EEMA
The PKI Challenge

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What is EEMA?

European Forum for Electronic Business
Formed in 1987 – an independent, non-profit association

"to continue to be the leading catalyst in Europe enabling members to benefit from electronic business, information management and communications"

EEMA Mission Statement

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The PKI Challenge

Funded by the European Commission

“A two-year project to prove interoperability between different IT vendors using PKI Technology”

“To provide a low-threshold, well managed and funded test infrastructure for PKI interoperability testing between many global PKI/PKA vendors”

Core Mission

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PKI = Public Key Infrastructure

“possibly the most flexible method of securing electronic transactions”

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The Problem

Different vendors

= different ways

= lack of development

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PKI Challenge

- **Work with PKI vendors, users, CSP's, consultants, academic institutions**
- **Define and agree interoperability criteria**
- **Test the Active Participants' PKI products against criteria**
- **Demonstrate through showcase public demonstrations**

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PKI Challenge – Current Situation

327 individuals

200 organisations

30 countries

33 PKI/PKA vendors

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What about Government?

- **Clear direction for Security and Authentication essential**
  - **guidance essential for departments**
  - **industry needs direction and insight**
- **Interoperability is the key**

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Strategy 1

- **Security and Authentication Strategy for Government**
  - **define and implement central policies (based on open standards)**
  - **necessity to have Government Strategy lead projects rather than be led by projects**
  - **not just advice and guidance but implementation of a central infrastructure**

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Strategy 2

- **PKI is preferred authentication mechanism – but not the answer to every problem or situation**
  - **time scales and take up**
  - **interoperability**

  are some of the issues to be resolved

- **Matching technical solutions to business requirements – security becomes enabler**

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Strategy 3

- **PKI within Government**
  - **encourage take up**
  - **provide documentation**
  - **address departmental 'legacy thinking'**
- **Consider use of emerging technologies**
  - **smartcards / biometrics**
- **Communication channels are key**
  - **e-champion**
  - **working groups**
  - **workshops / Industry Forums**

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Current Position

- **Interoperability is a key issue**
  - **need for 'multi vendor' environment**
  - **open standards**
  - **central strategy requires interoperable products (list of 'assured' products)**
- **PKI interoperability work with EEMA PKI Challenge is a major project and high up on the priority list**
- **Need for common security standards and architecture**

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Key Issues

- **Deliver efficient services to the public, then join up departments**
- **Use technology to help satisfy business needs and processes**
- **Dissemination is key**
  - **understand the challenges**
- **The need to promote trust**
- **Delivery mechanisms**
- **THINK BENEFITS**

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PKI Challenge – Available Reports

www.eema.org/pki-challenge/reports.asp

www.eema.org/pki-challenge/packages/pack4.asp

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