

To EURIM Members and Observers
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EURIM Newsletter March 2008

1) Transformation Held up by Lack of Guidance on Secure Information Sharing?

Clearing the policy and procurement logjam

Recent events and current reviews make the position paper produced by the EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group on 'Information Sharing Protocols' most timely. This is available online at http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/PERID_ISPpaper.pdf.

The Group kept it short and simple so that it can be read, understood and used by those who will have policy responsibility for implementing the recommendations that will come out of the current reviews (Cabinet Office, Information Commissioner and Mark Walport, HMRC etc.) in the context of the Public Service Agreements that accompany the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

It was drafted in active consultation with the Information Commissioner's Office, lists relevant legislation (i.e. not just the Data Protection Act) and authoritative guidance, and also highlights examples of good practice for use as model templates in line with the ICO's framework code of practice for sharing personal information. It also makes specific recommendations to help clarify and improve existing guidance to decision-makers and front-line practitioners, focussing on the needs of the citizen and distinguishing between organisational, cultural and legal barriers to sharing, so as to be of particular assistance to those charged with implementing Public Service Agreements and those working on the National Identity and Information Assurance strategies.

The EURIM response to the Thomas-Walport review of the Security of Personal data, in both public and private sectors, is on the EURIM website at

http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/DataSharingReview_EURIMResponse.pdf

and also highlights the need to rationalise legislation and improve enforcement. This came up again when I gave oral evidence to the House of Lords Constitution Committee enquiry on the Surveillance Society, alongside Toby Stephens for the Enterprise Privacy Group and Mike Bradford from Experian. The recording is at <http://www.parliamentlive.tv/Main/VideoPlayer.aspx?meetingId=1155>. That session ranged over many other topics, including the ability of Parliament to scrutinise legislation in this area. I repeated points that have been made in EURIM material over the years, including the need for much better continuity of departmental memory from policy formation through to scrutiny, primary legislation, secondary legislation and implementation. Far too much, sometimes including commitments made to Parliament, falls through the cracks as officials, let alone their ministers, rotate.

On 21st February the Personal Identity planning sub-group met to plan an event which will "showcase" to Parliamentarians already operational identity management systems (some very large scale), the lessons learned and the pre-conditions for success. This will probably not take place until June but a build up programme, with material available for those working on policy formation and pre-procurement as well as any Select Committee exercises, was also discussed as were the possible systems to demonstrate and the partners to involve.

Please e-mail Dave Wright davywright2@ntlworld.com if you would like to join the organising group but note that the showcase exercise will be resourced by the participants and the focus is on that which is already operational, not that which is planned or proposed for the future.

2) Towards an “E-Crime Reduction Partnership”

Demonstrating that co-operation really can achieve more than legislation - bottom up

The overall objective of the EURIM e-Crime Group is to “Secure cross cutting national strategies to reduce risk and enhance confidence in on-line transactions and thus help to make the UK a location of choice for e-business - with UK residents at least as safe on-line as off-line and adequate resources and strategies to address computer assisted crimes”.

The target deliverable for 2008 is the formation of an effective “E-Crime Reduction Partnership” which will enable the UK-IGF to demonstrate UK leadership when it “reports” to the Hyderabad IGF (see below). This partnership expected to be achieved by “encouraging” the formation and linking of focussed industry - law enforcement consortia covering intelligence-sharing, awareness, skills, good practice, vulnerability reduction, investigation etc.

To this end EURIM has supported the creation of the “Information Security Awareness Forum” http://www.infosec.co.uk/page.cfm/Link=367/t=m/trackLogID=1130595_2CC0F2F1F7 launched on 12th February. This brings together the awareness activities of eighteen (so far) industry organisations to support Get Safe On-Line with an awareness week (April 21 – 25) and a Directors’ Guide. The EURIM intention is to use this as a model for other partnerships. These will also be written up, via the UK-IGF, to help show the world that co-operation can indeed achieve more than legislation.

The second partnership will be on security skills: building on work that is already being discussed with the Cyber-Security Knowledge Transfer Network. There is a need for similar co-operation to identify and publicise what is "good practice" and "professional conduct" – including embedding this in relevant courses and qualifications. This will hopefully be progressed in parallel with the skills and awareness partnerships, in close co-operation with the EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group.

Demonstrating that the industry can indeed deliver “bottom up” co-operation is a challenging task and is only likely to succeed if we can also demonstrate strong top-down support. The E-Crime group will therefore also organise political briefings on relevant issues, activities and progress, including On-line Child Protection (timed for after the Byron report is expected to be published) and provide support and responses to relevant Select Committee Activities: including Business, Home Affairs and Justice.

This re-launch of the e-Crime Group is focused on “political engineering” to unashamedly manoeuvre others into coming together to turn past recommendations into action, rather than producing yet more recommendations. Those who wish to demonstrate their organisation’s “leadership” in helping rebuild the confidence in the on-line world that has been lost over recent months, should e-mail me for an invitation to join the delivery team.

3) The First UK Internet Governance Forum

Making a reality of co-operation - top down

There are well over a hundred registrations for the first UK Internet Governance Forum, Thursday 6th March, 16.00 - 18.00 (followed by a drinks reception) and only a limited number of places left before the Attlee Suite will be full. E-mail Leanne.Kenny@nominet.org.uk to check if any are left. This has all-party parliamentary support from, PITCOM, EURIM and ApComm and is presented by Nominet in collaboration with the Department for Business. The 2008 “Best Practice Challenge” will be launched after a report back from Rio, workshops on the issues raised and an outline of the plan of action to demonstrate results by the time of the next global IGF, in Hyderabad, 3rd to 6th December. Please visit <http://www.intgovforum.org/> for information and advance registration for the Hyderabad IGF.

The UK Internet Governance Forum is not so much an organisation as a “space” in which people can work towards common outcomes linked by a series of events (Forums) at which issues are identified and organisations agree to form consortia to address them and report back on their progress and

experiences. Like the Global IGF itself, nobody “owns” the UK IGF and it is not intended for it to be a new organisation.

The credit for any action or activity goes to those who lead it, whether an organisation or a consortium (and the members of any consortium). Any organisation may also submit a bid to the Nominet Best Practice Awards challenge – that could include a company, charity or consortium – and award winners will get help in producing presentations for Hyderabad.

In July, the second UK-IGF will explore the four “themes” which were identified for the IGF, looking at progress since Rio and exploring the concerns that the “UK Team” want to air in India.

The third UK-IGF (in October), will probably be held after the next “Parliament and the Internet” Conference (already being planned in outline with ApComms again in the lead) and will produce the contents for the "report back" on UK experience in delivering "co-operation without legislation" since Rio.

4) “Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy”

Which better fosters creativity: carrots or sticks - and which is which?

The Green Paper from DCMS, BERR and DIUS, “Creative Britain: New talents for the new economy” http://www.culture.gov.uk/Reference_library/Publications/archive_2008/cepPub-new-talents.htm may contain much that is welcome, although the ambitions for training and skills are remarkably modest, but it was the section on "Fostering and protecting intellectual property" that caught the headlines.

The actions appear focussed on protecting past investment rather than stimulating new, UK-based, investment: "*We will consult on legislation that would require internet service providers and rights holders to co-operate in taking action on illegal file sharing..... The UK Intellectual Property Office will put into action a plan on intellectual property enforcement ... We will promote better understanding of the value and importance of intellectual property*"

There is some modest funding, mainly from re-targeting RDA money, to support creative clusters in the North-East (Sunderland University and Tyne Tees Digital City), North West (Salford Media City) and South West (Bristol) but rather more important is "Commitment 19", the announcement of a review into the barriers to investment in the next generation broadband, without which any creative cluster will atrophy and die, cut off from its peers, let alone its customers.

However, that which is good in the Green Paper could be dwarfed by a re-opening of hostilities between those seeking to enforce a copyright regime and those fighting to preserve the "common carrier" status of communications. We can expect many organisations to arrange many events on either side of the divide.

But are they yet ready to meet on neutral territory to discuss possible win-win ways forward?

Please let me know if you are interested in helping organise constructive debate in this area, whether via EURIM or, preferably, one of our partners.

5) Consultation on E-Legislation Information Service

How do you structure a cross-cutting service?

The first fruits of the planned co-operation with the E-Business Regulatory Alliance can be seen in the trial website <http://www.e-ra.org.uk/measures.htm> assembled by Will Roebuck with help from his colleagues in Bird & Bird. So far this is “under construction” only and members are asked to comment on the categorisation rather than content - but offers of material for inclusion, with links, will ease the work involved.

Those willing to help this service with information feeds or other resource should e-mail William.Roebuck@twobirds.com. The bigger issue is, however, to structure the service to make it

much easier to identify cross-cutting issues and/or linkages and conflicts between initiatives that may have unintended consequences. We also need to make it very much easier for ‘those who never knew they were likely to be affected’ to be alerted in time to make their views known. We are therefore looking for inputs from those who would like to use the service, whether to generate better inputs to their own consultations or to draw their members’ and customers’ attention to issues that should concern them.

6) Dialogue with John Suffolk

How can we deliver on the issues raised by the EURIM Transformational Government Dialogues?

The last of the first series of EURIM Transformational Government dialogues is on 5th March when the messages from the first three sessions will be discussed with John Suffolk before the panel of MPs meet separately to agree the structure and contents for the first report.

Themes for the next series are already beginning to emerge.

The most urgent need is to greatly improve current guidance on information governance, from collection, through storage to sharing so as to rebuild confidence in the security of publicly held data. The Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group has been asked to pick this up, see above.

An equally important, but longer term, need is to address the means of ensuring that on-line feedback, whether to aid consultations to plan new services or monitoring to improve existing one, is truly representative of those to be served. That means better addressing social inclusion issues and also takes us into the minefield of electronic democracy and on-line voting. Views as to how to address this area, in partnership with whom, are most welcome.