

**Minutes of TERENA Technical Committee Meeting
 Tuesday 13 October 2005
 TERENA Office, Amsterdam**

John DYER
 Approved : 20 January 2006

Present

Claudio Allocchio, VP Technical Programme & TTC Chairman
 Andrew Cormack
 John Dyer (TTC Secretary)
 Diego Lopez
 Victor Reijs
 Martin Sutter
 Karel Vietsch
 Steve Williams

TERENA Staff

Licia Florio
 Baiba Kaškina
 Kevin Meynell

Apologies

Valentino Cavalli

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were approved without change.

2. Review of Open Actions from Previous Meetings

Reference		Action	Status
20050401-02	LF	Issue external invitation to tender for server certificate pop-up free proposal.	DONE
20050401-03	LF	Send one page explanation of JRA5/TF-MOBILITY relationship to TTC list.	DONE
20050401-04	LF	Produce a proposal for guidelines for NREns setting up CAs, so as to make them Grid compatible	OVERTAKEN by EVENTS Licia in discussions with David Groep
20050401-07	LF	investigate the availability of speakers and suitable location for a second introductory CAMP in October 2005 and the first advanced level event in Spring 2006	DONE * see note below
20050705-01	JD	Inform TNC2006 PC of TTC suggestions on including arts and humanities applications in programme	DONE
20050705-02	All	Identify arts and humanities groups that are developing novel uses of networks in order that a TNC session might be organised at sometime during the future.	CONTINUES
20050705-03	CA	Relay TTC suggestions on SCS procurement to TEC	DONE
20050705-04	JD	Progress Cotswold proposal through appropriate channels.	DONE

* Note: There was a discussion on the meaning of introductory (base) CAMP and advanced CAMP. Currently no-prerequisite knowledge or experience is mandated as required to register for an Introductory CAMP, although the web page states: *"The target participants of EuroCAMP include CIOs, IT architects and IT managers of universities and research centres across Europe any other persons who are involved in designing campus-wide digital ID systems, representatives of national research and education networks in Europe who are involved in harmonising digital ID systems at a national and international level and any other persons who are involved with digital ID systems in academia"*. The introductory CAMP is primarily a teaching workshop, but is detailed and highly technical in places. The advanced CAMP is slightly different in nature and the workshop is more oriented towards discussion than teaching. It is unlikely that anyone that has not previously participated in an introductory CAMP could participate effectively in an advanced CAMP. It was agreed that Licia would write a definition of the prerequisites for each.

Action 20051013-01: LF – Write definition of prerequisites for CAMPs.

3. Report from the previous TEC meeting (CA)

Claudio reported on the following topics:

- A report on the e-voting software has been reviewed by Sabine Jaume of the TEC. Sabine reported that providing an NREN is willing to sign the appropriate licence agreements, the software can be freely used in the NREN community.
- The document on DANTE/TERENA collaboration has now been completed.
- The TEC discussed the NREN-GRID workshop and the SCS call.
- The TEC approved the appointment of Diego Lopez to the TTC from 3 October 2005 and the re-appointment of Steve Williams as from 23 October 2005, both for 2 years terms.
- The TEC discussed the 2006 TERENA Activity Plan that will be presented to the General Assembly on 23 October 2005.

4. Toward a Global AAI (DL)

Diego Lopez made a presentation on the first steps towards establishing a global Authentication & Authorisation Infrastructure (AAI) as part of the TTC series of focuses on "hot-topics".

Diego started by explaining that he would describe the establishment of identity within the academic community. Going beyond that bound would require additional bi-lateral agreements. Andrew Cormack suggested that the scope of Authentication should include some notion of how the identity is used – for instance the way in which it can be used to protect valuable things. Diego explained that we should be aiming for (in the Spanish language): Bueno; Bonito & Barato (Good; Nice & Cheap). In the academic space there are many solutions that have been developed on a national basis to address specific problems. In passing Diego mentioned solutions from: CH, ES, FI, NL, NO and the UK. Although the details of implementation are different, they are based on similar principles and peer-to-peer compatibility between pairs of these solutions has been demonstrated. In addition to these national based activities the "Grid Community" has become a well established closed user group with its own AAI. The Grid AAI requirement is rather small compared with that of the NREN requirement, with a Grid AAI issuing typically 1000 – 2000 certificates in a well

known and bounded community. Diego is of the opinion that the NREN community has much to offer the Grid community as Grid use grows and needs extra support for their expanded user bases. They will not be persuaded to adopt NREN solutions to AAI by coercion, but should be encouraged by the demonstration of good systems and good practice.

It was noted that in Government AAI space progress has been slow mostly through a lack of awareness of the needs for AAI. The good news is that the situation seems to be changing with some government departments are already talking to the NREN community. In the commercial AAI space there seems to be a lack of perception of the specific academic community requirements. From discussions around the table it seems that there are several commercial AAI installation already running, some have adopted standard solutions and others taken a proprietary approach.

Diego reviewed the technical activities:

eduGAIN

- Intended to be one of the basic services of the next-generation GÉANT
- Not a substitute of existing infrastructures
- Able to provide basic federation glue where they do not exist

Authentication and Authorization Requester-Responder (AA-RR)

- a tool conceived to help in the validation of the interoperability of a certain AA component with others
- Able to impersonate general AAI components
- Driven by profiles
- Protocol agnostic

Schema Harmonisation Committee (SCHAC)

- An extension to the eduPerson schema - taking into account European idiosyncrasies
- Based on a collection of national extensions
- Common requirements have been quickly identified
- A kernel on which to base common agreement on attribute syntax and semantics
- In the process of being completely formalized as a LDAP (and possibly XML) schema

TERENA Academic CA Repository (TACAR)

- A PKI-based web of trust among the global academic and research community
- An important tool for outreach to the Grid Community
- Direct application to the establishment of confederated trust links

NAS-SAML (A TF-Mobility and TF-EMC2 proposal)

- Leverage the credentials used for network access to application access
- Will allow the implementation of a full SSO system
- Explores the compatibility of procedures

In addition to undertaking work in the technical space of AAI, it is essential to reach consensus in the AAI policy space. To that end, the JISC of the UK had called a meeting during late 2004, a gathering that became known as the "Cotswolds Group" (CG) with the aim of establishing a framework for international collaboration of AA systems. The CG has not evolved as fast as expected despite the concrete proposals that have been made on several technical issues. As a consequence, a number of CG attendees met during the summer and autumn of

2005 to plan a way forward. The informal get-togethers have been held adjacent to TERENA meetings and resulted in the formation of the REFEDS (Research & Education Federations) group which has an active email distribution list and dedicated web pages at: <http://www.terena.nl/tech/refeds/index.html>. Discussions with the JISC indicate that they wish to continue with the policy and lobbying activities originally for the CG. There is agreement between the JISC and TERENA to ensure collaboration between any future CG activities and the work of REFEDS. It is apparent from the widespread interest and contribution to the REFEDS work that TERENA is increasingly perceived as a natural and impartial forum in which to develop consensus in this area.

In concluding his presentation, Diego suggested future AAI activities in TERENA should include:

- Providing continued support for AAI in TF-EMC2 and TF-MOBILITY
- Developing synergies for AAI work with other activities such as: E2E, VVC, CSIRT, NGN
- Funding for spin-off projects such as NAS-SAML
- Replicating the eduroam and TACAR models for other services such as: TACAR-enhanced trust building; Global HLS-WAYF; Schema repository; Diagnostic systems; Interoperability tools
- Proactively assume the catalyst role in the AAI international arena, enhancing the TERENA involvement in CG, REFEDS and the Grid community
- Outreach to potential user and adopter communities including: Non-active members of the TERENA community; Libraries; e-learning; Healthcare and Administrative Groups. EuroCAMP is seen as the perfect vehicle for this
- Collaborate with groups with similar goals including: I2, EDUCAUSE, EUNIS and GGF.
- Disseminate results widely including targets such as: the European Commission; Commercial companies and forums

After some discussion by the TTC in which members expressed their agreement with the conclusions, Claudio suggested the organisation of a 90 minute BOF during TNC 2006 with the time being split equally between 4 presentations and a 45 minute discussion session.

Action 20051013-02: AC – Convey the proposal for an AAI BOF at TNC 2006 to the Programme Committee.

Action 20051013-03: LF – Check the status of the TERENA membership application to the Liberty Alliance.

5. Further TTC input to TNC 2006 (JD)

Licia Florio mentioned the Gigi Karmous-Edwards of MCNC (US) has suggested a session on the "Control-Plane", in particular, she has offered to provide a tutorial. The feeling of the TTC was that although such a session would be useful, scheduling yet another event in an already busy week would be difficult. The proposal will be passed on to the TNC 2006 Programme Committee.

Action 20051013-04: AC – Convey the proposal for a Control-Plane session at TNC 2006 to the Programme Committee.

6. Real-Time Group Communication - Document Review (SW)

Steve Williams led a review of the document: "Recommendations on Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services in Support of International Projects" by Egon Verharen & Erik Dobbelsteijn of SURFnet. The 29 page document starts with an introduction to why the document was written and an analysis of the starting points. There is a comprehensive survey of what is available, including notes on: platform support; user friendliness; interoperability and security etc. Chapter 3 provides a simple strategy for projects to determine what can be used for their group collaboration.

Steve focussed mainly on chapter 4 (Available Services) and chapter 5 (Recommendations on organizing collaboration services) requesting the TTC to provide feedback to the authors. In chapter 4, there is a report on a survey of NRENS that provide service suggesting that there is plenty of physical capacity that is freely available to provide "Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services", but uptake is limited by lack of awareness of what is available.

Chapter 5 makes recommendations:

- TERENA provides basic information on including a procedure for acquiring/setting up tools as starting point for distributed research or project groups – Such information should be made freely available.
- TERENA collects and disseminates information on where to 'shop' for free resources and possibly acts as a broker/facilitator/coordinator
- TERENA proactively involves itself in buying and offering "Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services"

The TTC rejected the last of these recommendations on the basis that there is already sufficient capacity in the community and for TERENA offer additional capacity in competition with NRENS would not be in the interest of the community. There was a suggestion that TERENA could potentially add value by coordinating the cascading of MCUs to support very large conferences. This might help in resolving political and/or organisational issues on a pan-European scale.

It was generally agreed that a "one-stop-shop" for information on equipment and service availability is a vital component needed to increase the uptake of "Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services". This information is not currently available in one place and is a role that TERENA should take on as a matter of urgency. The information on the availability of international facilities should be actively promoted to all NRENS with encouragement for them disseminate to their end users. An impromptu review of some European NREN websites during the TTC meeting revealed that several do not make it clear that International video-conferencing is available as part of their service offering even though TTC members knew this to be the case. It was noted that SURFnet did provide a clear indication that such International facilities are available to their users.

There was a discussion on how best to disseminate the information. The general TTC view is that current document is rather long for general circulation. Martin Sutter highly praised Chapter 3 "Deciding what system to use" and suggested it be circulated to all NRENS as a stand-alone document.

Action 20051013-05: TERENA – produce a stand-alone version of Chapter 3 "Deciding what system to use" and circulate to all NRENS

Andrew Cormack suggested that a condensed version of the document should be updated published at intervals as a PDF information source. It was agreed that this would be useful to the community, but it would require a long-term commitment if it is to be effective. It was suggested support for the work might legitimately come from the GN2 project. It was agreed that TERENA should investigate a funding source and put the work in hand so as to produce an updated version of the current document by late 2006.

Action 20051013-06: TERENA – Identify a funding source to provide regular updates to a condensed version of the document “Recommendations on Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services in Support of International Projects”

It was agreed that the current version of the document should be condensed and published.

Action 20051013-07: SW/BK – Liaise with document authors to condense the current version of the document and publish online

7. NREN-Grids Workshop (JD)

John Dyer reported on the status of preparations for the NREN-Grids workshop that is scheduled to take place on Monday 17 October 2005 at Schiphol Airport. At the time of the TTC there were more than 50 registrations widely representing the community and industry. The programme focuses primarily on AAI with the topic of Schedulable deterministic end-to-end pipes also being discussed.

8. GNRT – Next Edition (2006) (JD)

The GNRT (Guide to Network Resource Tools) has been published by TERENA on the website for several years. The version currently on display was a major revision from previous editions, entailing a complete re-write. Additionally TERENA took the step of moving from a large number of interlinked HTML pages to a database driven system. The advantage of this is that it makes modular updating of the content much more manageable. The TTC were given the contents list of the latest edition and requested to suggest new topics for the next edition to be produced during 2006. The list of suggestions is as follows:

Copyright and Legal Issues	File sharing
Peer-to-Peer	Filtering for Schools
Spam section - add phishing	Eduroam
Grid – New stand-alone section	Wireless including set-up and safe use (based on UKERNA fact sheet)
DSP	Wiki
Blog	Distributed computing including: Seti@home / climateprediction.net / oxford cancer drug exploration
Add section on proxies to basic networking concepts	Check for mail web-clients
Need to update software section	Adware / malware / spyware
Mobile devices	IR / Bluetooth / USB / Firewire
Web cams	Remote monitoring
IP/DVB	

9. Review of Progress in the TERENA Activities (PDOs)

The TTC received brief verbal reports on the progress in the TERENA Task Forces and on the external projects. The issues of note are:

Kevin Meynell would like to broaden the attendance base of TG-NGN to bring in more University / Research staff and members of the commercial sector. In order to be successful in this respect, TERENA will have to become more aggressive with its PR.

Baiba Kaškina mentioned that TF-VVC will hold two face-to-face events in Utrecht, the Netherlands. A HQ workshop will take place on 7th November and the 6th TF-VVC meeting will take place on 8 November. A registration reminder is being sent to the TAC email distribution list.

10. Any other Business (CA)

Andrew Cormack mentioned that UKERNA held an IPv6 workshop during September 2005 covering topics such as: An overview & history of IPv6; IPv6 services; Transition tools and tunnelling; Routing and multicast. The two half-day event was massively popular in the UK being several times over subscribed so UKERNA intend to repeat the event several times. Andrew asked if there would be any call for such an event within the wider TERENA community. John Dyer thought that such an event might be useful to support the GN2-NA4 work if a particular country or region required IPv6 training specifically. John agreed to talk to Valentino Cavalli, the GN2-NA4 project manager for this action.

Action 20051013-08: JD – Discuss the possibility of utilising the UKERNA IPv6 workshop to support GN2-NA4 less-developed NRENs

Kevin Meynell agreed to raise the issue at the next TF-NGN meeting and see if there are any further suggestions on how best to capitalise on the UKERNA material.

Action 20051013-09: KM – Raise use of UKERNA IPv6 workshop material at TF-NGN

Martin Sutter reported on the results of the presentation on E2E and Campus issues that he made to TF-EMC2 in Barcelona in September. Martin will take the ideas he received and incorporate them into a revision of his paper which will be presented at TNC 2006. Martin agreed to present the revision to the TTC at the next meeting.

Action 20051013-10: MS – Prepare a revised E2E and Campus Issues paper for the next TTC meeting where it will be presented.

Date of Next Meeting

The next TTC meeting will take place on Friday 20th January 2006

**Summary of New and Open Actions
as of 13 October 2005**

Reference		Action	Status
20050705-02	All	Identify arts and humanities groups that are developing novel uses of networks in order that a TNC session might be organised at sometime during the future.	CONTINUES
20051013-01	LF	Write definition of prerequisites for CAMPs.	NEW
20051013-02	AC	Convey the proposal for an AAI BOF at TNC 2006 to the Programme Committee.	NEW
20051013-03	LF	Check the status of the TERENA membership application to the Liberty Alliance.	NEW
20051013-04	AC	Convey the proposal for a Control-Plane session at TNC 2006 to the Programme Committee.	NEW
20051013-05	(T)	produce a stand-alone version of Chapter 3 "Deciding what system to use" and circulate to all NRENS	NEW
20051013-06	(T)	Identify a funding source to provide regular updates to a condensed version of the document "Recommendations on Real-Time Group Communication & Collaboration Services in Support of International Projects"	NEW
20051013-07	SW BK	Liaise with document authors to condense the current version of the document and publish online	NEW
20051013-08	JD	Discuss the possibility of utilising the UKERNA IPv6 workshop to support GN2-NA4 less-developed NRENS with VC	NEW
20051013-09	KM	Raise use of UKERNA IPv6 workshop material at TF-NGN	NEW
20051013-10	MS	Prepare a revised E2E and Campus Issues paper for the next TTC meeting where it will be presented.	NEW