

To EURIM Members and Observers  
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THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



## EURIM Newsletter January 2006

### 1) Transforming Government

#### *The timetable of opportunity*

Responses to [www.cio.gov.uk/documents/pdf/transgov/transgov-strategy.pdf](http://www.cio.gov.uk/documents/pdf/transgov/transgov-strategy.pdf), the consultation paper on Transforming Government are due by 3<sup>rd</sup> February and we can already see how the warriors of Whitehall and Town Hall are likely to use the opportunity to promote their chosen ways of delivering shared and personalised services when, where and how they would like. Some will argue for a new generation of centralised fiefdoms to achieve “economies of scale”. Others will argue for their already successful services to be publicised, replicated, scaled and joined up.

Before the end of January the current controversy over police re-organisation is expected to have extended to whether Local Government delivery sharing is to be planned centrally by ODPM or chosen locally, for example more councils joining the “virtual unitaries” already in operation. This spring will also see debate over the role of the National Identity Register in providing a common index for central and local services and the latest round of consultation on the Electoral Register.

Inputs from the ICT industry, whether to publicise case studies of success in delivering shared services or to promote better practice in data management, must be timely if they are to influence the debates that will lead up to the Fundamental Savings review, due for publication in June.

#### *The EURIM response*

The EURIM response to the TG consultation will begin by welcoming progress to date in carrying forward the recommendations made by the Modernising Government Group from “A Shock to the System - joined up electronic government” (published in 2000) onwards and summarised last year in EURIM’s “Points for Your Manifesto”. Many of those who helped draft those recommendations are already involved in improving the professionalism of delivery and plan to make direct input on the issues in this area. The focus of our response will therefore be on the need to identify and publicise examples of success and to improve practice, governance and guidance with regard to the secure sharing of publicly held and used information. That response will, hopefully, also include commitments on the part of the Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group - expected to play a key role in this area.

The low usage of public sector on-line services may be more to do with usability and utility than fears over security, but there is evidence of mounting concern over the latter. The immediate priority of the E-Crime group is to secure the announcement of the future home for the successful “Get Safe On-Line” programme, before the launch of SOCA and the new Child Protection Agency in April.

Parliamentary support for a new generation of integrated and shared on-line programmes depends in no small part on improving the image of the UK ICT industry as being capable of working with public, private and “third” sector partners to deliver good quality, relevant, socially inclusive services to those who depend on government. That will entail identifying cases studies of success for publicity and promotion from February onwards. The “Successful Delivery Group” has been asked to produce plans to this end, for approval by the EURIM Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January.

## 2) **Delivering Accurate, Shared, Personal Data When and Where the Citizen Wishes**

### ***Personal Identity, data sharing and the TG Agenda***

On 15<sup>th</sup> December the Personal Identity group reviewed progress on the grid of current data sharing initiatives and on the ID card debate. The opportunity was also taken to discuss possible responses to the TG consultation. For details see the group's section on [www.eurim.org.uk](http://www.eurim.org.uk).

EURIM usually works to keep issues out of the headlines, but when it comes to supporting the TG agenda, it may be helpful to go high profile, especially on the need for politicians and industry, not just departments and agencies, to cut across their silo mentalities. The proviso is that we agree in advance how to use such publicity to help recruit a critical mass of backbenchers, as well as current and would-be suppliers and delivery partners, to help address the issues raised.

We should have no illusions over the difficulty of delivering such a strategy. Many MPs require solid evidence of good practice in service delivery and secure data sharing before becoming involved in calls for action to cut across the departmental and agency silos. They fear the taint of supporting a new generation of contract-driven, cross-departmental, public-private monoliths, whose problems will emerge during the run-up to the next general election.

### ***The need for innovative thinking on the part of the ICT industry***

Innovation is therefore needed in finding ways of involving more MPs. This might begin with suppliers co-operating to show how they have worked with customers to create and run successful shared services that evolved as needs, policies and organisations changed over time. It will be very much easier to gain credibility, political support and enthusiasm for scaling and joining-up schemes that already work and some of the best examples may well come from local government. One idea is to organise an exhibition in the Upper Waiting Hall where operational systems and services can be demonstrated by teams from MPs' own constituencies, perhaps even during the run-up to the local elections, if it could be organised in time. Another idea is to co-operate with the Citizens Advice Bureaux in identifying case studies that demonstrate not only the benefits of sharing and of providing better access to trusted intermediaries, but also the human cost of failing to do so.

### ***The importance of the grid of data sharing exercises***

Meanwhile we have been asked to help departments and agencies with their inputs to the "fundamental savings review" due for publication in June. Those present at the review meeting, who included many of the main current suppliers to government, therefore agreed to help provide examples of good practice in data sharing and identity management and of the initiatives under development of which they were aware, whether or not live. The list will also include examples of the use of ID cards in other parts of the world because many of these are integral to the joining up of local public services.

### ***The ID Card costing loop***

Home Office has undertaken much policy thinking since September. Industry is keen to know the results, especially on issues of scalability, interoperability and liability. It also wishes to help resolve the problem officials have in obtaining costing information without providing sufficient detail of the proposed systems architecture for this to be reliable, let alone made publicly available.

The systems architecture needs to be aligned to the Statutory Instruments in the enabling Bill. But which should come first, the architecture or the draft SI's? If the procurement process follows the passing of the SI's, choices will be constrained by regulations drafted without full knowledge of the likely costs. If the specification of what is to be procured precedes the SI's, then the latter will be constrained by the architecture or, if the SI's are amended because of political pressures, could result in changes to costs and practicality. There have been exercises with Intellect to discuss what the architectures might be, but there are very real difficulties in bringing competing suppliers together to discuss candidly that which is commercially sensitive in many markets, not just in the UK. The problem is not unique to ID cards. Similar problems bedevilled other procurements to meet statutory requirements and a paper on the generic issues and possible approaches is merited. The timing, use and discussion of such a paper could be important, but more information is needed from Home Office in order to draft something that will also help address their immediate problem.

### ***Following up the ID Cards event for MPs on the morning of the 12th January***

Invitations have now been issued to Parliamentarians for the briefing event on 12<sup>th</sup> January on experiences to date with the relevant technologies. Reminders will be sent shortly. The next step will be to encourage suppliers to consider how best to support the joining-up of identities across departments that will follow the passing of the ID Cards Bill. Whatever the nature of the contracts for cards and register, the legislation is expected to enable common updating within greatly improved governance. There are also likely to be requirements for much better feedback on quality of service.

### ***Electoral Registration***

The group was also asked to respond to the resurrection of the CORE consultation (now within the orbit of DCA). Replies from members will be collated and a meeting called if this is thought useful. The consultation can be accessed at <http://www.dca.gov.uk>. The deadline for replies is Tuesday 7th March 2006. Comments should be sent to [xavia.morbey@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:xavia.morbey@dca.gsi.gov.uk)

### ***The currently scheduled meetings of the PI Group are:***

12<sup>th</sup> January - ID-Entity technology briefing for MPs  
27<sup>th</sup> January – Steve Lawrence on Government Connect  
3<sup>rd</sup> February – David Myers on Shared Services  
23<sup>rd</sup> February – a speaker from DWP on data sharing

The group is also discussing a meeting at which corporate members say what they are doing to help meet the TG objectives and invite others to join them. The minister will then respond, welcoming what industry is already doing and giving an update on the progress this is enabling. This will be followed by an opportunity for members to network with observers from eGU, the voluntary sector (increasingly used as intermediaries) and the various departments that have to be brought together.

## **3) Pre-consultation on the Implementation of RIPA Part III**

### ***Access to encryption keys and Codes of Conduct***

The Corporation of London are hosting a pre-consultation workshop for members and guests involved with providing International Financial Services, to discuss concerns that the proposed routines might cause those unwilling to give similar access to other governments to move operations serving international markets out of London. The aim is to avoid controversy by addressing unintended side-effects well in advance. Further activities will be planned in the light of discussion at this meeting.

## **4) E-Crime: Who Cares?**

### ***Addressing concerns over confidence in Internet safety and security***

On 15<sup>th</sup> December (meeting report on [www.eurim.org.uk](http://www.eurim.org.uk)) the E-Crime Group reviewed progress and agreed forward action plans in the light of recent evidence that increasing vulnerabilities and declining confidence in security are affecting on-line activities by both business and consumers. The “near impossibility” of reporting incidents to anyone willing or able to take action complicates matters, but “Get Safe On-line” (GSOL) has succeeded in addressing audiences not reached by conventional campaigns (e.g. “silver surfers” who do not read the computer press but do listen to local radio). That success needs to be exploited with the announcement of a new home for GSOL before the NHTCU is absorbed into SOCA (which has no “awareness” remit) on 31st March.

One possible way forward is for GSOL to be passed to the Metropolitan Police Service (or another force) with serious core funding from Home Office and DTI. Other government departments and agencies, whose systems and employees are at the same risk as (and in some cases greater than) those of the private sector, should also be “actively encouraged” to participate alongside the suppliers and users who currently provide almost all the funding and support.

The planned Thames Valley and West Midlands crime prevention pilots are expected to use the GSOL material and website and be ready for launch in April. If they are to be copied by other forces, we need to call for Home Office assistance for documentation and monitoring for replication elsewhere and

ensure linkage to the new home for GSOL. A Report commissioned by one of the RDA regeneration zones on e-business risks <http://www.futurefoundations.org.uk/otherdocs.asp?ses=&pl=false> contains excellent material on the types of activity that RDAs might undertake to help attract and support local business, free from fear of e-crime. This also needs to be highlighted and promoted.

The planned meeting with E-Skills to discuss plans to include e-Safety and Security in the new IT/Q framework has slipped into the New Year. So too has the drafting of an agreed parliamentary question to DfES to secure authoritative clarity that responsibilities for national occupational standards, quality control and accreditation with regard to e-security and investigation skills lie with the relevant Sector Skills Councils. These appear to be working well together but one of the actions needed is a meeting with relevant employers, training providers and those planning the new e-security professional body, to discuss how to turn standards into courses and qualifications and ensure that these are then used.

It was agreed to separate the production of briefing material for MPs, on why the issues should be given much greater political priority, from the production of a detailed policy paper for use by officials and policy advisors (both in government and in industry) updating the recommendations to date and conveying them to a wider audience. The circulated draft 'Making the Internet Safer', will therefore be retitled, edited and expanded to include material on current threats and vulnerabilities and how they might be tackled in the light of the growing backlash against doing high-value/risk transactions online – for fear of fraud, identity theft, malware etc. The paper will also address the need for coherent action on reporting, whether for operational, contractual, regulatory or criminal purposes and for this to be structured around objectives shared with those expected to submit, process or respond to reports.

More controversial is the suggestion that the report contain material on the vulnerabilities of public sector systems and the consequent cost to individuals and businesses as well as to the taxpayer. There is growing concern at failures to follow good advice (from within government as well as from suppliers) with regard to risk avoidance. Recent publicity indicates that willingness to cover up for bad practice (some of it long-standing) has run out. The current plan is to consult those responsible for securing systems under regular attack (private as well as public) and try to ensure better briefing for MPs as to what is good practice and what is not, so that they can better react to published allegations.

The idea of a WARP (Warning, Advice and Reporting Point) for MPs and the Palace of Westminster had been proposed. The planning and launch of this could provide an excellent vehicle not only for addressing MPs' own security concerns but also for putting these into context and involving them in action to better protect their constituents. Provided the WARP really did realistically address the needs of MPs and their constituency offices, staff and families, this could be an invaluable tool for helping educate many of those in the security industry as to what is realistic for end-users who are at high-risk.

The next group review is planned for February, before the NHTCU Congress, with the aim of bringing together those whose support and lobbying will be necessary to move from words to action. By then we should have some indication of the cost of the pre-Christmas e-Crime spree that was predicted in November.

## **5) The Internet is Too Important to be Hamstrung by Morality?**

This is to remind you that on 17<sup>th</sup> January, at the Real Time Club, Derek Wyatt MP (Chair of the All Party Internet Group) has agreed to propose the motion that "The Internet is too important to be hamstrung by morality". John Carr of the NCH and CHIS will oppose. That event will bring together many key players in an informal environment and help us subsequently discuss with APIG and players like ISPA, ISOC, FIPR and the Oxford Internet Institute, how best to address the issues being raised in current discussions on ubiquitous computing and regulatory convergence (including the EU Review and TV Without Frontiers). Please e-mail [eurim@eurim.org](mailto:eurim@eurim.org) for an invitation.

## Timetable – January 2006

This timetable lists forthcoming meetings arranged by EURIM and events 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](mailto: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.

### January

*Date:* Tuesday **10** January 2006  
*Time:* 17.00 - 19.00  
*Venue:* Portcullis House, Westminster  
*Organiser:* ISPA Annual Parliamentary Advisory Forum 2006  
*Description:* The Impact of the Data Retention Directive  
*Attendance:* MPs, Policy Advisors & invited guests only, contact [admin@ispa.org.uk](mailto:admin@ispa.org.uk)

*Date:* Wednesday **11** January 2006  
*Time:* 09.00 - 12.00  
*Venue:* Hosted by Corporation of London  
*Organiser:* EURIM E-Crime Group  
*Description:* Workshop for heads of security in global financial institutions & similar  
*Attendance:* Contact [virgo.philip@eurim.org](mailto:virgo.philip@eurim.org)

*Date:* Thursday **12** January 2006  
*Time:* 10.00 - 12.00  
*Venue:* Wilson Room, Portcullis House, Westminster  
*Organiser:* EURIM Personal Identity & Data Sharing Group  
*Description:* ID Cards: what have the would-be suppliers already delivered elsewhere?  
Workshop organised by ID-Entity & EURIM.  
*Attendance:* MPs & Policy Advisors

*Date:* Thursday **12** January 2006  
*Time:* 14.00 - 17.00  
*Venue:* Ofcom  
*Organiser:* Ofcom  
*Description:* Consultation on 2006 Annual Plan  
*Attendance:* [www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/annual\\_plan2006/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/annual_plan2006/)

*Date:* Tuesday **17** January 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 for 19.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* National Liberal Club, Westminster  
*Organiser:* Real Time Club  
*Description:* "The Internet is too important to be hamstrung by Morality": Debate introduced by Derek Wyatt MP (Chair APIG) & John Carr (NCH & CHIS), with invitations to APIG, WCIT Ethical & Spiritual Panel & others.  
*Attendance:* Contact [carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com) for details

*Date:* Monday **23** January 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 19.30  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* Why MPs & Peers don't care about IT: Richard Allan, CISCO Govt. Affairs  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

*Date:* Wednesday **25** January 2006  
*Time:* 14.00  
*Venue:* Bird & Bird Offices, 90 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1JP  
*Organiser:* E-business Regulatory Alliance , Rome 1 & 2  
*Description:* ERA Legal Policy Forum  
*Attendance:* ERA Members and Observers, details from [will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk](mailto:will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk)

*Date:* Friday **27** January 2006  
*Time:* 10.00 - 12.00  
*Venue:* Room 'M', Portcullis House  
*Organiser:* EURIM Personal Identity & Data Sharing Group  
*Description:* Government Gateway & Government Direct: Introduction by Steve Lawrence on current situation & plans followed by discussion of potential as a point of leverage.  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers & guests

*Date:* Monday **30** January 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* To be confirmed  
*Organiser:* Conservative Technology Forum  
*Description:* Who runs the Internet?  
*Attendance:* [www.conservative-technology.org](http://www.conservative-technology.org) for details

*Date:* Tuesday **31** January 2006  
*Time:* 16.00 - 17.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* EURIM  
*Description:* Board & Council meeting to approve 2006 plans  
*Attendance:* Directors, Council Members & invited guests only

## February

*Date:* Friday **3** February 2006  
*Time:* 10.00 - 12.00  
*Venue:* Room 'C', 1 Parliament Street, Westminster  
*Organiser:* EURIM Personal Identity & Data Sharing Group  
*Description:* Discussion on Government Plans for Shared Services: introduced by David Myers.  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers & guests

*Date:* Monday **6** February 2006  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* AGM & Annual Reception  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

*Date:* Wednesday **8** February & Thursday **9** February 2006  
*Time:* 2 days  
*Venue:* The Plaisterer's Hall, London Wall  
*Organiser:* CMA  
*Description:* CMA Conference 2006: Next Generation Networks, Business Efficiency, VoIP, Security, Flexible Working & Convergence. Day 1 speakers include: Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, Minister of State for Industry & the Regions & Stephen Carter, Chief Exec of Ofcom.  
*Attendance:* Details from Sylvia Scottow [sscottow@thecma.com](mailto:sscottow@thecma.com)

*Date:* Wednesday **15** February 2006  
*Time:* pm  
*Venue:* Central London  
*Organiser:* E-business Regulatory Alliance  
*Description:* ERA Legal Policy Forum  
*Attendance:* ERA Members and Observers, details from [will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk](mailto:will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk)

*Date:* Thursday **23** February 2006  
*Time:* To be confirmed  
*Venue:* To be confirmed  
*Organiser:* EURIM  
*Description:* Meeting with speaker from DWP on Data Sharing  
*Attendance:* Group members, observers & guests

*Date:* Monday **27** February 2006  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* ICT for the Socially Excluded  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

## **March**

*Date:* Monday **6** March 2006  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* Conservative Technology Forum  
*Description:* Cybersecurity  
*Attendance:* More details at [www.conservative-technology.org](http://www.conservative-technology.org)

*Date:* Wednesday **15** March 2006  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* EURIM  
*Description:* Reception with Computer Weekly 500 Club  
*Attendance:* EURIM & CW500 members

*Date:* Monday **20** March 2006  
*Time:* 18.00  
*Venue:* Westminster  
*Organiser:* PITCOM  
*Description:* Information Sharing between Government Departments - Good or Bad?  
*Attendance:* PITCOM members only [www.pitcom.org.uk](http://www.pitcom.org.uk)

*Date:* Tuesday **21** March 2006  
*Time:* 18.00 for 19.00 - 20.00  
*Venue:* National Liberal Club, Westminster  
*Organiser:* Real Time Club  
*Description:* Ubiquitous Computing changes everything: discussion introduced by John Woodget, Managing Director Intel UK & President of the Intellect Board  
*Attendance:* Contact [carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com](mailto:carmen.harvey@btopenworld.com) for details

*Date:* Wednesday **29** March 2006  
*Time:* pm  
*Venue:* Central London  
*Organiser:* E-business Regulatory Alliance  
*Description:* ERA Legal Policy Forum  
*Attendance:* ERA Members and Observers, details from [will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk](mailto:will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk)