

WAVE 1 DIGITAL CERTIFICATES PILOT MEETING

CONFERENCE CALL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2002

Wave 1 participants met for their monthly update on September 25, 2002. Those attending were Chair, Bob Brentrup from Dartmouth, Spencer Thomas from JSTOR, Susan Minai-Azary from MIT, Eric Norman from the University of Wisconsin and Judith Boettcher, Michelle Gildea and Ann Symonds from CREN.

Review of Minutes

The group reviewed the minutes from the August 28, 2002 conference call and found a couple of necessary corrections. Under the JSTOR update, Spencer noted that the fall code release will be the “next” code release, not the “new” code release as had been written. Eric Norman was erroneously listed as affiliated with the University of Illinois instead of the University of Wisconsin. Ann will make the changes and have the corrected minutes reposted on the Wave 1 web site.

Campus Updates

MIT: Susan reports that the MIT server upgrade is scheduled to occur the evening of September 25. The new code will be put on the server as an integrated code. Following that—hopefully in the next few days—the software will also be upgraded so that MIT will be ready to issue CREN signed certificates. At that point Nina will bring the library on board to begin testing access to JSTOR with digital certificates. The system that Jeff is in the process of installing will allow him to limit the deployment of certificates for test purposes.

JSTOR: Spencer reminded the group that JSTOR’s next code release will take place this fall. Should any of the participants identify any necessary code changes while testing access to JSTOR, they should direct those to Spencer no later than late September/ early October to ensure they are incorporated in the next release.

DARTMOUTH: Bob is trying to organize a follow-up meeting with the Library test group to find out how many have successfully made a connection and to gather feedback. Bob has written a web page telling the library users how to enroll in the CA and participate in the JSTOR test. He has also demoed digital certificate access to staff in academic computing. Those who saw the demo have been favorably impressed. It has helped them understand the process of using digital certificates for authentication and generated interest in other uses. In addition, Bob continues to upgrade the hardware for Dartmouth's production CA, including a firewall and is continuing to add documentation

to the PKI Lab web site to facilitate the Wave 1 test at Dartmouth and for other applications.

Bob will be attending the fall EDUCAUSE meeting and is giving a presentation on Thursday titled, "Developing and Deploying PKI for Academia."

CREN: Judith announced an exciting new CREN development. CREN has signed a contract to have the CREN roots - the hierarchical CA root and the web server root installed in the next release (release 7) of the Opera Browser. Opera works on Windows, MAC, Linux and other systems, as documented on their web site at Opera.com. CREN will be announcing this new partnership with OPERA at the CREN booth at EDUCAUSE.

Judith also shared the status of David Wasley's white paper on Browsers and the conversations with Microsoft at the CSG meeting in mid-September. The purpose of the meeting was to tell Microsoft what is needed in order to support certificates in the browser, particularly regarding IE on the MAC. Judith offered to forward the white paper to the group and post it on the web site.

Judith's comments opened up a general discussion about general campus frustration and disappointment with Microsoft's pricing structure and service policy.

Expanding the Pilot

The group continues to discuss ways to expand the pilot beyond the original Wave 1 group. The possibilities are to increase the number of content providers and/or institutions. The group went over the list of initial content providers who expressed an interest in the pilot and concluded that it would make sense to revisit the possibility of testing with OCLC.

This suggestion opened up a general discussion about the political implications of the parallel pilots that are occurring with the Shibboleth project. There is some concern that a content provider may not be interested or willing to pilot both PKI and Shibboleth simultaneously. Bob indicated that EBSCO, OCLC, SFX and Elsevier are the pilot content providers working with Shibboleth. Twelve schools, including Dartmouth, are participating. Dartmouth hopes to authenticate to Shibboleth using PKI certificates and test with OCLC and Elsevier.

Despite the potential conflicts, the Wave 1 group believes it makes sense to approach new content providers to take part in a Wave 2 test. Judith will put together a set of materials describing the Wave 1 test to send out to OCLC and other content providers. In addition, Spencer agreed to visit with interested vendors about his experience and lessons learned from the Wave 1 test.

On the October conference call, the group will review—and decide how to approach-- the institutions who indicated a possible interest in Wave 2 at the “Exploring Access” meeting held in 2001. These schools are: The University of Illinois, New York University, University of Texas-Austin, University of Chicago and Columbia.

Action Items

Ann will correct the August 28 minutes and send to Michelle for reposting.

Judith will put together a packet of materials and begin contacting content providers, specifically OCLC.

Ann will resend the Wave 1 summary that Bob wrote up to be reviewed by each of the participating schools and content providers. Once this is approved, Michelle will post this on the CREN web site.

The next conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23 at 11 A.M. Eastern Time.