Health Care PKI Working Group
July 23, 2002

The meeting opened with review and approval of the minutes of the March 26 meeting. These minutes are posted on the Federal PKI Steering Committee web site (http://www.cio.gov/fpkisc) under the Working Group: Health Care.

Dennis Copeland and Dr. James Fisher of Mitretek gave a presentation titled HealthTC & M-Bridge. Health Trust Communities (TC) (which was formerly known as HealthKey) is a communications model, which simplifies interoperability among PKI implementations and promotes the concurrent adoption of appropriate privacy practices. This is done by trust within associations, which do not interface with other associations and by default do not support transitive trust. M-Bridge is a PKI validation and interoperability tool and service. Together they provide simplified interoperability between PKI when compared to an individual cross-certification of PKIs (which when dealing with a large number of PKIs, may be practically impossible to cross-certify all due to the large number of cross-certificates and effort associated with cross certifying two PKIs). This presentation is posted on the Federal PKI Steering Committee web site (http://www.cio.gov/fpkisc) under the Working Group: Health Care.

The status of the Health Care PKI Pilots is as follows:

♦ SSA & VA – Secure Exchange of Medical Evidence – VA and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have received funds from the Healthcare Workgroup of the Federal PKI Steering Committee as part of an effort to encourage Federal agencies to implement business solutions leveraging the advantages of PKI. The first phase of the pilot demonstrated the use of secure e-mail for receipt of electronic medical evidence and assessed the usability of existing electronic medical evidence available from the VA. Phase II of the Secure Exchange of Medical Evidence Project has the following goals:

 ⇒ Develop a business model for potential national implementation of a secure electronic process for the exchange of medical evidence between SSA and VA.
 ⇒ Develop a technical solution that is more scalable and portable so that the business model can be implemented in additional sites.
 ⇒ Develop a process to automate the electronic request for medical evidence.
 ⇒ Draft language requirements for direct access to VA's medical records.

Current Status:

The MOU between VA and GSA has been signed by Gary Christopherson, VHA CIO, and is being forwarded to GSA.   Comments on the draft scope agreement for Phase 2 of the Electronic Exchange of Medical Evidence pilot with the Social Security Administration (SSA) have been received and are being processed. When that is complete, the package including the signed funding MOU between VA and GSA, the scope agreement between VA and SSA, and the project plan will be sent to Gary Christopherson for his signature on the scope agreement..

A Statement of Work has been sent to GSA for support of the four new test sites in Tennessee and the two existing test sites in Mississippi. Meanwhile, the Mississippi VAMCs continue to use the Phase 1 functionality. The sites continue to report significant improvements in the timeliness and quality of medical evidence delivered to SSA from VA.

♦ Western Governor's Association - Health Passport – Our primary contact on this project was unable to attend the meeting; we will get a status at the next meeting.

♦ NIH – Educause – Higher Education Electronic Grant Application Process Utilizing the Federal Bridge Certification Authority and the Higher Education Bridge Certification Authority – The project has been successful with transmitting and processing grant applications from the University of Alabama (Birmingham), the University of Wisconsin (Madison), Dartmouth College, the University of Texas (Houston), and the University of California (Berkley) to NIH.

Current Status:

The project team is moving ahead to complete interoperability testing on the VeriSign public root CA, with an LDAP directory supporting the University of California. Work is beginning on further development of DAVE to support trust path discovery and to return secure, signed responses to Lexign ProSigner. OER/NIH is moving its CAM/DAVE to a production server. Two new universities have asked to participate in the expanded pilot. EDUCAUSE, NIH and the State of Illinois have met to plan incorporation of Illinois university-to-university and university-to-NIH interoperability tests as part of the Illinois cross-certification with the Federal Bridge CA, in process. CREN has initiated action to cross-certify its CA with the Higher Ed Bridge. The CREN CA provides PKI services for over 8 universities. OER/NIH has submitted procurement paperwork to initiate Phase 3, in which receipt of the signed grant application form and validation of its digital signatures is automated.

In related actions: The Federal PKI Policy Authority has voted on and approved policy mapping and cross certification at the medium assurance level between the FBCA and the NASA. EDUCAUSE has initiated establishment of a Policy Authority to authorize a CP, CPS and audit to move the Higher Ed Bridge to production status and to cross-certify with the Federal Bridge.

In addition to the update on the NIH – Educause – Higher Education Electronic Grant Application Process Utilizing the Federal Bridge Certification Authority and the Higher Education Bridge Certification Authority, Dr. Peter Alterman gave a presentation titled NIH-EDUCAUSE PKI Interoperability Project – Electronic Grant Application with Multiple Digital Signatures, which provided an overview of the project. This presentation is posted on the Federal PKI Steering Committee web site (http://www.cio.gov/fpkisc) under the Working Group: Health Care.

Judith Spencer gave a brief update of FPKSC activities.

The next regular Health Care PKI Working Group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24, 2002 from 10:00 am to Noon, Room 705A at the HHH Building in Washington, DC.

Attendees:

Peter Alterman	HHS/NIH	peter.alterman@nih.gov
Fred Catoe	VA/OCS	fred.catoe@mail.va.gov
Dennis Copeland	Mitretek	copeland@mitretek.org
James Fisher	Mitretek	jlf@mitretek.org
George Fortwengler	HHS	george.fortwengler@hhs.gov
Dan Maloney	VA/VHA	daniel.maloney@med.va.gov
Brant Petrick	FPKISC	brant.petrick@gsa.gov
Vickie Seeger	Justice/DEA	vseeger@dialup.usdoj.gov
Judith Spencer	FPKISC	judith.spencer@gsa.gov
Jack Stoute	HHS/PSC	jstoute@psc.gov
Jeanette Thornton	OMB	jthornto@omb.eop.gov

Remote Attendees:

Marty Eckert	SSA	
Charles Montgomery	OMB	charles_m._montgomery@omb.eop.gov