Nuts and Bolts of Linking Student Data: Common Identity & Trust (CommIT) Collaborative

PESC Data Summit – April 30, 2014

• Charlie Leonhardt, CTO, Georgetown University
• Ann West, Assistant Director, InCommon Assurance and Community, Internet2
What is CommIT?

• Quality Electronic Authentication Solution
  – Smooth
  – Reliable
  – Easily implemented

• Designed to streamline the electronic higher education admissions process
What is CommIT?

- CommIT runs single sign-on service for participating organizations
- Participating organizations will point students to the CommIT website to get account (once)
- Students log in once during a session (customizable time)
- Third party reports tagged with student’s CommIT identifier
- Identity Proofing Service increases security of login (Future phase)
Project Goals

- Support and Enhance Identity and Trust
- CommIT will provide a process for matching electronic records for college applicants and institutions
- Federated Single Sign-On Solution (SSO)
  - Single set of credentials that can be used across various services
  - Credentials can be consumed on campus until a student matriculates
  - Credentials can be traded-in for Georgetown NetID credentials via self-service application
- CommIT strives to provide a scalable, secure approach to SSO
  - Only the applicant can initiate record aggregation and release
  - No third party access to data without applicant consent
CommIT as a Collaboration

- Launched at PESC EA2 Summit meeting
- Formal relationship with InCommon proposed at the same meeting
- InCommon welcomed relationship with PESC immediately, documents generated and signed
  - InCommon provides the standards, technology, and infrastructure to support identity management needed to further PESC standards.
  - PESC provides the education standards and expertise to leverage the InCommon federation to its fullest
- CommIT was the first project launched under this relationship
CommIT as a Collaboration

• Internet2 and InCommon
  – Identity infrastructure
  – Project management
  – Technical development
  – Funding
• PESC
  – Data standards expertise
  – Business development
  – Corporate outreach components.
• Georgetown University
  – Project Oversight
• Pennsylvania State University
  – Key technology components.
CommIT as a Collaboration

• Participating schools
  – University of Wisconsin
  – University of Southern California
  – You?

• Participating Vendors
  – National Student Clearinghouse
  – You?
Current Environment

• Todays reality:
  – Applicants establish separate accounts for every service they consume
• Cumbersome and challenging
• Applicants are rarely expected to prove their identity until after they have been accepted.
• Stakeholders incur significant costs in account provisioning and support
The Problem Space

- Without the use of SSN, matching students with their records is a frequently manual process (Expense and accuracy issues).
- Offering credentials to all applicants or admitted students dilutes the quality of the credential pool and adds non-students to the directory (Quality and privacy issues).
- Applicants and admitted students put load on credential help desk (Expense issues).
- Low-quality credentials risk security (Financial aid fraud issues).
Tomorrow’s Admissions Registration Process?

Identity Assured

Financial Aid Info Received

Third-party Info Received

FIRST CONTACT MADE

APPLICATION RECEIVED

ACCEPTED

DEPOSIT PAID

REGISTERED/ORIENTATION

Your Certainty

Identity Management On-boarding

Identity Proofed

Strong Identity Matching

Institutional Credentialing
Opportunities

• Obtaining access to CommIT helpdesk support for credential issues for applicants
• A replacement to the SSN as a matching tool for applicants, their records, and their financial aid
• Precludes institutions from creating local credentials for admitted applicants
• Enables custom NetID creation self-service
Opportunities

• Ensures that admitted applicants are never in the public directory
• Helps encourage FAFSA matching participation, possibly even eliminating all need to ask an applicant for their SSN
• With assurance and acceptance from FAFSA, potentially eliminates student financial aid fraud
Scope of the Pilot

• Limited Number of Organizations.
• Each Pilot Participant will determine their service & student scope.
  – Recommended that organizations choose a well-defined admissions process to test the infrastructure
    • i.e. – an outreach or athletic program

• Goals of the Pilot
  – Test the infrastructure to ensure proper functioning
  – Test the process flows to ensure ease of use.
  – Validate the value proposition.
  – Inform the final production service.
  – Determine the help desk and support requirements.
CommIT Project Team Deliverables

- The CommIT Project Team has provided a pilot technical infrastructure which includes:
  - A scalable person registry with all the mechanisms for adding applicants, setting and resetting passwords, and all the expected functionality.
  - A scalable identity store.
  - A scalable Shibboleth Identity Provider
  - A web based user interface
  - Provider/Participant Documentation
Pilot Participants Deliverables

Higher Ed
- Identify and pilot scoped admissions process to use CommIT account
- Provide link to CommIT Project site
- Accept CommIT logins
- Use the CommIT identifier for matching
- Participate in definition of production phase
- Share experiences

Companies
- Accept CommIT logins
- Store the CommIT identifier
- Support including CommIT identifier on applicant documents passed to participating institutions
- Participate in definition of production phase
- Share experiences
What CommIT Provides

- Unique CommIT identifier that can be used for matching purposes
- Single Sign-on for students at all institutions and organizations that participate
- Enhanced assurance, eventually reaching InCommon Silver compliance

CommIT is a service that will enable its partners to do great things, but CommIT’s scope is limited to what CommIT will do well.
What CommIT stores

- Username
- Contact information
  - Address
  - Phone
  - Email
- Password reset questions
- Unique CommIT ID
- CommIT Username and encrypted password

- All other student data is held by the same entities that hold it now
Project Update
CommIT Core Service Update

- Data Matching
  - Data Matching Algorithm Developed
  - Utilization of SAS Services
    - Fuzzy Matching
    - Address Validation Service
- Centralized Help Desk Service
- Operations Support
  - Unicon
CommIT Business Team

• Business Plan
  • Participation Agreements
  • Marketing & Communications
  • Further Partner Outreach
CommIT Fuzzy Matching and Address validation Service
April 25 - May 21

**University of Wisconsin, Madison Prospective Student Pilot**

- **University of Wisconsin, Madison PEOPLE Program Pilot**
  - June 22 - July 13

**National Student Clearinghouse Enrollment Reporting Enhancement Pilot**

- **UW, Madison Go Live**
  - June 2
- **UW, Madison Go Live**
  - June 22
- **NSC Go Live**
  - June 15

**USC High School Student Program**

- **USC Go Live**
  - November 1 - June 30

**CommIT Core Service Delivered**

- **May 31**

**USC Go Live**

- **November 3**

**UW, Madison Go Live**

- **June 2**

**CommIT Core Service Delivered**

- **May 31**

**National Student Clearinghouse Enrollment Reporting Enhancement Pilot**

- **June 15 - June 30**

**University of Wisconsin, Madison PEOPLE Program Pilot**

- **June 22 - July 13**

**USC High School Student Program**

- **November 1 - June 30**

**CommIT Fuzzy Matching and Address validation Service**

- **April 25 - May 21**

**CommIT Core Service Delivered**

- **May 31**
Pilot Implementation Schedule

• **June 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**
  - University of Wisconsin, Madison
    Prospective Students Program

• **June 15, 2014 to June 30, 2015**
  - National Student Clearinghouse
    Enrollment Reporting Enhancement

• **June 22, 2014 to July 13, 2014**
  - University of Wisconsin, Madison
    PEOPLE Program

• **November 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015**
  - University of Southern California
    High School Summer Program

The CommIT Project
Project Participation

• Get Involved!
  - Attend the concurrent sessions
  - Come to the Open Forum Discussion
  - Join the Technical and/or Business Teams
  - Become a Pilot Participant
Concurrent Session Agenda
• 8:30am to 10:15am – The CommIT Pilot
  – University of Wisconsin, Madison
  – USC
  – National Student Clearinghouse

• 10:30am to Noon – Detailed Project Update & Demonstration

• Working Lunch: The Future of CommIT

• 1:30pm to 3:00pm – CommIT Integration Demonstration

• 3:15pm to 4:00pm – CommIT Open Forum Discussion

• 4:00pm to 5:00pm – Your CommIT Implementation
Contact Information

• Ann West
  Assistant Director, InCommon Assurance and Community
  awest@internet2.edu

• Charlie Leonhardt
  Chief Technology Officer
  leonhardt@georgetown.edu

• Tim Cameron
  CommIT Project Manager
  tcameron@internet2.edu