



The Federation for Identity and Cross-Credentialing Systems (FiXS) Executive Overview

The Federation for Identity and Cross-Credentialing Systems (FiXS) is a coalition of commercial companies, government contractors, and not-for-profit organizations who have established and maintain a worldwide, interoperable identity and cross-credentialing network built on security, privacy, trust, standard operating rules, policies, and technical standards. Founded and incorporated as a not for profit in 2004 and based in Fairfax, Virginia, FiXS was formed to pilot a federated identity transaction model.

FiXS provides a trusted mechanism for federated identity infrastructure within and between public and private sector organizations with accuracy and trust through the application of a Federated Trust Model. The FiXS network capabilities can be accessed worldwide, in remote or fixed environments, wired or wirelessly, and in real-time.

Modeled after the financial industry's highly-secure and widely-accepted ATM (Automated Teller Machine) approach, the FiXS network is a secure, scalable system that provides trusted, interoperable identity verification and credential authentication for network users accessing a range of government and commercial facilities. The FiXS network meets federally-mandated requirements, supports physical and logical access applications and integrates with an organization's existing personnel system, while leveraging the network's economies of scale.

The Federation includes more than 20 members, including systems integrators, financial institutions, and organizations focused on promoting improved workforce protection and systems security for critical infrastructure. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the General Services Administration (GSA) are participating government organizations. FiXS members contribute ideas, technologies, and best practices for implementing a secure identity cross-credentialing network based on open standards, sound business processes, and proven technologies and security.

The FiXS network uses available identity credential technology in conjunction with biometric identification. FiXS can be used within and between public and private sector organizations and promotes a trusted mechanism for federated identity infrastructures. It is important to note that FiXS does not grant or deny physical or logical access for any credential bearer. Rather, it delivers a trusted *infrastructure* that provides participating members with an assured means to authenticate the actual identity of individuals presenting FiXS-certified credentials for access to facilities and systems.

FiXS is an open membership organization. Members join to contribute to and influence the evolution and development of the FiXS network, its capabilities, and certified applications, to learn the latest technologies and strategies for robust identity management programs, and to meet and engage in dialogue with compatible business interests. Many join to support their organizational requirements for secure and reliable authentication of individuals who access their facilities and systems. Some organizations join FiXS to enable the issuance of FiXS-certified credentials, which can be transmitted across the FiXS network and authenticated by network end users, including diverse industry and participating government operations.

For more information on FiXS membership, capabilities, and upcoming events, please visit www.fixs.org or call 703-591-9255.