

2012 Infosheet

COnamange: Collaborative Organization Management Platform

The COnamange Project is an effort funded by the National Science Foundation and the Internet2 Middleware Initiative to develop tools and resources that allow collaborative organizations to meet their objectives using key collaboration tools in a secure and effective framework, while significantly reducing the friction usually encountered by users and managers, especially in collaborative settings with users from multiple organizations. By leveraging external (federated) identity management services, authentication and authorization of group members are handled in a single, efficient process that feeds from each member's home organization into the various applications (such as wikis, calendaring, and conferencing) that are available to all.

What is COnamange?

Imagine researchers and administrators working together on a groundbreaking research effort while being based at numerous different universities and research institutes. To facilitate their teamwork, these collaborators need to share documents, set up institution-independent mailing lists, and use a wiki to capture their work, as well as utilize other collaboration tools to support their work.

They also need to utilize an authentication infrastructure not tied to any of their home institutions, so individuals can log in to a neutral location and work together. But that starts to go well outside the larger need to move ahead with their research. Their focus needs to be on the collaboration, not the technology.

Here is where COnamange comes in. COnamange allows collaborative groups to streamline and manage the identity-oriented requirements of common collaboration tools. With COnamange, the identity management components — the group membership that ties together mailing lists, the authentication, and so on — are all handled behind the scenes. This means that collaborators can focus on what they do best — advancing scholarship and research in their field of expertise.

The Architecture

The COnamange Project is itself a collaborative effort, leveraging experience and resources from various organizations located around the world. The COnamange Project objectives include

- The development of the COnamange Registry, an Identity Management System (IdMS) designed for collaborative organizations
- Domestication of applications for use in a collaborative environment
- The development of best practices for integrating and leveraging federated identity in a collaborative environment
- The development of a platform that provides collaborative services to smaller organizations

The COnamange Project is committed to open standards, and developing and utilizing open source software, facilitating integration, customization, and future development. The COnamange Project is working with the global community to leverage existing work and help direct new work to ensure interoperability across the domain.

The Roadmap

Project deliverables completed as of October 2011:

- CO assessment document - (September 2010)
- SSH assessment (October 2010)
- VO identity architect job description for a COnamange VO (November 2010)
- VO identity architect job description for any CMP-using VO (November 2010)
- Meetings with engaged CO (LIGO, iPlant, Bamboo) to establish requirements, develop enrollment flows
- "Web services presentation of COnamange services for use by other applications, gateways, portals, etc." – COnamange CConnectors
- Intro to VO IdM presentation (February 2011)
- Strategies For Deployment - an intro doc for new VO (February 2011)
- Release of COnamange v. 0.2 (August 2011)

See the COnamange wiki for full details: <https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/COnamange/Home>

Upcoming items, 2011-2012

- Using a federated SSH toolset, a comprehensive federated SSH service will be installed in the CO, including provisioning and de-provisioning capabilities
- Within the primary CO, COnamange will be implemented with appropriate UI for the CO
- Determinations around levels of support with/for the participating CO
- Extensive outreach with other international collaborative platform efforts (*ongoing*)
- International "VO CAMP" meeting with/for/about participating CO and their IAM issues
- Further development of web services presentation of COnamange services for use by other applications, gateways, portals, etc.

For more Roadmap information, view the COnamange JIRA site: <https://bugs.internet2.edu/jira/browse/CO>

More general information

NSF "Bedrock" grant: <http://www.internet2.edu/bedrock/>

COnamange: <http://www.internet2.edu/comamange/>

Insert reference diagram here: <https://spaces.at.internet2.edu/display/COnamange/Reference+Architecture>