

**Meeting to explore the way forward on federations  
Barcelona  
Wednesday 7 September 2005**

John DYER, TERENA  
11 September 2005

**PRESENT**

Ken Klingenstein	Internet2, US
Bob Morgan	Internet2/Washington University, US
Ton Verschuren	SURFnet, NL
Klass Wierenga	SURFnet, NL
Licia FLORIO	TERENA
John DYER	TERENA
Thomas Leggenhager	Switch, CH
Mikael Linden	TUT/CSC, FI
Ingrid Melve	UNINETT, NO
Manne Miettinen	CSC, FI
Jurgen Rauschenbach	DFN, DE
Martin Sutter	SWITCH, CH
Terry Morrow	JISC, UK
Diego Lopez	RedIRIS, ES

**INTRODUCTION**

Late in 2004, the UK JISC called a meeting of countries that were in advanced stages of implementing federations. The objective of that meeting was to identify ways in which federations could interwork in a coherent manner. Early in 2005, Malcolm Read and TERENA discussed ways in which this might be organized in the context of the TERENA technical programme. TERENA organized an in-promptu meeting at TNC 2005 of interested parties in order to define a list of action items. This list comprised of the following:

- **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 operational federations to ascertain how they operate and relate to internal bodies such as government/health/....
- **FACILITATOR ROLE** - TERENA will propose to provide secretariat support through TF-EMC2. This will include a dedicated web pages. We intend to promote this work through EuroCAMP and other events such as TNC.
- **COORDINATION** - provision of collaborative links with relevant external groups such as EuroGridPMA, GN2-JRA5, national AAI initiatives such as those proposed by the JISC, etc.
- **TECHNICAL ELEMENTS** - We need to define technical mechanisms for the participating federations to interoperate. Besides this technical work, we need to define rules, which we believe translates into policy.
- **POLICY** - Will primarily describe an admission policy and process for additional federations to be admitted. Issues of privacy, level of assurance and liability will also be addressed. In addition the policy should address how set-up a league of federations.

Ken noted that it was important to include support for multi-national VO's and should address topics such as: VO registries for objectclasses; service centers for campuses that can't support VO's, etc.

The list of action items was sent to Malcolm at the JISC shortly after TNC with the suggestion that the original Cotswold Group members decide if the list represented the work items that needs to be undertaken. On 19 July 2005, Malcolm contacted TERENA to say that he did not wish to proceed with the TERENA proposal with the comment "The main reason is that our requirements are for policy and "proslitising" activities and not a technical role".

TERENA very strongly believes that there is a need to develop the technical and policy solutions in tandem. As a consequence TERENA suggested holding a second informal meeting of key members of the global community when many of the actors would be together at the TERENA TF-EMC2 meeting in Barcelona (8-9 September 2005). These notes contain the highlights of those discussions.

## **MEETING NOTES**

Ken Klingenstein reported that many initiatives are well underway in particularly he mentioned work in Elsevier that now included drop-down menus in their GUI. He also mentioned that Incommon is in discussions with the US Federal Government on how to handle federations of federations. He also point out that the Australians have recently released a rather radical proposal on "how to do federations". Finally he mentioned that there will be a full day workshop on multi-federations during GGF15 in Boston October 3-6, 2005.

Ton Verschuren reported that SURFnet are involved in a Shibboleth pilot between a Dutch Library and Elsevier.

It was also noted that the Belgians, Canadians and Australians now have federations and in the US there will soon be a firm statement of Authentication requirements for the Grid community.

Members of the group agreed that there is very little time in which to develop a cohesive strategy and the idea of undertaking an extended piece of work is no longer the best way forward. It was agreed that what is needed right now is a list of immediate action points.

It was agreed that the following principles be adopted:

- Grid people should not talk about AAI independent of what we can offer them.
- We need to develop a global Academic Community view and speak to the commercial AAI world with a common voice, particularly on topics including liability issues and interfaces.
- Branding is an important issue to be addressed so that users know which federation they belong to.

It was agreed that the most urgent action is too put in place an effective communication channel between all those involved. TERENA agreed to put in place a closed email list with a protected archive. There was some discussion about how to separate important announcements made to this list and the subsequent "noise" messages that often follow. TERENA offered to investigate a mechanism.

It was also suggested that all federations should put on line their policies or as a minimum the required attributes.

## **ACTIONS**

1. TERENA will create the closed email distribution list <refeds@terena.nl> and populate with the list of members agreed at the meeting.
2. TERENA will investigate a means of providing easy access to the announcements.
3. TERENA will put in place a closed steering committee email distribution list.
4. FEDERATIONS should be prepared to submit their policies in a common language (English) or at a very minimum a list of required attributes.