tNews

tScheme Website
tscheme Members area

Issue 9

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A monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

April 2002

There is but a week until *tScheme* once again will be treading the boards, this time with strong supporting roles from Royal Bank of Scotland, ViaCode and BT Ignite. The stage is of course the British Chambers of Commerce National Exhibition, the theatre, the QEII Centre, here in sunny London. We have a few key parts to fill, so anyone wanting to support *tScheme* and put in a few hours manning the stand please let me know.

Not that this will motivate anyone in the slightest, but there are a number of fairly high-ranking politicians and the like attending (not a call for hecklers).

In the news this month

We're still leading with follow-ups from our first wave of Approvals. They have provided the Profiles Committee with valuable feedback and highlighted some important scope for improvement. This is being ploughed straight back into the process, and will improve the system for the forthcoming TSPs in preparation for their own assessments.

Logo corner

Sadly there has been too much consensus this month, and I am unable to launch any other new logos – or offer amendments to any. Perhaps next month will be more fruitful. Until then, think about any potential scope for improvement – an "s" here or a full stop there …

Recognised Assessors

Whilst the logo is already been unveiled, we are pleased to say that tScheme has now signed agreements with both KPMG and LRQA; this is an interim step, pending the completion of the UKAS accreditation package, but nonetheless an important move forward. We're looking forward to BSI joining the list, as they prepare to sign following a *tScheme* induction day.

Board news

The current *tScheme* board met for the final time last week. With four seats up for election, a fierce campaign is expected; candidates are asked to limit their campaign spending to less that the cost of a digital certificate (?).

The ballot closes on May 1st, to prevent disruption by anti-capitalist protestors. Instructions on how to vote, the ballot paper, and Notice of AGM will be distributed on the 16th of April. Included with this package will be notification of some proposed changes to the Rules of *tScheme*, which will be the subject of a Special Resolution at the AGM on 9th May.

Candidates' biographies are available in the Members area (hardback only at present).

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External Communications

In keeping with *tScheme*'s new mantra of promoting the concept of electronic signing, we've already had some success, with a letter in the Times legal supplement. Press releases were also issued on the first two grants of Approval, and *tScheme* is building up a list of press contacts so as to better target publications in the future.

Stephen is planning to meet with the Sunday Times, the FT and a selection of technology related press to build a good working relationship.

Of course the BCC event is clearly one such place that we will be looking at to generate some further press interest. We're taking out a half page advert in the show guide, and hope our stand will capture the imagination. Just don't mention "PKI".

Another opportunity is the DTI and e-envoy-sponsored Partners Programme. Further details will be forthcoming later in the month, when *tScheme* is co-sponsoring a decision analysis event on 'Trust Services Market Development' with invited guests including major business opinion-leaders. The event is now arranged for 27th May in London.

Conclusions reached will be published in a report on the topic, which will have *tScheme* co-branding, positioning us as leading players in the industry.

Committee, Group and Forum.

Much of the news from the three 'expert' backbones of *tScheme* has been covered in the previous text; they have been extremely busy with the combined workloads of both making arrangements for the exhibition stand, and also looking at feedback from the first Approvals. Next month's tNews will contain a more detailed roundup. Of course the best way to find out what is going on is to come to the meetings, where you will always find a warm welcome and a (suitably frugal) working lunch … allegedly prepared by Ben.

Exhibition

In case the other two mentions of the *tScheme* exhibition stand have failed to grab your attention, the timing is:

Monday 08.30 – 17.30*
Tuesday 08.30 – 14.15
*includes drinks reception.

All help greatly appreciated – please email your availability for a session as we need volunteers for our stand staffing rota.

Looking Forward

It has to be the BCC event really – *tScheme* is putting a lot of effort and investment into this stand, and we need your help to ensure its success. Please email me if you can stop by.

For those of you intending to come along and support *tScheme* or just swing by and say hi, the venue is the QEII conference centre, and we're there all day next Monday (22nd) and Tuesday (23rd). The stand is a departure from last year's ISSE, with it being thrown open to Approved Services and Registered Applicants to show off their wares. Three interactive demos will be running, so if you want to see applications in action, or simply find out more about what an electronic signature actually is (we'd be quite worried if it is the latter), come along.

These demos are set around a central *tScheme* presence, again based on the website. It is here where we would like support in manning – we'll even let you give out your own business cards this time (as long as you concentrate on highlighting the wonders of *tScheme*).

The whole event is aimed at raising awareness of electronic signatures, as well as of *tScheme* – surely a key objective for us all this year.