

PKI International Scan

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International PKI Scan

Introduction

This report represents ongoing research conducted by the Government of Canada (GoC) 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

No new item to report.

Africa (Continent of)

South Africa

No new item to report

Argentina

No new item to report.

Austria

No new item to report.

Australia

Monash Works to Streamline e-Government Data ¹ (*Interoperability*)

Monash University's School of Information Management and Systems wants to improve the use of metadata within electronic recordkeeping systems in support of e-government and e-business processes. Professor Sue McKemish, the School's head said, "it relates to support business processes, accountability, and aims for better functionality through automated metadata creation and interchange. We are addressing interoperability so that metadata is automatically captured and available for automated re-use. Smart metadata is created once, and then used many times for multiple purposes." This should streamline government and business administration processes by abolishing the barriers to sharing between systems.

¹ <http://www.cio.com.au/index.php/id:401657935:fp:4:fpid:21> CIOB News 2004-08-10

Canberra Defies Privacy Warnings (re: Central Authentication Hub) ² (Authentication)

The Australian government is planning to set up a central authentication hub for e-services despite concerns that the system could be open to abuse of privacy. Indeed, the government's e-services agency, Centrelink is working on a range of "self service" that will introduce new systems for text message communication, online services and telephone transactions. Centrelink chief Sue Vardon said, "we can improve payment correctness by enabling customers to take greater control of their own information." According to the agency's latest five-year corporate plan it is to play a pivotal role in offering e-government services. The plan said, "Centrelink will be respected as a trusted authentication hub for customers and businesses in holding personal data," Thus, the hub will allow data to be "utilized" across the government.

Belgium

No new item to report.

Bermuda

No new item to report.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

No new item to report.

Brazil

No new item to report.

Brunei

No new item to report.

Bulgaria

No new item to report.

Canada

The Riley Report – August 2004: Information Sharing ³ (PIPEDA)

The emerging knowledge economy, and the need to facilitate better access to government information by the public and private sector have gave a new dimension to the information rights

² <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/085E00A29BE87F7080256EFD003686B7?OpenDocument> CIOB News 2004-08-27

³ <http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=idgml-88e40527-7ef1-492a-aafd-fe2105e49ed6&Portal=E-Government> CIOB News 2004-08-12

issue. While in the past, and in most developed countries, access to official government information, have being codified in law, and a trend has emerged in many developing countries. Now, and as of June 2004, there are fifty-four national freedom of information laws passed and enacted, or being proposed, by national legislatures. These laws heralded a transition from a culture whereby government released information at their discretion, to the citizen having the right to request the information.

Stre-t-c-hing the “e”: Third Parties Blessed by CRA ⁴ (*Authentication / e-Commerce*)

As Adrian Raghunandan, a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) Senior Programs Officer with the Authentication Management Services group, told a session at this year's Lac Carling Congress, CRA is extending electronic tax returns to include the large number of people who rely on others to prepare and submit their tax returns. The Agency's initiative will offer a common approach to authentication and authorization for third parties accessing CRA programs and services that are or will be available online – on behalf of a client. Thus, representatives will be able to authenticate and register, and clients will be able to authorize representatives, then, representatives will be able to transact business on behalf of their clients. As a Catalytic Project, it will drive real integration across departments, channels and jurisdictions. The Agency is taking a phased approach to ensure success, and the first one, for CRA clients who need help with individual tax matters, will occur in 2005. Businesses will follow in 2006. With this infrastructure in place, the door opens to wide-scale business authentication and delegations for businesses, enabling e-commerce between businesses and the federal government.

U.S Patriot Act a 'red herring,' ITAC says ⁵ (*Privacy*)

In a submission filed with the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) it has argued that outsourcing is a beneficial force for governments, their taxpayers and citizens. It also has explained that the *U.S. Patriot Act* is not a logical vehicle to access Canadian personal information held by U.S. The filing comes after the BC Information and Privacy Commissioner called for submissions in May regarding concerns raised by the BC Government Employees Union (BCGEU), which had called into question the ability of the BC government to ensure the privacy of personal information if the province used U.S. linked outsourcing partners. The BCGEU suggested that the *Patriot Act* created an unreasonable risk to disclosure personal information to US law-enforcement authorities. In the same way, Bernard Courtois the CEO of ITAC said, "we've examined this matter very closely and our conclusion is that the *Patriot Act* is not an avenue to access personal information about Canadian citizens. There are too many obstacles; policy, legal and practical obstacles to using the *Patriot Act*. The effective avenue is to go through Canadian authorities; through our courts and through multilateral assistance treaties, we have the means for."

A Question of Trust ⁶ (*PKI / e-Commerce*)

Banks have been making major announcements on the transfer of money in retail commercial transactions involving the Internet. In fact, Scotiabank has just announced that in October or November, it will invade the United States with the Canadian version of the debit card, making it possible to use Scotiabank's cards through Interac-based machines in the United States. This the first part of the bank's two-pronged strategy. The second comes in April next year, when it rolls out iDebit, which allows buyers to make secure Internet purchases using the Debit-Interac system. It is in 600,000 Canadian locations and will be available in 400,000 U.S. locations. The bank's iDebit system introduced a year ago, allows people to make micro payments - up to \$100 - by tapping a

⁴ <http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=idgml-88e40527-7ef1-492a-aafd-fe2105e49ed6&Portal=E-Government>

⁵ <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040806.gtherring0806/BNStory/einsider> CIOB News 2004-08-10

⁶ <http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040818.gtkapicaaug18/BNStory/Technology/>

key-fob tag based on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology against a reader, which would then allow buyers to track their payments through "proxy" bank accounts on-line. Another system, called MasterCard PayPass, uses embedded chips in a card that accesses your MasterCard credit account. It has passed testing in the United States, and McDonald's Restaurants announced it would roll out PayPass in select locations around Dallas and New York.

iDebit ⁷ (*Digital Signature / e-Commerce*)

The iDebit service is the premier high volume electronic payments service for corporations and financial institutions. iDebit's XML-based processing solution allows businesses to transmit their financial transactions in a proprietary format completely via the Internet. iDebit replaces antiquated, labor intensive dial-in connections such as File Transfer Protocol (FTP). The transmitting customer requires only Internet Explorer 5.0 (Internet browser) or higher to use iDebit. Once the customer selects the transactions to process, iDebit automates the rest of the process. Digital signatures verify the authenticity of the client and maintain the integrity of the transactions. Payments are sent and received using the company's existing bank account. The iDebit ePayments service can be easily integrated with your accounting system or database. The service is open to any business with an email address and a US or Canadian bank account.

It's Time to Try Getting Your Bills On-Line ⁸ (*e-Services / e-Commerce*)

Five years ago, two different groups: Canada Post's epost division, and BCE Emergis Inc. introduced on-line bill and document delivery. Still, the popularity level of e-billing has been disappointing. Now, it's a whole new world for e-billing, which is technically called Electronic Bill Presentment and Payment (EBPP). One reason is that the two competing players in the field became one last month when Canada Post's epost division (<http://www.epost.ca>) bought rival webdoxs from BCE Emergis Inc. By combining the exclusive list of billers that each party had, epost will be able to offer a much more comprehensive service to consumers.

Access-to-Information Changes Would Hinder Reporting, CBC Argues ⁹ (*PIPEDA*)

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) argues that its journalistic sources will dry up if the public broadcaster is forced to comply with the country's freedom-of-information law. Newly obtained, government memos show the broadcaster has vehemently objected to proposals to include it under the *Access to Information Act* on the grounds it would compromise the corporation's news reporting. The CBC contends parties such as police and lobby groups might apply for records produced by its journalists to complete their own investigations, "making individuals reluctant to speak to CBC," one Justice Department memo says. The CBC is among several Crown corporations squarely opposed to the looming possibility of becoming subject to the federal information law.

Privacy Chief to e-Commerce Firms: Don't Blame PIPEDA ¹⁰ (*PIPEDA*)

Jennifer Stoddart, Privacy Commissioner of Canada defends *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA)*, and warns software vendors about potential damage to their corporate reputations. She said, "why can't security and privacy assessors get along? The best way for e-businesses to rebuild the public's waning trust of online transactions is to comply with

⁷ <https://www.bankinfinity.net/overview.asp>

⁸ <http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040824.qtrcarr24/BNStory/Technology/> CIOB News 2004-08-25

⁹ <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/ArticleNews/TPStory/LAC/20040825/CROWN25//?query=Access-to-information> CIOB News 2004-08-25

¹⁰ <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&lid=1&sid=56526> CIOB News 2004-08-26

Canada's new privacy rules." During her keynote address to the IT Privacy and Security Symposium 2004, which was attended by several hundred members of the high-tech community she said, "PIPEDA is not an impediment to e-commerce and e-business. It's an act to support and promote electronic commerce by protecting personal information. Our intention is not to stand in your way, but to help you provide your customers with assurances that you are protecting their personal information appropriately." Stoddart referred to a 2002 Leger Marketing survey that found issues with security and privacy continue to be the biggest barrier to Canadians

Policy for Public Key Infrastructure Management in the Government of Canada ¹¹ (PKI)

The Government of Canada has had as of April 26th, 2004 a new policy superseding the one dated May 27th, 1999. The policy stipulates that the Government of Canada has chosen to use Public Key technology as the preferred means of electronically authenticating the identity of individuals and of documents. Public Key Infrastructures, based on principles associated with public key cryptography permit the encryption of data and the use of digital signatures to enable and facilitate secure electronic business. One component of a Public Key Infrastructure is a Certification Authority - an Entity trusted to issue a public and private key pair to a particular individual or Entity. The Certification Authority will issue keys; revoke keys when the confidentiality of a private key may have been compromised; and provide notice as to those key pairs that have been revoked.

Computer May Match Passport Mug Shots to Terrorists ¹² (Privacy / Biometrics)

The Passport Office is seeking approval from the federal privacy commissioner to use the facial-recognition technology in processing passport applications. The proposal has raised questions about the accuracy and potential intrusiveness of the system among those who study the effect of security measures on privacy and civil liberties. However, an article produced by the department's Integrated Justice Information Secretariat, which is responsible for data-sharing says that the pilot project persuaded federal officials the system is "mature, efficient and advanced enough" to be considered for use. The system of the pilot project, lead by Passport Office with help from the University of Ottawa's department of mathematics and statistics, matched photos correctly 75 to 90 per cent of the time, depending on image quality and the overall number of photos in the database. Passport Office Officials said the results were "quite positive."

Alberta: U of Calgary Puts Its Brainpower Behind Biometrics ¹³ (Biometrics)

Getting people to volunteer their fingerprints and other biometric signatures to store in a research database is not easy. To circumvent the problem, the University of Calgary recently opened a biometrics technologies lab where it will use "inverse biometrics" to conduct its research. Svetlana Yanushkevish, a University of Calgary professor and head of the Biometrics Technologies Lab explained, "instead of doing analysis, we are doing synthesis. We generate synthetic images, such as faces and fingerprints, collect them in a database and then we can consider them as live statistical data to test biometric devices. Synthesis is the process of creating mathematical models of real images. That approach helps solve the problems posed by privacy regulations."

British Columbia: Assessment Upgrades Property Information Tools ¹⁴ (e-Services)

A provincial Crown corporation in British Columbia is using business intelligence tools to provide public sector workers with a wider range of property assessment information. Darlene Smith, consultant and data mart specialist at BC Assessment said that the online resource, currently only available to authorized users with a government user ID, will allow the corporation to make

¹¹ http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/ciopubs/pki/pki1_e.asp#1a

¹² <http://intranet/tbnews/stories/2004/20040830c0521.htm> COB News 2004-08-30

¹³ <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&lid=1&sid=56425> CIOB News 2004-08-12

¹⁴ <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&lid=1&sid=56397&adBanner=eGovernment> CIOB News 2004-08-12

documents accessible over the Web. The way used to achieve this is extranet which, according to Michael Branchaud, director of global marketing campaigns at Cognos, is playing an increasingly important role in determining how governments disseminate information to employees and to the public. The entities in the public sector, as well as those in the financial services, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, insurance and retail industries, are starting to take a more holistic approach to managing and delivering information from all of their disparate data sources.

British Columbia: B.C. Attorney General Streamlines Access, Security ¹⁵ (Interoperability / Privacy)

The British Columbia Attorney General implemented Layer 7 Technologies' SecureSpan, a centrally administrable, standards-based solution that manages end-to-end security and integration policies across Web-services transactions. Robert McDonald, director, Application Management Services, BC Attorney General said, "Layer 7 is helping us deliver on our mandate to extend access of electronic data to more stakeholders in legal proceedings while ensuring the security of sensitive information. SecureSpan enabled the Ministry to share application data without having to worry about coding complex integration and security policies. We have been allowed to quickly and securely expand new ways of collaboration among internal business areas and external partners with reduced overall development costs by 25 percent." The Attorney General's office manages confidential information through an Integrated Justice System (JUSTIN) comprised of centralized databases.

Newfoundland: On-line Service Provides Enhanced Consumer Protection ¹⁶ (e-Services)

A new on-line service designed to better protect consumers looking to purchase a new vehicle is now available through the government Web site. The web-based Lien Check system allows consumers to search the province's Personal Property Registry for loans against cars, boats, trailers, mobile homes, farm tractors, off-road vehicles, aircraft and outboard motors. The service that is a joint initiative between the four Atlantic Provinces through Atlantic Canada On-Line is consistent with government's commitment to make greater use of information technology for common transactions with government.

Ontario: Ontario Injects Northern e-Medicine With \$5.7 Million ¹⁷ (e-Services)

Northern Ontarians are used to traveling long distances to see medical specialists but high-speed Internet connections are now bringing doctors north virtually. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term care announced that North Network services just upwards of 123 communities in northern and central parts of the province. To access the services, patients who are accompanied sometimes by other care practitioners need only to visit a Telehealth studio in their local hospital or doctors office; then, through videoconferencing, a high-resolution digital camera and other diagnostic equipment get their diagnostic. North Network was formed after a provincial government study in 1993 and 1994 determined that about \$20 million was being spent on provincial air ambulances to the north, plus \$10 million in travel subsidies for patients commuting to urban areas for treatment. Seventy-two per cent of that \$10 million was doled out for travel expenses for post-operative treatment, which can be adequately replaced by telemedicine.

Ontario Hospital eHealth Council Urges Unique IDs ¹⁸ (Smart Cards)

¹⁵ <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/international/story.php?docid=91199> CIOB News 2004-08-17

¹⁶ <http://www.gov.nf.ca/releases/2004/gsl/0812n04.htm> CIOB News 2004-08-12

¹⁷ <http://www.itworldcanada.com/Pages/Docbase/ViewArticle.aspx?ID=idgml-d2f1f74c-3689-413d-833b-8657225fe382&News=Daily%20ITwire> CIOB News 2004-08-12

¹⁸ <http://www.itbusiness.ca/index.asp?theaction=61&lid=1&sid=56512&adBanner=eGovernment> CIOB News 2004-08-26

The Ontario Hospital eHealth Council says it will spend the next year working toward a unique patient identification system across the province, improving the communication among hospitals and developing a way of assessing the state of IT in local health-care centres. Set up three years ago to advise the Ontario government on the use of IT in the health-care system, the council recently received renewed funding of just under \$1 million from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Ontario Hospital Association also supports it.

Quebec: La Ville de Montréal annonce un projet de e-gouvernement ¹⁹ (e-Government)

La Ville de Montréal a entériné la première étape du chantier des services en direct qui seront accessibles à la clientèle, lequel vient renforcer les actuels comptoirs d'accueil et services téléphoniques de la Ville. À ce propos, le président du comité exécutif, monsieur Frank Zampino a déclaré, «la Cité électronique reflète la vision de notre administration. Nous préconisons une gestion toujours plus efficace avec un souci constant d'améliorer les services offerts aux citoyens.» Évalué à 28 millions de dollars, ce projet de gouvernement en ligne devrait être complété d'ici 5 ans. La première étape qui devra être finalisée en 2005 consiste à réaliser une architecture détaillée, à mettre en place les infrastructures matérielles et logicielles, à mettre à jour les 147 sites Internet du portail de la Ville et à développer les prestations des services électroniques. Les responsables prévoient que les gains de productivité réalisés à travers cette ré ingénierie couvriront le montant des investissements requis.

Chile

No new item to report.

China

China - You May Now Give Birth ²⁰ (e-Government / e-Services)

The capital of China's Guangdong province is offering birth permits and family planning certificates online, as part of its new e-government strategy. The official permits, which are used to help enforce China's controversial one child policy, are available online as part of the Guangzhou municipal government's IT programme. The policy stipulates that each couple living in the cities should only have one child. Critics of the policy maintain it has led in some cases to the killing of female infants because of the traditional preference for boys. It is also said to lead to forced abortions as couples having more than one child incur severe financial penalties. The Guangzhou Municipal Bureau of Civil Affairs has equipped more than 70% of the city's neighborhood committees with IT systems, allowing people to apply for different kinds of certificates including birth permits online.

Denmark

No new item to report.

Estonia

No new item to report.

¹⁹ <http://benefice-net.branchez-vous.com/nouvelles/04-08/08-272501.html> CIOB News 2004-08-09

²⁰ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/DCE620B4D796617580256EFD003A85D9?OpenDocument> CIOB News 2004-08-27

Finland

No new item to report.

France

No new item to report.

Germany

No new item to report.

Hungary

No new item to report.

India

No new item to report.

Ireland

No new item to report.

Israel

No new item to report.

Italy

No new item to report.

India

No new item to report.

Japan

No new item to report.

Kenya

No new item to report.

Korea

No new item to report.

Malaysia

Good Response to MyKad Digital Certs ²¹ (PKI)

Mykey is the digital signature governed by Malaysia's *Digital Signature Act 1997* that allows 1,000 selected companies to file their taxes online. A document digitally signed with MyKey is treated as a legal document, similar to a handwritten signature. According to Badrul Hisham Mahari the Chief Executive Officer of MSCTrustgate, " Mykey is based on a proven technology that has been deployed in 4,500 corporations and government organizations, as well as 366,000 e-commerce websites worldwide. Besides the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) that launched its Secure e-filing Services for corporate taxpayers to fill their income tax assessment online, and aims to expand the service to individual taxpayers next year, the same technology is used in the Internal Revenue Service in the US and the Australian Taxation Office."

Malta

No new item to report.

Mexico

Mexico to Use PeopleSoft for Taxes ²² (e-Government)

PeopleSoft Inc. officials signed a contract with Mexico's Tax Administration Service (SAT) for the company's enterprise management software, which will be the basis of modernization of the country's tax agency. So far, the Mexico administration maintains databases in collection centers around the country, and the Modernization and Integration of the Information Systems of SAT program will consolidate that data into a single platform. At the core of the contract, the system, co-developed by SPL WorldGroup Inc., IBM Business Consulting Services will help Mexican tax administrators collect and manage taxes and fees from income and property taxes, vehicle registrations, business licenses, building permits, health care services, public housing, court fees, parking tickets, and social services.

Netherlands (the)

No new item to report.

New Zealand

Online Power Added to Funeral Formalities ²³ (e-Services)

A small landmark for "e-government" processes has been clocked up with the first online registration of a death in New Zealand. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Life Event Notification System (LENS) was notified of the death via an email generated and sent by an Intersoft Systems. Mike Johnson, head of Full Circle Business Solutions, an Intersoft said, "it's a classic database application". Entry of the basic details of a death generates documentation ranging from the compilation of a formal death notice for Internal Affairs to notification of burial for the local authority. Until now deaths have been registered on paper forms, which are re-keyed or optically recognised by Datamail for DIA, with potential for error. The online connection allows the

²¹ <http://biz.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2004/8/9/business/8607468&sec=business>

²² <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-psft-08-10-04.asp>

²³ <http://computerworld.co.nz/news.nsf/0/17E140F5C203839ECC256EEC001F84FA?OpenDocument&pub=Computerworld> CIOB News 2004-08-11

Funeral Home with first-hand knowledge of the death, to enter the data directly.

Norway

No new item to report.

Pakistan

No new item to report.

Poland

No new item to report.

Portugal

Technology Behind Secure Internet Transactions Comes Down to Earth With Windows-Based Solution From WISEKey ²⁴ (PKI)

WISEKey develops applications for organizations that require a layer of security higher than is typically available in the market - in sectors such as government, finance and defence. More, WISEKey technology enables organizations to host a PKI certificate authority within their own infrastructure, using a model of cross-certificates between organizations to establish absolute trust. This autonomy is essential for governments, which must house their own IT security infrastructure to maintain complete control over their national security. Last month, WISEKey and Microsoft signed a contract with the Government of Portugal to establish a similar identity framework. Three of Portugal's ministries have independent authentication systems, with different passwords required for each. Microsoft is teaming up with WISEKey to implement the solution, initially to integrate Portugal's disparate systems, and subsequently to incorporate PKI security. Carlos Moreira, CEO of WISEKey said, "With this combination of Windows Server 2003 and federated identity technology from WISEKey, we can deliver, for less than \$20,000, a full identity infrastructure which a year ago would have cost \$1 million or more. So now that it is becoming affordable, developing countries as well as smaller organizations and companies can afford to move into Class 3 security, and this in turn will increase the transactional value of the Internet."

Russia

No new item to report.

Singapore

Singaporean e-Government & Engaged Citizenry ²⁵ (e-Government)

According to market information group Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS), its annual Government Online Study found that Singapore was the regional e-government leader with more than half of the population using e-government services. Measured purely in terms of participation, the Republic's e-government efforts have increased the avenues for Singaporeans and residents to interact with public agencies. There are now more than 1600 citizen services available online, placing Singapore second only to Canada in the world when it comes to the level of 'e-government maturity', according to Accenture. The Singaporean government has encouraged users to trust the new online communication channels, consequently, he has achieved the highest level of confidence

²⁴ http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040817/ukm009_1.html CIOB News 2004-08-17

²⁵ <http://www.pstm.net/article/index.php?articleid=281> CIOB News 2004-08-20

amongst e-government users - 44 per cent; in comparison Australia has 35 per cent and New Zealand 35 per cent.

Singapore - LTA Gears Up for More e-Services ²⁶ (e-Services)

In the latest sign of Singapore's e-government push, the country's transportation authorities have unveiled a host of new online services for road users and merged previously-disparate motoring information sources into a single Web portal. The Singapore Land Transport Authority (LTA) and technology services partner Green Dot Internet Services launched a new Web site, which they claimed, would act as consolidated source of motoring information and services for local users. Previously, LTA hosted separate Web sites to provide motorists with updates on traffic conditions, as well as to carry out online transactions like the paying traffic fines and vehicle taxes. These services have now been integrated into the new portal, a move that is expected to save the organization around US \$245,000 in annual operational costs, LTA said. However, it did not disclose the amount invested into this project.

Slovak Republic

No new item to report.

Slovenia (Republic of)

No new item to report.

Spain

No new item to report

Sweden

No new item to report

Switzerland

No new item to report

Taiwan

Taiwan Firms to Launch 2TB Memory Card ²⁷ (Smart Card)

Taiwanese technology companies will unveil this autumn what they hope will be the next solid-state memory card format. Dubbed 'µcard', the new cards are said to be connector-compatible with the older format, and have a data transfer rate of 120MBps, ten times that of Secure Digital memory cards. Like the Secure Digital format, µcard will support I/O devices (Memory cards specifications), Such as Bluetooth and 802.11 adaptors. According to a DigiTimes report, the new format will be

²⁶ <http://asia.cnet.com/newstech/personaltech/0,39001147,39191405,00.htm> CIOB News 2004-08-26

²⁷ http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/06/taiwan_mem_card/

formally launched at the Taipei International Electronics Show (Taitronics) on October 8th. Mass production is expected to commence early next year.

Tanzania

No new item to report.

Thailand

No new item to report.

Turkish

No new item to report

United Kingdom

Home Office Prohibits Happy Biometric Passports²⁸ (*Biometrics*)

The Home Office says all new passport photographs must be of an unsmiling face because open mouths can confuse facial recognition systems. Getting computers to recognise faces is notoriously difficult even if the theory sounds simple: the system marks each face it encounters on common reference points - the eyes and the tip of the nose for instance - and compares those with faces in its database. The reality is that it is actually very difficult to do: the angle of each face to the camera must be close to identical to get a good comparison, extra shadows of a face can throw off the reference points, and it seems, teeth are also an overwhelming challenge. Even once these obstacles have been overcome, the accuracy is often low. As a conclusion, the new guidelines state that anyone applying for a new or replacement passport must keep their mouth shut in their new picture!

Online Sales Increase²⁹ (*e-Commerce*)

According to the latest research from the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS), one in ten of all credit card payments in the UK is now made online. In the virtual world, men out-shop women with 35 per cent of blokes making eleven or more purchases in the second half of 2003, compared to only 27 per cent of women. The new APACS data also shows that the UK's Net users are becoming increasingly dependent on the Web with almost 13 millions customers using Internet banking in 2003. Sandra Quinn, APACS Director of Corporate Communications said: "It's no real surprise that the Internet is being used by more of us more of the time to shop and bank. It's convenient, secure and ideally suits the time-poor society we live in." News that Internet-related spending is on the up should be good news for online retailers. In the meantime, recent research suggests that online retailers are still facing a battle of confidence with consumers.

Doctor, Doctor, I'm Not Myself Today³⁰ (*Smart Cards*)

²⁸ http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/06/passport_scanners/

²⁹ http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/06/apacs_ecommerce/

³⁰ <http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,3605,1280770,00.html> CIOB News 2004-08-12

Over the next couple of years, hundreds of thousands of doctors, nurses and other National Health Service (NHS) staff will be vetted, photographed and issued with Smart Cards. This procedure is to ensure that the NHS knows exactly who is logging onto a countrywide system of electronic medical records that is under severe scrutiny. In fact, the British Medical Association is urging doctors to boycott the new Care Records Service because of fears that it will damage medical confidentiality, while Privacy International, a pressure group, named the programme "most appalling project" in its annual Big Brother Awards. In response to such concerns, NHS IT chiefs recognise that important issues have been raised and should be responded to openly and constructively; however, they hope that the procedures will convince sceptics that an electronic system is more secure, as well as deterring members of the public from attempting to impersonate hospital staff.

Watchdog's Big Brother UK Warning ³¹ (*Privacy / Smart Cards*)

Richard Thomas, the UK Information Commissioner has warned that as a result of ID cards and other plans, the UK could "sleepwalk into a surveillance society." He told The Times that he had concerns about how much information would be collected and shared under the ID card plans and suggested that he was uneasy about plans for a population register and a database of every child. He used General Franco's Spain as an example of what can happen when a state knows too much about its citizens. Nevertheless, Thomas says, he is not for or against an ID card scheme itself "my anxiety is that we don't sleepwalk into a surveillance society where much more information is collected about people, accessible to far more people shared across many more boundaries, than British society would feel comfortable with. The government has changed its line over the last two or three years as to what the card is intended for. You have to have clarity. Is it for the fight against terrorism? Is it to promote immigration control? Is it to provide access to public benefits and services?" A Home Office spokesman said there will be no question of a card scheme being an infringement of human rights - protection of privacy. Strict limits on the information held, is used and disclosed to ensure independent oversight that will be built into the legislation.

Public Value and E-Government ³² (*e-Government*)

Efficiency gains have always been stressed, as a key benefit of e-government and it is right to focus more seriously on what is required to deliver them. That the savings may be real and not just hype is now beyond doubt according to both the Treasury and the National Audit Office in the UK, and the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO). In an internal study conducted over a year ago, for example, the Treasury was able to identify expected savings in specific service areas in the Department for Work and Pensions and the Inland Revenue. The National Audit Office too, has provided case study evidence of e-enabled savings from both The Land Registry and The Lord Chancellors Department. Even more impressively, the NOIE in Australia estimated e-government related savings from 169 federal government programs of \$1.1bn in 2002 alone.

A summary of key findings of the Public Value and E-Government report is available at the following link:

<http://www.ippr.org/research/files/team34/project143/Second%20Piece%20for%20Local%20Government%20Chronicle.doc>

British History Gets Online Gateway ³³ (*e-Services*)

The UK's National Archives has set a 2007 deadline to boost its online services and become a leading source of historical information on the Internet. Sarah Tyacke, National Archives chief executive said, "in its first year, National Archives has created the first ever online archives of government websites and made over 3.5M documents available online. Eventually the organisation

³¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/3568468.stm CIOB News 2004-08-16

³² http://www.ippr.org/research/files/team34/project143/Kearns_PublicValueandE-Government_ippr.pdf CIOB News 2004-08-17

³³ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/08C4FD17BABA24DA80256EF6003D4B78?OpenDocument> CIOB News 2004-08-20

will provide digital archival services to everyone with an interest in history." A single "gateway" will enable other archives, libraries, museums and higher education institutions to find information online 24 hours a day.

UK Government Plans e-Vetting of Defence Staff ³⁴ (Authentication)

The UK Government is planning to introduce electronic vetting of some 131,000 people deemed to hold security-sensitive positions. Most of the existing staff and new appointees earmarked by the vetting system hold positions within the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the armed forces, or are defence contractors. An outline concept produced within the Defence Vetting Agency (DVA) includes the automated input of vetting data, electronic vetting records, and a study on how the proposals fit into new MoD personnel management procedures. The system will perform checks on existing communication between the DVA's Warrantor case management system and home-based vetting officers, as well as links between other government departments and selected defence companies.

United States

Your Data Online: Safe as Houses ³⁵ (Privacy)

A decision by a Federal Court in Minnesota may have profound repercussions for the ability of consumers and others to rely upon promises of security and privacy made on corporate or governmental websites. On June 21, 2004, the United States Senate Governmental Affairs Committee was told that a number of US airlines had routinely collected data about travelers on their flights. The court held that when the US Congress deregulated the airline industry, it didn't want the states to tell the airlines what to do, and prohibited states from passing laws related to the "service of an air carrier." Thus, if an airline commits fraud, deception, larceny, theft, invasion of privacy, or any other civil or criminal wrong, the state cannot prosecute the airline under ordinary consumer protection or theft laws (or torts) that would apply to other entities. The airlines as an industry are free to deceive without fear of accountability under state law. Therefore, the court went on to state that the customer's "personally identifiable information" did not belong to the customer, because the customer "voluntarily provided some information that was included" in the information given to the government, and that when Northwest "compiled and combined" this information with other data it "became Northwest's property."

Pondering Private Infrastructure Data ³⁶ (PKI / Authentication)

Even the fact that the Congress has created the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program Office under the *Critical Infrastructure Information Act* of 2002 in response to concerns that private sector information on vulnerabilities and attacks would be available to the public or competitors under the *Freedom of Information Act*; the Homeland Security Department - DHS officials are still figuring out the best way to handle sensitive information that the private sector voluntarily submits to the government. Frederick Herr, director of the Protected Critical Infrastructure Information Program Office said, the first lesson that officials have learned is that the private sector doesn't willingly submit information because an infrastructure office exists. That's why officials are still wrestling with the submission process where the signatures that are required, to submit to the program office must be mailed, even if they include electronic information. To simply information submission, officials are working with other parts of DHS to build an electronic submission process with electronic signatures. DHS has its own public key infrastructure that is an easy solution for those submissions; but many smaller entities and individuals do not have digital

³⁴ <http://www.vnunet.com/news/1157574> CIOB News 2004-08-24

³⁵ http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/07/30/personal_data_online/

³⁶ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0726/web-pcii-07-30-04.asp>

certificates. Officials are considering linking the e-signature to a sender's e-mail address that requires some form of authentication

US-VISIT To Get Biometric Exit ³⁷ (*Biometrics*)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials plan to include biometric technology at the exit systems for the US In fact, Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program will be installed at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago this month and added to 11 more airports by September, DHS officials said. The test exit systems that already exist at Baltimore-Washington International Airport and Miami's International Cruise Line Terminal aim to match visitors' identities with their travel documents using technology and biometrics such as digital scan of fingerprints and photos. When DHS officials launched the first phase of US-VISIT in January, they used biometric entry capabilities at 115 airports and 14 seaports and began testing a biometric departure confirmation system at two locations. However, to speed up border processing DHS officials are still looking for a flexible way that works with systems of other DHS agencies, port authorities and the travel industry.

DHS Tech Execs To Work on 9-11 ³⁸ (*Biometrics / Privacy*)

Information technology officials at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) plan to examine how they can advance at least four of the 9-11 Commission's recommendations. Among them, the development of standards and architecture those are necessary to make possible the screening of visitors and immigrants across multiple entities that require coordination with other agencies. As the development of standards, included the use of biometrics, this bring state and local governments into the process of sharing information, having access and verifying them when a name is flagged. Mark Emery, Deputy at Chief Information Office (CIO) at DHS cited that in the coming months, the CIO Office will be transitioning the existing Homeland Security Data Network to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). That network will enable Federal State and local officials to share classified information, a step that many have been waiting to take since DHS kicked off the sensitive-but-unclassified HSIN earlier this year. He concluded that DHS is "trying to add biometrics to everything," including credentialing truck drivers, particularly for those who transport hazardous materials.

FBI Publishes Computer Crime and Security Stats ³⁹ (*Cryptography / Authentication*)

Every year for the past nine years, the Computer Security Institute (CSI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are undertaking a computer crime and security survey among companies and institutions in the US. These surveys provide insights into the level of computer crime being experienced by companies, as well as how they are responding to security breaches. The survey reveals that computer security has evolved from being purely the domain of IT resources to the point now where even the board of a company take an interest. This growing concern about security has come about as the Internet has emerged to be a ubiquitous business tool. When the CSI and FBI started performing this survey in the mid-1990s, computer security concerns largely centred on technical issues such as encryption, access controls and intrusion detection systems. By 2004, the ninth annual survey indicates that companies are becoming more concerned with the economic, financial and risk management aspects of computer security in addition to the purely technical aspects. This indicates the greater importance that is being placed on security by senior management in organisations. Overall, the 2004 survey indicates that the frequency of successful attacks against corporate information systems is decreasing - and has been in steady decline since 2001.

³⁷ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0802/web-usvisit-08-03-04.asp>

³⁸ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0802/web-dhscio-08-04-04.asp>

³⁹ http://www.theregister.co.uk/2004/08/05/fbi_security_stats/

DHS Network May Link to Others ⁴⁰ (Interoperability / Privacy)

Steve Cooper, the Chief Information Officer for Department of Homeland Security (DHS), told private industry that discussions are underway to make multiple uses of the Homeland Secure Data Network (HSDN) that is being built in April. Homeland Security Department officials are considering using the classified network they are developing to link state and local governments as well as federal civilian agencies. Cooper likened the idea to the Defence Department's Classified Secret Internet Protocol Network (SIPRNET) saying that there likely would be gateways between the civilian and defence networks if the idea proves feasible. He added, information sharing is one of the most important mandates for DHS and that it includes making sure 56 states and territories are hooked up by the end of this year. Cooper has previously said that DHS officials had set an aggressive goal to move from multiple information technology networks to one by December. Sharing information "is a big deal," Cooper said. "It is going to expand."

Editorial: Data Shepherd ⁴¹ (e-Commerce / Privacy)

The General Services Administration (GSA) officials recently outsourced the Federal Procurement Data System in hopes of improving it. Under the new system, the raw contracting data goes directly to the vendor rather than GSA. This data is important for journalists, academics, researchers, lawmakers and leaders of oversight groups who use it to track the billions of dollars the government spends annually. There have been questions in recent weeks about whether that procurement data will continue to be widely available. Furthermore, there are questions about whether the data, having been outsourced to a private vendor, falls under the purview of the *Freedom of Information Act*, that exists to let public information to be public! David Drabkin, Deputy Associate Administrator of GSA's Office of Acquisition Policy, has tried to reassure everybody that the data will continue to be available. He argues that the new system will make data better and faster, and information will be more accessible than it had been.

NFC Gets Authentication Certification ⁴² (PKI)

The Federal Identity Credentialing Committee (FICC) certified the Agriculture Department's National Finance Center (NFC), which allows the agency to provide digital authentication services to all federal agencies. The NFC is teamed with Entrust Inc. for its public key infrastructure services. In June, organization officials demonstrated their ability to issue and manage digital certificates for the PKIs that agencies are setting up around government for their high-security electronic transactions. Under the *E-Government Act* of 2002, agencies developing new PKIs and must use providers certified under the Federal Common Policy Framework, which the FICC oversees. Agencies that are already cross certified with the Federal Bridge Certification Authority that allows agencies to use certificates issued by other agencies, do not have to switch to a new provider. The NFC already provides many government wide services, focusing on payroll and personnel services, and officials have been looking for years at the possibility of providing PKI services. VeriSign Inc. is also going through the final phases of certification by the FICC

White House Upbeat on IT ⁴³ (e-Government)

The White House has told federal employees that US government departments are managing their IT systems "more professionally" and are making improvements in key areas such as security.

⁴⁰ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0802/web-cooper-08-05-04.asp>

⁴¹ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/oped-editorial-08-09-04.asp>

⁴² <http://www.cio.gov/ficc/> CIOB News 2004-08-11

⁴³ <http://www.kablenet.com/kd.nsf/Frontpage/FEA74DF311D667ED80256EEC003E8947?OpenDocument>
CIOB News 2004-08-11

According to a report issued August 9th, 2004, across departments 70% of IT systems are now secure compared with 26% three years ago. Departments have also improved how they monitor IT performance, with 72% now having mechanisms to validate how their systems function relative to cost. In addition, the government has made "great strides in expanding the availability and use of electronic services for citizens," says the report titled *Results Oriented*. Despite the progress, the report shows that few departments have achieved required performance levels in e-government. Out of 25 agencies, only five: the Environmental Protection Agency, Transportation, National Science Foundation, Office of Personal Management and Small Business Administration; have so far achieved what is considered an acceptable score in federal management ratings for e-government.

9-11 Commission: Boost Intelligence Sharing ⁴⁴ (Privacy / Interoperability)

Bush administration officials have vowed to create a national counterterrorism center that would be built on the intelligence community's Terrorist Threat Integration Center (TTIC). In testimony before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, John Brennan, TTIC's director, said the commission's report offers a high-level view but is not the blueprint that officials need before proceeding with restructuring intelligence sharing. The report does not answer many protocol, policy and procedural questions that technology must resolve before creating the center. Other analysts had similar remarks like James Carafano, a senior research at the Heritage Foundation, who said the next level of intelligence sharing raises questions about protecting privacy and civil liberties and about how to handle sensitive analytical applications such as data mining and link analysis. Formed by U.S. intelligence agencies about a year ago, TTIC gives analysts access to 26 separate federal networks. The proposed counterterrorism center would be a super-TTIC, as many have described it. Analysts would use the center to share foreign and domestic intelligence and conduct joint operational planning.

End Of the Road for the Paper Trail ⁴⁵ (Privacy / e-Services)

The federal government is nearing the end of its personnel paper trail. Officials have made progress toward bringing human resources into the Digital Age by building the infrastructure for a new program that tracks every worker's professional path electronically—from hiring to retiring. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) officials are in charge of the new effort to create an online human resources recordkeeping and analysis system that charts the careers of about 1.8 million employees. It will eventually replace the paper filed in folders. OPM officials have reached several milestones in the Enterprise Human Resources Integration (EHR!) project, including the creation of a large data repository in which all employee records will reside.

Michigan Pushes Permits Online ⁴⁶ (PKI / e-Services)

Michigan officials unveiled today a plan to let businesses apply for permits online. The Michigan Timely Application and Permit Service (MiTAPS) Web portal is intended to do what its name says: "Provide a way for businesses to find and apply for permits from any state agency at any time." Within the portal, company officials can use a guided search to determine which permits they need. They must enter their company information only once and then the site uses it for any and all subsequent permit applications. In addition, company officials can pay permit fees online and monitor their applications' status through the portal or e-mail notifications at specific milestones during the process.

Viisage, Siemens Turn 2-D Into 3-D ⁴⁷ (Biometrics)

⁴⁴ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/pol-infoshare-08-09-04.asp>

⁴⁵ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0823/mgt-opmrecords-08-23-04.asp>

⁴⁶ <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2004/0823/web-michigan-08-24-04.asp> CIOB News 2004-08-26

Viisage Inc. and Siemens AG officials are jointly developing 3-D facial recognition mapping that could further enhance the accuracy and performance of the biometric technology. Rather than take true 3-D images of people, Viisage uses a process called 3D warping, in which algorithms transform 2-D pictures into images that behave similar to 3-D composites. But since such composites are never 100 percent complete, Viisage officials are using Siemens technology "to fill in the blanks with real data, not guesswork" to enhance the quality of the composites, said Mohamed Lazzouni, Viisage's chief technology officer and vice president of engineering. Many police departments, corrections facilities and other organizations use facial recognition technology for authentication and verification. The technology measures certain physical characteristics of the face, but illumination, facial expression and pose variation can disrupt the ability to match well. Lazzouni said the 3-D technology model would basically address the pose variation problem, which is "when people tilt their heads from left to right, top down or take an angle, that is a little bit severe." However, using the technology in the real world is still more than two years away, he said.

Tech Success: Green-Card Forms are an Online 'Go' ⁴⁸ (e-Government / e-Services)

You don't have to be an immigrant in the United States to know that renewing a green card can be a long, drawn-out process. Citizen and Immigration Services, part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is doing what it can to ease the pain. The agency is rolling out a marketing effort in select cities touting an electronic filing program that can reduce the time it takes to renew a green card from a year to several days. This newfound confidence in providing better service to the citizen is the result of a project that started in 2002, before the Immigration and Naturalization Service changed its name and became part of DHS. That year, the agency approached Computer Sciences Corp. to develop a portal that would let people submit forms online.

Venezuela

No new item to report.

Viet Nam

No new item to report.

⁴⁷ <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0809/web-viisage-08-12-04.asp>

⁴⁸ http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/19_11/homeland/24363-1.html CIOB News 2004-08-31

Miscellaneous

Security Bytes: Encryption Takes a Beating; Flaws Patched ⁴⁹ *(Cryptography / PKI)*

Encryption researchers have discovered that mathematical functions embedded in common security applications have previously undetected weaknesses. Recently, it was announced that French computer scientist Antoine Joux uncovered a flaw in a popular algorithm called MD5, often used with digital signatures. Then four Chinese researchers released a paper on how to circumvent a second algorithm, SHA-0, according to CNET News.com. While their results are preliminary, these discoveries could eventually make it easier for intruders to insert undetectable back doors into computer code or to forge an electronic signature unless a different, more secure algorithm is used.

New Gel Covered Mouse Is Fellowes' First Entry Into Biometrics Arena ⁵⁰ *(Biometrics)*

Fellowes the Illinois-based company that sells computer accessories around the globe, is unveiling the most recent addition to its input line, the Gel Mouse, which industry analysts see as a precursor to its new biometrics security line of products due out in the Spring. The new mouse has a soft gel layer covered with a durable fabric where the hand touches the mouse. This new and innovative product not only "provides the ultimate in user comfort with patented gel housing" but it also soaks up and retains the grime and smell from the hand of its user. Tim Jenkins, olfactory researcher at Cardiff University in Wales says, "The science behind the mouse is actually pretty simple. The fabric covering the gel is touched all during the workday. That means that it is in contact with a particular users hand. That user will usually be using his or her dominant hand for mousing. Within a week and sometimes as little as two days, the mouse begins to retain the smell of its user," Jenkins adds, "right now it seems like a gimmick. It's being marketed as a way to 'mark your territory' so to speak. But in reality, this opens the door to a whole new world of biometric security. If your hand smell doesn't match the smell on the mouse, no access for you." However, Jenkins notes that the hardware technology to read or "smell" the smell of the hand to match it to the smell of the "smell gel" is at least a few years away.

The primary source for the information contained in this document is the Internet – most articles are footnoted with links to source documents on various web sites. The reader is reminded that much of the information on Internet news sites is transitory and may only exist on a site for a short period of time. Readers wishing to maintain copies of the source information are encouraged to capture the text in a word processing application. Where possible, the date that an article appeared on a web site is provided following the link. Please do not report "broken links".

⁴⁹ http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/originalContent/0,289142,sid14_gci1001209,00.html?track=NL-358&ad=489833

⁵⁰ <http://www.uspressnews.com/articles/1021>