REFEDS Meeting
SRCE, Zagreb, Croatia
Tuesday 31 January 2006

John DYER, TERENA
6 February 2006

PRESENT

John Dyer, TERENA
Licia Florio, TERENA
Brian Gilmore, University of Edinburgh, UK
Christos Kanellopoulos, GRNET/AUTH, GR
Ken Klingenstein, Internet2, US
Thomas Leggenhager, Switch, CH
Mikael Linden, TUT/CSC, FI
Diego Lopez, RedIRIS, ES
Miroslav Milinović, SRCE, HR
John Paschoud, LSE London, UK
Jurgen Rauschenbach, DFN, DE
Milan Sova, CESNET, CZ
Torbjörn Wiberg, Umeå Universitet, SE
Klass Wierenga, SURFnet, NL

Meeting Notes

The third meeting of the REFEDS group has held at SRCE, Zagreb, Croatia. The group reviewed its purpose and the topics on which it should concentrate. It was agreed that REFEDS should stay technology neutral and should deal with generic issues. Discussions on topics such as licence enforcement should be kept on the shib-enable email distribution list. Mikael Linden agreed to forward any relevant messages from the shib-enable list to the REFEDS list.

It was agreed that the group should communicate with the widest possible community on the technology and policy aspects of AA federations.

Issues that have to be addressed in this space are:

- How does one know for sure that a person or institution claiming to be representing a group or country does in fact have the authority to make such an assertion?

- How are levels of assurance mapped between federations that wish to confederate?

- How can one be sure that the members of a federation are actually obeying the federation rules and behaving as they should

- What sort of information do we need to exchange between federations?

It is clear that there are different focuses of priority in the US and Europe. The US is very much concerned with agreeing how the various level of assurance can be mapped between federations. This is of particular concern in the case of Internet2

and the US Federal Government. Ken agreed to send a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding on the topic of exchange of levels of assurance he has with the US Federal Government to the REFEDS list. The MoU deals with issues like what to do it multiple login failures have taken place on an account. The answer it seems is to give this a level-0 of assurance, rather than barring the account. In passing John Paschoud mentioned that the UK government has set out its requirements in the area of exchange of levels of assurance. The UK requirement considers issues such as "confidence" in the organisation taking into account factors like the incorporation.

In Europe a major concern is the protection of attributes so that end users can have some control over what is released and what is not released. [Later it was agreed that a small group of people will get in touch with Data Protection Working Party of the European Commission (WP29) to bring to their attention the work of the NRENs and our wishes.]

It was agreed that REFEDS should produce a guide to building and operating federations and confederations. There are several existing sources from which to draw: the work of AARNet in Australia; a document prepared by Licia Florio for TF-EMC2; work by Torbjörn Wiberg. In this context there was a short discussion on how members of federations can enter into legally binding contracts with the federation itself. In Finland, it is possible for federation members to sign contracts with CSC, but in other cases where the federation is not a legal entity, signing contracts will not be so straight-forward.

It was also agreed that the document should contain material on pushing the process of Identity Management out to the campuses. It should also discuss centralized authentication versus departmental authentication.

Licia agreed to start preparing a framework for the document within one month (by the start of March 2006) and the REFEDS members will then start making more detailed contributions.

Actions

1. Mikael Linden agreed to forward any messages from the shib-enable list to the REFEDS list.

2. Ken to circulate the MoU with the US Federal Government to the REFEDS list

3. A subset of TF-EMC2 members (Diego, Licia, Mikael, John & Torbjörn) to work on making contact with WP 29

4. Licia to prepare framework for "The art of Federations" document, by start of March 2006.