

Federal PKI Legal & Policy Working Group Meeting
February 25, 2002

Progress is being made on the Federal Bridge Tort liability paper. Once finished, the paper will be sent to the Department of Justice General Counsel. The purpose of the Federal Bridge is to help federal agencies trust certificates from other agencies (a conduit of trust). We feel the Federal Bridge should not be held liable. But arguments to the contrary could be made in litigation, so it's useful for us to explore such arguments now.

Shauna Russell has an advance copy from her contractor who extracted parts from the American Bar Association's (ABA) PKI Assessment Guidelines (PAG) document. This extraction document is now called the Public Key Infrastructure Assessment Guide in Brief. It does not necessarily extract only that which pertains to the federal government or the government's use but it condenses and eliminates repetition. It is still considered a work in progress. Shauna will provide advance copies of this document to the LPWG.

The Citizen Cert Team provides recommendations to the e-Authentication team on the issuance of certificates to businesses and citizens. The team met with the USPS on NetPost certified identity proofing. The second meeting will be held on March 4th. David Temoshok (GSA) will brief the team about back-end vetting against independent databases (the way it is used in ACES). Brett Crossland (State of IL) will also brief the team on how the state of Illinois plans to issue certificates to IL businesses and IL citizens.

EDUCAUSE (a nonprofit association for information technology in higher education) linked the Higher Education Bridge to the prototype Federal Bridge. Once the two bridges were cross certified, administrators at the NIH could verify and validate the digital signatures affixed to electronic documents sent by the three universities.

EDUCAUSE academia lawyers would like to meet with the LPWG to discuss philosophies, policy and legality issues associated with the interoperability of the Higher Education Bridge and the Federal Bridge.

Gene McDowell believes there is now a satisfactory technological binding of technical non-repudiation to legal non-repudiation, based on information from Biometric Associates, Inc. at the February 13-15 conference of the Biometric Consortium. Technical non-repudiation ties the private key to identity. The public key is mathematically tied to the private key. For legal non-repudiation we must also tie the person who used the private key with the person who owns the private key. The URL for Biometric Associates (biometric, smartcard and subsystems) is:
<http://www.biometricassociates.com/>

The next LPWG meeting is scheduled for March 25th at 1pm. Located at the GSA/NCR building in conference room 5700.

Attendees:

Ron Sann, Dept of Ed, ronald.sann@ed.gov

Woody Roberson, IRS, woody.roberson@ml.irs.counsel.treas.gov

Mark Giguere, NARA, mark.giguere@nara.gov

Gene McDowell, NOAA, eugene.c.mcdowell@noaa.gov

Jerry Walz, Commerce, jwalz@doc.gov

Richard M. Gray, AF OGC, richard.gray@pentagon.af.mil

Peter Alterman, FPKISC, peter.alterman@nih.gov

Tice DeYoung, NASA, tdeyoung@mail.arc.nasa.gov

Shauna Russell, DoD, russells@osdgc.osd.mil

Theresa Trentacoste, NFC, theresa.trentacoste@usda.gov

Brant G. Petrick, FPKISC, brant.petrick@gsa.gov