National Strategies for Digital Identity Management

UNCITRAL Colloquium on Electronic Commerce
14-16 February 2011, New York

Laurent Bernat – OECD Secretariat



The OECD

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- Inter-Governmental Organisation, grouping 34 member countries committed to democracy and the market economy
- Statistics and economic and social data, economic developments' analyses and forecasts
- Policy analysis based on economic and social research to support policy recommendation to member countries.
- Helping governments coordinate among themselves and with other stakeholders to design and implement national policies that are effective in an international environment.
- → « Better Policies for Better Lives »

Why working on Digital Identity Management?

- It all started with e-Authentication
 - 1998 Ottawa Declaration
 - 2007 Recommendation & Guidance
 - → E-Authentication is only part of the problem

- Work on Digital Identity Management
 - 2007 Workshop in Trondheim, Norway
 - → There is a potential but ... what is this all about?

A Primer for Policymakers (2009)

- Short and simple document
- Core concepts, Examples of use, Technical aspects, Public policy considerations
 - Interoperability, Security, Privacy, User Empowerment
- Benefits stem from « interoperable » IdM
- Business model issue

→ What are governments doing?

Survey of National Strategies (2010)

- 19 questions : national strategy / policies
- Scope: citizens' (nationals) digital identity management, no x-border aspects
- Responses from 18 countries
 - Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States
- · Good balance, dense responses, a lot of material
- To be declassified in March 2011 / Lessons learned in October 2011



Conceptual framework

Vision			
Strategy			
Policies			



Vision(s)

- 3 groups of countries
 - Realising e-government as a priority, but also innovation in the broader Internet Economy in the short / medium term (other 13 countries)
 - Realising e-government only (JP, NL, NZ)
 - Cybersecurity (Australia, USA)
- →Shows where the leadership is in the govt in this area



Strategy

- Reduce the number of:
 - Keys: from credentials' frameworks to credentials' provision
 - Keyholes: single sign-on
- Leadership role of government
 - Reducing uncertainty
 - Achieving critical mass to resolve chicken & egg problem
- Benefits for government, citizens and businesses
 - Higher value services enabled by stronger authentication,
 - Fostering new services: enabler for innovation
 - Cost reduction for public sector, enhanced usability
 - Enhanced trust in the Internet economy



Strategy

- Evolutionary and migratory approach
 - Migration of existing offline identity practices
 - Countries keep their offline traditions and practices
 - From fully centralised to fully decentralised
 - Population register, identity number, national ID card, etc.
 - Federated approaches based on trust frameworks
 - Not driven by technologies

=> There is no generic approach.



Policies

- Registration policy is a key factor
 - Reflects culture, history, style of government
 - Centralised Decentralised spectrum
 - Key factor for interoperability, security, privacy and usability
- Interoperability
 - More technology neutral where decentralised,
 more prescriptive where centralised
- Security
- Privacy



Next steps

- Publication in March/April 2011
- Formulation of policy messages / lessons learned October 2011
- Pause
- Other work streams
 - Privacy
 - Cybersecurity



OECD Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP)

www.oecd.org/sti/security-privacy