

From: ZIMMER, THOMAS J.
Sent: Monday, September 27, 2004 4:33 PM
To: Authentication Summit
Cc: ZIMMER, THOMAS J.
Subject: Comments on authenticationsummit

Dear Sirs,

I am addressing my comments only to questions 7, 8 and 9, as follows, with general comments at the end;

7. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would have to be an open standard (i.e., a standard with specifications that are public).

Comment: I believe the authentication standard should be an open standard.

8. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards are proprietary and/or patented.

Comment: I do not believe the authentication standard should use proprietary or patented protocols, features, methods or other technology.

9. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would require the use of goods or services protected by intellectual property laws.

Comment: I do not believe the authentication standard should use goods or services protected by intellectual Property law.

General comments: Standards developed for the public good, like the email authentication standard, should use open and public uncontrolled technology to assure that no individual company can control or profit from the standard. I believe this is important, even if the eventual methodology or technology used is not as good as the proprietary solution. Open standards allow existing technology, however imperfect, to be improved upon, without restricting its use or development.

Thanks you for allowing me to comment on this debate,

Tom Zimmer
Software Development Manager
Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry
Thermo Electron Corporation

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