

Overview of the SIF Association UK Quarterly meeting—9/10 June 2010

The recent SIF Association UK Quarterly Meeting took place on Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th June 2010 at the National College, Nottingham.

The event launched with the SIF Association UK [video](#), followed by a welcome from Paul Shoesmith (Co-Chair of the UK Management Board), and SIF Association updates from Larry Fruth (Executive Director, SIF Association).

There were also presentations from *the information authority*, connect digitally and the Information Standards Board Technical Support Service, providing updates on their areas of work and current / future plans.

Following the Community updates, the delegates split into their respective working groups or discussion sessions. There were several discussions sessions scheduled throughout the 2-days which covered standardising SIF choreography; SIF specification comparison US/UK/AU; growing the SIF Associa-

tion UK; and a session that resolved specific issues regarding the specification. Individual working groups also continued their good work, progressing the Learner Profile; developing a marketing strategy; developing certification profiles; resolving security issues; identifying areas for development in the Implementation Planning Toolkit; discussions on the migration to the Business Data Architecture (ISB); and discussing / resolving implementation issues.

“...the best and most productive SIF event...”

“Most useful conference...!”

“...The community spirit [is] evident through the working groups...”

(conference feedback)

Paul Shoesmith chaired the closing session of the conference, with all working group co-chairs providing an overview of their sessions ending with a final summary of the conference.

A link has been sent to all delegates requesting their feedback via an online survey. We would like to thank all delegates in ad-



National College, Nottingham

vance for completing this, as it will help us immensely in developing and structuring our future events.

Following a very successful conference, the SIF Association have published a press release about the UK's continued growth. This can be found on page two.

The next SIF Association UK Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th November 2010. Further details will be published in due course.

If you would like to provide a presentation at the next conference, please email your details, along with an overview of your proposed session to sifauk@becta.org.uk by 30th September 2010.

All the presentations from this conference can be found on the website at <http://www.sifassociation.org/uk/presentations.asp>

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Special points of interest:

- The next SIF Association UK Quarterly Meeting is on 10/11 November 2010. Further details will be published via the website in due course. **We look forward to seeing you there!**
- 30-day consultation on the SIF Implementation Specification UK 1.3 will commence in summer 2010—keep an eye on our website for further details.



The West Atrium, National College, Nottingham



The SIF® Association UK Sees Continued Growth



"It is imperative that we continue to build upon the existing SIF Implementations across the UK and to ensure the uses of the secure, open standards are available to provide efficiency savings at the front-line, in turn, reducing the amount of staff time spent on entering and duplicating data entry."

Ian White, South West Grid for Learning



Washington, DC, 22 June 2010—Following the successful SIF Association UK Quarterly Meeting held in Nottingham, the Association's UK Community continues to expand and plan for future development. During the meetings, conversations and sessions addressed SIF Choreography, teaching and learning, future needs of the SIF Implementation Specification (United Kingdom), resolving security issues and the work by the Data Standards; Business, Development and Communications; Implementation; Technical and Infrastructure and Children and Young People's Agencies Working Groups.

"Participation at the June SIF Association UK Conference proved yet again to be incredibly valuable," stated Michael Pickett, Manager – Digital Infrastructure, ICT Solutions, Norfolk County Council. "Membership of the Association and participation at the conferences has been key to the successful delivery of an open standards based interoperability solution for Norfolk's schools. The June conference has highlighted how far the SIF Standard has come in the UK. There is a clear swell of activity across Local Authorities and schools with many successful examples of how the standard can solve interoperability challenges such as with 14 to 19, identity management and single sign on, free school meals and collaborative learning. There was a really positive atmosphere with suppliers, LAs and schools committed to working productively to-

gether to solve problems and achieve key outcomes." Overall, the meetings provided the opportunity to share best practices, work on the SIF Implementation Specification (United Kingdom) and determine future work of the SIF Association UK.

The SIF Association UK, through the leadership of Becta, has become an efficient, widespread and self-sustaining organisation in the UK. While the new UK government announced the closure of Becta, the SIF Association UK will continue with the community membership continuing to manage the critical work ahead. The elected Management Board of the SIF Association UK continues to drive the vision and strategy of interoperability in the UK. The Management Board leaders are:

- **Nick Barron** - Head of UK Business Development, Edustructures
- **Tony Brown** - Director, Children's Services Strategy, CACI
- **Karen Crowston** - Birmingham local authority - **Co-Chair of the UK Board**
- **Mike Edge** - Head of Technical Architecture Group, RM Education
- **Rupert Hay-Campbell** - MIS Adviser, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- **Ian Lehmann** - Consultant, London Grid for Learning
- **Lyn McCullagh** - Core and Curriculum Officer, C2k

- **Philip Pearce** - Strategic Technical Manager, East of England Broadband Network (E2BN)
- **Roger Plant** - Education Systems Director, Pearson
- **Lawrence Royston** - Managing Director, Groupcall
- **Paul Shoemith** - Director, Technical Strategy, Becta - **Co-Chair of the UK Board**
- **Ian White** - Consultant, South West Grid for Learning
- **Emma Williams** - Head of School Improvement Branch, School Management and Effectiveness Division, Welsh Assembly Government

"At the recent UK Management Board meeting, it was clear the need for the SIF Association UK to provide leadership; raise awareness and develop the SIF Standard for the benefit for schools and local authorities," explains Ian White, Senior Technical Consultant, Southwest Grid for Learning. "It is imperative that we continue to build upon the existing SIF Implementations across the UK and to ensure the uses of the secure, open standards are available to provide efficiency savings at the front-line, in turn, reducing the amount of staff time spent on entering and duplicating data entry."

Future work of the SIF Association UK includes:

- **SIF Implementation Specification (United Kingdom) 1.3** - look for the release in autumn 2010.



SIF Association UK video / useful links

The SIF Association UK have recently published a promotional video. To view, please follow this link: <http://www.vimeo.com/12202704>

Don't forget to leave your comments!

To access previous [SIF Association](#) and [SIF Association UK](#) newsletters, please click on the relevant link.

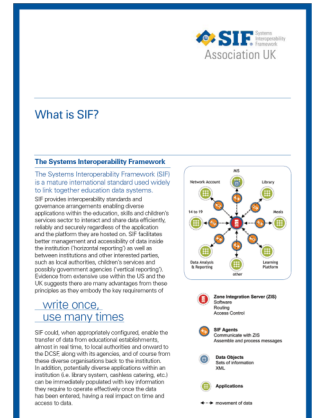
The SIF Association are delighted to have the following pieces of collateral available to download via the UK website:

- [What is SIF?](#)
- [How SIF works](#)
- [Solving data issues with SIF](#)
- [Case Study: Norfolk County Council](#)
- [Case Study: Warwickshire County Council Proof of Concept](#)

Should you wish to have hard copies of these publications, please feel free to email sifauk@becta.org.uk — don't forget to provide your name, postal address, which publication(s) you are interested in and how many copies you require.

Coming soon...

Look out for the South West Grid for Learning case study which will be available shortly!



Several SIF downloads now available from the website:

www.sifassociation.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

SIF Association UK Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday 10th & Thursday 11th November 2010

PLEASE NOTE: *Following requests from the UK Community, the original UK Quarterly Meeting dates, scheduled for October & December, have been merged into one November conference.*

SIF Association UK Annual Meeting

Wednesday 9th & Thursday 10th March 2011

(further details will be made available from the website)

UPCOMING TELECOMS:

Teaching & Learning WG	4pm	5th July
Implementation WG	11am	13th July
Business, Dev & Comms WG	10am	14th July
UK Management Board	4pm	14th July
Curriculum & Timetabling TF	11am	19th July
Technical & Infrastructure WG	4pm	20th July
Learner Profile TF	4pm	22nd July
Teaching & Learning WG	4pm	2nd August
Implementation WG	11am	10th August
Business, Dev & Comms WG	10am	11th August

CONTACT DETAILS

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If you have any other comments or questions, or wish to submit articles for future newsletters, please email:

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