

2026 IdPY Town Hall Plan

DATE TBD

Based on conversations leading up to and during the TIIME 2026 meeting in Amsterdam in early February, the board and technical team have decided to hold a Town Hall meeting to build community engagement and buy-in in the future plans for IdPY. The purpose of this document is to outline the goals and content of this meeting, and the project plan leading up to and following the meeting.

PREPARATION FOR THE MEETING

FROM THE 11 FEB 2026 MEETING NOTES: the following actions will be taken:

- Prepare documentation outlining (see below):
 - Problems identified.
 - Proposed direction.
 - Governance changes.
- Promote and communicate town hall broadly.
- Invite feedback from the community.
- Encourage dissenting voices to participate constructively.
- Treat this as a defined remit to move forward.

Transparency Actions

- Publish board and technical minutes.
- Update board information on GitHub.
- Update mailing list access and address spam issues.

PROJECT PLAN

What needs to be done for the town hall and community outreach this season.

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
10 Mar 2026	CAN PROJECT MEMBERS ATTEND? Poll Board & project technical stakeholders to find a Town Hall time many can attend - scheduled ~ 4 weeks from this date	
16 Mar 2026	TRANSPARENCY ACTIONS Gain control of and clean up mailing lists for the IdPY community. If necessary, move lists to a new home. Get access to Github repo; update board information; investigate this venue to publish meeting minutes.	
?? Apr 2026	CHOOSE TOWN HALL DATE put the date onto project member calendars; set up conference software and registration (if being used)	
?? Apr 2026 (+ follow up)	PUBLICIZE TO IdPY COMMUNITY Start promotion of the Town Hall Meeting to the IdPY user community - use mailing list, slack channels, and IdPY website/github	

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
?? May 2026	TOWN HALL MEETING - see content structure planning below .	
?? May 2026	COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY Solicit feedback about the town hall meeting and new direction via a short survey	
?? Jun 2026	PROJECT FOLLOW UP Follow up with the community about next steps and progress since the town hall. Include where to go for ongoing updates	
?? June 2026	BOARD FOLLOW UP Report out and follow up as needed on the Town Hall at the next Board meeting scheduled for TNC.	

MEETING CONTENT STRUCTURE

Open with an acknowledgement: “Production users have had to compensate for architectural instability. That is not sustainable, and it’s on us to address it.”

Slide 1 — Why We’re Here

Topic: The Future of SATOSA

- We recognize ongoing operational instability.
- We know production users have had to work around upstream change.
- We want to align SATOSA with real-world operational needs.
- This is a reset conversation — not a closed decision.

Tone: Acknowledge pain. Avoid defensiveness.

Slide 2 — What We’ve Heard (From You)

- “Breaking changes make production risky.”
- “Dependency chains are too deep and unstable.”
- “It feels like a laboratory, not infrastructure.”
- “It’s hard for newcomers to contribute meaningfully.”

This slide is critical — it signals listening.

Slide 3 — Shared Consensus

There is broad agreement that:

- SATOSA is the core product of IdPY.
- It must evolve into a stable service platform.
- Backward compatibility must become policy.
- Governance and change control must improve.

- Modernization must not destabilize deployments.

Slide 4 — What Will Change

1. Dependency Control

- Full dependency audit.
- AI-assisted mapping and analysis.
- Fewer unmanaged upstream surprises.

2. Governance & Change Management

- Structured release management.
- Clear compatibility expectations.
- No breaking changes without strong justification and communication.

3. Simplification

- Define core supported use cases.
- Reduce non-essential complexity.
- Move toward a more opinionated and stable architecture.

Make this concrete and reassuring.

Slide 5 — What Will NOT Change

This slide builds trust.

- SATOSA remains Python-based (no sudden rewrite decision).
- No abrupt “rip and replace.”
- No hidden governance changes.
- No exclusion of contributors.

Slide 6 — Modernization Approach

- Incremental improvements.
- Evaluate wrapping with a modern framework.
- Improve state management and logout handling.
- Introduce better observability patterns.
- Avoid destabilizing full rewrite.

Open questions remain — and community input matters.

Slide 7 — PyFF & Metadata

- Recognize operational cost and complexity concerns.
- Assess simplification vs. replacement.
- Seek community input on metadata workflows and needs.

Invite those with operational experience to engage here.

Slide 8 — Contribution Model Going Forward

- Define a maintainer role.
- Establish clearer contribution pathways.
- Improve onboarding for new contributors.
- Introduce technical coordination calls.
- Clarify expectations for upstream contributions (including Roland's).

Frame this as enabling participation — not restricting it.

Slide 9 — 6-Month Focus

In the next 6 months, we will:

1. Complete dependency audit.
2. Establish structured change control.
3. Define supported use cases.
4. Improve state & logout handling.
5. Publish clearer governance processes.
6. Hold regular technical coordination calls.

Clarity reduces anxiety.

Slide 10 — How You Can Participate

- Join technical coordination discussions.
- Help review dependency analysis.
- Contribute to simplification efforts.
- Provide production deployment feedback.
- Participate in defining core supported use cases.

Explicitly invite dissent into structured channels.

Slide 11 — Open Questions for the Community

- Wrapper vs. partial modernization?
- Long-term architectural direction?

- UI evolution?
- PyFF future?
- Governance structure preferences?

Town hall should include real questions, not just announcements.