

How to set up a forward proxy for the OpenAthens Managed Proxy Service

Wait... what? Why would..?

As discussed on the [about the managed proxy service](#) page, this kind of proxy is a rewriting proxy and whilst the reverse proxy and rewriting parts have to sit with us, the forward proxy part that is the last step between the user and the content doesn't have to and this opens up some possibilities:

- You can host the forward proxy within your own network where it appears at one of your own IP addresses - you wouldn't have to supply new addresses to publishers
- Depending on where in the world you are there can be some performance improvements - e.g. where you are geographically closer to the website than we are
- You can use different IP addresses for different parts of your organisation

In a sense you are bringing your own IP address to the managed proxy service whilst OpenAthens still does the complicated parts (selecting the relevant configurations, permissions, redirector support and re-writing).

There are three options documented.

For the large organisation or consortia with a need for different IP addresses for different organisational units:

- [Multi-tenant use of Squid with OpenAthens](#)

For the smaller organisations who just want to use their own IP address:

- [Single tenant use of Squid with OpenAthens](#)
- Single tenant use of Squid as a forward proxy on Windows (coming soon)

Squid is a widely used proxy available on most platforms under the GNU GPL (i.e. it's popular and free). Link: <http://www.squid-cache.org/>