

Workshop on GENI and Security
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Privacy in the GENI project

Robin Wilton
Director

Future Identity Ltd

futureidentity@fastmail.fm

+44 (0)705 005 2931

<http://futureidentitv.bloaspot.com>

GENI and Privacy

GENI has visionary, constructive and beneficial aims, but some of them introduce privacy-related tensions:

- Data-sharing, versus legitimate privacy expectations
- Observability, versus sensitivity of real data and real traffic
- Monitoring (and correlation) of usage patterns, versus user consent and control over collection and disclosure
- Catering for cross-border differences in legislation and governance

Resolving these tensions can potentially

- directly benefit GENI participants*
- remove obstacles to end-user trust and adoption*
- show how to design privacy in from the outset, in the networks and distributed systems of the future*

1 – Why is privacy an issue?

There are both 'hard' and 'soft' factors -

- Identity data as a thing of value (and therefore a target)
- Cost of compliance, balance of technology and governance
- Respect for privacy as a cultural/trust/adoption factor

*When times are tough, governance ('people') measures get squeezed sooner – and harder – than technical measures
But technology isn't self-managing...*

2 – What tends to de-rail privacy discussions?

- Diversity of stakeholders and their views/goals (and who are GENI's stakeholders, exactly?)
- Lack of shared concepts and language
- “Techno-blinkers”: technology input is totally valid, but can narrow the discussion and distract attention from implementation and adoption factors
- Trying to apply a linear process instead of a cyclical and iterative (“bee-hive”) one

There are simple and well-tested models for building a common conceptual framework and creating a productive stakeholder dialogue

3 – Practicalities in the GENI context

Assume that:

- Privacy is really about disclosure... but with user control and consent;
- Privacy is about 'contextual integrity';
- Privacy is relationship-based, and can be multi-party, transitive and mediated...

(not that all those assumptions are easy to fulfil...)

- *How could privacy work if it were designed in?*
- *What outcomes could we expect?*
- *How would we get there from here?*

4 – Suggested approach

- Identify and engage with GENI stakeholders
- Establish conceptual framework for productive discussions (different perspectives, different levels)
- Contribute to a 'GENI position' on identity, privacy and governance, including cross-border use-cases
- Set goals for privacy-related GENI outcomes

How might we do GENI if we set the following goals?

- *Enhance the privacy of GENI participants*
- *Improve privacy for Internet users in general*
- *Minimize privacy-related risk to GENI*

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