



Cirrus Identity News

Cirrus in the Community

Cirrus Director of Product and Client Success, Mark Rank, and CEO, Dedra Chamberlin are actively involved in several higher education IAM committees, workgroups and conferences. A few highlights from the last 3 months are:

- Internet2 Identity Provider as a Service Work Group: The final report is now available.
InCommon Technical Advisory Committee: Mark recently joined for a 3 year term.
SimpleSAML.php Board: The SSP Project is migrating to The Commons Conservancy, and Dedra is serving on the founding Board.
REFEDS Federation2 Work Group: Dedra serves on this workgroup, which will produce a report this year.



Cirrus Partners with Okta

Vendor relationships and partnerships are expanding. Cirrus is now a certified partner with Okta and you will find our Bridge product in the Okta Integration Network (OIN). The Bridge is configured in Okta to enable multilateral federation with InCommon or other federations. This enables faster integration and maintenance!



Cirrus continues to work with IAM vendors to streamline integration of Cirrus products and support the higher ed community.

Featured Article - Multilateral Federations and AzureAD

Ever wonder why you can't register your Microsoft Azure AD SAML Identity Provider with InCommon? Cirrus Identity CTO, Patrick Radke, collaborated with the rest of the Cirrus team to develop an article which explains in plain English why Azure AD does not work out-of-the-box with multilateral Federation.



Federation facilitates collaboration across multiple organizations around the world. It is a critical component to Identity and Access Management architecture in higher education and research. While Azure AD does not support multilateral federation natively, there are solutions like the Cirrus Bridge available to fill the gap.

See Full Blog Post

Cirrus Identity Product Updates

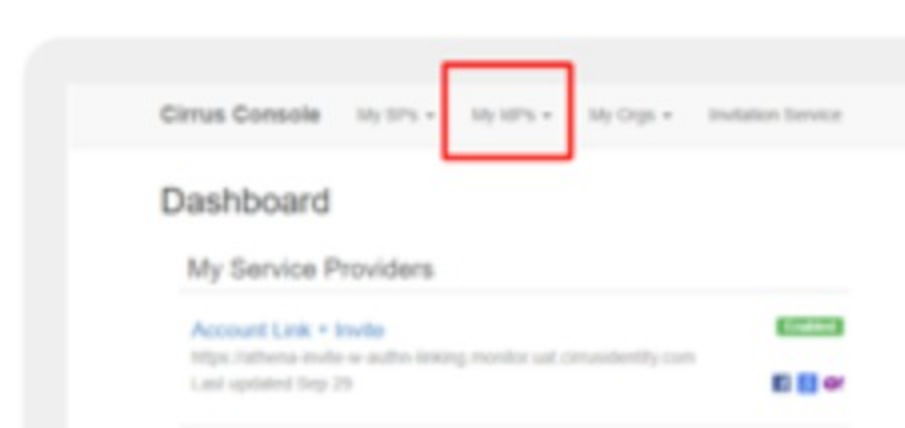
New! Amazon Social Login Provider

We at the Cirrus Identity team are proud to announce that Amazon Login integration is now available for Cirrus Identity Gateway customers. See Full Blog Post



New Release for Cirrus Administration Console v3

Cirrus has released a pivotal upgrade to the administrator console that will enable future new self-service features. Customers can see the MyOrg and MySPs as before, but now customers that subscribe to the Proxy Bridge or External Identity Provider are provided read-only access to MyIdPs with the ability to update configurations coming in 2021.



See Release Notes

Moving to Kubernetes

Kubernetes is an open-source system for automating deployment, scaling, and management of containerized applications. Behind the scenes, Cirrus continues to upgrade and improve our infrastructure and architecture. This makes for faster deployments, improved security, and seamless scaling as customers experience usage peaks in account management lifecycles.



Product Spotlight: Cirrus Bridge - 3 Ways to Streamline Operations

#1 - Connect to InCommon!

We are seeing an increased interest in customers seeking to migrate SSO implementations to the cloud, and needing a solution for multilateral federation.



Campuses using Okta, Microsoft AzureAD or Google as their primary SSO solution are utilizing the cloud-hosted Cirrus Bridge to support participation in InCommon and eduGAIN. This "federation adapter" approach is recommended in the newly released InCommon workgroup report on Identity Providers as a Service. Check it out!

#2 - SSO for Applicants

The Cirrus Proxy is a great solution for campuses running Slate or Salesforce that need to allow applicants to access Financial Aid and Scholarship applications like AcademicWorks/Blackbaud Grants or CampusLogic. These Financial Aid and Scholarship applications only allow one Identity Provider (IdP), but at least two are needed - both the campus IdP and the admissions IdP. The Proxy is the solution! It can be configured as the one IdP end-point for the Financial Aid and Scholarship applications and also configured as the Service Provider (SP) for multiple IdPs!

#3 - Protocol Translation

Are you a SAML shop that only has a few applications/Service Providers (SPs) that need CAS authentication? The Bridge can be configured for those CAS services and you can retire your CAS environments - no more upgrades!

If you're interested in hearing more: Talk to Us!

Cirrus Customer Highlights

New Customers!

We are happy to announce that we will be working with the following campuses:

- University of Wisconsin, Madison on a Cirrus Gateway implementation of social logins.
Duke Clinical Research Institute is prototyping a Cirrus Proxy implementation.



Customers Streamlining Admissions

Cirrus has worked with over 5 campuses and seen increased interest with others in streamlining the admissions process! We can simplify access for prospects, applicants and parents/sponsors with three solutions: Implement our Bridge for SSO, Implement our Gateway, Proxy and Account Linking to enable social logins and/or our OrgBrandID hosted identity for a customized login!



Providing intuitive access to all the systems needed - admissions, financial aid, orientation, housing, bill pay, etc - can provide a pleasant experience and help retain your admits, reduce service desk support and Identity and Access Management (IAM) team time!

See Full Article

Customer Success Spotlight: Sharing Services with Other Institutions

Identity and Access Management in higher education is challenging with many different constituents that need systems access. The complexity increases even more dramatically when the institution has an associated medical school or hospital. An R1 customer on the East Coast has simplified access to services shared with the affiliated hospital system.



Business Challenge: This university has two separate Identity Providers of accounts/passwords - one for campus and one for the affiliated hospital system. Keeping accounts separate helps maintain strict HIPAA compliance requirements for the hospital system and reduces the number of accounts that the campus needs to manage. Not having to create campus accounts for everyone in the hospital system saved on licensing for the campus. However, the outcome of having separate Identity Providers is that teaching faculty, students in residency and others at the hospital, have two accounts. For these users, the university and hospital system wanted to maintain a unique identifier linked to their credentials, and configure access for services to the unique identifier for a streamlined login experience. See the full Customer Success Use Case.

See how Cirrus is helping customers solve IAM challenges: See all our Customer Success Use Cases.

Executive Letter from Dedra Chamberlin, CEO

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families are all healthy and safe!

2020 is a year to be remembered - the COVID pandemic has made a significant and lasting impact on the world, higher education and our families. In addition, there is increased exposure to racial inequities in the world, nation and higher education and we have much more work to do become anti-racist.

Now, more than ever, we look forward to helping our communities rebuild. Cirrus can play a small part to reduce barriers and make it easier for people to access critical systems. Our hope is the increased revenue generated with new online learning programs, alumni giving and improved admissions enrollments will keep higher education strong for current students and generations of students to come. With my daughter in her first year of college, I remain committed to building brighter futures!



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