



Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #98

13th April 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
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Manne Miettinen (MM)	NORDUnet	Finland
Joe Steele (JS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Davide Vaghetti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy
Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	DFN – Member Representative	Germany

Apologies

N/A	N/A	N/A
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Minutes of the previous meeting on 9th March 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 April 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 an incomplete report had been provided by Credit Control and therefore she cannot comment on any outstanding payments.

Renewal requests are out, up until May for: MPASSid, Marymount University (Did not pay last year) & University of Michigan.

Renewal requests have been confirmed by: Switch, Northwestern University, Temple University, MIT & Cincinnati Children's Hospital medical Centre. Texas State University, Stockholm School of Economics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, The University of Texas at Austin, RNP, CESENT, Gakuin, CINECA, Los Rios Community College District, Brown University, Pacific Lutherean University, James Madison University, Oakland University & University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Emily reported that we have not received any new interest this month. However we have confirmed membership from Rochester Institute of Technology. The commercial contribution from Dominos is still on the cards.

Marymount is currently looking like an offboard as we have been unable to make contact for a year. Emily will make a final attempt to contact them before we remove them.

3. Development update

Scott's update:

<https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2022/04/12/2956165163/April+2022+Update>

Well, all the IdP 4.2 and related releases would be done at this point except for the Spring vulnerability from last week throwing a wrench into things. We put everything on hold at that point while we waited for official word and then needed that whole day to research the issue and produce a 4.1 patch out of caution; it's still our belief that the vulnerability appeared to be limited to a data binding feature that we don't use, but there's no official statement to that effect so we're assuming there may be other triggers involved and certainly would urge anybody to patch immediately.

We also continued to identify a number of small issues during testing, along with a few late feature requests, so punting a week allowed for a bit more work to get done anyway. Unfortunately, Spring also announced that another "early" release was coming this week, and we don't know why at this point. Out of further caution, we decided to hold the releases again to pick up that Spring update, so the plan for the moment is to get that applied tomorrow and possibly do the releases at the end of

this week. If it turns out that this is a publicly acknowledged security patch again, then we're likely to do another 4.1 patch, either instead of 4.2 or in addition if we don't discover what's going on until afterward. So that is our plan, but everything is still subject to change as we get new information.

Speaking from experience, upgrading to 4.2 has been trivial; the main consideration would be for those using SAML proxying, due to a [bug fix](#) mentioned in the <https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/IDP4/pages/1265631499> that does change the behavior of the IdP when it's configured to map in the user's proxied identity from a scoped attribute. This is easy to deal with, typically via defining a bean to transform the scoped value back into the unscoped part. The fix was necessary because it's much easier to explicitly drop information from a value than to recover it when it's already removed.

I'll cover more of the "less obvious" enhancements in 4.2 in a future post once it's actually available. The 4.1 patch was the first release done completely based on retrieving most third party dependencies from Maven Central in conjunction with an [enforcer](#) plugin that is verifying signatures against "known" keys on all dependencies and ultimately on the entire Maven repository constructed to produce the releases. That is, only keys we have explicitly decided to trust for specific artifacts are used to verify the signatures, all the way down to the Maven plugins and their huge list of dependencies. The total size of a repository in the end can be larger than half a gigabyte. This mechanism will be applied to all Java products going forward.

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

Bryony is coming to May's meeting to run through the creation/ specification the online surveys team require. Emily will send Bryony a copy of the draft questions the board have documented to review.

Emily will address the developer contracts in May's meeting.

6. Next Meetings:

Wednesday 11th May

Wednesday 8th June