

## **Health Care PKI Working Group February 27, 2001**

The meeting opened with review and approval of the minutes of the January 29 meeting.

The DoD has signed-off on the healthcare CP (HCCP). The HCCP will be posted to the healthcare working group (HCWG) page of the FPKISC website (see below).

Additionally, Lee Holcomb, Chair of the EIEITC of the CIO Council, concurred in the HCWG Charter, and it will be posted to the HCWG page.

In discussing funding for projects, Judy explained that there are two (potential) sources of funds: \$1.5 million allocated in the Treasury Department's FY 2001 budget and an unknown amount that OMB may be able to make available for PKI projects.

OMB asked for project recommendations several weeks ago, allowing less than 48 hours turnaround. In response, Judy asked HCWG members for brief synopses of suggested healthcare projects. To act as "placeholders" Judy's drafted those synopses based on available background. The healthcare projects included were:

1. Government Computer-based Patient Record
2. Secure Exchange of Medical Evidence
3. Medical Credentialing

Judy will send copies of the text submitted to OMB on each of these projects.

The \$1.5M in the Department of Treasury's FY 2001 budget is for projects that will use or rely upon cross-certification with the FBCA. Although this is "no-year" money, the plan is to allocate the funds as quickly as possible.

Draft criteria for agencies to use to request funding for PKI projects was circulated. Because the SC doesn't know whether the additional OMB funds will become available, Judy suggested that agencies not "not apply" for funding from both sources. Additionally, SC staff will modify the circulated "Web Business Case Worksheet" for Agencies to follow, if they desire, in drafting their funding requests. Because neither the SC nor the PA has approved the draft funding request criteria, the working group did not establish a due date for agencies to request PKI project funding.

To clarify, Dan Mahoney, VA, explained that the GCPR is, essentially, a database of healthcare provider credentials. VA and IHS will access the database to ensure the bona fides of healthcare providers. Access can later be expanded to other agencies that make medical determinations, such as SSA and DoD. (Although DoD is already scheduled to participate in the GCPR project, because of budget issues it will not be involved this fiscal year.)

Under the GCPR, the VA is funding a contractor-analysis of the ANSI healthcare CP proposal against other CPs, including the FBCA CP and the HCCP. There was some discussion as to whether it is appropriate to have the contractor provide a briefing to the working group on its findings; Dan will provide working group members with an electronic copy of the information VA has received thus far. Judy's staff will provide a comparison of the FBCA CP and the California Medical Association (CMA) CP that was done in 2000.

The IHS is participating in the GCPR effort as well as developing other PKI initiatives on its own. Because it must exchange personally identifiable healthcare information between facilities, the IHS has an acute need to ensure secure electronic transmission of such information. One option is a VPN, which may or may not be used in conjunction with PKI. Additionally, Mitretek is working with IHS in its efforts to participate in the GCPR project. IHS hopes to use their existing contract with Mitretek as well as the company's experience with the FBCA to extend its PKI capabilities in view of increasing demands from disparate and distant IHS components.

Target dates for IHS PKI initiatives:

- secure e-mail and digital signatures – September 30, 2001
- strong authentication and use of tokens – December 31, 2001
- Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS) and Veteran's Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (VISTA) enhancement to use PKI – June 30, 2002

Dave Temoshok requested that the group look at a project which involves the Western Governor's Association, California Medical Association, local and state government agencies as agents of the USDA, and, possibly, a private healthcare provider such as Kaiser Permanente, which is providing healthcare services. Dave will prepare and distribute a CONOPS for the project to working group members.

The production FBCA will be delayed, possibly until May, because of issues within GSA, which was slated to house and run the production bridge. Judy will keep everyone up to date.

Judy's staff has created a healthcare working group page located at [www.cio.gov/fpkisc](http://www.cio.gov/fpkisc) -select health care working group. There is also an "exploder" or "listserve" for the working group: &fpkihwcg@gsa.gov

HHS's sponsoring a Security-EIM-PKI Conference and Technology on March 13, 2001. The conference begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium of the HHH building located at 200 Independence Ave., SW

The next HCWG meeting will be on March 27, 2001, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at a location to be decided; and meetings are tentatively scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month.