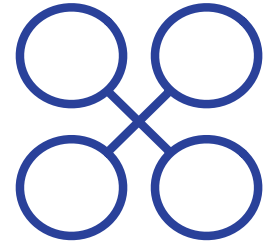# PEER
Public Endpoint Entities Registry

PEER is like a DNS for Identity Federations

- PEER looks up SAML-, OpenID- and IMI-end points (DNS looks up IP-adresses)
- Anyone can utilize a PEER service
- PEER validates syntax (spelling) but not semantics (meaning)
- All end points registered in PEER must prove domain ownership
- The user of a PEER service decides whether to trust the end point
- PEER does not evaluate or filter out end points
- Protection of users' privacy is outside the scope of PEER
- Levels-of-Assurance agreements are established outside of PEER

What is a PEER service?

A PEER service is a repository and lookup-service for metadata describing federated identity systems and service providers. Using PEER, service providers and identity providers are able to connect by exchanging metadata that describes details about their individual configurations. A PEER service may be used for looking up metadata about any federated endpoint. The three kinds of metadata currently supported by PEER include SAML2, OpenID and IMI.

Who can operate a PEER service?

Anyone may setup and operate a PEER service.

Who can publish metadata via a PEER service?

Anyone operating a federated end point (any service provider or identity provider) may choose to register metadata about their respective end point. Publishing this metadata will facilitate the establishment of connections with other known and currently unknown parties.

Why should I publish metadata to PEER?

PEER provides lookup of and search for federated endpoints. The results can be used to establish contact with the administrator of the relevant endpoint. This reduces the effort required to interconnect federation end points. Currently, the only validation performed is a check for domain ownership of the entity registered. It is entirely up to the user of PEER to determine if the received metadata can be regarded as trustworthy.

Who will have access to my metadata stored in PEER?

Metadata stored in PEER will be publicly available to any requesting entity.

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