**Authentication**
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# GSA

# Federation News

Volume 1, Issue 1

## New Members:

- Department of Energy's *Industry Interactive Procurement System (IIPS)*

- Department of Homeland Security's *Disaster Help*

- Environmental Protection Agency's *Regulations.Gov*

## Inside this issue:

**Business Model Work Group constructing model by April 2007.**

## Managed Validation Translation Service Available in 2007!

In November 2006, the E-Authentication Identity Federation unveiled a new Managed Validation Translation Service (MVTS) for deployment by Federation members in early 2007. Credential Service Provider, Operational Research Consultants, Inc., signed a contract with GSA to provide government-wide certificate-based Managed Validation as well as Translation Service and Support.

The new service will allow users with a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificate "to step down" and access applications that require only a Level 1 or Level 2 SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language) assertion. Federation MVTS includes a suite of services that enable PKI-based user authentication for government web-
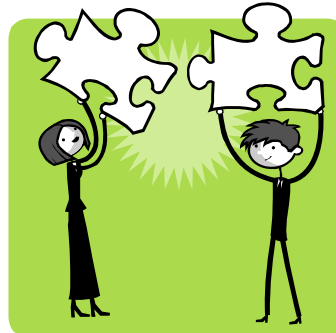


**MVTS represents a key piece in the authentication puzzle by enabling a step-down translation service for certificate-based credentials.**

based applications, ensuring confidentiality and integrity for web-server applications. New Federation MVTS services include managed validation of user identity, translation services, information security and assurance services.

MVTS offers agencies the option

to off load the risks, responsibilities and costs associated with procuring, configuring and maintaining validation software. MVTS enhances an agency's authentication capability without the need for redundant internal authentication services. MVTS offers agencies a comprehensive solution to enable users to gain online access to government systems as efficiently as possible.

For more information about Federation services and costs, please contact the Federation Management Office at (703) 872-8570.

## Market-Based E-Authentication Business Model Under Development

The E-Authentication Business Model Work Group has been meeting to develop a market-based Federation business model by April 2007.

The Work Group, comprised of representatives from across federal agencies, will define the scope of authentication products and services and develop cost and

pricing for the product and service offerings. The customer-driven effort will result in implementing a market-driven, fee-for-service business model in FY 2008. A key goal will be to attain self-sustainability for the Federation.

The business model leverages current Federated structure and capabilities, providing needed

products and services that stress value, choice and customization for members of the Federation.

During Q2 of FY 2007, the Work Group will meet to provide thought leadership and technical input to the new business model.

For more information, contact Georgia Marsh at georgiak.marsh@gsa.gov.

# Federation News

## Manager's Corner

**Customer focus, trust, fiscal responsibility, operational excellence, security and privacy are key to Federation operations!**

The U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation (Federation) recently adopted a set of guiding principles. These principles guide Federation strategic and day-to-day operational decisions and actions.

Principle 1: The Federation is customer focused—the Federation provides superior customer service by meeting current needs and anticipating future customer needs.

Principle 2: The E-Authentication Identity Federation is built on trust—it is the basic fabric holding up Federation operational and business relationships.

Principle 3: The Federation is financially viable and fiscally responsible—The PMO manages its resources wisely to further the goals of the Federation.

Principle 4: The Federation maintains operational excellence—strong management ensures operational issues are managed appropriately.

Principle 5: Security and Privacy are core needs of the Federation—Members comply with existing regulation, standards and policies that secure the operational environment and protect privacy, including personally-identifiable information of users.

We welcome any comments on these principles and on the newsletter and ask that you submit any feedback to Georgia K. Marsh at georgiak.marsh@gsa.gov.

## E-Authentication Releases FY 07 Program Milestone Schedule

*"Key 2007 milestones include...completion of Federation architecture changes needed to support SAML 2.0 functionality."*

The E-Authentication FY 2007 program milestone schedule reflects the accelerating pace of progress as new products and services are introduced to Federation members.
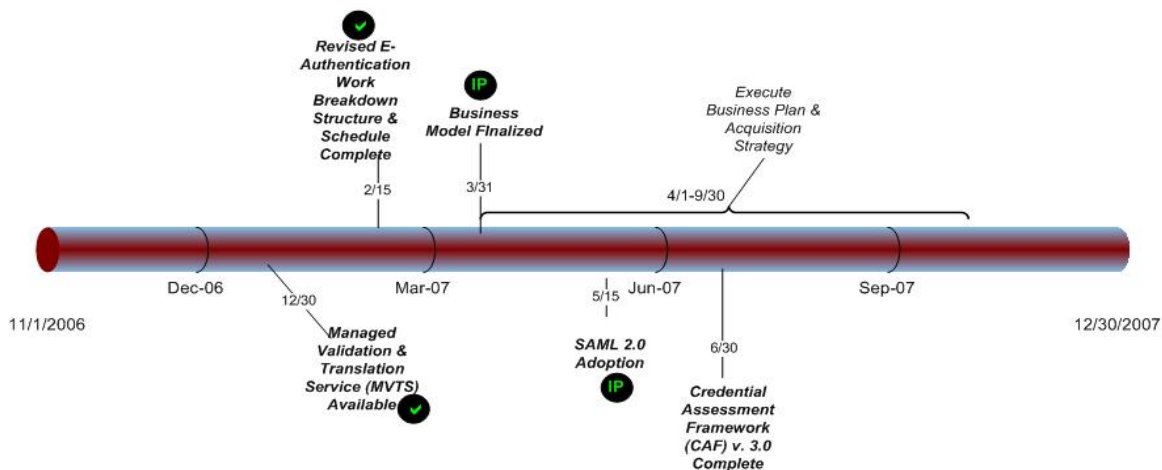
Key 2007 milestones include the development of a market-based business model, release of the MVTS service in December 2006 for Federation members (see Page 1 story), completion of the Credential Assessment Framework (CAF) version 3.0, and completion of Federation architecture changes needed to support SAML 2.0 functionality.
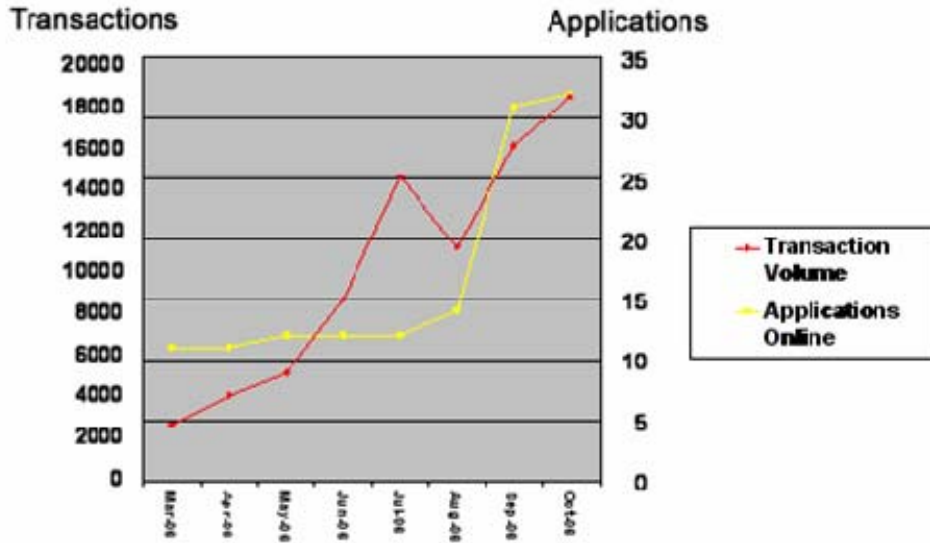
"FY 2007 represents a turning point in the E-Authentication Identity Federation," according to Georgia K. Marsh, U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation Manager. During this period, the Federation intends to transition to a fee-for-service business model, enabling Federation members to purchase products and services on a menu basis. The fee-for-service delivery model offers convenience, scalability and efficiency for federal agency customers.

For more information on program milestones and the schedule, please contact Darby O'Connor at darby.oconnor@excella.com.

Revised E-Authentication Work Breakdown Structure & Schedule Complete
2/15

Business Model Finalized (IP)
3/31

Execute Business Plan & Acquisition Strategy
4/1-9/30

11/1/2006

Dec-06    12/30    Mar-07    5/15    Jun-07    6/30    Sep-07    12/30/2007

Managed Validation & Translation Service (MVTS) Available

SAML 2.0 Adoption (IP)

Credential Assessment Framework (CAF) v. 3.0 Complete

## E-Authentication Identity Federation Growth Highlights Progress



**Federation membership continues to grow with the number of applications anticipated to double during FY 2007 and Transaction volume continuing to highlight the demand for E-Authentication services government-wide.**

# March 2007

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|  |  |  | 28 <br><br> User Group | 1 <br><br> TWG | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 BMWG | 6 | 7 RP Member & Vendor Council | 8 CSP Member Council | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 <br><br> BMWG (TBD) | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 <br><br> TWG | 30 | 31 |

### Schedule of Events:

- February 28 (1-3 PM @ DOC) User Group Meeting

- March 1 (1-3 PM@PMO) Technical Work Group Meeting

- March 5 (2-4 PM@2011 Crystal Drive, 11th Floor) Business Model Work Group Meeting

- March 7 (9-11 AM@PMO) Relying Party Member Meeting

- March 7 (2-4 PM@PMO) Vendor Council Meeting

- March 8 (9-11 AM@PMO) Credential Service Provider Meeting

- March 12 (TBD) Business Model Work Group Meeting

- March 29 (1-3 PM@PMO) Technical Work Group Meeting
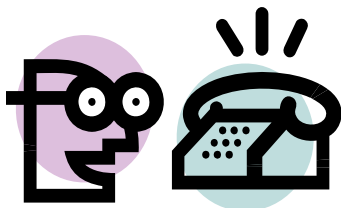
**The Federation
Wants to Hear
from You!**

**About the Federation**: The **E-Authentication Identity Federation** provides a trusted and secure standards-based authentication architecture to support online access to Federal applications and services. The Federated approach provides a uniform process for establishing electronic identity and eliminates the need for federal agencies to develop redundant identity management systems. E-Authentication's distributed architecture allows citizens and businesses to use non-government issued credentials to conduct transactions with the U.S. Government. For more information, contact:

**David Frazier, Communications Director, at (703) 872-8606 or dfrazier@ementum.com**

## E-Authentication Help Desk Serves Federation Members

Help Desk service for Federation members and their user communities began on February 15, 2006, the E-Authentication Help Desk assists users to gain access to E-Authentication enabled applications and credential services.

Federation members can contact the E-Authentication Help Desk in the event of technical difficulties with the authentication component of their applications or Federation credential services. The E-Authentication Help Desk reports issues raised by Federation members monthly and tracks issue status.

The E-Authentication Help Desk maintains Federation member contact information and manages E-Authentication Portal maintenance activities. Contact information updates are collected on a quarterly basis. During other times, please send updated information to: eauth.service.help@gsa.gov.

Contact the E-Authentication Help Desk at the following Toll-Free Number: 1-877-307-5528

User Issue Email Address:
eauth.portal.help@gsa.gov

Federation Member Issues Email Address:
eauth.service.help@gsa.gov

Transaction Report Email Address (submit by 10th):
eauth.reports@gsa.gov

Documented Issues Email Address:
eauth.reports@gsa.gov

## E-Authentication Identity Federation Architecture Update

The Federation Technical Working Group (TWG), appointed to make technical recommendations to the Federation's Executive Steering Committee, is working to identify potential architecture changes needed to adopt Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) version 2.0. The TWG began in September 2006 to define possible changes to Federation architecture. After identifying key business and technical drivers, the TWG began translating these drivers into specific technical requirements for SAML 2.0-based commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) products.

In November 2006, an interoperability event was held at the E-Authentication InterOp Lab with five participating vendors. Event results indicate that many technical features desired by Federation members are currently supported by these vendors, promising improved vendor interoperability with SAML 2.0. The TWG developed an Architecture Change Proposal, which details the variances in the architecture due to SAML 2.0 migration, as the next step in updating Federation architecture.

The U.S. E-Authentication Identity Federation, based on a TWG recommendations, set May 2007 as the target timeframe for transitioning the existing E-Authentication architecture to include support of SAML 2.0 -based products. In advance of this planned transition, Enspier Technologies, GSA's authentication architecture technical support contractor, will work with the TWG to deliver:

- An Updated Technical Approach,

- A New E-Authentication Interface Specification for SAML 2.0,

- A generic test plan for testing Federation member application interoperability, and

- A SAML 2.0 product test plan.

A key assumption driving the development of technical specifications is that SAML 2.0 product vendors will offer "Generally Available" versions of products for testing, rather than non-standard versions.

As part of Federation efforts to improve SAML 2.0 interoperability features in the E-Authentication architecture, Federation members should encourage their preferred product vendors to submit products for interoperability testing. For more information about the information in this article, please contact Myisha Frazier-McElveen at myisha.frazier-mcelveen@gsa.gov.