



FALL 2015 MEMBER UPDATE
<https://shibboleth.net>

Colleagues,

Greetings from the Shibboleth Consortium Board! As always, much of the communication related to Shibboleth is peer to peer via our very active community mail list - users@shibboleth.net - which during the last year generated more than 7,500 messages!

This note provides an update on the consortium status and activity during the past year as well as some of what we have planned for the future.

Membership

First, membership in the global consortium continues to expand, and during the year we added Identity Federations Operators, National Research and Education Networks, Virtual Research Organizations, and Individual Research Institutions. Today the membership totals 18 organizations, including:

ACOnet, Belnet, CANARIE, Carnegie Mellon University, CESNET, DFN, European Space Agency, GakuNin, GARR, Haka Federation, HEANet, Internet2, JISC, LIGO Scientific Collaboration, NORDUnet, RENATER, RNP, and SWITCH

Governance

The Board of the Shibboleth Consortium draws exclusively from the membership and developers, and is made up of representatives from principal members, the development team, and general membership (plus the ex officio business operator). Board representation today includes three Principal Members, two at large member seats and one developer seat.

This year we added two new members at large representatives: Lalla Maria Laura Mantovani from the Italian Federation (GARR) and Wolfgang Pempe from the German Federation (DFN). Each was nominated and elected by the membership and we appreciate everyone's interest and participation in the process to ensure a member-driven organization.

If you're interested in becoming more involved, please reach out to any of us (contact information is listed below), you can also move your organization from its current member status to Principal level by increasing your financial contribution by €20,000 annually and have a dedicated board seat to help influence the consortium's future direction and investment.

2015-2016 Consortium Board

Principal Member: Internet2

Principal Member: JISC

Principal Member: SWITCH

Member at Large: DFN

Member at Large: GARR

Developer:

Consortium Manager: (JISC)

Steven Zoppi szoppi@internet2.edu

Josh Howlett Josh.Howlett@jisc.ac.uk

Christoph Witzig christoph.witzig@switch.ch

Wolfgang Pempe pempe@dfn.de

Lalla Maria Laura Mantovani marialaura.mantovani@garr.it

Scott Cantor cantor.2@osu.edu

Justin Knight Justin.Knight@jisc.ac.uk

Financial

We operate on a calendar year for fiscal management; however, memberships are based on 12 month rolling periods based on the month subscribed. Thanks to growing membership, financials held strong during the last year, with membership revenues of £201,000 representing the bulk of income. We have historically managed resources conservatively to ensure multiyear contracts are available for our key development resources (which is the majority of all expenditures) and last year had a one time carry forward of £80,000, offsetting development costs of £260,000. Total operating costs (paid to the consortium operator JISC to provide legal, financial, website and operations services) for this fiscal year are expected to be £42,980. We expect to end the year on budget and within projections with a carry forward larger than last year's which will enable additional development hours if needed. Additionally we expect to ramp up donation contributions from the many individuals and corporations that download the open source Shibboleth software and source code free of charge.

Development

Our current development cycle actually started at the end of 2014 with the long awaited release of the Shibboleth V3 Identity Provider, the result of almost 3 years of active development! The developers did a great job in the final months to get the release out on schedule and have been hard at work on punch list features and rapid response to bugs identified during 2015, producing several patch releases.

The first major feature update is expected within the next few weeks, including dozens of bug fixes and small improvements, and new features such as:

- Expanded client-side session and attribute release consent storage using HTML Local Storage
- SPNEGO/Kerberos authentication support (donated by SWITCH), usable alone or in conjunction with standard password authentication
- Advanced support for SAML-based delegation, originally available in an unsupported extension built on top of V2
- Experimental support for full SAML and CAS Single Logout
- Additional features suggested by customers to ease the installation and configuration of extensions, moving toward a "drop a jar in and run" model
- Performance improvements for database-backed clustering
- Ongoing documentation improvements

In addition to ongoing bug and feature work on the new Identity Provider software, the project has produced two Service Provider patch/security releases and a security release for the V2 Identity Provider.

A final patch for the V2 Identity Provider software is expected around the end of the year to mark the end of non-security maintenance, as we begin the process of retiring that code base, leading to the previously announced end-of-life in July 2016.



Shibboleth®

FALL 2015 MEMBER UPDATE

<https://shibboleth.net>

Future

We expect to see additional federations join our work and will have greater outreach to the commercial sector as we look to broaden the financial support across all those who benefit from the work of our active community. Our membership continues to provide great input and suggestions for new features and integrations. A member of the Internet2 community, University of Chicago, has funded a prototype implementation of OpenID Connect support for the Identity Provider. Design discussion has begun on the next round of authentication improvements focused on multi-factor authentication use cases. And the Trust and Identity in Education and Research (TIER) activity within the United States has begun the process of evaluating improvements needed for its work. Knowing the growth is continuing, we are happy to report that the International Trademark has been issued and updated and is now in effect through 2025 so we have lots of room in front of us!

The entire Shibboleth Consortium Board would like to thank you all for your active engagement, participation, financial support and community focus in the continued evolution of Shibboleth. We look forward to hearing more from you as you deploy the new version and seeing the enhancement have a positive impact on your organizations.

The Shibboleth Consortium Board