Global Gateway

BonafID
LIFELONG IDENTITY FOR EDUCATION

UBUNTUNET-CONNECT 2026 · LILONGWE

From Connectivity to Trust

Building Africa's digital identity infrastructure for research and education

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BonafID development is funded by WACREN within the AfricaConnect4 (AC4) grant.

GÉANT · UbuntuNet Alliance · WACREN · NORDUnet Nordic Gateway for Research & Education · EXPERTISE FRANCE GROUPE AFD · IRD · AUF AGENCE UNIVERSITAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

OPEN

A supercomputer exists in our region. A researcher cannot reach it.

Ageing hardware, largely underused.

OPEN

Links to five HPC centres are contracted under AC4.

Who decides how a researcher gets in?

Reachability is being fixed. Access is not.

THE ARC

Connectivity, then services, then trust

BUILT

Connectivity

Networks that connect institutions across the region.

MATURING

Services

Cloud, cybersecurity, eduroam, eduMEET, open science.

NEXT

Trust

Identity that institutions can rely on across borders.

PROOF AT SCALE

eduroam: NRENs already run trust at scale

100+
countries

10,000+
institutions

25M
authentications a day

Above it, eduGAIN links 80+ federations and 6,000+ identity providers.

Source: GÉANT, 2026; eduGAIN live statistics. Rounded.

WHERE IT BREAKS

No single source of truth creates identity governance issues.

The same problem appears at institution after institution, each solving it separately.

WHERE IT BREAKS

Four places the same gap shows up

HPC access

Who vouches for the researcher, who authorises use, who is accountable across institutions.

Student records

Transcripts and confirmations still move by paper and email.

Verification

Banks, telecoms, funders and employers each check status their own way.

Provider services

Local and international providers each verify students separately.

WORKED EXAMPLE

BonafID solves a real problem at NOUN

36

study centres

180,000

students

No single source of truth for who a student is, so identity governance issues multiply with every centre.

National Open University of Nigeria

GROUPS AND ROLES

A login says who you are. It does not say what you may do.

Identity
Who you are.

Groups
What you belong to.

Roles
What you may do.

BonafID manages all three, with a lifelong ID and eduID on top.

BONAFID

Born in Nigeria, adopted, piloted, funded

AC3

Prototype and pilot

Originated in Nigeria. WACREN adopted it and added French. Piloted at Usmanu Dan Fodio University.

AC4

Development

Production-scale operation, funded by WACREN within the AC4 grant.

NOW

Deployment

Contract signed. Deployment starts in November 2026.

One problem, solved once, so the region shares the result.

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THE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

One login, one device, one identity that travels

1
Log in once with your own institution

2
Device configured securely

3
Connect to eduroam, no password

Next
HPC access, records, verification, video meetings

eduroam is the first service a student feels. The same identity then carries them further.

eduMEET AFRICA Federated video meetings at edumeet.africa. Sign in with your university account.

THE MODEL

Run it yourself, share it, or both. Interoperate either way.

Run your own

Open source, for NRENs with the capacity.

Use the shared service

Pooled expertise, and no team to build.

Interoperate

The same trust rules, recognised everywhere.

WACREN invites partners, as inclusively as our resources allow.

GOVERNANCE

Technology lets institutions trust each other. Governance decides who gets to say so.

PRECEDENTS

Locally governed, globally interoperable

eduroam

Global policy, agreed by a governance committee. Run locally in each country.

EOSC

Chose to reuse NREN and GÉANT identity rather than build a duplicate.

MAREN, Malawi

A national federation connected to eduGAIN, with eduroam and an identity provider at LUANAR.

INCLUSION

An open invitation with published rules

What we will publish

What a partner needs.

How priorities are set when resources are limited.

Exit terms.

eduID.africa

Built by ASREN, WACREN and UbuntuNet Alliance in AC3. Operated jointly, and evolving as the federation layer.

A limit stated openly and applied equally is governance. An unstated one is gatekeeping.

2021 TO 2026

This conversation started in this community. This is where it has got to.

It began on 5 November 2021, at the Identity and Access Management BoF at UbuntuNet-Connect 2021.



THE ASK

Two requests

NRENs and institutions

Partner with BonafID and help shape the rules before AC4 ends.

Speak to WACREN this week. We will say honestly what we can take on now and what has to wait.

Funders and ministries

Make federated login a condition of the services you pay for, including HPC access.

The links are being laid now. Decide the identity layer now, while the machines still have value.

THANK YOU

With thanks to our partners

BonafID LIFELONG IDENTITY FOR EDUCATION

Global Gateway

BonafID

DAASI International

Eko-Konnect

GÉANT

National Open University of Nigeria

TogoRER

WACREN

eduID.africa

ASREN

UbuntuNet Alliance

WACREN

Federated video meetings for African research and education: https://edumeet.africa

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