Amendments made to the Digital Signature Act

July 8, 2020
Expansion in Contactless Services & the Importance of Digital Signature

**Education**
- Provide contactless education
- remote education, online learning, provide educational contents and smart devices

**Business**
- Promote contactless work environment
- telework, teleconference, AI-based voice to text converter

**Administration**
- Increase civil service administration
- online civil service applications customized to each age group, increase automatic certificate issuance machines and digital certificates

Increase contactless services including education, business and administration
promote online certification and identification services
increase trustworthiness and security of digital signature
In the early stage of internet deployment in Korea, the use of online services including administration, finance and e-commerce has been promoted. Digital signature act was enacted in Feb. 1999 to secure safety and trustworthiness of e-commerce and certified authentication system has been deployed.

- Over the past 20 years, public key certificates have been used by many Koreans as the means to identify individuals in the digital world and verify the authenticity of digital documents which have improved the quality of people’s lives and promoted national informatization.

With the public key certificate system enjoying a monopolistic status for a long time, there have been problems such as a lack of innovation in services, causing inconvenience for users in having to install ActiveX controls and limited access to digital signature of emerging technologies.

### Adopt Certified Authentication System
- In the early stage of internet deployment in Korea, the use of online services including administration, finance and e-commerce has been promoted.
- Digital signature act was enacted in Feb. 1999 to secure safety and trustworthiness of e-commerce and certified authentication system has been deployed.

### Abolish Certified Authentication System
- With the public key certificate system enjoying a monopolistic status for a long time, there have been problems such as a lack of innovation in services, causing inconvenience for users in having to install ActiveX controls and limited access to digital signature of emerging technologies.

### Issues in Certified Authentication System
- Has monopoly over digital signature market
- Restricting fair competition between public and private digital signatures
- Deter market entry of new players
- Deter innovation in technologies and services
- Deter innovation of technologies and services of certified authentication
- Cause inconvenience for users and deter the development of authentication market

### Certification Authentication System
- Superior and monopolistic status of public key certificate system
- Regulations that restrict certified authentication market entry
- Stringent follow-up regulations
Amended Digital Signature Act

Revise Digital Signature Act (abolish certified authentication system)

- Abolish certified authentication system through collecting feedback from multiple stakeholders such as Hackathon (Feb. 2018) and revise digital signature act (Jun. 2020) for various market players to freely compete towards the goal of promoting digital signature in the area of emerging technologies.
**Highlights from Revised Digital Signature Act**

**Key contents of the act (1)**

- **Abolish the superior legal effect of public key certificate system**
  - Delete the concept of an authorized electronic signature, all digital signatures in accordance with laws and regulations or agreements between parties continue to have legal effect as signatures or signature and seal.

- **Evaluation and accreditation system to determine whether digital signature authentication protocols are abided by**
  - Increase reliability of digital signatures, the standard for operating digital signature authentication process has been established by providing information for users to ensure they make rational choices.
  - Issue certificates to digital signature authentication providers who request to be accredited to be complying with the standard for operating by an evaluation and accreditation agency (KISA).
Digital signature authentication providers obliged to set the identification guidance and establish certification protocols
- Stipulate specific items such as the process and method for identification of subscribers and establishment and compliance with digital signature authentication protocols for safe digital signature authentication

Stipulate the responsibility for damage compensation of digital signature authentication providers who have been issued certificates
- In the case of damages incurred to users of digital signature authentication, digital signature authentication providers should compensate for the damages (when the actions are proven to be unintentional and without fault, providers are exempted from liability.)
The use of digital signature in emerging technologies such as blockchain and biometrics authentication will be further promoted leading to improved internet user environment as citizens have more choices.

- Promote blockchain and biometrics authentication for supporting contactless services
- Bolster contactless industries including administration, finance, healthcare and education
- Improve quality of people’s lives
- Improve various digital signatures
- Improve digital signature user environment
- Improve internet user environment

Benefits from Amending Digital Signature Act
Thank you

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