2018 REFEDS Workplan

These are the proposed top level areas for the 2018 workplan, drawn from proposals crowdsourced in 2018.

- REF18-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management
- REF18-2: Specialist Working Groups
- REF18-3: Promotion and Communication
- REF18-4: Standards and Specifications
- REF18-5: REFEDS Services

REF18-1: REFEDS Coordination and Management

Lead: Nicole Harris

Aims:
- To progress REFEDS position as an important player within the access and identity management space internationally.
- To build on established relationships with GEANT project, ISOC and Kantara.

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<tr>
<th>WORKITEMS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNED TO</th>
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<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REF18-1A</td>
<td>REFEDS BOFs at appropriate meetings throughout the year (maximum of 2).</td>
<td>Suggestions for where to target BOFs in 2018 welcomed</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/18</td>
<td>12/18</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF18-1B</td>
<td>Maintain and develop the REFEDS blog, wiki and website.</td>
<td>As normal.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/18</td>
<td>12/18</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>REF18-1C</td>
<td>REFEDS annual meetings.</td>
<td>TNC and Internet2 Technology Exchange Meeting.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/18</td>
<td>10/18</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF18-1D</td>
<td>Implement 2018 REFEDS Survey.</td>
<td>Rolling out towards the end of the year seemed to be effective in 2017 and helps feed into the work planning.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>09/18</td>
<td>12/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>REF18-1E</td>
<td>Manage REFEDS contracts with third parties.</td>
<td>These are contracts with external parties that support REFEDS such as Spherical Cow Consulting and RETI.</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/18</td>
<td>07/18</td>
<td></td>
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REF18-1F Manage REFEDS Sponsorships. Current sponsor list. Nicole Harris 12/17 01/19

REF18-2: Specialist Working Groups

Lead: Heather Flanagan

Aim:
- To provide infrastructure and support for evolving ideas and areas in the REFEDS community.

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<tr>
<td>REF18-2A</td>
<td>FOG: Federation Operators Group</td>
<td>Peter Schober with support from Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>REF18-2B</td>
<td>OIDC(re): OpenID Connect for Research and Education</td>
<td>Niels van Dijk with support from Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF18-2C</td>
<td>SIRTFI</td>
<td>Tom Barton with support from Nicole Harris</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td>SIRTFI</td>
</tr>
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Activity to investigate and report on the various ways Identity Federations have implemented incident response handling internally.

The result should provide national federations with insight on what to expect when contacting a peer, and opportunity for alignment and improvement. In addition it could support Sirtifi and eduGAIN e-Science support activities within AARC GEANT projects.

Template for federation operators.

Scoping tools to automate Sirtifi response testing and compliance.
**REF18-2D**  
IdPs of Last Resort  
Pete Birkinshaw with support from Heather Flanagan  
01/2018 - 12/2018  
Un-Affiliated IdP Working Group Draft Annual Report, 2017. Need to consider how to use this in conjunction with Academia to differentiate IdPs.  
Continue on work to define ways of tagging IdPs of Last Resort and defining a specification for minimum requirements of such an IdP within federation environment.

**REF18-2E**  
Assurance  
Mikael Linden with support from Heather Flanagan  
01/2018 - 12/2018  
Work progressing well, second round of consultation planned. MFA profile in place, work on single factor / good entropy expected.  
Various work has been put into better defining the baseline requirements for activity in federations including via InCommon and the REFEDS assurance group. This work will look to operationalise this work in the context of existing federations and eduGAIN.  
Work is underway on baseline expectations for IdPs and an Assurance Wireframe. The assurance working group will continue in 2017. The intention is to expose the assurance profile to a community consultation until end of March and then update the assurance profile and publish it as an AARC deliverable. After that, in AARC2, we probably need to have a small pilot before it can be rolled out.

**REF18-2F**  
Entity Category Support  
Nicole Harris  
01/2018 - 12/2018  
Conduct a post-mortem for entity categories in general.  
Work for REFEDS R&S next steps: R&S2, affiliation, academia  
Abstract attributes:  
- define approaches to abstract attributes to allow groups of attributes to be used.  
- feed into proposals to produce guidelines on attribute release for eduGAIN.  
- create registry of attributes if appropriate.  
Exchanging entity attributes outside of those with global definitions (e.g. R&S, Sirtfi etc) creates a potential for mounting conflict; part of handling this is orchestration and handling. There may also be tags that are defined within a federation, but not cross federation. This creates a vocabulary control challenge. Who handles the responsibilities among the fed ops to consider this and does this need managing? This work area will initially focus on discussion here (best practice), clarifying use cases and create a matrix to inform the discussion. Recommendations on future steps to support this (including potential registries, rules for stripping using MDQ etc.) will be made.  
The existing identifier complexity is maddening. Possibly push for adoption of the Subject-ID spec everywhere an identifier is needed, to reduce complexity for all involved going forward. Replaces eduPersonTargetedID, SAML 2.0 persistent NameID, eduPersonUniqueID and (partially) eduPersonPrincipalName. Might help align with private/public identifiers in OIDC.

**REF18-2G**  
Federation Trust 2.0  
TBA  
TBA  
TBA  
Design, resource, and deploy a global metadata distribution infrastructure for both per-entity and aggregate metadata serving needs, for all federations to use, at global scale.  
Per-entity metadata and dynamic federation ideas force a rethinking of how Federations Operators signify their validation or endorsement of certain metadata statements, and consequently a rethinking of much of the process of operating a federation. Deliverables:  
1. Define workflows that endow trust in dynamic federation metadata, ie, work out operational aspects of Roland’s paper.  
2. Define an architecture or design in which it is easy for each recipient to validate dynamic metadata.  
3. List ramifications for standard federation operating procedures in a dynamic metadata environment.

### REF18-3: Promotion and Communication

**Lead:** Nicole Harris

**Aims:**
- To provide materials and support mechanisms to help federations promote effective approaches to IdPs and SPs.  
- To provide feedback on documents produced by other groups to support clarity of messages.  
- To reach out to target groups where specific messaging could be beneficial.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REF18-3A</td>
<td>Promotional material and support for entity categories</td>
<td>Nicole Harris</td>
<td>04/2018</td>
<td>09/2018</td>
<td>R&amp;S pages updated. Still an outstanding need for a benefits doc to be hosted at: <a href="https://refeds.org/research-and-scholarship">https://refeds.org/research-and-scholarship</a>.</td>
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Consent is used often within identity federations. While on a national level it may be clear what asking and giving consent entails, unfortunately consent does not mean the same thing in various countries as the legal grounds for consent vary. Also there are many ways to implement consent. What makes a good consent page and what does not? When is it (not) user friendly, what should be shown to make it legally usable? What are the best practices around consent globally?

This activity investigates what it means to ask and give consent in various countries. In addition it describes recommendations for 'good' and 'bad' consent pages similar to the REFEDS Discovery Guide.

Include note on how hub and spoke federations manage discovery.

Publisher engagement

It is proposed that concerted effort continue in 2018 to engage publisher groups and tackle some of the wider problems in the publisher space. This will be in coordination with the "RA21" group.

REF18-4: Standards and Specifications

Lead: Heather Flanagan

Aims:

- To provide support for the development of standards and specifications under the REFEDS banner.
- To pilot specification work to support implementation requirements.
- To put in place structures to ensure specification and schema sustainability.

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<tr>
<td>REF18-4A</td>
<td>eduPerson / SCHAC liaison - Work on adding new values to eduPerson (pre-attendance).</td>
<td>Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td>Monitoring, editorial board, response to proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF18-4B</td>
<td>REFEDS RFC Process</td>
<td>Heather Flanagan</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td>Awaiting publication of first RFC!</td>
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REF18-5: REFEDS Services

Lead: Nicole Harris

Aims:

- To continue using MET and enhance where possible.
- To support the basic REFEDS infrastructure needs (website, wiki and mailing lists).

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<tr>
<td>REF18-5A</td>
<td>MET Contract in place with GARR for central operations. Development work to be contracted to RETI (Andrea). New features added and delivered in Oct.</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td>Outstanding decision on EOL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REF18-5B</td>
<td>REEP/PEER Evaluate service and determine what, if any changes are required to maintain</td>
<td>Licia Florio</td>
<td>01/2018</td>
<td>12/2018</td>
<td></td>
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