

Federal PKI Steering Committee Meeting
March 25, 2002

Canadian Government On-Line/Secure Channel Status:

A delegation from the e-Authentication program management office traveled to Ottawa, Canada to learn more about the Canadian Government On-Line implementation and the supporting Secure Channel initiative.

The Canadian portal provides access to information throughout the federal government. If a citizen wants access to controlled information they must apply for a Government On-Line E-Pass. To the citizen E-Pass appears to be a user-id/password process, however, it is actually an Entrust TruePass digital certificate. The Entrust TruePass digital certificate resides on a secure server (roaming server solution).

The Secure Channel initiative is a government contracting vehicle. One component of Secure Channel is a nationwide site license for the issuance of Entrust TruePass certificates to every Canadian. There is only one level of assurance for doing business with the Canadian public and it is provided by this general purpose cert.

For more information, you can visit their web site at <http://www.cio-dpi.gc.ca/pki-icp>.

Federal Bridge Certification Authority (FBCA) Status:

It is anticipated by the end of this year we will have four CA products technically interoperable within the FBCA membrane (Baltimore Technologies, Entrust, Microsoft and RSA) and two CA products technically interoperable outside the FBCA membrane (IPlanet and VeriSign).

The State of Illinois paperwork is forthcoming as well as the Department of the Treasury wanting to cross certify their PCA with the FBCA.

Judy Spencer participated in a phone interview with an employee from Government Computer News on the topic of Biometrics versus PKI. Judy feels this is a ubiquitous relationship rather than using passwords for PKI.

In the near future, the FBCA will cross certify with the Canadian Government BCA. Judy Spencer is preparing the US paperwork for cross certification and the Canadian government is doing the same. When ready, a date will be set for a mutual exchange of documentation. Once the exchange has taken place, the process of mapping and technical interoperability testing should (hopefully) be completed in 90 days. An important consideration is the availability of a live cross border application to take advantage of the two cross-certified bridges.

Access Certificates for Electronic Services (ACES) Status:

Researching the possibility of merging the DoD's Interim External Certification Authority (IECA) program with ACES and rewriting DoD's IECA program policy.

The ACES contract is in the third year of a sixth year life. The ACES partners are working on becoming interoperable with the FBCA and are rewriting ACES policy documents.

Federal PKI Policy Authority (FPKIPA) Status:

The FPKIPA has received NASA's application for cross certification with the FBCA. The FPKIPA also received NASA's Certificate Policy, Certification Practice Statement, and third party audit report. NASA plans on cross certifying with the FBCA at the medium assurance level.

The FPKIPA should receive DoD's application for cross certification with the FBCA in the May timeframe.

The FPKIPA Charter is being revised to include non-federal agency participation in the FPKIPA meetings and non-federal agency cross-certification with the FBCA.

The Certificate Policy Working Group (CPWG) will need a new co-chair and a new representative from the DoD within the next month. Hopefully NIST will be able to fill the CPWG co-chair void.

The next FPKIPA meeting is scheduled for April 8th.

Health Care Working Group (HCWG) Status:

At the last HCWG meeting on February 26th, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (formerly known as HCFA) briefed us on the QualityNet eXchange project. The project is a secure web application which provides an internet portal for hospitals and other providers to report and exchange sensitive data with quality improvement organizations.

The HCWG also participated in a meeting on March 22nd with the Justice/Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on the proposed Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances system with an architectural review and the impact and characteristics of this nationwide system. Physicians will apply for and need a license (digital certificate on a smart card) to prescribe controlled substances electronically. In the near future, DEA's root CA is planning on cross certifying with the FBCA.

The next HCWG meeting is scheduled for March 26th at the Social Security Administration in Baltimore, MD.

Legal and Policy Working Group (LPWG) Status:

The next LPWG meeting is scheduled for later today (March 25th at 1pm).

GSA Legal Counsel is working on the Federal Bridge Tort liability paper. When finished, the liability paper will be reviewed by the LPWG and then sent to the Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel for their feedback.

LPWG members will be reviewing the draft PKI Assessment Guide in Brief document.

The National Archives and Records Administration, Electronic Records Management group sponsored meetings on March 18th and March 20th. Federal agencies were invited to participate in a focus group with the objective of helping identify and define detailed issues and requirements related to the management of records created as part of a PKI environment. A draft report will be produced by the third week of June for LPWG review.

The Citizen Certificate Team consists of a half-dozen people. A draft report is being written for the e-Authentication task force. This draft report deals with accreditation of a CA for citizen certificates. These certificates would be accepted by governmental agencies via the government portal. The team is aiming for a single level citizen certificate for access to agencies and their applications by providing strong identity credentials.

Next FPKISC Meeting:

The next FPKISC meeting is scheduled for April 30th, at 9:30am. Located at GSA/Central Office, conference room 5141A. Federal agencies are welcome to send a representative to participate in these meetings. However, government contractors are not permitted to attend these meetings.

Attendees:

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