

# Welcome to SPOCP

## Table of contents

1 What is SPOCP?.....	2
-----------------------	---

## 1. What is SPOCP?

SPOCP (pronounced as SPOCP is short for Simple Policy Control Protocol) is a very efficient rule-based authorization engine.

SPOCP is a cooperative project whose task is to provide the partners with software for authentication and authorisation services. The partners are 5 Swedish universities ([Karolinska Institutet](#), [Lunds Universitet](#), [Stockholms Universitet](#), [Umeå Universitet](#) and [Uppsala Universitet](#)) and [Uninett](#), the Norwegian National Research Network.

The project started on June, 2002 after a feasibility study done between August 2001 and March 2002. The first phase of the project whose main goal was to design and implement an Authentication Server and a Policy Engine for an Authorisation Server ended on May 31, 2003. The second phase ends on May 31m 2004. Its main goals are to make SPOCP into a complete product and to set up a sustainable open source organisation for SPOCP.

There were initially two goals of developing both an Authentication and an Authorisation Server. It was decided early to provide an Authentication Server by advising the use of for example Feide's software so SPOCP is since then focusing on the Authorisation Server.

SPOCP has been deployed in large production settings and is being actively maintained.

Spocp is part of the National Science Foundation Middleware Initiative (NMI) [EDIT](#) software release.

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