

# It's easy!

The difference between  
IP/proxy and OpenAthens  
single sign-on.



# Here's a comparison of the two technologies:

<input type="radio"/> Included <input type="radio"/> Optional	OpenAthens	IP/proxy
Cloud hosted solution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administration interface	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Group-level security (permission sets)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Customisable end-user access portal	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
SSO solution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SSO with IP recognition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Integration with local applications	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
REST based API	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Service Desk support	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requires local IdM infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supports any attribute set	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Create user categories	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Ability to connect directly to LDAP	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add own branding to user interface	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Out-of-the-box statistics reporting	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Out-of-the-box statistics by user category	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Out-of-the-box statistics by individual user	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Export report data	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SSO with Federated resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
SAML 1x capability to log into resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
SAML 2x capability to log into resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Define which attributes are sent to each Service Provider	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Resource link generator & knowledgebase (Redirector)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	

OpenAthens provides flexibility to adapt to changing workflows, peace of mind against fraud and misuse, and the transparency to make informed decisions.

Visit [openathens.org](https://openathens.org) today for more information.



# OpenAthens

Authentication

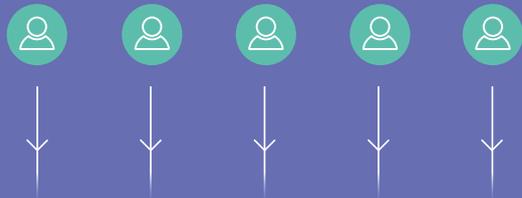
VS



# IP/proxy

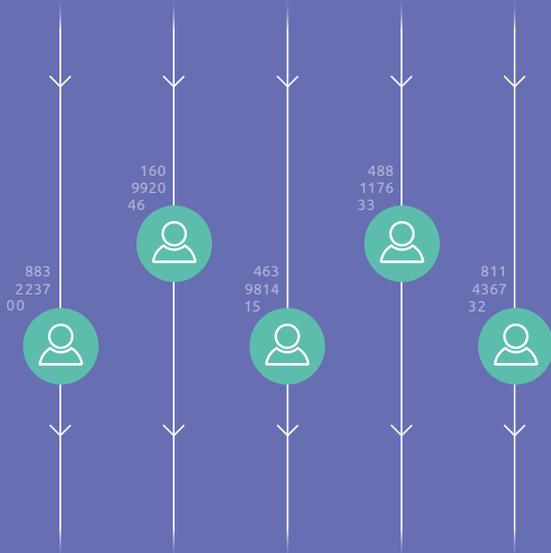
Recognition

Simple set up



## SAML handshake

Secure – end user / publisher / library



Two way transparency / individual stats

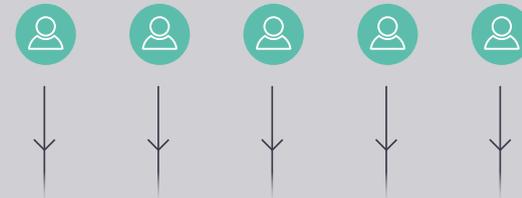
Publisher



Global standard in authentication

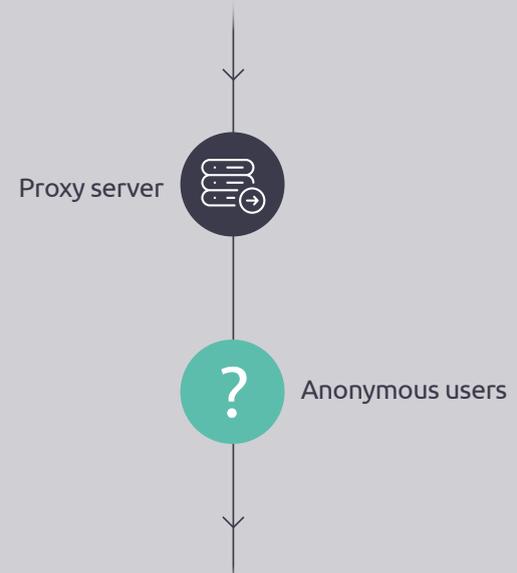
**Simplicity** for the library

Technical set up



## IP recognition

Insecure / open to spoofing



No individual details / anonymous

Publisher



Legacy technology / work around

**Complexity** for the library

# Access knowledge the easy way

With our simple, secure technology OpenAthens enables people to access the knowledge they need to achieve great things.

Older systems can pose a significant security risk. IP addresses are open to various methods of abuse and the lack of transparency makes accurate usage reporting difficult.

## How we help:



### Happy users

The simple interface will reduce user queries.

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### Minimal admin

Our tools make it easy to categorise and allocate resources to users.

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### Peace of mind

No compromise on security, all information remains safe.

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### Statistics and insight

We collect data and show you patterns of engagement.

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### Leave the difficult stuff to us

Our optimised solution enables integration with other systems.

# Glossary of terms

## **Identity provider (IdP)**

An organization or product that confirms user identities and attributes to enable them to access content owned by service providers. Examples of IdP products are OpenAthens, Shibboleth and Ping Federate.

## **IP address**

A numerical reference (e.g. 123.123.123.0) that identifies the location of a device on a network or the wider internet, managed globally.

## **IP recognition**

A form of access management that grants access to resources based on the IP address of a user's device.

## **OpenAthens**

An access management system for organizations or content providers (IdPs or SPs in SAML terms) that facilitates SSO access to subscription content.

## **Proxy service**

Software that acts as an intermediary between users and content. Often used to facilitate remote access to subscription-based content.

## **Remote access**

Allows users to access library holdings (particularly subscription content) with their normal login credentials when they are outside of the institution network (for example, at home or using a mobile device).

## **SAML**

Security Assertion Markup Language. A protocol for exchanging security information between identity providers and service providers.

## **Service provider (SP)**

An organization that provides content or services.

## **SSO**

Single Sign-on. Providing users with access to many different systems through a single set of login details.

T: +44 (0) 20 3880 2626

E: [contact@openathens.net](mailto:contact@openathens.net)

W: [openathens.org](http://openathens.org)