

# Solving MSC1194

Options:

1. Make /unbind (and /delete on the HS) symmetrical with /bind - require both an IS parameter and 3pid validation process. If the user has lost control of their 3PID, then they have to unbind OOB by talking to the IS sysadmin.
2. Make the HS cache the IS name and unbind on behalf of the user without needing to validate. This is the smoothest UX, and lets us unbind 3PIDs which the user no longer controls. However, this may result in the HS trying to unbind from the “wrong” IS server (as the user’s client may now be configured to use another IS), and it means a malicious HS operator or attacker might go and unbind the 3PID without the user’s consent.
3. Make the unbind behaviour introduced for GDPR in synapse a configuration option - either forcing the admin to specify which ISes the HS has responsibility to unbind from, or making the whole behaviour optional. However, this will upset folks who rely on their HS to unbind from the IS by default in order to be GDPR compliant. Conversely, if we enable unbinding by default, it will upset folks who rely on their HS to not try to unbind from ISes in order to be GDPR compliant.

Agreed solution: we go with #1, even though it’s a retrograde step in terms of UX and features over option #2, on the understanding that it’s a temporary measure until we shift to a more sophisticated system (e.g. mutual validation approach where both the 3PID and the MXID have to validate bindings), or whatever happens to ISes when MSC1228 lands.

This means: an MSC to make /unbind symmetric with /bind, and then updating Synapse and reference clients (matrix-{js,ios,android}-sdk) to use the new API. We use the currently configured IS in the client when trying to unbind (although a client could choose to prompt the user for maximum flexibility).