

To EURIM Members and Observers

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THE EUROPEAN
INFORMATION
SOCIETY GROUP

EURIM



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1) Transforming Government Round Shared Services and Information

How should we help?

Case studies of success in the delivery of shared services appear essential to help build political confidence that cross-boundary co-operation can and will be successful and to ensure awareness of the need to follow good practice. The Data Sharing Sub-Group is therefore due to meet on 10th March to discuss a 'showcase' event for MPs in support of the 'Transformational Government' strategy. The aim is to demonstrate successful working examples of IT-enabled projects involving shared information and services across organisational boundaries and it already appears to have significant industry support. This activity is expected to be linked to plans to provide a high profile ministerial platform to discuss what members can do to help overcome silo mentalities on all sides: including among private sector partners as well as those in the public sector. Discussions are also under way with regard to organising activities on the current and potential role of e-GIF standards in facilitating sharing and interoperability within the UK and also on activities at EU level: a number of members are involved in cross-border initiatives, from e-borders to common identity systems.

Work in Progress

Reports of the meetings on 3rd February on Shared Services with David Myers and on 23rd February on the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) with DWP officials are available on the website. Both meetings were well (seniority and experience of participants) attended by current and potential suppliers and partners but were still small enough to allow for free-flowing discussion. It is clear that such meetings provide invaluable contact and learning opportunities.

The value of improved guidance regarding data protection and governance

The Employment Act 2002 opened the way for DWP to receive employment data from HMRC. Initially, this was 'snapshot' data for use in tackling fraud and error but amendments to Social Security regulations now enable DWP to use HMRC employment data for research, statistical, performance, training, fraud prevention and verification purposes. The meeting covered the legislative and permissive gateways, security, identity management and the involvement of the Information Commissioner. The last of these is particularly significant given that organisations are apparently barred by some central and local government departments and agencies from practices that, according to guidance on the Information Commissioners' website, are permissible provided basic good practice is followed. A recent example was a claim that the use of CCTV for crime prevention purposes on a private road was not legal. Others are more complex, expensive and damaging in their consequences.

Enabling legislation or legislative straightjacket: the evolving debate over ID Cards

A number of members took part in the Westminster eForum event on 14th February, with a keynote from the Minister, Andy Burnham MP and thoughtful contributions from many of the players, both political and industry. The long overdue debate on how to achieve the benefits from greatly improved identity management, while avoiding unnecessary risk, appears to be gathering pace. Views on how to achieve that happy state are still, however, divided. Some speakers wanted to have means as well as objectives defined up-front. Others said good programme management practice was for phased, evolutionary implementation within agreed policy frameworks. The need was therefore to ensure democratically accountable change management during the life of the programme, so that enabling

legislation did not have to be based on assumptions (whether of technology, application or use) that might turn out to be false before the procurement contracts were agreed, let alone before mass-market roll-out was under way.

2) E-Crime

How real is the priority for action?

Discussions at the launch of the CBI guide “Securing Business Value Online: a guide for SMEs in supply chains” (visit www.cbi.org.uk/bookshop for copies) and at the launch of the new Institute for Information Security Professionals raised a number of questions over the need for policy initiatives, as opposed to the better targeting of existing resources by those wishing to see the more confident use of current and planned on-line products and services. Inputs to the E-Crime review meeting on 22nd February similarly raised the need for a strategic review of objectives and priorities in this area.

Home Office priorities

The Home Office priorities for 2006 contain no reference to Internet Safety or addressing computer assisted crime other than a reference to Internet shopping in the section on ID cards and to the agreement of a Data Retention Directive, in the section on International Co-operation. The Directive <http://register.consilium.eu.int/pdf/en/05/st03/st03677.en05.pdf> has been adopted by the Justice and Home Affairs Council with a qualified majority and allows for retention for between six months and two years, but law enforcement lacks resource to make use of more than a fraction of that already retained. The evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee enquiry into Terrorism and Detention Powers, http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/home_affairs_committee.cfm to which a number of EURIM members and observers have given evidence, is most apposite.

Updating the Computer Misuse Act

Feedback to date indicates strong industry support for the proposals in the **Police and Justice Bill** to amend the CMA to double the penalty for ‘unauthorised access to computer material’ (hacking) from five years to 10 years, criminalise ‘unauthorised acts with intent to impair operation of computer’ and classify denial of service attacks as a criminal offence. The only controversy is over Clause 35 which criminalises ‘making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in computer misuse offences’ because the same tools may be used for both criminal and legitimate purposes. The need is to find wording akin to that in Section: 25, sub-section: 1 of the 1968 Theft Act regarding “going equipped”, which some say already covers such tools, unless used from the miscreant’s “place of abode”. The objective is, however, not to prosecute amateur script-kiddies but to disrupt the growing “trade” in producing and distributing tools that have limited legitimate use and are more commonly intended to support computer-assisted extortion and fraud.

But what about the Data Protection Act?

There is also a view that the opportunity should be taken to revise as well the penalties under the Data Protection Act to address the problems raised by Operation Glade: when those running a multi-million pound operation obtaining and selling medical and criminal records received non-custodial sentences. Given that Ministers have said that this is the legislation protecting the national identity register, action is clearly necessary.

...and on-line anti-social behaviour, phishing, fraud and identity theft?

“Respect” and action on Terrorism are among the main Home Office priorities but with the transfer of most of the resources of the National High Tech Crime Unit to the E-Crime section of SOCA, it is unclear how level one and level two crime are to be reported and handled and action on non-geographic incidents co-ordinated. There is also an overdue need to address the use of the Internet to recruit and indoctrinate vulnerable individuals to become active in anti-social and/or extremist behaviour. From local cyber-bullying and intimidation, through take-overs of youth club, temple or mosque to the intimidation of those conducting medical research, there is a currently neglected need to address the on-line dimension of the “respect” agenda and provide the necessary resource and support.

How are such issues to be addressed? The only point of contact currently known to most of those in the ICT industry is the NHTCU. Is that “brand” (including phone number and website) to be preserved under the aegis of SOCA or Cabinet Office (perhaps alongside Get Safe On-Line)? Or is the public role, including that of support to local police forces, to be passed to NSLEC (which currently does most of the training), the Crime Prevention College or the City of London Police: as part of positioning it as a national and international support centre for handling white collar crime of all types?

Review of EURIM strategy towards E-Crime

The main conclusion is that we should *not* seek to publish a single, comprehensive paper. Instead we should produce succinct, robust papers on high level political and strategic issues, backed up by work on the precise actions needed, in which areas and from whom. The overall requirement is for well-resourced non-geographic partnership policing, as per the EURIM response to the Police Reform Consultation http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/ecrime/050131submission_PoliceReform.pdf but that will not happen unless and until we enlist the support of those seeking specific action on the problems that are affecting them, their customers and their constituents. Therefore the papers should focus on problem areas to which the specific audiences will relate and state who should lead on what: e.g. DTI on actions to promote confidence, DfES on education and training, Home Office on crime prevention and frameworks for partnership policing, Cabinet Office on public sector security.

The intention is to have draft high level papers and a grid of issues and recommendations for possible more detailed recommendations ready for review in April and publication in May-June.

3) Knowledge Economy

Review of the UK Intellectual Property regime

Submissions to the review of the practical working of the UK IPR are due by April 21st www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/gowers_review_intellectual_property/gowersreview_in dex.cfm gives the terms of reference and details of topics and questions being asked. A number of EURIM members and observers are known to be planning submissions. The British Library - home to the UK's largest business reference service, including the previous Patent Office information services - has offered to host a round table discussion so that players are aware of each others concerns.

Please e-mail emma.fryer@eurim.org if you would be interested in attending such a meeting.

4) Communications Policy and Regulation

Which direction is the slope on the playing field?

'The European Electronic Communications Regulation and Markets 2005 (11th Report)', http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2006/com2006_0068en01.pdf and the Ofcom Interim Telecommunications market report http://www.ofcom.org.uk/research/cm/feb06_report/ place the UK broadband “success” in interestingly different lights. According to Ofcom, 57% of UK Internet connections were broadband by Quarter 3 of 2005. According to the Commission data, UK broadband penetration was only 15%: equal to France and ahead of Germany but well behind Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands. The differences appear to be definitional but the approach of some of the market leaders towards filtering, e.g. encouraging ISPs to automatically remove traffic that which does not meet their conditions of service, are interesting.

On 27th March Jonathan Zittrain, Professor of Internet Governance and Regulation at the Oxford Internet Institute will present his research on state-sponsored filtering and Internet censorship undertaken as part of the OpenNet Initiative as part of a workshop in Westminster. The aim is to keep the group small to facilitate active discussion so all places must be reserved in advance. Contact events@oii.ox.ac.uk for information on Jonathan's work in this area or information on the workshop.

EURIM Timetable – March 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. 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:* Monday **6** March 2006
Time: 18.00
Venue: Westminster
Organiser: Conservative Technology Forum
Description: Cybersecurity: Speakers from NISCC, NHTCU & F-Secure (Finland)
Attendance: More details at www.conservative-technology.org
- Date:* Thursday **9** March - Friday **10** March 2006
Time: 2 days
Venue: Riverbank Park Plaza
Organiser: Skills for Justice in association with the Home Office
Description: Skills Summit 2006: speakers include Harriet Harman MP (DCA), Jane Furniss (OCJR), Jeremy Crump (Home Office), Phil Whatley (Prison Service)
Attendance: More details at www.skillsforjustice.com/summit06.html
- Date:* Friday **10** March 2006
Time: 10.00 - 12.00
Venue: Room Q, Portcullis House, Westminster
Organiser: EURIM Personal Identity & Data Sharing Group
Description: Data Sharing Sub-Group meeting on planning how to inform Parliamentarians, policy advisors & officials of successful, operational examples of transformational initiatives & of information sharing across organisational boundaries (both public & private).
Attendance: Group members, observers & guests
- Date:* Tuesday **14** March 2006
Time: Morning
Venue: Lewis Media Centre, Millbank Tower, Millbank, Westminster, London SW1P 4RS
Organiser: Westminster eForum
Description: Keynote Seminar: IPR and DRM
Attendance: More details available from peter@westminstereforum.co.uk
- Date:* Wednesday **15** March 2006
Time: 18.00
Venue: Westminster
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Reception with Computer Weekly 500 Club
Attendance: EURIM & CW500 members & guests only
- 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

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 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 & Observers, details from will.roebuck@e-ra.org.uk

Date: Thursday **30** March - Friday **31** March 2006
Time: Two days
Venue: Westminster
Organiser: AKJ Associates for NHTCU
Description: Fourth Annual E-Crime Congress
Attendance: More details at www.e-crimecongress.org

April

Date: Friday **7** April 2006
Time: 19.00
Venue: Stanley Suite Midland Hotel, Manchester
Organiser: Conservative Technology Forum
Description: Manchester Spring Forum: Open Source in the Public Sector
Attendance: More details at www.conservative-technology.org

May

Date: Monday **8** May 2006
Time: 18.00
Venue: Grimond Room, Portcullis House
Organiser: Conservative Technology Forum
Description: Television Without Frontiers
Attendance: More details at www.conservative-technology.org

Date: Tuesday **9** May 2006
Time: 15.30
Venue: 1 The Abbey Gardens, Great College Street, SW1
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Board & Council Meetings
Attendance: Directors, Council Members & invited guests only

Date: Tuesday **9** May 2006
Time: 17.00
Venue: 1 The Abbey Gardens, Great College Street, SW1
Organiser: EURIM
Description: Annual General Meeting
Attendance: Members only