Minutes of Shibboleth Consortium Board Meeting #111
14th June 2023 – Videoconference

Attendees

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

Apologies

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

Minutes of the previous meeting on 12th April 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	**Closed. Will reopen later in the year if needed.**
107.1	The Board to discuss the possibility of revising the lower membership rates in the near future.	Board	July 2023	**Ongoing. Meeting scheduled on 05.07.23**
108.2	Emily to send over the initial survey results to the Board.	EB	March/April 2023	**Closed.**

109.1	Revise membership documents. Move away from 'charter' language. Look at what it means for a member to join.	Board	July 2023.	**Open – 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.	**Open – Steve to send over a paper with options outlined. In short, this should cost the consortium $4,000 in initial legal work and $800 per year after.**

2. Financial and membership updates

Renewal requests are out up until September, with response rates looking really healthy.

We are waiting 2 confirmations from Akita Bank and Lafayette College from 2022 as well as 3 outstanding payments from: University of Montana, Renater & University of Toronto.

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

Over the last few months, we have onboarded: Harvard university, University of Arizona and IDF connect.

The discussion of developer contracts and % rate increases has concluded in that to protect the interest of members and developers, and to avoid implicating Jisc in future, it is vital the board takes ownership of these decisions.

Short term requirement: the board need to agree a standardised percentage increase for developer contracts to ensure their retention over the next 12 months.

Long-term requirement: the board will commit to developing a comprehensive 3-5 year plan and appropriately briefing developers to ensure their confidence in the long-term viability.

3. Development update

https://shibboleth.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/DEV/blog/2023/06/13/3232989185/June+2023+Update

The first release of the "combined" OIDC stack was completed last month, spanning 4 plugins, a common library, a shared configuration plugin, and the OP and RP plugins. The new design was necessary to allow sharing of the required code and internal system objects that are common to both use cases. The SAML proxying support would have necessitated a similar kind of approach had that not all been already part of the IdP core, so this is a required complication in order to keep these features external, and thus possible to update independently. In the short term this is all more hassle for people, but in the longer term things should solidify and the pace of updates should slow considerably (or at least deliver new features and not just churn).

We have begun to accelerate the pace of work on the backlog to completing IdP V5 and will be pushing hard over the next few weeks to complete whatever is left and make a beta available. Internal "live" testing on real world configurations will start soon. With the OIDC releases done and a few weeks gone by, we will be branching all the plugins and beginning work on porting them to V5. Most plugins will require an update, but there should be few deployer changes needed apart from the same sorts of adjustments common to all of the IdP configuration in a few mechanical areas.

Significant time was spent over the last month reviewing proposals around extending the metric information available, and making some adjustments to how existing metrics are named and reported to align the old with the new. A number of new metrics have been added at Internet2's request to expose information about the configuration, such as metadata sources and filters used and relying party overrides applied. Additionally, a new diagnostic tool has been implemented that exposes a summary of the profile settings applied to particular requests (see Configuration Reporting).

The documentation for V5 has been created and a fair amount of progress cleaning up the V4 material has been made. The space is now public with a warning at the top. My general approach has been to treat the V5 documentation as a description of how a new install would look and feel, to avoid the constant caveats of "if you upgraded from 4.0 or earlier, this is different…". Those operating with older configurations that predate V4.1 will be best served with the V4 documentation that speaks to some of that, or can take the opportunity during this year to modernize things (per this and this). We fully intend and expect that most of the "older" ways of doing this should continue to work.

A first draft of the release notes is done and we are adding to them as we go along. Questions or feedback on them is welcome of course. Notably, the legacy Duo support is being removed (per my announcement) so all deployers need to migrate to Duo's Universal Prompt (via our plugin) or alternatives. Additionally, I have taken the step of marking the SAML 1.1 features as "at risk" in this release, which is a signal that we would like to consider possible removal of that code in a future major version. This is obviously a big step, but we feel it's very warranted because of the very large amount of code it would allow us to remove. There is a real cost to maintaining all that extra code, particularly during code cleanup passes (it's not double, but it's probably 50% more time spent every time we have to review the code base than if it were gone).

Finally, an SP security issue was reported last week and remediated with a patch to one of our libraries this week.

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 – this on hold while we discuss membership rate increase.

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**

Following on from our financial conversation:

- Key priority to look at increase in price increase, 2024. A meeting will be held on 05.07.2023 to discuss this.
- University's need to start paying/ donating for the work they want creating > we need to begin the outreach this year.
- We need to create a framing memo for our current members to advise them of our financial problem/ aid to start the communication channels (TechEx in September '23)
- Look at the possibility for a more technical survey.
- Possibility to Investigate the SP usage.

6. **Next Meetings:**

Wednesday 12th July
Wednesday 9th August