# April - June 2017

During the second quarter of 2017, our focus was the TIER full production release and the TIER continuous release process, in which updates are incorporated into the software as soon as they are ready for production. In addition, the TIER Program conducted a mid-program survey to collect feedback on investor needs and determine if a mid-course correction was needed. Key findings included the need for campus testing to ensure the releases are on target with requirements, and a request for adoption assistance for TIER.

At the 2017 Internet2 Global Summit, TIER working group members presented at a number of Trust and Identity sessions and conducted several demonstrations. The TIER investor meeting included a discussion of the survey results and a decision to repurpose some of the development funds towards an adoption activity.

This document provides a summary of the activities funded by the TIER investor contributions as well as those supported by Internet2 membership dues.

## Milestones

- Conducted TIER mid-program survey to understand the TIER investor view of the program, with 36 out of 49 investors responding
- Developed a document to help investors understand the campus role in the TIER development process and to help with adoption planning
- Began working with the Big Ten Academic Alliance on developing common guidelines for provisioning/de-provisioning
- Advanced TIER objectives through working group activities (TIER Working Group Home):
    - TIER Production Release 17040 was announced during the 2017 Global Summit. This release includes the most up-to-date versions of Shibboleth, Grouper, and COmanage as will subsequent continuous updates
    - Demonstrated the TIER Beacon at the 2017 Global Summit. This instrumentation collects minimal reporting data concerning adoption and deployment of TIER component software
    - Demonstrated provisioning/de-provisioning of a cloud software service using TIER at the 2017 Global Summit
    - Released the TIER Grouper Deployment Guide Version 1.0 on April 14, 2017

- ○ Developed and tested a stand-alone Shibboleth IdP Docker Container as well as Amazon AMI versions of the TIER software components to give adopters more options in their deployment choices
  - ○ Continued work on developing additional tools for further simplification in installing, configuring, and managing Shibboleth
- Continued notifying the community about the need to upgrade to Shibboleth Identity Provider v3. The Shibboleth Identity Provider Version 3 Hall of Fame has up-to-date information about those organizations that have and have not upgraded their IdP. As of this writing, 295 of the 422 Shibboleth IdPs in the InCommon Federation have upgraded to IdPv3, an increase of 5 percent since last quarter with an additional six Shibboleth IdP instances overall.
- CACTI (Community Architecture Committee for Trust and Identity) met for the first time in June. CACTI will advise Trust and Identity leadership on architectural issues that span TIER, the InCommon Federation and related services.

## Issues

Issues identified include:

- The three-year funding commitment by TIER investors will end by December 2018. The TIER Program will need sustaining funds for development, community adoption support, and ongoing support. Community and Internet2 leadership are working on a funding model for supporting TIER into the future.
- A key request voiced in the TIER mid-program review survey was the need for training and adoption support. Campuses are interested in having help to understand how TIER could be leveraged and support for relevant use cases.

## Opportunities

Opportunities identified include:

- Based on growing interest from the community, work began to develop a TIER Campus Success Program to include a diverse group of higher education institutions committed to adopting and deploying the TIER software components and helping to accelerate adoption for the rest of the trust and identity community.
- Internet2's Trust and Identity Division contracted with University of Chicago for a part-time appointment of Tom Barton, Senior Consultant for Cyber Security and Data Privacy, to serve as a research liaison and work with leadership on way to better support research and collaboration.

# Metrics

**Metrics** by-the-number include:

- Top "Tuned-in to TIER" campuses (20 or more connected participants) by number of email list subscribers this quarter (increased from 16 to 22 campuses):
  University of Wisconsin - Madison, University of Florida, Penn State University, Duke University, The Ohio State University, University of Notre Dame, University of Washington, Arizona State University, University of Virginia, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Indiana University, Lafayette College, Harvard University, University of Michigan, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Oregon State University, University of Maryland, Berkeley University of California, Rice University, Virginia Tech, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2 TIER community newsletters (April, May/June)
- 13 companies, contractors, independent consultants, and partners assisting with TIER development: West Arete, Alfa Jango, Levvel.IO, Spherical Cow Group (Benn Oshrin, Scott Koranda, Tom Zeller), Unicon (Various), FasurTech (Vivek Sachdeva) , Docker Inc., Duke University (Consent Development Team), University of Wisconsin (Keith Hazelton), University of Chicago (Tom Barton), Independent consultants: Chris Hyzer, Bert Bee-Lindgren, Marlena Erdos
- 12 external groups engaged: GÉANT (eduGAIN and REFEDS and related working groups), Research University CIO Conclave (RUCC), Kantara, Safe BIOPharma, National Institutes of Health, General Services Administration (GSA), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Identity Ecosystem Steering Group, EDUCAUSE leadership, Shibboleth Consortium, University of Arizona.
- Presentation to US regional network leadership in Tempe, AZ, TIER mid-point workshop prior to the March RUCC meeting in Denver, CO, conducted two international webinars representing the Shibboleth Board.
- 67 TIER Working Group and related community calls; 6 more than last quarter
- 1,112 collaboration hours (calls and face-to-face meetings) comprising:
  - 321 Internet2 staff hours; down slightly from 326 last quarter
  - 791 community representative hours; up from 761 last quarter
- 448 unique people subscribed to the TIER mailing lists, tracking the program
- 1,788 total subscribers to 32 TIER lists (net increase of 184). This number represents non-unique subscribers to the TIER mailing lists, showing how institutions are tracking more than one area of TIER.

# Financials

**Financial position** highlights include:

- TIER continues to be in a healthy position.
- TIER is not spending to the maximum at this point to enable the chosen model for sustainable funding to ramp up while the spend on the investor dollars ramps down.
- The collective work toward future milestones remains on track.



**TIER Q2 - 2017 FUNDS FLOW SOURCES**

One-time TIER Investor Funds, $265,575 , 24%

Internet2 Membership Dues earmarked for TIER, $825,000 , 76%



**TIER Q2 - 2017 FUNDS FLOW USES**

Office Support, $34,496 , 3%

10% Shared Services Support, $75,586 , 7%

Tech & Equipment, $40,272 , 4%

Professional Services, $239,189 , 22%

Salaries, $653,035 , 61%

Travel, $30,505 , 3%

Note that uses for Meetings, External Communications, Legal Fees, Network Operations, Interdepartmental Expenses and Depreciation totaled $17,492 and were less than 2% overall.