable.

A **support category** is a group of entities that support a particular entity category in some fashion. If that entity category is itself a service category, the corresponding support category is a group of IdPs that support the service category in some manner. A given entity category may have multiple support categories. For example, there are two Research & Scholarship Support Categories used in the InCommon Federation.