FIM4L update for REFEDS

September 14th 2022
A libraries principle: protecting academic freedom

Authentication should be managed in the right way, protecting privacy. The FIM4L working group helps libraries with this by providing recommendations. We serve a global community with an email list of about 70 people. (www.fim4l.org)
Organization and strategy

The FIM4L initiative is born as a spin-off from the AARC project as a global initiative from librarians. A Working Group was formed under LIBER (Association of EU libraries) by whom we are governed.

We have close ties with Seamless Access, REFEDS and Geant.

We are a library-led community for librarians. Create awareness, explain possibilities and serve with recommendations for both IdP's and SP's.
In 2020 we published our Recommendations
The recommendations' core principles can be summarized as:

➔ Federated authentication is a viable alternative to IP based access with a strong set of benefits for libraries and publishers
➔ Correct configuration is key to the successful operation of a Single Sign-On connection
➔ User privacy should be always be protected by all parties involved
Recommendations zooming in to 4.A and 4.B

➔ An IdP can be configured to release either a transient or a persistent alphanumeric identifier.

➔ In version 2 we alined the namings to the REFEDS entity categories: "Anonymous Access" and "Pseudonymous Access".

➔ We don't make a recommended choice in the document but it preferable to choice option pseudonymous (4.B)
Where are we now

➔ Talks with Elsevier about "agile" access
➔ Published as a blogpost on LIBER website
➔ By "agile" we mean that an IdP can release an persistent identifier or not.
➔ Results:
  ○ Anonymous works for some products, some not.
  ○ You cannot change during a session, and you can't login anonymous anymore after a pseudonymous session.
  ○ There's a need for building trust between libraries and publishers to solve the difficulties.
  ○ This can be done by contracts and technical transparity. (CoCo for libraries?)
  ○ User awareness and communication should be part of SSO implementation.
THANKS!

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