

# Minute of REFEDS Meeting, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011

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## Abstract:

Minutes of the REFEDS meeting held on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Prague, in conjunction with TNC2011. Further details of the meeting and presentations are available at:

[https://refeds.org/work\\_meetings\\_prague.html](https://refeds.org/work_meetings_prague.html).

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## 1. Welcome, previous minutes and actions

Licia Florio (LF) welcomed participants to the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The following outstanding actions were noted:

- saml2int. Nicole Harris (NH) will pick up on this and take forward by discussion on the list.
- Profiling InCommon Silver as a Kantara profile. This will be taken forward as part of the identity assurance workpackage.

## 2. New Proposals

### 2.1 Proxies

Diego Lopez (DL) presented the proposals about proxies; the documents were previously circulated on the refeds mailing list and are now available online. DL noted that the proxies are not meant to replace the federations. One of the main use-cases would be dealing with link resolvers.

Q: can the proxy do provision as well?

A: DL noted that the proxies are meant for resources where there is no demand to identify the real user.

Q: Keeping the configuration up-to-date is an issue. The proposal should have a way to continuously support the update.

A: The idea is to empower the proxy to provide a configuration service. REFEDS would be the best place to run it.

**Action20110515-01:** REFEDS participants to comment on the proxy proposals so that NH and LF can make the recommendations to the sponsors to take them forward.

### 2.2 Federations Boundary Router

Victoriano Giralt (VG) put forward a proposal to create a routing process for federations; this would imply that each entity would expose an interface with their metadata to create a routing information metadata. Klaas Wierenga (KW) noted that it would be better to plan since the start for a more distributed model to avoid single point of failure.

Q: how do you address the risk of having a corrupted but well-format xml metadata?

A: This needs further thinking.

Q: How would you see this working for a shib federation?

A: VG noted that it would be good to get the views of the shib federation people, as VG's main experience is with SimpleSAMLphp.

Q: How is this different from the Bridging Element of GN2/eduGAIN?



A: Maybe not a lot, but it would be good to get the views of eduGAIN's experts on this point.

**Action20110515-02:** VG to circulate a 2-page summary of the federation's boundary router proposal to the list for commentary before NH and LF take to the sponsoring group for approval.

### 2.3 Steven Carmody's Proposal

Steven Carmody (SC) proposed (via the REFEDS mailing list) the creation of a working group to look at the use and the requirements of attributes by Service Provider with a particular focus on attributes that are deemed privacy protecting. There was also a suggestion that REFEDS should look at metadata management tools within federations and their ability to effectively manage complex attribute management.

This is not currently a request for funding, but it should be seen more as a call for participation.

**Action20110515-03:** SC to source possible membership of an attributes group via the REFEDS list and take forward virtual meetings in order to report back to the next meeting of REFEDS.

### 2.4 New Work Areas

It was noted that it would be good to use REFEDS as a mean to discuss how federation operators deal with "sub-federations", that is entities that participate in a national federation but which at the same time wish to have their own federation; an example of this is the university of Malaga.

Ken Klingenstein (KJK) and DL noted that the way attributes are exchanged in this case is something interesting. Niels van Dijk (NvD) noted that in many cases the emphasis is for IdP, whereas maybe the weight should be moved to the SPs.

**Action20110515-04:** NH and LF to consider a sub-federations work area whilst preparing a workplan for 2011/12.

## 3. REF1: Raising the Profile of REFEDS

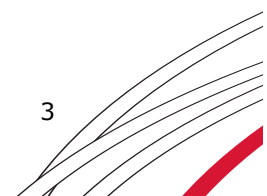
The REFEDS website has been created, which helped establish REFEDS as a group. As part of the process, terms and conditions have also been created; these took into account comments and suggestions previously received and are meant to support contributions.

**Action20111505-05:** REFEDS participants to comment and suggest any changes about the content of the terms and conditions.

## 4. REF2: Effective Federation for Service Providers

NH reported on the "Barriers for Service Providers" document which NH prepared. NH highlighted a number of issues where REFEDS could play an active role; an online voting system was used to gather feedback from the meeting participants.

Some of the issues concerned the governance model of federations, including the



charging model (as in charging SPs versus IdPs), introduction letter (required by some federations before accepting SPs) and liability insurances.

Other proposals covered the possibility of REFEDS hosting a list of software in use in each federation and REFEDS carrying out an analysis on how certificates are currently used.

Mikael Linden (MK) noted that both issues are already covered in the REFEDS wiki in the section called "[Federation survey](#)"; it would be ease to just fill in all the entries to collect the right information.

KJK suggested looking at the usage of personal certs within the current federations.

NvD suggested that REFEDS revisit the idea of offering a central registry of SPs that federations support, although this would need some further consideration to keep it updated.

**Action20111505-06:** NH to circulate the results of the poll on barriers for service providers and final proposals for this work area.

## 5. REF3: Discovery

Focus of the talk was how to engage federation operators and REFEDS to deploy the new discovery extensions. Rod Widdowson (RW) covered the embedded discovery, which requires SPs running software to improve the users' experience (i.e. the login page would have the same look and feel as the SP page etc) as well as discussing developments at the UK federation to improve the central WAYF.

RW noted that the usage of logos in the WAYF pages would require some standardisation and REFEDS could help promote this.

RW also noted that the discovery service should be neutral (no branding) and ideally almost transparent to the users.

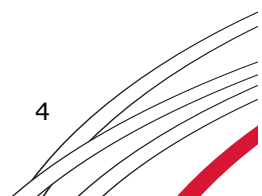
KJK proposed to define a list of topics where REFEDS could help, such as logo, translation of attribute from eduPerson to a more user-friendly language, control and categorisation for keywords etc.

NvD asked if any work was done for the discovery for mobile devices; RW answered that there are plans to look into this, but currently no real results are available.

The main question however would be how likely big SPs are to deploy the embedded discovery. To date there are three main efforts, the embedded discovery, DiscoJuice and the work done in Kantara, but these initiatives do not have a wide liaison with SPs to convince them.

Mark Williams (MW) suggested creating a REFEDS branded guidance falling back on the technologies and the benefits.

LF asked how "eduID" should be considered at this stage. NH's take was that eduID should probably be parked for the time being depending on the response of SPs to the embedded discovery and/or to DiscoJuice.



NvD suggested to close this WP and to move the discussion concerning how to motivate SPs embracing discovery to REF2, as the topic relates to SPs in general. Some of the attendees noted however that getting IdPs on board is not as trivial as it seems, so the problem is broader than SPs.

**Action20110515-07:** NH and LF to solicit comments on the list on whether this WP should be closed.

**Action20110515-08:** NH to summarise and put forward the new proposals for supporting Discovery work.

## 6. REF4 Federation Harmonisation

Andrew Cormack (AC) presented his findings in comparing the EU Privacy Directive and the US FERPA legislation.

The European Commission plans to revise the current Directive. The main motivation is that some parties feel that the current directive is not able to prevent big search engines to collect enormous amount of personal data; however there are some other parties within the European Commission that seem to believe that the directive should be more flexible to make Europe more competitive.

For more information please refer to AC's document circulated over the mailing list.

Q: Do you know if anybody got in trouble for realising personal data outside Europe?

A: No case yet that Andrew is aware of where *\*only\** exporting data was punished, but there have been significant problems when data were exported and the foreign partner then suffered a security breach.

**Action20110515-09:** NH and LF to liaise with AC to upload the paper on the REFEDS website.

## 7. REF5 Interfederation

### 7.1 eduGAIN

ML (in the room) and Valter Nordh (VN - remotely) provided an overview about eduGAIN, which is as of April 1<sup>st</sup> is one of GN3 services. The talk covered the current policy, with particular focus to the opt-in aspect and the related scalability and the deployment of eduGAIN. LoA and attribute release are an important issues; VN noted that there is manpower allocated to eduGAIN and that it would be beneficial for eduGAIN and REFEDS developments in this area to coordinate to ensure synergy.

### 7.2 PEER Project

NH reported on PEER developments. The requirements phase and the definition of the scope was concluded recently. The technical work has been contracted to YACO a Spanish firm; the PR work has been contracted to WAYF; the contracts have been sent and signed. The aim is to finish the core development by the September; if all goes according to the plans PEER's result coincide with the next REFEDS meeting (planned in September).



## 8. Discussion on Work Areas for 2011/12

NH led the group in discussing work areas for 2011/12 in more detail. The following areas were highlighted for integration in a work plan:

- **REF1:** increased engagement with external organisations. REFEDS must engage with external providers but should consider the engagements carefully and set clear goals for collaborative activities in order to maximise benefits and usage of time / funds.
- **REF2:** results of the service provider poll to be taken forward and consider integrating SP side of discovery problem.
- **REF3:** consider mothballing this activity.
- **REF 4:** establish an attributes working group.
- **REF5:** continue work with PEER and eduGAIN. Consider entity targeted information to support eduGAIN deployment around opt-in.
- **REF6:** define new area of work for assurance in collaboration with Kantara and OIX.
- **REF7:** develop a workpackage around the proxy and boundary proposals.

Attendees also asked that workpackage leaders be more formally established for each area, with these leaders becoming the members of the steering committee. Workpackage leaders should establish separate virtual meetings / calls to ensure work is effectively taken forward.

Participants also discussed the importance of reaching out to federations that could not regularly attend REFEDS – NH and LF are looking in to holding REFEDS BOFs in Brazil and at APAN.

## 9. Next Meeting and Agenda Items

The next meeting of REFEDS will be held in Helsinki on: 14th September 2011. Members asked if a meeting over 2-days could be considered with a dinner in between. This would be the preferred pattern for all REFEDS meetings. The following items should be on the agenda for Helsinki:

- Presentation of the new work plan.
- PEER demonstration and proposal.
- Assurance discussion with OIX.
- Presentation by SC / other member of working group on attributes.

**Action20110515-10:** NH and LF to consider the logistics for upcoming meetings.

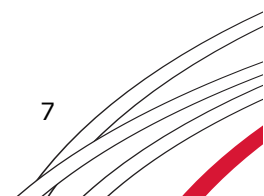
## 10. Summary of Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible	Status
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20110515-01	REFEDS participants to comment on the proxy proposals so that NH and LF can make the recommendations to the sponsors to take them forward.	ALL	Assigned
20110515-02	Circulate a 2-page summary of the federation boundary router proposal to the list for commentary before NH and LF take to the sponsoring group for approval.	VG	Assigned
20110515-03	Source possible membership of an attributes group via the REFEDS list and take forward virtual meetings in order to report back to the next meeting of REFEDS.	SC	Assigned
20110515-04	Consider a sub-federations work area whilst preparing a workplan for 2011/12.	LF and NH	Assigned
20110515-05	REFEDS participants to comment and suggest any changes about the content of the terms and conditions.	ALL	Assigned
20110515-06	Circulate the results of the poll on barriers for service providers and final proposals for this work area.	NH	Assigned
20110515-07	Solicit comments on the list on whether WP3 should be closed.	LF and NH	Assigned
20110515-08	Summarise and put forward the new proposals for supporting Discovery work.	NH	Assigned
20110515-09	Finalise AC's paper and mount and publicise on the website.	LF and NH	Assigned
20110515-10	Consider the logistics for upcoming meetings.	LF and NH	Assigned

## 11. Attendees

Sabita Behari	SURFnet
Christopher Brown	JISC
Andrew Cormack	JANET(UK)
Fernand De Decker	BELNET
Licia Florio	TERENA
Aurelija Gefeniene	Vilnius University / LITNET
Victoriano Giralt	Univ. of Málaga
Maja Gorecka-Wolniewicz	Nicolaus Copernicus University
David Groep	Nikhef & IGTF
Jean-François Guezou	RENATER
Leandro Guimarães	RNP
Mehdi Hached	RENATER
Nicole Harris	JISC Advance



Roland Hedberg	Umeå University
Avgust j	ARNES
David Kelsey	STFC-RAL
Ken Klingenstein	Internet2
Alexei Kourotchkin	Tuakiri, NZ Access Federation
Janne Lauros	CSC
Andres Lepp	Tallinn University of Technology
Mikael Linden	CSC
Diego Lopez	RedIRIS
Sat Mandri	Tuakiri, NZ Access Federation
Lalla Mantovani	GARR
Andre Marins	RNP
Heath Marks	Australian Access Federation
Takuya Matsuhira	Kanazawa University
Miroslav Milinovic	TERENA
Ieva Muraškienė	KTU ITPI / LITNET NOC
Valter Nordh	NORDUnet / GU
Karen O'Donoghue	Internet Society
Christian Panigl	ACOnet
Rok Papež	ARNES
Dubravko Penezic	Srce
Chris Phillips	CANARIE Inc.
Alex Reid	AARNet
Peter Schober	Universität Wien
Brook Schofield	TERENA
Hideaki Sone	Tohoku University
Milan Sova	CESNET
Magnus Strømdal	UNINETT
Hardi Teder	EENet
Stepan Tsaturyan	National Instruments
Niels van Dijk	SURFnet
Joost van Dijk	SURFnet
Mladen Vedriš	Srce
Karel Vietsch	TERENA Secretariat
Torbjörn Wiberg	Swami, Umeå Unversitet
Rod Widdowson	Shibboleth
Klaas Wierenga	Cisco
Mark Williams	JISC Collections
Tomasz Wolniewicz	Nicolaus Copernicus University
Kazu Yamaji	NII (Japan)