Wisconsin K12 Open Data Collection System & Federated Identity Management

Timeline & Observations

Version of September 19, 2014 - Shaun Abshere, WiscNet

January 2014.

* The Wisconsin State Legislature decides that the State of Wisconsin will not purchase a SIS on behalf of districts, nor will a list of prefered SIS vendors be established.
* The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (“DPI”) will develop a multi-vendor, open data collection system (“WISEdata”) which allows (1) public school districts, (2) charter schools, and (3) private schools participating in a parental choice program (all 3: “WI K12”) to submit data to DPI in an efficient and streamlined process from the Student Information System (“SIS”) of their choice.
* DPI will partner with WI K12’s existing SIS vendors to automate processes and validate data integrity to ensure accuracy.

September 2014 Status.

* 426 public school districts, ? charter schools, ? parental-choice private schools
* Approximately 90% of public school districts use Microsoft Active Directory
* Approximately 50% of public school districts use Google Apps for Education
* 12 commercial SIS providers deployed in public school districts
* 3 commercial SIS providers (Infinite Campus, Skyward, PowerSchool) have greatest market share
* Regional computing centers operated by 3 of 12 intermediate education agencies (CESA 5, 7, 10) provide various levels of support for several SIS products (but not Skyward) to multiple public school districts in their service areas and likely will continue to do so after September 2016
* DPI may use Microsoft Azure cloud services, Microsoft Active Directory Domain Services and Microsoft Active Directory Federation Services in its statewide WISEdata infrastructure.
* WiscNet can provides DPI connectivity to Microsoft Azure data centers via WiscNet’s direct private peering at Chicago to Microsoft. DPI does not currently use Internet2’s similar direct private peering to Microsoft (available via WiscNet but conferring no current throughput or security advantages).
* **Subject to preserving integrity/credibility/focus of WISEdata project, DPI wants to explore publishing WISEdata specifications which include modifications to SIS that may support WI K12’s use of “federated identity management” for access to federated service providers (e.g., via interfederation with Internet2’s InCommon or via Internet2’s Net Plus service providers).**

January - March 2015.

DPI will release WISEdata specifications, targeted primarily to commercial SIS providers who will modify their Wisconsin SIS implementations by September 2016 to meet the specifications. The specifications’ primary elements will draw from:

* National Center for Education Statistics’ Common Education Data Standards (“CEDS”) initiative
* Ed-Fi Alliance’s (“ED-FI”) data standards for interoperability among secure education data systems
* Security Assertion Markup Language (“SAML”) data format for exchanging authentication and authorization data
* **[Other specifications that enable federated identity management via SIS?]**

September 2016.

WI K12 institutions begin statewide use of WISEdata.