PKI International Scan

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March 31, 2004

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Introduction

This report represents ongoing research conducted by the Government of Canada (GoC) PKI Secretariat to keep abreast of developments in secure electronic transactions and service delivery. The primary focus is on how federal governments are addressing the requirement to ensure a trusted environment to enable electronic delivery of services to the public. The document is compiled using information gathered from web sites, news reports, presentations from visiting delegations, and ongoing information exchanges with internal and external parties. Since most of the research has been compiled through secondary sources, the information in this document reflects how the profiled organizations present their situation, rather than a detailed and vetted analysis of actual progress. Also, due to the rapid pace of change in this area, new developments are happening all the time. The report should not be considered a final report, but rather an evolving source of compiled information for reference purposes.

Global/Multi-nation Activities

European Commissioner Highlights Benefits of Biometric Passports [1] *(Biometrics)*

European Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner António Vitorino said appropriate use of biometrics would improve identification and protect citizens from ID theft. The public hearing, held on March 2ND, 2004 under the theme "Biometrics, privacy and security: Striking the right balance", was organised by the European Liberal Democrats to discuss EU plans to include biometric identifiers in travel and ID documents. The European Parliament is currently discussing proposals to integrate biometric identifiers both in EU passports and in visas/residence permits for nationals of third-countries.

EU Takes Initiatives To Bolster Online Services [2] *(e-Service)*

Brian Cowen, the Irish foreign affairs minister, has signed the Council of Europe's "Convention on Information and Legal Co-operation Concerning Information Society services" on behalf of the EU. The treaty establishes a notification system by which countries wishing to legislate on e-services are compelled to give prior notice to fellow signatories. The system is designed to ensure that regulations adopted in one country do not adversely affect online services in another country. The ratification, on 22 March, comes only days after the Commission opened its 2004 version of the e-TEN programme which is designed to support the deployment of online services rather than infrastructure. E-TEN follows the objectives of the e-Europe 2005 Action plan on e-government, e-health and e-learning. Other areas to be funded under the plan include services for SMEs, e-inclusion and trust and security of e-services.

Europe Wears Its Heart On A Card [3] *(Smart Cards)*

European citizens will be issued with pan-European health insurance cards as June 1st, 2004. The cards could replace national health insurance cards, if member states so choose, but they are more likely to be issued separately. For now, the card will merely be an identifier, but the EC says that future versions of the card may well include a chip. This will greatly facilitate exchange of information between Member States and reduce the risk of error, fraud and abuse.

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[1] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2221

[2] http://www.euractiv.com/cgi-bin/cgint.exe?204&OIDN=1507422&-tt=ye

[3] http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/03/26/europe_wears_its_heart/

Africa (Continent of)

South Africa

Pretoria Tightens Tax Regime [4] *(e-Service)*

The South African Revenue service (SARS) has begun to integrate its business processes in an effort to collect money more efficiently. An official told *Government Computing News* that with the project just moving out of the pilot phase, it has already recouped the investment. The legacy of the South African tax environment is that every tax has been administered separately and there has been sharing of information. The new business will be administered in a more holistic fashion.

Argentina

No new item to report.

Austria

No new item to report.

Australia

Auditor Demands Government Web Site Metrics [5] *(e-Government)*

The National Office for the Information Economy has developed "tool kits" and "checklists" to assist in the evaluation of hundreds of government Web sites. This initiative took place after five government agencies have been told to develop performance measures for their Internet offerings after their Web sites were declared rudderless ships floating aimlessly on a sea of taxpayer's money, according to the findings. This was the conclusion of the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) report that decreed performance management and benchmarking is a significant element of the government's e-government strategy. Being consistent with initiatives in the offline environment means that agencies should establish a business case for their online investments and regularly review progress on key performance indicators.

Belgium

No new item to report.

Bermuda

No new item to report.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

No new item to report.

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[4] http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/B8D4C4FFB9C7229580256E4E005E4F62?OpenDocument

[5] http://www.computerworld.com.au/index.php?id=1434494157&fp=16&fpid=0 CIOB News 2004-03-10

Brazil

No new item to report.

Bulgaria

No new item to report.

Canada

Technological Change in The Public Sector [6] *(e-Government)*

According to a new study, Canada's public sector is far ahead of the private sector in adopting new technology and training employees in support of technology change, according to a new study. Overall, 82 % of organizations in the public sector adopted new technologies between 2000 and 2002, almost twice the proportion of 42% among firms in the private sector. However, the study found that when organizations of the same size were compared, there is little difference in the rates of technology adoption between the two sectors.

Canada Sets Post-Government On-Line Priorities [7] *(e-Government)*

When Government On-Line was first conceived, it was expected to eventually replace other media through which government and citizens communicate, said Simon Gauthier, the government of Canada's deputy CIO. That has not been the case. To combat the line of thinking that citizens believe that GOL is complex, the government aims to offer single-window service to citizens (all government service available through one Internet portal) and integrated identity. That would reduce the number of times a citizen must provide basic information like date of birth and address to various government departments and levels of government. Without going into specifics, a greater degree of cooperation between government jurisdictions - municipal, provincial and federal-is required to achieve these goals. Simon Gauthier estimated it could be five years before we see single-window service.

Nova Scotia: Consumers To Benefit From Land Registration Changes [8] *(Online-Transactions)*

Major changes in property registration procedures in Annapolis, Digby, Hants and Kings counties should make future land sales faster and easier for consumers. In the new system, which becomes effective this month, property records are indexed to the land parcel rather than the owner's name, and records are filed and stored electronically instead of through paper-based registries. The biggest benefit is that ownership of a property is guaranteed by the province once it is in the new system. Property information will be available online as properties are converted, making it easier for lawyers, surveyors and financial institutions to serve their clients faster. Land title information, which up until now could only be researched by visiting the Registry of Deeds in the county where the property is located, will be filed, stored and accessed over the Internet.

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[6] http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/040309/d040309a.htm CIOB News 2004-03-09
[7] http://www.canadait.com/cfm/index.cfm?It=902&Id=18683&Se=2&Sv=&Lo=2
[8] http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20040311005 CIOB News 2004-03-12

Nova Scotia: Agencies Working Together To Combat Identity Theft [9] *(Identity Theft)*

Government and law enforcement agencies are urging consumers to be on the lookout for warning signs that they could be a victim of Canada's fastest growing crime: identity theft. Identity theft is the fastest growing form of crime in the country," said Assistant Commissioner Ian Atkins, commanding officer for the RCMP in Nova Scotia. "Our commercial crime section is committed to working with partners locally, nationally and internationally to protect Nova Scotians from the personal, financial and criminal perils of identity theft." As well, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for consumer issues are playing a role in combating identity theft. They recently published *Tips for Reducing the Risk of Identity Theft*, a brochure of helpful hints for consumers.

Chile

No new item to report.

China

No new item to report.

Denmark

No new item to report.

Finland

No new item to report.

France

e-Voting Tested During French Regional Elections [10] *(e-Service)*

Electronic voting is being tested during the regional elections taking place in France on 21 and 28 March, with the country's first legally binding electronic election being held in the city of Brest. A wider deployment of voting machines is likely to take place during the June 2004 European elections. This first full e-election does not appear to have had a significant impact on participation during the first round of the regional elections. Turnout in Brest was up by 3% compared to the last regional elections held in 1998, but this increase is in line with the higher turnout observed throughout the country. However, the experience was labelled a success by the local authorities, which reported only minor non-software related problems, such as some visibility problems due to a font judged too small by some voters.

Germany

Germany Freezes Development of Its Employment Portal [11] *(e-Service)*

On 25 February 2004, the German Federal Labour Office (*Arbeitsamt*) announced it was freezing its job portal development plans due to skyrocketing costs. Although the original costs were evaluated at EUR 65 million, new estimates indicate the portal would cost EUR 165 million up to 2008. The portal was launched on 01/12/2003 to support the fulfilment of the government's

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[9] http://www.gov.ns.ca/news/details.asp?id=20040311007 CIOB News 2004-03-12
[10] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2314
[11] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2210

employment-related missions, which include connecting supply and demand on the training and job markets and promoting their transparency. The portal was supposed to be further developed in the coming years, with for instance an enhanced matching system to be implemented in May and a Service Centre for job intermediation and consultation to be launched in August 2004.

Hungary

No new item to report

India

No new item to report

Ireland

Controversy Goes on Over Irish e-Voting Plans [12] *(e-Service)*

Despite a major information and communication campaign launched by the Government in February, the nation-wide introduction of electronic voting for the forthcoming local and European elections of June 2004 is meeting increasing resistance within the Irish society. The introduction of electronic voting is still sparking political controversy in Ireland, where opponents to the current e-voting plan have voiced concerns about a number of issues, including technical and sociological problems, total cost of implementation, lack of trust in the Government, the proprietary nature of the chosen software and the lack of a physical paper trail in the proposed system.

Israel

No new item to report

Italy

Tribunale Di Cuneo Ricorso Per Decreto Ingiuntivo [13] *(Authentication)*

The March 22, 2004 *World eBusiness Law Report* contains a note by Marco Berliri, Esq. of Lovells in Rome, summarizing the above decision of the Court of Cuneo, holding that an e-mail authenticated by a single-key password is admissible into evidence. The EU E-Signatures Directive (which was implemented in Italy by a 10/2002 Decree) specifically provides that a document with an "advanced e-signature" - namely a PKI digital signature backed by a "qualified certificate"- is admissible into evidence without further authentication foundation. The decision is consistent with the Directive and the Italy Decree because they provide that a document with a mere "e-signature" is not denied legal effectiveness or admissibility just because it is in electronic form. The note observes that the decision is controversial: "Many commentators have criticized the court's decision to accept email as evidence, arguing that the user identification and password are not valid methods of authentication, as although they are data in electronic form, they are not attached to or logistically associated with the text of the email."

Japan

No new item to report.

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[12] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2227
[13] http://www.altalex.com/index.php?idstr=30&idnot=6883

Kenya

No new item to report.

Korea

No new item to report.

Malaysia

No new item to report.

Mexico

No new item to report.

Netherlands (the)

No new item to report.

New Zealand

Legal Protection for Online Transactions [14] *(Online-Transaction)*

New Zealand continues to outpace Australia as one of the world's most "globalized" countries after its government enacted strong legal protections for online transactions, giving it the second-highest number of secure servers per capita in the world. The index puts Ireland (1), Singapore (2) and Switzerland (3) at the top of the list of globalized countries in the world, and finds Western Europe can claim six out of the 10 most globally integrated countries, on measures of economic integration (trade and foreign investment), technological connectivity (internet penetration and usage), personal contact (such as travel and telecommunicating) and political engagement (treaties, memberships of international organizations).

Norway

No new item to report.

Pakistan

No new item to report.

Poland

No new item to report.

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[14] http://www.cio.com.au/index.php?id=545847971&fp=4&fpid=21 CIOB News 2004-03-10

Portugal

Portugal Launches New e-Government Portal [15] *(e-Government)*

The Portuguese Government unveiled its new portal for citizens and businesses on 17 March 2004. The portal, which currently provides access to over 700 services, will also include a dedicated section for civil servants in a second phase. Called "Portal do Cidadão" (Citizen's Portal), the new e-government portal replaces the previous "Infocid" and is the result of a joint effort by about 120 public and private entities. Despite its name, the new portal targets businesses as well as citizens and will in a second development stage also offer services to civil servants. The new portal has over 700 services currently on offer, such as online tax returns, request of civil certificates, and single notification of address change – the latter being Portugal's first significant transversal e-government application. Services for citizens are classified by "life episodes" (e.g. getting married, looking for a job, studying) and "areas of interest" (e.g. culture, taxes or justice). The business section offers a comprehensive range of services, covering the business lifecycle from company creation to ceasing of activities, while also providing valuable information in areas such as investment strategy and recruitment.

Russia

No new item to report.

Singapore

No new item to report.

Slovak Republic

No new item to report.

Slovenia (Republic of)

No new item to report.

Spain

Electronic Voting Successfully Tested in Spain [16] *(e-Service)*

Hundreds of voluntary voters tested a number of new voting technologies during the Spanish general elections. In the Municipality of Jun, near Granada, a total of 597 citizens tested electronic voting systems, with 400 people voting through computers connected to the Internet and 197 people voting by SMS sent via their mobile phones. Internet voting pilots were also carried out in three polling stations in Zamora and Lugo, where 274 citizens tested Internet voting machines at a number of polling stations. Since mid-2003, the Spanish Public Certification Authority, CERES has considered that the technical requirements for implementing electronic and Internet voting in Spain were met, but that the main obstacle would remain cultural. Previous small-scale Internet voting pilots held in 2003 were also labelled a success in terms of technology as well as voters'

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[15]

http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&parent=whatsnew&documentID=2304
CIOB News 2004-03-22
[16] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2287

acceptance. However, a survey carried out by the CERES in 2003 found that a significant part of the Spanish population was still reluctant about electronic voting and considered it insufficiently reliable.

Sweden

No new item to report.

Switzerland

e-Government Fails to Reach the Swiss Population, Say Researchers [17] *(e-Government)*

A survey published on 3 March 2004 by the Bern University of Applied Sciences and IT company Unisys revealed that, although there is a strong demand for e-government in Switzerland, many citizens are either unaware of the currently available e-services or deterred by persisting privacy and security concerns. The main objective of the survey was to find how citizens evaluate the performances of the country's e-government services. Called 'eGovernment Trend Barometer', the survey was carried out from 25 November to 5 December 2003 among a sample of citizens from all linguistic regions. The main findings of the survey include the following: Although 80% of respondents had access to the Internet and over 75% said they used the Internet several times a week, only 12% of the respondents said they "regularly" use e-government services. When presented with a list of 11 potential services, most respondents said they would use them if made available online. The only service that was rejected by a slight majority of respondents was "online payment of administrative invoices", due to the lack of trust in online transactions. Comfort, speed, and availability everywhere were the main advantages associated with Internet voting.

Thailand

No new item to report.

United Kingdom

ID Cards To Be Tested [18] *(Smart Cards)*

The UK Government is working with experts to test the security of the national ID card technology, Home Office minister Beverley Hughes has revealed. Threats, including hacking and unauthorised access to data, are being assessed. Other government departments that operate similar databases, such as the UK Passport Service, are also involved in the assessments. In response to Parliamentary questions on 10 March 2004, Hughes said that no firm decision on the technology that will be used in the card has been taken. "Technologies will be evaluated on how well they meet our requirements, in particular in the areas of security, capacity and adherence to international standards". Along plans to test the technology, the Government is aiming to introduce draft legislation for ID systems in the next couple of months. However, before the project goes ahead, the Government has a number of hurdles to overcome particularly from civil liberties groups who oppose the scheme on the grounds that it threatens privacy.

Only Connect [19] *(e-Service)*

Birmingham is on the brink of making history by being the first British city to make all its services available online. If all goes well, on March 31 it will become the first British city to make all its services available electronically to its citizens. This week, more than 97% of Birmingham's services

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[17] http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=2217

[18] http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/printview/2A04F82E5540EE0B80256E5500592935?OpenDocument
[19] http://politics.guardian.co.uk/egovernment/story/0,12767,1166945,00.html

were e-enabled, says Glyn Evans, IT director. "There are increasing levels of confidence that we'll get there." At the city's website, it is already possible to pay your council tax, report an abandoned vehicle or book a sunbed at a leisure centre (approved users only).

Push For NHS ID Number [20] *(Smart Cards)*

The NHS identity number is to become mandatory from June 2004 as it needs to become "universally available" in all health service locations, a letter to all NHS trust chief executives has confirmed. The letter, sent jointly by professor Peter Hutton, chair of the national clinical advisory board and professor Martin Servers chair of the Information Standards Board, calls on NHS trusts to step up their work in replacing the error prone system of multiple identifiers with the 10 digit ID number. It says that a "key aspect" of the National Programme for IT in the NHS is "to identify and track individual patients wherever they are presenting with symptoms or receiving care". So far, the NHS number has not been mandated as a national standard and systems vary across different areas. But as of June 2004 trusts will have to start adopting the national system as part of the NHS care record, says the letter.

United States

White House To Study Ways To Expand e-Government [21] *(e-Gov Performance)*

Looking ahead 18 months to the fiscal year 2006 budget, which takes effect 1 October, 2005, the White House Office of Management and Budget has begun a government-wide analysis of five lines of business to expand electronic government, the US agency said this week. Over the next six months, interagency teams would examine business functions, data, and best practices for five lines of business -- financial, human resources, grants, health, and case-management systems -- to identify opportunities to reduce the cost of government and improve services to citizens through business-performance improvements. After reviewing US federal enterprise architecture data provided by agencies, the administration recognized the need to re-evaluate planned investments in these five areas, said e-government and IT administrator Karen Evans, the US government's top IT executive.

Panel: Industry, Government Must Cooperate On Privacy [22] *(Privacy)*

Government agencies and IT companies must work together to identify and prevent ethical violations and threats to privacy as the use of new technologies grows in the federal sector, a panel of public policy professionals said today. The call comes as more IT companies sell advanced applications to the government, especially for intelligence- and security-related functions. The potentially thorny issues in the government's procurement and use of new systems are the handling of personal information and business confidentiality, assurance of the availability of systems and the integrity of databases, the openness of information, intelligence property laws, and equality and access policies, said Frank Reeder, an information policy consultant. "It's a partnership issue; those on the private side must help us on the public side to think through the larger implications [of using technology] before they come back to bite you," Reeder said.

New U.S. Government Handbook Points To Growing Use Of Smart Cards[23] *(Smart Cards)*

The U.S. government has issued a revised handbook on smart cards aimed at paving the way for new deployments. The document published by the General Services Administration, which is responsible for facilitating U.S. government smart card programs, notes that U.S. agencies had issued more than 4 million smart cards as of late last year. The Department of Defence alone accounted for 3.5 million chip cards. A major lesson learned from those projects is the need for

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[20] http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/7D34F73108166EB180256E54003A374F?OpenDocument
[21] http://www.itnews.com.au/storycontent.asp?ID=3&Art_ID=18871 CIOB News, March 24, 2003
[22] http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25376-1.html CIOB News, March 24, 2003
23 http://www.cardtechnology.com/cgi-bin/readstory.pl?story=20040303CTDN661.xml CIOB March 8, 2004

each agency to build a smart card team that includes officials responsible for physical access to buildings and offices and the information technology managers securing computer networks.

Security Company Hopes Interoperability Will Spur Strong Authentication [24] *(PKI)*

VeriSign Inc a vendor of digital certificates and managed PKI services is seeking industry support for a reference architecture based primarily on existing standards that would make authentication schemes interoperable across networks and vendor platforms. Current strong authentication schemes are complex and usually not interoperable with schemes from other vendors making strong authentication expensive and creating stovepipe applications. With Open Authentication Reference Architecture, or OATH, VeriSign hopes that device manufacturers, software vendors and service providers will be able to integrate the open interfaces within their products to create interoperable solutions that will make use of strong, authentication simple, more widespread, and increasing security.

USA - Retooling e-Authentication [25] *(Authentication)*

In the future, conducting confidential business with the government via the Internet could mean that citizens will use electronic credentials issued by commercial entities, such as banks, to prove they are who they claim to be. A draft document, which has not been widely circulated, describes how the federal government plans to simplify secure online transactions and communications. Issued by the General Services Administration's e-Authentication program, the document states that authorized credential services companies and government agencies, in some cases, would issue electronic credentials to users before they submit address changes to the Social Security Administration, for example. For transactions that are relatively low-risk from a security or privacy standpoint, citizens would receive passwords or personal identification numbers. For higher-risk exchanges, such as money transfers or the sharing of medical or financial information, citizens would be issued new digital certificates or would reuse existing ones to verify their identities when logging on to a network. "If the government has already issued you a passport in person, it might also be able to issue you an electronic credential that could be used for higher-risk transactions down the road," said Trent Henry, a security analyst at the Burton Group, an information technology research and consulting company.

PKI Vendors Wanted [26] *(Smart Cards)*

A decade of work has led to public-key infrastructure standards that are close to making digital authentication a government wide reality, General Services Administration officials announced this week. In a notice posted March 2, GSA officials said they are ready to create a list of bidders that can supply smart cards based on federal PKI standards that include a new electronic-authentication policy specification. Use of the new specification, known as the X.509 Certificate Policy for the Common Policy Framework, could save government and industry potentially thousands of dollars, General Services Administration officials said. The first group of companies that pass the demonstration test will be placed on GSA's qualified bidders' list by June 30 2004. Once the list is compiled, agencies will have to develop applications that make use of digital certificates.

What Is Government Information? [27] *(e-Service)*

The Electronic Records Policy Working Group wants help in defining government information, the barriers to effective management of online information and guidance tools for federal agencies. Led by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the group has asked agencies, vendors and other interested parties to comment on the three areas by April 5 2004. The request

[24] http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25073-1.html CIOB March 8, 2004

[25] http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0322/pol-retool-03-22-04.asp CIOB 2004-03-22

[26] http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0301/web-pki-03-03-04.asp

[27] http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/e_gov/25204-1.html CIOB News 2004-03-09

for comments appears in today's (March 13, 2004) Federal Register. After holding focus groups, the NARA group will make recommendations to the Interagency Committee on Government Information that incorporates findings based on the focus group meeting and the comments. The committee is helping develop the framework for the Office of Management and Budget's information policy and electronic records guidance.

Agriculture Launches Electronic Customer Statement [28] *(Authentication)*

The Agriculture Department has launched its electronic Customer Statement as part of an initiative to provide more e-government services for farmers and ranchers. "The Customer Statement will put a whole range of USDA services and programs into a single report at the fingertips of agricultural producers," USDA Secretary Ann Veneman said yesterday. It enables USDA customers to view participation and application status in various conservation programs; payments associated with commodity and conservation programs; information on farm loans; and conservation plan and land unit information. The Customer Statement will be key to providing agricultural producers access to their USDA information and facilitating online business with USDA. In the future, farmers and ranchers will be able to cross-reference that data with interactive maps of their operations using geographic information systems with overlays for roads, soil types, water and other geographic features. To ensure personal identity, users must first register online for a USDA eAuthentication Level 2 Account and complete the authentication process at a local USDA Service Center.

DRAFT Special Publication 800-67, Recommendation for the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA) Block Cipher [29] *(Cryptography)*

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has completed the draft NIST Special Publication 800-67, Recommendation for the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA) Block Cipher. This publication specifies the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm (TDEA), including its primary component cryptographic engine, the Data Encryption Algorithm (DEA). When implemented in an SP 800-38 series-compliant mode of operation and in a FIPS 140-2 compliant cryptographic module, TDEA may be used by Federal organizations to protect sensitive unclassified data. NIST requests comments on the draft document by April 15, 2004.
The publication is available at: http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/DraftSP800-67.pdf

Tax Filers Continue to Migrate Online [30] *(e-Service)*

Taxpayers continue to shift in droves from paper to electronic filing, running 10 percent ahead of last year, the IRS said today in its latest count. Filing from home computers remained steady, still up 23 percent from the same time last year. Through March 5, out of 55.5 million returns received, 37.1 million returns were e-filed. Taxpayers have made about 9.8 million visits to the "Where's My Refund?" service so far this tax season, almost twice as many as a year ago, reflecting activity through February 29 2004. Taxpayers who file electronically can use the service within 72 hours of submitting their returns. Paper filers can use the feature three to four weeks after their returns are mailed.

Two Agencies Meet e-Gov Standards [31] *(e-Government)*

Two of 26 federal agencies met the Office of Management and Budget's e-government standards of success, and 19 showed progress in meeting those milestones, according to the first report to Congress on the E-Government Act of 2002. The report, released this week, outlines compliance with the Act, an explanation of how the e-government fund was allotted and an agency-by-agency view of e-government activities. The report is based on agency reports submitted to OMB last December. The National Science Foundation and the Office of Personnel Management were recognized for meeting all criteria for implementing the e-government initiative in the President's Management Agenda. Others showed improvement in developing plans.

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[28] http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/e_gov/25153-1.html CIOB News 2004-03-09
[29] http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/DraftSP800-67.pdf CIOB News 2004-03-09
[30] http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/25232-1.html CIOB News 2004-03-11
[31] http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0308/web-egov-03-10-04.asp CIOB News 2004-03-11

Agencies Tackle Privacy Policy [32] *(Privacy)*

More than half of the 60 agencies reporting to Office of Management and Budget officials said that they have or plan to soon have machine-readable privacy policies as mandated under the E-Government Act of 2002. This later requires agencies to inform officials about the progress of their implementation of privacy provisions, such as machine-readable policies, privacy impact assessments for new or changed technology systems, use of tracking technology and designation of a single privacy official at the agency. The agencies that complied with that part of the mandate have identified Web site privacy policies that have been or will be translated into a standard computer language readable by the browser, according to OMB's E-Government Act report released to Congress this month. With the machine-readable policies, the browser automatically notifies the user if the site is in line with the user's privacy preferences.

US Issues New e-Targets [33] *(e-Government)*

Federal agencies have new e-government targets to meet, according to a new White House strategic plan. Under the plan, at least 80% of the 25 main cross cutting e-government initiatives must be deployed by the autumn. Also, 80% of federal agencies must define and implement enterprise architectures and each agency must implement at least one IT initiative that affects a "significant" number of citizens. The Government's council of chief information officers and the White House Office of Management and Budget have set targets covering four categories: expanded e-government, cross agency collaboration, IT security and privacy, and human resources management. Agencies must meet the criteria by 30 September 2004.

Washington Ponders Passport Delay [34] *(Biometrics)*

The US Government is reconsidering its deadline for other countries to produce biometric passports. A State Department spokesperson told *Government Computing News* on 8 March 2004 it has acknowledged the problems that other governments face in producing the passports in line with its schedule. US authorities are planning to begin checking passports that match facial recognition technology for countries covered by the Visa Waiver Programme (VWP) on 26 October 2004. This includes all of the EU member states.

Venezuela

No new item to report.

Viet Nam

No new item to report.

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[32] http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0308/web-privacy-03-10-04.asp CIOB News 2004-03-11
[33] http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/215D6AD04AF0246880256E5300444CCF?OpenDocument
[34] http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/8700F34322657BB480256E51006267FD?OpenDocument

Miscellaneous

I'd Recognise That Ear, Anywhere [35] *(Biometrics)*

Never mind retinal scans, finger printing or facial recognition: we'll have our ears on a national database, soon. The University of Leicester is working with K9 Forensic Services to develop a computerised ear image and ear print identification system called FEARID (Forensic EAR Identification). The main goal of this project, which is partially funded by the European Community, is to prove that ear prints can be used for person recognition and identification for investigation purposes. Professor Guy Rutty, head of the forensic pathology unit at the university, said the technology "may ultimately allow the development of a system similar to that of the national finger print system which is used for the identification of individuals by police forces across the world".

OASIS Mobilizes to Overcome Challenges to PKI Adoption [36] *(PKI)*

Members of the OASIS international standards consortium have published an Action Plan aimed at breaking down barriers to widespread adoption of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) technology. The OASIS PKI Action Plan builds on the results of a series of surveys conducted by the OASIS PKI Technical Committee with IT staff who have deployed or attempted to deploy PKI. The surveys identified five primary obstacles to PKI adoption. The OASIS PKI Action Plan directly addresses these obstacles, calling for clear and specific guidelines for using PKI in the most relevant application types—document signing, secure email, and electronic commerce. The Plan also defines the need for interoperability testing, improved educational materials, best practices and other measures to reduce cost, and outreach to software application vendors.

PKI: Flogging a Dead Horse? [37] *(PKI)*

At the height of the Internet boom, public key infrastructure 'PKI', based on public key cryptography, was touted as critical to the growth of secure e-commerce. Without it, we were told, no rational person or business would trade on-line, and e-commerce would grind to a halt. On the surface, PKI solved many intractable problems. Only PKI can authenticate the parties to on- line transactions, ensure message integrity, minimize repudiation of e-transactions, and protect the confidentiality of communications — all essential components to engender trust and confidence in e-transactions. Countries around the world, Canada included, raced to implement E-Signature legislation to attract investors to jurisdictions anxious to be considered e -commerce 'hubs'. An explosion in e-signature use and PKI was expected to result as companies embraced the process of encrypting and signing documents electronically. However, a recent study for the EU Commission found that "despite the employment of extensive resources", the impact of e-signature legislation in Europe has "definitely not met expectations". The situation is little different in North America. Meanwhile, e-commerce continues to thrive without PKI. So what is the reality? Is PKI merely an expensive, over-hyped technology, desperately in search of a ROI? Or will it simply take time for it to reach its full potential? "Is PKI dead?". Brian O'Higgins, founder and CTO of Entrust, a leading PKI vendor said, "No. It never really started. It is just really getting off the ground now."

Campaigners Fight Biometric Passports [38] *(Privacy)*

Civil liberties and privacy groups have launched a campaign against airline industry plans to create a massive international database of passport holders tied together with "flawed" biometric technology. ICAO has decided that the initial international biometric standard for passports will be facial mapping, fingerprinting may come later. The EU is already calling for fingerprints to be included, along with an associated European register of all biometrics. National authorities will store and share these vast data reserves. The measures, supported by the US and the EU, will ultimately

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[35] http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/36106.html

[36] http://www.oasis-open.org/news/oasis_news_02_23_04.php

[37] http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040305.gtkirwanmar5/BNStory/Technology/ CIOB News 2004-03-12

[38] http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/03/29/campaigners_fight_biometric_passports/

create an ID database comprising hundreds of millions of travellers. The details on more than a billion passengers would be computerised and shared globally by 2015 if the plan goes ahead, according to critics such as Privacy International. It claims that, "despite serious implications for privacy and personal security, the process is occurring without public engagement or debate".

You're Fired! [39] *(Privacy)*

"Public executions are necessary for ensuring security policy compliance, and there's no second chance if you violate trust," says Dr. John Halamka. Most people would think that medical professionals would be above the temptations of records surfing, unauthorized downloads and abuse of computer resources. They're not. Each year doctors-ranging from green residents and interns to well-weathered practitioners are fired for violating security and acceptable use policies. But increasing awareness about the risks resulting from unchecked trust is resulting in stronger, more visible security policies. Long gone are the days when a security policy could sit in a three-ring binder on a shelf collecting dust. Many enterprises are requiring employees to sign their security policies, acknowledging that they've read and understood them. Ultimately, well-established security policies serve two purposes: setting expectations and consequences, and acting as a deterrent to those who may think about doing inappropriate things.

US Hosting Company Reveals Hacks, Citing Disclosure Law [40] *(e-Commerce)*

Citing California's security breach disclosure law, Texas-based Allegiance Telecom notified 4,000 Web hosting customers this week of a recent computer intrusion that exposed their usernames and passwords, in a case that experts say illustrates the security sunshine law's national influence. The law, called SB 1386, took effect on 1 July. It obliges companies doing business in California to warn their customers in "the most expedient time possible" about any security breach that exposes certain types of information: specifically, customers' names in association with their social security number, driver's license number, or a credit card or bank account number. While similar federal legislation is stalled in Congress, attorneys have warned that SB 1386 applies to e-commerce companies nationwide if they house information on residents of the Golden State.

How Privacy Costs Impact Infrastructure [41] *(Privacy)*

Privacy protection is growing in importance because of new regulations and fear of costly fines and lawsuits. Today, privacy enabling technologies represent a very small part of the total budget for a company's privacy program (less than 10%). Ponemon Institute recently completed an IBM-sponsored study that outlines that many companies believe the implementation of new technologies will become the most important part of privacy management activities over the next two to three years. Privacy programs appear to be least effective when they aren't closely integrated with information security, corporate compliance or human resources programs. In short, privacy requires more than sound IT management practices; it requires effective procedures, people, process and policy. Privacy programs that appear to be the most effective are baked into the business management process rather than an off-shoot of the IT or information security function. The least effective programs are those that exist in as a "silo" function wherein key policies are separate from core business and IT decisions. The most effective privacy initiatives have specialized in-house programs that aim to teach IT professionals about specific privacy and data management requirements that impact the business. An important first line of defense are well-trained IT and security professionals that can identify a privacy breach at an early stage (or in advance of a blow-up). Heavily regulated industries, such as health care and financial services, aren't the biggest spenders when it comes to privacy programs. Technology companies appear to spend the most on privacy risk management to protect their branding with customers and consumers.

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[39] http://infosecuritymag.techtarget.com/ss/0,295796,sid6_iss346_art666,00.html?track=NL-358&ad=479188
[40] http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/36233.html
[41] http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci955081,00.html?track=NL-20&ad=478377

Top 10 Don'ts For Smart Card Deployment [42] *(Smart cards)*

Smart card deployments quadrupled last year with some of the largest companies in the world and the U.S. government signing up to use the technology. Shahin Shadfar, information security product manager for Schlumberger, recently completed smart card deployment at Chevron Texaco and shared tips. He said a lot of the advices are based on common sense however, among the ten listed there are the followings: (1) Don't just think about the technology alone. Think process. (2) Don't underestimate the effects of cultural change.

Great Disappearing Act-Online Privacy [43] *(Privacy)*

In a survey of the adult online population, conducted by The Customer Respect Group in February 2004, the importance of respectful treatment of consumers' privacy concerns was underlined by some dramatic findings. When survey participants were asked how much they care about a company's privacy policy when invited to enter personal information to a Web site, 22.4 percent responded that in the absence of a privacy policy, they would not offer the information. A further 26.6 percent echoed this sentiment by indicating that if they were unhappy with a company's privacy policy they would leave the site. When asked to prioritize the reasons why they chose to abandon a Web site, one in every six respondents indicated that they were not happy with the company's privacy policy or the transparency of its business practices. The good news is that many companies are now putting the customer at the center of their online presence design, getting the balance right and reaping the rewards.

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[42] http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/tip/1,289483,sid14_gci955174,00.html?track=NL-20&ad=478377
[43] http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1107_2-5181234.html?tag=zdaresources