Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #93

10th November 2021 – Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Country
Scott Cantor (SC)	Developer Representative	United States
Kevin Morooney (KM)	Internet2	United States
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Emily Brown (EB) *Secretary*	Jisc	United Kingdom
Alex Stuart (AS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	DFN – Member Representative	Germany

Apologies

Manne Miettinen (MM)	NORDUnet	Finland
Rhys Smith (RS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Joe Steele	Jisc	United Kingdom
Peter Atkins (PA)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Davide Vaghetti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy

Minutes of the previous meeting on 13th October 2021 were approved.

1. **Actions**

Ref	Description	Owner	Complete by	Status

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	**Closed. If the chance arises in the future, there is the possibility to re-open.**
93.1	Creation of a Shibboleth survey to acquire future development options from the community.	All	2022	-

2. Financial and membership updates

During the call Emily reported that payments were due from several members. These have all been chased. The University of British Columbia are the only outstanding payment from 2020.
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Internet2, Marist College ,University of Washington, Cornell University, CANARIE, Aktia Bank PLC, University of Maryland, and Ohio State University.

Invoices are currently out with: University of Wisconsin - Madison, Internet2, University of Maryland, University of Washington, Cornell University, ACOnet , Marist College , University of Oxford, GARR, Johns Hopkins University, Sheridan College, Southern Methodist University, KU Leuven University, Gjaldstovan Talgildu Foroyar, The Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia, CANARIE, Aktia Bank PLC, SWITCH, Brandeis University, Ligo Scientific Collaboration, University of California Office of the President, Deakin University, DAASI International and Stanford University

All renewal requests are out for the rest of the year. Emily noted that the following organisations are yet to confirm their renewals, with Marymount being the only real worry. Marymount University, Blenet, Heanet, NORDUnet, Sheridan College, RENATER, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of Toronto, Brandeis University and Avasad.

Emily reported that we have onboarded 2 new organisations this month: The Research Foundation for SUNY as well as the University of Maine.

3. Development update

Scott's update:

https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2021/11/09/2867363851/November+2021+Update

All of our active work streams have been continuing over the last month.

SP V3.3 is nearing ready to ship, with all of the dependent work on libraries done. We plan to ship it with OpenSSL 3.0 on Windows in order to ensure adequate exposure to that version. There were essentially no code changes needed except for a very small fix to another library so we don't expect much trouble. Future versions are a bigger concern because of the number of deprecated functions we're using, but that code needs to be migrated to Java anyway, so the path forward there is clear, if not the timing.

This is not a significant feature release in any sense, and the changes are extremely minor. The version bump is really more a matter of convenience in order to introduce a handful of new deprecation warnings around features we know are at risk for a future version. It also marks a transition point for a

change to the platforms we will be officially supporting, with macOS and some very old SUSE versions dropping off and Amazon Linux and Rocky added.

Accompanying this release will be a more forceful announcement that this code is on the path to extinction in favor of a rewrite that will require a Java component and likely significant configuration changes. There's not a lot we can say concretely at this stage other than we have to do this and we're doing it, and people who don't think the result of that work will be a good fit for them should be looking at alternatives now.

I can't say there won't be another feature update between now and 2023 or 2024 when 4.0 emerges, but it's certainly the hope not to do one unless we have to.

On the IdP front, we're accumulating odds and ends for V4.2 but still don't have a precise ETA. At this stage, the work will likely be gated by any API changes needed to support enhancements we plan to do for the OIDC plugins, and V3.1 of the OP will likely require V4.2 of the IdP. We designed the plugin handling to help us manage these kinds of transitions.

The two major features underway for the OP plugin are adding support for token-based registration of RPs and more generic OAuth support for access tokens issued via the client credentials or password grant types. That work will include support for JWT-formatted access tokens, for which an RFC was recently approved, so we have some guidance we can follow for that. We expect to refactor some of the existing code so that any IdP-supported login flow can be used to protect the token endpoint (obviously none requiring browsers would work but many of them can run without a browser). Once we start to get these kinds of features in place we should be more able to adapt the code to other use cases as they become more clearly defined.

Finally, we have made substantial progress on a new Java build strategy that should allow us to limit the use of our existing Nexus repository and build our software against Maven Central with proper signature verification of all our dependencies. This is still not perfect but it's a big step for us in eliminating a lot of extra work in uploading third party artifacts ourselves. We will have more announcements about the impact on third-party use of our code when a few other details are clearer. At worst, some adjustments to local Maven configuration may be required.

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

The Consortium will look at the possibility of a project manager in the new year.

The action 93.1 has been added for January 2022 to begin the discussion and creation of a survey to draw data and future development ideas from different populations throughout the Shibboleth community.

Next month is Jisc's last month chairing the board meetings. This then moves to Wolfgang at DFN from January to June.

6. Next Meetings
Wednesday 8th December
Wednesday 12th January