



## **REFEDs Workshop**

**18 May 2008**

Bruges, Belgium

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### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Representatives from most of European NRENs, US, Australia, Canada, Japan and Brazil attended the REFEDs meeting on Sunday 18 May, 2008. Unfortunately nobody from SWITCH could attend the meeting.

Diego Lopez welcomed the attendees and gave a brief overview on REFEDs. Both Diego and Ken Klingenstein stressed the main aim of the meeting, being to agree on how to proceed with REFEDs in the future. REFEDs has been meeting more or less formally for more than two years, so it was felt that time has come to agree on more concrete actions.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved, even due to time constrains only part of the agenda was addressed; the more technical issues initially planned in the agenda could not be covered.

### **3. Summary of the Agenda Items discussion**

The first part of the meeting opened with a review of the use cases for inter-federation collaboration.

The main use cases were agreed to be:

- Reducing the number of credentials for users for them to grant access to different applications;
- Accessing collaborative applications such as wikis, Microsoft Sharepoint and others in a federated fashion; on this topic Ingrid Melve showed the current work on wikis carried out in UNINETT, see for more details: [rnd.fedide.no](http://rnd.fedide.no).
- Network access (eduroam);
- Interacting with the Grid projects;
- Leif Johansson suggested also looking also at how to combine calendars and wikis. It would be helpful for instance to feed Doodle (or foodle) with the calendars of the people that attempt to create a meeting. In this way only the free days for each participants would be available.

The collaboration with the government was also address and concerning this the following was reported:

- In some countries (mainly the Scandinavian countries) a closer cooperation between the HE federations and the government has started. Ingrid reported that the Norwegian government will require a two-factor authentication for electronic access; one the factors will be FEIDE authentication system.
- Alex Reid reported that also the Australian Access Federation is looking at how to cooperate with the Australian government (especially other education sectors), but they do not know yet which model would suit them best;
- David Simonsen reported that the Danish government has published some SAML specifications (he will circulate the URL). In Denmark there is a lot of attention to privacy issues and to get consensus from the users on what a site is allowed to disclosure;
- Jens Haeusser reported that the Canadian government is also involved in setting up a federation.

It was suggested REFEDs to get in touch with the Liberty Alliance government working group.

Action: It was agreed that the REFEDs group should collect (on the REFEDs wiki) the various uses cases. Everybody to upload their use cases on the refeds wiki or to contact Licia. Leif agreed to contribute government use cases.

It was also agreed that for the time-being REFEDs activity should only focus on non-commercial collaborative use cases.

### **a. Federation Soups**

Under this topic the way in which federations coexist and interact within a country was discussed. The main models discussed were:

- "Classical" federations: in this model users trust their IdP, which establish relationships with one or more SPs;
- Leveraged federations: within a federation there might be smaller sub-group, which agrees to share some policies that do not apply to the all federation;
- Peering of federations: agreements between two federations or between some of the members of the federations;
- Confederation of federations: different federations agree to share some common policies (see eduroam case);
- Interfederation: similar to the confederation, but with less formal agreements in place (see

the Kalmar Union).

### **b. LoA and Attributes**

The discussion moved on how attributes should be managed within a federation and in the case of inter-federation collaboration. In what concerns attributes the main issue identified as being attributes aggregation collected from different repositories.

Leif also pointed out that currently there is no organisation to review, collect and make schemas available. Schema registries, which would solve the latter issue do not seem to work properly. It was agreed that it would be important to address this point, but no real consensus on how to move forward was reached.

### **c. The legal side of federations**

Nicole Harris reported on the study funded by JISC about analysing various federation policies to understand whether there are legal reasons to have so many differences in policy documents. Although the study is not finished yet, one of the main results is that no real legal reason seems to be the cause for mayor differences in the federation policies; therefore policies documents could converge more and look more alike. This would bring the benefit of making policy comparisons easier. Having more alike policies would make it easy to compare them among each other.

The final report, which should be available by the end of 2008, will contain proper recommendations on which information federation policy documents should include.

In the discussion that followed it was suggested and agreed that REFEDs should work to define an RFC template for federation policies (currently there is no such a thing), similar to the one used for PKI CP/CPS. Such a document should then be discussed and approved within the IETF. Leif pointed out that this would be a case of individual submission, which requires a sponsoring IETF area director (AD).

Action: Nicole to talk to Jason Campbell (who is working on the JISC study) to use his document as base for the RFC. Nicole will inform the list when the final document is ready. Leif and Milan to help with the RFC preparation

Action: Ken to contact two IETF people and ask for a sponsoring AD.

Diego asked whether such a template for polices would be understood outside the academic community. It would be good if REFEDs would get some feedback on the RFC outside the academic community. Elsevier was proposed as one of the good candidates to provide feedback.

Action: Elsevier was asked to provide a short text that could be added to the federation contracts.

Andrew Cormack presented his paper on FAM (Federated Access Management).

A draft version of the document, created by Andrew, Eva Kassenar (former SURFnet) and the

Walter Tveter (UNINETT) was already circulated on the REFEDs list in the first months of 2008. Andrew asked what to do next with the paper. As the document tries to cover how the rules of the European Directive on Privacy and Electronic Communications (95/46/EC) apply to federated access management systems, it was agreed to ask the Article 29 Working Party to provide some comments and recommendations. To increase chances of success, it was suggested to contact the Article 29 Working Party under TERENA umbrella.

Action: Andrew and Licia to prepare the letter to send to the Article 29 Working Party.

The FAM document could be also be used as a first attempt to define requirements for a model of inter-federations collaboration.

Action: As result of the discussion that followed, Licia was asked to start working on a REFEDs recommendation document for interconnection of federations.

The work should include all available material, such as Andrew's FAM document, the Kalmar Union's Memorandum of Understanding and others.

#### **d. Future of REFEDs**

Everybody agreed that REFEDs has provided a framework where discussions on federations issues could take place. To make sure that REFEDs continues in the future it was agreed It was agreed to create a steering committee to take up the action to turn REFEDs in a more structured and formal body with a proper branding and a more prominent website.

The following people were appointed to be part of the steering committee are:

- Nicole Harris (JISC)
- Ingrid Melve (UNINETT)
- Leif Johanson (University of Stockholm)
- Licia Florio (TERENA)
- Josh Howlet (JANET(UK))
- Ken Klingenstein (Internet2)
- Jaap Kuipers (SURF)
- Thomas Leggenhager (SWITCH)
- Bob Morgan (Internet 2)

TERENA was asked to coordinate this activity in more formal way. The steering committee will draft a description of work and we discuss it with TERENA. If needed, some of the NRENs attending the meeting offered to fund TERENA work.

Part of the work the steering committee will focus on investigating the possibility of acquiring a .org domain (for instance federations.org) to host refeds activities, including the refeds wiki currently hosted by RedIRIS.

The main focus of REFEDs was agreed to be policy issues especially in what concerns inter-federations collaboration.

Action: Licia to set up a mailing list for the steering committee

Action: The Steering Committee to prepare the REFEDs description of work on time to be

discussed during the TERENA Technical Committee meeting in July 2008.

#### 4. Date of Next Meeting, AOB and Close

It was agreed to try and collocate the next REFEDs meeting with TF-EMC2 meeting. Provisionally dates for those two meeting are: Nov 12-14, location to be confirmed. Victoriano Giralt (UMA) will explore whether it is possible to invite representatives of the people involved in the Bologna process.

#### 5. Action List

Reference	Who	Action	Status
20080518 - 01	All	It was agreed that the REFEDs group should collect (on the REFEDs wiki) the various uses cases. Everybody to upload their use cases on the refeds wiki or to contact Licia. Leif agreed to contribute government use cases.	Not started
20080518 - 02	Leif and Milan	To help with the RFC preparation;	Not started
20080518 - 03	Nicole	To talk to Jason Campbell (who is working on the JISC study) to use his document as base for the RFC. Nicole or Jason to report to the group when the final document is be ready.	Not done
20080518 - 04	Ken	To contact IETF people and ask for a sponsoring AD.	Not done
20080518 - 05	Ale	To provide a short text that could be added to the federation contracts.	Not done
20080518 - 06	Andrew and Licia	To prepare the letter to send to the Article 29 Working Party.	Done
20080518 - 07	Licia	To start working on a REFEDs recommendation document for interconnection of federations. The work should include all available material, such as Andrew's FAM document, the Kalmar Union's Memorandum of Understanding and others.	Not done
20080518 - 08	Licia	To set up a mailing list for the steering committee (SC)	Done
20080518 - 09	SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To create a document that describes the work to be undertake for REFEDs;</li> <li>- To agree on the domain name to acquire;</li> </ul>	Done

**List of Participants**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Heather	Boyles	Internet2
Andrew	Cormack	JANET(UK)
Ajay	Daryanani	RedIRIS / Red.es
Ale	de Vries	Elsevier
Licia	Florio	TERENA
Victoriano	Giralt	University of Malaga
Lisa	Golka	Univ. of Stuttgart
Maja	Gorecka-Wolniewicz	Nicolaus Copernicus University
Jens	Haeusser	University of British Columbia / edupass.ca
Nicole	Harris	JISC
Leif	Johansson	Stockholm university
Christos	Kanellopoulos	GRNET - AUTH
Ari	Kekäläinen	Savonia University of Applied Sciences
Yasuichi	Kitamura	APAN
Ken	Klingenstein	Internet2
Nate	Klingenstein	Internet2
Jaap	Kuipers	SURFnet
Mikael	Linden	CSC, the Finnish IT Center for Science
Diego	Lopez	RedIRIS
Ingrid	Melve	UNINETT
Miroslav	Milinic	TERENA TEC / Srce (CARNet)
Janos	Mohacsi	NIIF/Hungarnet
Dubravko	Penezic	Srce
Marios	Pieri	BOC Oncology Center
Juergen	Rauschenbach	DFN-Verein
Alex	Reid	AARNet
Candido	Rodriguez	RedIRIS
Noemi	Rodriguez	RNP
David	Simonsen	WAYF - Where Are You From
Hideaki	Sone	NII / Tohoku University
Magnus	Strømdal	UNINETT
Mark	Tysom	JANET(UK)
Dieter	Van Uytvanck	Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics
Mladen	Vedriš	Srce
Dubravko	Voncina	Srce
Glenn	Wearen	HEAnet
Torbjörn	Wiberg	Umeå Universitet/SWAMI
Klaas	Wierenga	Cisco Systems
Stefan	Winter	RESTENA
Tomasz	Wolniewicz	PIONIER/Nicolaus Copernicus University
Ian	Young	SDSS, University of Edinburgh