

Executive Summary - the JANET Roaming Service

A briefing paper for decision makers.

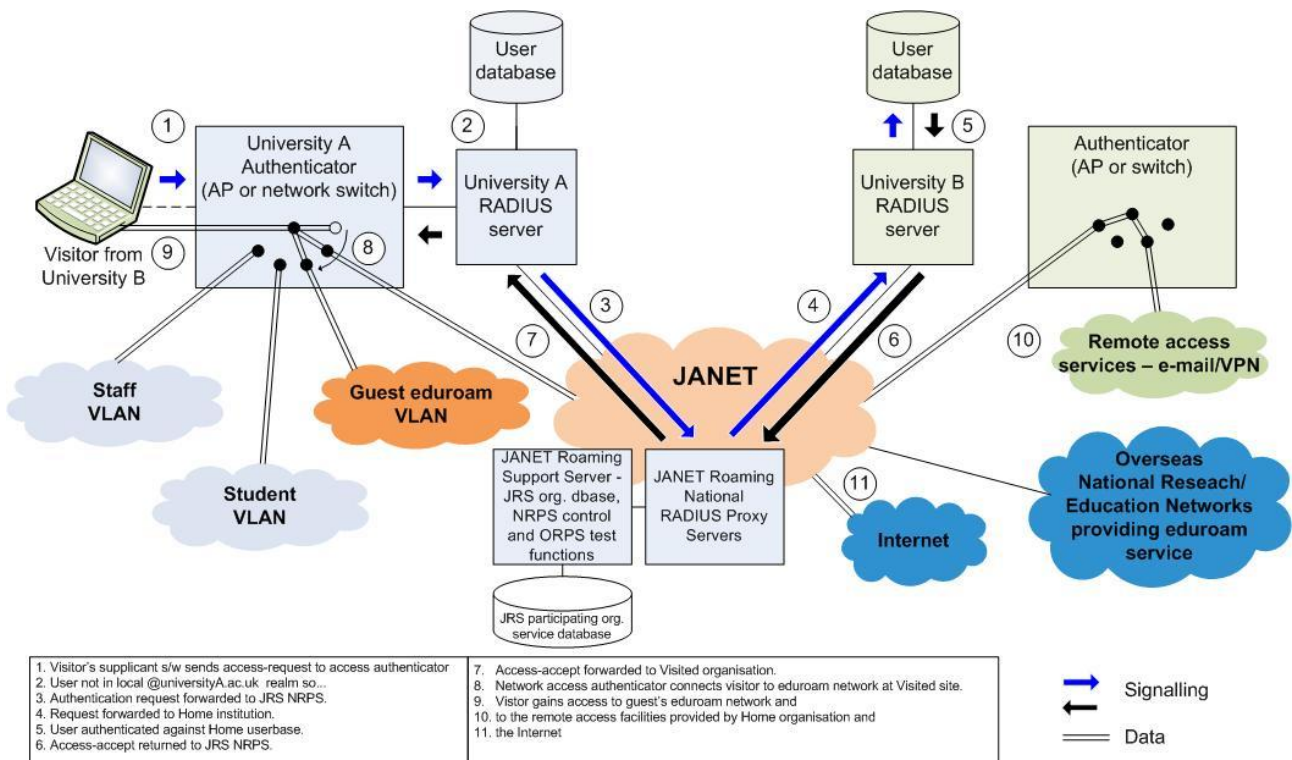
What the service does

JANET Roaming is the UK provider of eduroam, the confederated global service which enables users from any participating organisation to effortlessly gain secure network access at any eduroam-enabled organisation - worldwide.

JANET Roaming provides the solution for JANET organisations wanting to offer low administration, high quality authenticated guest network service via the JANET network for visitors from fellow academic and research organisations. As a federated service, it is built on a standards-based implementation and its growing success is attributable to the increasing participation of many like-minded organisations. There are now over 100 registered participating organisations in the UK alone which means that the service is already widely available.

Authenticated network access

Authentication of users is a prerequisite for access to the JANET network and most academic networks across the world. JANET Roaming enables network logon for users by tunnelling logon authentication requests securely from the visited organisation's network to the guest's home organisation for evaluation. Once evaluated, the response is returned to the visited network access server and the user admitted or denied access as appropriate to the network. The immediate benefit for IT Support teams is the minimisation of the administrative workload of managing guest accounts. For end-users, since there is no need for guest accounts to be set up and their own username and password is used regardless of location, a highly convenient service is available. This leads to huge time savings for both user and host organisation, and since the service is free of charge at point of use there are also considerable cost savings compared to alternative solutions.



Service to users

With authenticated logon, visitors to participating JANET Roaming sites can quickly experience straightforward secure access to full JANET network services, enabling access to the Internet, home organisation networks via VPN, web mail etc., and such resources on the visited site network as are permitted by the visited organisation. Depending on the guest network services provided, visitors can make use of both wireless access from their own laptops, handhelds and other mobile devices as well as any hard-wired network connection points and workstations made available by the host organisation.

Widespread availability

The JANET Roaming service now comprises 109 registered organisations, enabling the service to be offered at locations throughout the whole of the UK ([see map of JRS locations](#)), and through our membership of the global [eduroam](#) confederation (see below) [across Europe \(map\)](#) and in many countries [around the world](#).

For the host organisation and network manager:

Feature

- Facilitates setup of JANET-compliant network facilities for visitors
- Removes administrative burden of guest account setup
- Enables provision of secure remote authentication service for own staff and students when visiting other organisations
- Sets common security standards and enables traceability
- Fully supported JANET service

Benefit

- Attract visitors and meet the expectations of visitors from eduroam-enabled organisations (now in excess of 100 across the UK, not forgetting the wider international eduroam community)
- Improve productivity of IT Support staff
- Enables your network users to connect to eduroam guest networks when at remote locations and so to benefit from guest network services when away from home site
- Meeting need for common security standards and facilitates malware/misuse problem investigation
- Risk of project time overrun or failure eliminated and speed of implementation increased

For the user:

Feature

- No need to go through the process of getting a guest account set up at every org. visited
- Same username and password regardless of location
- Guaranteed availability of broad set of protocols from guest network
- Network access at all participating organisations – worldwide, helping to meet need for ubiquitous network access
- Free of charge at point of use, no subscription or usage charge
- High security – non-encrypted credentials are never exposed and authentication interface cannot be hijacked

Benefit

- Convenience and avoidance of lost time
- Enhanced convenience
- Access to Internet, e-mail, VPN etc. services as provided by Home organisation, leading to improved efficiency
- Facilitates mobility, collaboration, secondments, meetings and study
- No subscription or airtime charges to pay
- Assured security of credentials when utilising guest eduroam networks when roaming

Final Words

JANET Roaming:

- supports higher education by helping support research, collaboration and meeting expectations of availability of service by the worldwide eduroam community
- supports further education by improving provision of shared, validated and franchised courses such as accredited courses and foundation degrees.

For further information visit: <http://www.ja.net/roaming>