



## The Frontiers of Internet identity

## Topics

- Living on the Frontier
- The Frontiers of the Internet
- The First Frontiers of Internet identity
- The New Frontier
  - Discovery, Privacy Management
  - Interfederation and Non-web apps
  - The Attribute Ecosystem
- The Dangers of the Frontier

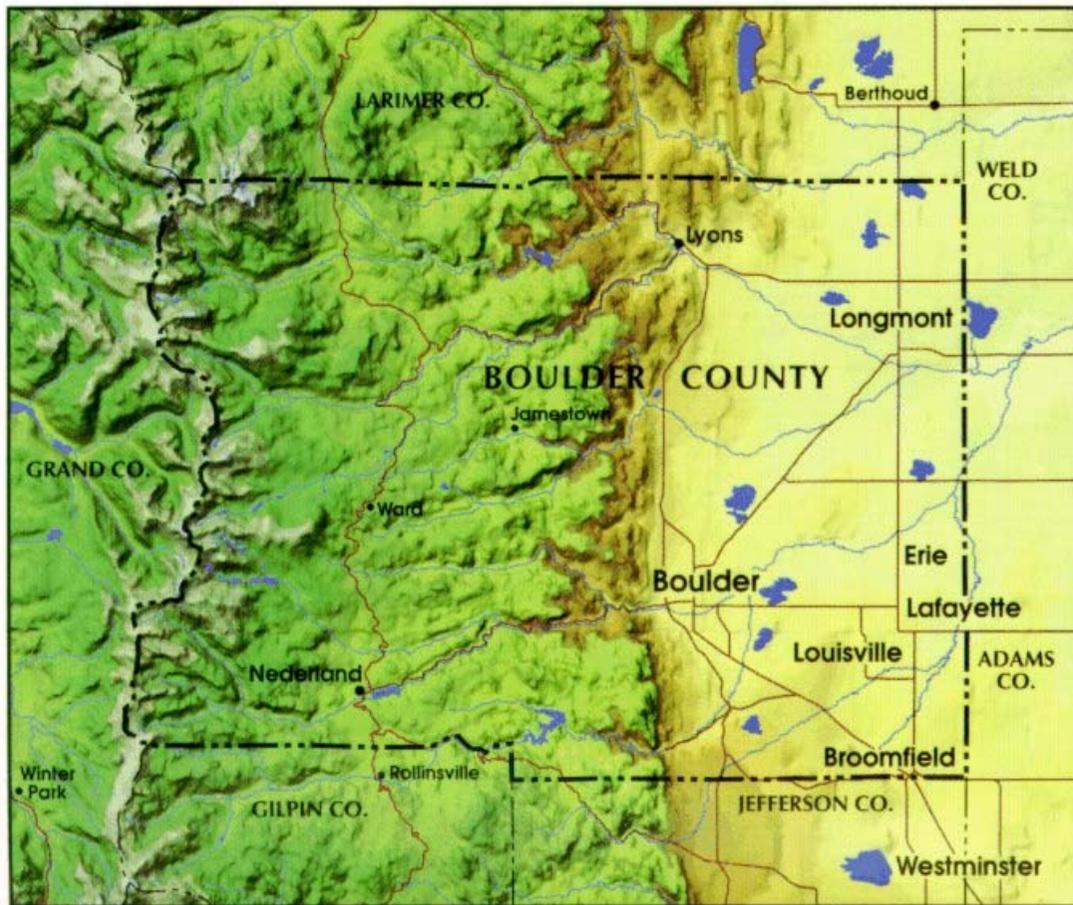
# A Changing Frontier (and me)





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## The original Internet frontiers

- Basic technology development (1970-1985)
  - TCP/IP, DNS, email, HTTP
- Basic marketplace development (1985-2000)
  - Widely usable clients
  - Business models and the web industry
  - Support
- Basic policy development

# Texas Ranger 1



## Lessons learned

- Modular and layered design
- A “narrow waist” of technology
- Open standards, open source
- Autonomous systems, loosely coupled
- Network multipliers a powerful force
- Most don't understand at first, and then there is a tipping point and it is obvious to all.

## The first Internet identity frontiers

- Two forms of Internet identity have experienced exponential growth in the last few years
- *Federated identity* leverages organizational identity, rich attributes and multiple levels of assurance
- *Consumer identity*, represented by Google, MSN, Yahoo, AOL, Facebook, etc provide convenient and lightweight identities for many popular sites
- Activities are moving beyond web applications, national borders, and beyond vertical sectors into ubiquity

## A bit of Federated Identity history

- Federated Internet identity work began in 2000 in the R&E sector
- Spread quickly into corporate sector via OASIS standards processes
  - Corporate use cases limited to bi-lateral relationships
  - R&E sector carried on multi-lateral federation work
- Created SAML, Shibboleth, InCommon, etc
- Widespread deployments began 2004-5 in R&E, government, and vertical sectors
- Building federations and trust more work than developing protocols

## The Killer Apps

- Single sign on across a wide variety of resources – libraries, supercomputers, databases, instruments, collaboration tools
- Use of federated collaboration tools – wikis, foodle, lists, chat rooms, videoconferencing, etc.
- Access to federal government resources, from grants management to clinical trials and public medical information
- Roaming wireless access, integration with open identities and other low LOA base services

## Texas Rangers 2



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## Lessons learned

- Modular and layered design
- A “narrow waist” of technology
- Open standards, open source
- Autonomous systems, loosely coupled
- Network externalities a powerful force
- Most don't understand at first, and then there is a tipping point and it is obvious to all.

# Texas Rangers Today



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# The Frontiers of Federation

- User Interactions
  - Discovery, Privacy managers, Silver and Gold
- Interfederation
  - Technical and Policy Needs
  - Integration with social Identities
- Integration into IETF protocols – going beyond the web
- Groups and Access Control
- Collaboration Management Platforms
- The Attribute Ecosystem

## Discovery

- The process of directing an unauthenticated user back to an organization to be authenticated (happens at new browser launch, not at new window, etc.); already authenticated users are taken directly to the resource
- A non-scalable aspect, especially as the number of federations and IdP's grows exponentially
- An issue to be addressed by an SP
- Today often done by the federation WAYF; users can set cookies to default to IdP, good for up to a year.
- Lots of work in this space, from the new sticky discovery parts of Shibboleth to Google's Account Chooser

My NCBI Home

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/

My NCBI Sign In

My NCBI Overview

My NCBI allows you to create automatic email alerts, save your searches and records, filter results by subject, and much more.

Sign in directly to your My NCBI account:

My NCBI Sign In

Username:

Password:

Keep me signed in unless I sign out  
(NOTE: uncheck this on public computers)

Remember my username

[Register for an account](#)

[I forgot my username](#)

[I forgot my password](#)

[About automatic sign in](#)

Register or sign in through one of the partner organization login routes:

Sign in via Partner Organization

- Googlo
- NIH Login
- STRA Login\*

\* If you have eRA Commons accounts, you may begin using the NIH Login. After July 18, 2011, the STRA Login will be removed.

[JGTPMCFunders Group grants](#)

Or choose from:

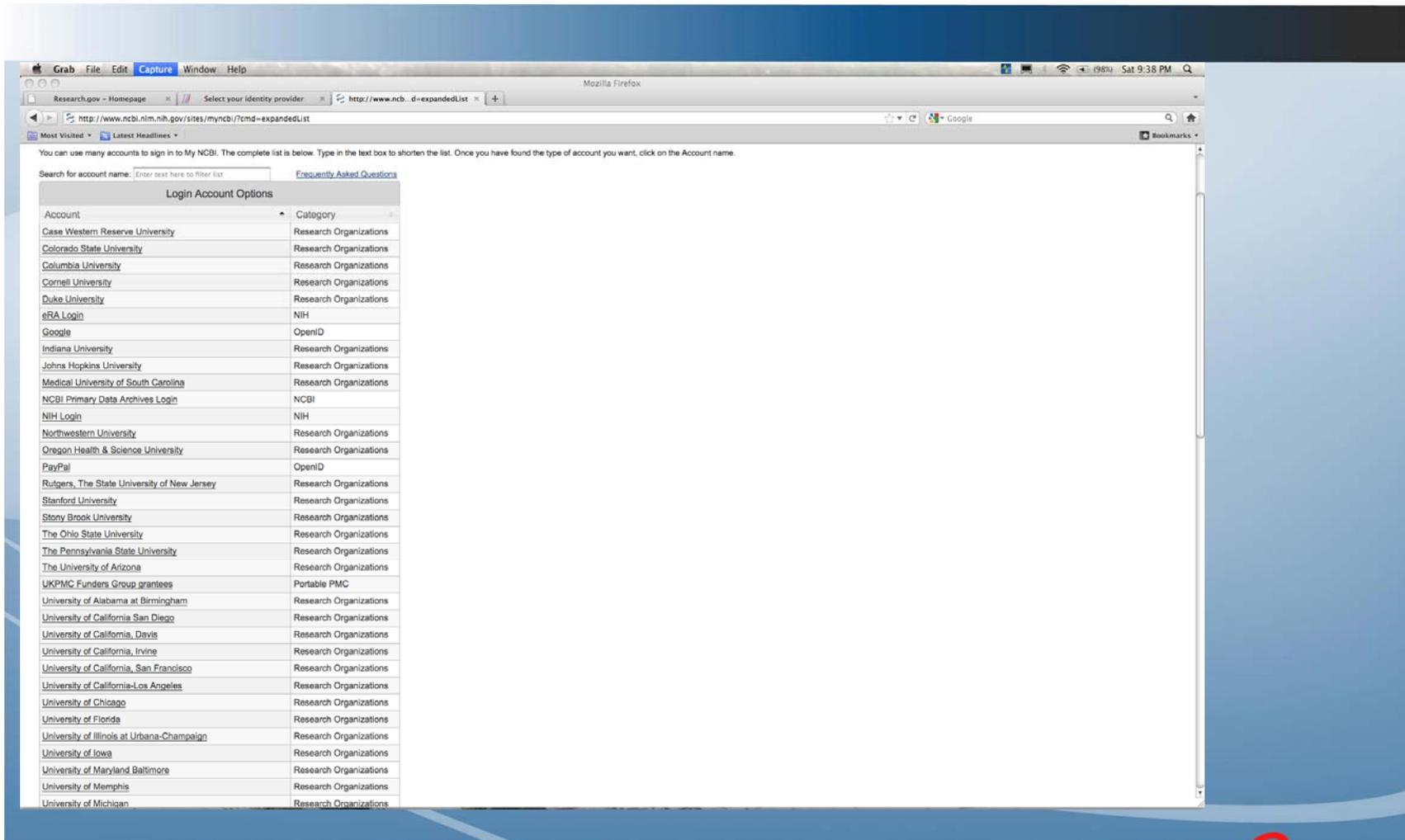
Case Western Reserve University  
 Colorado State University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University

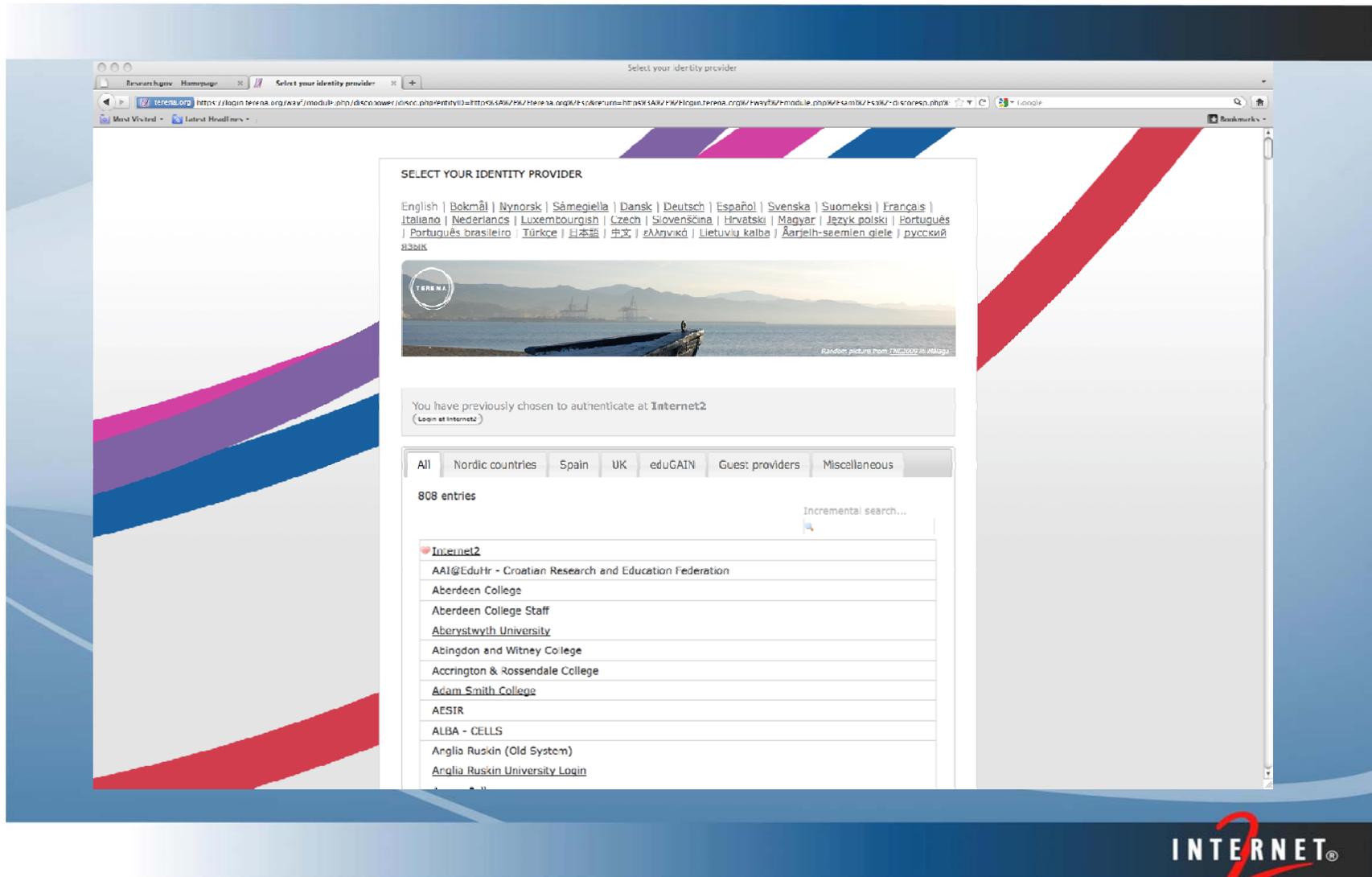
Sign expanded list

You are here: NCBI

Write to the Help Desk

<p><b>GETTING STARTED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NCBI Education</li> <li>NCBI Help Manual</li> <li>NCBI Handbook</li> <li>Training &amp; Tutorials</li> </ul>	<p><b>RESOURCES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chemicals &amp; Bioassays</li> <li>Data &amp; Software</li> <li>DNA &amp; RNA</li> <li>Domains &amp; Structures</li> <li>Genes &amp; Expression</li> <li>Genetics &amp; Medicine</li> <li>Genomes &amp; Maps</li> <li>Homology</li> <li>Literature</li> </ul>	<p><b>POPULAR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PubMed</li> <li>Nucleotide</li> <li>BLAST</li> <li>PubMed Central</li> <li>Gene</li> <li>Bookshelf</li> <li>Protein</li> <li>OMIM</li> <li>Genome</li> </ul>	<p><b>FEATURED</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GenBank</li> <li>Reference Sequences</li> <li>Map Viewer</li> <li>Genome Projects</li> <li>Human Genome</li> <li>Mouse Genome</li> <li>Influenza Virus</li> <li>Primer-BLAST</li> <li>Sequence Read Archive</li> </ul>	<p><b>NCBI INFORMATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About NCBI</li> <li>Research at NCBI</li> <li>NCBI Newsletter</li> <li>NCBI FTP Site</li> <li>NCBI on Facebook</li> <li>NCBI on Twitter</li> <li>NCBI on YouTube</li> </ul>
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## User managed privacy

- Provide users with control, and guidance, over the release of attributes
  - Includes consent, privacy management, etc.
  - Using opaque identifiers (content providers, wikis), visible identifiers (wikis, TG, LMS, financial services), entitlements (content providers, VO's), etc.
- Basic controls (uApprove) now built into Shibboleth, but largely untapped in deployments.
- Human interface issues largely not yet understood – getting the defaults right, putting the informed into informed consent, etc.

This is the Digital ID Card to be sent to 'https://aai-demo.switch.ch':

### Digital ID Card

Surname	<b>SWITCHaai</b>
Given name	<b>Demouser</b>
Unique ID	<b>234567@example.org</b>
User ID	<b>demouser</b>
Home organization	<b>example.org</b>
Home organization type	<b>other</b>
Affiliation	<b>staff</b>
Entitlement	<b>http://example.org/res/99999</b> <b>http://publisher-xy.com/e-journals</b>

Don't show me this page again. I agree that my Digital ID Card (possibly including more data than shown above) will be sent automatically in the future.

Cancel

Confirm

## Silver and Gold

- Applications are beginning to request higher levels of authentication for important transactions
  - Grant administration, access to sensitive data, grids, etc.
- Can be a painless personal process and a painful institutional process
  - Personal use of two factor authentication and better one-time identity proofing
  - Institutionally, the need to document processes, record events, audit, etc.

## Interfederation

- Connecting autonomous federations
- Critical for global scaling, accommodating state and local federations, integration across vertical sectors
- Has technical, financial and policy dimensions
- Technical solutions include eduGAIN and MDX
- Policy activities in eduGAIN, Kalmar2 Union, Kantara, Refeds

## MDX/PEER – metadata exchange protocol

- Institutions and organizations will pick a registrar to give their metadata to
- Institutions and organizations will pick an aggregator (or several) to get their partners metadata from
- Aggregators exchange metadata with each other and registrars
- If this sounds like DNS registration and routing, it is, one layer up

## Social to SAML Gateways

- A way to bring social identities (e.g. Google, MSN, Facebook, etc.) into the federated world
- Answers many, many use cases
  - Parent access to university student bills
  - Outreach of science organizations to broader communities
  - Citizens to government services
- Software developed by Sweden et al and is being deployed at several levels

# Groups and Access Control

- Federated identity creates the need for tools to manage the access control at the resources; lists of 1,000 permitted federated users are a drag to maintain.
- Groups set at the identity provider can be expressed as attributes for simple but powerful access control at resources.
- Groups need to handle federated users and themselves be federated; they need to work the same for social and organizational use cases
- Most organizations have more groups than users...
- One of the true frontiers and urgent given the scale of users

# Thinking beyond the web

- All those mobile devices
- All those infrastructure elements – routers, firewalls
- Lots of apps want to leverage federated identity
- Several approaches at work
  - Using Oauth to pass a token from web to app
  - Project Moonshot to modify IETF protocols (GSSAPI, EAP, etc) to provide a broad set of app opportunities
    - Two possible transports – Radius and SAML

## Collaborations and Virtual Organizations

- IdM is a critical dimension of collaboration, crossing many applications and user communities
- Virtual organizations represent critical communities of researchers sharing domain resources and applications as well as general collaboration tools. Providing a unified identity management platform for collaboration is essential in a multi-domain, multi-tool world.
- Lots of activities in domesticating applications to work in a federated world, moving from tool-based identity to collaboration-centric identity.

# Collaboration Platforms

- Integrated set of collaboration apps (wikis, listprocs, CVS, file share, calendaring, etc)
- Integration of at least identity and access control via group memberships
- Extends identity and access controls to domain apps
- Repackages successful enterprise technologies for a collaborative/project/VO setting
  - Federated identity, group management, directories, and security token services (aka credential convertors)
  - Allows integration of VO and enterprise IdM

# The Attribute Ecosystem

- Authentication is very important, but identity is just one of many attributes
- And attributes provide scalable access control, privacy, customization, linked identities, federated roles and more
- We now have our first transport mechanisms to move attributes around – SAML and federations
- There will be many sources of attributes, many consumers of attributes, query languages and other transport mechanisms
- Together, this attribute ecosystem is the “access control” layer of the Internet
- Discussions began with the Tao of Attribute workshop and are finally active at Kantara, ISOC, IIW, etc.

## Back to the Frontier

- Much remains to be discovered
- The excitement of the exponential
  - Its not hard for 100, but we're talking 3 Billion
- Lacking some basic utilities
- Has uncertain policy territory
- Is always worth the ride

# Time for me to go home...



