Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #109
12th April 2023 – Videoconference

Attendees

Name	Organisation	Country
Scott Cantor (SC)	Developer Representative	United States
Emily Brown (EB) Secretary	Jisc	United Kingdom
Steve Zoppi (SZ)	Internet2	United States
Kevin Morooney (KM)	Internet2	United States
Alex Stuart (AS)	Jisc	United Kingdom
Manne Miettinen (MM)	NORDUnet	Finland
Grace Moore (GM)	Jisc	United Kingdom

Apologies

Wolfgang Pempe (WP)	DFN – Member Representative	Germany
Davide Vaghetti (DV)	GARR – Member Representative	Italy

Minutes of the previous meeting on 8th March are pending approval.

1. Actions

Ref	Description	Owner	Complete by	Status
102.1	Emily & Grace to look to better present financial data	GM / EB	December 2022	**Ongoing. Completed first draft.** Revisions to be made moving into Jan 23 (Developer Contract & Hours Info). **We aim to have this completed by the end of Jiscs financial year (July).**
106.3	DAASI FED CM Proposal.	SC	April 2023	**Ongoing. Emily working with legal to draft up a contact. Sent to both Scott and DAASI.**
107.1	The Board to discuss the possibility of revising the lower membership rates in the near future.	Board	February 2023	**Ongoing. Membership 'playground' sent this month to review.**
108.2	Emily to send over the initial survey results to the Board.	EB	March/April 2023	**Ongoing. The board are talking the month to review the data. Focusing on 107.1 as a priority.**

109.1	Revise membership documents. Move away from 'charter' language. Look at what it means for a member to join.	SC	June 2023.	**Start in May – A framework that makes sense to people in order to drive membership.**
109.2	Steve – Investigate regarding donations / tax identifier number? How to make donations possible via PayPal	SZ	June 2023.	Steve to discuss his findings in May.

2. Financial and membership updates

Renewal requests are out up until July, with response rates looking good.

All renewal requests are out for 2022. Awaiting 2 confirmations from Akita Bank and Lafayette College, as well as 3 outstanding payments from: University of Montana, University of Maine System & Renater.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania have stated that they are no longer interested in membership.

3. Development update

https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2023/04/12/3189276673/April+2023+Update

Most of the last month has been taken up by the continuing audit of the code base (OpenSAML chiefly now) for unstated or incorrectly expressed null constraints to tighten up the code and address various lurking bugs and inconsistencies. These kinds of changes often involve subtle changes to the public API so they have to be done in major releases, and so we have limited windows to do this sort of cleanup. One of the open questions is what to do with the XACML code in the library, which has never been used by the project in any capacity. Cleaning all that up is not work we can justify, but leaving it in place doesn't sit right either, so it may end up removed from the library and published somehow in an unsupported capacity for anyone that needs it.

Once that work is done, we will be ready to really start testing the refactored code in some real world environments to review exactly how pervasive the changes seem to be for deployers and possibly start forking the documentation for V5. There are still a decent amount of significant backlog items left to complete so we're not really even close to a beta at this point, but we do want to start moving things along. We will also begin testing the IdP on Jetty 12, which is in beta, and produce the documentation/examples needed for that container.

We are a little behind on getting the new OIDC plugins shipped but work on those is wrapping up finally and after a bit more review, they should be ready hopefully by the end of April. It has been unsurprisingly tricky to align everythiing so that both the OP and RP plugins can co-exist because of the configuration overlaps, something we never had to really deal with for SAML since it's part of the core software.

Note that both the IdP and SP (on Windows in the latter case) received security patches over the last month. Neither issue was hugely significant, but the IdP problem involved an accidental commit (by me) and demonstrates the need for a bit more care while testing new features. It could have been much more serious.

4. **Discussion of Development Roadmap and sustainability of Development team**

Scott will update the roadmap in the new year to reflect the results of the survey.

Roadmap:

We're actively working on the following, which will likely take us through the rest of this year:

- Work on an OIDC proxying support plugin continues and hopefully will wrap up this summer.

- A replacement plugin that implements support for database storage without Hibernate is under development so that we can remove Hibernate from V5 entirely. Its lack of reliability and the lack of provenance of its software artifacts make this a high priority. The new plugin should be a drop-in replacement.

- Another significant feature update for the OP plugin is under development on an aggressive timeline to meet some member requirements. The scope is not fully defined but is under discussion and definitely includes expansion of JWT support and some revocation enhancements. Logout is under discussion but is not a committed work item, mainly because much of that work (and what we've already done) will probably be moot with the changes coming to browsers soon.

- A parallel work stream is underway to port and test the code base on Java 17 and Spring 6 with the Jakarta EE changes and address the likely end of the road for Spring Web Flow as a third-party project. We have POC code running successfully on Spring milestones now. We are actively looking at code reorganization for this release, but we will be focused on reducing impact to deployers as much as possible.

- Finally, work has started on the SP redesign, though if the new release is the top of Mount Everest, we've basically started researching tickets to Nepal. The work should take further shape over the next few months and allow more of the work to be devolved to the team in certain areas.

5. **AOB**

Finance options paper workshop:

1. Key priority to look at increase in price increase – 2024.

2. Steve to investigate donation options/paypal.
3. Next steps: talk about how we can target new members.
4. Updating the website - recognised that the project is in a different position to as it was 5 years ago.

6. Next Meetings:

Wednesday 10th May
Wednesday 14th June