

To EURIM Members and Observers
From Philip Virgo, EURIM Secretary General
E-mail: virgo.philip@eurim.org



EURIM Newsletter June 2008

1) Good Practice in Identity and Information Governance

Two Home Secretaries at the "Keys to the Kingdom" Showcase

Attendance at the showcase of good practice in information assurance and secure sharing was well above expectations. We did not keep a register but I saw nearly half the 28 MPs and Peers who planned to attend, including the Rt Hon David Blunkett MP (who now chairs the advisory board of the Information Systems Security Association). Also an unexpected evening visitor, shortly before the close, was the Rt Hon Jacqui Smith, accompanied by an official who had been present for almost the entire event. Conservative frontbench Home Office spokesman, Damian Green MP, also attended.

There was a good turnout for the opening, when Margaret Moran MP, chair of EURIM, thanked the organisers and Nick Palmer MP said a few words about his exercise to look at industry applications, reporting to Meg Hillier MP, the minister for the ID Card. There was then a steady attendance throughout the event, with a modest peak for the guest speeches from 5.30pm onwards.

Philip Dunne MP, Parliamentary chair of the EURIM Personal Identity and Data Sharing Group, briefly described the Group's future plans, including changing the name of the group to reflect the focus on promoting good practice in the governance of information and identity systems, both public and private sector.

He introduced Martin Kearsley of VocaLink, who described how the UK may lose £20 billion a year from fraud, but banks operating within the UK lose barely £22 million - largely due to the way they co-operate over data security. Duncan Hine, Executive Director of Integrity and Security at the Identity and Passport Service, said that forged credentials were being replaced by the genuine item, issued under false pretences. He then described progress with the task of cleansing the files that enabled this. The guest speakers were present for almost the entire event to answer questions, as was Carlos Solari, former Chief Information Officer at the White House and now Vice President in charge of Alcatel-Lucent operations helping the US Federal Government and its agencies respond to their spectacular losses of information a year or so before those reported by UK Government agencies.

As part of the follow up the exhibitors (Alcatel-Lucent, Atos Origin/Government Gateway, BT, CSC, DeLaRue, Experian, Fujitsu, ICO/Edentity, Identity and Passport Service, IdenTrust, Sapior and VocaLink) have been asked to produce cases studies and additional material both for the EURIM website and for distribution via our members and partners. These are intended to help organisations respond to the reports and recommendations expected over the next few weeks from Cabinet Office, HMRC, Ministry of Defence, Information Commissioner and Welsh and Scottish Assemblies regarding information security.

In parallel, a sub-group has started work on implementing the group's recommendations on Information Sharing Protocols (http://www.eurim.org.uk/activities/pi/PERID_ISPaper.pdf) for local government, bringing together the latest guidance from the Information Commissioner and existing good practice. On 6th June the Group agreed to begin by looking at FAME (the FrAmework for Multi-agency Environments <http://www.fame-uk.org/>) toolkit. This was developed with £8 million of ODPM funding (it was one of the "national pilots") to provide a generic framework for agreements covering business case, legal powers and responsibilities, information sharing, governance, identity management, infrastructure, messages events and transactions, federation and sustainability.

2) UK Internet Governance Forum: UK messages to the World: 11th July

Preparing the UK contribution to the IGF in Hyderabad

Members should have received invitations to participate in an interactive seminar which will determine the messages from the UK on the key issues affecting the development and use of the Internet. If not, please e-mail Laura.Hutchison@nominet.org.uk urgently to book your place.

The event will focus on ways in which activity in the UK has had a positive impact on the Internet experience, and coordinate UK views in preparation for the third meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in Hyderabad. The debates will be led by senior representatives from Parliament, Government, Industry, and Civil Society including Academia.

The event is presented by Nominet on behalf of industry, in collaboration with the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP. It has the support of the Department for Business and Parliamentarians across the parties. It will focus on issues of importance to UK stakeholders, bringing together messages from the UK to take to the international debate on Internet Governance in Hyderabad in December.

As well as participating in the Plenary sessions, those attending will be asked to set priorities for the UK Team for Hyderabad. Last year security was the biggest issue amongst the “IGF Themes” which also include Access, Openness and Diversity. They will also have the opportunity to take part in one of four thematic workshops to look at what the UK has to offer to the Internet Governance Forum:

- Engaging partners – strategies for cutting Internet crime, disorder & fraud
- Engaging and protecting citizens - personal Internet safety & empowering people
- Engaging teachers and youngsters - lessons from recent initiatives
- Engaging Industry and Parliament - lessons from practical engagement

The UK-IGF will be co-operating with the European Parliament delegation that is going to Hyderabad and Malcolm Harbour MEP will be chairing one of the sessions on 11th July accordingly, having previously attended the ICANN general meeting in Paris (22 - 28 June) on the afternoon of 26th June .

3) Minister Welcomes E-Crime Reduction Partnership

Minutes of House of Lords Personal Internet Safety Hearing - 20th May

The meeting with Ministers to discuss the Government Response to the Select Committee (unedited transcript at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/lduncorr/s&t200508ev1.pdf>) indicated significant new thinking on the part of government. Vernon Coaker, the minister responsible at the Home Office said that they would support the creation of the Internet Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on which the Rt Hon Alun Michael MP, chair of the [EURIM E-Crime Group](#), has been working and also volunteered notes to the Select Committee on progress and on the activities of the new inter-ministerial group. Among the more controversial recommendations in the report were those on liability, including on the part of the banks, with regard to on-line fraud. I will not try to paraphrase the discussion, and recommend it is read in detail. At the end Baroness Vadeera, the minister now responsible for this area in the Department for Business, commented on the possible need to make the Financial Ombudsman better able to "decipher" the reality beneath disputes over liability.

4) The Transformation of Public Service Delivery

From joined up and democratically accountable policy formation to monitoring and scrutiny?

The parliamentary panel and industry support team for the recent “dialogues” exercise met on 11th June to discuss how best to present the conclusions and recommendations in such a way that they would lead to effective action - not just another round of debate: “admiring” problems rather than resolving or bypassing them. One “answer” might be to address the recommendations to the chairmen of the parliamentary select committees. This would do more to concentrate the minds of Permanent Secretaries and other senior officials - who would still be in post after the annual shuffle of Ministers and advisors. If so, the follow up might focus on techniques for e-participation, monitoring,

accountability and scrutiny, with regard to policy formation and implementation and of ongoing service delivery from the perspective of the recipients – so as to better inform the Select Committees at the same time as those working on policy formation. This will raise many interesting challenges, people processes at least as much as technology. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org to participate.

5) Addressing the Worsening UK IT Skills Shortfall

On 2nd June the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing published a devastating “Study on the IT Labour market in the UK” E-Skills UK, the sector skills council for the ICT industries is currently consulting on its forward strategy <http://www.e-skills.com/About-us/2194>. The chairman of PITCOM will be leading an all-party delegation (with parliamentary representatives from ApComms and EURIM) to meet the Minister next month.

The current strategy for the EURIM Skills group is to focus on Security Skills, where the problems are most acute and cut across even more industry and organisational boundaries than most, to develop approaches that can be expanded and replicated in other areas. The start point is the mapping exercise being done for the Cybersecurity Knowledge Transfer Network: from current “players” (departments, agencies, “suppliers” and “users”), definitions, accreditations and qualifications through courses and materials to mentoring and other career development support.

The first workshop, on 4th June, hosted by the British Computer Society, was well attended and indicated a good level of potential support, the likely value of the exercise and at least two potential hosts for any ongoing operation. It also indicated some obvious gaps in current provision - largely to do with the people disciplines and processes for self-protection, crime prevention, vulnerability reduction and investigation that the technologies are supposedly there to support.

We expect a rather larger attendance at the next workshop on the afternoon of 8th July when we have results to report and draft recommendations to discuss. Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org for an invitation to participate.

6) Communications Regulation

From Regulation to Policy: who leads and where are they going?

The Department for Business consultation package on UK inputs to the EU Telecoms Review (including marked up versions of each Directive, showing where the proposals change the text) is at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/sectors/telecoms/2006review/page26449.html>. Those on the EURIM Communications regulation lists were sent invitations to a consultation workshop on 23rd June.

The EURIM Communications Regulation Group, chaired by Malcolm Harbour MEP (Parliamentary) and David Harrington (Industry), is organising meetings in London and Brussels to place the review programme into context and discuss the overall objectives, strategy and timescales for the EURIM group. The current draft objective is "to help ensure globally competitive UK/EU communications infrastructures: from world-class local broadband access for business as well as consumers through to content regulation".

At the Broadband Stakeholder Group conference “Beyond Pipe Dreams” on 9th June there was comment about Ofcom being a model of a “technocratic regulator”, as opposed to the “political” regulators in other member states. This was coupled with a demand for “political” leadership from government to expedite the provision of next generation broadband. The responsibility for that leadership was not explicit but was presumably the Department for Business, given that the content industries, who commonly lobby via the Department for Culture Media and Sport, were conspicuous by their absence.

Side discussions at the event appeared to indicate strong support for a short order exercise on the situation on Business Rates. Someone alleged that these lead to an effective 40% tax take on revenues for infrastructure competitors to BT.

There also appeared to be support for a revival of the aggregation work that a previous BSG sub-group had attempted, but this time across public and private sectors, to help pull through investment in world-class local infrastructures. Given that this could well lead in a very different direction to the current regulatory focus on equality of service provision and/or access there was also a view that this was best done in a neutral venue, outside government and regulatory groups, without waiting for a lead from anyone else.

Neither topic appears to be well addressed by others. One can list the reasons why. We therefore plan to explore whether there is the support necessary, including from business users, local government, NGOs and other agencies (i.e. not just would-be suppliers) for addressing these via EURIM and, if so, in partnership with which other groups/channels.

Please e-mail eurim@eurim.org if you would like to join the planning team for this group and/or have thoughts on what EURIM (as opposed to others) could/should be doing in this space, to what timescale, via which channels and in co-operation/partnership with whom.

7) Three Year Plan

The next Council meeting, on 15th July, is due to discuss a Three Year Plan and agree the budgets for the first year. The plan will then be used as the basis for the discussion of priorities that we usually have at the AGM - which will be immediately afterwards.

We plan to have advance copies available for Parliamentary, Corporate and Associate Members, hopefully in time to allow a round of revision before this is tabled for discussion at the AGM.

Please let me know if you would like a copy.