tNews

tScheme Website
tscheme Members area

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A monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

June 2002

In a month that was dominated for *tScheme* by the Trust Services decision analysis workshop, there is little chance of avoiding it in what passes for our newsletter. So if you're averse to making decisions, and your analyst has warned you about workshops, perhaps you should skip to the looking forward section.

Decision Analysis workshop

On the 27th of May, in a (large) basement somewhere underneath Victoria Street, some very influential people sat in front of laptops – some even having to share due to the popularity of the event. *tScheme*'s co-sponsorship was apparent from the off, and as simply an awareness event it scored well.

However, the main order of the day was the anonymous brainstorming that took place via the laptops, some clever software and a great deal of one finger typing. Ideas on meeting the various market challenges facing electronic trust services were pitched up onto a large screen, whilst the delegates responded to other's 'refinements and refutements'.

It didn't all end there; next was a small group stage, then these teams checking each other's work and continuing to try to consolidate the ideas. The final stage involved changing the refined issue statements into positive action ideas.

The workshop was certainly a fascinating exercise in group behaviour, and unique in involving a broad spectrum of trust services industry contributors, ranging from end users to suppliers to regulators. Most importantly it also produced some excellent results – some of the issues were ones that were expected, but there was also a great deal in terms of new perspectives.

A detailed report is due out very shortly, so we'll not give too much of the game away now. Yet there were some conclusions so apparent that it would be remiss not to mention it. Emerging was a common concern regarding transaction security applications – the current intuitive gap between business needs and an understanding of how service solutions can meet these directly.

By bringing people from all side of the equation, and all challenging them to define the issues, some significant and positive conclusions have been drawn.

Again, the report will be available shortly, and *tScheme*'s leadership on this market initiative might be just the start.

Grants of Approval

Early June saw *tScheme*'s Approval Panel grant two approvals to BT Ignite. The two services, OnSite Managed PKI and

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Registration Authority for Server Certificates, were assessed by LRQA. *tScheme* congratulates BT Ignite, who are the first TSP to gain two service approvals.

BT's approvals bring the total to four approved services – details of all are on our website.

tScheme Secure Communications

Richard Trevorah, *tScheme*'s new technical manager, is working towards the implementation of a secure communications system. Whilst very much in the early stage – bids are still being looked at, this exciting project is a high priority. The aim is to have *tScheme* signing and secured as soon as possible.

New Member Campaign

Forging forwards as ever, and working on a number of hot prospects, we're hoping to have at least one new member this month. Please do send us any contact details of companies you think might (or should) be interested in membership.

There will also be a number of new faces from these prospects at some of the next meetings. Please give them a warm *tScheme* welcome – not only do new members help protect *tScheme* cashflow, they also add strength to our expert groups and often represent good business networking opportunities.

Other news

Work is continuing on some key projects, outside of the committees:

- Tom Parker is leading the way on the Identrus mutual recognition report, due for completion in early July.
- The UKAS accreditation package is developing strongly and will be completed in June/July, with the first assessor accreditations in early September.
- Finally a mutual recognition agreement with ttp.nl (the Dutch "*tScheme*") is being drafted: with a view to extending the MRA's coverage in Europe.

On the mutual recognition front in general, there continues to be a great deal of interest, which we are trying to translate into real opportunities. Europe remains the most likely area for this to start, although many "emerging" markets are also looking interested.

Looking Forward

Both the Profiles and Process Committee (am) and the Marketing Forum (pm) are meeting on Thursday the 20th of June with a shared working lunch in between. Many of you spotted the deliberate error last month in the date shown for this meeting.

As correctly mentioned last time however, these meetings are indeed open to all members. If you aren't already sending along a representative, or can see where someone else within your staff could add value to our merry bands, please send them along (and although spontaneity is the spice of life, it's probably best to drop us a email or ring so you can have the agendas and other documents).

The Profiles and Process Committee is looking at the finalisation of the Issue 3 Profiles and supporting informative and model documents, whilst the Marketing Forum will be "de-briefing" following the Decision Analysis workshop (with special guest Rohan Freeman from Mack Interact, the event organisers).

The members area of the website will continue to be expanded to allow you to work virtually, keep up to date with latest drafts of documents and see the composition of the various committees. If you don't have a password, please contact Ben.

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