

To EURIM Members and Observers
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THE EUROPEAN
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EURIM



EURIM Newsletter - May 2005

1) Points for Your Manifesto

ICT as enabler, not driver?

The main Party Manifestos made little mention of ICT but points from the EURIM material appeared in a number of supporting papers and speeches. Several Parliamentary members were also in touch during the campaign, usually to ask for help in answering questions from those working in the industry or from technical journalists. But ICT is clearly seen as an enabler, not a driver of policy. Those who think it should be seen as a driver have not yet convinced the political world, but they can expect the new intake of MPs to pay very much more attention to its use in the delivery of better public services. That greatly increases the importance of the material now being worked up for the new intake of MPs.

2) Briefing Material for the new Intake of MPs

Setting the agenda for the next Parliament

Over the course of April our non-parliamentary members have focussed on planning material for the new intake of MPs. Groups have agreed to work on the following topic areas:

- pre-conditions for successful delivery of public sector systems: including case studies;
- personal identity and data sharing: including trust, consent, governance and security;
- organising and resourcing the fight against computer-assisted crime;
- reducing on-line vulnerabilities, both public and private.

We have also been asked to address Internet (broadly defined) Content (equally broadly defined) issues and have started discussions on how to handle the many thorny issues raised. These range from the monitoring and retention of e-mail content for regulatory purposes to responsibilities and liabilities for carrying illegal traffic. Debate is, however, complicated by the way convergence between voice and video over IP, mobile broadband and digital broadcasting, is gathering pace.

3) Rebuilding Trust in Public Sector Information Systems Delivery

Building on case studies of success not post mortems of failure

A planning meeting, hosted by Intellect on 12th April, agreed to focus on assembling case studies of success to illustrate how and why that success was achieved. But case studies need to be attractive, interesting, relevant to the audience and delivered when and where that audience finds convenient. The next stage is therefore to assemble a team willing to put in the effort necessary to achieve results. Then we need to identify suitable case studies and agree the messages. The EURIM contribution will be at the political level, “to ensure that programmes are not doomed before they start by unrealistic assumptions with regard to timescales, resources, development and implementation strategies etc.” The expectation is that the relevant professional bodies (such as BCS, CIPS, IEE and IMIS) and trade associations (such as Intellect and ISPA) will be working with and through organisations like the NCC to help eGU and OGC ensure the necessary professionalism at the user and supplier level. The EURIM contribution will, however, also entail close co-operation and full and active support from those with delivery responsibility. Those interested in active participation, particularly in volunteering to help produce case studies, should e-mail eurim@eurim.org by 11th May.

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

Towards secure and trusted data sharing

On 21st April, the Group agreed a Status Report on secure data sharing to support more efficient public services and to produce two further papers on the topic for different audiences:

- a briefing for the new intake of MPs on the benefits of secure data sharing, with details relegated to back-up appendices for House of Commons Library staff and for those working on the expected Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology paper on ICT service delivery;
- a paper for eGU looking specifically at identity relationships.

Work on the data sharing map will continue, with the DCA maintaining a ‘watching brief’ while their resources are focused on freedom of information issues. The current version can be accessed on the EURIM website at <http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/0503processflow.ppt> and is being extended to cover local authority working practices and exceptions.

Unravelling the many Personal Identity Agendas and Initiatives

The first meeting of the ID Cards Bill Subgroup was held at IBM on 26th April with the aim of assembling briefing material for the new intake of MPs after the General Election covering:

- what the current and proposed legislation actually allows;
- the current state of implementation plans;
- the issues under debate and where to find the views of those active on them;
- any issues that have arisen which are not already being well covered elsewhere;
- possible actions that may extend the functionality of ID cards while enhancing security.

The group has assembled a draft grid of current and proposed personal identity initiatives (over two dozen for central government alone) with the aim of also indicating how these relate to each other and the proposed national identity register. The first draft is currently being circulated within the group for comment and is due to be mounted on the website for wider review later this month.

The group also plans to build on the pilot exercise to check the accuracy of name and address data in the public domain. This revealed a variety of errors and inconsistencies in commonly-used address files with 38% of properties in the study area (and their residents) not on the electoral register at all. There is a joint meeting on 4th May with the E-Crime group on on-line security issues. Here the personal identity interest is primarily with regard to the way that vulnerable public sector systems are being used to support abuse and fraud.

5) Resourcing the fight against E-Crime

The current political priority (all parties) is for Internet Safety, alias on-line child protection

www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/050413minutes_progressreview.doc is the reference for the report of the progress review meeting on 13th April. The main point to emerge from the NHTCU Congress and the launch of the Party Manifestos is that E-Crime is not yet a political priority, apart from action on Internet Content in the context of child protection. This has many implications, including the need to organise effective political follow through to secure the implementation of agreed and accepted recommendations to enable much better co-operation on all fronts, such as the updating of the Computer Misuse Act and the provision of better guidance and awareness material.

The next main task is, therefore, to summarise and prioritise existing material to help brief the new intake of MPs and ensure more realistic, balanced and well-informed debate on the issues of risk reduction, prevention, reporting and investigation than has happened to date. Immediately after the election we also plan to write to the Minister requesting a meeting to discuss how best to use that process to also help achieve the cross-departmental co-operation that is essential to, for example, delivering the skills and awareness programmes that are needed, including to improve on-line child protection and to track, trace and successfully prosecute abusers.

Internet Content - something must be done – but what and by whom?

Politicians of all parties may be calling for action over Internet Content but the technologies and service structures are changing and there is significant disagreement among suppliers and users as to what is practical and desirable, let alone who should be responsible for action on what. The EURIM aim has been to focus on the means of addressing that which is criminal, not just undesirable. But even that now raises some “interesting” boundary issues between law enforcement, regulation and self-help. We need to discuss how to handle these in co-operation with the other groups looking at the issues, avoiding duplication of effort and identifying the areas of agreement and reasons for disagreement.

The need to address other on-line vulnerabilities

A workshop on 23rd March (see: www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/050323pireport.doc for the report) identified significant issues with regard to the reduction of on-line vulnerabilities, public and private as well as personal and organisational. Members agreed to produce recommendations for review at a second workshop on 4th May. The topics for discussion are currently expected to include:

- the need for authoritative guidance (for public as well as private sectors) as to what is good practice and what should be viewed as unacceptable;
- responsibilities for the drafting and maintenance of such guidance, the audiences to be addressed, channels used and topics to be covered in such guidance;
- briefing material for the new intake of MPs, including the implications for the security of public sector information systems as well as the possible role and impact of legislation and regulation.

This is a large topic and we will need to be realistic as to what can be achieved and by whom. The division of labour is therefore again central. It may well be that the main contribution of EURIM should be to flag the importance of the issues, recommend who should be responsible for which areas and then help organise political support/pressure for action with regard to public sector vulnerabilities and the provision of realistic guidance and training for small firms.

The need for action on security, investigatory and forensic skills

There may be general agreement on the need for awareness, guidance and training, from self-protection through organisational security to investigatory and forensics, but it is unclear who should be responsible for providing this. Skills for Justice has a study under way to identify the necessary occupational standards, in co-operation with E-Skills and SEMTA. But who is responsible for the resources and budgets to ensure that the target audiences, from children, parents and small firms through law enforcement to potential expert witnesses and judges, receive the necessary training, assessment and accreditation?

The group has therefore agreed to produce an additional paper identifying some of the current initiatives in this area and which ministers, departments and agencies (including relevant regulators) currently have, or should be given, responsibility for which activities?

Extending the data retention debate to address demands for content retention?

Current debate over the cost, value and practicality of retaining data that may be of future evidential value is largely focussed on requests to retain communications data for surveillance purposes. However, there are growing pressures for the large scale retention of content, from text messages and web accesses to e-mail records, in the context of the full range of governance and legislative issues and initiatives from Health and Safety to Sarbanes-Oxley, not just RIPA and its derivatives. Retained data is, however, costly to secure and maintain in usable form. Also there is evidence of risk, let alone cost-benefit, assessment behind current proposals, other than “the avoidance of legal liability without consideration of operational or business realities”. This is another area where the group has been asked to convene a workshop to identify whether there is the level of interest necessary to produce worthwhile results.

6) The Challenge of Convergence

Ten years after EURIM and FEI took over The Methodist Central Hall for the first major event on the implications of convergence in the UK, Convergence is now becoming a reality, albeit mainly on the far side of the world, although several tens of thousands of UK university students now have 100 Mbs in their rooms, giving access to fully interactive video, not just streaming and file exchange.

Mobile broadband, already changing teenage access patterns in the Far East, is expected to take off in the UK later this year and the first meeting of PITCOM after the election will be on “Policy towards next generation networks”. That meeting is expected to stimulate a request for follow up action to brief MPs in more detail on the policy implications.

This topic is therefore expected to be on the agenda for the next EURIM Council meeting. Expressions of interest from Corporate and Associate members as well as suggestions as to how to handle the issues, including regulatory convergence (applications and content not just infrastructure) in partnership with the other relevant interest groups would be most helpful.

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EURIM Timetable – May 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.

May

Date: Monday **23** May 2005
Time: 18.00 - 19.30
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Policy towards next generation networks: Prof John Crowcroft (Marconi Professor of Networked Systems, Cambridge) and Mr David Cleevely (Chair Cambridge-MIT Communications Innovation Institute)
Attendance: PITCOM members only: www.pitcom.org.uk

Date: Tuesday **24** May 2005
Time: 09.30 - 14.30
Venue: Lewis Media Centre
Organiser: Westminster Media Forum
Description: BBC Green Paper: Michael Grade (Chairman BBC), Mark Thompson (CE BBC), Paul Brown (CE CRCA), John McVay (CE PACT tbc) etc.
Attendance: Contact petervangelder@westminstermediaforum.co.uk

Date: Tuesday **24** May 2005
Time: 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00
Venue: National Liberal Club
Organiser: Real Time Club
Description: Poacher turned gamekeeper: after dinner discussion introduced by Sir Peter Gershon.
Attendance: E-mail carmen.harvey@e-skills.com for an invitation as a EURIM member.

Date: Wednesday **25** May 2005
Time: 14.00 - 16.00
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity: Data Sharing sub-group
Description: Review of progress, including material for new intake of MPs
Attendance: Interested members should contact emma.fryer@eurim.org

June

Date: Thursday **2** June 2005
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity Group
Description: Meeting of full PI Group to review material for new intake of MPs, including on Data Sharing and ID cards
Attendance: Group members, observers & guests

Date: Tuesday **14** June 2005
Time: 11.00 - 17.00
Venue: Attlee Suite, Portcullis House
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Exhibition for new Members
Attendance: MPs only

Date: Wednesday **15** June 2005
Time: 16.00 - 17.00 (provisional)
Venue: 7 Millbank, London SW1
Organiser: EURIM
Description: EURIM Board & Council Meetings
Attendance: Board, Council and invited guests

Date: Wednesday **15** June 2005
Time: 17.00 - 18.00
Venue: 7 Millbank, London SW1
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Annual General Meeting
Attendance: Parliamentary, Corporate and Associate members

Date: Tuesday **21** - Wednesday **22** June 2005
Time: All-day
Venue: Earls Court One, London
Organiser: Government Computing
Description: Two day Conference and Exhibition
Attendance: For more details visit www.gcexpo.com

Date: Monday **27** June 2005
Time: 18.00 - 19.30
Venue: To be confirmed
Organiser: PITCOM
Description: Update on NHS Connecting for Health: Richard Grainger, DG of NHS IT and CE of NHS Connecting for Health
Attendance: PITCOM members only: www.pitcom.org.uk

Date: Tuesday **28** June 2005
Time: 18.00 for 19.00 - 22.00
Venue: National Liberal Club
Organiser: Real Time Club - partners' evening
Description: Digital technologies, education and entertainment: after dinner discussion introduced by Lord Puttnam.
Attendance: E-mail carmen.harvey@e-skills.com for an invitation as a EURIM member.