

Minutes Freudenstadt workshop on web services 15-17 November 2010

Oliver Schonefeld: Security

IDS, BBAW,... most resources are not free for access (copyright issues) → authentication is necessary → restricted access is allowed

WebLicht: REST-style → no ad hoc solutions for passing authentication (authentication delegation)

GEANT-project and NL experiments on exploring new technologies → results in beginning of next year → input as basis for decisions in next phase of CLARIN; however a solution for authentication of web services is essential

Faster solutions would need to be hacked → waiting for thoughtful solution is better

GEANT:

MPI experiment: explore solutions involving security token services, for REST an idea could be OAuth: take Shibboleth-token, transform it to an OAuth-token that can be recognized as trusted token; SOAP-services could store token in SOAP-headers; in REST it probably needs to be stored in HTTP-headers

Now: 75% of WebLicht web services are in REST style

→ wait for results from the MPI experiment

Solution for CLARIN must have support for SOAP and REST and ideally be connected to the Shibboleth infrastructure

Solution for services: what should services send back to WebLicht if services get wrong input? Send http error code back to WebLicht; send detailed error message to user:

Tom: http error messages/status codes can be defined by yourself

Oliver: not a good idea, better stick to defined HTTP status codes and return additional error information in an XML format; WebLicht could detect transient errors such as 503 Service Unavailable and retry automatically

WebLicht had no monitoring in the first project phase but will do this in the next phase

Don't send back a TCF file containing an error message!