

# What is the difference between a domain and an organisation?

## Domains

A domain represents an entire customer - e.g. an Institution, Consortium or Company - who subscribes to the OpenAthens service. You will have one administrator account that represents the domain. This login works the same as any other administrator account but has [one additional preference pane](#) for things that cover the whole domain.

A domain will always have an entityID and [unique identifiers for subscriptions](#).

A domain may or may not have any organisations beneath it.

## Organisations

An organisation represents part of a domain that has its own [permission sets](#) and user accounts. These are sometimes called sub-organisations.

An organisation might exist where a domain has regional locations, e.g. a multinational company might have offices around the world, a health service might comprise several hospitals, or a University might be spread over different campuses.

An organisation does not subscribe to OpenAthens directly - the subscription is managed by the domain administrator.

An organisation will sometimes have [unique identifiers for subscriptions](#) to enable different parts of the domain to subscribe to content separately, but will usually inherit the identifiers of the domain.

An organisation will not have its own entityID.