tScheme News

***tScheme* Website**
***tScheme* Members area**

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tScheme Limited
Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
London
WC1B 5EE
020 7331 2053/2021

A (two) monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

February and March 2002

An apology

As so many of you have noticed there was no *tScheme* news last month - this was because February was deemed to have too (or was that two?) few days to warrant its own newsletter (the decision was taken by the pedant's committee, which meets immediately before, after, and often during, every single *tScheme* meeting).

So I'm sorry if you've been frantically dashing round trying to fill the void left by February's inadequacy in terms of days. Hopefully this combined issue will bring you up to speed on all *tScheme* related events, and rest assured *tScheme* news will be published monthly, pending further discussion from the pedant's committee.

First *tScheme* Approvals

The raison d'être of *tScheme* - to Approve Services - has now been fulfilled. *tScheme* is proud to announce the first wave of Approvals has now started, with the Royal Bank of Scotland's TrustAssured service, and Trustis's Certificate Factory service being granted approval.

These approvals represent the culmination of years of hard work not only by the companies, but also by you, the membership. This is just the first wave; *tScheme* news hopefully will be announcing many more Approvals in the coming months.

The Royal Bank of Scotland's TrustAssured service is aimed at business customers, and was assessed by KPMG against the full set of profiles. Once the public launch is made (early next week), the Directory of *tScheme*.org will be modified to include an approvals directory.

The Trustis Certificate factory service is aimed to be part of a larger service, and generates and manages the certificates on this basis. Again, public launch very shortly. Their assessment was carried out by LRQA, assessing against 4 of the profiles.

The press releases will be here:
http://www.*tScheme*.org/bulletin/

Hopefully everyone is as excited we as are over this achievement, and we look forward to further requests for Approval.

Committees, Groups and Forums

The Profiles Committee also boycotted February, ostensibly because they worked so hard in January there was no need for a February meeting (although insiders cite arguments over what sandwiches should be ordered as the real reason).

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However, keeping our caterers busy were both the Marketing forum and the Legal and Contracts Group.

The Marketing Forum's order of the day was naturally the British Chamber of Commerce National Conference and Exhibition. But more about that in the looking forward box. Marketing Forum's other exciting news is that we're going native.

The Marketing Forum road show (not affiliated with any radio stations) will be in a region near you soon. Across the length and breadth of Britain meetings will be held with local business being invited to speak as well as the workaday business. So far three members have offered to be hosts. We kick off with Nexus TSP, in Aberdeen for May/June. Later meetings with be held by NotusKey (Q3 - Midlands or Northwest) and Dun & Bradstreet (Q4 - City of London).

The Legal and Contracts Group were busy dealing largely with matters connected to the recognised assessors agreement and also a few changes to the rules.

tScheme Feature Article

In time for the Booker Prize nominations, Dick Emery has drafted a *tScheme* feature Article, which we will be pitching to selected publications shortly. Thanks to all those who contributed towards this, especially those who sent in case studies.

Workshops and Seminars

tScheme is actively involved in the preparation for a series of collaborative industry workshops on the trust services industry and electronic business in general. Many of you have already been involved in discussion with the marketing consultancy developing this, but anyone wanting more information, please speak to Stephen. This is an important part of *tScheme*'s awareness Campaign - raising our profile and value.

This brief round up is published on a monthly basis. Between issues, please feel free to contact the Secretariat for information on any tScheme matter. Please also let us know if you would prefer not to receive tScheme news.

Looking Forward

Starved of the (extremely) bright lights of the exhibition hall, we've finally broken down, and are proud to launch ourselves back into the limelight: *tScheme* is taking a stand at the BCC National Conference and Exhibition. On the 22nd of April we'll be there, hopefully with many of you, shouting as loudly as possibly (metaphorically) about the first wave of approvals. In a radical step, the stand is being opened up to four demonstrations from our Approved Services and Registered Applicants.

Stand design and planning in general is underway, carefully steered by the Marketing Forum. We are of course going to be looking for volunteers for stand staffing, although because of the demos, this will be less of an issue than back at the ISSE. Even if you're not inclined to put in a few hours on the stand (and this time we'll get less lights; no sun cream necessary) in the office we've got a stack of free exhibition passes, some envelopes and a franking machine, so if you want one (or two) let us know.

The aim, beyond a flag waving exercise for *tScheme* and the Approved Services/Registered Applicants is to try and raise the awareness of Digital Signatures - hence the demonstrations. The conference, unlike the ISSE is not aimed at a technical audience, and the intention is for the stand to reflect this. Comments, queries, offers of help: let us know.

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