



Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #91

8th September 2021 – Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Country
Scott Cantor (SC)	Developer Representative	United States
Rhys Smith (RS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Manne Miettinen (MM)	NORDUnet	Finland
Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	DFN – Member Representative	Germany
Peter Atkins (PA)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Davide Vagheti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy
Kevin Morooney (KM)	Internet2	United States
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Joe Steele (JS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Emily Brown (EB) <i>Secretary</i>	Jisc	United Kingdom
Alex Stuart (AS)	Jisc	United Kingdom

Apologies

Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	Internet2	United States
Rhys Smith (RS)	Jisc	United Kingdom

Minutes of the previous meeting on 14th July 2021 were approved.

1. Actions

Ref	Description	Owner	Complete by	Status
84.1	Steve to ask around analytic community for a report of comparative nature to Shibboleth so as we can produce an up-to-date Gartner-style report	Steve	July 2021	Closed.
88.1	Acquire the support of the Marketing and Comms team to draft a press release for the certification of the OIDC plugin to the Shibboleth IdP.	Kevin	July 2021	Ongoing - It would be worth including Henri in the drafting of the press release, at least for a quote on the work he carried out. Kevin is currently on holiday until August and therefore will receive an update in due course.
88.2	Prepare and circulate a plan for the migration of content and support channels from Atlassian on-premise to cloud solution.	Scott	August 2021	Ongoing.

2. Financial and membership updates

During the call Emily reported that payments were due from several members. A report provided by Jisc Credit Control shows that we are still awaiting payment from: The University of British Columbia & University of Chicago from December 2020 as well as Cincinnati Children's Hospital medical Centre, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Internet2, and Jisc.

Invoices are currently out with: Los Rios Community College District, Cincinnati Children's Hospital medical Centre, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Internet2, Jisc, University of Washington, Cornell University, AConet

Renewal requests are out with: Marist College, Belnet, CANARIE, Aktia Bank PLC, Heanet, University of Oxford, Ligo Scientific Collaboration, DAASI International, Deakin University & Ohio State University. University of Chicago's membership is also due for renewal this month however we still have not received their payment from last year.

Interest: We have been able to finalise the onboarding of the University of Maryland, thanks to Joe. Emily is currently wrapping up the onboarding process with them. Emily reported that there has been no other interest in joining the consortium.

3. Development update

Scott's update:

<https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2021/09/07/2787803158/September+2021+Update>

The Jira migration was completed last month and we have (we hope for good) taken down the old Atlassian services. This was a time-consuming but ultimately necessary project, and while

losing federated access is unfortunate it will certainly mean less upkeep for us in the long run. Getting people access has been a little bit of extra work, but doesn't seem to impose much of a barrier for anybody so far.

Several more infrastructure projects are underway:

- Migration of core services off of CentOS to (proposed at least) Rocky Linux, if it holds up.
- Documenting as much of our project infrastructure as we can.
- Hopefully dockerizing and offloading Jenkins from the main server.
- Eliminating our need for an LDAP service for committers.
- Moving to a simpler Nexus deployment model.

Obviously new development is going more slowly with all this underway, but it's been a good year to "pause" a lot of new work anyway with V4.1 representing such a significant change and with the OIDC support shipping.

We do have (or will have shortly) patches for the Duo and OIDC plugins with some minor fixes. Work also continues on the OIDC proxying support.

Longer term, a clearer picture is starting to emerge on the Java 17/Spring 5/Jakarta EE 9 story. We have been tracking Java 17, and we expect to be able to support it officially for IdP V4 shortly after it goes final this month. With the removal of Javascript support, one of our scripting plugins will be necessary for most deployers when using Java 17, but those are ready for use as well. Note that we have no plans to test IdP V3 on Java 17 and do not know if it's functional there.

A preview of Spring 6 is expected to be available early next year with the final release not expected until Q4 2022, and once this drops we will be setting up a test branch of IdP V4 using it to make sure we are on track to support it, which will necessitate moving all our javax.servlet references to the jakarta packages. We will have to make sure all our dependencies have also made this move, or find alternatives. One of the open questions we have not answered yet is the status of Spring Web Flow. Conservatively speaking, we're expecting we may have to adopt that code ourselves.

Jetty has already delivered Jetty 10 and 11 that support Java 17 and the Java EE 8 and Jakarta EE 9 specs respectively. Moving to Jetty 10 is expected to future-proof most deployments, so we will be prepping documentation for that (we have existence proofs that it works). The expectation is that moving to Spring 6 and Java EE 9 will involve a "side-grade" of Jetty to 11, with no configuration changes necessary.

Thus, our tentative plan right now is that IdP V5 is likely to be deferred until late 2022 or early 2023, with a move to Java 17, Spring 6, and Jetty 11 as the baseline components at that time. Moving to Java 17 and Jetty 10 in the short run are expected to facilitate that eventual upgrade. We will most likely to deliver at least one core update to V4.2 between now and then, but nothing urgent is driving that for the moment.

Note that we are not tracking Tomcat in the same amount of depth yet, but it would appear that Tomcat 10 would be the Jakarta EE 9 container needed for IdP V5.

On the SP side, OpenSSL 3.0.0 just dropped today, so that is the signal for work to start on getting an SP 3.3 underway that will support that version and include some deprecation warnings that indicate features that might be at risk in a future redesign. We are not guaranteeing that anything we warn about will be removed, but we likely won't intentionally remove any features that we don't warn about unless we hit something unavoidable.

The 3.3 release will be dropping official support for macOS and SUSE Linux, though all newer SUSE releases have independently-maintained packages. Because of the work involved and the lack of demand, I don't plan to continue to maintain the MacPorts package myself, but if somebody wants to assume ownership I can help out with that.

I will be presenting a lot of the information above at CAMP in early October on Monday after the keynote.

4. Discussion of Development Roadmap and sustainability of Development team

The below remains the same regarding the roadmap. Nothing has shifted as of yet and will be reviewed as of when.

The development [project roadmap](#) has been updated, showing clearly what work is ongoing, committed, planned, under discussion and parked. This was included in Scott's monthly update so members and watchers of the project can see. Time will tell if there is input from the community on the roadmap and any requests to add or attend to particular items.

When the skills matrix is collated, this will help enable the Board to see where skills are required and a plan can then be made as to how best to acquire them. This could be through offering financial incentives whereby the Consortium pays for effort from its membership; off-setting membership fees; or approaching agencies who specialise in finding/providing development effort. In any case, expenditure will need to be weighed against the benefits of gaining extra effort vs the overall balance and financial health of the Consortium.

Scott noted that a larger Dev team than we currently have would need PM effort too, which would incur extra cost. He also noted that the safeguarding of skills currently held by team members who may retire or leave the project is more important than expanding the team.

Justin noted that with some uncertainty about budgets and membership renewals, it would be worth waiting another 3 months or so before considering any significant expenditure.

Regarding the above, Emily noted that the board had a discussion regarding an identity management portal for future development as well as a project manager to ease the growing workload and to aid future developments/ direction. The Consortium are in the financial position for this to happen. The board agreed that this should happen sooner rather than later.

Scott noted that the team are making sure the documentation regarding infrastructure/ onboarding/ are up to date and that he will continue to document this process.

5. AOB

Joe mentioned prior to the board meeting that Rhys Smith is going to be out of the office for an extended amount of time. For the foreseeable future, Alex Stuart will assist and represent Jisc.

Once August/ Septembers minutes have been approved Emily will contact Karolo to upload the minutes to the Website.

6. Next Meetings

Wednesday 13th October

Wednesday 10th November