



identitycommons

Working Groups Q4 2007 Reports & News for January 2008

Identity Commons (IC) is a loosely connected community of Working Groups that are addressing the social, legal and technical issues that arise with the emerging identity layer of the internet. The purpose of Identity Commons is to support, facilitate, and promote the creation of an open identity layer for the Internet -- one that maximizes control, convenience, and privacy for the individual while encouraging the development of healthy, interoperable communities.

A wide range of individuals from both large and small companies have been dialoguing and developing tools to make this vision a reality. This past year the community was formalized, forming a nonprofit corporation. Identity Commons has adopted a set of principals to ensure an open, inclusive, and bottoms-up operating structure. Each Working Group has a representative on the Stewards Council. Membership resides in the Working Groups - where the real work is happening. Each quarter Working Groups report on their activities. This was our first quarter of official operation with reporting Q4 2007. There is also news from groups in the process of joining Identity Commons included.

This report closes with a summary of where the community came from. There is also more in-depth history to be found here. <http://wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/History>

Current Working Groups

Community & Events

- Identity Gang
- Internet Identity Workshop

Technology

- OSIS (Open Source Identity System)
- OpenID
- Identity Schemas

Social Agreements and Policy

- Identity Rights Agreements
- XRI Org

ID Commons Operations

- IC Collaborative Tools

In Process to Join IC:

Business Application

- VRV (Vendor Relationship Management)

Open Source Code Projects for Identity Systems and Data Sharing

- Higgins Project
- Bandit Project
- Pamela Project

Groups related to Standards

- SAML Commons
- XDI Commons

Newly Formed

- Enterprise Positioning
- Enterprise Identity Architects
- Newbies 4 Newbies
- Id Futures
- Id Media Review
- Identity Trust

Internet Identity Workshop

iiw.idcommons.net

Phil Windley, Kaliya Hamlin and Doc Searls produce the Internet Identity Workshop twice a year. One way to track the vector of developments in user-centric identity is to record the milestones of the workshop each year. This is Phil Windley's characterization of the developments (based on some earlier comments from Johannes Ernst):

#1 Oct 2005: initial meeting and introductions to projects being worked on.

#2 May 2006: proponents of multiple identity protocols start dialog about how they can work together

#3 Dec 2006: small-scale interoperability and some consolidation

#4 May 2007: interoperability demonstrations of Information Cards and lightweight solutions converge on OpenID.

At the 5th IIW in Dec 2007 OpenID, CardSpace, and SAML, along with supporting technologies, projects, and consortia are accepted. The questions have become what to do now that these foundational technologies have been worked out.

This was December 3-5 at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA.

This event was a real mile stone for the community - some described it as reaching the "end of the beginning" for the community. OpenID 2.0 had its IPR issues settled and the spec declared final. The first real in-depth meeting of the minds of that group had happened at the first IIW in Oct 2005 in Berkeley. Other developments included continuing discussions between OAuth and OpenID about how their two open standards complemented one another and the Higgins project moved closer to a 1.0 release.

At the beginning of the 2007 workshop we engaged in a community conversation about "what we know and what we don't know" out of that came different statements that were available for 'voting' using Dotmocracy. The conference was

so good that almost no one had time to read through the ideas posted, but they are captured on a wiki.

At the close of this IIW we had community awards handed out - a range of people were recognized for their efforts in the community both at the event and over the past year. To see who awarded who for what check out this page.

We also gave the first Owen Davis Award to Andrew Nelson and Owen Davis for exemplary dedication to the "good of the community". They were the founders of the first Identity Commons in 2001.

Notes Pages

Tuesday iiw.idcommons.net/index.php/Tuesday_Schedule

Wednesday ''/ [Wednesday_Schedule](#)

Blog coverage was not as much for this event as there has been in the past. It is never too late to post reflections - here are some. iiw.idcommons.net/index.php/Blog_Coverage

There was a video recap produced by Been Verified www.centernetworks.com/video-recap-internet-identity-workshop-iiw

Thank You to our sponsors to date:

AOL, Novell, Microsoft, British Telecom, Liberty Alliance Project, Google, Verisign, Plaxo, Adobe, Cisco, OASIS IDtrust, CommerceNet, SXIP, Higgins Project, Bandit Project, Vidoop, Applied Identity, Authentrus, Planetnetwork, ClaimID

Breakdowns

The Monday evening dinner venue was too small and the music was too loud at the Tuesday evening venue. These problems will be remedied for future workshops.

Requests

Please add more notes/reflections on the wiki if you have some about a session you were at. Please blog about IIW 2007b and add to the blog coverage.

We need to know dates to avoid when booking our Fall workshop. PLEASE let us know ASAP if there are events planned we should not conflict with.

We would like your help inviting others to participate. Please don't be shy to invite those who may have an interest in Identity Commons.

Announcements

Internet Identity Workshop #6 is May 12-14. Badges for IIW 2008a (#6) are now available! If you are planning to come, thinking about coming, or a fan, please post one on your blog!

We are looking for sponsors - if you are interested in sponsoring please contact Phil. Phil@windley.org

We are looking design team members - to give advice and input on the shape of the next IIW. We will have our first call around March 1. Please contact Kaliya if you would like to participate kaliya@mac.com

There may be a related (but not IIW produced) 'trade show' on May 15th. If you are interested in learning more about that and/or participating please contact Charles Andres - CAndres@parityinc.net

The Identity Gang

The Identity Gang was founded in 2004 as a mailing list and small gatherings that happened at events like PCForum, Burton Group Catalyst and Digital Identity World. It developed lexicon of identity terms to facilitate dialogue between the diverse communities -- grass roots small companies thinking about light weight identity systems, large enterprises, vendors, and networks, along with existing standards in the area.

Currently there are 470 people on the mailing list with approximately 3 messages per day. There are currently no active projects underway and most of the old wiki content is on this new wiki.

OpenID
www.openid.net

This is the first report to Identity Commons on activities in OpenID Working Group. This report covers the period concluding on Dec 31, 2007. This report is submitted by Bill Washburn, Exec. Director of OI DF.

Successes

- * OpenID Foundation has incorporated as a non-profit in the State of Oregon
- * OpenID Foundation has completed the process of developing an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime which has also been submitted to the OpenID community, vetted, and approved as final by the OI DF Board.

Breakdowns / Delays

- * OI DF submission of Form 1023 to the IRS for designation as a 501(c)3 non-profit was delayed. It will be submitted in early 2008
- * Membership drive for OI DF was not formally announced. It will begin in earnest in the first three months of 2008.

OSIS Open Source Identity System

iiw.idcommons.net/index.php/OSIS

Successes

The Open Source Identity System currently has three subgroups. One subgroup works on general OSIS working group support outreach activities such as giving tutorial sessions at IIW. A second subgroup is in charge of finding the best bars for the group to tour after meetings and successful interop events. The third subgroup is responsible for the majority of OSIS work: coordinating interoperability among numerous projects and organizations that produce identity system components.

The Open Source Identity System working group organized two interop sequences in 2007, and began a third. Each interop consisted of a kickoff meeting at which we discussed the general areas of interoperability testing, collaboration tools, and event structures. Then during the next few months, project teams collaborated via the OSIS working group, refined test scenarios, and debugged their code. Each interop concluded with a public event. **The interops of 2007 included:**

- **I1:** began in May at IIW 2007a and concluded in June at the Burton Catalyst conference in San Francisco.
- **I2:** began in Sept at the Digital Identity World conference, and ended in October at the Burton Catalyst Conference in Barcelona.
- **I3:** began in December at the IIW 2007b and will conclude in April at the RSA conference in San Francisco.

Accomplishments for Q4 2007 include:

- * The OSIS I2 interop sequence was completed at the Burton Catalyst conference in Barcelona.
- * The Burton Group published an overview of the interop.
- * The 14 projects and company participants tested and demonstrated interoperability of:
 - o 6 identity selectors
 - o 13 identity providers
 - o relying parties
 - o 6 OpenID providers
 - o 5 OpenID relying parties
- * There was an OSIS Tutorial session and a special session planning for the I3 interop sequence

at IIW 2007b in December.

* The I3 interop collaboration is proceeding with greatly increased capabilities tested.

* The I3 interop will be completed at the RSA conference in April.

Breakdowns

An impediment has been uncertainty about moving to Identity Commons collaboration tools. As a working group OSIS needs some basic collaboration tools:

* reliable mailing lists that are easy to administer and have web accessible archives.

* a wiki and document repository that is reliable, backed up, and supports authentication from identity systems supported by OSIS such as OpenID and Information Cards.

* a consistent dial-in number for a conference call service

* As the working group has evolved, we have also occasionally encountered issues in which some support from an umbrella organization such as idcommons would be helpful, but we have been unclear on the role of idcommons relative to OSIS.

None of the above issues are really breakdowns, more like slowdowns that we would like to address in the future.

Requests

* We need to work with idcommons to resolve collaboration tools hosting.

* The OSIS group requests interested projects to get involved in the current interop. Testing is happening now.

* We also are always interested in suggestions for future interops.

Announcements

* We are in the process of moving our wiki and collaboration tools to a new subdomain.

The I3 Interop is Under Way

* The OSIS interop site is about to go live

* Interop progress is discussed on this mailing list: <http://groups.google.com/group/user-centric-identity-interop?hl=en>

* There are over 200 tests planned

* There are lots more participants

* The I3 interop will conclude at the RSA Conference in April in SF

Identity Schemas

wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/Identity_Schemas

Successes

* Community Dictionary Service (<http://cds.idschemas.idcommons.net/>) prototype was demonstrated (thank you Markus and Drummond). This could be enabling technology for this WG's "catalogue"

* James Schoening, having heard about Identity Schemas (ISWG) as well as the Higgins project's ontology efforts, assembled a group of ontology experts interested in contributing to the ISWG. A separate mailing list (<http://idcommons.net/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/person-ontology>) was established, and there was some lively discussion. Thanks for doing this James.

* Much of the discussion centered on what ontology language to use. As an outcome, this knowledge representation comparison page was created http://krl.a.wiki-site.com/index.php/Main_Page. The general consensus among this sub-community is that OWL is too weak a language for the purpose at hand, and that one based on first order logic is required.

* HOWL (Higgins base ontology in OWL) was hotly discussed. The general conclusion was that HOWL should use RDF reification (and thus relax to OWL-Full instead of OWL-DL) instead of the awkward home-made solution to reification. [Update: the Higgins team is working on an update to HOWL that incorporates this feedback. It should be released in the next few weeks].

Breakdowns

* The discussion on the new list wound down without any "next steps".

* The Higgins team members (notably Paul) have not (due to getting Higgins 1.0 out the door) been able in Q4 to give the discussion much attention. Situation will improve in 2008.

Requests

Little requests

We need help copying/transcoding content of the wiki here <http://identityschemas.org> (old Moin-Moin wiki) to here: Identity Schemas (see the red links--they point back to the old wiki).

Big requests

* We need volunteers to work on the Community Dictionary Service technology.

* We need ontology contributions to populate the CDS.

Announcements

Administrivia:

* Joaquin Miller announced that for conflict-of-interest reasons he could no longer represent this WG at the IC Stewards Council.

XDI Org

www.xdi.org

Successes

* XDI.org volunteers who participate in the OASIS XRI Technical Committee were successful in pushing XRI Resolution 2.0 to the Committee Draft 02 stage and into public review. See <http://docs.oasis-open.org/xri/2.0/specs/cd02/xri-resolution-V2.0-cd-02.pdf>.

* XDI.org volunteers who participate in the OASIS XDI Technical Committee were successful in developing a compact syntax format for XDI RDF (that came directly out of work done at the December Internet Identity Workshop) that is now documented on the XDI TC wiki at <http://wiki.oasis-open.org/xdi/X3Format>.

Breakdowns

* XDI.org volunteers in the OASIS XRI and XDI Technical Committees need to resolve the issues regarding the two different XDI models that have been developed (the RDF model and the ATI model).

Requests

* XRI Resolution 2.0 Committee Draft 02, which defines the XRDS format and request protocol (formerly "Yadis") is in public review at OASIS through Feb 1 2008. Feedback from all Identity Commons participants is encouraged. See <http://lists.oasis-open.org/archives/xri/200712/msg00001.html>.

* The work of the OASIS XDI Technical Committee (<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/xdi>) is going to accelerate significantly in early 2008. Any individual or organization within Identity Commons are invited to join this work.

Announcements

* None at this time.

Identity Rights Agreements

Successes

- * An "Identity Rights Matrix" has been suggested, though words and icons are still needed. It is not yet in final form.
- * Collaborations:
 - o Discussion with the proposed Identity Trust working group have revealed similarities that may be useful going forward.
 - o Similar discussions with the VRM group have begun and look promising.

Breakdowns

- * Most people don't know what identity rights are or how they can be used.
- * We need to better define the matrix axis titles and provide examples.

Requests

- * Help in this working group.
- * More work needs to be done to unify the concepts and goals of this group and:
 - o Identity Trust
 - o Project VRM
 - o Link Contracts

Announcements

- * In October, Dan Perry stepped aside from chairing this group and Fen Labalme stepped in and is current Steward.

IC Collaborative Tools

Successes

We completed the transition from the old Moin-Moin Wiki to an OpenID-enabled version of MediaWiki. We also set up an OpenID-enabled Drupal 5 site to host the main Identity Commons web site. Many, many thanks to Fen Labalme for all of his great work in this regard and to CivicActions for hosting our servers.

Breakdowns

We're still severely resourced constrained, especially given the recent proliferation of Identity Commons working groups.

Requests

We could use volunteers to help us maintain and set up the collaborative tools many of our working groups are using. Eekim@blueoxen.com

News from Working Groups in the process of becoming part of IC

Higgins

www.eclipse.org/higgins

Successes

* The big news from the Higgins project is that we finally achieved "pencils down" on release 1.0 as of December 31st and are now polishing it and going through the formal review process to release it.

Breakdowns

* Since Higgins is multi-protocol and best practices for some of these protocols that are evolving, (CardSpace Interoperability comes to mind) it was very hard to declare a stopping point.

Requests

* While "Higgins" (Paul, Mary, Dale, etc.) has been active with Identify Commons for a long time, we are looking forward to having the project become an official working group as soon as the next round of voting can be held.

* Once we have an official release date, it would be great if this community would blog about Higgins 1.0.

Announcements

While we are working on getting Higgins 1.0 officially released we are also planning what will be in the next release. We are holding a Higgins Face-to-Face meeting in Provo this week (January 29-31) to discuss the new items.

Bandit Project

www.bandit-project.org

Bandit is a set of loosely-coupled components that provide consistent identity services for Authentication, Authorization, and Auditing. The Bandit project creates a community that organizes and standardizes identity-related technologies in an open way, promoting both interoperability and collaboration.

The Bandit project is a worldwide open source community that enables open yet secure enterprise computing.

VRM (Vendor Relationship Management)
www.projectvrn.org

Just before the IIW meeting the Project VRM Steering Committee convened in Mountain View at Google Headquarters. Project responsibilities were assigned to sub-groups, with Standards & Practices, Use Cases, Advocacy and defining the VRM vision among them. A use case of ubiquitous nature was discussed: change of address. This takes into account Privacy, Trust, Information Dissemination, interaction with vendors, involvement of trusted 3rd Parties, and a host of choices and concerns -- all of which would be in the hands of the individual with a VRM solution.

At the IIW meeting the Change of Address Use case was the topic of numerous technical and marketing sessions. VRM as a basic principle and a tenet of aspects of the Identity matter was discussed in numerous sessions.

Following the California meetings the European contingent (who were well represented in both California meetings) put together a schedule of regular meetings. The European Steering Committee members attend the bi-weekly conference call and are making great strides. Members are in discussion with governments regarding standards, incorporation of VRM into process, and other emerging areas.

VRM will be represented at a conference in SF Feb. 4 called Customer Service Is the New Marketing (<http://csitnm.com/>). The first European VRM conference will be held in Munich on the 21st-22nd April at the EIC location (Forum am Deutschen Museum). It is part of 2nd European Identity Conference - 22nd-25th April. Registration for VRM2008 is free of charge (<http://www.kuppingercole.de/events/vrm2008>)

The VRM blog is picking up steam, and a Steering committee team is working on a new "dot com" (ProjectVRM.com) landing page to be ready during the first quarter of 2008. That team will be meeting in Boston/Cambridge during the first week of February.

Enterprise Positioning

A new working group related to the Enterprise positioning of User-Centric Identity has formed. This working group is an outgrowth of conversations held at the last Internet Identity Workshop. The purpose of this working group is the following: To engage enterprises in the adoption and proliferation of user-centric identity by shaping clear articulate value propositions for communication in the enterprise space.

The working group believes there are many complex enterprise identity problems that can be solved by adopting the principles, values and technologies being developed in the user centric identity community. The team will work to create specific messaging to promote the adoption of user-centric identity oriented solutions within the enterprise space.

The current status of the working group is that the charter for the team has been submitted to the Identity Commons Stewards Council for approval. The working group is currently meeting bi-weekly via phone conferences, and is looking for input from individuals who have expertise in the challenges and opportunities of identity management in the context of enterprises. If you would like to provide input to this team you can contact Gary Ardito at gary.ardito@novell.com or Pete Metrulas at pete.metrulas@hp.com

Enterprise ID Architects

This group formed at IIW to provide a forum in which enterprise identity architects can network and learn from each other. (This is not a forum in which vendors can pitch their products or services.) If you are interested in joining contact Marty Schleif marty.schleiff@boeing.com.

IC Evangelism & Marketing

This group formed after the last IC Stewards conference call to help Identity Commons, its member groups, and individuals more effectively communicate the goals, principles, and messages of Identity Commons. It is being lead by Chris Allen see the wiki or contact him to help. ChristopherA@AlacrityManagement.com

Newbies 4 Newbies

Currently, it takes initiative on the part of a new person to get up to speed about user-centric identity. Newbies 4 Newbies was formed at the Internet Identity Workshop in 2007 to work on ensuring that resources and information for new people improve. We are beginning work on developing the 'Starting Points' page on the IC Wiki

The Newbies4Newbies Workgroup is seeking experienced members of the Identity Commons community to serve as "Friendlies" for those of us who are new to the community.

The ideal Friendly is an experienced community member who doesn't mind answering the occasional email from a newbie with a topic-area specific question. By assigning topic-areas to our Friendlies, we hope to keep the responsibility load light, and expose our newbies to the broader community. As promised at the workshop in December, we will make every effort to keep this role from becoming a resource hog, so please let us know if you're interested in being a Friendly by sending an email to Dan Nelson (dan@flexmls.com) or Cindy Spannake (cspannhake@switchbook.com).

Inclusive Initiatives

Inclusive Initiatives was founded at this past IIW. It aims to provide opportunities and resources to other working groups in Identity Commons that will increase awareness of a broader range of perspectives. On our first conference call we discussed strategies for reaching out to other groups and organizations and inviting them to bring their perspectives to the next IIW. We are beginning our work online compiling resources for its first inclusively focus: women. For more information, please visit the wiki at wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/

[Inclusive_Initiations](#)

Pamela Project

www.pamelaproject.org

The Pamela Project is a grassroots organization dedicated to providing community support for both technical and non-technical web users and administrators who wish to use or deploy information card technologies. We hope to make it easier for people of all skill levels to understand and use this technology. Overall, the goal is to hasten adoption, lessen frustration, and improve the overall quality of information card Relying Party deployments on the internet.

The Pamela Project has been set up to:

- Champion open source relying party code development and integration for information card technologies.
- Foster evolutionary integration with existing web-based products & services.
- Create & assist in architecting code that is user-friendly, secure, and ready for mass-adoption (not just proof-of-concept).
- Support and encourage not just developers, but non-technical end users and web masters to deploy and use these technologies.

SAML Commons

* in the final stages of completing the XRI-SAML2 profiles

* work beginning on open-source tooling to support the new profiles

Id Futures

This group was formed to do interactive and in-depth consideration of potential future events and scenarios for an identity layer of the web. Our first activity prior to DIDW in September 2007 generated 50+ potential events (see them on the wiki). We are planning to continue this work contact Kaliya if you would like to participate kaliya@mac.com

Id Media Review

This group was formed to support community engagement with books, movies and other media that cover identity related topics. We currently have a bibliography on identity that is growing and we welcome your additions to that list. wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/IdMedia
Please contact Bob Blakley if you would to help with this groups next activities Blakley@burtongroup.com.

XDI Commons

Successes

* XDI Commons participants in the OASIS XDI Technical Committee who attended Internet Identity Workshop in December generated the concept of a compact syntax format for XDI RDF. This is now documented on the XDI TC wiki at <http://wiki.oasis-open.org/xdi/X3Format>.

Breakdowns

* XDI Commons needs to be more proactive in figuring how to deal with the two different XDI models that have been developed (the RDF model and the ATI model).

Requests

* Review of X3 compact serialization syntax (<http://wiki.oasis-open.org/xdi/X3Format>) and the tools that have been developed to accommodate it would be helpful to advancing implementations of the XDI RDF model (<http://wiki.oasis-open.org/xdi/XdiRdfModel>).

* The work of the OASIS XDI Technical Committee (<http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/xdi>) is going to accelerate significantly in early 2008. Any individual or organization within Identity Commons that is interested is invited to join this work at OASIS. Participation in the OASIS XDI TC is NOT required to participate in XDI Commons.

Announcements

* None at this time.

Identity Commons Background

Identity Commons (IC) was originally formed in 2001 to evangelize the creation of a decentralized user-centric identity infrastructure and to address the resulting social trust issues. At the time, these ideas were revolutionary. Very few people were thinking about these issues, much less doing anything about them.

IC helped change this. It not only raised awareness about the complex issues surrounding this topic, but it played an active role in helping create the necessary infrastructure.

In the last few years, user-centric identity has emerged as one of the most important issues concerning the future of the Internet. In addition to Identity Commons' role in establishing the overall vision, we've seen a number of other key milestones. For example:

- Centralized Internet-wide identity systems are now widely acknowledged as being untenable. Most notably, Microsoft killed its Passport initiative, and Kim Cameron, Microsoft's Identity Architect, has become an outspoken proponent of distributed, interoperable identity systems through his Laws of Identity.
- Lightweight identity systems, such as OpenID, LID, and SXIP emerged (they are now part of OpenID2).
- Many important players in the identity space both old and new began a cohesive conversation about the issues surrounding user-centric identity under the moniker, "The Identity Gang."
- Identity 2.0 has emerged as the de facto term for describing visions of user-centric identity, thanks in part to SXIP founder Dick Hardt's talks of the same name in 2005.

All of these events culminated in the Internet Identity Workshop (IIW) in October 2005, a grassroots gathering of roughly 80 people interested in learning about and advancing the cause of user-centric identity. This gathering was a turning point for the digital identity community in a number of ways:

- It helped spark the adoption of Yadis, a discovery protocol for making different lightweight identity systems interoperable.
- It inspired interest in the concrete development of Identity Rights Agreements and a Service Provider Reputation Network.
- Most importantly, it demonstrated the importance of maintaining a neutral community space for continuing dialogue about these and other emerging issues.

Out of this dialog came the impetus for IC to evolve into a new role as an "upside down umbrella" organization helping to facilitate and coordinate the work of distributed, self-organizing working groups who share the common purpose of creating an interoperable, universally-adopted user-centric identity layer for the Internet. This effort, dubbed "Identity Commons 2.0", continued via Internet Identity Workshop sessions, Identity Open Space sessions, and Identity Commons community telecons until it resulted in the community consensus at the end of July 2006 to adopt the new Purpose And Principles and incorporate Identity Commons as an international non-profit legal organization.

In September 2006, we devised and completed a bootstrapping process to seed and launch the organization.

This Text is online: <http://wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/Background>

How the community emerged from The Digital Identity World Conference, Berkman Center for Internet and Society Social Physics Project, Liberty Alliance, Microsoft and the "light weight identity efforts" is here: <http://wiki.idcommons.net/index.php/History>