

Single Sign-On System Shibboleth



Shibboleth.

<http://shibboleth.internet2.edu/>

Comments On Shibboleth For Negotiators And Service Providers



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The internationally implemented sign-on system Shibboleth allows users to access licensed content via the web from any workplace, regardless of the normally used access strategy, through a single sign-on process, making a service provider's content accessible only to someone with the needed access rights. Shibboleth is based on a federated approach. The home institution (e.g. the University) manages the user data and authenticates its members, while a resource owner keeps control over the access to his services. The identity provider usually supplies information by attribute based communication to the service provider, who then makes a decision on whether to allow access to his services or not. The home institution uses an IdM (Identity Management System), providing attribute assertions connected to a user. Such attributes may be "faculty member", "student", "staff", "affiliate", "employee" or "library-walk-in".

This process is coordinated through a federation, which also defines the policy sets. The federation provides the trust fabric between its members for the Shibboleth process and offers suitable contracts for home institutions and service providers.

- The German federation is managed by the DFN-Verein in Berlin (<https://www.aai.dfn.de/>)
- Membership in the DFN-AAI Federation is free
- The DFN-AAI offers Shibboleth training throughout the year
- A Shibboleth test environment is available for free to test the own implementation

Shibboleth advantages

- Shibboleth is based on reliable software and proven standards such as SAML, XML, SOAP, TLS, XMLsig and XMLenc
- Data transfer between Shibboleth processes is secured by TLS/SSL protocols and certificates.
- The initial investments concerning integration of Shibboleth into a given web environment are often very low
- Shibboleth is acknowledged by service providers throughout the world. EBSCO, Elsevier, JSTOR, GBI-Genios, Ovid, Proquest and many others already support the system

Should you have any questions concerning Shibboleth procedures, please feel free to ask the German Federation (<https://www.aai.dfn.de/>) for assistance. The project team of the University Library of Freiburg is also happy to help (<http://aar.vascoda.de/>).