cirrus identity

Company News & Updates | July 2023

Cirrus Identity News

Cirrus is Excited to Announce Microsoft's New Publication

Microsoft has published a new Azure AD document outlining the challenges, baseline design and solutions for multilateral federation and CAS protocol support that highlights the Cirrus Bridge as the first solution!

Microsoft Introduction to Multilateral Federation
Solution 1: Azure AD with Cirrus Bridge

Cirrus Identity Website Refresh

The Cirrus website has been updated with a focus on our offerings, solutions and all of our new products and add-ons. Check it out and let us know what you think! The name of the login item menu has changed to a Cirrus Console button - see the blog post for more information.

Meet the New Cirrus Team Members!

Cirrus Identity is excited to welcome our newest member to our awesome team!

Maya Kato joined Cirrus full-time in May as a Sales & Marketing Associate to support sales and marketing campaigns. She helps manage the growing customer database and coordinates demos between prospective customers and Cirrus executives.

Higher Education Experience: As a recent graduate from Portland State University, Maya is excited to be entering Identity Management for higher education to make student systems more efficient.

Personal Interests: Maya loves to spend time in nature, practice yoga, see live music and cook meals with loved ones.

You can learn more about our team on the Cirrus website - See the Cirrus Team

Cirrus Verified Credential Proof of Concept (POC)

Currently, most universities leverage SAML or OIDC as their primary authentication protocols. Interest in wallet-based or verified credentials is expanding. An institution may wish to verify a user's identity and affiliation to provide SAML-based applications access via a wallet ID. Requesting transcripts is a great use case for verified credentials.

Cirrus implemented a POC with our demo University, the Athena Institute, and Microsoft's Entra Verified ID service. The POC uses our developer's Entra Verified ID to authenticate to a demo application via SAML. The POC leverages the Cirrus Authentication Proxy, a Cirrus-developed SSP authentication module for Verified IDs, and Microsoft's Entra Verified ID service.

Check out this 2.5 minute video to see the results of the POC!

Cirrus Identity Customer Highlights

Welcome to New and Expanding Customers!

We are happy to announce that we will be working with the following new and expanding institutions to streamline access:

- Angelo State University
- Dalhousie University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- Inova Health
- James Madison University
- Mass General Brigham
- Nevada State University
- UNC Chapel Hill
- Rho
- St. Catherine University
- SLAC at Stanford
- Texas A&M
- University of Wisconsin System
- Visual Zen: North Carolina Agriculture & Technology, Rutgers

Cirrus New Attribute Authority Product - Recent Customer Implementations

Due to privacy and security, many institutions cannot store all attributes in the data source for their preferred SSO solution (such as Azure SSO) - now there is a solution. Cirrus has released a new attribute authority option for our Bridge and Proxy products! If not all attributes required for authentication are in an institution's primary Identity Provider, Cirrus can directly connect to LDAPS if provided firewall access or to any attribute store via a REST API. The template and guidelines for the API are provided by Cirrus and developed and hosted by the institution. This solution can also help campuses leverage Microsoft's new Custom Claim Provider solution.

The new add-on is currently being implemented at SUNY Geneseo, Angelo State University and SLAC while many others are scheduled to be implemented soon.

Feel free to reach out to sales@cirrusidentity.com to hear more!

Cirrus, BCNET & Steeves and Associates - the Canadian Connection

Capilano University, Coast Mountain College, Douglas College, Justice Institute of British Columbia, Okanagan College, Royal Roads University & Vancouver Community College

BCNET serves as a not-for-profit shared services organization dedicated to the needs of British Columbia's higher education and research institutions. BCNET provides services to the 41 member Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs) and one of those services is the BCNET wiki. BCNET used to create local usernames and passwords for users to access the BCNET wiki and there were two challenges: 1) Too much administrative time was taken up creating accounts and passwords and managing resets for infrequently used credentials and 2) BCNET was not notified when users left their home institution, so users who no longer had accounts with their local PSIs would continue to have access to the BCNet wiki. BCNET wanted to ensure that only active users at member institutions could access the wiki and do so with less support overhead. Going forward, BCNET also plans on offering additional shared applications like the wiki – having a standard access pattern will make this easier.

In addition, BCNET wanted to help member institutions join the Canadian Access Federation (CAF), the national identity federation for Canada. Registering an Identity Provider in CAF allows students and researchers to use their home institution's login credentials to securely connect to not only the BCNET wiki, but more than 2,990 global services and scientific facilities. A single set of login credentials with a world of access.

BCNET knew that budget and staff resources were tight at the member institutions. They wanted to make it easy for PSIs to implement a sustainable solution with a trusted partner. Steeves and Associates is such a partner with a history of working with BCNET and the BC PSI's. Steeves could guide them through the one time implementation utilizing the full features, cloud hosted and managed Cirrus Bridge solution. While ADFS, Shibboleth, or other solutions could have been implemented, the hosted Cirrus Bridge was preferable to the significant deployment and ongoing administration costs of locally maintained solutions.

Cirrus and Steeves have quickly implemented over 7 SAML Bridges in British Columbia for BCNET in addition to Sheridan College in Ontario and Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Email sales@cirrusidentity.com to hear more!

Cirrus Identity in the Community

Planning to Attend TechEx and EDUCAUSE Conferences?

Many of the Cirrus team will be attending TechEx Sep 18-22 in Minneapolis. Cirrus will be hosting a Social, so please email sales@cirrusidentity.com to receive an invitation and more details on logistics.

If you are going to EDUCAUSE in Chicago October 9-12, we want to meet you! Please email karen@cirrusidentity.com to coordinate a time to meet and pick up your gift.

We look forward to seeing you!

Internet2 Leadership & Community Exchange

Dedra Chamberlin attended the May 2023 internet2 Leadership Exchange and Community Exchange.
Key take-aways from the meetings were:

1. Claire Evans gave an awesome keynote that not only told the largely untold stories of women who helped shape the Internet, but helped us imagine what the Internet could look and feel like if women had more influence. Read her book! Bread Band: The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the Internet.
2. Edutopia is heating up faster than the planet. Adoption across K-12 and other new audiences is skyrocketing.
3. The InCommon features effort has kicked off and is in full swing. As your organization is asked for input, take some time to share your thoughts. Let's all respond to InCommon's call to help them chart a great path for the future. Check out the IAM Online from May 2023 for more information about this project.

Minority Serving Cyberinfrastructure Consortium (MS-CC)

Cirrus Identity is very proud to have sponsored the reception for the inaugural, annual Minority Serving Cyberinfrastructure Consortium (MS-CC) gathering. At the all day meeting, Cirrus Identity was one of a number of organizations presenting solutions that can further the goals of the MS-CC initiative to expand academic research computing to historically underrepresented institutions.

It was truly inspiring to hear from leaders at many tribal colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities describing their experiences and their goals and ambitions with the project.

The Cirrus Identity Bridge and Proxy solutions are specifically designed to streamline and simplify multilateral federation, and make it easier and more efficient to share resources across institutions. We look forward to collaborating with MS-CC stakeholders and hope we can contribute to their success.

How Was TNC Mary McKee?

TNC is the largest and most prestigious research and education networking conference. Hosted by Géant, it attracts a diverse audience of over 800 participants from more than 70 countries. In 2023, it was hosted in Tirana, Albania. Mary McKee represented Cirrus Identity and shared the ABC's.

See the Fun and Informative Recap

Cirrus Identity Product Highlights

OrgBrandedID Notification Enhancement

Cirrus has released a capability to send notification events when an OrgBrandedID is registered and activated. This capability was added to enable customers to drive downstream provisioning processes when an end user chooses to create an OrgBrandedID account. The notification event follows a REST API pattern where a JSON collection is sent via an HTTP-POST to a customer provided endpoint. The JSON collection will contain all of the registration data entered by the end user, as well as internally generated identifiers and timestamps.

The capability is available to existing Cirrus OrgBrandedID customers, but must be configured by Cirrus Engineering.

Contact Cirrus Support to request this capability, or to get further details.

SIEM Connector (Beta)

Cirrus is rolling out a new capability for customers that need security information and event management (SIEM) platform integration. This provides the capability to push Cirrus metrics to a centralized SIEM or other logging solution.

Every Cirrus subscription provides self-service access to events using the Cirrus Console. SIEM Connector greatly expands this monitoring capability. It provides generic interfaces to stream event data from Cirrus Products into the organization's solution of choice. SIEM Connector provides flexible APIs to Cirrus Identity's internal event processing infrastructure.

Cirrus will be holding a closed beta program for a small number of invited customers. This will finish the SIEM Connector production deployment, documentation, and system scaling. Mark Rank will contact invited customers in the coming weeks. To take part, invited customers must complete a short survey. Survey results will guide selection for the program. The beta program is scheduled to run from September 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

Since not every Cirrus customer needs the capabilities of SIEM Connector, it will be an add-on to Cirrus subscriptions. This continues the Cirrus tradition of allowing customers price flexibility by selecting what features they need. Planned general availability for the SIEM Connector is early in 2024.

Contact Cirrus Support if you would like further details, or to hear when the SIEM Connector is available to add to your subscription.

Letter from Dedra Chamberlin, CEO

Happy summer! If you're like me when I ran a campus IAM program, you're trying to juggle integrating new services, maintaining operations, and making sure everyone gets some well-deserved time off. Not an easy task!

At Cirrus, too, we are busy building new features, implementing service with lots of new customers, and maintaining daily operations. We're also squeezing in time for travel, volunteer work, and just plain of R&R.

Hope and your teams get lots of time with friends and family. If we can be of service in freeing up time for your team, please reach out.

Hope to see lots of you at TechEx in September!

Dedra Chamberlin
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