

From: Sean McNeil
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2004 11:15 PM
To: Authentication Summit
Subject: Host E-mail Authentication Summit

I would like to comment on issues facing the FTC regarding the Host E-mail Authentication Summit. You may be aware that a working group, named MARID, has recently undertaken an attempt to standardize on a caller-id mechanism for emails. If such a technology is under consideration by the FTC, I would strongly encourage a review of all issues and determinations made by the MARID group. Specifically, it is my strong opinion that using caller-id as proposed by Microsoft would be very detrimental.

Several leading companies have caused havoc in the standards community by pushing mechanisms into the process in which they control. Standards by their very definition should be open for anyone to implement without having some form of taxation by companies holding intellectual control over key components to the standard.

In short, please ensure that any e-mail authentication mechanism that the FTC adopts can be implemented by anyone without violating copyrights or patents. Without assurances of the right to freely implement such a mechanism, there will not be uniform adoption or acceptance within the computing industry.

Sincerely,
Sean McNeil