Single Sign-On FAQs

What is Single Sign-On?
Single sign-on (SSO) allows a user who is already authenticated (logged in) to a participating service or website to seamlessly transition to another without requiring a second login.

What is a Single Sign-On system?
Single sign-on (SSO) systems are a dedicated Identity System intended for exclusively managing secure user authentication and passing user login session assertions to integrated services, instead of having each service manage their own authentication. The University of Nebraska has chosen to implement this functionality with a technology standard called SAML 2.0 in a product called Shibboleth.

Single Sign On - Tool: Shibboleth
A user will interact with services and systems numerous times a day when conducting their duties, and having to re-authenticate over and over can become cumbersome. Connecting a service up to Single Sign On (SSO) infrastructure allows that service to pass all user authentication over to a system that exclusively manages user authentications, and then securely passes that sign-in assertion back to the service when a user logs in. The SSO system maintains the user's authentication session which can then be called back when the user needs to log in to a new service (that is connected to the Single Sign On system). Depending on configuration preferences, a user could stay signed in for the entire day (or longer) for services to receive authentication assertions at sign in. The more services that are integrated with Single Sign On, the fewer times a user will need to log in throughout their day.

What Do Single Sign On and Duo Changes Mean for ME!?
Over the course of your experiences at the University of Nebraska, there have been any number of services that you log into to get whatever you need, and sometimes you've had to have a username and password for each of these services. That means you had to remember what each password and username was and which one you used and where. In short, it is all very confusing to try to remember!

Our plan is to simplify that for you. Single Sign On means that when you log into MyBLUE in the morning, and then switch over to FireFly, or Box, or Qualtrics or other federated software, the next service will trust that you are logged in as you. This new format requires that each service is integrated with Single Sign On (SSO) systems. Services put their trust in the SSO which will pass the login session for you as you go from service to service so you don't have to keep logging in. It will take some time for additional applications to be added to the SSO system.

Duo changes mean that you might start seeing two factor prompts when logging into some services when you had not previously. This is due to how we are protecting all of our Single Sign On systems with two factor, and while users enroll to use Duo for some services like FireFly/SAP, they haven't necessarily elected to use it for things like MyBLUE. As we are consolidating all of our systems, we are also making our Duo system more efficient by moving all campus Duos into one single system.

Moving to this structure means that things could be different when you log in; you might see a new screen or you might see a new prompt for your username. As we work to make our systems better and more efficient, you could see new prompts for Duo two factor protection where you might not have previously. Please know we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this process to improve your experience at the University of Nebraska.