

PKI International Scan

December 31, 2003 °

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International PKI Scan

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

UNCTAD E-Commerce ¹

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development published the E-Commerce and Development Report 2003 on November 20th, 2003. The report focuses on trends in information and communications technologies (ICT) on national and international policy. The new edition analyses, from a development perspective, recent trends and advances in ICT, such as e-commerce and e-business, examines their applications in developing countries and proposes strategic options to assist those countries in designing national policies to take advantage of ICT.

The full report is available at: http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/ecdr2003_en.pdf

EU E-commerce ²

The European Commission report "*E-commerce: EU Law Boosting Emerging Sector*" published November 21, 2003, emphasised that the successful application of the Electronic Commerce Directive, adopted in 2000, will be increasingly vital to the EU economy. As it stands, 54 % of European internet users are expected to shop online by 2006. According to the report, applying e-commerce in the Internal Market is a symbol of freedom in providing services. The directive is already "having a substantial and positive effect". The E-commerce Law will be used by Member States to improve both information to businesses and citizens and the exchange of information among national and European authorities. The global nature of the internet means that the Commission will also need to strengthen dialogue with international partners so that worldwide rules can be drawn up where necessary.

¹ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-01 ;
<http://www.unctad.org/Templates/StartPage.asp?intItemID=2629&lang=1>

²

http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/1580%7C0%7CAGED&lg=EN

OECD Privacy³

To reflect the OCED objective to build bridges between different national approaches to effective protection of privacy and personal data as well as the continued transborder flow of personal data on global networks, the following studies have been published;

- * Privacy Online: OECD Guidance on Policy and Practice;
- * Privacy Guidelines;
- * Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of Privacy on Global Networks;

E-privacy Directive⁴

The European Parliament and the Council adopted directive 2002/58/EC, known as the E-privacy Directive, in July 2002. Replacing the previous Telecommunications Data Protection Directive (Directive 97/66/EC). The e-privacy Directive, key element in the new regulatory framework for electronic communications sets EU roles, standards and basic obligations for the protection of privacy and personal data. The Directive has an obvious impact on e-commerce activities (for instance by prohibiting the sending of unsolicited commercial, also known as "spam"). The Directive also applies to public sector bodies and therefore has relevance for the provision of e-government services.

EU Council of Ministers Reaches an Agreement on Biometric Identifiers⁵

The Justice and Home Affairs (JHA Council) held in Brussels in November 2003 has agreed to the introduction of two biometrics identifiers (digital facial image and fingerprints) in visas and residence permits of third country nationals. The implementation of the proposal on a uniform format for visas nevertheless requires an additional legal instrument, creating the obligation and specifying the exceptions to the recording and storage of fingerprints. The biometric identifiers is expected to be introduced by 2005.

Cross-border Payments: Are New Laws Required?⁶

Future EU legislation that would constitute a "new legal framework" for payments in the Internal Market is under examination. As a step towards creating a Single Payment Area in the EU where 143 million non-cash transactions take place every day, (an average of 138 transactions per year per inhabitant); the European Commission wants to help e-commerce by making it convenient and competitive for the EU economy. A major step in this direction was the establishment in June 2002 of the European Payment Council by banks. But, EU payment markets are still fragmented and this may discourage cross-border transactions; consumer confidence in electronic payments also needs to be enhanced.

⁴ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1860

⁵ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1847

⁶ http://www.out-law.com/php/page.php?page_id=crossborderpayment1070466009&area=news

EU: Implementation of Data Protection Directive ⁷

The Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market published a Draft Opinion for the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs on the first report on the implementation of the Data Protection Directive.

The Draft Opinion is available at:

<http://www.europarl.eu.int/meetdocs/committees/juri/20031201/512508EN.pdf>

Africa (Continent of)

No new item to report.

Argentina

Argentina Launches New PKI Site

Argentina's National Office of Information Technologies has launched a new website related to the Republic of Argentina's PKI. The new site contains information related to recent news on the national Argentine PKI project, including draft versions of documents concerning procedures to be followed by certifiers for licensing.

The website is available at: <http://www.pki.gov.ar>

Australia

Position Statement on PKI by the Australian Security Industry⁸

The Australian IT Security Forum has reached a position on the best use of Public Key Infrastructure. The scheme-based PKI expects the deployment of multiple digital certificates in various forms, tightly coupled with (or embedded in) specific types of applications. Major government involvement in the operation or accreditation of PKI schemes is not needed. Instead, a governance model akin to the AISEP (Australasian Information Security Evaluation Program) would be most effective, providing trust in the system, a contestable pool of sanctioned assessors, well-defined liability arrangements, and ready pathways to international recognition.

Encoding Public Key Authentication as a Sound⁹

Currently, the issue with PKI is that it solves the authentication problem very well, but it works effectively only over the Internet. As an alternative of this issue, PKI Australian researchers have worked with their U.S. counterparts to develop a way of making public key authentication ubiquitous and more accessible by encoding it as a sound.

⁷ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-08

⁸ http://www.aitf.aeema.asn.au/resources/doc/documents_10.pdf

⁹ <http://www.zdnet.com.au/newstech/security/story/0,2000048600,20282061,00.htm>

E-Defence Project Nears End¹⁰

The first phase of the Australian Defence Force's multimillion-dollar e-defence project is coming to an end. Milestones include completing the corporate directory service, which provides White Pages information to defence personnel and organisational units and rolling-out of a secure email system. Phase two, scheduled for 2007-2008, will include biometric technology while a smart-cart pilot for Canberra-based personnel is currently under way.

Belgium

No new item to report.

Bermuda

No new item to report.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Bosnia-Herzegovina pioneers biometric ID cards¹¹

On December 3, 2003 Bosnia-Herzegovina announced the introduction of citizen ID cards containing biometric data stored in the form of barcode, and kept in a national electronic residents register accessible through the Internet. The Government plans to have all eligible citizens issued with new cards by the end of 2004. With these new ID cards, even though they are not "smart" (there is no embedded microchip), Bosnia takes a leading role in integrating biometrics into identification documents. Portugal is currently the only other European country where ID cards feature the owner's fingerprints, though not in electronic format.

Brazil

Digital Certification¹²

Brazilian notary publics created a "certifying authority" with full legal powers to certify digital documents and through a partnership with a digital certification company. Based on such a partnership, notary publics established in the Brazilian territory will be able to certify electronic documents and issue digital signatures.

Bulgaria

No new item to report.

¹⁰ <http://australianit.news.com.au/>

¹¹ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1854

¹² Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-12

Canada

E-commerce: Household Shopping on the Internet¹³

Canadian households spent just over \$2.4 billion shopping on the Internet (16.6 million orders), according to the 2002 Household Internet Use Survey. This represents a 35% increase from 2001 and 4% from 2002. Those orders placed over the Internet represents only a tiny fraction of the \$656 billion in total personal expenditure in Canada last year. These households accessed the Internet from various locations; previously, household e-commerce data were collected only if the Internet shopping was conducted from home. This constituted a break in the data series.

Privacy Research to Look Past PIPEDA¹⁴

Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) will be in full effect next year. To discuss privacy issues with Department of Justice, universities and public advocacy interest groups, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada awarded \$3 million to University of Ottawa law professor, Ian Kerr, to spearhead a project entitled "On the Identity Trail Understanding the Importance and Impact of Anonymity and Authentication in a Networked Society." The project will explore "a shift from a world that used to have a default position of anonymity to a world where now the default position is authentication."

PIPEDA Compliance Guides¹⁵

Canada's Privacy Commissioner, Jennifer Stoddart, has released a business guide, questionnaire, fact sheet, presentation and compliance toolkit to assist businesses to comply with the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (PIPEDA) PIPEDA, which takes full effect January 1, 2004.

Alberta-Personal Information Protection Act¹⁶

Alberta's *Personal Information Protection Act* (Bill 44) received third reading December 3, 2003 and was passed by the Alberta Legislature. It is slated to come into force January 1, 2004. *Personal Information Protection Act* regulations also enter into force January 1, 2004. Under the *Personal Information Protection Act*, businesses need to ask Albertans for consent when collecting their personal information. Albertans must be told how their personal information will be used and disclosed. Businesses will also limit the type of information they collect to only what is needed for specific transactions with their customers and employees. The legislation takes the place of the federal *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act*, also scheduled to take effect January 1, 2004 unless provinces enact similar legislation.

¹³ <http://www.statcan.ca/Daily/English/031211/d031211b.htm>

¹⁴ <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&sid=54352>

¹⁵ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-22; http://www.privcom.gc.ca/information/guide_e.asp

¹⁶ <http://www.gov.ab.ca/acn/200312/15619.html>

The Bill can be viewed at: <http://www.assembly.ab.ca/pro/bills/ba-bill.asp?SelectBill=044>

The regulations can be viewed at:
http://www.psp.gov.ab.ca/legislation/pipa_reg/index.html

Canada-Post – Electronic Postmark Service¹⁷

Canada Post recently announced that it has integrated its Electronic Postmark service with Microsoft Office Word and Microsoft Office InfoPath. The Electronic Postmark (EPM) that allows electronic documents to be legally recognized is akin to registered mail is compliant with the Universal Postal Union's global EPM standard and is a Web service built on top of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Both Canada Post and the United Nations Electronic Trade Documents Projects are currently testing the product. Canada Post is using it internally for its Change of Address System.

Chile

No new item to report.

China

Encryption¹⁸

A notice issued by The State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine and the Standardization Administration of China sets out the implementation schedule and compliance requirements for two mandatory state standards governing the import, production and sale of wireless LAN networks and encryption technologies. Non-compliant products cannot be imported, produced or sold starting from December 2003 although a 6-month grace period and exemptions are available based on specific qualifying criteria.

Encryption Controversy Continues¹⁹

As foreign equipment suppliers protest against the implementation of China's new encryption certification standards for WLAN networks, the State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine and the Standardization Administration of China issued another notice stating that testing and certification can be done at designated organizations starting January 1, 2004.

Denmark

No new item to report.

¹⁷ CIOB News du 19 décembre ; <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&sid=54421>

¹⁸ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-08

¹⁹ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-22

Finland

No new item to report.

France

No new item to report.

Germany

Germany's BundOnline 2005 Initiative on Track for Timely Delivery²⁰

Putting all federal administration services capable of e-delivery by 2005 online, is the main objective of BundOnline 2005, the country's flagship e-government initiative, launched in September 2000. Currently, 248 federal administration services are accessible online, 100 more than a year ago; and by the end of 2005, a total of 449 federal services should be available over the Internet.

Germany Launches New Information Society Action Plan²¹

The German Federal Government has approved a new action plan, "Information Society Germany 2006", that is intended to further develop the country's capabilities in the information and communication technology field. A priority in the field of e-government consists in building a secure infrastructure for delivering transactional public services online, based on the use of electronic signatures. The next generation of the German ID cards, as well as other proposed smart card schemes, will be made compatible with the use of electronic signatures. Other priorities include: enabling citizens to fill their tax returns online in 2005, conducting all government procurement online by the end of 2005, and introducing a smart "JobCard" for employment services in 2006. In addition to improving public services through e-government, the action plan also specifies that the German Government will use ICT to better inform citizens and increase their participation in democratic processes.

Hungary

Electronic Tax Declarations Form 2004²²

As of February 1 2004, the most prominent 3,000 Hungarian tax payers must submit their tax declarations in electronic form. The system, named *eBEV*, is a tax declaration certified by an e-signature and submitted via a public Internet network.

India

²⁰ CIOB News December 15, 2003 ;

<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&parent=whatsnew&documentID=1898>

²¹ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1857

²² Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert 2003-12-08

Data Protection²³

In order to facilitate innovation in software development, the Indian IT Department has suggested that the software sector be excluded from the exclusivity of the Patent Act. By contrast, World Economic Forum (WEF) experts said that India needs to put in place stringent laws for data protection and intellectual property rights if the country wants to emerge as a leading destination for outsourcing. One of the main challenges the country is facing today is the perception that privacy is rampant in the country. Another issue is the growing feeling in western countries that Indians are taking their jobs. This could have an impact on the future prospects.

Ireland

No new item to report.

Israel

No new item to report.

Italy

Italy First Country to Launch Electronic Passport²⁴

Italy has become the first country worldwide to launch an electronic passport with biometric features. The new passport, which has a micro-chip containing a user's facial image and fingerprints, will be brought into use next year. However, critics say the technology is not foolproof and that there is a chance of allowing people through the system who are not legitimate, and of rejecting people who are.

Japan

No new item to report.

Kenya

Nairobi Goes For e-Government²⁵

The Kenyan Government intends to set up the e-Government Services Office to implement an information technology strategy for various ministries by June 2004. The Government plans to upgrade the court registry and library management system to create a national repository of cases, provide structured cabling for ministries and set up an Integrated Population Registration System.

²³ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert 2003-12-01; <http://sify.com/finance/fullstory.php?id=13317947>

²⁴ <http://www.eubiometricsforum.com/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=95>

²⁵ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/D8C29452ACE4C57680256DF800463A07?OpenDocument>

Korea

No new item to report.

Malaysia

No new item to report.

Mexico

No new item to report.

Netherlands (the)

Dutch Government Increases Commitment to e-Government²⁶

The Dutch Government approved in December 2003 a new action program called "Another Government" (Andere Overheid) which increases its commitment to implementing e-government in the country. The program has aims to reform public services to suit customer needs and have 65 % of all public services in Internet delivery mode by 2007.

New Zealand

Interception Capability²⁷

The aim of the "Telecommunications (Interception Capability) Bill 2002" is to oblige telecommunication network operators to be technically able, if required, under an interception warrant or any lawful interception authority to (1) intercept telecommunications, (2) investigate serious offences, and (3) help protect national security. Privacy protections have to be built into any legislation dealing with people's private information. To do this, any interception will require an interception warrant to be issued by the High Court. A number of other provisions are included. Surveillance agencies, in obtaining assistance for the interception of telecommunications, are to create barriers to the introduction of new or innovative telecommunications technologies; and network operators and service providers have the freedom to choose system design features and specifications that are appropriate for their own purposes.

Norway

No new item to report.

Pakistan

No new item to report.

²⁶ <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&documentID=1856&parent=chapter&preChapterID=0-140-194>

²⁷ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-01 ;

<http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/content/1290/926Telecommunications.pdf>

<http://www.computerworld.co.nz/news.nsf/UNID/7E8D291880AA792FCC256DE800149933?OpenDocument>

Poland

No new item to report.

Russia

No new item to report.

Singapore

e-Government Action Plan II: Delighting Customers, Connecting Citizens²⁸

The e-Government strategic framework has two phases: (1) Action Plan I (2000-2003) was centered on three critical relationship dynamics: Government to Citizens, to businesses and to employees. The Singapore's Public Service Infrastructure (PSi) application services and e-service development environment has been achieved. The Singapore Government's PSi initiative has won the Intelligent 20 Award and the Explorer Award at E-GOV 2002 in Washington DC. (2) The Action Plan (2003-2006) will achieve three distinct outcomes: Delighted Customers, Connected Citizens, Networked Government.

Slovak Republic

No new item to report.

Slovenia (Republic of)

No new item to report.

Spain

Spanish Parliament Approves e-Signature Law²⁹

The Spanish Parliament approved on December 11, 2003 a new law on electronic signatures. The legislation aims at promoting a more widespread use of digital signatures for e-commerce and e-government. That said, critics of the law have stressed that the law has "important technical flaws" particularly with regard to incomplete provisions for the planned electronic ID card.

Sweden

No new item to report.

²⁸ <http://www.egov.gov.sg>

Switzerland

Geneva in e-Vote Battle³⁰

Switzerland's Parliament is expected to debate issues of e-voting in 2004 and the federal Government is planning to introduce new legislation for country wide e-voting in 2007-8. Internet voting in Switzerland is attracting resistance from unexpected sources. The IT community has been opposed to e-voting. Their criticism is not technical but it argues that voting fraud would be easier online. After they first set up the e-voting project, following heavy criticism, the Geneva state authorities were forced to have the system audited by the European Centre for Nuclear Research. That said, the project has been popular so far. As much as 43 % of the electorate in a 2003 summer election in Geneva voted electronically.

Biometric-Enabled e-Voting System Could Help Foster E-inclusion³¹

The Swiss canton of Geneva presented on December 10, 2003 a biometric-enabled e-voting system designed to make electronic voting possible for physically impaired citizens. The system is a development of the Internet voting application that the State of Geneva has used twice successfully this year in official ballots. The accessibility of the system has been enhanced through the integration of biometric and voice recognition technology. It authenticates the voter using a secure biometric fingerprint device; therefore it makes possible for blind and partially sighted people to cast their votes electronically easily, securely, and without assistance.

Swiss Parliament Approves Law on Electronic Signatures³²

A law on electronic signatures was approved and will come in force in 2005. Under this law, contracts sealed with an electronic signature will have the same legal status as written ones. However, certain official documents such as wills or deeds of sale for buildings, will still have to be signed in the traditional way. Critics are worried that the law will not prevent fraudulent use of electronic signatures since penalties of their misuse have been withdrawn from the final text.

Thailand

E-Commerce Law³³

The Thai Government plans to stimulate e-commerce by enacting four pieces of legislation under the Electronic Transaction Act. The new laws will address e-government, uses of the ETA, security mechanisms, and registration issues for businesses offering online services.

²⁹ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1896

³⁰ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/printview/6CB90573FBF6D25480256DEC0045COFF?>

³¹ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1874

³² http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1853

³³ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert 2003-12-01

United Kingdom

UK Government to Start Testing Biometric Technology ³⁴

The UK Passport Service has brought in new procedures to crack down on ID theft until new biometric 'smart' passports are introduced as of 2005. The government has launched a trial involving 10,000 volunteers for the possible introduction of compulsory biometric ID cards. In addition to these passport plans, The UK Government is planning to start introducing identity cards on a phased basis as of 2007/08. Together with the incremental rollout of biometric passports and driving licences, this identity card scheme would mean that 80% of the economically active population could have a biometric identification document by 2013. A draft Identity Cards Bill is due to be unveiled in early 2004.

UK Announced Which Organisations Will Take Part in Testing XML in e-Procurement³⁵

Central and local government organisations are to join forces with a number of suppliers in a series of trials designed to find a common language for online buying. The objectives is to make it easy for government departments to run IT purchasing systems, whilst ensuring suppliers are able to do business with government online, regardless of which software system they use. If the trials are successful, they will pave the way for XML schemas - which define the exchange of information, via a common vocabulary, between different computer systems - to be built into commercial e-procurement applications.

Patients to Get Electronic Health Care Records by 2010 in England³⁶

Every patient in the National Health Service (NHS) in England will have an individual electronic health care record by 2010. A NHS Care Records Service (CRS) will be set up to provide health professionals with fast access to all 50 millions NHS patients' full medical history. This service will connect more than 30,000 general practitioners (GPs) and 270 hospitals and healthcare centres in a secure national system.

UK Regions Not Ready for e-voting Pilots in 2004, Says Electoral Commission³⁷

In mid-September 2003, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister had announced that e-voting trials would be carried out during the 2004 European and local elections, allowing piloting of innovative voting methods form part of the new proposed legislation, the "*European Parliamentary and Local Elections (Pilots) Bill*", that still has to be passed by the UK Parliament. A recent report from the Electoral Commission said that no UK region

³⁴http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1858

³⁵<http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage.html>

³⁶http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1873

³⁷<http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&documentID=1897&parent=chapter>

is ready for e-voting. The best case scenario would have e-enabled general election take place sometime after September 2006.

Home Office Prices ID Cards³⁸

Citizens are expected to pay for their ID Cards – as currently happens with passports and driving licenses. A recent research showed that half of the public surveyed was prepared to acquiesce. Also, Government departments are expected to pay for the scheme, rather than being funded entirely by the Treasury.

United States

US-VISIT Information³⁹

January 2004 is the expected implementation date of the first phase of the US Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator technology (US-VISIT) border entry-exit system in 115 airports and 14 seaports. That said, according to the Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, two concerns appear for the use of US-VISIT program; (1) coordination matters between Departments and Agencies, (2) the task of collecting, storing and accurately accessing biometric records in the quantity required is unprecedented.

Feds Plan for Common IDs by 2006⁴⁰

The Federal Identity Credentialing Committee will develop government wide standards to make machine-readable IDs acceptable throughout the federal government by 2006. As many government agencies do not recognize ID cards issued by other agencies, and there is no infrastructure to verify them, the Committee will set requirements for physical and electronic credentials and policies for issuing them. The credentialing framework would make machine-readable IDs acceptable to all agencies and would centralize cross-agency functions such as payroll and e-travel booking.

Smart Passports Will Soon Face Up to Tough Scrutiny⁴¹

By fall 2004, Americans will begin to travel with the State Department's new intelligent passports. A chip embedded in the back cover will store facial biometric images that follow an international aviation security group's recommended standard for machine-readable travel documents. The State Department is taking its cue from the *Enhanced Border Security Act* and *Visa Entry Reform Act* of 2002, which require countries in the US Visa Waiver Program to adopt biometric passports that comply with ICAO's standard. However, some concerns are expressed regarding the facial recognition, which is one of the four biometric technologies appropriate for border security. These include: (1) it may lead to less privacy, (2) more database confusion and longer lines at points of entry, (3)

³⁸ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/KNBetterSearchView?SearchView>

³⁹ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1201/web-davis-12-01-03.asp.html>

⁴⁰ http://www.gcn.com/22_31/homeland-security/23978-1.html

⁴¹ http://www.gcn.com/22_24/biometrics/23223-1.html

technical issues from vendors about integrated chips into the passport booklets such as availability, technical performance, security, durability and delivery. The intelligent passports will begin a pilot at a domestic passport facility beginning October 26, 2004; the deadline Congress delayed by a year in its *Border Security Act*.

Government and Industry Partner on Authentication⁴²

The US Office of Electronic Government and IT announced that an alliance of federal agencies, state governments, private-sector companies and public interest groups have formed a new group, named the Electronic Authentication Partnership, to develop rules for interoperability of public and private online authentication systems. According James Lewis, senior fellow and director of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies – CSIS' Technology and Public Policy Program, "Federal and state agencies have a pressing need to authenticate citizens online. The best way to do this is to create a partnership among government agencies, companies and non-governmental organizations that can build a common approach to authentication."

Homeland Security to Issue 190,000 Smart Card IDs⁴³

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will issue smart card IDs to 190,000 employees by the end of 2006. The cards will be used to grant physical access to facilities and logical access to secure computer networks. The ID looks similar to cards issued to employees at the US Department of Defence and the General Services Administration; but individual agencies within DHS can customize the look of the cards to suit them. For example, members of the Secret Service would probably not carry cards identifying them as such due to security concerns. The data stored on the chip cards will be protected by either personal identification number (PIN) or biometric criteria.

Taking Stock – Department of Homeland Security⁴⁴

The purpose of the Department of Homeland Security is to devise terrorism and response programs that not only work today, but can also meet changing threats in a long-term effort. The US Federal Government is backing a multitude of domestic defence initiatives, many of which rely in information technology. For instance, the Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) uses biometric technology to track foreign visitors. In the area of critical infrastructure such as water systems, power plants and oil pipelines, the system utilities use Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA). The security task in this field is to authenticate the communications between master station and remote terminal. Other initiatives are underway in such areas as shipping security, emergency communications, bioterrorism and business continuity.

⁴² <http://www.public-cio.com/newsStory.php?id=2003.12.10-80652>

⁴³ CIOB News – Dec-09, 2003 ; <http://www.cardtechnology.com/cgi-bin/readstory.pl?story=20031209CTDN657.xml>

⁴⁴ <http://www.fcw.com/supplements/homeland/2003/sup4/hom-stock-12-01-03.asp>

Election Technology Council⁴⁵

The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) has announced that a group of leading election systems companies will align with ITAA to form the Election Technology Council (ETC). The ETC intends to raise the profile of electronic voting, identify and address security concerns with electronic voting, develop a code of ethics for companies in the electronic voting sector, and make recommendations in the areas of election system standards and certification. Founding member companies of the ETC are: Advanced Voting Systems, Diebold Election Systems, Election Systems & Software, Hart InterCivic, Sequoia Voting Systems, and Unilect.

Nevada e-Voting⁴⁶

Nevada Secretary of State, Dean Heller, announced his decision to purchase for all Nevada counties Sequoia Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) voting machines. He is also mandating a voter verifiable receipt printer be included on all newly purchased DRE machines for the 2004 election. In doing so, Heller becomes the first state election official to demand a voter verifiable receipt before the 2006 election. All existing machines state-wide must add the printer technology by 2006. Finally, Heller read a proclamation decertifying all punch-card voting machines in Nevada as of September 1, 2004.

Michigan e-Voting⁴⁷

The Michigan Democratic Party plans to allow Internet voting in its presidential caucus. Opponents said online balloting was not secure and discriminated against poor and minority voters who are less likely to own computers, and subject to fraud. Online voting supporters argued that this is the way to increase turnout and improve democracy.

OMB Releases e-authentication Guidance⁴⁸

The Office of Management and Budget - OMB officials have said that federal agencies should assess authentication risks for online transactions and determine the required level of assurance for each transaction. The system should have the proper assurance level using five steps: (1) conduct risk assessment, (2) find the required assurance level for the risk, (3) select technology based on NIT, (4) validate that the system has achieved its assurance level as part of the agency's certification and accreditation process, (5) reassess the system to make sure changes in technology or business process have not changed the authentication requirements.

⁴⁵ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-12

<http://www.ita.org/news/pr/PressRelease.cfm?ReleaseID=1071000864>

⁴⁶ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-22 <http://sos.state.nv.us/press/121003.htm>

⁴⁷ Baker & McKenzie E-law 2003-12-01 ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/24/national/24MICH.html>

⁴⁸ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1215/web-omb-12-16-03.asp>

PKI Express Deemed "Ready for Rapid Deployment"⁴⁹

According to Sigaba, the U. S. Department of Defence and its international coalition partners have named their PKI Express as a mission-critical, strategic secure communications technology that is ready for rapid deployment. In fact, the Multinational Task Force, which included participation by the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Norway, used PKI Express to exchange secure messages, such as ballistic missile alerts, intelligence alerts and information on other potential threats, with coalition members. The participating countries were able to use their own PKI or other identity management implementation with PKI Express. Each country was able to maintain complete independent control over their own environments.

Venezuela

No new item to report.

Viet Nam

No new item to report.

⁴⁹ <http://www.ebizq.net/news/3394.html>

Miscellaneous

Voice Biometrics – Lloyds Bank⁵⁰

By the end of November 2003, Lloyds TBS processed its 70 millionth Interactive Voice Response IVR. Its trialling voice biometrics to identify phone-banking customers in a bid to reduce identify fraud and improve customer service. The bank, which is in the final two weeks of trialling voice recognition systems, said voice biometrics could double security. It is working with Nortel Networks and speech recognition firm Nuance to test the system. Lloyds says that the service has saved the bank the equivalent of the cost of running two large call centres.

Concerns Over Maturity of Biometric Technologies for Citizen Identification are Growing⁵¹

Recent studies and reports tend to suggest that biometric technologies may be too expensive, not yet ready for large-scale deployments, and inadequate for bringing substantial benefits in terms of increased security. According to the *New Scientist*, edition of November 2003, iris recognition systems are still in the best case scenario only 99% accurate. A forthcoming paper by researchers from the Michigan State University argues that “multi-biometric” systems should be introduced in order to improve matching performance. The UK Home Affairs Committee of the House of Commons announced an inquiry in order to obtain detailed information on practical issues related to the UK’s proposed ID database. Also in early December 2003, the new German Federal Commissioner for Data Security expressed doubts about the introduction of biometric ID cards, saying that test results were not satisfactory. Finally, the US report from the General Accounting Office released in September 2003 warned that the cost of the US VISIT program had been underestimated by several billion and that the system will rely on systems that “have known problems.”

Long Road Ahead for Biometrics, Developer Says⁵²

At the Secure Trusted Operating System Consortium symposium in Washington, the former chief technology officer of BNX Systems Corp. of Vienna, Taylor Boon declared, “for the most part, biometrics technology is barely above the toy stage.” Niche biometrics applications are not yet mature or scalable enough for widespread use. Regardless of the technology used, biometrics faces common challenges. The accuracy of any biometric system depends on the integrity of the initial enrolment and the security of the underlying network and databases.

⁵⁰ <http://www.vnunet.com/News/1151064>

⁵¹ http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/dsp_showDocument.jsp?printerVersion=1&documentID=1862

⁵² http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24354-1.html

World Economic Forum Releases e-Readiness Survey 2003⁵³

The World Economic Forum published on December 2003 a report that assesses the impact of Information and Communication Technology ICT on economics. The report indicates that, the use and application of ICT remains one of the most powerful engines for economic growth. And in order to reflect the importance of such services, two specific e-government indicators have been used: online presence of national governments, and the sophistication of online service delivery.

"Charter of eRights" Proposed For European Citizens⁵⁴

A "Charter of eRights" which aims to ensure "the effective recognition and protection of concrete and measurable rights of all citizens in the Information and Knowledge Society". was presented at the Eurocities general meeting and conference held in Porto, Portugal, on 26-29 November 2003. According to TeleCities, the eRights Charter should be an instrument for local decision-makers to develop policies and services aiming at achieving the Information and Knowledge Society. The Charter proposes establishing rights in the following areas: access to the Internet, security and privacy of personal data, user and consumer protection.

Entrust and Oracle Provide Seamless and Secure Identity Management Solutions For Enterprises⁵⁵

Entrust, Inc. a world leader in securing digital identities and information and member of the Oracle® PartnerNetwork, announced support for Oracle Identity Management. Entrust identity and security management solutions, in conjunction with Oracle Identity Management, allow organizations to effectively deploy secure identity management services, Web single sign-on and authorization to confidently deploy a solution that not only streamlines user management across heterogeneous applications and environments, but also maintains security around sensitive identity information.

VeriSign to Acquire Guardent⁵⁶

VeriSign, Inc. a leading provider of critical infrastructure services for the Internet and telecommunications networks, announced that it has entered into an agreement to purchase Waltham, MA-based Guardent, a leading privately held Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP.) The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions and is expected to close in the first quarter of 2004. VeriSign will pay approximately \$140 million in stock and cash for the stock of Guardent and will gain approximately 150 full-time Guardent employees. VeriSign plans to integrate Guardent's award-winning security consulting organization into its professional services offering. The combined sales force will be equipped to sell comprehensive security offerings to customers, leveraging VeriSign's existing suite of strong authentication, network security, application security, and commerce security services.

⁵³ <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&documentID=1872&parent=chapter>

⁵⁴ <http://europa.eu.int/ISPO/ida/jsps/index.jsp?fuseAction=showDocument&documentID=1867&parent=chapter>

⁵⁵ http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/031217/daw006_1.html

⁵⁶ Baker & McKenzie E-law Alert, 2003-12-22 ; http://www.verisign.com/corporate/news/2003/pr_20031217.html?sl=070807

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