

User Provisioning, Federation and Federated Identity



Kevin Dockx

Architect

@KevinDockx <https://www.kevindockx.com>



Coming Up



Integrating local users with external users

Federated authentication and federated identity

Provisioning users

Linking third-party providers to a user



Integrating Local Users with External Users

Linking users across IDPs should happen at level of the IDP, not at level of the client

- Puts less responsibility on the client
- IDP has the (necessary) context and information the client doesn't have
- Avoids having to implement this in all clients



Integrating Local Users with External Users

**The local user's sub value is returned,
regardless of how/at what level the user
authenticated**

- One user, different sets of credentials



Federated authentication

Federating out authentication to a third party



Federated Authentication and Federated Identity



Our local IDP



Other IDP #1



Other IDP #2

All part of the same federation



Federated identity

The means of linking a person's electronic identity and attributes, stored across multiple distinct identity providers

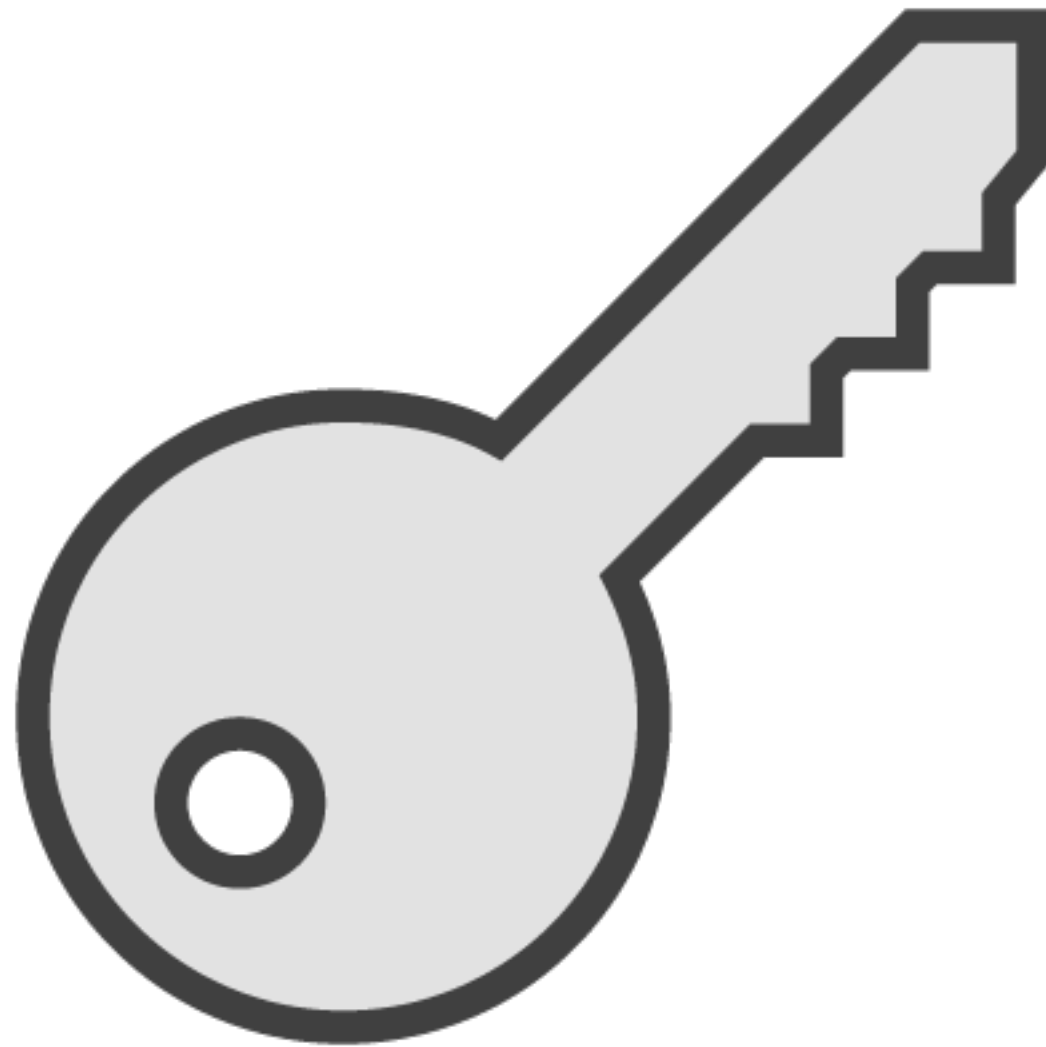


Federated Authentication and Federated Identity

Federated identity

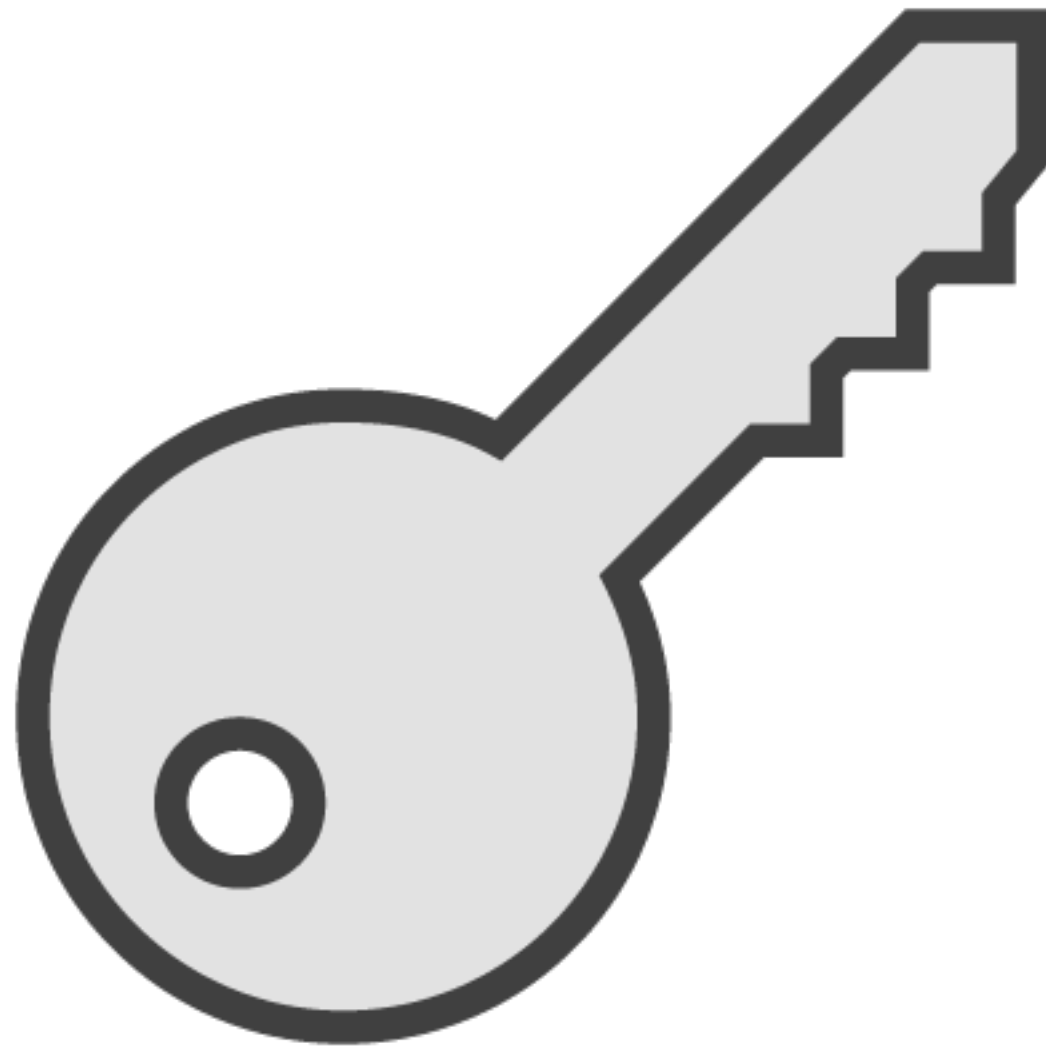
- Claims can live at level of various IDPs
- Together they make up the user's identity
- It's common to store external claims locally and update them regularly (but the external provider = master)





To link identities we need a key that exists in both systems and that can be trusted

- A good example is a verified e-mail address
- On the quality of the key rests the reliability of the federated identity



It's not unusual NOT to find a trustworthy key

- Linking identities can become a manual process

User provisioning

The process that ensures users are created, changed, disabled, deleted and/or given the permissions and/or claims they need





User provisioning

- Users can provision themselves (e.g.: by registering)
- Users can automatically be provisioned by our IAM system
- Provisioning can be a combination of both techniques

Demo



**Enhancing the database schema for
federated identity**



Demo



**Provisioning a new user with a
federated identity (part one)**



`http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/ws/2005/05/identity/claims/givenname`

`http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/ws/2005/05/identity/claims/surname`

`http://schemas.xmlsoap.org/ws/2005/05/identity/claims/emailaddress`

Transforming Claims

Claim types from an external provider often don't match the types an IDP works with

- Transform them to claim types the IDP can work with
- Add, remove or change if required – you are in control

Demo



**Provisioning a new user with a
federated identity (part two)**



Provisioning a New User with a Federated Identity – Flow Variations

Asking for additional claims to be inputted manually (e.g.: address, country, phone number, ...)

- Custom work: create a new view, remember to pass through the `returnUrl` value



Provisioning a New User with a Federated Identity – Flow Variations

Requiring a user to choose a local password / local means of authentication

- Third-party integration is used for auto-filling of common claims (firstname, lastname, email, ...)
- Third-party authentication can be kept together with a local password or not



Provisioning a New User with a Federated Identity – Flow Variations

Requiring a user to activate an account via an activation link

- Requires less reliance on / trust in the process at level of the third party provider



Flow customization

Allows you to put more or less trust in the third party as you see fit



Demo



Linking a provider to an existing user



Additional Federated Identity Use Cases

Linking a third-party provider to an existing local account

- Manually via a user profile page instead of automatically
- Ask whether they want to link when you detect a potential match

Variation: linking multiple third-party providers



Additional Federated Identity Use Cases

Unlinking

- Typically via a user profile page

Deprovisioning a user

- Manually (by the user)
- Automatically (e.g.: when the user leaves the company)



Summary



Federated authentication

- Federating out authentication to a third party

Federated identity

- The means of linking a person's electronic identity and attributes, stored across multiple distinct IDP



Summary



IdentityServer is very customizable

- The UI is an ASP.NET Core web application

Finding a good key to link identities across IDPs is essential

- This cannot always be automated



Up Next:
Supporting Multi-factor Authentication

