

National Institutes of Health

Update on MFA and Identity Requirements Internet2 Community Exchange 2023

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Where we've been...



In 2020, NIH **encouraged our InCommon partners to support federated MFA and identity assurance** to help us meet federal requirements for easy and secure access to our systems. We shared three requirements.



Requirement 1

Provide basic user information about the people accessing NIH resources so that we can provision and manage efficient and secure access

UPDATE ON MFA AND IDENTITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirement 2

Implement strong multi-factor authentication (MFA) so that we can minimize risk to NIH IT resources

Requirement 3

Provide assurance that each person who logs in is who they say they are so that we can provide appropriate authorization to access NIH data

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The InCommon community delivered.

Where We've Been...



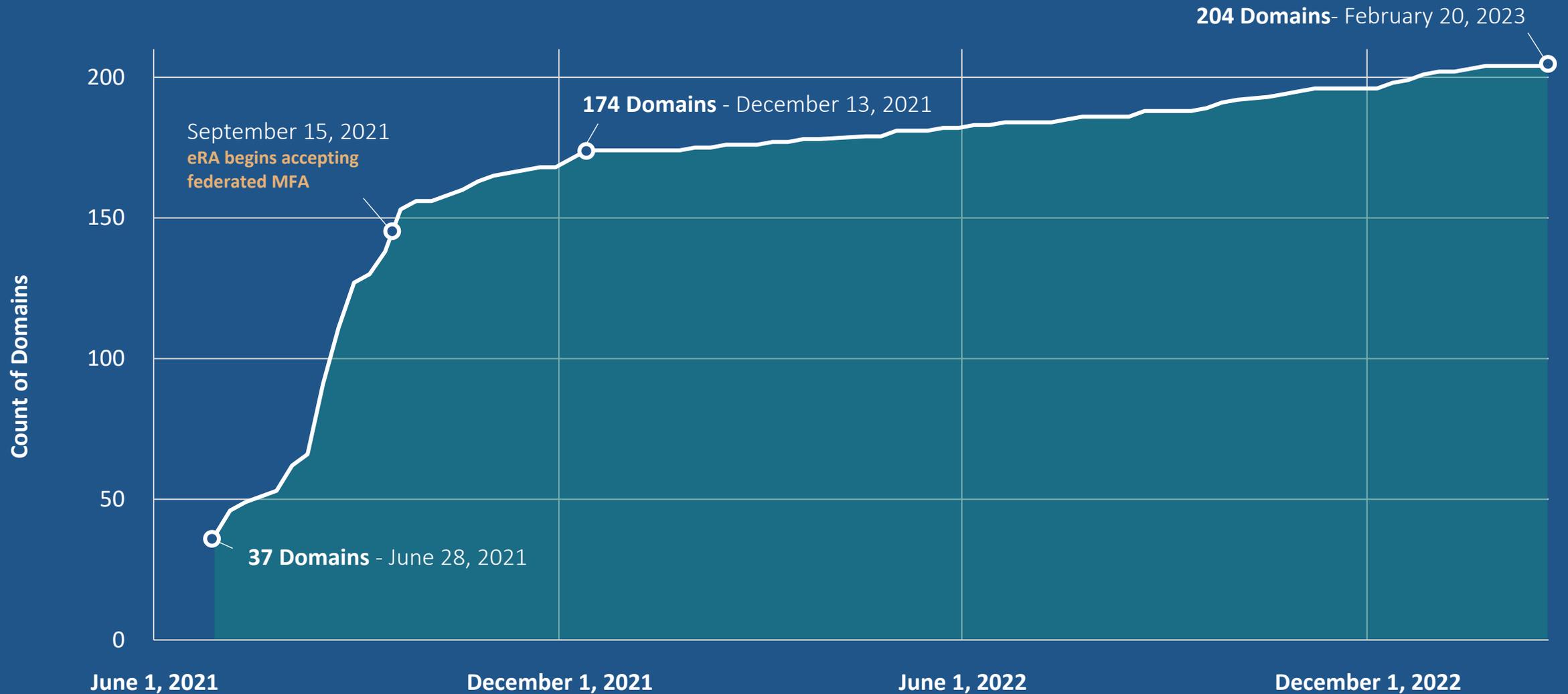
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In 2021, the electronic Research Administration (eRA) system became the **first NIH system to require MFA** (with no/low identity assurance) and the **first to accept federated MFA or Login.gov**



Federated IdPs Using MFA at NIH Login Gateway



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Thank you –
for your efforts and support!

UPDATE ON MFA AND IDENTITY REQUIREMENTS

Let's **look at some more data.**

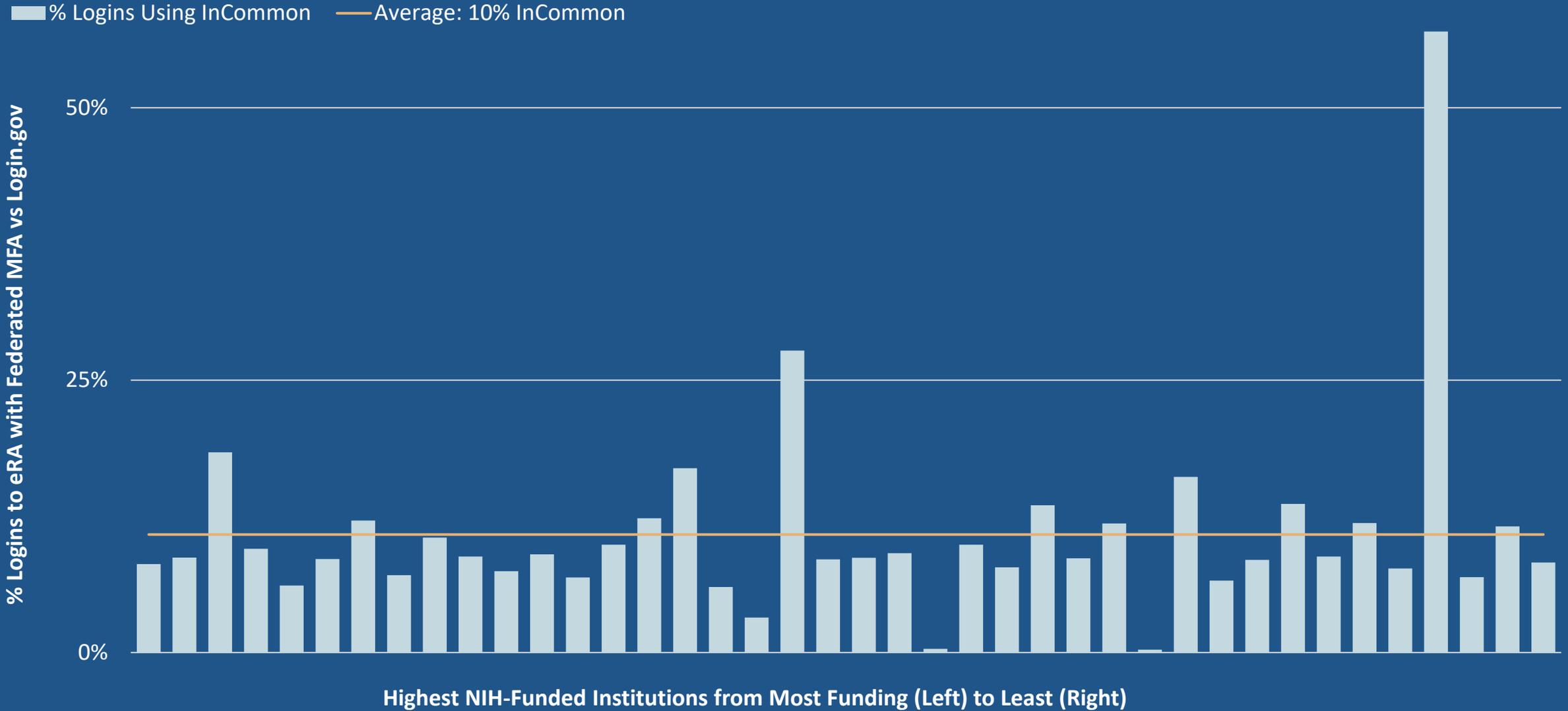
Today there are...



350

institutions have implemented MFA using the REFEDS MFA profile for access to eRA

Federated MFA for eRA by Top 40 NIH-Funded Members



Federated Logins

Federated MFA Logins to eRA vs. Non-eRA Federated Logins

Total Number of Unique User Logins Between October 2022 – March 2023



■ eRA Logins ■ Non-eRA Logins

1,430

FEDERATED ENTITIES HAVE
SUPPORTED SINGLE FACTOR
AUTHENTICATION FOR NON-eRA
APPLICATIONS

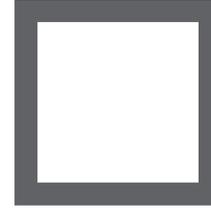
Key Takeaways:

- More people are using federated login than federated MFA, and more institutions are providing federated login than federated MFA.
- Many of those non-eRA systems will require MFA and identity assurance soon.
- Prepare to implement response signaling using the [REFEDS MFA Profile](#) and [REFEDS Assurance Framework](#).

Done



- **Reduced security risks** for eRA
- Provided **single sign-on options** for researchers and faculty
- **Leveraged research institutions' investments** in MFA



To Do

- **Researchers may not know** that they can log into eRA with their institution's credentials
- Other **NIH systems will require both MFA and identity assurance** soon

Past is prologue



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In 2023, NIH continues to request that federation partners enable support for **federated MFA and identity assurance**

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How **can you support us?**

You can...



1

Support the [REFEDS MFA Profile](#) if you haven't yet

2

Support the [REFEDS Assurance Framework](#)

3

Encourage **federated credential use** in your community

UPDATE ON MFA AND IDENTITY REQUIREMENTS

Don't wait. **Lead now!**

Resources

- [REFEDS MFA Profile](#)
- [REFEDS Assurance Framework](#)
- [REFEDS Research and Scholarship Category](#)
- [REFEDS Assurance Working Group](#)
- [REFEDS Assurance Framework Implementation Guidance for InCommon Participants](#)
- [Get NIH Ready](#)
- [Kantara Initiative's Trust Status List of Component Services](#)