



Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #96

9th February 2022 – Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Country
Scott Cantor (SC)	Developer Representative	United States
Kevin Morooney (KM)	Internet2	United States
Emily Brown (EB) <i>Secretary</i>	Jisc	United Kingdom
Alex Stuart (AS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Davide Vagheti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy

Apologies

Rhys Smith (RS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Joe Steele (JS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	DFN – Member Representative	Germany
Manne Miettinen (MM)	NORDUnet	Finland

Minutes of the previous meeting on 12th January 2022 were approved.

1. Actions

Ref	Description	Owner	Complete by	Status
93.1	Creation of a Shibboleth survey to acquire future development options from the community.	All	2022	Ongoing Jan 2022

96.1	FAQ page	All	March 2022	All Board members are advised to read over the FAQ page and provide suggestions in an attempt to reduce the confused applications from customers surrounding the Consortium & software.
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2. Financial and membership updates

Emily noted that a report is yet to be provided from Credit Control in regards to outstanding payments from the end of 2021 and January's Payments.

Renewals have been confirmed with: Switch, Northwestern University, Mind Mercatis, Temple University and MIT.

Renewal requests are out with: Marymount University, MPASSid, Texas State University, Stockholm School of Economics and University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

New interest: Select Business and Technology College - Ethiopia

3. Development update

Scott's update:

<https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2022/02/08/2921758725/February+2022+Update>

The last month included a couple of patch releases, to the IdP and the OP plugin, the latter a security fix of which all deployers should take note. Work continues in parallel on the active work streams and we should be able to ship IdP V4.2 and the updated OP plugin this quarter as planned. We have begun to make adjustments to our POMs to prepare for the planned switch to using signed and verified third-party artifacts from Maven Central, and the new releases are expected to be the first ones using the new build process.

The IdP release is more or less just a patch but has a grab bag of small improvements. Updating to it should present no complications.

The OP update will include a more significant set of new features and capabilities, and we are working to finalize the "vision" for some of the new OAuth features to understand how they will impact our traditional deployment model. As the work has progressed it has become clear that our standard world view of "knowing" and registering (via metadata) all of the systems that interact with the IdP is incompatible with a full implementation of some of these features. With this initial support of the OAuth client_credentials grant type, we plan to begin the move towards a more open deployment model that focuses on knowing as much or as little as people prefer about the interacting systems.

While authentication via service accounts is still a requirement for clients of the OP's token and introspection endpoints, this can potentially be delegated to an Identity Management system;

metadata will be an optional choice for both clients and resource servers (token audiences), allowing deployers to lock down the system as much or as little as they prefer to support their use cases. When metadata exists, more control over fine-grained behavior becomes possible, but default behavior won't require it, at the deployer's discretion. With the model under consideration, either clients or resource servers can be independently locked down (or not) to require metadata as a group. It will also be possible to limit the resource servers (audiences) for which clients can request tokens, using an extension to metadata (or other another pluggable source of policy if preferred).

While this initial version will include full JWT support for this new grant support, we are not planning to open this up to all uses of access tokens in order to ship this sooner and get more experience before making changes to the existing features. We are also not planning to add support for full 3-legged (really 4-legged) OAuth yet, as this work is (even) more complex to retrofit into the existing code and will be easier to tackle after the 2-legged (really 3-legged) client_credentials support is more well-tested.

4. Discussion of Development Roadmap and sustainability of Development team

The below remains the same regarding the roadmap. Additional pieces will be delivered once we receive feedback from both Domino's & the survey.

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

Please use the below link to collate any initial ideas/questions in regards to the survey before the next meeting in March:

<https://internet2.box.com/s/9prwb3squvul43qvnzw2x6y60z91689g>

Scott has created a new FAQ page in regards to an attempt to reduce the amount of confused forms we receive about the Consortium:

<https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/consort/pages/2913075221/Consortium+FAQ>

The Board suggested that it would be beneficial if Board Members read over the above and provided any suggestions as to what we could add/ simplify in a bid to reduce traffic as well as confused enquiries.

6. Next Meetings:

Wednesday 9th March

Wednesday 13th April