

Steering Committee Minutes

April 19, 2000

Introduction

Rich Guida convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. (See Attendees list). Upon completion of general introductions of the attending members, Rich provided an overview of recent events and general updates.

General Updates

Rich reported on the following efforts:

Future Planning as a Result of the Disestablishment of the GITS Board.

The Office of Management and Budget and the National Partnership for Reinventing government established the Government Information Technology Service (GITS) Board to spearhead the Access America initiative. For a variety of reasons, the GITS Board has now been disestablished, and its activities folded into the Federal CIO Council. Rich briefed the members of the Steering Committee of the actions that have taken place with regard to the disestablishment of the GITS Board. Specifically, Rich advised that the GITS Board has now been officially disestablished and that the Steering Committee will now report to the Interoperability Committee and the Security, Privacy and Critical Infrastructure Committee of the Federal CIO Council, with the former having lead responsibility. The CIO Council has asked to include funding for the FPKI Steering Committee in their annual budget and other activities. Rich informed the members that he is currently working to secure \$500K in support of the FPKI Steering Committee, separate and apart from other sources for funding the Federal Bridge CA efforts.

EMA Challenge 2000.

Rich reported to the members the success of the Federal Bridge Certification Authority demonstration at the Electronic Messaging Association (EMA) Challenge 2000. In a little over two months (since late January), and with a great deal of effort by many, it was demonstrated in real time at the Challenge that the Federal Bridge Certification Authority has come from a concept to reality. The success of the demonstration has brought wide attention and recognition to the efforts of the Steering Committee and all of those involved. During the discussion Rich provided the members of the Steering Committee an overview of the system architecture and announced a proposed "post-mortem" meeting to discuss the lessons learned and the direction for the future of the Bridge. In the discussion he identified what he felt was the next step to be completed sometime this summer and that was to effect policy mapping and encryption. The schedule for taking the Bridge from a prototype state to production is dependent upon receiving funding from Congress in FY01; with such funding, we hope to get the production FBCA operational by the end of the calendar year.

Funding Issues.

Rich provided the members of the Steering Committee with an up date on the \$7M requested in the Treasury budget for FY 01, covering: (a) the production FBCA; (b) operational support for the FPKIPA; and (c) support for six agency PKI pilots. With

respect to the last, Rich advised that we are preparing requirements for agencies to use in applying for the funding, and that hopefully, applications for the money can be accepted over the summer with decisions made prior to October 2000 so that if and when the money becomes available, it can be quickly disbursed to the selected agencies.

ACES Update:

Judith Spencer provided the members of the Steering Committee an update on the ACES Forum which was held on April 12, 2000 at the JW Marriott at Metro Center. Judy stated that the Forum was very successful and was stirring a considerable amount of agency interest. Rich, who was one of the Keynote Speakers at the ACES Forum, again reminded agencies represented by the Steering Committee that the main point that they need to keep in mind was the effort associated with getting their client software ACES enabled. Rich also encouraged the Steering Committee agency representatives to work together and not try to face this issue alone - in other words, where applications can be PKI-enabled for multiple agency use, that is preferable, and further, where agencies are unsure of the cost required to PKI-enable an application, to write down their needs and work with GSA and the ACES vendors to come up with concrete estimates which the agencies can then use for decision purposes. Judy emphasized these points.

Judy then notified the members of the next ACES Customer Advisory Board (CAB) meeting which will be held on May 10, 2000, location TBD. Judy gave a brief overview of the CAB's efforts to manage a certificate bank discussed at the previous Steering Committee meeting; she advised that agencies who wish to get some of these certificates need to be working on their applications now.

Finally, Judy informed the members that the ACES effort has reached a monumental milestone: GSA has given authority to issue certificates to DST. IN addition, the CAM is operational. Thus, ACES has now progressed to an operational mode. The Steering Committee expressed its appreciation to Judy for these efforts.

Revisions to Technical Documents.

Rich requested the following from the members of the Steering Committee:

Certificate Policy for the FBCA

Rich advised that we have received a large number of new comments on the draft CP and thus are working through them, with the goal of having a revised draft available for final approval in May.

Digital Signature Guidance

OMB is close to issuing their final electronic signature guidance under GEPA. Rich advised that we have also almost reached closure on the draft digital signature guidance that will tier under the OMB guidance. He stated that a final version of the draft guidance will be published shortly with a request to provide any final comments within a week, thereafter the content will be frozen and we will proceed to obtain OMB approval for publication.

Draft Federal Government PKI Status Report

Rich committed to providing the Steering Committee with the final version over the weekend and if anyone had any additional comments or disagreements to respond in a week; thereafter, the content would be frozen and we would proceed into publication.

FPKI Policy Authority Charter

Rich informed the member of the Steering Committee that we are awaiting CIO Council comments on the draft charter, but otherwise, we are finished with it.

Open Discussions

Pretty Good Privacy

In a previous meeting, Cathie Ward (VA) had discussed the issue of some Federal Government Agencies such as the Federal CIRC adopting the use of PGP as a method of secure e-mail services. The issue with PGP is that it is, in effect, PKI minus the "I"; and thus is of no utility for official government transactions where certificates are needed, where issuance should be premised upon a Certificate Policy, and where an institutional mechanism for certificate revocation is needed. During the meeting, David Jarrell, director of Fed CIRC, clarified that PGP is not used for transactions with Federal agencies, that indeed Fed CIRC intends to use a full-fledged PKI for that purpose, but that for interactions with external parties such as foreign organizations, PGP is used and such use will need to continue. Rich agreed to craft a letter to Fed CIRC supporting their intention to use a PKI for transactions with agencies. Rich also noted some confusion over PGP which derives from the fact that the technology and the e-mail client is called the same thing, whereas the latter actually also supports S/MIME and X509 certificates. Thus, when one refers to "PGP" one needs to be clear on whether it is the technology or the client, and if the latter, that does not mean incompatibility with the use of S/MIME.

Outreach/Education Programs.

Richard Lewis (DOL) raised the issue that more time needs to be spent on outreach and educational programs to educate agencies on the use of PKI solutions. Rich concurred and agreed to help with DOL in particular.

Working Group Reports

Technical Working Group:

Bill Burr reported on the April meeting which occurred in Boston during the EMA Challenge, and which focused on what was accomplished with the prototype FBCA.

Legal and Policy Working Group:

Mike O'Leary discussed their continuing efforts to support standing up the FPKI Policy Authority.

Conclusion:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 22, 2000, 0930 - 1200 at GSA (same location).

Attendance:

FPKI Steering Committee Attending Members.

Richard Guida, Treasury, Chair, FPKI Steering Committee, Champion for Security

William Bell, DOJ/JMD

Roger Bezdek, Treasury

Andy Boots, DoEd

Laura Brandenburg-Rutt, USPS

Russell Davis, FDIC

Tice F DeYoung, NASA - ARC

Donna Dodson, SSA

Mark Giguere, NARA

Paul D. Grant, DOD/CIO

David Horton, USPS

Richard Lewis, DOL

Kathy Lyons-Burke, NIST

Dan Maloney, VA

Gene McDowell, NOAA

Kimberly Nelson, EPA

Helen Pannullo, DOJ

Arthur Purcell, USPTO

Kathy Sharp, USDA (NFC)

Judith Spencer, GSA

Shahira Tadross, DOJ/EOUSA

Cathie Ward, VA

Michael White, NARA/FedReg

Michael O'Leary, DOJ/CCIPS