



Shibboleth Consortium progress update

Since its formal establishment in April 2013, the Shibboleth Consortium has continued to attract new members and secured funding to complete design and delivery of the Shibboleth v3 platform that will carry the community into its second decade.

Existing contributors AConet (Austria), GakuNin (Japan), Haka (Finland), RENATER (France) and NORDUnet (Nordic region) have formally joined founding principals Internet2 (USA), Janet (UK) and SWITCH (Switzerland) as consortium members; with Belnet (Belgium), Carnegie Mellon University (USA) and the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (USA) coming on board for the first time. This has enabled a total of EUR 420K to be raised towards the development of Shibboleth v3 that is scheduled for delivery in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Experience with the software and feedback from our community, has been fed into a comprehensive design process in the direction of extensive modularisation. This will provide a more agile platform capable of supporting evolving requirements more rapidly, such as allowing custom authentication and user interface needs to be met with less code and risk to core functionality.

The key goals of this third-generation platform are easier setup and customization of the user authentication process and post-authentication processes and workflows, improving single-sign out functionality, simpler high-availability configurations, and future support for non-SAML identity protocols such as OpenID Connect. Finally, it is recognised that the upgrade process between versions 2 and 3 needs to be a smooth one.

The project team welcomes questions and discussion about the design and features on its development mailing list (subscription information available at <http://shibboleth.net/community/lists.html>).

The Shibboleth software remains open source and freely available, but further maintenance and development beyond the release version 3 will depend on raising additional funding to meet the expected EUR 550K per year costs. The Consortium Board feels that this amount is needed in order to guarantee maintenance, development and support of Shibboleth in a timely fashion in the future. Failure to raise this will lead to a slower development and support which will detrimentally impact the Shibboleth community, so those making extensive use of the software should therefore consider joining the consortium to ensure its continuity and help shape its future.

A meeting of the Shibboleth Consortium will be held on 20 May 2014 (18.00-20.30) during the TERENA Networking Conference (TNC 2014) in Dublin, Ireland. Both current and prospective members of the consortium are encouraged to attend to hear about the forthcoming v3 release, discuss future plans, and have the opportunity to interact with the consortium principals.



About Shibboleth – Shibboleth is SAML-based open-source software for enabling single sign-on and authorisation to access web services across different organisations. The Shibboleth Consortium was founded by Internet2, Janet and SWITCH to support development and adoption of Shibboleth, and is funded by its member organisations who share this common vision. More information is available on the Shibboleth website at <http://www.shibboleth.net/>