tScheme News

***tScheme* Website**
tscheme Members area

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A monthly tScheme round up from the Secretariat

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Welcome to MMII (the year, not a new name for *tScheme*!). For all those complaining that the year has hardly started, the board have put us all to shame, having already had their first meeting. As promised we have an exciting new logo to launch.

We've got predictions for what 2002 holds (in keeping with other high-calibre publications content, although we couldn't afford Mystic Meg…), the usual round-up, a few milestone to watch out for, and a chance to win a years subscription to *tScheme* news.

Committees, Groups and Forums

A group of Profiles and Processes Committee volunteers looks set to start the New Year with further input on the Identrus mutual Recognition and Equivalence report. This project has been led by the intrepid Tom Parker, and whilst he has been putting his feet up recently it is still progressing well. (Good news: the cast comes off soon).

The Profiles and Processes committee has also put in a timely response to the "ETSI Harmonization of Trust Service Providers' Status Information (and yes, we stuck with the Americanized spelling). The finalised document has been distributed to the committee, and should be available soon in the library section of *tScheme*.org. The Profiles Committee has also been working on the "*tScheme*-recognised" training framework. As interest in *tScheme* continues to grow, we are under increasing pressure to provide services such as this. By setting up a best practice framework we can 'outsource' the training work, whilst generating revenue from licensing.

Whilst along way off a "*tScheme* University" (we want to concentrate on world domination first, so hold off on sending in Latin mottos for now please), a lot of good work has gone into this project. As a side note, *tScheme* will have to start to see how we can stimulate provision of recognised consultancy services, possibly along the same lines.

The Marketing Forum's end of year version of the logos have been translated into glorious Technicolor (not in a trade mark infringement sort of a way through) by our designer:

tScheme™ Recognised Assessor

tScheme™ Registered Applicant

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For those who are have been following this less than closely, to save you the trouble of scouring back issues I can reveal that the subtle difference is that we've brought the colours and lozenge size into step across the board. All members and entitled - no, encouraged - to display the new version of the Member's Logo on their websites, leaflets, exhibition stands, or any other promotional material.

The Legal and Contracts Group are working on the licensing elements of the training framework, and finalising agreement with Recognised Assessment Bodies. They are also working on an amendment to the *tScheme* Rules, to bring these into line with current terminology.

UKAS Accreditation Package

Stephen and Tom met with UKAS's Assessment Managers (those who will be witnessing *tScheme* Assessments) to brief them further on *tScheme*. Their Accreditation package should be completed, along with the first Accreditations, by the summer. Whilst *tScheme* is fully operational under an interim process, and will be able to grant Approvals before then, this will strengthen the process.

Membership

tScheme is still attracting new interest, and we are hoping to be able to announce new members throughout the year. Of course your support as members is absolutely essential. It is also great that so many of you have already paid your 2002 invoices – hopefully the next newsletter will be able to say that everyone has paid.

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.

Looking Forward in 2002

2002 is the *tScheme* year of Approval. Reading our t-leaves (sorry) we see the arrival of more Registered Applicants, and then the first wave of Approvals and a huge fanfare surrounding it in March/April. In all fairness though, the tealeaves are probably less accurate that our Marketing Forum, which will focus on raising awareness and building on the already strong *tScheme* 'brand'. Raising *tScheme*'s profile is good for *tScheme*, but also for any Trust Services Approved by *tScheme*, and you, the Membership. The first wave of Approvals will present an ideal opportunity to wave the flag, and we'll keep you updated as to where to gather and cheer from.

On the continuing development side the Profiles will get their six-month review in April (although presently there are no outstanding issues, feedback from the current assessment might generate some). The Profiles and Processes committee will also be tasked to ensure our method of "authenticating" Approval is online to meet our first grant of Approval. The current approach is a signed list, signed with a key pair, with the *tScheme* public key readily available on all our Member's website for verification (this is still subject to discussion and agreement).

The AGM will be on May the 9th, prior to which the election for the appropriate board seats (see Rules!) will begin in mid-April. Currently the Board is still investigating extending an invitation to a third user representative.

It seems that 2002 has great potential as a year that we gain significant ground, both in the UK and Internationally.

This newsletter is published for the benefit of the *tScheme* membership, and we hope is an informal way of reaching everyone, and keeping people current on what the whole of *tScheme* is doing. However, enquiries direct to the *tScheme* office are always welcomed, and you can contact us on the details above.

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