

Summary of Security Rathole Topics

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Abstract

The Security Area of the GGF has now been in existence for five years. During this period many topics have been discussed in various GGF Security working group sessions and workshops. From these discussions a number of topics have emerged as “ratholes,” a term indicating a topic that can be discussed seemingly without bound and at extreme levels of technical minutia. The goal of this document is to enumerate these ratholes in order to prevent their continued consumption of time in GGF Security sessions.

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1 Overview

The Security Area of the GGF has now been in existence for five years. During this period many topics have been discussed in various GGF Security working group sessions and workshops. From these discussions a number of topics have emerged as “ratholes,” a term indicating a topic that can be discussed seemingly without bound and at extreme levels of technical minutia. The goal of this document is to enumerate these ratholes so prevent their continued consumption of time in GGF Security sessions.

This document is meant for informational purposes only. I does not try to establish any recommended process on how to act or what to do upon the encounter of an identified rathole (besides running for your life).

2 GGF Security Ratholes

This section enumerates the ratholes as identified by the frequent members of the GGF security area. The enumeration does not imply any order of preference or importance.

1. XML versus ASN.1
2. Doesn't that secret need hardware protection?
3. Do we have any volunteers?
4. Please provide feedback.
5. Why doesn't the Globus Toolkit do that?
6. Why does the Globus Toolkit do that?
7. Could the Globus Toolkit do that?
8. Can the Globus Toolkit please stop do that?
9. Is that authentication or authorization?
10. Did you have a comment to make, Frank?
11. Isn't that a policy question?
12. Isn't that [identification|authentication|authorization|validation]?
13. Define what you mean by VO.
14. But you have no trust.
15. But we trust that service.
16. Was that OGSi or OGSA?
17. The WS-Security roadmap.
18. OGSA

19. _____ would solve that problem.
20. That's not how we do things in LCG.
21. That sounds like a really good idea.
22. Oh. Oooh. Uh-oh.
23. I'm confused.
24. Let's continue this discussion on the mailing list.
25. But people need this.
26. We discussed this in the bar last night, and came up with a proposal.
27. Now all we need to do is to crank out the WSDL.
28. I'll add that section sometime next week.
29. Let's get some agreement on this.
30. The gridmap file.
31. What groups and roles do you have?
32. Transport layer security is all we need.
33. Does anyone have any experience with this?
34. I uploaded the document to GridForge, so you can download it from there.
35. Why don't we do this in [favorite XML-based language] instead?
36. Message layer security is all we need.
37. Can this be put in a wider context?
38. I want to revoke a proxy certificate.
39. I think we might have an issue here.
40. Should we do A or B? (oftens end up with doing C)
41. ... (not to be confused with silent consent)
42. We had this discussion a couple of years ago.
43. How do you mean, logging?

3 Security Considerations

This document contains security considerations that have been considered too much already. Readers are encouraged to consider avoiding further consideration of these considerations.

4 Author Information

Left out for personal protection.

5 Intellectual Property Statement

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