MDREN Pilot description

- Target constituents and scope

USM Universities participating in Coursera pilot and MDREN members using NJvid and Desktone VDI services.

- Initial goal

We are naming this program MDTrust and proposing a partnership with Fischer International and InCommon to get this program launched.
We are proposing a one year pilot that we can use to quickly enable some key services in the state, namely the launching of a partnership with Coursera, to evaluate this platform for support of remedial and wide-scale education.

The two key goals of our plan is to

1) leverage existing standards in higher education such things as InCommon, and
2) developing a partnership with a commercial provider, Fischer.

While InCommon is the preferred approach in higher education, it has seem only limited adoption in the community colleges and has very limited use in K-12.

The partnership with Fischer International leverages the very aggressive pricing Fischer is offering higher education and builds on a relationship that Fischer has developed with Coppin State University (a USM University) . Our plan is provide consulting services to members of MDREN that would help them adopt the Fischer International offerings to facilitate a Shibboleth presentation of external credentials for participating schools.

- Post pilot longer term goals

If use of InCommon is successful we will continue to expand its use across the different tiers within the state of Maryland. If as a result of the pilot we find that that this solution does not meet our needs we will re-examine our development of a federation solution, probably in partnership with Fischer, to serve the state of Maryland.

- Federation model selected

We will be using InCommon and working with SPs and members who are not InCommon members to establish bi-lateral metadata exchange.

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- Targeted applications or services

We are now working with different vendors and partners to set up Shibboleth access for our members to services where either the service provider or our member is not an InCommon member.
For Coursera, we are working with our members who are not InCommon members to gain access with a "bi-lateral agreement" even though Coursera is an InCommon Service Provider.
For NJvid, the video archive service from New Jersey, we have coordinated a "bi-lateral agreement" for use of our members.
We are working with Dell and will be following up with North Carolina VCL to continue the VDE service in the future and are determining their SP status.

- InCommon Affiliate assistance/role in pilot if applicable

During the pilot we propose to ask InCommon to waive the first year fees for community colleges and K-12 organizations. MDREN will encourage SP's we want to engage to join InCommon; however for those unwilling to do so, we will work with Fischer and these service providers to establish a direct, referred to as bi-lateral , trust connection from the institution.

Outcomes

- Challenges encountered and how were they addressed

Services were not ready to be accessed through InCommon. We were able to connect schools using Shibboleth to services directly.

- What did you spent or expect to spend?

All effort was out of existing budgets or grants.

- Successes/Benefits
  - Overview of successes/benefits
  - Number of students/instructors benefiting from the pilot (please break out by level if applicable (K12 students/instructors versus community college students/instructors)
  - Include a "before and after" story or scenario if possible

Moving Forward

- Lessons learned and recommendations to others

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It was decided that MDREN would work to help individual members join InCommon for future services. There was only limited support among members for continuing to develop a federated model. The limited number of services available under the model indicated that a re-evaluation would be more appropriate at a later time.

- Plans for scaling beyond current scope
- Next Steps
- New challenges expected in moving forward
- Other thoughts/reflections you would like to add