

To EURIM Members and Observers
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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



EURIM Newsletter and Notices – February 2005

1) Action Plan for 2005

The EURIM agenda for 2005 agreed by Council on 1st February comprises three exercises for action this Spring and three for decision after the election.

Those for Spring are:

- to move e-crime, onto the mainstream police reform agenda and secure not only a national strategy but the resources and commitment for it to be effective;
- to set the forward political agenda for the governance of personal identity and data sharing, putting ID cards into overall context;
- to secure a major programme to rebuild confidence in the delivery of major public sector information programmes by publicising success stories and how they were achieved.

The three areas for decision after the election are:

- positioning Britain at the heart of the global knowledge economy, including our regime for encouraging the creation and exploitation of innovative products and services;
- rebuilding the Skills of the UK workforce by encouraging personal and corporate investment in continuous technical and professional development and updating programmes;
- reconciling pressures for reduced communications regulation with those to encourage investment in local access to broader-band infrastructure and to act on malpractice with regard to Internet content.

During the run-up to the election we plan recruitment exercises among those suppliers and users who are most interested in the three topics for the Spring programme. After the election we plan to use publicity for the results from that programme to help recruit the new intake of Members of Parliament, with a focus on the issues of expected future political interest.

2) Moving the Fight against E-Crime to the Heart of the Police Reform Agenda

The Police Reform White Paper, “Building Communities, Beating Crime” makes no mention of E-Crime. It only refers “in passing” to the need to address non-geographic crime “such as hi-tech crime or on-line paedophilia” although half the UK population is now on-line and ICT is now involved in over half of fraud and theft. Moreover, the investigation of physical crime increasingly entails securing and analysing digital evidence from the mobile phones and computers of victims and suspects or from surveillance systems covering relevant locations.

The EURIM response, launched on 20th January as “*Building Cybercommunities, Beating Cybercrime*” does not recommend separate units to handle “high tech”. Instead it calls for the necessary expertise to be embedded in mainstream policing with a network of non-geographic crime and disorder partnerships (CADDIES) supported by a shared secretariat and joint (law enforcement and industry) investigatory teams with international, as well as national, resources.

The full text of the paper is at www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/cybercommunities.doc

The cover note for the submission also emphasises the need to provide law enforcement with the resources to make a reality of its side of the partnerships. This will entail changing current political priorities. Recent speeches by ministers on the need for action with regard to Internet content also indicates that we need to complete the paper on legal issues, building on the work of the All-Party Internet Group and others. But the indications are that this is also best addressed by partnerships. Hence the recommendation for the CADDIE approach, including regulators and user/victim interest groups as well as product and service suppliers.

As a result of recent transfers to anti-terrorist activities, civilian law enforcement lacks the resources to fulfil its side of any realistic partnership. Unless and until that is addressed the other recommendations are almost academic. The political priorities must be addressed first.

3) The Governance of Personal Identity and Data Sharing

Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group

The objective of the group is to put personal identity and data sharing into the context of improving service delivery to the citizen and to identify whether barriers to doing this are legal, cultural or organizational. There are concerns among Information Systems professionals not only over the cost, risk and practicality of current ID card proposals but also fears that these will lead to new barriers. The EURIM Council has therefore asked the Group to consider also how these proposals might better meet the stated objectives - with a view to reporting back after the next election.

The next main meeting of the group, on March 9th, will consider how to achieve this as well as reviewing progress with its three current exercises:

- to test the circle of trust model with a pilot;
- to use the data sharing process map as a basis for improving the quality of advice;
- to build a “map” of current initiatives .

Models

On 12th January, a well-attended meeting was briefed on a proposal to apply the circle of trust concept to records of qualifications and experience, especially with regard to those applying for posts where checking (including across national boundaries) may be mandatory (e.g. childcare, financial services, health, security etc.). We are exploring corporate support for a feasibility study. On 13th and 20th January, the PI Subgroup explored possible models and agreed two possible approaches to data sharing; one based on having consent in advance, the other on obtaining consent through transactions. The group also discuss centrally organised ‘circle of trust’ models (e.g. for central government) and federated models (e.g. for the education sector and local authorities). The work of the subgroup will form the basis of a number of recommendations, including the content of a presentation to eGU on the issues of security, public sector information assurance, and efficiency.

Process Map

Jim Lound and Sarb Sembhi, have developed a third draft of the process map, with a draft grid of exemptions. The development of successful Process Maps for data sharing at the practitioner level might indicate that there is no need for primary legislation; alternatively, it might identify where statutory action is required to address problems. DCA is currently gathering information on statutory bars that prevent data sharing. The next step is to set the date for a future meeting between EURIM and DCA, to report on progress of allocated tasks and set a timetable for delivery.

Risk Assessment

Richard Max-Lino is leading an exercise on Probabilistic Risk Analysis, Consequence Analysis and Scenario Planning. It is intended to map out how the model might be rolled out in the public and private sectors. Problems with using “live” data have forestalled efforts and this is now expected to proceed with a ‘straw man’ using hypothetical data based on that in the public domain although we are in discussion with DfES regarding possible action in response to Recommendation 19 of the Bichard Inquiry: the proposal for a new national registration scheme for those who work with children or vulnerable adults.

4) Rebuilding Trust in Public Sector Information Systems Delivery

Publicity for success and its pre-conditions

Council has approved a planning budget for a major programme to address the concerns raised by Ian Stewart and Roger Gale on behalf of parliamentary members at the EURIM Content and Issues Panel. The critical issue, identified over ten years ago (at a seminar organised by PITCOM with the support of the Public Accounts Committee), is to educate those responsible for initial policy formation, before programme objectives and timescales are announced. That means organising attractive and memorable learning experiences that Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, their key advisors and their potential successors will be pleased to attend. The rest of the target audiences will then follow.

A number of initiatives are already being planned at the lower level for “senior responsible owners” and programme managers, but too many major programmes have been doomed before their appointment, let alone before the contracts are let. The cycle of bad practice goes back twenty years, to the unrealistic expectations that were raised after the success of the initial computerisation of PAYE - and the failure to follow the lessons from that success in so many subsequent programmes.

This exercise will need to be organised in close co-operation with those responsible for delivery, including both suppliers and their trade associations and public sector users and their professional bodies. The aim will be to focus on lessons from success and the pre-conditions for that success. It is said that the information systems supporting major sporting events, like the Olympics, commonly begin with a mix of optimism, confidence, complexity and compromise that is akin to the gestation of most large public sector change programmes. If so, the London bid might be used to provide the topicality and urgency to attract the target audience and draw them in to the necessary follow up activities to ensure that the lessons are cemented and built on.

This is potentially a very ambitious exercise and the EURIM focus will be on those who set the political frameworks within which programmes are planned. The expectation is that others will focus on the many supporting activities necessary to improve delivery skills and practice at every level, including the rebuilding of the UK information systems engineering (not just technology) skills base.

5) Positioning the UK at the heart of the Knowledge Economy

A short paper has been prepared to provide Parliamentarians and other interested parties with background on the Computer Implemented Inventions Directive. This is currently being reviewed for balance. There also is a need to distinguish between criticism of the practical operation of the Patent process (for example the way in which applications are checked for originality) and the basic principles behind that process, which are central to the encouragement of innovation within Europe.

Several EURIM members assisted the recently published paper “*March of the Spiders*” (on the IPR issues posed by the growing use of Internet Search Engines) published by Aediles, the new “open market” think tank. This can be found on www.zentelligence.equology.com. IPPR (the “social market” think tank) is organising several workshops on copyright issues as part of their Digital Manifesto Programme. Details and invitations to participate will be included in the EURIM timetable.

6) A new IT Skills Crisis?

“the biggest war of talent since the 1990s” according to one leading research group.

Work for the 2005 IMIS IT Skills Trends Report indicates that recruitment effort for experienced staff has more than doubled over the past year. Update training spend has also increased by 40%. The areas of sharpest growth are in business analysis and programme management skills. Competition for those with experience of the people issues in implementing change is now fierce because the development of such skills has been neglected for well over a decade. Those suppliers to government who are seeking to recruit such skills on the open market, because they failed to nurture their own over the recent high-tech recession, are now said to be facing severe problems. The consequences could well be significant.

A number of EURIM members are currently looking at the practicality (including commercial viability and funding) of a common service to record/validate qualifications/skills/experience across workforce updating, alumni programmes and continuous professional development frameworks. A paper on the related policy issues may be produced in parallel. Those concerned will be reporting progress to the EURIM Council and relevant material will be placed on the website.

7) Encouraging Investment in Access to Globally Competitive Broader Band

It is said that there is now more money available than there are good investment opportunities but there is marked reluctance to support investment in infrastructure, especially in alternative local access mechanisms to provide effective competition to BT in the broader band (8 - 20 meg) market. This could prolong the need for Ofcom to regulate “bottlenecks” and condemn much of BT to a future as a regulated utility serving economic backwaters, rather than a competitor in a globally competitive, growth market.

The need to find ways through this problem will undoubtedly be raised during the election campaign and is thus expected to be a major topic of interest for some of the new intake of MPs. We therefore need to plan an attractive “education” programme on the opportunities and issues for after the election.

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EURIM Timetable – February 2005

This timetable lists forthcoming meetings arranged by EURIM and also includes some, arranged by other organisations, which are likely to be of interest to EURIM's Members and Observers.

Unless otherwise indicated EURIM meetings are open to all members and accredited observers. There is no charge for attendance but prior registration is required. If you wish to attend or would like more information please contact the named individual or eurim@eurim.org.

For information about meetings arranged by other organisations, please contact the person or website indicated against the entry. Note that for some events, there is an entry fee and pre-registration is essential.

February

Date: Tuesday 8 February 2005
Time: 18.00 - 19.00
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Annual General Meeting, Ian Watmore as speaker
Attendance: PITCOM Members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk

Date: Tuesday 15 February 2005
Time: 18.00 - 19.00
Venue: QE II Conference Centre, London, SW1
Organiser: GovNet
Description: Government IT Confex: Relating Efficiency to e-Government
Attendance: For further information or to register contact Sabrina Hartley on 0800 542 9585 or visit www.govnet.co.uk/govit

Date: Thursday 17 February 2005
Time: 14.00 - 16.00
Venue: IPPR
Organiser: IPPR
Description: Meeting to consider relevance of public domain content to competition and innovation and as a public good in itself.
Attendance: Space is limited so if you would like to attend please rsvp to Kay Withers (k.withers@ippr.org)

March

- Date:* Wednesday **2** March 2005 **TO BE CONFIRMED**
Time:
Venue:
Organiser: EURIM
Description: PI Subgroup meeting to prepare recommendations to the main group, and to progress the draft document for presentation to eGU, which will form the basis for a parliamentary briefing
Attendance: Subgroup members
- Date:* Wednesday **9** March 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Committee Room 19, House of Commons
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Meeting of full PI group
Attendance: Members, observers and guests
- Date:* Monday **14** March 2005
Time: 18.00 - 19.30
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Electronic War Against Terrorism
Attendance: PITCOM Members only - joining details on www.pitcom.org.uk
- Date:* Tuesday **29** March 2005
Time: 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00
Venue: National Liberal Club
Organiser: Real Time Club
Description: Election Hustings: Richard Allan MP, Michael Fabricant MP & Stephen Timms MP will speak on ICT issues over dinner and answer questions afterwards
Attendance: Real Time Club members and guests. EURIM members and observers should e-mail virgo.philip@eurim.org for a form to book as a paying guest (£75)

April

- Date:* Tuesday **5** - Wednesday **6** April 2005
Time: Two days
Venue: Central London
Organiser: National High Tech Crime Unit and AKJ Associates
Description: NHTCU 3rd Annual E-Crime Congress: existing and emerging threats, evaluating risk. Compliance and governance, id theft, fraud, phishing and forensics.
Attendance: Details www.e-crimecongress.org or howard.james@akjassociates.com
- Date:* Monday **11** April 2005 **POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE**
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Board and Council Meeting
- Date:* Monday **11** April 2005 **POSTPONED UNTIL JUNE**
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Annual General Meeting