MFA Profile FAQ

This FAQ supports the use of the REFEDS Multifactor Authentication Profile. This documentation is intended to be non-normative supporting information. If you have any questions about the use of the REFEDS MFA Profile or this FAQ, please direct them to the REFEDS mailing list (refeds@lists.refeds.org).

Introducing the REFEDS MFA Profile

Learn the basics of the REFEDS MFA Profile, what it is, and how to use it.

View Topics

Guidance for Identity Provider /OpenID Provider Operators

Explores tips for IdP Operator when supporting the REFEDS MFA Profile.

View Topics

Guidance for Service Provider /Relying Party Operators

Discover how to use the REFEDS MFA Profile to request MFA, and how to handle responses from an Identity Provider.

View Topics

Dealing with Institution MFA Policies

Does your institution's policies for handling MFA behavior conflict with external federated access requirements? Find out how to work through them.

View Topics

Product specific questions

Get help with implementing REFEDS MFA Profile with popular IAM products.

IdP/OP Product Topics

SP/RP Product Topics

How to use this FAQ

The REFEDS Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) Profile offers a succinct way for a service provider (SP/RP) to request MFA and for an Identity Provider (IdP/OP) to respond in an authentication transaction.

As more questions arise, we will add to this guide. Come back and visit regularly to get the latest information.

Terms/Abbreviations used in this FAQ

This FAQ references several acronyms and shortened terms. The following table provides keys to those abbreviations.

Term	Definition
MFA	Multi-Factor Authentication
REFEDS	The Research and Education FEDerations group (more info: https://refeds.org)
Profile	REFEDS Multi-factor Authentication Profile; REFEDS MFA Profile
SAML	Security Assertion Markup Language
SP	A SAML Service Provider
IdP	A SAML Identity Provider
SSO	Single Sign-On

Additional Links

REFEDS MFA Profile