Draft Terms of Reference – Version 2

UK e-infrastructure Security & Access Management Working Group

1. Scope and objectives

Advanced e-infrastructure is essential to the success of UK research and education. However, to be effective it needs to be usable by practitioners in an operationally and financially sustainable way. It is also increasingly exposed to a threat environment that has the potential to disrupt or damage it. It must therefore be protected from these threats. In practice these two aspects cannot be managed separately and therefore a joined-up approach is needed.

The RCUK e-infrastructure group has asked Janet to establish a task-oriented working group focused on supporting those providing and using e-infrastructure services to achieve such an approach.

The objectives of the group are as follows:

1. Coordinate the development and evolution of best practice for information security risk management, specifically in relation to operation and use of e-infrastructure.

2. Create and coordinate access and identity management activities amongst those developing and provisioning services, with a view to ensuring that solutions are standards-based and interoperable.

3. Provision of practical advice for the appropriate balance between usability and security in e-infrastructure and its use.

4. Act as a consultative body for the UK Government and other agencies on matters of technology and policy in these areas, in order to protect and promote the interests of users of e-infrastructure, and of those responsible for providing services.

5. The provision of advice to those responsible for representing UK interests internationally, with a view to promoting international coordination and interoperability of e-infrastructure services.

2. Timescales and meetings

The working group will meet on a quarterly basis. As the group is task-oriented, sub-groups or projects may be commissioned as appropriate.

The working group has an initial term of 24 months, after which its remit will be reviewed and a decision made to either continue for a further period or close the group.

3. Outline

The working group will:

- draw membership from relevant stakeholders within the security and e-Infrastructure communities;
- draw on existing best practice within e-infrastructure providers;
- provide advice and guidance to the users and operators of e-infrastructure on information risk mitigation activities;
- act as a coordination and consultation point for access and identity management activities to avoid duplication of effort and help to establish a coherent approach within the e-infrastructure community.
- seek to coordinate activities with other groups supporting the operation of UK e-infrastructure to ensure that effort can be focused and is not duplicated.

4. Monitoring and Reporting

Minutes of quarterly meetings will be circulated to the working group members, and accepted at the subsequent meetings for publication on the Jisc/Janet community website.

The working group chair (supported by the secretariat) will submit an annual progress report to both Jisc/Janet senior management and the RCUK e-infrastructure group.

5. Accountability

The chair of the working group will be appointed by Janet/Jisc and will serve in that role for an initial 2 year term, supported by a deputy and Jisc/Janet/secretariat.

The working group is accountable to Jisc/Janet senior management and the RCUK e-infrastructure group.

6. Membership

Stephen Booth	EPCC
Peter Boyle	DIRAC / University of Edinburgh
Dave Britton	University of Glasgow
Darren Hankinson	University of Manchester
Jens Jensen	STFC
Dave Kelsey	STFC
Paul Kennedy	University of Nottingham & Chair of RUGIT security SIG
Bridget Kenyon	UCL
Phil Kershaw	NERC / STFC
Alan Real	University of Leeds
Andrew Richards	University of Oxford
Tommi Nyronen	CSC / ELIXIR
Jeremy Olsen	Francis Crick Institute
Melanie Wright	University of Essex
Ioannis Xenarios	Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics
Andrew Cormack	Janet (Chair)
John Chapman	Janet (Secretary)
Henry Hughes	Janet
David Salmon	Janet
Jeremy Sharp	Janet