

InCommon Steering: Setting the Agenda for 2020

Version of 2 January 2020

We have twelve conference calls scheduled for 2020 along with potential face-to-face meetings at Global Summit, TechEx, or EDUCAUSE. The question facing us is, how do we most effectively use our time together to advance InCommon efforts---supporting the efforts of the [working groups](#) and of InCommon staff?

Answering the question “what does success look like for InCommon when we reflect back in December 2020, December 2021, and December 2022?” might guide us in setting our agenda.

Potential Topics to Address (for Discussion at January 6th Steering Meeting)

The scope of InCommon encompasses federation services, eduroam, certificate service, the Trusted Access Platform, and all the community efforts that support the core initiatives.

- Are there any that need more attention than the others in 2020?
- What are the overarching issues?

Making the business case for investing in Identity and Access Management remains challenging for many institutions. For example, how do the CIOs convince the provosts and CFOs that this is an area in which we must invest? There is a public good story we should be telling regularly and consistently at each of the InCommon member institutions.

- Would it help to have presentation toolkits and other collateral to help articulate the case?
 - How to distinguish what the Trusted Access Platform provides versus industry solutions? This includes moving from a bilateral mindset when engaging vendors to a multilateral one, where we increasingly speak with aligned voices about requirements (there may be an opportunity here with application integration, Net+ services, vendor contract terms and conditions for operational expectations).
- Is there increased awareness we can promote through webinars and other areas of community engagement? Are the analysts our members speak with (Gartner, Forrester, etc.) up to date with InCommon?

Communities of researchers coming together in virtual organizations have clearly demonstrated the value of robust, supported federation services. Are our CIO members aware of the degree to which researchers on campus rely on these services? What can we be doing individually and collectively to better support researchers?

- Are we appropriately supporting [NSF Trusted CI](#) and component services such as [CILogon](#), [FIM4R](#) efforts, global efforts such as [eduGAIN](#), etc. to move faster in meeting the needs of the communities who rely on trust and identity services?
 - As CILogon matures, what experiences can InCommon share from its similar journey last decade?
- Are we effectively reaching out to both researchers and those who support researchers?
 - Those who run science gateways?
 - Give presentations at [PEARC](#), [CaRCC](#), and similar meetings?
- Does our current InCommon research organization membership eligibility facilitate ease-of-access by the organizations with which our researchers wish to collaborate? Do we continue to manage new research organization membership applications by exception or broaden the criteria?

Other communities with which we could engage with in 2020 include academic medical centers (an interest of the Internet2 board), IAM staff at institutions (BaseCAMP and entry level efforts, the

Collaboration Success Program, addressing workforce needs----either by encouraging information architect career paths or designing solutions not as heavily reliant on architects), information security staff (leveraging federation-level response to incidents or problems rather than institution-by-institution efforts),

Another service for which its value is readily apparent is eduroam. Should we be actively encouraging expansion beyond K-20 education to include libraries, hospitals, airports, and beyond----resulting in a nationally ubiquitous eduroam SSID?

2020 will see the initial funding influx from the InCommon dues increases. As a steering committee we should discuss how we would approach future inflationary and programmatic fee increases. Even if we don't increase fees for 2021, we should start managing expectations for anticipated future fee changes.

- A data gathering effort that could support this would be a risk assessment of the InCommon business model. Do we have cross subsidies? Are any revenue streams at risk, such as the certificate business? Do we anticipate more organizations joining federations rather than joining InCommon, thus missing member revenue flowing directly to InCommon?
 - What does the “rise of the proxies” affect in terms of the business model?
 - Are there new areas we could step into, such as a federation as a service offering?

The [Baseline](#) efforts over the past few years have strengthened “trust in trust” by establishing shared expectations for federation service delivery. We will continue to raise the bar for Baseline---but how far and how fast? We need to keep improving but we don't want to leave members of the community behind.

- Would “badging” IdPs and SPs to show who supports what capabilities at what level encourage or discourage raising the bar?

Baseline could be included along with other updates we might request in 2020 from InCommon staff and working group leaders, such as:

- Trusted Access Platform update (releases, functionality, marketing)
- Working group updates on innovation agility (sandbox spaces, speeding up experiments, UI/UX, privacy and attributes (e.g., RA21, web tracking),

Finally, there is the need to successfully recruit and engage new members of InCommon Steering. Are our demographics representative of our current and future member communities? We have a good balance today with small to large institutions and liberal arts to research intensive institutions. Are there individuals who may represent communities we wish to better engage that we should be recruiting now for 2021 and beyond, such as researchers, librarians, or a CISO with an IAM interest? One pipeline to the steering committee is participation in the working groups----can we help recruit there?

The resulting calendar (DRAFT)

From the items discussed above, what should we fit into our operating rhythm for 2020?

- January
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Acceptance of new officer slate
 - Discussion of topics to include in 2020 and, as a result, modify the following agenda draft
- February
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Engaging and supporting research communities

- March
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Kevin review of his Global Summit “making the value proposition” presentation
 - Making the InCommon business case
 - Expanding the community
 - Events:
 - Global Summit @ Indianapolis (March 30-April 2)
 - Hold an InCommon “alumni” gathering to get feedback on plans?
 - Establish success criteria for 2020, 2021, and 2022
- April
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Review of the overall InCommon portfolio. Is it balanced? Any gaps?
 - Strategy for eduroam
- May
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Inflationary and programmatic fee increases
- June
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Trusted Platform update
- July
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Formal solicitation of new steering committee members. (Move up from September.)
 - Recruiting global summit presentation topics
- August
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Workforce needs
- September
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Working group updates (Baseline, agility, etc.)
- October
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Welcome new steering committee members
 - Criteria for evaluating global summit presentation submissions
 - Events
 - TechEx @ TBD (Oct 4-8)
 - EDUCAUSE @ Boston (Oct 26-29)
 - Hold an InCommon “alumni” gathering to get feedback on plans?
- November
 - Steering Agenda:
 - Approve new advisory and working group members
- December
 - Steering Agenda: