I have so much enjoyed working with Brett as staff partner to my volunteer efforts.  I have deeply appreciated his camaraderie, thoughtful input, expert navigation of sometimes choppy waters, and his most capable leadership of Liberty Alliance and, more recently, Kantara Initiative.

Three things have most impressed me.  First, Brett is a truly a results-oriented person.  At times, this term is casually said to a point where it can lose impact.  In Brett's case, he stands above the rest in his ability to formulate well-structured business objectives on a wide variety of topics and drive toward the objectives with unflagging dedication.  He exemplifies the essence of "Getting to Yes" in that he always strives to find a solution that is amenable to all parties, so that everyone is an equal participant in the success of the effort.

Secondly, Brett is great manager of his people.  I know this through countless interactions with him during which he has consistently demonstrated respect for and accommodation of the individual, while maintaining the business needs of the organization above all.

Finally, Brett accomplishes all of this with a great sense of humor and an even-keeled disposition, even while dealing with stressful situations that would get the best of many others.

I'll miss our weekly calls, but sincerely wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

*Roger Sullivan, President, Kantara Initiative*

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I am extremely grateful to have spent the last 8 years working closely with Brett McDowell.  He has been both a mentor and adviser to me and has truly helped me to become the person I am today in Kantara.  He has a special quality which enables him to inspire and excite all who are in his circle to be better, do more, and achieve higher heights than were even imaginable.  When you work with Brett you have a loyal counterpart, a confidant and a real team player on your side.  While I'm sad to see Brett's departure I'm very happy he'll continue on working with us toward our mission of bridging the gaps in identity and access management technologies.  Brett you WILL be missed but thank you for shinning the light on our path for all these years.  Cheers to you!

*Joni Brennan, Kantara Initiative*

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What a lucky team PayPal has, putting one of the finest to work to further evangelize the importance of doing identity right!  In my time working with Brett in a variety of capacities in a variety of different situations, his ability to articulate clearly, listen and respond carefully, and understand and explain expertly definitely shined through.  He's one of those rare left AND right brain thinkers, able to apply himself effectively to any situation in which he becomes involved, drawing and applying personal talents in every situation.  Best of luck, Brett!

*Britta Glade, RSA Security*

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Brett is a paragon of professionalism, industry knowledge, and integrity, and gives the impression that he's found the secret to squeezing 28 hours into each day. (Lucky me, I get to keep working with him!).

*Eve Maler, PayPal*

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Brett is a consummate professional and it has been an absolute privilege working with him.  I wish him all the best in his new endeavors and have the outmost confidence he will be successful wherever his life’s journey takes him.

*Jason Rouault, HP*

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Effectively organizing a dynamic and multi-faceted community on the scope of the Kantara Initiative takes the political skills of Winston Churchill, the coaching experience of Vince Lombardi, the CEO skills of Jack Welch, the calming personality of Mr. Rodgers, combined with the leadership and motivational expertise of General George Patton.  Brett brought all of this to the Liberty Alliance and Kantara Initiative, leaving big shoes to fill for his successor.

*Matthew Gardiner, CA*

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In a previous life Brett McDowell surely performed in a circus as a juggler. I can think of no other explanation for his ability to keep all the various balls, plates, bowling pins (& occasional chain saws) that Liberty Alliance was and Kantara Initiative is comprised of in the air and free of collisions, all while walking the sometimes tightrope of relationships with other identity communities. It also helps to explain his passion for garish vests and suspenders.

*Paul Madsen, NTT*

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In knowing with Brett for 5 years, I’ll miss daily interactions with him as he’s been a great boss. He’s been a terrific mentor and confidante, inspiring me and others in his circles. Brett’s knowledge, passion and determination for his work is extraordinary. Brett is always encouraging, supportive, patient, fair and one to make us smile. All the best to you Brett, I’m glad to know you won’t be too far away.

*Dervla O’Reilly, Kantara Initiative*

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It was always reassuring to work with Brett.  No matter what the situation, you could always count on Brett to come in with a solid proposal to ensure progress was made quickly.  Whether it be proposed a budget, strategy, relationship, or project, Brett always had it covered.  I think we will really miss his efforts after he is gone when we all struggle to fill the immense hole left behind.  But what made Brett such a pleasure to work with was his ability to assert calm in any situation by carefully inserting well-balanced comments to keep things moving.

*Ken Salzberg, Intel Labs*

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Brett is a gifted individual. He possessed a special combination of skills that are extremely rare to find in one person: excellent technical skills, superb communication skill, excels at diplomacy, great evangelist, strategic thinker and visionary, a good sense of business and market opportunity, and an ability to motivate and lead people without being abrasive. He also has great professionalism, which makes anything he touches or gets involved with stand out in terms of quality and presentation.

Over my 2+ years of working with Brett, I have come to rely on him for many things, he has been a great partner to the identity assurance work we have advanced and his leadership, guidance and championing of this cause has paid great dividends in the evolution and maturity we have reached. I just cannot imagine making all the progress we have, and having as much fun while at it, is it Brett wasn’t involved. He has been an incredible asset to Liberty and Kantara.

But in addition to this, Brett is an identity fanatic, he is passionate and convinced about the importance and relevance that identity, and more over a secure, trustworthy and interoperable identity, has in the global marketplace. He is inspiring to those of us that share the same view and feel strongly about this issue. Brett is the incarnation of the Identerati, without a doubt.

Selfishly, I am sad to see him go, since our efforts at IAWG and in identity assurance will sure miss his energy and drive, while at the same time I am excited for him about this new opportunity, at which I know he will excel. I wish Brett all the best, great success and I hope that we can continue to interact in whatever capacity makes sense.

*Frank Villavicencio, Identropy Inc.*

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Brett, it has been a great pleasure working with you, previously in Liberty and later in Kantara.  Your unfailing enthusiasm and drive has been a major contributor to the success of the organisations you have led.  You are fair, open and honest in all your dealings, and together with your good grasp of technical issues, make you a 'one-in-a-thousand' kind of leader. On behalf of my government's Identity Management program, a very big 'thank you!' and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

*Colin Wallis, New Zealand Government*

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As well as his tireless plate-spinning in almost every area of Kantara's activities, I'd like to thank Brett for his work in keeping Privacy in the forefront of the organisation's mission and charter. If Federation was the battleground for the Liberty Alliance, surely for Kantara it is Privacy - and Brett's foresight meant that it could be factored in from the earliest stages of Kantara's evolution. Luckily, the timing suggests it wasn't the Privacy stuff that made Brett's hair fall out.

*Robin Wilton, Future Identity*