

Charter

Background and Purpose

The Federal Public Key Infrastructure (FPKI) Steering Committee was created to provide guidance to Federal agencies, executive agents, and the Government Information Technology Services Board concerning issues related to the development of a national public key infrastructure. To complete this mission, the FPKI Steering Committee chartered three standing working groups which will provide expert advice to the Steering Committee and provide the Steering Committee with recommended actions and tools for addressing technical, business application, and legal/policy questions.

Mission

The Legal/Policy Working Group (LPWG) will respond to issues presented to it by the FPKI Steering Committee relating to the legal and policy implications of the developing FPKI. The LPWG may also produce position papers addressing FPKI issues on its own volition for presentation to the FPKI Steering Committee. Acting by consensus, the group will research related legal and policy materials and develop recommendations which address issues such as the implementation of digital and electronic signature techniques, the evidentiary value of these signatures, the policies and controls required to assure the authenticity of holders of public key certificates, the role of Federal Information Processing Standards in a public key infrastructure, the implementation of key recovery processes, and the barriers which must be addressed to support the prosecution of criminal and civil cases when digital or electronic signatures are involved.

Membership

Membership is open to all Federal Agencies who are actively involved in FPKI initiatives. The Office of Management and Budget and the General Accounting Office (GAO) will participate as non-voting ex officio members only. The GAO, because of its governmental oversight role, will further limit its participation to discussions of financial matters only. Representatives of nongovernmental agencies (such as the American Bar Association) or private companies actively involved in PKI initiatives may participate on an ad hoc basis, but may not vote on decisions or recommendations of the LPWG. The Chair of the FPKI Steering Committee will be notified of the participation of all non-Federal representatives in an effort to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest or preferential treatment.

Roles and Responsibilities

The FPKI Steering Committee will name the chairpersons of the LPWG and those individuals will serve at the discretion of the FPKI Steering Committee. The LPWG Chairs will coordinate and run monthly LPWG meetings and report monthly to the FPKI Steering Committee. Other duties will be determined by the FPKI Steering Committee. All members of the LPWG will be expected to attend the monthly meetings, participate in the discussions at these meetings, and research issues assigned by the LPWG chairs. All final decisions and recommendations reached by the LPWG will be determined by consensus with appropriate reference given to alternative viewpoints.

Resources

Each LPWG member will provide her/his own funding.

Approval

/s/ 11/13/96 _____