Steering Committee Notes, 6 December 2021

Attendees

- Heather Flanagan
- Nicole Harris
- Maarten Kremers
- Heath Marks
- Alex Stuart
- Albert Wu
- Pål Axelsson
- Hannah Short

Agenda

1. Administrivia
   a. SC membership
   b. Status of MET
2. CEO Forum proposal - Global T&I Futures WG
3. REFEDS Strategic Plan
4. 2022 Work Planning

Notes

1. Administrivia
   a. SC membership - Thomas Bärecke has been nominated by SWITCH; Hannah Short will be dropping off. All other current committee members have agreed to continue.
   b. Status of MET - rollout started last week; odd intermittent issues with the login button. Since the login didn't work before, we won't roll this back. The dev team is working on this now. Once that's sorted, will consider a SoW for feature enhancements.
2. CEO Forum proposal - Global T&I Futures WG - right now, the document does not set any objectives other than just thinking about the issues so it's not clear what they're trying to achieve.
   a. How does the Fed 2.0 work fit into this?
   b. There are other people playing in this space (e.g., Heath Marks is a CEO of a very successful federation and he is not in that group; research infrastructures are also missing). How do those additional perspectives fit in this closed group?
   c. What may be triggering this: Kevin Mulrooney's concerns about still having difficulty selling the concept of federation as well as understanding that the underlying structure of the trust models of the web will be changing with the browser changes.
   d. We are a very bottom-up organization whereas the CEO Forum is very top-down. We are willing to return feedback, but we are not prepared to endorse the working group directly as that may send a signal that they could tell us what to do. And part of our feedback is that they must include wider representation in their discussions (e.g., research infrastructures) and clarify on what the CEO Forum thinks REFEDS can/should be doing in relation to this working group. Whether REFEDS is further involved after our feedback depends on exactly what the ask will be.
3. REFEDS Strategic Plan - see the Consultation feedback
   a. main feedback - people did not understand primary/secondary audiences. Suggest changing it to stakeholders instead of primary/secondary audiences.
   b. when looking into the feedback about advocacy - advocating for whom? REFEDS? Federations?
   c. generally, there is some language cleanup to do to make sure we're consistent throughout
4. 2022 Work Planning - have not had much feedback on this yet. We are expecting the new strategic plan will inform ongoing and new items for 2022 than we've had in the past.
   a. Pål suggests something more/new/different for OIDC federation work. If we are getting serious in supporting additional protocols in federations, do we need to do some kind of review as to how our various profiles and specs are ready to handle more than just SAML? We need to be more systematic in figuring out what we need to work. The Schema Board is doing something along this direction as they try make eduPerson to be a generic schema with a SAML profile, an LDAP profile, etc.
   b. Albert suggests considering how to develop recommendations for federation integration patterns for major cloud/SaaS vendors. Perhaps also called "How to use proxies in new and interesting ways to handle Microsoft Azure." Federations are differentiated by handling research collaboration; generally, we cannot compete with the enterprise-scale Microsofts and Oktas of the world.
   c. There are potential work items here both for the big picture of how federations handle the threat of large scale entities like Microsoft and Google, and the more hands-on issues of how to technically manage specific integrations.
5. 2022 scheduling
   a. Heather to send out doodle polls for the quarterly SC meetings for 2022

And we all thank Hannah Short for her years of service on the REFEDS SC!

Action items