

EURIM - IPPR E-Crime Study - Report on Progress/Plans as at 12th July 2004

1. Summary of main changes since last report or progress and plans

Over half of UK voters and taxpayers are now on the Internet. A growing number are writing to their MP to complain about spam, phishing and pornography. Political priorities are therefore changing. Meanwhile some of that which was “impossible” last year has been implemented or promised, as suppliers re-structure their products as services for customers who want security more than “nice but not core” facilities. This has whetted political appetites for more.

The original objectives for the EURIM -IPPR programme still stand but the time has come to update the deliverables. The need is no longer just to put the issues on the political agenda but also to secure action on that which commands consensus support and to better inform expectations as to what more might be practical, at what cost, to whom. The overall objective for the EURIM -IPPR study has therefore been shortened and restated as - **to set the agenda for a cross-cutting national strategy to address e-crime and the fear of e-crime, to provide business and consumers with the same level of protection and redress on-line as off-line and to make the UK the safest place to do business on-line.**

The changes are:

- to give higher priority to the provision of material for the manifesto teams of the main parties and those who will be working on the consequent implementation plans;
- to put the issues into international context, given that the most serious problems appear to require global government-industry co-operation;
- to start the process of “political engineering” to secure action (including funding where necessary) on those recommendations which already command consensus support.

The previous study programme is continuing with the aim of published all the planned discussion papers before an all-day event to provide a platform for a ministerial response. That event is now scheduled for October-November but may be put back to Spring 2005 if this helps secure commitment to the additional resources (not just legislative and organisational change) necessary for effective implementation.

We have also agreed to work with the Oxford Internet Institute on a high profile international conference for Summer 2005, during the UK Presidency of both EU and G8, with the aim of advancing international co-operation.

The parallel EURIM work on personal identity and data sharing, retention and protection is now well under way with a paper on Personal Identity ready for publication this month and another on data sharing expected to be ready for September, in the wake of the scrutiny of the draft ID Cards Bill, Bichard enquiry and report of the Surveillance Commissioner.

2. Summary of progress to date:

The programme was launched on May 1st 2003 at Infosec and ran a first round of workshops in Spring 2003 to produce a draft discussion paper. This was presented to the Minister, Caroline Flint, on July 14th. She announced plans to publish a cross-cutting strategy in 2004, welcomed the ideas and asked for more inputs.

A second round of workshops was held in Autumn 2003 and a revised discussion paper, on the need for action, was published on December 11th 2003 as: ***Partnership Policing for the Information Society***, backed up by working papers on: ***Reporting Methods And Structures; Reducing Opportunities For E-Crime; Addressing The Needs Of Small Firms; Roles And Procedures For Investigation; Growing The Necessary Skill; Legal Issues***, and ***The Scale And Nature Of Computer***

Assisted Crime - reproduced from *Superhighway Robbery*, the book by Newman and Clarke based on papers for the Foresight E-Crime programme.

As part of the Autumn programme we were asked to look at the issues of specialist volunteers and task forces, raised in the Police Reform consultation paper. The response (covering roles, procedures and issues of governance and training) was released as *Policing: Building Safer On-line Communities Together* (visit www.eurim.org and click on Police Reform) and was publicly welcomed by Sir John Stevens in his speech to the NHTCU Congress in February.

In parallel, the paper on the needs of small firms was revised for publication as *Protecting the Vulnerable* on February 13th. The draft crime prevention and reporting guidance agreed by the Small Firms group is now available on a number of industry websites, including those of the IEE and ICAF, pending action as per the agreed recommendations.

On March 24th a parliamentary briefing was organised with APIG, IWF and the sponsors of the Early Day Motions signed by over 200 MPs calling for action on illegal Internet content. A “status report”, *Current Internet Regulation Issues*, on the current legal position has now been agreed for circulation to MPs. This paper raises more questions than it answers and will be the start point for the exercise on reducing mass-market consumer and domestic (as opposed to small firms and business) vulnerabilities for which we are about to start recruiting support and sponsorship.

The paper on “Growing the necessary skills” was revised and published on May 18th as *Supplying the Skills for Justice*. That paper summarises the areas of agreement but the research revealed that the shortfall (quantity as well as quality) in the skills to handle digital information, let alone to preserve its value as evidence, is a major obstacle to effective action, including the implementation of recent legislation. The consequent problems will not be resolved without honest and open debate and a major change in funding priorities.

In parallel the EURIM Group on **Personal Identity and Data Sharing and Protection** has produced a paper entitled *Citizen Or Subject: How Far Do We Control Our Own Identity?* to help put the identity card and other current debates into the wider context of a plethora of digital identity initiatives (public and private) and the need for much greater clarity as to the responsibilities, liabilities and governance of those who expect to be trusted. Work is also well advanced on a paper on the need for guidance on secure data sharing, as opposed to “mere” protection, especially in the public sector. The observers on this Group include DCA, DWP, NHSIA, ODPM, ONS, UKPS et al, as well as Home Office and OIC and one of the issues is the split between DCA and others with regard to responsibility for policy and implementation.

3. Forward Programme

The immediate priorities are:

- to digest and represent current recommendations for the Party Manifesto teams and to identify gaps where thinking is needed;
- to review progress to date, including with regard to the initiatives under way elsewhere.

When the EURIM-IPPR study began we were operating in a political vacuum. Is that still correct? If not, which tasks can we pass to others with reasonable confidence that they will be well handled? Among the areas identified for review are:

- **Reporting Methods and Structures:** is there anything more to be said beyond last year’s agreed draft. If not, that paper needs to be edited and published.
- **Reducing Opportunities for E-Crime:** we plan a two-pronged attack with workshops on:
 - o **Supply chain vulnerabilities** (probably in co-operation with the sub-group of the CBI E-Business Council expected to be formed after their workshops this week);
 - o **Child and consumer protection** (in co-operation with IWF, APIG, ISPA et al).

We expect to be able to leave follow up on Small Firms to Project Endurance and on Medium Sized Firms to the CBI exercise expected to be linked to Endurance;

- **Roles and Procedures for Investigation:** here the need is probably to repackage the submission to the Police Reform consultation and press for a pilot or two.
- **Legal Issues:** work in this area was suspended while members helped the APiG enquiry into the Computer Misuse Act. This has now reported this week, see www.apig.org.uk , and cross refers to a number of EURIM recommendations as well as making others. The next step is to review what other legal issues, if any, still need to be addressed.

There will be another round of workshops in the Autumn to produce the final discussion papers followed by the all-day seminar to present the results to a wider audience and give a platform for responses from Government, Opposition and Industry players.

In parallel we will start the build up to the International Conference to be hosted by the Oxford Internet Institute during the UK Presidency of the EU and G8.

The base EURIM objective from that event is to discuss issues of global co-operation on cyber-security (from awareness to enforcement) between law enforcement and industry, across legislative and cultural boundaries.

But there is also a need to establish ongoing frameworks for that co-operation. The event could additionally provide a platform for launching some of the initiatives necessary to preserve and build on the position of London as a global hub for international trade and the world's favourite location for disputes resolution. That leadership position has survived, and perhaps even been enhanced by, the demise of Pax Britannica.

Should we be seeking to establish a similar UK leadership position with regard to effective and accountable global cyber-security and policing, given the growing resistance to Pax Americana?

Whether there is the will and skill to undertake the actions necessary will emerge over the next couple of months. We will scale the ambition for the International Conference to what can be delivered with the resources on offer but will, in any case, aim to use the occasion as a deadline for UK players to have announced action, if not yet delivery, on their parts of the national strategy.

4. Your action plan

~ Please visit www.eurim.org and click on “e-crime study” or “police reform “ for any of the papers mentioned.

~ Please contact virgo.philip@eurim.org for any further information or to indicate which of the follow-up actions you would like to support.

We are actively looking for additional sponsorship, over and above EURIM subscriptions to help carry the programme forward, including the all-day event in the autumn and the G8 conference.

A number of major players are becoming increasingly concerned to see action in this area, including an adjustment of policy priorities, but do not wish to be quoted publicly lest it affect customer confidence. Others wish to be seen to be active on behalf of their customers. While we are happy to give publicity to the views and support of participants we do not do so without their express consent.