

Informal Meeting to discuss the way forward on the development of
Cotswold-Group Proposal in TERENA

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John DYER
Licia FLORIO

An informal meeting of interested parties took place in Poznan, Poland during TNC 2005.

Those present were:

Lief Laaksonen (LL), CSC, Finland
Diego Lopez (DL), RedIRIS, Spain
Ken Klingenstein (KK), Internet2, US
Klaas Wierenga (KW), Surfnet, Netherlands
Licia Florio (LF), TERENA
John Dyer (JD), TERENA

Ken Klingenstein briefly reported on the history of the Cotswold activity and advised that the seven federation members of the Cotswold Group (CG) have agreed to commit funds to move this work forward. The major objective being to develop a framework in which to interconnect and allow interoperability between Federations.

Ken reported that Internet2 had contracted someone to start work on a cookbook.

John Dyer reported that Malcolm Read has approached TERENA and discussed the possibility of TERENA managing some activity for the CG. TERENA has started investigating what should be done and is currently working on a costed proposal that can be considered by the CG. The important first step must be to identify the scope and limits of what TERENA is expected to deliver. TERENA cannot agree to an undefined open-ended commitment. If TERENA enters into a contractual commitment with the CG for a set of deliverables, any external effort contributed by CG members must be committed to TERENA under formal and enforceable agreements.

John suggested a phased approach to the work. Phase 1 would be a one year stand-alone project in which the viability of a sustained activity should be ascertained. If at the end of the first year the initiative appears to be unsuccessful then further work will be abandoned.

The relevant TERENA groups that could assist in develop this activity were discussed. These include TF-EMC2 (the TERENA task force on European Middleware Coordination & Collaboration), in particular the work of the Schema Harmonisation Committee (SCHAC). The work of GN2-JRA5 and TF-MOBILITY are also relevant.

Whilst it was noted that GN2-JRA5 are developing an AAI for the Higher Education and Research Community in Europe this will be rather technical in scope within a framework of rules rather than high-level policy. The work proposed by the CG will be much broader and will be high-level. It is essential that the CG draws on the progress and outcomes of GN2-JRA5; similar initiatives such as

Internet2/Incommon, and other regional initiatives. It is important to stress that the CG work is not in competition with these initiatives, but builds upon them.

If the proposed work is to be undertaken by TERENA, it will be organised as a funded project. The reason for this is that although the expected result will be of benefit to the whole TERENA community (and beyond), in the earlier stages it will be funded and steered by the small CG community. It is not appropriate to undertake the work in a standard TERENA task force, which by definition is open to all. The active members of the CG project will however liaise closely and work with the appropriate TERENA task forces.

Phase 1 Deliverables

- COOKBOOK - Already being handled by Internet2 community and therefore not part of the TERENA proposal.
- ROADMAP - the steps needed to put in place a framework that will allow the interconnection and interoperability of federations. This will include a survey of the seven CG federations to ascertain how they operate and relate to internal bodies such as government/health/....
- FACILITATOR ROLE - TERENA will propose to provide secretariat support for the CG. This will include a dedicated website with an appropriate domain name and e-mail distribution lists. Branding for the activity including a logo and printed PR material. TERENA will assist in developing the organisational structures needed to implement this CG activity.
- COORDINATION - provision of collaborative links between CG and TERENA activities such as TF-EMC2, SCHAC and relevant external groups such as EuroGridPMA.
- OUTREACH - The CG will need to reach out to Grid activities and keep them informed of the developments undertaken in the CG group. If they are going to use the new Grid software, then they could use the trust models that are being developed by CG. In the short-term we could advise them with their existing infrastructure. It will also be important to be involved in the e-IRG and target inclusion of the CG work in future editions of the e-IRG White Paper.
- POLICY - Will primarily describe an admission policy and process for additional federations to be admitted (in phase 2 and beyond). Issues of privacy, level of assurance and liability will also be addressed. In addition the policy should address how setup a league of federations.

GENERAL POINTS and ACTIONS

It should be noted that any formal agreement to proceed needs prior approval of the TERENA Management Board (TEC).

It was agreed that the group would need to identify a day-to-day contact in the JISC.

Action: 20050608-01 (JD): Contact Malcolm Read of the UK, JISC and ask him to nominate a day-to-day contact for the group in JISC.

Action: 20050608-02 (JD): Obtain a list of active members of the CG group.

The members of the meeting agreed to form the management board for the activity until more formal structures are put in place.

It was agreed that the work of the CG will be most effectively undertaken by a group approach. This means that members of the CG will need to actively contribute to the work of TERENA and its partners.

Action: 20050608-03 (JD): It was agreed that TERENA should contact Malcolm Read of the JISC and discuss with him the ideas proposed by this group. Subject to Malcolm's agreement to the work items, TERENA will prepare a costed proposal.

Action: 20050608-04 (LF, DL, KW, KK, JD): Further develop the details of the work items for phase 1.

It was agreed that this group should meet again privately in conjunction with the next TF-EMC2 meeting, scheduled for 8-9th September 2005 in Barcelona

Action: 20050608-05 (LF) Schedule meeting.