

Federal Public Key Infrastructure Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2001

Status on the Electronic Authentication Initiative:

The business plan has been drafted. Federal Agencies will need to use the First Gov portal (will be renamed USA Service) for electronic authentication. Architecture for the portal has not been identified, however, it will have the capability for single sign-on.

Status on the International PKI conference:

Judy Spencer represented the United States and participated in an international PKI meeting in Holland earlier this month. Other countries that attended were the United Kingdom (UK), Holland, Norway, Canada, and Spain.

The UK is working towards a portal system and government gateway. The UK handles authentication at the government gateway, which is already online. They use single level certificates for authentication of citizens and their postal service issues these certificates. The UK certifies the registration authorities (RA) to issue citizens certificates. You can check out the UK government on-line at: <http://www.ukonline.gov.uk>.

Holland and Norway have implemented three security levels: government to business, government to citizens, and government to government.

The Canadian government will issue credentials to every Canadian citizen. They will implement a bridge certification authority (CA), which will cross-certify with other government CA's. Canada will use a single level of assurance with citizens (Entrust True Pass). Businesses in Canada are responsible for the issuance of their employee certificates, and their postal service performs the registration. Canada will provide employment insurance, electronic grants, and passport services on-line.

Spain dictates who gets what identity credentials. They will use a hardware-based solution and will keep identity separate from signature certificates. The third certificate will be used for encryption.

Identity Authentication:

We had a group discussion on ID proofing, credentialing, and authorizations. Judy Spencer is going to draft a white paper for a recommendation on authorization. She already has input from Bill Burr. Recommendations include performing identity proofing once, authenticate identity verification in a consistent manner, service versus quality of proofing, and the issuing of a universal credential. Judy will try to prepare a draft white paper for the next Steering Committee (SC) meeting.

Status on the Federal Bridge Certification Authority (FBCA):

The NIH is running a pilot (E-Grant proposals) with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the University of Texas-Houston, the University of California and Dartmouth College. These universities have cross-certified

with the prototype Higher Education Bridge CA and the Higher Education Bridge has cross-certified with the prototype FBCA. They are using products from Entrust, Digital Signature Trust, VeriSign, iPlanet and RSA. Proof of concept has been successful.

C & A audit by KPMG moving successfully along. The hot backup site will not be part of the initial audit but will instead be included in a “delta” once it is up and running. The Federal Bridge is out of money and GSA OGP has taken steps to ensure ongoing funding to ensure continued operation of the Federal Bridge.

Status on the Business Working Group (BWG):

The chair of the BWG provided handouts to the SC from the BWG sponsored PKI conference. There were 540 registered to attend the PKI conference on November 29th of which 395 actually attended. Presentations at this conference will be posted to the BWG web page within the next couple of weeks.

Federal Agencies need to update their PKI status, which is already posted to the BWG web page. So far, the only agency that has responded was HHS. E-mail your agency updates to brant.petrick@gsa.gov.

Status on the State Interoperability (IO) Working Group:

Judy Spencer participated in a meeting with the State of Illinois, SSA, IRS, and FDIC on November 30th. The State of Illinois is working with the hazardous waste community, the department of aging community, and the public aid community. So far, the State of Illinois has issued 1000 certificates to their citizens. The SC and the Policy Authority members need Illinois’ Certificate Policy (CP) and Illinois’ Certification Practices Statement (CPS) by February 2002. Comments on these two documents need to be resolved by April 2002. The State of Illinois wants to cross-certify with the FBCA in 2002 and is currently looking for a pilot partner. HHS/CMS (formerly HCFA) is meeting with Illinois state officials to study a possible Medicare payment pilot.

Status on the Health Care Working Group (HCWG):

Action items were assigned to all interested parties that attended the HCWG PKI conference on October 30th. The next HCWG meeting will be January 22nd. The DEA will provide an update on their PKI efforts and the HHS/IHS/VA will provide an update on the Government Computer-based Patient Record System (GCPR) at this meeting.

Status on the Technical Working Group (TWG):

The next TWG meeting will be January 23rd, at the NIST North Building, Room 152.

Status on the Legal & Policy Working Group (LPWG):

Discussions centered around liability issues with the FBCA. The LPWG will review these legality issues via e-mail from Judy Spencer to John Cornell (GSA General Counsel).

Next Meeting:

The next SC meeting will be at the GSA, Central Office Building in Conference Room 5141A on January 15th, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The next RSA Conference will be February 22nd at San Jose, California.

Attendance List:

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