



**The TERENA Academic CA
Repository**

The Case for the Repository

- A common academic root had shown unfeasible
 - Policies with incompatible purposes and even basic principles
 - Application limitations in the certificate verification procedues
 - Extending the infrastructures usually means cumbersome resigning processes
- A PKI-based web of trust among the European academic community
 - And beyond!
- Based on two basic principles
 - Keep it simple
 - Let it happen
- Oriented to act as a trust anchor
 - Applicable in different environments

Current Status

- Policy approved
 - Including sample documents
 - What PKIs can participate
 - How data are incorporated, modified and distributed
 - Procedures for changing the policy itself
- Certificates being collected
 - Fourteen CAs (NRENs and Grid communities)
 - Direct liaison to the EUGridPMA
- Extending application domains
 - eIRG endorsement
 - EGEE
 - The *Evolvable PKI* group (Internet2)



What the TACAR Currently Provides

- A trusted source for
 - Root certificates
 - Policies
- The repository is built and updated by means of out-of-band methods
 - Face-to-face meetings
 - Required for the initial incorporation
 - PGP-enabled mail
- (Optional) bundles of available certificates
 - Problems detected with certain combinations of formats and browsers
 - Contacts with the Mozilla Foundation

What the TACAR Can Provide in the Future

- A single authoritative source for certificates and policies
 - Simplification of maintenance procedures
- A means for extending (and reinforcing) trust links
 - Grid community
 - Other geographical areas
- A model to experiment with
 - Direct installation of pre-bundled certificates
 - Peer-based models (a la GridPMA)
 - Qualified and unqualified
 - Bridge and bridge-like approaches
 - Possible integration with the Certificate Parsing Server
 - External servers for PKI operations
 - Simplify trust evaluation



What the TACAR Needs to Evolve

- Operational support
 - The TERENA project officers act as trust link initiators
 - Policy and procedures supported by the TF-AACE group
 - And, hopefully, by the coming TF-EMC
 - Direct collaboration with the EUGridPMA
- Actual applicability
 - The TACAR is hosted at the TERENA premises
 - Requirements on site access control and certificate
 - Grid projects
 - Contacts with open-source browser developers
- A touch of experiment
 - Inside the coming TFs
 - As base for GN2 services
 - In collaboration with other communities