SCIM Ticket #28
“Clarify the Spec on Multi-Tenancy”

Summary for IETF-86
Orlando, March 2013
From the last WG

• Incorporate multi-tenancy into the spec
  OR

• Explain that the spec does not address the topic, but provide some pointers/guidance/recommendations (similar in spirit to what it does for authentication)
  OR

• Explain that the spec does not address the topic at all.
Approach Taken for the Proposed Text

“Explain that the spec does not address the topic, but provide some pointers/ guidance/ recommendations (similar in spirit to what it does for authentication)”

(Recognizing that multi-tenancy is an issue for many RESTful APIs)

The proposed text is here:

http://trac.tools.ietf.org/wg/scim/trac/ticket/28#comment:7
Summary of Proposed Text

• Adds a new section titled “Multi-Tenancy”
• Lists four multi-tenancy cases
  – All Consumers share all Resources (no tenancy)
  – Each single Consumer creates and accesses a private subset of Resources (1 Consumer:1 Tenant)
  – Sets of Consumers share sets of Resources (M Consumers:1 Tenant)
  – One Consumer to Multiple Tenants (1 Consumer:M Tenants)
• States: “Multi-Tenancy is OPTIONAL. The SCIM protocol does not define a scheme for multi-tenancy.”
Summary of Proposed Text

• Includes a sub-section “Associating Consumers to Tenants”

• Illustrates four mechanisms that MAY be used:
  – Authentication of the Consumer
  – Resource URL prefix or component
    • https://www.example.com/Tenants/{tenant_id}/v1/Users
  – Subdomain
    • https://{tenant_id}.example.com/v1/Users
  – HTTP Header: SCIM_TENANT_ID

• States: “…the {tenant_id} is a unique identifier for the Tenant as defined by the Service Provider.”
Summary of Proposed Text

• Includes a subsection titled “SCIM Identifiers with Multiple Tenants”
• States: “The SCIM id, defined by the Service Provider, MUST be unique across all Resources for all Tenants”
• States: “The externalId, defined by the Consumer, is required to be unique ONLY within the Resources associated with the associated Tenant.”
Considerations

• Multi-Tenancy for RESTful interfaces is larger than just SCIM

• A separate I-D can be created to contain specifications in this area
  – Tenant provisioning, standard URL formats, access control, etc

• How burdensome is a “globally unique SCIM id” for Service Providers?

• Interoperability
Questions and Discussion