SCHAC status

REFEDS meeting
26 October 2014
Indianapolis, IN, US

What is SCHAC?

- SCHAC, the SCHema for ACademia, is "a collection of schemas that aim to facilitate interoperability among those institutions that decide to use them. SCHAC does not aim to replace the national schemas, but rather it aims to provide a common framework on top of the various national schema."

  - https://wiki.refeds.org/display/STAN/SCHAC+-+SCHema+for+ACademia

- The first release of "SCHAC Individual Attributes Specification" was issued in May 2006. The release defines a set of attributes to describe individuals in the academic and research institutions and contains an appropriate LDAP profile in appendix.

- Work went somewhat dormant on this around 2012, but it used in production in several countries

I Thought SCHAC Was Dead?

- It's not dead.

- It's just resting.

Current SCHAC Editorial Board

- Heather Flanagan
- Pål Axelsson
- Jaime Pérez Crespo
- Peter Schober
- John Paschoud
- Miroslav Milinovic
- Mikael Linden
- Thomas Lenggenhager
- Licia Florio (TERENA)
- Nicole Harris (TERENA)

Task 1: Governance

- "Consult interested parties to create the SCHAC editorial board and to define its governance (this should be a very light-weight approach)"
  - Current Proposal:

The SCHAC Editorial Board will consist of six members nominated by TERENA and serving two-year terms of office. The first formal Editorial Board will have three members serving a one-year term in order to balance future turn over of the board; the other three members will serve in a two-year term of office. Nominations will be announced on the REFEDs mailing list and will take into account any comments received before taking the final decision about the appointments. The SCHAC Editorial Board will act as a panel of experts in determining any changes or future development of the SCHAC schema. Reports of any proposed changes will be discussed through the REFEDS mailing list.

Task 2: Documentation

- Review and consolidate the existing SCHAC documentation to update the namespace: the original namespace urn:mace:terena.org:schac was deprecated in 2011 in favour of urn:schac. This has not been reflected into the SCHAC documents (see http://www.terena.org/activities/tf-emc2/schacreleases.html)
  - Current status: creating a marked-up version of the 1.5.0.b schema, highlighting where references have become unavailable or obsoleted, and adding more information on OIDS
  - This will be sent to the SCHAC editorial board later this week

Task 3: SCHAC Attribute Definition Updates

- Update the current SCHAC attribute definition page (http://www.terena.org/registry/terena.org/attribute-def/) to list OID instead than URN and agree with the SCHAC editorial board whether to leave it where it is or whether to replace it with a link to the SCHAC new specification document to be written.

  - Current status: Sorting out the OID confusion now; expect to have this page updated and moved to the new wiki within the next two weeks

Task 4: Harmonise the Registry

- Harmonise the registry used for SCHAC – to date TERENA runs two registries in parallel:
  - a static html registry: http://www.terena.org/registry/terena.org/
  - and registry tool: https://urnreg.terena.org/browser/ (this one also used to manage TERENA OIDs)

- Note that the two registries also use different OIDs (1.3.6.1.4.1.25178.1.1 and 1.3.6.1.4.1.25178.1.2)

- A decision should be taken with the SCHAC editorial board as to which registry to use.
  - Current status: Editorial board seems to be strongly in favor of the static HTML registry. The OID issue is being resolved.

Task 5: Final Documentation

- Move all existing documentation (SCHAC specifications PDF and SCHAC LDAP Schema) into one single authoritative SCHAC specification containing all the necessary information. The TERENA federated wiki would be a good place for this.

  - Current status: Most of the content from the SCHAC website has been moved into the REFEDS wiki. Items marked DEPRECATED have not been moved.

The End…?

- These five tasks are scheduled to complete by 31 December 2014

- Once the schema is at a reasonable state, the community needs to decide:
    - Do we open up the schema for revision?
    - Do we start the conversation about inclusion of eduPerson?
    - Do we retire the schema?

Q&A