

**From:** Ron Johnson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2004 1:12 AM  
**To:** Authentication Summit  
**Subject:** E-mail Authentication Summit-Comments  
**Signed By:** (There were errors displaying the signers of this message, please click on the signature icon for more details.)



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Hello.

All 30 issues mentioned in Section C of the Email Authentication Summit announcement (55634 Federal Register / Vol. 69, No. 178 / Wednesday, September 15, 2004 / Notices) are well thought and posed questions.

While I do not have the technical skills to comment on most of the issues, I can comment on these:

7. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would have to be an open standard (i.e., a standard with specifications that are public).
8. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards are proprietary and/or patented
9. Whether any of the proposed authentication standards would require the use of good or services protected by intellectual property laws.

In my opinion, these 3 items are of high importance. Ensuring that the standards are truly open and unencumbered by any patents or proprietary techniques will ensure total interoperability now and in the future, by anyone who is willing to follow the standards, from the largest multinational mega-corp, down to the enthusiasts (here and abroad, from Canada to Europe, to poor students in places like Brazil and India) who see needs not filled by existing products, can't afford them, or just want to "do it themselves".

Otherwise, the Internet will Balkanize, and either wither away or turn into one giant television commercial.

In a nutshell: all Internet standards should be fully Open, and unencumbered by any IP rights.

Actually, I do have one last comment regarding Authentication. Many people (including myself) use the Pretty Good Privacy (a.k.a. PGP) protocol to authenticate emails using a "web of trust" and "keyservers" placed around the world. This way, I can trust that the email I just received from George Bush is actually, truly from George Bush, instead of a spammer who wants me to think the email is from George Bush.

Sincerely,  
Ron

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