

WAVE I DIGITAL CERTIFICATES PILOT MEETING

CONFERENCE CALL

AUGUST 28, 2002

Wave 1 participants met for their monthly update on August 28. Those attending were the Chair, Bob Brentrup, and Larry Levine from Dartmouth, Ed Krol from the University of Illinois, John Douglas from Georgia Tech, Eric Norman from the University of Wisconsin, Spencer Thomas from JSTOR and Judith Boettcher, Michelle Gildea and Ann Symonds from CREN.

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the July 22, 2002 conference call were approved. They are posted along with past minutes on the CREN Wave I web site at:

<http://www.cren.net/crenca/cproject/wave1/index.html>.

Updates

DARTMOUTH: Bob reports that seven people at Dartmouth, (including Computing Administration, Library Automation and the PKI lab) successfully connected to JSTOR using the CREN signed Dartmouth certificates for authentication. During this testing they discovered that there may be glitches connecting with Netscape 6.21 on Windows. Bob had previously noted that users made successful connections using Netscape 4.7x, 6.x, Mozilla 1.x, IE 5.5x, 6.x and a few others on Windows 98/2000, MacOS 9/x and Linux.

Bob also noted that Dartmouth has made progress with administrative applications, except that some users complained of the browser software prodding them to re-authenticate the certificate every few minutes. Bob thinks that the configuration of Oracle's application server may be causing this to occur.

The next step in the Dartmouth community is to encourage more folks at the library to access JSTOR using CREN-signed certificates.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS: Ed is working on a report to understand how CA and PKI can be deployed on the U of Illinois campus. Since the State of Illinois is pushing for widespread use of Entrust, Ed wants to understand what the implications of that will

be for certificate usage. Judith encouraged Ed to share his report with the group when it is completed.

GEORGIA TECH: John reports a live CA at Georgia Tech. He is issuing user certificates and serial number certificates. These will have the user's name and email address on them. There is no other personal identity information on these test certificates. John is also using these certificates only for authentication at this point. There is no encryption or component for digital signatures.

John is now turning his attention to setting up access to JSTOR using these certificates.

JSTOR: Spencer reiterated that his objective for the Wave I pilot is to gain experience and understanding from pilot users on how JSTOR can best accommodate their clients using digital certificates. This is also an opportunity for JSTOR to work out glitches in their system and to determine what does and doesn't work. He noted that JSTOR's next code release will be done in mid November. Thus, if pilot institutions identify changes that should be incorporated in the new code, they should inform Spencer no later than the end of September .

CREN: The CREN Wave1 site has been revamped and expanded, thanks to Michelle and Arya. This can be accessed at:
<http://www.cren.net/crenca/cproject/wave1/index.html>

Next Steps

Judith suggested that the time is ripe to perhaps expand that scope of the pilot. Now that the initial pilot institutions are successfully accessing JSTOR, it makes sense to go back to possible Wave 2 candidates and other content providers for possible inclusion in a second wave. To this end, Judith suggested the group may wish to put out a report to the TAG team to inform and invite other institutions to participate.

Bob mentioned that Dartmouth has signed on with the Shibboleth pilot project to better understand and participate in the direction of their initiatives. This led to some general discussion about the direction of Shibboleth versus CA. Spencer indicated that JSTOR is taking the position of observing and watching the Shibboleth developments without yet making a firm commitment to it.

Action Items

Bob agreed to put together a brief report on the status of the WAVE 1 pilot that the group can circulate among potential content providers and universities. Judith offered to go back and review the list of content providers who had previously expressed an interest in participation. Now is a good time to encourage OCLC and possibly others to participate in this pilot. Judith and Bob will coordinate on these efforts.

Eric Norman expressed a possible interest by the University of Wisconsin in becoming involved with the pilot. Judith indicated that The Guide to Getting Started With Digital Certificates provides an excellent step-by-step outline. Further, all members of the group are eager to assist Eric and others to come on board.

Michelle encouraged everyone to please send written documentation to her for inclusion on the CREN Wave 1 site.

The group suggested they get together in person at either the upcoming Educause or CNI fall meetings.

The next conference call is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Time.