TIER Grouper Deployment Guide Proposal - July 15, 2016

The Grouper project maintains a plethora of documentation and training materials on the Grouper Wiki mostly in the form of Administration Guides, Community Contributions, and Training Videos. These materials do a very good job of providing reference materials, and a variety of deployment and use case examples.

However, for the uninitiated it is not always clear where to start and how to stay on the right path. Additionally, many configuration choices and deployment options are left for the deployer to decide. This has led to deployments which have tended towards similar functionality, but often diverge considerably in approach, terminology and implementation.

Given the backdrop of the TIER initiative and considerable community experience and expertise, there is an opportunity to provide more specific advice on achieving various IAM capabilities with Grouper beyond simple group management. The proposal is to distill community practice represented by "Group and folder design ideas" and the various deployment examples in Community Contributions into a TIER community approved approach, so that new and existing deployers can more easily benefit from community experience and achieve IAM goals more quickly.

Harmonizing Grouper deployments with common practice, vocabulary and IAM strategies would will also have the benefit of making it easier for the community to work together toward common objectives and improve Grouper more quickly overtime.

The recently shared Columbia University Grouper Deployment Guide is directionally representative of the proposed output. The first part walks a new Grouper deployer through initial deployment and configuration. It follows with recommendations for configuration and practice, and ends with details about achieving specific IAM capabilities with Grouper. A TIER version of the deployment guide would provide additional community vetted recommendations and strategies for a TIER compatible Grouper deployment.

The proposal is to essentially move from diverse community examples to specific TIER guidance and recommendations. This should lead to more consistent deployments, making it easier to share experience and work together to build a robust TIER based IAM practice.

Deliverables
- TIER Grouper Deployment Guide 1.0
  - Expand the Columbia Grouper Deployment Guide to cover TIER community recommendations
  - Work with the TIER community to settle on vocabulary, practice and strategies
  - Distill community best practices from Community Contributions into specific guidance
  - Expand IAM capabilities/use cases

Timeline/Milestones
- Columbia Deployment Guide - completed
- TIER working group charter and community team formation - July 2016
- 0.5 draft outline TIER Grouper Deployment Guide - Sep 25, 2016
- 2016 Internet2 Technical Exchange presentation/discussion/feedback - Sep 25-28, 2016
- 0.7 draft release Dec 2016
- 0.9 draft release and final comments period Feb-Mar 2017
- 1.0 final release Internet2 Summit Apr 2017