



**Network & Technology**

SERVICE

# Assent

A ground-breaking service to manage access to protected digital services and e-infrastructures more efficiently and cost-effectively

At a research-intensive institution, your staff and researchers often need convenient, secure access to systems and services provided by other organisations - while users at your partner organisations need access to yours. That way, you can connect, innovate and collaborate at both a national and international level.

Our latest trust and identity service, Assent, enables secure and convenient access to these services and enables you to manage this access more efficiently and cost-effectively.

## How does Assent work?

Assent works on a federated access model. Staff and researchers can access essential services, which range from high-performance computing to cloud applications and data storage, via a single, authenticated sign-on.

By removing the need for multiple logins, Assent reduces the administrative burden on you, while making access quicker and more convenient for your users.

At Jisc, we act as a trust broker for Assent. Organisations within our trust network agree to a set of rules and codes of conduct. This establishes a trusted environment in which organisations can control access to their services via an intuitive, self-service portal.

Assent uses SSL encryption to ensure that users can securely access services without their credentials being exposed. Instead of releasing a user's details, their home organisation can provide identity attributes associated with the user to authorise their access rights. Where appropriate, the technology also allows the identity of the user to be established (for example, to enable access for a researcher involved in a specific project).



## Benefits

### For your researchers

- » Researchers get easy, secure access to protected resources – from high performance computing to email – with just a single username and password
- » Strong encryption technology helps to ensure security
- » Researchers can collaborate with other organisations engaged in the same project, access shared resources, and even create shared communities to foster new research collaborations with both academia and industry

### For you as an organisation

- » Assent integrates with a wide range of services, applications, and resources – from international research facilities to simple administration systems and wikis
- » You can easily manage your Assent service account, and test system configurations, via our intuitive portal
- » You can quickly revoke permissions when a researcher or member of staff leaves, using your standard identity management practices
- » When you act as a resource provider, Assent enables you to retain full control of who can access your services, to help protect your digital assets – while removing the administrative burden of managing guest credentials
- » Assent is built on the same technologies that underpin our other trust and identity services, so it maximises your existing IT investment. If you have already deployed eduroam using the FreeRADIUS software, getting Assent set up is straightforward

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*“The Science and Technology Facilities Council holds tens of petabytes of science data. To make the most of this, researchers need to combine their own resources with those of other data centres and research facilities. Single sign-on is an important aspect underpinning this. As well as making it easier for end users to take advantage of the services we provide, it enables us to manage data permissions and to track the use and impact of publicly funded data. We look forward to exploring these new opportunities with Jisc and other participating organisations.”*

Dr Jens Jensen, data services leader at the Science and Technology Facilities Council

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### What's next?

We are committed to developing and improving Assent – and the associated Moonshot technology it uses – over the long term. We're extending the technology to work with even more services including proprietary cloud, email and instant messaging platforms – for example, Microsoft Azure – so whatever systems your organisation uses, Assent can benefit you.

Because we believe that the benefits accumulate the more people who are involved, we're also working hard to encourage adoption of the technology worldwide.

### FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about Assent, visit [jisc.ac.uk/assent](https://jisc.ac.uk/assent), call 0300 300 2212 or email [assent@jisc.ac.uk](mailto:assent@jisc.ac.uk).

To sign up for Assent, visit the website and complete the sign-up form: [jisc.ac.uk/assent](https://jisc.ac.uk/assent)

Explore the Assent community at <https://wiki.moonshot.ja.net/display/HOME/Home>