

InCommon TAC 2025 Work Plan Preparation

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Related Work Plans

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The theme for 2025 - Making Federation Easier;
Practical, scalable, deployable security across the
Federation

Proposed Work Plan Items

Continuing from 2024

Title	Subject ID WG - guidance consultation
ID	TAC24-2
Description	The Subject Identifiers working group will be in a place after TechEx to put out the guidance for an official consultation

	period that will begin in early 2025 to wrap up the workgroup items.
Proposer	Joanne
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group / Other
Resource requirements	<money? effort? coordination? unicorns?>
+1's	Andy Morgan

Title	Federation Proxies WG - community consultation, next steps
ID	TAC24-1
Description	The current FPWG should be done working with some community feedback by the end of this calendar year. But there is plenty more work to be done by both the community and the Federation Operator per the FPWG report.
Proposer	Derek
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group / Other
Resource requirements	Not sure yet - depends whether/how the current FPWG's final report is received. If this means another WG is spawned, the usual WG coordination efforts will be needed. Will TAC, CTAB, Steering, etc. need to take action to approve/implement anything from 2024's FPWG?
+1's	<for others to voice their support - add your name here> mark.rank@cirrusidentity.com

Title	Federation Readiness Check
ID	TAC24-3
Description	The Federation Readiness Check Working Group is concerned with bringing a “good practice” approach to research and education (R&E) identity federation. In short, how can an InCommon participant tell that their identity provider (IdP) or service provider (SP) works properly? In 2025, the Federation Readiness Check Working Group will: • Connect with like-minded working groups (e.g., CTAB). • Define the behavior of reference identity providers and service providers. • Outline the questionnaire (and maybe scoring). • Draft user and functional requirements specifications.
Proposer	Matthew X. Economou
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group / Other
Resource requirements	Connections—We have links to CTAB and CACTI and plan to build on them next year. Who else is working in this space? What are we missing? Time—We’ll likely switch to weekly 1-hour meetings.. Expertise—For SP validation, we’re effectively defining a model identity provider, so IdP operator participation, or at least review, would be very helpful. Project management—Keeping track of the work we’re doing is very difficult. A simple kanban might help keep us organized.
+1's	<for others to voice their support - add your name here>

Items to Start as 2024 items conclude

Title	Device Level Security mandate and impact on IAM / Federated Access
ID	TAC25-1
Description	 Problem Statement - Device-level Security in Federation IPSIE seems germane to this discussion
Proposer	Jeffrey Crawford
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group Draft Charter
Resource requirements	<money? effort? coordination? unicorns?>
+1's	Andy Morgan; Marina Krenz

Title	Standardizing on Discovery Service mechanisms and onboarding
ID	TAC25-2 (previously TAC24-4)
Description	Services use a variety of discovery and onboarding mechanisms to allow InCommon (and beyond) participants to access their services. Registering, onboarding, disambiguating between IdPs under the same parent entity, etc. are historical pain points for IdP operators and probably SP operators as well. Are there standards we should gravitate

	or guide people towards? Is there something the federation could/should do to alleviate the pain as well? Examples: NSF/Research.gov handling of organizations having multiple IdPs; ____
Proposer	Derek
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group Draft Charter:  DRAFT - Relying Party Discovery and Onboarding WG Ch...
Resource requirements	<money? effort? coordination? unicorns?>
+1's	<for others to voice their support - add your name here> +1 Mark  Steven Premeau

Lower Priority Items

Title	Handling TAC Recommendations & Governance
ID	TAC25-3
Description	TAC develops technical recommendations for federation participants, but there is a disconnect between publishing these recommendations and ensuring implementation and adherence within the federation. What are InCommon responsibilities after developing recommendations? When should things be handed off to another group? How can we bundle guidance together in a way that makes it easy for participants to follow our? TAC should take recommendations, maintain existing guidance, and how to support a recommendation becoming an InCommon Expectation.

Proposer	Joanne Boomer
Format	TAC Sponsored Working Group / Other
Resource requirements	<money? effort? coordination? unicorns?>
+1's	Andy Morgan

Title	TAC Work project/document management
ID	TAC25-4
Description	Review documents that TAC has created and determine which needs to be managed and reviewed on a regular basis. Create a page with a library for all the documentation for it to find. The goal is to keep the information available that we want fed participants to use/follow up-to-date with changes to best practices or policies over time.
Proposer	Joanne Boomer
Format	TAC Work Effort
Resource requirements	Time
+1's	<for others to voice their support - add your name here>

Past TAC Work Plan Preparation Documents

- [2024 TAC Work Plan](#)
 -  [2023 TAC Work Plan](#)
 - [2022 TAC Work Plan Working Document](#)
 - [2021 TAC Work Plan Working Document](#)
 - [2019 TAC Work Plan Working Document](#)
 - [2017 TAC Work Plan Working Document](#)
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How to Add Your Ideas

Please use this document to record ideas you want to include in the 2025 TAC work plan. Copy and paste the template table below. Ideas don't need to be fully formed but the more scope we can get, the easier it will be to assess whether the idea should be taken forward. We look forward to all your ideas!

You might indicate:

- What work needs to be done
- How TAC should approach the item - e.g. TAC WG; Survey; Collaboration with CTAB; Webinar.
- What might be in a Charter (if WG seems to be a possibility, what you would expect to accomplish - just a few bullets) - more detail, outcomes, and deliverables will be created once TAC decides to sponsor a WG

Participate / Expression of Interest

To indicate your support for an idea, add your name in the +1 section.

Bonus: According to ChatGPT...

ALERT: EVERYTHING below this point is generated by ChatGPT. I fed the draft plan above into ChatGPT and asked it to summarize it. The text below is what it came up with...

This set of proposed themes and topics revolves around making InCommon Federation's governance and technical guidance more accessible, streamlined, and impactful. Here's a possible theme and organizing approach that could provide coherence across these topics:

Proposed Theme: "Enhancing Federation Standards and Readiness: Bridging Guidance, Implementation, and Accountability"

Rationale

The theme emphasizes a unified goal: ensuring that InCommon Federation's recommendations, standards, and best practices are accessible, clear, and actionable for all participants. It underscores the importance of maintaining guidance, enhancing technical governance, and creating accountability mechanisms that simplify and standardize Federation participation.

This overarching theme could be segmented into several focal areas based on the ideas listed, such as improving guidance implementation, consolidating resources, defining role boundaries, and prioritizing technical recommendations that advance security and usability.

Suggested Structure

1. **Improving TAC Recommendations Implementation & Accountability**
 - **Title:** From Recommendations to Action: Enhancing TAC's Role in Governance and Implementation
 - **Focus:** Address the lifecycle of TAC recommendations, including how and when responsibilities should transition to other groups. Define what makes a recommendation an expectation, and explore the support structures TAC might need to ensure adoption.
 - **Possible Tagline:** "Closing the Loop on Guidance Implementation"

2. Consolidating and Standardizing Guidance

- **Title:** One-Stop Guidance: Streamlining Standards and Best Practices for InCommon Participants
- **Focus:** Consolidate guidance into a more cohesive resource hub to reduce confusion and make best practices readily accessible.
- **Possible Tagline:** "Simplifying Federation Compliance"

3. TAC Documentation and Project Management

- **Title:** Keeping Pace with Change: Managing and Updating TAC Documentation
- **Focus:** Create a structured repository for TAC documents, with clear guidelines for regular reviews, updates, and retirements.
- **Possible Tagline:** "Living Documentation for an Evolving Federation"

4. Technical Security Standards for Federated Access

- **Title:** Device-Level Security and its Implications for Federation Integrity
- **Focus:** Establish best practices for device-level security within federation environments, addressing challenges and ensuring compatibility with IAM and federated access protocols.
- **Possible Tagline:** "Securing Access, One Device at a Time"

5. Workgroups for Specialized Topics (e.g., Subject Identifiers, Federation Proxies)

- **Title:** Specialized Focus, Targeted Outcomes: Working Group Consultations for 2024-2025
- **Focus:** Spotlight ongoing workgroup initiatives, outlining their consultation schedules and community engagement processes.
- **Possible Tagline:** "Building Consensus for Federation Standards"

6. Federation Readiness Scorecard Initiative

- **Title:** Ready for Federation: A Readiness Check for New and Existing Participants
- **Focus:** Develop a readiness scorecard and framework for participants, aimed at self-assessment and support for better federation alignment.
- **Possible Tagline:** "Assess, Align, and Advance with Confidence"

7. Discovery and Onboarding Standards

- **Title:** Simplifying Discovery and Onboarding: Toward Standardized Service Access
 - **Focus:** Address challenges around discovery and onboarding by proposing standard approaches to improve user experience and service accessibility.
 - **Possible Tagline:** "Seamless Entry, Cohesive Integration"
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Each segment can serve as a session or focus area, enabling participants to gain both high-level insights and practical strategies. The goal is to make InCommon's guidance actionable, accessible, and easily integrated across the federation, with a theme that emphasizes practicality, accountability, and collaborative improvement.