

VMware Horizon with True SSO

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This article will guide you through the process of setting up a VMware Horizon environment with Unified Access Gateway and True SSO in place.



Access Manager license

The SAML identity provider is available only with a valid Access Manager license. We recommend you contact Recast Sales if the option is not available in your Application Workspace System.

Create an Application Workspace Self signed certificate

First, we need a self-signed certificate to sign the SAML 2.0 message that the Application Workspace identity provider will issue.

1. Navigate to **Manage > System > Certificate** and click **+ Create** in the table toolbar.
2. In the **Create certificate** dialog box:
 - In **Type**, select *Self signed* and click **Next**.
 - In **Overview**, enter a description like "Signing certificate for SAML IDP" and click **Next**.
 - In **Self signed**, for the **Common name** field, the domain name does not need to be a valid one. A common name like "SAML-IDP-SIGNING" should be sufficient in most situations. In the **Days valid** and **Key size** fields leave the default values.

Create an Application Workspace SAML 2.0 identity provider

Now we can create a new identity provider:

1. Navigate to **Manage > Authentication > Identity Providers** and click **+ Create** in the table toolbar.
2. In the **Create identity provider** dialog box:
 - In **Type**, select *SAML 2.0* and click **Next**.
 - In **Overview**, give your SAML 2.0 IdP a name (e.g., SAML Identity Provider, this name is only used within the Application Workspace UI) and a description and click **Next**.
 - In **Summary**, leave the checkbox **Modify identity provider after creation** selected and click **Finish**.
3. Navigate to the **Settings** screen and configure the following:
 - **Certificate used for signing SAML messages**: select the SAML-IDP-SIGNING created previously, or another appropriate certificate.
 - Enable **Allow requesting metadata**.
 - Download the Metadata URL as you will need it later.

Manage / Authentication / Identity Providers / LiquidP

LiquidP

- Overview
- Settings
- Service providers
- Profiles

General

Certificate used for signing SAML messages

workspace.liquid.com

Only certificates with a private key are allowed

Metadata

Allow requesting metadata

Metadata URL

<https://workspace.liquid.com/igp/2024/07/17/4828-afba-48c3-3032ba47312a/saml2/metadata> Download

Single sign in

Allow post requests (recommended) Allow redirect requests Require signing

Single logout

Allow post requests Allow redirect requests Require signing (recommended)

Session

Session is valid for (seconds) *

0

Save

* In the **Single sign in** section enable **Allow post requests**.

* In the **Single logout** section enable **Allow redirect requests**.



For security purposes, we recommend you have the options **Require signing** enabled.

For more information, see [SAML 2.0](#).

Add Application Workspace SAML identity provider to Unified Access Gateway

1. Log into the Unified Access Gateway administration console and under the section **Identity Bridging Settings**, select the *Upload Identity Provider Metadata* option.

Identity Bridging Settings

Upload Identity Provider Metadata



2. In the window that opens, select the Application Workspace SAML IdP metadata file you downloaded from Application Workspace at step 3 in [Create an Application Workspace SAML 2.0 identity provider](#).
3. Enable the **Always force SAML auth**. Click **Save**.

Upload Identity Provider Metadata

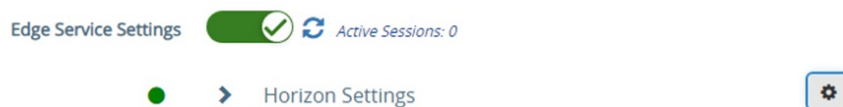
Entity ID ⓘ

* IDP Metadata metadata.xml Change ⓘ

Encryption Certificate Type ⓘ

Always force SAML auth ⓘ

4. Navigate to **Edge Service Settings > Horizon Settings**.



5. Click **More** at the bottom of the settings page and configure the following:
 - **Auth Methods:** SAML
 - **Identity Provider:** select the Application Workspace SAML identity provider you previously created

Horizon Settings

Enable Horizon ⓘ

Connection Server URL ⓘ

Connection Server URL Thumbprint ⓘ

Connection Server IP mode ⓘ

Auth Methods ⓘ

Identity Provider * ⓘ

SAML Audiences ⓘ

Health Check URI Path ⓘ

Re-Write Origin Header ⓘ

6. Click **Download SAML service provider metadata**. In the pop-up, make sure the correct IdP is selected and enter the external hostname (not URL) of the Unified Access Gateway. Download the service provider metadata and save it for later.

Download SAML service provider metadata

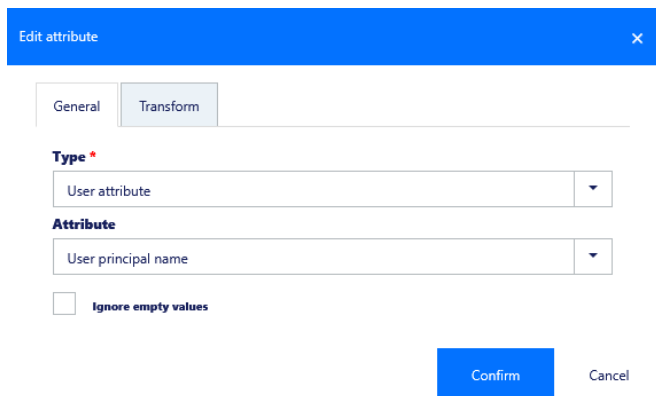
Identity Provider * ⓘ

External Host Name ⓘ

Application Workspace service provider configuration

Recast

1. In the Application Workspace, navigate to the identity provider you previously created and open it.
2. Navigate to the **Service providers** screen and click **+ Create service provider**.
3. In the dialog box that opens, configure the following:
 - In **Type**, select *Import Service provider from Metadata* and click **Next**.
 - In **General**, enter a descriptive name, like "VMware UAG". Select *File* as the source and upload the VMware UAG SAML metadata you downloaded at step 6 in [Add Application Workspace SAML identity provider to Unified Access Gateway](#).
 - In **Summary**, leave the checkbox **Modify service provider after creation** selected and click **Finish**.
4. In the **Edit service provider** dialog box that opens, in the **General** tab, under **Name Identifier** configure:
 - **Format**: Unspecified
 - **Attribute**: click on the browse button **...**. In the **Edit attribute dialog** box that opens, select **Type – User attribute** and **Attribute – User principal name**



Edit attribute

General Transform

Type *

User attribute

Attribute

User principal name

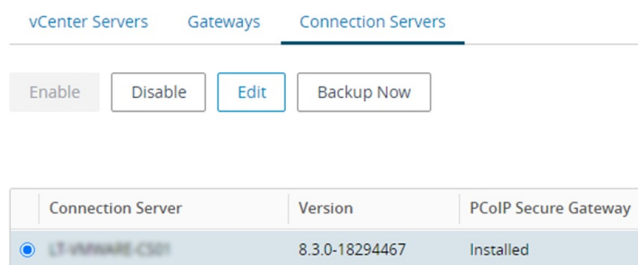
Ignore empty values

Confirm Cancel

VMware Horizon – Connection Server configuration

1. Log into the VMware Horizon administration console and navigate to **Settings > Servers > Connection Servers**.
2. Select the desired connection server and click **Edit**.

Servers



vCenter Servers Gateways **Connection Servers**

Enable Disable **Edit** Backup Now

Connection Server	Version	PCoIP Secure Gateway
LT-VMWARE-CSI1	8.3.0-18294467	Installed

3. Navigate to the **Authentication** tab. Make sure that **Delegation of authentication** is set to *Allowed*. Click **Manage SAML Authenticators**.

Edit Connection Server Settings

General **Authentication**

Asterisk (*) denotes required field

Delegation of authentication to VMware Horizon (SAML 2.0 Authenticator):

Allowed

Disabled

Allowed

Required

Manage SAML Authenticators

4. Add a new authenticator with the following settings:

- Type: Static
- SAML Metadata: insert the Application Workspace SAML IdP metadata you downloaded from Application Workspace at step 3 in [Create an Application Workspace SAML 2.0 identity provider](#).
- Select the **Enable for Connection Server** checkbox.

Add SAML 2.0 Authenticator

Asterisk (*) denotes required field

Type Dynamic Static

* Label

Input IDP

Description

* SAML Metadata:

```
<md:EntityDescriptor entityID="https://workspace.iguit.com/idp/af404d99-1812-5a27-488e-3d5e10854c25" saml2/" ID=","_c079179a-0ef0-4d6e-b590-855aae2b3ae9"  
xmlns:md="urn:oasis:names:tc:SAML:2.0:metadata"><md:IDPSSODescriptor ID=","_aae83612-bbc4-408e-8fab-
```

Enabled for Connection Server

Cancel OK

5. Save all dialogs by clicking OK in each of them.

Create SSO link to VMware

If you like to start Horizon applications or desktops with SSO, you need a specifically crafted link. There are two options to do this, both described below.

Native client link

The Native client launches the local VMware client and requires the Application Workspace Agent to be installed.

The syntax of application and desktop pool links is:

```
https://<public UGA url>/portal/nativeclient/<pool name>?action=start-session&desktopProtocol=BLAST
```

pool name – The name of the Desktop Pool or Application pool. The pool name needs to be encoded, you can use various websites to encode the pool name. For example [this tool](#)

Recast

`desktopProtocol` – it can be BLAST, RDP, PC over IP (PCOIP)

Example:

```
https://vmware.recastsoftware.com/portal/nativeclient/RecastSoftware-Desktop?action=start-session&desktopProtocol=BLAST
```

Web client link

The Web client opens the application or desktop in a webpage and does not require a VMware client or the Application Workspace Agent to be installed.

Just like native client links, the web links are constructed similarly.

```
https://<public UGA url>/portal/webclient/index.html?<type>=<pool name>
```

`type` – Takes one of two values: `desktopName` or `applicationName` .

`pool name` – The name of the Desktop Pool or Application pool. The pool name needs to be encoded, you can various websites to encode the pool name. For example: <https://meyerweb.com/eric/tools/dencoder/>

Examples:

```
https://vmware.recastsoftware.com/portal/webclient/index.html?applicationName=Notepad  
https://vmware.recastsoftware.com/portal/webclient/index.html?desktopName=RecastSoftware-Desktop
```
