



FEDERATED IDENTITY AND PRIVILEGE MANAGEMENT

The federated identity and privilege management concept provides an efficient, cost-effective way for agencies to manage critical security issues. Exploration and development of new capabilities enables law enforcement and justice agencies to grant permission for authorized individuals to access appropriate resources on a single sign-on basis, and eliminates requiring users to provide multiple passwords or go through layers of security mechanisms.

Federated identity and privilege management is also the next crucial step in the use of eXtensible Markup Language (XML) technology in information sharing, and one of the most important emerging initiatives in the field. The Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will help facilitate these co-sponsored activities with OJP's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The effort to provide the initial test bed and proof-of-concept will include participation from various organizations across the country and law enforcement networks that partner with BJA on other information-sharing initiatives.

A federated model operates much like passports, in that it enables individuals whose identities have already been validated to access information they would otherwise have to go through multiple steps to obtain. It creates a standardized way for agencies to grant access of information to trusted users who are not directly under their purview. A clear benefit is that it allows access to members of secure intelligence networks like the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Online (LEO), BJA's Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS), and DHS' Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). A federated model also:

- Simplifies and reduces the costs of integration by creating a standard approach to network identities among different agencies and their applications.
- Cuts operational costs by saving time for agency employees.
- Enhances users' experience by allowing them to navigate from one web site to another using a single universal login identity.
- Enables service providers to share resources from a large base of established users and partners.

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