

VHA/IHS RBAC TASK FORCE

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA)/Indian Health Service (IHS) Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) Task Force (TF) has a proposed organizational broadening as presented by VHA Program Manager Chuck Brown at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Information Technology Conference (ITC) held August 9 – 13, 2004 in Austin, Texas. The proposed broadening includes an executive steering committee and three sub-committees that detail the functional roles and business rules, permission definitions and systems access.

HEALTHCARE SCENARIO ROADMAP TO INCLUDE LICENSED AND NON-LICENSED HEALTHCARE ROLES

The VHA/IHS RBAC TF is proceeding to expand the Healthcare Scenario Roadmap to include licensed and non-licensed healthcare roles for ancillary healthcare departments. Department-specific versions of the Healthcare Scenario Roadmaps will be distributed to ancillary healthcare departments within VA, IHS and Department of Defense (DoD) for clinician input. Results will be analyzed, harmonized, modeled with the purpose of deriving permissions. The roadmap is already complete in the identification and representation of clinical activities for physicians and nurses and other licensed roles.

The Healthcare Scenario Roadmap was developed during weekly discussions by clinicians on the VHA/IHS RBAC TF from the ASTM E-1986 Standard Guide for Information Access Privileges to Health Information list of "Healthcare Personnel that Warrant Differing Levels of Access Control". It was presented in May 2004 to both Health Level Seven (HL7) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The roadmap can function as a foundational tool to assist in defining the scope of the RBAC modeling effort, as well as be utilized as a quick reference of healthcare scenarios. The roadmap presents scaleable management of user permissions in the form of a list of tasks as a healthcare standard.

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SDO) ACTIVITY

HEALTH LEVEL SEVEN

The Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) healthcare standards effort will continue during next month's Health Level Seven (HL7) 18th Plenary and Working Group Meeting which occurs September 26 – October 1, 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia. Earlier this year on May 4, 2004, the Healthcare RBAC TF presented a proposal to the HL7 Board of Directors at the HL7 Working Group Meeting. The RBAC effort (i.e., the specification of permission definitions as a healthcare standard) was approved for adoption into the HL7 family of standards. HL7 is the only Standards Development Organization capable of taking the leadership role for a single international healthcare standard for interoperable RBAC.

OASIS - XACML RBAC PROFILE AWAITS INCLUSION OF DYNAMIC SEPARATION OF DUTY CAPABILITY

The current version of the RBAC profile does not provide for separation of duty functionality. Static separation of duty is not planned for the profile, as this is considered a function to be provided by an identity and access management system. A solution to support dynamic separation of duty is available, but intellectual property rights issues must be resolved before the solution could be incorporated into the RBAC profile.

OASIS SECURITY SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE APPROVES SAML V2.0 SPECIFICATIONS

The OASIS Security Services Technical Committee (TC) has recently approved the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) v2.0 specification as a Committee Draft and voted to submit the specification documents for public review. This is in accordance with the OASIS Technical Committee Process. Public review starts 19 August 2004 and ends 19 September 2004. Comments are solicited from all interested parties and may be submitted to the TC via a web form via <http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/security>. An XACML Profile for SAML 2.0 Working Draft was issued on 26 August 2004 (see http://www.oasis-open.org/committees/documents.php?wg_abbrev=xacml).

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