

Steering Committee Minutes

March 20, 2000

Introduction

Rich Guida convened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. (See Attendees list). Upon completion of general introductions of the attending members, there was a brief request by Rich for comments on the previous meeting minutes and the announcement of a one page summary to be provided with the issuance of all meeting minutes in the future. Rich then introduced to the members Mr. Joe Brounghamer, Department of Navy, who would be providing the members during the meeting with a presentation on smartcards.

General Updates

Rich reported on the following efforts:

EMA Challenge 2000 preparations.

Rich reported to the members that the cross-certification with all client participants and the Bridge was working extremely well. The client software and chaining trust paths that will be used to validate signatures on messages is also working although there were still some technical issues that remained to be resolved. All connectivity between end-to-end user domains was currently being tested with substantial success and all preparations were going as planned to support EMA Challenge 2000 the next week in Boston. In addition, the video sessions of the senior government officials supporting the Federal Bridge Certification Authority concept were scheduled for the following week and would be completed in time for EMA Challenge 2000.

Revisions to Technical Documents.

Rich requested the members of the Steering Committee to view the documents currently out for comment and to provide comments so that these documents could be modified and brought to closure if possible by the end of April, 2000. Specific comments to each of these documents was as follows:

Certificate Policy for the FBCA

Rich advised that we are trying to reach closure on the CP in time to take a final vote within the next month; thus, any final comments by Steering Committee members should be received as soon as practical.

Digital Signature Guidance

The intent is to have the Digital Signature Guidance issued approximately at the same time as the OMB GPEA guidance; to support this issuance Rich asked the members of the Steering Committee to provide their comments within the next week.

Draft Federal Government PKI Status Report

Comments have been coming in to the draft report and it was requested that any final comments be provided as soon as possible.

FPKI Policy Authority Charter

Rich informed the member of the Steering Committee that no further proposed changes have been received, and all of those previously received have been incorporated or resolved, so we have reached closure on the draft Charter.

Rich also advised the members that pursuant to OMB direction, NARA has developed guidance for electronic signatures in the context of Federal Records Management; that guidance has been circulated for comments via the Steering Committee list serve. He also advised the members additional draft guidance would be coming out soon from the Department of Justice on legal aspects of electronic signatures, and the Department of the Treasury on the use of electronic signatures for financial transactions.

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 was now being disestablished, and its activities will be 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 the Steering Committee members of his discussions on how the Steering Committee and the FPKI Policy Authority would be absorbed within the CIO Council structure; the goal was to have the Steering Committee and the Policy Authority be jointly sponsored by the Security, Privacy and Critical Infrastructure Committee, and the Enterprise Interoperability and Emerging IT Committee, with the latter in the lead sponsorship role.

Postal Service

Rich advised the members of the Steering Committee that the Postal Service is now moving forward with AT&T on a branded S/MIME e-mail capability which will accept multiple sources of certificates, and thus support interagency interoperability. Rich commended the Postal Services' effort as meeting the needs expressed by Treasury and other agencies. He also encouraged the Postal Service representatives at the meeting to give a presentation on their effort to the members of the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

ACES Update

Judith Spencer provided the members of the Steering Committee an overview of the ACES Customer Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB comprises 16 agency members; its purpose is to drive the implementation of the ACES program by assisting agencies in their selection of PKI solutions, and helping GSA ensure ACES provides the services they need. To help agencies develop solutions that aggregate need, the CAB has established a certificate bank (containing certificates that have no issuance charge but that have a modest first-time-use surcharge); agencies can apply to the CAB for the use of these certificates. Each agency who desires to get some of these certificates will need to submit a proposal to the CAB, which the CAB will review based on several factors (such as the utility of the application being supported). If the agency's application is approved, the agency will be entitled to the appropriate number of "free" certificates from the bank.

Judy then invited members of the Steering Committee to the ACES Forum to be held on April 12, 2000 at the JW Marriott at Metro Center. The intent of the Forum is to ensure agencies are fully aware of all facets of the ACES program. The Forum would include an afternoon “by invitation only” session for agency senior officials.

Smart Card Presentation

Mr. Joe Broughamer then gave a presentation to the members of the Steering Committee on the Department of the Navy CIO Smartcard Pilot. The powerpoint slides used during the presentation will be provided electronically to all Steering Committee members.

Interoperability Presentation

Bill Burr (NIST) discussed the nature of interoperability, focused on three areas: client to client interoperability, PKI component interoperability, directory interoperability, and then separately, policy vs. technical interoperability. The crux of the matter is that interoperability is a very complex topic; it has many facets; and ultimately, it can mean different things to different people. To the end user, it means accepting a digital certificate from outside his or her PKI domain and using it constructively (and having his or her certificate accepted externally as well); for the PKI administrator it can mean cross-certifying CAs; for an agency program manager it may mean the ability to enable client software to accept certificates issued by more than one brand of CA. All of these are legitimate interoperability issues. It was noted that the newly formed contractor-led PKI Forum is addressing these matters and deserves our strong support.

Working Groups Reports

Legal Policy Group

The Legal Policy Group has begun work on the materials necessary for the FPKI Policy Authority to perform its function once it is stood up this summer. These materials include such things as the application form which an agency will use to seek interoperability with the Federal Bridge CA; the Memorandum of Agreement between the agency and the FPKIPA setting forth respective responsibilities once CP mapping has been done; and internal procedures for voting, certificate revocation, auditing, etc.

Business Working Group

The Business Working Group will coincide their efforts with the efforts of the ACES Customer Advisory Council.

Technical Working Group

Bill Burr (NIST) handed out the TWG meeting minutes for February 2000. The next meeting of the TWG will be on the 5th of April at the Convention Center in Boston, MA. Bill was also arranging for a presentation at the June meeting of the TWG on digital signature standardization for electronic commerce.

Conclusion:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on April 19, 2000, 0930 - 1200 at GSA (same location).

Attendance:

FPKI Steering Committee Attending Members.

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

Steve Akridge, Georgia Dep Admin Ser

Peter Alterman, NIH/DHHS

Michelle Borzillo, FDIC

Joe Broghamer, DON CIO

Bill Burr, NIST

Russell Davis, FDIC

Tice F DeYoung, NASA - ARC

Diane Dunshee, NSA

Mark Giguere, NARA

William Gill, EPA

Paul Grabow, FRP

Stephen H. Holden, PhD, IRS

David Horton, USPS

Marvin Jennings, NSA

Don Johnson, State of NJ

Dan Maloney, VA

Gene McDowell, NOAA

Arthur Purcell, USPTO

Judith Spencer, GSA

Cathie Ward, VA

Jonathan P Womer, OMB

James E. Collins, DON CIO

Elaine Rimel, USPS

Michael O'Leary, DOJ

Marvin Jennings, NSA