2022-April-19 CTAB Public Minutes

CTAB Call Tuesday April 19, 2022

Attending

- David Bantz, University of Alaska (chair)
- Jon Miner, University of Wisc - Madison (co-chair)
- Pål Axelsson, SUNET
- Sarah Borland, University of Nebraska
- Richard Frovarp, North Dakota State
- Eric Goodman, UCOP - InCommon TAC Representative to CTAB
- Andy Morgan, Oregon State University
- Rick Wagner, UCSD
- Jule Ziegler, Leibniz Supercomputing Centre
- Robert Zybeck, Portland Community College
- Tom Barton, Internet2, ex-officio here
- Johnny Lasker, Internet2
- Kevin Morooney, Internet2
- Ann West, Internet2
- Albert Wu, Internet2
- Emily Eisbruch, Internet2

Regrets

- Ercan Elibol, Florida Polytech Institute
- Meshna Koren, Elsevier
- Dave Robinson, Grinnell College in Iowa, InCommon Steering Rep, ex-officio
- Chris Whalen, Research Data and Communication Technologies

Discussion

- Intellectual Property reminder

Working Group Updates

- REFEDS Assurance - no updates
- REFEDs MFA Sub Group
  - Editing the proposed draft/ revision to the REFEDs MFA profile
  - Hope to have draft for wider group to discuss in next weeks
  - Discussion on balance between keeping the profile flexible and usable
  - Want to be clear enough so implementers can make decisions that lead to basis for comparison
  - Given strong authentication needs evolving, how to prepare
  - Is certificate authentication strong enough?
  - What about MFA and Web Authn?
  - Single or multi factor for authentication for Web Authn?
  - What will be curation evolution process
  - MFA profile is de facto a proxy for quality/strength of authentication
  - What about, perhaps, an approach that is "strong" but not literally Multi-factor ?

- SIRTFI Exercise Working Group
  - Several exercise scenarios were presented
  - Working Group decided to replicate the Authentication and Authorisation for Research and Collaboration (AARC) exercises approach https://aarc-community.org/about/

- InCommon TAC Updates
  - Focus on work plan items
  - One topic is 3rd party certifiers
  - What kind of mechanisms should be in place?
  - Related to Trustmarks and tags
  - Concept of how federation model works
  - Term: pixie dusting
  - 3rd party interacts and can assert claim for an entity, instead of federation operator
  - Example is R&S
    - Federation operator is not as deeply engaged in the research community
    - So another authority might be able to vouch for a particular Service Provider
  - Comes up in regional networking or system wide scenarios; also comes up in seamless access community, for discovery listing

- NIH
  - There will be a leadership exchange in May 2022, Mike Tartakovsky and Chris Whalen will be speaking, will summarize for the CIOs where we stand, and reinforce the ask

CTAB Work Plan

- Five items are now on the CTAB work plan, other items have been moved to another document
- CTAB members, please to sign up for work plan items that interest you

CTAB TLS / Endpoint Encryption Proposal

- Several steps are outlined in the draft proposal, including outreach and eventually moving to dispute process
- Suggestion for eventually having a public record if an entity is not meeting the encryption standard
- We would prefer listing entities with current action items pending and do not want to post a list of entities with any security vulnerabilities
- There is a recommendation for InCommon operations to check as many elements are possible.
    - Albert notes that this is in the works.
    - InCommon Operations hopes to periodically check all the elements that baseline expectations requires.

- Scaling and Workload concerns
    - Currently over 1000 entities are not scoring A in SSL Labs scan
    - This is not a one time issue, scores can shift, so think of this as an operational item
    - Are we willing to remove from the InCommon Federation an entity that does not get an A score?
    - If we create exceptions / loopholes, it gets complex
    - Dispute items would come to CTAB
    - Eventually some will escalate to InCommon Steering
    - See the community dispute resolution process https://www.incommon.org/federation/dispute-resolution/
    - Concerned about the consequence of triggering community dispute resolution
    - Question of scale, if there are more than a handful each month, will require much effort and time. Load/strain on CTAB resources is a concern
- Suggestion that we consider this an awareness raising campaign
- Education and advocacy are important
- CTAB may want to engage the community on this at some point.

Next CTAB call: Tuesday, May 2, 2022