Project no. 018340

Project acronym: EDIT

Project title: Toward the European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy

Instrument: Network of Excellence

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C5.085 Integrate further platform components with the CSSO security infrastructure

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Organisation name of lead contractor for this component: 9 FUB-INF

Revision draft

Project co-funded by the European Commission within the Sixth Framework Programme (2002-2006)		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	x
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

C5.085 Integrate further platform components with the CSSO security infrastructure

Objectives

The general objective of the activity covers the design of a security infrastructure for the platform and the introduction of a secure Single Sign-On service (SSO) for the platform. The task to be achieved within the third JPA concerns the integration of a Community Single Sign-On (CSSO) security infrastructure within the platform.

The CSSO enables the various EDIT service providers to protect their services and resources defining individual access control policies, while users can access different services using only one identity. The security infrastructure bases on the SAML v2 protocol family and provides a federation concept to realise the community aspect.

This component reports on the enhancements achieved in comparison to milestone 5.19a, fully functional CSSO security infrastructure setup.

First platform components in production use

In milestone 5.19a, the focus was on having a fully functional demonstration scenario, which could be used as an alternative to existing non-CSSO protected applications. Now, we went one step further and implemented CSSO for a first application in production. Developers and experienced IT users are registered and can use single sign-on on the EDIT developers tools platform. It turned out that there were several workflow issues still to be solved (e.g. registering large number of user, login and logout workflows, SSL server certificates) before CSSO will be suitable for less experienced IT users.

In particular, the usage of SSL server certificates issued by certification authorities and recognised by popular web browser software bears some consequences that need to be discussed at the next ISTC meeting.

Nevertheless, we are planning to connect further applications, particularly those that are based on the Drupal content management system, to the CSSO infrastructure within the next weeks.

Evaluating solutions for further platform types

Since the EDIT platform components CDM, Taxonomic Editor and the CATE project developed at RBG Kew are based on the Spring Framework, a preliminary solution to connect Spring applications to the CSSO Infrastructure has been evaluated. The Spring Security SAML module has been checked out by installing and running a Spring example application equipped with that module against the CSSO security infrastructure successfully.

Details

For more detailed information regarding CSSO or the current development state of this activity, please refer to the detailed CSSO description in the respective section of the WP5 developer's wiki (http://dev.e-taxonomy.eu/trac/wiki/CSSO).