tNews

tScheme Website
tscheme Members area

December – February 2003

Issue 15

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

A bi-monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

February 2003

With the excess of Christmas far behind us, the crisis two centimetres of snow caused a glimmer in the rear view mirror, and spring rapidly approaching like a bike courier to a zebra crossing, we thought that it was about time for an edition of tNews

We start the new year with one new Registered Applicant (Equifax), one new member (ACCA - for further details see the website Bulletin at: http://www.tscheme.org/bulletin/index.html), and several new prospects for both Membership and service Grant of Approval this year

There is plenty happening with *tScheme* - we've been pushed for time to tell the world (or at least the subscribers to tNews) about it. Quite a lot of new initiatives grace our page(s); if you're not already involved, please do let us know.

Business Development Committee

This newest *tScheme* committee is continuing its focus on the definition of a future target business model for *tScheme*.

Its recent meetings have been convened jointly with the *tScheme* Marketing Forum, as this is a whole new look at the tactical and strategic direction of *tScheme* for 2003-2006. Actions agreed are being handled by both teams, and reviewed together before being reported to the board - the next joint meeting is at the end of February.

The current activities include a focus on defining a new form of 'associate' membership, and potential new opportunities for international licensing of *tScheme*'s intellectual property - and if that makes us sound overflowing with expertise, of course we are!

To get involved in this key activity please contact Stephen.

tScheme on the road

Like the King and his retinue, *tScheme* has been processing from one member's venue to another for the past four months, for our various expert working committees and monthly board meetings. However, unlike some members of the royal family, we're not going to forget any important conversations - it'll all be in the minutes.

We are extremely grateful for the hospitality shown to us all recently by the following members (some for more than one meeting), and for meetings currently scheduled (in reverse alphabetical order):

Vodafone; RBS; Lloyds-TSB; Intellect; e-centre; BT; Barclays; APACS.

We should also acknowledge Interforum, who have hosted our board in the past as well as agreeing to host our AGM in May. Although

© *tScheme* Limited 2003.

not a member of *tScheme*, Interforum make a strong contribution to our board as a 'user' representative organisation.

If any member would like us to add their own distinguished name (not a PKI reference) to this honoured list, we would be very pleased to do so - and then of course to duly throw ourselves on your hospitality for a future *tScheme* meeting!

Please contact Stephen to arrange a mutually-convenient opportunity.

Recognising our Peers

No - this has nothing to do with the reform of our hallowed second chamber (although we do have more than seven options): but instead with the future of voluntary approval schemes across fellow Member States and indeed globally.

tScheme has always argued that the current fragmentation, due to the differing interpretations of the Directive, threaten to do more to erect new barriers to trade than the Directive did to remove old ones.

The joint DTI/*tScheme* workshop (12 December) on the potential for 'mutual recognition' of peer voluntary approval schemes was a great success - see the workshop Notes & Actions now posted on the updated *tScheme* website at: http://www.tscheme.org/bulletin/index_workshop.

Of course, this is just the beginning; but *tScheme* remains committed to searching for the basis for mutual recognition between peer schemes - and of course to promoting our vision of independent, industry-led voluntary approval schemes.

tScheme's Entitlement Card response

In line with our increasingly important role as the independent voice of the Trust Services industry, *tScheme* has now submitted its response to the government's consultation paper on Entitlement Cards - see the document on the *tScheme* website at: http://www.tscheme.org/library/index_comp

Naturally, we have not attempted to join the debate on civil liberties issues or similar topics - we have limited our comments to areas in which we have a great deal of expertise: namely the establishment and authentication of identity in the first place! Beyond this, we have simply indicated the potential opportunities for wider public use of certification services and digital signatures.

Walking the Talk

tScheme is about to demonstrate just how seriously we take the world of internet security - with the securing of the Directory pages of our website with a Server Certificate.

We are continuing also to look for a solution to securing and signing our confidential communications - for example board minutes - both for practical reasons, and to set a suitable example to others.

Our specific requirement, as a highly distributed organisation with a variety of email clients, makes this rather complex technically - but we have now devised a strong, workable solution on which we have recently issued a formal 'Request for Information' to all our members and providers of approved services.

Naturally, *tScheme* approval will be an essential feature of any service we select for *tScheme*'s own use of certificates.

To request the RFI document and/or submit a response, please contact Richard Trevorah.

This whole document is attached to this email as a pdf file.

© *tScheme* Limited 2003.

Looking Forward

tScheme is always keen to talk to prospective new Members, as this ensures that input to our 'best practice' approval criteria and our world-class approval processes is as broad-based as possible. The secretariat is devoting significant time to following up on new enquirers, doing all we can to convert these into Registered Applicants for approval and/or new Members as appropriate.

Open invitations to send guest delegates to the various *tScheme* committees are still offered to Grant enquirers and to prospective new Member organisations - please forward leads and requests to Stephen.

Dates:

20 February – Profiles & Processes Committee meeting - hosted by APACS
27 February – joint Marketing Forum & Business Development Committee meeting - hosted by Intellect
10 March – request issued for formal nominations of members' candidates for the *tScheme* board election
7 April – ballot papers issued for completion and return to the Secretariat by 25 April (Easter intervenes)
1 May – result advised to all candidates, prior to formal announcement at the AGM
8 May - *tScheme* Annual General Meeting (all members invited to attend) - hosted by Interforum

Editors: Ben Brierley (ben.brierley@intellectuk.org);
Richard Trevorah (richard.trevorah@tscheme.org);
Stephen Upton (stephen.upton@tscheme.org);

© *tScheme* Limited 2003.