tScheme News

tScheme Website
tscheme Members area

Issue 5

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

A monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

October / November 2001

As we rush headlong into November, here is a brief pause for you to catch up on the month that was October, and perhaps get a glimpse of what November will hold. Judging by the feedback called for in the last newsletter, everyone is very happy with our monthly offering, so relax, and read about how busy we all have been over the last month...

Committees, Groups and Forums

The Profiles & Processes Committee has now completed work on agreeing the edits, prior to publication, of Issue 2.0 of the Approval Profiles.

Members of the PPC can be congratulated on getting these definitive documents "right first time", as there were no major problems with Issue 1.0. The changes now are mostly for the sake of ensuring even greater clarity. The Issue 2.0 Profiles will be posted on the website very shortly – the initial launch date coincided with the world premier of the Harry Potter film; we agreed with the producers to put back Issue 2.0 so as not to overshadow their event.

The PPC has also completed work on editing three key tScheme informative documents ("tSi" - see below), now released for general reference use:

- Guidance for Assessors (tSi0250_1.0)
- Model S3A (tSi0230_1.0)
- Preparing for an Assessment (tSi0101_2.0)

The Legal & Contracts group has been working on the Model Agreement for "tScheme Recognised Assessors" (tS-0252 – more details below). Using this, tScheme will very soon be able to enter into firm agreements as a reliable framework for the assessments currently underway with tScheme Registered Applicants and with other TSPs planning to seek tScheme approval for their services.

Completing our trio of assemblies, the Marketing Forum met as a Marketing/Policy group with members of the Profiles team, to work on a vision for the future of trust services (and hence for tScheme approvals) into 2002 and beyond.

Contributions to this activity are very important across our whole membership, as we attempt to identify the evolution of new business models which are being created to deliver trust services. Two new concepts are being explored in relation to their potential for tScheme Approval:

- "tScheme-ready" service components.

- "Value added" or "trust enabled" services/applications

This promises to be an exciting focus for tScheme activity, ensuring that our approval framework reflects "real world" trust and developments.

International Membership

This month tScheme has been joined by our first truly international (apologies to our "multi-national" members) Member: Hitachi Ltd. from Tokyo.

This serves to illustrate the emerging relevance of tScheme on the international stage, and we are very keen to work closely with our new colleagues in Japan in building this key objective!

We are also pleased to welcome Lloyds-TSB, known to many of you as an early contributor to tScheme, as a Member. This gives us a chance to more directly recognise and continue to receive their valuable contribution.

Those keeping count will confirm that this now brings the total tScheme membership to 24; an increase of nearly 25% on our mid-year count.

Approvals Committee

The first meeting of the tScheme Approvals Committee takes place on the 6th of December, immediately prior to the board meeting later that day. This of course goes straight to the heart of what tScheme is set up to achieve: trust service approvals.

Our Approvals Committee is formed from the independent members of the tScheme board, including its user representatives; and each month they will meet to consider any formal requests received from TSPs for service approval. Also, once service approvals are being granted, this Committee will review any adverse comments or news regarding tScheme approved services that have come to light.

It will also be used to review progress being made by current tScheme Registered Applicants, to decide if their status is being maintained. This depends on real progress being achieved in accordance with their agreed timetable for service approval.

If this sounds like a serious process, then it will ensure that tScheme objectives are being achieved.

Another push for the Member's logo

In the last issue we unveiled the new branding for use by tScheme members. This joins our growing collection of marks, shields and signs, identifying Registered Applicants, Approved services, and soon Recognised Assessors.

tScheme™ Member

To reiterate our thinking on the member's logo, the Marketing Forum debated various designs and uses for our logo and decided that, to avoid creating confusion or misleading impressions, marks including the "tScheme shield" should be reserved for Approved Services following a formal assessment and the "corporate logo".

In line with this thinking, and in order to continue to build strong market recognition, we are currently working on the Recognised Assessors logo – this will be similar in style (faded green shield logo with stronger green lettering) to the Approved Service logo, as it will be used in direct relation to assessments leading to service approval. The unveiling should be next newsletter (movie premieres notwithstanding).

Board News

tScheme welcomes David Shapland of BT Ignite to the board. David is a regular contributor to the tScheme Legal and Contracts Group, and his addition to the board is sure to prove highly valuable.

Looking Forward and The Future @ tScheme

After that introduction, you might be somewhat disappointed to read about the exciting new Document Management System now in use at tScheme. The full document describing this process will be available, but the most important (and obvious) changes will be the introduction of a third character in the document titles. For informative documents, i.e. Guidance for Assessors, an "i" will be used after the "tS" – in full it is "tSi0250_1-00". For "definitive documents", i.e. Base Approval Profile, a "d" will be inserted after the "ts" – i.e. tSd0111_1-00 (the "_1-00" indicates we're at Issue 1). For Promotional documents, i.e. presentations, a "p" will be used. Where a document is in draft, "-" will be used in lieu of the letter.

The website now contains at "FTP" style folder for the downloading of draft committee (or group/forum) documents. Whilst documents will still be circulated by email, this will act as a backup for those inevitable firewall problems, bounced or lost emails, and solar flares. It can be found at: http://www.tscheme.org/members/membersonly/drafts/ . Right click to download. Sticking to the website, if you have any tScheme-related events you wish to promote, please let us know, and they will appear on the "events" page.

The essential work of all three committees will continue, and the Approvals Committee, mentioned above, will meet for the first time immediately prior to the December board meeting.

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 – ben.brierley@tscheme.org or 020 7331 2053.

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