

Liberty Alliance Background Information

Why Do We Need The Liberty Alliance?

Trust has become a critical factor in determining the success of digital identity management solutions. Consumers need to know they can trust that personal identity information shared online is both private and secure. Companies need trusted relationships with one another in order to more easily and securely conduct transactions with partners and customers worldwide. Governments and healthcare organizations need secure and privacy-respecting identity solutions to provide a trusted environment for accessing and sharing a variety of online applications and services. The Liberty Alliance is the pre-eminent global identity organization delivering an open digital ecosystem to enable trust at the core of every Internet transaction.

A task as monumental as building a global trusted Internet can't be accomplished by a handful of vendors working on proprietary identity solutions. And it can't be built by addressing only the technical aspects of the multi-faceted digital identity landscape. Building a universal Internet based on a foundation of trust requires a global and collaborative effort spanning borders and industries. This means addressing identity issues from multiple perspectives and with input from developers building identity-based applications and from organizations and governments deploying and managing identity systems. This is why the Liberty Alliance is needed. The Liberty Alliance is based on this collaborative model and is the only global identity organization working to deliver a trusted digital ecosystem by addressing the technology, business and privacy aspects of digital identity management.

Building Trust – A Holistic Approach

Open Standards - Building trust begins with building truly open and interoperable identity standards. The Liberty Alliance has proven that in order for identity standards to gain wide scale industry acceptance they must be developed from day one with input from everyone who has a stake in their success in order to meet the real world requirements of deployers and users worldwide. All Liberty Alliance members are invited to participate in the standards development process and no specification is developed before use cases and business requirements are in place. This collaborative development model ensures that developers and organizations working in all market segments can trust Liberty Federation and Liberty Web Services for building and deploying open identity solutions faster and more successfully. Liberty Federation and Liberty Web Services specifications are available for viewing and download at on the Specifications section of the homepage.

Interoperable Technologies - Organizations need to trust that technologies supporting Liberty's open identity specifications for federation and identity-enabled Web services will deploy quickly and immediately interoperate with other Liberty-enabled technologies and identity-based applications. The Liberty Alliance is the only global identity organization with a history of testing products for true interoperability of identity specifications. Since launching its Liberty Interoperable™ conformance program in 2003, nearly 75 identity products and solutions from multiple vendors around the world have now passed Liberty Alliance interoperability testing. This wide scale availability of proven interoperable technologies is allowing organizations to deploy trusted federated identity management and identity enabled Web services easier and on the widest possible scale. A list of the organizations and products that have passed Liberty interoperability testing, as well as more information about Liberty Interoperable™ technologies, can be found in the Liberty Interoperable™ section of the homepage.

User Experience –Users of identity management systems must trust that information shared online is secure and that their privacy is protected if digital identity management systems are to advance. The Liberty Alliance is unique in that it has a Public Policy Expert Group (PPEG) made up of policy experts from around the world providing guidance and best practices for privacy within all Liberty deployments. Liberty's PPEG ensures that Liberty specifications provide consumers and end users with built-in controls for protecting privacy across applications and while conducting e-business transactions from any computer or mobile device.

Business and Deployment Guidelines – While the Liberty Alliance takes pride in having established the foundational technologies for open federated identity management and identity-enabled Web services, Liberty also recognizes that organizations often need more than technology alone to deploy successful identity solutions. This is why the Liberty Alliance regularly releases guidelines and best practices to help organizations successfully address the many business and policy issues involved in deploying and managing open identity solutions. Developed by Liberty identity experts from around the world working in a variety of vertical market



segments, these guidelines and best practices help organizations speed the deployment of successful open identity solutions. Business and deployment guidelines are available in our Resources Center on the homepage.

Liberty Alliance Background

The Liberty Alliance was formed in 2001 by approximately 30 organizations to establish open standards, guidelines and best practices for federated identity management. The Liberty Alliance met this goal with the release of Liberty Federation in 2002, the industry standard for successfully addressing the many authentication, privacy and security challenges surrounding online identity management. Deployed by organizations around the world, Liberty Federation allows consumers and users of Internet-based services and e-commerce applications to authenticate and sign-on to a network or domain once from any device and then visit or take part in services from multiple Web sites. This federated approach does not require the user to re-authenticate and can support privacy controls established by the user. Case studies featuring Liberty Federation deployments are available at <http://projectliberty.org/resources/casestudies.php>.

Having grown to nearly 150 members including global technology vendors, consumer-facing companies, educational organizations and governments from around the world, the Liberty Alliance released Liberty Web Services in 2003. Developed based on well defined business requirements and with controls for consumer and user privacy always at the forefront, Liberty Web Services is an open framework for deploying and managing a variety of identity-based Web services. Liberty Web Services applications include Geo-location, Contact Book, Calendar, Mobile Messaging and Liberty People Service, the industry's first open Web services framework for managing social applications such as bookmarks, blogs, calendars, photo sharing and instant messaging in a secure and privacy respecting federated social network.

With the deployment of Liberty Federation and Liberty Web Services continuously increasing, the Liberty Alliance is expecting well over one billion Liberty-enabled identities and devices by the end of 2006. The wide scale deployment of Liberty's open specifications combined with consumer and industry demands for better protection against online fraud and identity theft, led to the creation of Liberty's Strong Authentication Expert Group (SAEG) in the fall of 2005. This group of industry leaders is working to ensure strong authentication solutions such as hardware and software tokens, smart cards, SMS-based systems and biometrics, interoperate seamlessly in a federated network environment. A snapshot of organizations deploying Liberty Federation and Liberty Web Services is available on the Adoption section of our homepage.

Vision

The vision of the Liberty Alliance is to enable a networked world based on open standards where consumers, citizens, businesses and governments can more easily conduct online transactions while protecting the privacy and security of identity information. This world, where devices and identities of all kinds are linked by federation and protected by universal strong authentication, is being built today with Liberty's open identity standards, business and deployment guidelines and best practices for managing privacy.

Timeline

September 2001	Liberty Alliance formed and publicly announced
May 2002	Associate and Affiliate level membership opened for non-profits, government and commercial organizations
July 2002	Liberty Alliance v1.0 specifications publicly released; member companies announce upcoming availability of Liberty-enabled products
January 2003	Liberty Alliance v1.1 specifications publicly released
July 2003	Liberty Alliance releases Tier 1 business guidelines for wide scale identity federation; contributes v1.1 specifications to OASIS for inclusion in SAML 2.0
October 2003	Liberty Alliance unveils Conformance Program to validate products and services that have successfully implemented Liberty's standards; Radicchio



	contributes existing mobile data services work to Liberty Alliance for further development
November 2003	Liberty Alliance finalizes Phase 2 specifications and privacy guidelines for federated identity
December 2003	Liberty Alliance announces 9 products and services that have successfully passed the first Liberty-sponsored interoperability test
February 2004	Liberty Alliance releases Tier 2 business guidelines for mobile federated identity deployments; releases paper on how to reduce identity theft using federated identity
May 2004	Liberty Alliance released an overview of its Identity Web Services Framework (ID-WSF) acting as a blueprint for secure Web services architecture to facilitate connectivity across corporate boundaries and drive business opportunities between trusted companies
July 2004	Liberty Alliance releases its business guidelines for federated identity deployments that focus on the 401(k) application space, including 401(k) servicing, provisioning and support
July 2004	Liberty Alliance expands its membership base with ten new sponsor members. New members include: Business Industry Political Action Committee, Gamefederation, Intel, Kayak Interactive, Mobile Telephone Networks, Oracle and Sharp Labs of America. Members upgrading their status to the sponsor level include: Computer Associates, Giesecke & Devrient and Trustgenix
July 2004	Liberty Alliance hosts interoperability event showcasing Liberty-enabled products and scenarios working together; companies include: AOL, Fidelity Investments, HP, Nokia, Novell, NTT, Sun, Trustgenix, and Vodafone
October 2004	More new sponsor members, including Adobe, IBM, OpenNetwork and Senforce
October 2004	Liberty Alliance announces products and services from 12 companies have earned the Liberty Alliance Interoperable mark– the first event to test against the Liberty Identity Web Services specification ID-WSF 1.0, including Alcatel, Elios, IBM, NEC, Nokia, Novell, NTT, Oracle, Ping Identity, Sun Microsystems, Symlabs and Trustgenix
January 2005	Liberty Alliance submits RFI to US Department of Health and Human Sciences in response to Request for Information on “Development and Adoption of a National Health Information Network”. Liberty also participates in a joint filing authored by 13 organizations, including the Markle Foundation, HIMSS, the AMIA, ANSI and a number of other organizations
April 2005	Three Special Interest Groups (SIGs) formed: ID-Theft Prevention, Japan and eHealthcare. Special Interest Groups discuss topics of mutual interest, reflecting their collective thoughts and input to Liberty Expert Groups. Participation in SIGs is open to members of all levels (Board, Sponsor, Associate and Affiliate).
April 2005	Liberty Alliance releases “Circles of Trust: The Implications of EU Data Protection and Privacy Law for Establishing a Legal Framework for Identity Federation”. The whitepaper is a must-read for any organization planning to establish or participate in a Circle of Trust in the EU and beyond.
May 2005	Liberty Alliance begins SAML 2.0 interoperability testing as part of its Liberty Interoperable program



November 2005	Liberty Alliance announces the formation of its Strong Authentication Expert Group with responsibilities for defining a standard industry framework that enables interoperability of multiple authentication mechanisms in Federated and/or Web services and/or stand-alone digital identity architectures/environments
October 2005	Business and Policy Guidelines for deploying federated identity management released, addresses business, legal and privacy aspects of federation
November 2005	Liberty Alliance announces formation of Payments Special Interest Group
November 2005	Liberty Interoperable program passes milestone as more than 70 products complete certification
December 2005	Liberty Alliance releases ID-WSF 2.0 R2, introducing People Service, a new social network layer for allowing consumers and enterprise users to manage a variety of social applications in a federated social network
January 2006	Liberty members from AOL, Intel, Oracle and Sun Microsystems are elected to officer positions
February 2006	Liberty expands its membership base by fifteen with the addition of CallingID, ChoicePoint, Diamelle Technologies, Inc., Falkin Systems LLC, Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology (SIT), LogicaCMG, Livo Technologies, MedCommons Inc., National Board of Taxes Finland, OmniBranch, Inc., Phase2 Technology, Purdue University, SSC New Zealand Govt., Telecom Italia SpA and TERENA
March 2006	One Billion Liberty enabled identities and devices expected by end of 2006
June 2006	Liberty launches eGovernment and Open Source Special Interest Groups
August 2006	Liberty launches Standards Coordination Special Interest Group
September 2006	Liberty announces first ever IDDY Award (IDentity Deployment of the Year) winners: EduTech, T-Online and the UK Government

Member Structure

<i>Management Board:</i>	The Management Board determines direction for the Alliance and is made up of sponsor members who serve split two and three year terms. Management Board members currently include representatives from AOL, Ericsson, Fidelity Investments, France Telecom, General Motors, HP, IBM, Intel, Novell, NTT, Oracle, RSA Security and Sun Microsystems.
<i>Management Board, President:</i>	George Goodman, president of the Liberty Alliance management board and director, Platform Capabilities Lab at Intel
<i>Management Board, Officers:</i>	Roger K. Sullivan, vice president of the Liberty Alliance management board and vice president of business development for Oracle's Identity Management solutions Bill Smith – secretary of the Liberty Alliance management board and director of technology development at Sun Microsystems

Roger Martin – treasurer of the Liberty Alliance management board and director of standards at AOL.

Membership Levels:

There are three levels of membership in the Alliance: Sponsor, Associate and Affiliate. Sponsor membership provides full participation in Alliance working groups and activities for those organizations interested in having an active role.

Associate and Affiliate memberships are available to commercial companies and non-profit and government agencies, respectively, providing an opportunity to view and comment on draft specifications via the web prior to public release, as well as participation in Special Interest Groups and Services Group activities.

Organization Chart:

<http://projectliberty.org/liberty/about/structure>

Liberty Expert and Special Interest Groups

Business & Marketing Expert Group (BMEG):

Chaired by Lauren Wood of Sun Microsystems, this group is responsible for defining market requirements, developing business guidelines and overseeing marketing communications activities.

Public Policy Expert Group (PPEG):

Co-chaired by Peter Lord of Oracle and Robin Wilton of Sun Microsystems, this group develops deployment guidelines and best practices for managing privacy in all Liberty Alliance deployments.

Strong Authentication Expert Group (SAEG):

Co-chaired by Rob Morano of Falkin Systems and Sreeram Thirukkonda of Fidelity Investments, this group is working on developing an open framework (ID-SAFE) for deploying interoperable strong authentication solutions.

Technology Expert Group (TEG):

Co-chaired by Paul Madsen of NTT and Carolina Canales-Valenzuela of Ericsson, this group drives the Liberty Alliance standards development process.

eHealth Special Interest Group:

Chaired by Michael Aisenberg of VeriSign, this group is exploring the application of open federated identity management in the global healthcare sector.

eGovernment Special Interest Group:

Chaired by Colin Wallis of the New Zealand Government's State Services Commission, this group is working on advancing open federated identity management and identity-enabled Web services in the worldwide public sector.

Identity Theft Prevention Group:

Chaired by Britta Glade of Liberty Alliance, this group is exploring the many aspects of online fraud and identity theft as well as potential solutions.

Japan Special Interest Group:

Co-Chaired by Kenji Takahashi of NTT and Hidehito Gomi of NEC, this group manages all Liberty Alliance activities in Japan.

Open Source Special Interest Group:

Chaired by Scott Cantor of Internet2, this group is working with the global open source community to speed the development and deployment of open source identity management solutions.



Payments Special Interest Group:

Chaired by Edin Bektesevic of Vodafone, this group is developing standards for managing payment solutions using open federated identity management.

Service Interface Specifications Group (SIS):

Chaired by Kurt Kolok of Liberty Alliance, this group is responsible for developing service interface specifications to address specific vertical and geographic needs.

Standards Coordination Special Interest Group:

Chaired by Peter Davis of Neustar, this group is responsible for liaison work with other standards organizations and working toward collaboration and support where appropriate.

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