

To EURIM Members and Observers
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EURIM Newsletter and Notices – March 2005

1) Points for Your Manifesto

We have had much favourable feedback on the draft circulated to Corporate and Associate Members for comment plus a few suggested amendments. A revised draft is circulated with this newsletter and has been placed on the website. Subject to final review, this will be released to the press in mid-March. The changes are to the following sections:

Inter-active Video for All - to bring out the potential for WiFi and other lateral approaches to provide back-up and/or help transform the economics of local access.

Bring Law Enforcement into the Internet Age - to refer to the need to implement the APIG recommendations regarding update to the Computer Misuse Act.

Make the UK a location of choice for Information Age Business - insert “independent” in front of “risk and impact assessments” before regulatory change and renewal. An example is the Inland Revenue use of the National Audit Office to “check” their figures on pension limits.

Ensure better practice in the transformation of public services - amend this section to also warn against the “more pilots than the RAF” approach. Fragmenting large programmes into modules that are not interoperable and scalable can also waste much time and effort. The section also needs to emphasise the need for clarity of purpose and rigorous control over requirements, open partnership and agreed risk sharing and carefully planned and phased implementation and testing.

Provide citizens with joined up access to Government and Public Services when and where THEY need them - replace negative comments on the need to overcome the current plethora of disjointed personal identity and governance initiatives by a positive recommendation for “An overarching strategy to ensure that the many current public sector personal identity initiatives and governance proposals really do provide additional protection and economies of scale.”

Those issues on which there is not yet a consensus, such as Internet Content Regulation and Intellectual Property Rights, will be revisited after the election, in co-operation with the other groups also known to be looking at them.

2) Progressing the Fight against E-Crime

What your business really needs to know - An SME Guide

The guidance material drafted by the EURIM Small Firms Sub-Group is now available for download (and co-branding) from www.nhtcu.org in English and Welsh. NISCC has launched a complementary guidance and warning service for small firms. Visit www.itsafe.gov.uk for details.

Safety and Security in a Networked World: Balancing Cyber-rights and Responsibilities

In March, date yet to be confirmed, we expect to put a joint EURIM-IPPR six point action plan to the Minister. The sixth action is for the UK to use its Presidencies of the G8 and EU to harness industry expertise in creating effective cross-border processes to track, trace and remove illegal content. But

co-operation, whether under criminal or civil law, has to go beyond the boundaries of the G8 and EU. It also needs to be based on respect for different legal structures and cultural traditions as well as on what is practical at the technical level. There are no quick fixes. Attitudes and the frameworks will almost certainly change over time. The trade-offs of today may be unacceptable tomorrow. What is said to be impractical this year may be commonplace within a few years, and vice versa.

The Oxford Internet Institute conference (with Netsafe, University of Auckland and EURIM) from 8th - 10th September will be an opportunity to help use the UK Presidencies to spread debate across and beyond current boundaries to inform international government-industry co-operation at all levels: from the teaching of cybercitizenship or the policing of chatrooms to the defence of financial and critical national infrastructures against attacks by cross-border alliances of organised crime, terror and anarchy while respecting and preserving civil liberties.

Advance details are on the OII website: www.oii.ox.ac.uk/research/?rq=cybersafety/index. The organisers are considering keynote speakers and the formal call for papers will go out shortly. Please e-mail victoria.nash@internet-institute.oxford.ac.uk, copy to me, if you have suggestions for speakers or would like to propose a paper or help with sponsorship. This event, at the SAID Business School in Oxford, is expected to be heavily over-subscribed and “pre-registration” is strongly recommended.

3) Setting the Forward Agenda for Personal Identity and Data Sharing

The review meeting on 9th March has been asked to consider how best to prepare for when Personal Identity legislation is re-introduced after the widely expected election. There are already pressures to reconcile the desire of most voters to be able (but not compelled) to use a single identity (and point of contact) for dealings with government and their suspicion of large centralised systems. There is also a need to distinguish between the proposals for enabling legislation and those for implementation strategies. Those planning to attend on 9th March are reminded of the House of Commons Library brief, at www.parliament.uk/commons/lib/research/rp2004/rp04-093.pdf and the current state of the Bill, at www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmbills/049/2005049.pdf

The meeting on the 9th will also review progress with the exercises looking at the circle of trust model, risk assessment, guidance on data sharing processes and the mapping of current initiatives.

Many personal identity initiatives assume accurate information on address as well as name. But annual residential churn rates range from under 4% (in some suburban and rural areas) to over 400% per annum (in some inner city areas) and a significant proportion of the population has multiple residential addresses or none. The need and ability of existing name and address systems to cope with such diversity varies considerably. EURIM has therefore organised a modest exercise to compare and contrast the various sources of information as to who inhabits which addresses in a supposedly average polling district (chosen because the researcher is organising the door-to-door canvas). The results will inform any calls for action with regard to the rationalisation of current initiatives after the election. Those interested in supporting this exercise should e-mail eurim@eurim.org for details.

4) Rebuilding Trust in Public Sector Information Systems Delivery

Publicity for success and its pre-conditions

This exercise has aroused a great deal of interest and is of great importance both politically and to the industry, but the run up to the election has made it more than usually difficult to schedule a daytime round-table planning meeting to bring together parliamentary and corporate members. We therefore have a series of ad hoc meetings on how best to progress this, including co-operation with the ICT trade associations and professional bodies who are also planning activities in this space.

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

The background paper on the Computer Implemented Inventions Directive is now on the EURIM website. The proposals may have stalled but one result appears to be potential consensus on the need for additional resources to make existing legislation work better in a networked world, to ensure that applications are original and that innovators are rewarded. We are discussing with IPPR how best to co-operate with their planned programme on “Intellectual Property and the Public Sphere: balancing competing priorities”. Please e-mail k.withers@ippr.org for a copy of the proposal for which they are currently seeking sponsors.

6) Averting the next IT Skills Crisis?

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

E-Skills is currently consulting on the Sector Skills Agreement Work for the ICT industries. Corporate and Associate members are asked to visit www.e-skills.com/SSA and submit comments if they have not yet done so.

Recent publicity for ICT problems and pressures for improved corporate governance have led to sharply increased interest in checking claimed qualifications and experience. In consequence, the members looking at this area have now found the necessary support for a feasibility study. The issues are particularly important with regard to law enforcement and security and a short report on progress is on the agenda for the 1st March meeting of the Skills for Justice E-Crime steering group.

7) Encouraging Investment in Access to Globally Competitive Broader Band

Those attending the CMA annual conference on 8th February were told that the UK is 15th out of 30 nations in the number of broadband connections per 100 inhabitants. More Japanese households were said to have 8 megs (or above) than Britons had any form of “broadband” to the home. It was also said that competition in the local loop (not unbundling) was the main driving force in those nations now leading the way into the information society. Whether or not that is correct, on the afternoon 4th March a EURIM planning sub-group will meet to discuss the means of encouraging investment in local access infrastructures, whether over copper, fibre or wireless.

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EURIM Timetable – March 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.

March

Date: Wednesday **2** March 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Room N, Portcullis House
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Personal Identity and Data Sharing Sub group meeting to prepare recommendations and draft report
Attendance: PI sub group members

Date: Friday **4** March 2005
Time: 14.30 - 16.00
Venue: Hosted by Marconi
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Communications Investment Climate Planning Meeting
Attendance: Planning sub-group members and guests only

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 with presentation from sub group
Attendance: Group 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

April

Date: Tuesday **5** April 2005 - 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
Time: 18.00 - 21.00
Venue: House of Lords
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Annual Reception
Attendance: By invitation only to Parliamentary, Corporate and Associate members, observers and guests