

Standard

news and commentary on technology and standards in postsecondary education

Inside

- PESC Members Elect Incumbents to Board of Directors and Board Elects Officers (p. 2)
- EAP Merges in Liberty (p. 2)
- Technology Tidbits (p. 3)
- GSA Federation News (p. 7)

Volume 9 ~ Issue 7 ~ July 2007

PESC Fall 2007 Summit in Montreal!

Join fellow colleagues in the higher education community as we celebrate PESC's 10th Year Anniversary! While the meeting in which PESC was actually launched took place on August 18, 1997 at the National Center for Higher Education, we'll hold the festivities during the Fall 2007 Summit being held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montreal Canada, see attached agenda page 6. In addition to meetings usually scheduled during PESC Summits, including Workgroups and Boards of the Standards Forum for Education, the PESC Board of Directors, PESC Fall Membership, & AACRAO's SPEEDE Committee, the Electronic Authentication /Electronic Authorization Task Force (EA2) will also convene. Plus we're hosting a special 10th Anniversary Reception! Final plans along with the agenda of workgroup meetings will be announced shortly. In the meantime, please make travel plans and reserve your hotel room. The Summit begins Monday morning October 15 at 8:30am with continental breakfast and concludes by Tuesday afternoon October 16 at 1pm. The dress code is business casual.

The Ritz Carlton Montreal is located at 1228 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal (Quebec) H3G1H6. Reservations may be made by calling 800-363-0366 or 1-514-842-4212, or emailing reservations@ritzmontreal.com, The cost per room is \$179 CAD/night

Get Your Passport Now!

Under the new requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), beginning January 23, 2007, ALL persons, including U.S. citizens, traveling by air between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda will be required to present a valid passport, Air NEXUS card, or U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document, or an Alien Registration Card, Form I-551, if applicable.

To obtain a passport for the first time, you need to go in person to one of over 8,000 passport acceptance facilities located throughout the United States with two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification such as a driver's license.

To renew a passport, you can renew by mail if: Your most recent passport is available to submit and it is not damaged; you received the passport within the past 15 years; you were over age 16 when it was issued; you still have the same name, or can legally document your name change.

For more information, visit http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html.

Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary in 2007

POSTSECONDARY

Electronic Standards Council

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The Standard is the electronic newsletter published monthly by The Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC). The Standard covers news and events that impact information technology and data exchange; and promotes PESC's goals of improving service, controlling costs, and attaining interoperability within higher education. For information about subscriptions, advertising, and article submissions, please visit www.PESC.org.

PESC Members Elect Incumbents to Board of Directors and Board Elects Officers

At their Annual Membership Meeting held April 23, 2007 during the 4th Annual Conference on Technology and Standards, the Members of the Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council (PESC) elected incumbents Steve Biklen of the National Association of Student Loan Administrators (NASLA), Barbara Clements of the National Transcript Center, David Moldoff of AcademyOne, Pete Nalli of Datatel, and Rick Skeel of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to PESC's Board of Directors. All were re-elected for two years terms which run July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

Additionally, during its first meeting of the new fiscal year, the Board re-elected Pete Nalli of Datatel as Chair of the Board of Directors for a third straight term, Francisco Valines of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) as Vice Chair, Steve Biklen of NASLA as Treasurer for a fifth straight term; and, elected Rick Skeel of AACRAO as Secretary. The Board of Directors had also appointed Bill Hollowsky, General Manager of Solutions Management at SunGard Higher Education, to the Board to fill one of the two new seats created by a PESC Member vote and change of the PESC bylaws on April 23, 2007.

The Board of Directors is now comprised as follows:

Chair **Pete Nalli**, Datatel, Inc
 Vice Chair **Francisco Valines**, NASFAA
 Treasurer **Steve Biklen**, represents NASLA
 Secretary **Rick Skeel**, represents AACRAO
Judith Flink, University of Illinois
Bill Hollowsky, SunGard Higher Education
Brian Lecher, AES/PHEAA
David Moldoff, AcademyOne
Barbara Clements, National Transcript Center
Michael Sessa, PESC Executive Director
Craig Cornell, Nelnet
Andy Wood, Oracle Corporation

To ensure balance and even representation across the various sectors 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 and work conducted by the Steering Committee under the Standards Forum for Education.

EAP Merges into Liberty

The Electronic Authentication Partnership (EAP, www.eapartnership.org) Board of Directors and the Liberty Alliance Management Board approved a merger of the EAP into Liberty Alliance effective July 1, 2007. All EAP members have been offered the opportunity to transfer their memberships into Liberty Alliance effective immediately. One of the terms of this merger is the submission of the EAP Trust Framework into Liberty Alliance for further development and evolution based on increased input from the Broad Liberty membership, including the Credential Assessment Framework of the US E-Authentication Federation. The expectation is that more broadly accepted framework will emerge along with an associated certification program to drive the acceptance of trust-based identity federations on a global scale.

A new group within Liberty (referred to as "Expert Groups") has been formed. Initially called the "Electronic Identity Assurance Expert Group (EIAEG)", this group is co-chaired by Jane Hennessy, Senior Vice President of Wells Fargo and former Chair of the EAP Board of Directors and Michael Sessa, Executive Director of PESC and current Chair of the EAP Board of Directors. This group is working to develop a global standard framework and any necessary support programs for validating trusted identity assurance service providers in a way that scales, empowers business processes and benefits individual users of identity assurance services.

For information please contact Michael Sessa at 202-261-6516 or at Michael.Sessa@PESC.org.

Technology Tidbits

and Standards Snippets

■ **Registration is now open for fall Federal Student Aid Conferences.**

The conference program and session content at each event are essentially the same. The dates and locations of the upcoming conferences are: October 30 - November 2, 2007, Sheraton New Orleans and November 26-29, 2007, Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego. For further information visit <http://fsaconferences.ed.gov>.

■ **An article titled "XML Processing and Data Integration with XQuery" shows how to use XQuery for native XML processing and data integration,** briefly explores other technologies used in the same space, and discusses some XQuery extensions for scripting and updates that are under

way. <http://computer.org/portal/pages/dsonline/2007/08/w4spot.xml><http://fsaconferences.ed.gov>.

■ **Members of the W3C XML Schema Working Group have released an updated Working Draft for "Guide to Versioning XML Languages using new XML Schema 1.1 Features."** The document is intended to provide an easily approachable description of the new versioning features in the XML Schema definition language, and should be used alongside the formal descriptions of the language contained in Parts 1 and 2 of the XML Schema Recommendation. <http://www.w3.org/TR/2007/WD-xmlschema-guide2versioning-20070720/>

PESC Joins the Liberty Alliance as a Sponsor

With the merger of the EAP into the Liberty Alliance, all EAP member organizations (in good standing) have been mapped over to Liberty membership. As such, PESC has now become a non-profit sponsor of Liberty. This level of membership within Liberty provides PESC with the ability to be elected to the Liberty Board, sponsor the formation of an Expert Group, Chair an Expert Group, participate in Board committees, attend all meetings, submit new requirements and technical proposals, use the Liberty Sponsor logo on the PESC website, among others. PESC is pleased to be able to collaborate with an international body whose current members include AOL, Hewlett Packard, intel, Novell, Oracle Corporation, Sun Microsystems, Ericsson, Adobe, Bank of America, CA, General Motors, IBM, the General Services Administration of the United States, Nokia, VeriSign, France Telecom, among many others.

■ **The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is backing Microsoft's effort to certify Office Open XML as an international standard.** NIST voted to conditionally approve Office Open XML (OOXML) pending some technical concerns in an upcoming standards approval vote. NIST is part of the committee that will establish the United States' position in a September 3 vote at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Microsoft is seeking ISO standardization as a way to appeal to government customers concerned over long-term archiving of digital documents. OpenDocument, or ODF, is another standard document format already approved by ISO. Advocates of ODF argue that a single standard is preferable while Microsoft executives argue that multiple standards provide more customer choice. http://news.com.com/8301-10784_3-9758278-7.html

■ **OASIS announced that its members have approved Darwin Information Typing Architecture (DITA) version 1.1 as an OASIS Standard,** a status that signifies the highest level of ratification. DITA builds content reuse into the authoring process, defining an XML architecture for designing, writing, managing, and publishing many kinds of information in print and on the Web. Participation in the OASIS DITA Technical Committee remains open to all companies, non-profit groups, governments, academic institutions, and individuals.

UT Austin Internet Server 'SPEEDEs' Along

June 2007 volume included:

- 73,151 TS130 transcripts
- 57,906 TS131 acknowledgements
- 14,816 TS997 Functional acknowledgements
- 34,921 TS189 Admission Applications
- 12,465 TS138 test score reports
- 206,611 total transactions



We've Moved!

Effective July 2, 2007

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**** DRAFT ****
8-13-2007

PESC Fall 2007 Summit
October 15 – 16, 2007
Montreal, Canada
Ritz-Carlton Hotel



Tentative Agenda

	Monday October 15, 2007		Tuesday October 16, 2007		
7:30am – 8:30am	Continental Breakfast General Introduction and Overview of PESC (for first-time attendees)		Continental Breakfast		
8:30am – 10:15am <i>(Concurrent Sessions)</i>	Steering Committee	Admission Application Workgroup	Course Inventory Workgroup	EA2	PESC/SIFA Alignment
10:15am – 10:30am	Break		Break		
10:30am – Noon <i>(Concurrent Sessions)</i>	Board of Directors – Membership & Revenue Subcommittee	Admission Application Workgroup	Course Inventory Workgroup	EA2	Student Aid Inquiry
Noon – 1:30pm <i>(Concurrent Sessions)</i>	PESC Membership Lunch and Fall Membership Meeting (for PESC Member and Affiliate Organizations)		Lunch on Your Own		
1:30pm – 3:15pm <i>(Concurrent Sessions)</i>	Board of Directors – Adoption Subcommittee	Admission Application Workgroup	Course Inventory Workgroup	Change Control Board	Student Aid Inquiry
3:15pm – 3:30pm	Break		Break		
3:30pm – 5:00pm <i>(Concurrent Sessions)</i>	Board of Directors (Executive Session)	Technical Advisory Board	General Session – Updates and Closing		
6:00pm – 7:30pm	PESC 10 th Anniversary Reception				



Federation News

Volume I, Issue 2

New Relying Parties:

- Department of Defense's *MyPay*
- Department of Labor's *OSHA Webservices*
- General Services Administration's *E-Travel*
- Department of State's *Webmove*

Manager's Corner **2**

Federation Growth **3**

Schedule of Events **3**

Help Desk **3**

Performance Measures **4**

Interfederation **5**

eRulemaking Implements E-Authentication Ahead of Schedule

When the Environmental Protection Agency eRulemaking Initiative Program Management Office (PMO) kicked off the E-Authentication project last September, they had barely 90 days to meet the mandated December 31, 2006 deadline to credential the first Federal Docket Management System (FDMS.gov) user. With the holiday season approaching, the eRulemaking program staff – with fewer than ten people – had their hands full deploying FDMS.gov to multiple federal agencies, managing a new version release, and planning a number of public outreach events. To meet the mandated deadline, the PMO and its systems integration partner, Lock-

heed Martin, formed a task team and put a plan in place to put the project on a fast track for completion by mid-December.

The plan worked. The first FDMS.gov user was credentialed on FDMS.gov on December 20, 2006 – 11 days ahead of schedule. FDMS includes the system architecture and web-based functionality that enables federal agency

users to access a secure system via FDMS.gov to facilitate searches, manage public comments on federal regulations, and make information available to the public on Regulations.gov. “eRulemaking’s three-month deployment was the fastest deployment of a viable E-Authentication solution to date,” said Georgia Marsh, Acting Program Executive, E-Authentication Solution,

(Continued on page 6)



Regulations.gov facilitates public participation in the federal regulatory process by improving the public's ability to find, view, and comment on federal regulatory actions.

New Architecture Approved: SAML 2.0 is Ready for Business

The E-Authentication PMO has revised its architecture to incorporate the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) 2.0 specification from OASIS to better meet the authentication needs of agencies. The revised architecture incorporates an additional adopted scheme and interface specifica-

tion letting agencies take advantage of the enhanced functionality included in OASIS' new SAML specification.

The process to revise the architecture was rigorous. The E-Authentication PMO conducted an interoperability

event in the Interoperability Lab to determine the capability of various vendors to comply with the SAML 2.0 specification. The E-Authentication PMO also talked with agencies to identify which features were necessary, as well as other features that would be most valuable to them. Working on

(Continued on page 6)



The SAML 2.0 specification from OASIS provides agencies with more functionality to support their electronic authentication needs.

<http://www.oasis-open.org>

Federation News

Manager's Corner

PRINCIPLE

The E-Authentication PMO is customer-focused.

The E-Authentication PMO meets the authentication needs of its customers and delivers value to them in doing so.

On June 6, 2007, the E-Authentication Executive Steering Committee formally endorsed a new business model approach to provide agencies with policy-compliant electronic authentication services under a fee-for-service model. This was a major milestone and a turning point in the history of E-Authentication – it marked the beginning of the transition from a “mandate-driven” initiative to a “market-driven” business line.

Incorporating input from agencies and industry, the new business model delivers value to our agency customers and provides them with the choice and flexibility to meet their electronic authentication needs. Already, there have been a number of very positive conversations with agencies who are interested in using our services (Federation membership, credential services, and integration and technical support services), and the PMO will be following up with all our agency customers over the course of the summer to customize a package of services for each of them. Over the summer the PMO will establish new contract vehicles and continue certifying more products as interoperable to

make sure services are fully available by the end of 2007 – the PMO will be “open for business” as planned.

Your comments on our new service offering are welcome and we look forward to meeting with each agency during the next few months to discuss how the PMO can deliver the best E-Authentication services

to meet your agency's needs. Please contact me at georgiak.marsh@gsa.gov or (703) 872-8614 if you would like to get more information or set up a meeting to begin discussions on how E-Authentication can help you or your agency.

*Georgia K. Marsh
Acting Program Executive,
E-Authentication*

E-Authentication Service Offering

Federation Membership

Agency participation in the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation.

Credential Services

Identity proofing, credential issuance, credential life-cycle management services, and value-added authentication services agencies need to authenticate users of their applications.

The Managed Validation and Translation Service (MVTS) enables PKI certificates (such as those issued under HSPD-12) to be validated and used for access to assertion-based applications.

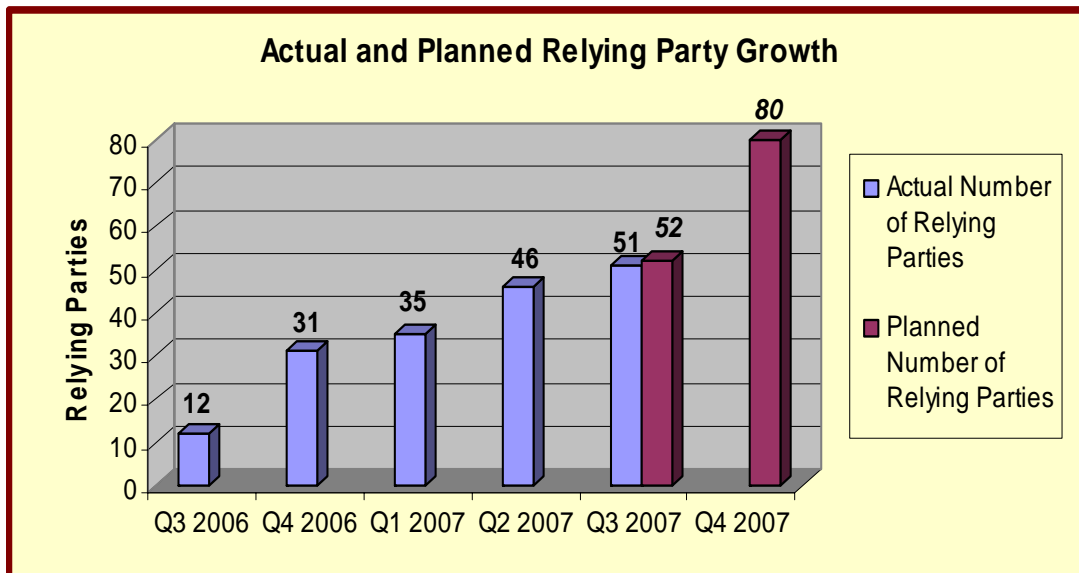
Integration and Technical Support Services

Basic – Technical baseline planning, support for product selection, setup of test environment, acceptance testing, node connection testing, on-boarding services, and deploy E-Authentication.

Preferred – Technical baseline planning, support for product selection, setup of test environment, vendor testing MVTS, on-boarding services and deploy E-Authentication.

Premium – All of the Basic and Preferred services plus services such as support to develop a detailed project plan; assess risks; select a technical approach; select approved products, integration services, and credential service providers; and deploy E-Authentication.

The U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation Continues to Grow



Federation membership continues to grow with the number of applications anticipated to more than double during FY 2007. The E-Authentication PMO is on pace to hit its FY 2007 target of 80 Relying Parties within the Federation.

Schedule of Events

- July 19 (2-4 PM @ PMO) Vendor Council Meeting
- July 28 (1-3 PM @ PMO) Technical Work Group Meeting
- August 14 (9-4 PM @ PMO) Vendor Day
- August 16 (1-3 PM @ PMO) Federation User Group Meeting
- August 30 (1-3 PM @ PMO) Technical Work Group Meeting
- September 12 (2-4 PM @ GSA HQ) Executive Steering Committee Meeting
- September 19 (9-11 AM @ PMO) Relying Party Member Council Meeting
- September 20 (9-11 AM @ PMO) CSP Member Council Meeting
- September 27 (1-3 PM @ PMO) Technical Work Group Meeting

GSA ITS 2007 Network Services Conferences
 August 6-9, Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, CO
<http://www.gsanetworkservices.org>
 E-Authentication Solutions Training
 Wednesday, August 8: 10:30-11:45 AM
 Thursday, August 9: 10:30-11:45 AM

Get E-Authentication Help

The E-Authentication Help Desk assists end users and Federation members with issues related to their E-Authentication-enabled applications and credential services.

The E-Authentication Help Desk also maintains Federation member contact information and manages E-Authentication Portal maintenance activities. Please send updated contact information to eauth.service.help@gsa.gov.

If you need to contact the E-Authentication Help Desk, you can use one of the e-mail addresses listed below or call toll-free (877) 307-5528.

User Issues

eauth.portal.help@gsa.gov

Federation Member Issues

eauth.service.help@gsa.gov

Transaction Reports (submit by 10th)

eauth.reports@gsa.gov

Documented Issues

eauth.reports@gsa.gov



The E-Authentication Help Desk is ready to address questions and issues from Federation members and their end users.

Federation News

E-Authentication Establishes Performance Measures



With the E-Government initiatives maturing and reaching full deployment, attention is increasingly on initiative performance and delivery of results.

What gets measured gets done. In April 2007, the E-Authentication PMO met with its Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Portfolio Manager to agree on the E-Authentication performance measures going forward to increase the focus on performance and the delivery of results. This effort was conducted for all of the E-Government initiatives and the performance information collected from the initiatives will be published quarterly on the OMB E-Gov web site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/egov/c-7-index.html>.

The performance measures are in five key areas of focus:

Adoption/Participation – The degree to which the relevant community (agencies, bureaus, other organizations) participates in the initiative. Participation is demonstrated by contribution of information, involvement in governance, etc.

Usage – The level of use by the targeted end user.

Customer Satisfaction – End user satisfaction with the initiative's products and/or services.

Cost Savings/Avoidance – The degree to which the Initiative results in cost savings, cost avoidance, and reduction in burden from both a govern-

E-Authentication Metrics

- % of agencies using E-Authentication [Adoption/Participation]
- % of applications accepting policy-compliant credentials [Adoption/Participation]
- % of applications accepting policy-compliant credentials from E-Authentication [Adoption/Participation]
- # of transactions processed using E-Authentication service [Usage]
- Customer satisfaction [Customer Satisfaction]
- % of applications accepting ONLY policy-compliant credentials [Adoption/Participation]
- Cost avoidance/savings from use of E-Authentication's Authentication Service Component [Cost Savings/Avoidance]

ment and citizenry perspective.

Efficiency – The degree to which the Initiative results in process improvements such as a decrease in time and/or an increase in productivity.

The performance measures established by the E-Authentication PMO and OMB will provide additional insight into the state of agency adoption and serve to demonstrate the value being delivered to agencies through the use of E-Authentication-approved products and services.

Recognizing the service offering will evolve over time to better meet the needs of

agency customers, the E-Authentication Executive Steering Committee is also launching a Metrics Working Group to identify additional performance measures to more effectively assess and better manage the E-Authentication service offering.

If you participate on the E-Authentication Executive Steering Committee and are interested in getting involved with the Metrics Working Group or know someone who is, please contact the E-Authentication PMO at authenticationpmo@gsa.gov or (703) 872-8570.

Interfederation: Higher Education and E-Authentication

For those of us who go back a few years, it is striking to see the parallels between the development of the original Internet and the work now happening to build a global network of trust connectivity leveraging the Internet federated identity approaches. In that comparison, one could point to no more important piece of work than the interfederation peering initiative now underway between the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation and the InCommon Federation. It could pioneer the transition of isolated networks of identity into an Internet-scale trustworthy infrastructure.

InCommon is the identity federation representing the U.S. research and higher education (R&E) community. Growing steadily, it now has over fifty members, representing both academia and important business partners, from scholarly and popular content providers to outsourced service providers. InCommon mirrors developments in the R&E sectors in many other countries, and like many of them, is based on Shibboleth, an open-source fully SAML-compliant software system particularly suited for multi-member full function

federations and is compatible with commercial products.

The interests of the InCommon community in interacting with the federal agencies are legion. Researchers want to access agency grant processes, from submission to peer review, using their campus on-line credentials. Universities want to improve the business processes for students, from facilitating their direct access to student loan and other education-related agency applications to streamlining federal reporting processes. Federal research sites want to enable the use of campus credentials to improve security. The relationships flow both directions; agency professional staff want to use their agency credentials to work with research partner sites on campuses, and vice versa.

Work is actively underway now to develop mechanisms, both technical and policy, to peer between InCommon members and federal agencies participating in the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation. The discussions include attributes to be exchanged (including level of assurance), legal structures, financial issues, metadata exchanges, and operational procedures. Little noted, but of great consequence, is the careful way that individual privacy is being protected in this work as well. When the peering work is successful, it will trigger the creation of a full federated trust mechanism with a scope as large as the Internet itself.

*Ken Klingenstein
Director, Internet2 Middleware
and Security
University of Colorado at Boulder
Boulder, CO*

Interfederation Benefits

- Access to a large base of credentialed end users
- Resource sharing and cost saving opportunities
- Policy consistency between the Federal Government and the higher education community
- Better end user experience
- Improved security and privacy

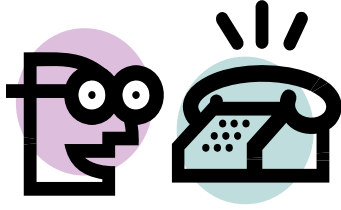


The mission of the InCommon Federation is to create and support a common framework for trustworthy shared management of access to on-line resources in support of education and research in the United States.

<http://www.incommonfederation.org>

Federation News

A Publication by the U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation
 E-Authentication Program Management Office
 Integrated Technology Service
 Federal Acquisition Service
 U.S. General Services Administration
 Crystal Park One
 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 911
 Arlington, VA 22202
 (703) 872-8570
eaauthenticationpmo@gsa.gov
<http://www.cio.gov/eaauthentication>
<http://www.gsa.gov/its>



**We want to hear
from you!**

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

What were eRulemaking's keys to success?

Prior completion of an E-Authentication proof-of-concept. This provided important and useful information about the scope of work and magnitude of the challenge. (Patrick Miccielli, eRulemaking PMO Contract Officer and Technical Lead)

Setting realistic, actionable milestones and clearly defined roles. Weekly status calls with the PMO, the GSA E-Authentication staff, and our Oracle representatives helped keep everyone on track. Also, mitigate risk by planning for contingency. We chose the latest Oracle software, which was untested by the GSA E-Authentication Interoperability Team. We mitigated that risk by identifying backup alternatives and securing Oracle services and GSA E-

(Continued from page 1)

behalf of the agencies, the E-Authentication PMO discussed the Government's prioritized requirements with the vendors so they could include those features in their products, resulting in better product capabilities available to agencies. The vendors then participated in another interoperability

Authentication support. (Vic Forney, Lockheed Martin eRulemaking Team Operations and Technical Manager)

Utilizing E-Authentication tools and support. The E-Authentication deployment process helped set expectations for the amount of time and level of effort required for each deployment activity. The E-Authentication Implementation Team also provided support during the test and evaluation phase – in the GSA E-Authentication Lab, we had a controlled environment for conducting testing, and the staff was very accommodating. (Pete Koumoutseas, Lockheed Martin E-Authentication Project Coordinator)

The eRulemaking project team offered several “best practice tips” for other programs deploying E-Authentication:

Work collaboratively, anticipate issues, and be flexible. Any technical project can bring unexpected challenges – effec-

ive planning can help avoid/mitigate problems or delays.

Understand your organization's procurement process and procurement cycle lead times. The E-Authentication Team provides detailed information on products it supports. Take some time to determine whether you own the products you will need for E-Authentication. What do you have to purchase, and how long will it take to obtain it?

Make the most of the time you have with all of your partners in the project during project status meetings. This is new ground for most people, so structure meetings to allow time for people to ask questions, capture action items, recap discussion points and issues, and discuss next steps.

The eRulemaking FDMS application is available at FDMS.gov and available to the public at Regulations.gov.

event to demonstrate their products' capabilities, their ability to meet the Government's requirements, and their ability to interoperate with other vendors' products.

Agencies, vendors, and other external stakeholders commented extensively on the revised suite of architecture

documents. After the comments were incorporated, the new architecture documents were finalized and approved by the Technical Working Group. A tiger team within the Technical Working Group is now addressing the issues associated with migrating agencies and CSPs to the new architecture.