

# IdentityPython (IdPY) Informal Board Discussion

*TIIME Conference – February 11, 2026 (In-Person, Amsterdam)*

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**Attending:** *Chris Whalen, Laura Paglione, Christos Kanellopoulos, Ivan Kanakarakis, Scott Koranda, Mike Jones*

This informal gathering was convened at TIIME as a follow-up to the January 2026 IdPY Governance Meeting, at which the board identified a set of outstanding technical and operational challenges and agreed to use the TIIME conference as an opportunity for in-person strategic alignment.

Key priorities carried forward from January included clarifying IdPY's strategic direction, addressing technical leadership and contribution governance, and preparing for a broader community engagement. Board members present at TIIME met to advance these items, focusing in particular on the current state of the SATOSA ecosystem—its architectural complexity, operational stability, and path toward long-term sustainability—and on identifying practical steps the board could take to move the project forward.

## Key Themes Discussed

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### 1. Architectural Complexity

Participants acknowledged long-standing concerns about:

- Deep and evolving dependency chains
- Frequent upstream changes impacting deployments
- Challenges operating SATOSA reliably in production environments

There was general agreement that the project has experienced significant architectural churn over several years.

### 2. Laboratory vs. Infrastructure

A central question emerged, “Is SATOSA primarily an experimentation platform, or a stable infrastructure product?”

There was broad agreement that operational users require SATOSA to function as a stable infrastructure platform going forward.

### 3. Governance & Change Management

The board discussed the need for:

- More structured development methodology
- Clearer change control practices
- Backward compatibility as a guiding policy
- Improved coordination across repositories

There was consensus that changes should not break existing deployments without strong justification and clear communication.

#### **4. Modernization & Technical Improvements**

Topics raised included:

- Incremental modernization of the framework
- Improved state management and logout handling
- Better observability and operational tooling
- Review and simplification of dependency chains

There was general agreement that modernization should be incremental rather than a disruptive rewrite.

#### **5. Dependency & Metadata Considerations**

The role of dependencies, including PyFF and other core components, was discussed.

Participants agreed that the dependency landscape should be reviewed and clarified, including long-term sustainability considerations.

#### **6. Team Structure & Contribution Model**

The board discussed:

- Strengthening maintainership roles
- Improving contribution processes
- Supporting mentorship and onboarding
- Clarifying governance expectations

The importance of clear processes and communication with contributors was emphasized.

## **Emerging Direction**

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There was broad alignment around the following principles:

- SATOSA is the central product of IdentityPython.
- Operational reliability should be prioritized over experimentation.
- Governance and change control should be formalized.
- Modernization should be incremental and controlled.
- Community engagement and transparency are essential.

## Next Steps

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The board members present agreed to:

- Conduct a review of SATOSA dependencies
- Establish clearer technical coordination mechanisms
- Define a near-term developer remit
- Prepare for broader community discussion (Town Hall)
- Publish meeting summaries and improve transparency practices

Further input from the community will inform how these directions are refined and implemented.

## VERSION FOR GITHUB

# IdentityPython (IdPY) - Informal Board Discussion  
\*\*TIIME Conference - February 11, 2026 (Amsterdam)\*\*

### ## Participants

Chris Whalen

Laura Paglione

Christos Kanellopoulos

Ivan Kanakarakis

Scott Koranda

Mike Jones

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### ## Purpose

Board members present at the TIIME 2026 conference met informally to discuss the current state of the SATOSA ecosystem within IdentityPython.

The discussion focused on architectural complexity, operational stability, governance, and long-term sustainability. The goal was to identify practical steps toward improving reliability and coordination across the project.

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### ## Key Discussion Themes

#### ### 1. Architectural Complexity

Participants acknowledged ongoing concerns regarding:

- Deep and evolving dependency chains
- Frequent upstream changes affecting deployments
- Difficulty operating SATOSA reliably in production environments

There was shared recognition that architectural churn over several years has created operational challenges.

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### ### 2. Laboratory vs. Infrastructure

A central question discussed:

> Is SATOSA primarily an experimentation platform, or a stable infrastructure product?

There was broad agreement that operational users require SATOSA to function as a stable infrastructure platform going forward.

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### ### 3. Governance & Change Management

The board discussed the need for:

- More structured development methodology
- Clearer change control practices
- Backward compatibility as a guiding policy
- Improved coordination across repositories

There was consensus that breaking changes should be rare, justified, and clearly communicated.

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### ### 4. Modernization & Technical Improvements

Topics included:

- Incremental modernization of the framework
- Improved state management and logout handling
- Better observability and operational tooling
- Review and simplification of dependency chains

There was agreement that modernization should be incremental rather than a disruptive rewrite.

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### ### 5. Dependencies & Metadata

The role of key dependencies, including PyFF and other components in the SATOSA ecosystem, was discussed.

Participants agreed that the dependency landscape should be reviewed and clarified with sustainability in mind.

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### ### 6. Contribution Model & Project Structure

The board discussed:

- Strengthening maintainership roles
- Improving contribution processes
- Supporting onboarding and mentorship
- Clarifying governance expectations

Clear processes and transparent communication were emphasized as priorities.

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### ## Emerging Direction

There was broad alignment around the following principles:

- SATOSA is the central product of IdentityPython.
- Operational reliability should be prioritized over experimentation.
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- Community engagement and transparency are essential.

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## ## Next Steps

The board agreed to:

1. Conduct a review of SATOSA dependencies
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3. Define a near-term developer remit
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5. Publish meeting summaries and improve transparency practices

Further community input will inform how these directions are refined and implemented.

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\*This summary reflects an informal discussion among board members present at TIIME 2026. It is shared publicly in the spirit of transparency for the IdentityPython open source community.\*