Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #90

11th August 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) *Secretary*	Jisc	United Kingdon
Davide Vaghetti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy

Apologies

Kevin Morooney (KM)	Internet2	United States
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Joe Steele (JS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Emily Brown (EB) *Secretary*	Jisc	United Kingdon

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	Steve has been in touch with an analyst at Gartner and will circulate a sanitised report when he has it.

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	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 Pete reported that payments were due from several members, however a report had not at that point been provided by Credit Control.

Invoices are out with University of Chicago, University of British Columbia, Texas State University, University of Illinois, CCHMC and Los Rios Community College District and Internet2, Jisc & DFN.

Renewal requests are out with Jisc, University of Washington and Marist College. Jisc's renewal request needs to be signed by Jayne - this is in the works. DFN have just confirmed their renewal for the following year, thank you to Wolfgang.

Over the last two months we have had a large Interest in joining from: University of Maine, The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management, GSA , MindMixer, LMS Hosting Inc., KION, Duke Hospital & University of Texas at Dallas. Unfortunately the potential onboarding of University of Maryland fell through due to legal issues.

3. Development update

Scott's update:

https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2021/08/10/2750316589/August+2021+Update

The bulk of this month was consumed with a couple of bug fixes and the continued Atlassian migrations, along with a number of vacations. The wiki migration is essentially complete at this point but has been much more trouble than anticipated because of subtle, often undocumented gaps between the Server version and the Cloud version, particularly once content is converted to their newer format. We accelerated converting some content because of a regression they caused almost immediately after we first went live that broke a lot of our content. They fixed the bug but it's a precarious situation and we need to move faster than expected to convert the content over, but then have to deal with a number of incompatibilities and lost features.

Unexpectedly, the wiki migration was a much bigger challenge than the Jira migration has turned out to be. The functionality there is much closer, and we have completed migration of all projects save for the Member Support service desk features. That work to set up new projects for each member to use for support tickets is ongoing, but should be done by late this week or next week, at which point we can make that final switch and shutdown the old system.

Dealing with access to Jira for filing issues is still a bit of a work in progress until we see what the problems are, and there are some options we may explore to offer additional options for that, but for most of the usual reporters it should be a pretty simple process of requesting access once. While we hopefully knock out this migration a little sooner than anticipated, work will continue on other aspects of the project infrastructure to modernize things (we're on CentOS 8, so we have to deal with that before the end of the year as well).

There's not much to report vis a vis actual development. Patches for the IdP and SP were necessary to fix regressions and work around a Microsoft bug respectively, and the plan is still to release an SP update this fall once OpenSSL 3.0 is final, and probably get IdP V4.2 out before the end of the year, but the latter doesn't have a lot of urgency as most of the new work is happening outside of core. The SP update will be delivered with packages built in AWS using the new build process but will be available from the same mirrors.

The next major deliverable is probably going to be a plugin for OIDC RP proxy functionality, but there's a lot of refactoring to do between the other existing OIDC components to complete that work.
Other preliminary work on prototyping for the SP redesign also continues.

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.

5. **AOB**

Emily has emailed Karolo, who are the company that run our website, in response to adding a copy of the minutes onto the website. This should come into play over the next month.

6. Next Meetings

Wednesday 8th September
Wednesday 13th October