State of e-Authentication in Higher Education

In continuing its focus on standardizing student authentication, the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) is pleased to announce its Assembly on the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education. The Assembly will take place on Friday August 20, 2004 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington VA and will run 8:30am – 4pm. Registration is free, but space is limited, so attendees must register online at http://www.PESC.org/Events/e-Authentication.asp.

In hosting this Assembly on e-Authentication, PESC is bringing together various leaders and experts within the higher education and technology communities. Over the coming year, higher education institutions, service providers, systems vendors, state and federal agencies, and all supporting suppliers to higher education will be making serious investments and commitments to online services. With the number of emerging technologies, standards, specifications, and frameworks, PESC is looking to ensure that information is shared and communicated so that decision makers have solid, reliable information on which to make informed decisions. Speakers for the State of e-Authentication in Higher Education include:

**David Temoshok** – Director of Identity Policy and Management, U.S. General Services Administration – who will provide an update on the various federal government activities and initiatives related to e-Authentication. As Mr. Temoshok is Co-Chair of the Electronic Authentication Partnership (EAP), he will also provide an overview and update on activities related to the EAP.

**David Yakimaschak** – Chief Technology Officer, JSTOR – who will discuss the general state of authentication and JSTOR’s implementation of various authentication protocols, and introduce attendees to the newly formed federation called *InCommon*.

**Howard Gilbert** – Senior Research Programmer, Yale University – who will discuss portal authentication issues, activities, and authentication implementation at Yale University.

**Robert Morley** – Associate Registrar, University of Southern California, and Board of Directors member of both AACRAO and PESC – who will...
discuss authentication from the admissions and registrar perspective.

Scott Cantor – Senior Systems Developer, Ohio State University and Shibboleth Architect and Core Developer, Internet2 – who will discuss SAML and communicate the future roadmap for Shibboleth including: relationships between various projects, how they might evolve over the next 12-24 months, and the interoperability and/or certification work that Shibboleth will be initiating in order to raise the level of interoperability.

Adele Marsh – Vice President, E-Commerce Initiatives, AES – who will update attendees on the Meteor Network, the standards and processes it uses, and discuss the future enhancements to Meteor.

Mark Jones – Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, National Student Clearinghouse – who will address high level business issues related to PKI and some of the specific challenges for higher education.

Bernie Gleason – Executive Consultant, IBM – who will discuss the weakest portion of authentication security — password security and poor user practices — and explore ideas how to transition stronger authentication practices for all customers and all interactions across the entire institution. Included will be a look at the way in which security tokens and biometrics may be deployed in the future.

Information and online registration for the SDC are available at: http://edeworkshop.ncspearson.com/swdAugust_04.htm. The registration deadline for the SDC is today August 4, 2004.

Hotel information and room reservation procedures can also be found at the link listed above. The sleeping room cut-off date is today August 4, 2004 as well. Attendees to the PESC Assembly on e-Authentication must use the room block and name as well to obtain discounted rates (“Software Developers”). For questions or concerns, please contact Ane Johnson, PESC’s Membership Coordinator, at 202-263-0296 or Michael Sessa, PESC’s Executive Director, at 202-293-7383 for more information. This Assembly is made possible by the generous support and sponsorship of Sungard SCT.

For more information on PESC, please visit www.PESC.org.
PESC Members Elect Pete Nalli of Datatel to Board of Directors

At its Annual Membership Meeting held May 3, 2004, the Members of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) elected Pete Nalli of Datatel, Inc. to PESC’s Board of Directors.

Mr. Nalli is Director of Architecture and Software Development for Datatel. He has been designing and building software development tools since the mid 70’s. In the early 80’s, Pete co-designed Datatel’s first application development environment, which used application generators to build Datatel’s first fund-raising solution, Benefactor, and Colleague, an integrated information technology solution designed specifically for higher education. In the 90’s, Pete headed up Datatel’s research and development group and was instrumental in moving Datatel’s architecture from a single database focus to its current three-tier, database-independent design. For over thirty years, Pete has been an innovator of development tools and technical architectures with a constant vision for the future that incorporates solving the business needs of higher education institutions.

Judith Flink of the University of Illinois in Chicago, Mark Jones of the National Student Clearinghouse, Dallas Martin of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and Keith Riccitelli of Sallie Mae were also reelected for two years terms.

Subsequently, during its first meeting of the new fiscal year, the Board re-elected Keith Riccitelli of Sallie Mae as Chair of the Board of Directors for a fourth straight term. The Board then re-elected both Steve Biklen of NASLA as Treasurer of the Board of Directors and Mark Jones of the National Student Clearinghouse as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

The eleven member Board is now comprised as follows:

Michael Berberet, Pearson
Steve Biklen, National Association of Student Loan Administrators (NASLA)
Judith Flink, University of Illinois – Chicago
Bill Hollowsky, Oracle

Mark Jones, National Student Clearinghouse
Dave Moldoff, Sungard SCT
Robert Morley, American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)
Dallas Martin, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)
Pete Nalli, Datatel, Inc.
Keith Riccitelli, Sallie Mae

Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director

To ensure balance and even representation across the various segments of higher education, the make-up of the PESC Board of Directors is designated by PESC’s bylaws. The Board has overall authority to set PESC policies and provides direction and guidance for all activities of PESC including conferences, the Standards Forum for Education, and all workgroups including Single Institution Identifier, and its newly formed Standard Student Authentication Workgroup.

PESC Joins SIFs Education Advisory Panel

The Schools Interoperability Framework (SIF) recently formed an Education Advisory Panel. The panel was formed to advise SIF’s Executive Director Larry Fruth on workgroup activities, national initiatives, and strategic direction and is comprised of representatives from local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. The panel is also charged with reviewing and approving proposed new objects to the SIF specification. Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director, will serve as the PESC representative. Discussions have begun on development of a pK12 Transcript and SIF and PESC will work closely to ensure collaboration and interoperability. SIF was awarded PESC’s 2003 Best Practices Award and provided an overview of SIF to attendees of the 1st Annual Conference on Technology and Standards. More information is available on SIF at www.SIFinfo.org.
Under the direction of COO Terri Shaw, the US Department of Education’s Office of Federal Student Aid (FSA), recently released its Five Year Strategic Plan, which describes FSA’s strategic direction, objectives, goals, and success measures. The plan takes into account: PBO legislation, Customer Needs, The President’s Management Agenda, GAO’s List of High Risk Issues, and ED’s Strategic Plan. FSA identified five strategic objectives: integrate FSA systems and provide new technology solutions; improve program integrity; reduce program administration costs; improve human capital management, and; improve products and services to provide better customer service. The entire plan can be accessed at: http://www.ifap.ed.gov/eanouncements/attachments/0621FinalFiveYearPlan.pdf

IBM has entered into an agreement with Paris-based Orange, to create a single sign-on service that will allow some 50 million cellular phone customers to securely access different Web sites and mobile services. IBM is using its WebSphere Portal, WebSphere Everyplace Access and IBM Tivoli Access Manager software to provide the sign-on service. The software complies with the Liberty 1.1 Web services specification for single sign-on put forth by the Liberty Alliance Project. For more information see http://www.infoworld.com/article/04/07/22/HNibmsinglesignon_1.html

Intel and Oracle are among seven organizations that have recently joined as sponsor members of the Liberty Alliance. The organization now boasts about 160 member companies. Several com-

UT Austin Internet Server ‘SPEEDEs’ Along
June 2004 volume included:

- 50,951 TS130 transcripts
  Most ever in any one month.
- 43,376 TS131 acknowledgements
- 5,661 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 14,976 TS189 Admission Applications
- 12,352 TS138 test score reports
- 134,261 total transactions
panies demonstrated commercial products compliant with the Liberty specs at the Burton Group’s Catalyst conference, held last week in San Diego. For more information about what companies are using the specifications to accomplish visit http://www.adtmag.com/article.asp?id=9791

- **Addressing a selection of Last Call issues, the W3C Technical Architecture Group (TAG) has released an updated Working Draft of the Architecture of the World Wide Web, First Edition, according to W3C press release. The document is written for Web developers, implementers, content authors and publishers. It describes the properties that are desired of the Web and the design choices that have been made to achieve them. To access the document visit http://www.w3.org/TR/2004/WD-webarch-20040705/**

- **In a recently released report, ‘XML Modeling and Mapping: Turbulent Transformation in the Grand Schema of Things,’ Peter O’Kelly, report author and analyst with the Burton Group, writes ‘the market is rapidly consolidating around a small but significant set of XML standards and artifact types (documents, schemas, styles, and transformations). Beyond XML, O’Kelly lists four key standards that he calls ‘substantive’ and ‘pivotal’. For additional information visit http://www.adtmag.com/article.asp?id=9723**

- **The Open Group has made available a “Developer Declaration of Independence” for all those interested in keeping “IT infrastructure will be based on open standards rather than closed, proprietary architectures controlled by a single organization” to sign. To view or sign the Declaration visit http://www.opengroup.org/declaration/declaration.htm.**

- **In a satirical approach to warning against the costs of having multiple systems exchanging disparate data, CIO author Malcolm Wheatley discusses what could have happened in Iraq if the British defense department had not “cleaned” its data. The article provides a “how to” manual for approaching the overwhelming task of bringing disparate data into one streamlined system. To read the article visit http://www.cio.com/archive/07014/data.html**

- **A recent customer satisfaction survey revealed that government websites are improving but still have a long way to go to satisfy their users. On average, government websites scored approximately 5 points below the private sector in customer satisfaction. For more information about the study visit http://www2.cio.com/metrics/2004/metric708.html**
In This Issue:
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- Meteor Strategic Planning Pays Dividends
- Meteor Version 2 & 3 Update
- Meteor and Mapping Your Future Gear Up for NASFAA
- Meteor Outreach Efforts
- Technology Team Update
- Current Meteor Participants

Paul Ness Named Authentication Team Lead
The Meteor Advisory Team is pleased to announce that Paul Ness (SLMA) has assumed the position of Team Lead of the Meteor Security, Privacy, and Authentication Team. This position was formerly held by Charlie Miller (RIHEAA), and has been vacant since Charlie became co-chair of the Meteor Advisory Team in October of 2003.

The Security, Privacy and Authentication Team tracks legal and regulatory developments related to information security and privacy, and assures that the technical design of the Meteor software is compliant. In addition, the Team monitors emerging technical standards for authentication and encryption to assure that Meteor remains state of the art in these areas.

Paul’s twenty years of experience in information technology make him particularly well qualified for his new role with Meteor. He has been an active participant on the Meteor Advisory Team since the inception of the Meteor Project, and his insight and judgement have been indispensable.

According to Paul, “Charlie Miller did a great job in leading the Meteor Authentication team. In the coming months, we will be looking at ways to build on the foundation that he helped develop, to facilitate use of Meteor while maintaining our high security standards.”
Meteor Strategic Planning

The Meteor Advisory Team has completed a lengthy strategic planning process. The results of this effort are being used to guide the activities of the team for the rest of the year and beyond. The plan is quite detailed and comprehensive, covering goals and objectives in all areas. Here are a few excerpts:

Meteor Mission statement:
Meteor will be recognized and accepted as the standard for real time, secure access to comprehensive, timely, and accurate student financial aid information.

Meteor Vision statement:
Meteor will be THE standard means for accessing higher education data from distributed sources.

Meteor Strategic Objectives:
I. Provide, through open collaborative participation, freely available open-source software and support that enables low cost implementation.
II. Provide the right data at the right time from the right source.
III. Continue to be an open source product collaboratively developed by industry participants, that embraces recognized and emerging technology standards to provide for quick secure access to distributed data.
IV. Enable participants to provide their customers with real-time access to comprehensive financial aid data anytime and anywhere.
V. Secure all-inclusive implementation by data and access providers.

Major areas of focus for Meteor for FY 2004 are:
1. Facilitate widespread implementation of Borrower Access to Meteor.
2. Continue enhancing Meteor with new services valued by schools and borrowers.
3. Continue the current high-level of security, stability, and reliability of the production Meteor network.
4. Assist schools, and Service Providers with the incorporation of Meteor data access with their products and services.
5. Continue to work with FSA and the Student Aid industry toward full Meteor participation and adoption of Meteor as a standard service.

The strategic plan has already begun to pay dividends, assisting the MAT with identifying and prioritizing tasks, as well as identifying and prioritizing enhancements to the Meteor Software. Special thanks are due to Terry Everson of Great Lakes for sharing his expertise and time to facilitate this effort.
Meteor Update - Version 2 & 3

Testing of Version 2.3 and 3.1 is in process. After testing is complete, Meteor Version 2.3 will be available for Meteor Participants not planning to implement borrower access in the near future. Version 2.3 requires no changes for participants currently running any version of Meteor 2.x.

After testing, Meteor Version 3.1 will be available for Meteor Participants currently moving to implement borrower access. Version 3.1 also contains several additional minor changes.

Meteor Participants will be notified via the Meteor Production Listservs as soon as Version 2.3 and 3.1 are available. Meteor Access and Data Providers are urged to install either Version 2.3 or Version 3.1 as soon as they can after they receive notification of their availability.

Meteor and Mapping Your Future Gear Up for NASFAA

The time for the annual NASFAA conference is quickly approaching. Meteor will once again streak across the skies of Minneapolis, but this time, it won’t be alone.

Meteor and Mapping Your Future are coming together in the twin cities to offer new and innovative ways to use their technologies to benefit the community as a whole. Together, they will be trying to answer the age-old question… how and when do we get the right information to the student loan borrower to assist in fending off default?

If you are attending NASFAA, be sure to attend the Meteor session on Monday, July 19, 2004, entitled “Meteorizing Your Office and Your Students”. The session will focus on ways that Meteor can be incorporated into a school’s web portal to improve student aid awareness and assist with default aversion efforts.

Afterwards, come on over to the Meteor/Mapping Your Future booth (spaces 619 & 621) in the exhibitor’s area to pick up a handout showing one way in which Meteor data can be incorporated into Mapping Your Future’s services.

See you in Minneapolis!!
Meteor Outreach Efforts

Ongoing discussions about Meteor have been taking place between Brett Lief (NCHELP) and Diane Stemper (ELM Resources) to explore ways that the two technologies might benefit each other.

On April 14, Matthew Sessa (AES) presented a session about the collaboration between Meteor and Mapping Your Future at the Pennsylvania Association of Student Financial Aid Association Spring Training. Adele Marsh repeated the session on April 20th for a different region of the State.

At the Mapping Your Future Annual Conference (April 28-30), Adele Marsh (AES) presented a session on web services and e-authentication using Meteor as an example.

On May 6th, Russ Judd (GLHEC) and Adele Marsh (AES) briefed the NCHELP Debt Management Committee on the collaboration between Meteor and Mapping Your Future, and the possibility of using Meteor data to aid in default aversion.

At the EASFAA Conference (5/16-5/19), Adele Marsh (AES) represented Meteor on a panel presenting information about loan locator services.

On May 21st, Russ Judd (GLHEC), Robyn Hughes (SLMA) and Adele Marsh (AES) met with NCHELP Program Operations Committee, and provided information about the collaboration between Meteor and Mapping Your Future, and the possibility of using Meteor data to aid in default aversion.

On May 3, Tim Bornholtz (FSA) and Charlie Miller (RIHEAA) presented a session at the 1st Annual Conference on Technology & Standards in Washington, DC entitled "Web Services and E-Authentication: The Meteor Implementation". Meteor was used as the model for demonstrating an implementation of the various technologies discussed in securing real time web services.

On July 7th, Russ Judd (GLHEC) presented a session entitled “Meteor: Adding Value Through Collaboration and Integration” at the National Association of Sigma Users (NASU) annual conference in San Diego.

Coming Soon:

During the annual NASFAA Conference (7/18 - 7/21), Adele Marsh (AES) and Nicholas Zinser (Northeastern University) will share the podium for a session entitled “Meteorizing Your Office and Your Students.” The session will focus on how Meteor can be incorporated into a school’s web portal to improve student aid awareness and assist with default aversion efforts.

On Aug 12, Adele Marsh will present a session at the Alternative Loan Study Group Training Conference in Denver entitled “Alternative Loans and Meteor”.
Meteor Technical Team Update
The Technical Team Summit at TG’s Main Office at 301 Sundance Pkwy in Round Rock, Texas is fast approaching. The team will meet for full days on July 13th, 14th, and 15th, with a half day on the 16th.

Indepth sessions will explore the history of Meteor, its underlying technology, and authentication techniques. Hands on sessions will include setup of the Meteor Registry and a full installation of the Meteor software. For more information, contact Will Thien at will.thien@tgslc.org or call him at (512) 219-4554.

Progress continues on the plan to house a backup site for the Meteor registry at Mapping Your Future. Server hardware has been acquired, and configuration work has begun.

Current Meteor Participants
Meteor Data Providers:
Connecticut Student Loan Foundation
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation
Student Loans of North Dakota
SallieMae
KHEAA
Education Assistance Corporation
AES
AES Graduate Services
AES Servicing
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas
Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance
Finance Authority of Maine
Michigan Guaranty Agency
New Mexico Student Loan Guarantee Corporation
Northwest Education Loan Association
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority
United Student Aid Funds
Office of Student Financial Assistance
Georgia Higher Education Assistance Corp
The NHHEAF Network
Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program
GuaranTec - TSAC (Tennessee)
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation

Meteor Access Providers:
Connecticut Student Loan Foundation
Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation
SallieMae
KHEAA
Education Assistance Corporation
AES Guaranty
Illinois Student Assistance Commission
Northwest Education Loan Association
Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority
Office of Student Financial Assistance
The NHHEAF Network
Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program
GuaranTec
Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation
Plan to attend this year's 2004 AACRAO Technology Conference!

Implementing Technology in Student Systems and Service
October 3-5, 2004
Newport Beach Marriott, Newport Beach, California

Join us for this informative 2 1/2 day conference in beautiful Newport Beach, California as we focus on understanding emerging technology and how we can make it work for higher education professionals.

This conference will address the technology needs of people in admissions, registration, financial aid, enrollment management, and student affairs. Individuals associated with technology, commercial and educational support fields should also attend.

Attend the AACRAO Technology Conference and participate in an array of comprehensive and timely sessions and workshops designed to give you the knowledge you need to assist you in implementing the latest technology on your campus. This year's program offers over 60 sessions to suit your needs. Topics include:

- Admissions Technology Applications
- Document Storage Technologies
- EDI and XML topics, plus their relationship
- Emerging Technologies
- Managing Information
- Outsourcing
- Re-Engineering
- SIS Implementation and Maintenance
- Technology Issues and Concerns (staff, security, structural, organizational, and policy issues, etc.)
- Web Applications and services
- Financial Aid Technology
Featured speakers at this year's conference include:

G. Kay Jacks & Katie Crowley, U.S. Department of Education - will discuss their experiences with technology initiatives within the Department of Education, and what to expect in data standards and technological initiatives.

J. Michael Thompson, University of Southern California - will share his extensive knowledge and insight regarding technology as it applies to the offices of admissions and registration.

LeRoy Rooker, U.S. Department of Education - will highlight the effects of technology on FERPA and the privacy of student data, and the interaction between FERPA and emerging technologies.

Don't Miss these Preconference workshops!

- Fundamentals of Implementing an Electronic Data Exchange System
- Systems Re-engineering: Cases, Pitfalls, & Opportunities
- XML Tools and Strategies for Data Exchange: Transcripts and More

For a complete list of conference events and program information please visit: [http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/index.htm](http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/index.htm)

Don't delay! Register before September 3rd to receive the early bird registration.

To register online or download a registration form, please visit: [http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/registration.htm](http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/registration.htm)

Make your hotel reservations now! (Hotel conference rate expires September 3rd)
For information on travel and hotel accommodations, please visit: [http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/hotel.htm](http://www.aacrao.org/tech04/hotel.htm)