Breaking news – Details for ISSE 2018 announced

We are excited to announce that ISSE will return to Brussels on 6th and 7th November and this year the conference will be hosted by IBM. More details will be revealed in the upcoming editions of Communique but be sure to put the dates in the diary for this must-attend event.

Still time to register for the EEMA Annual Conference

In this short video, Lorraine Spector, a member of the EEMA Board of Management explains why the 31st Annual Conference is a must attend event for every organisation and individual involved in identity and digital transformation.

Taking FutureTrust to the US at connect:ID

Last month, EEMA and other FutureTrust project partners were invited to the connect:ID conference in Washington DC to demonstrate how this important initiative is supporting the practical implementation of the eIDAS (Electronic Identification and Trust Services) regulation throughout the EU and beyond. The regulation was introduced in July 2016 and sets out rules for electronic identification and trust services. The presentation of FutureTrust generated a lot of interest in the US and EEMA is now looking forward to taking the project to an even wider global audience.
The deadline for GDPR compliance is finally here! What now?

The 25th May 2018 has been marked in the diary for what seems like an eternity, but now the deadline has passed we need to remember that compliance with this important new EU data protection regulation is a journey and not a destination.

At our annual conference next month, we will have a track dedicated to GDPR focusing on the regulation applied to process transformation - the opportunities and threats. We will be joined by Carolyn Harrison, (Certified GDPR Practitioner & DPO), Director at Assured Clarity Ltd and Julian Ranger, Exec Chairman & Founder, of digi.me who will explain how GDPR means sharing more data not less. We asked Carolyn for her thoughts...

In your experience as a Certified GDPR Practitioner did organisations give themselves time to get compliant ahead of the deadline?

A very few started a long time ago knowing that they had a lot to do, but if done as a slow evolution it was more likely to become business as usual, without being too disruptive. We were given two-years to prepare but the problem is that most organisations were only playing lip service to the existing DPA98, so they had a much steeper mountain to climb. Most have left it quite late, but it is not a problem as long as they at least start and don't think that it doesn't apply to them. The new DPA will be going further than GDPR, so it makes sense to start as soon as possible.

If organisations are not compliant right now what should they do?

Don't panic! Just get started and apply commonsense'. The best place to start is with an education programme for all employees, once they know what GDPR is, why it is needed, and how they can, as an individual help, you are already on the way to embracing the spirit of it. If possible forming a GDPR Working Party with representatives from across the organisation, will help not only accelerate your readiness for GDPR but improve internal communications substantially.

For smaller organisations the ICO have published a great guide with practical help [https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/making-data-protection-your-business/](https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/making-data-protection-your-business/)

In your experience how has the regulation been received?

Unfortunately, because of the sensationalist headlines and growing number of companies jumping on the GDPR bandwagon some organisations have dived head first into panic mode. So many companies have been poorly advised and are hurriedly writing to everyone they hold even just an email contact for and asking them to ‘consent’ or ‘opt in’, even when it is totally unnecessary as they already have a legitimate business relationship with them.

Are organisations seeing opportunities as well as threats?

Yes, there are enlightened companies embracing the true spirit of the new legislation, which is to stop abusing people's data and work on building long-term trusted client relationships. We have slept walked into this ‘Big Data’ culture and keep collecting far too much information ‘just in case’. GDPR provides the perfect opportunity to have a much-needed spring clean.

Carolyn Harrison, Director, Assured Clarity, www.assured-clarity.com

Diary date

SDW 2018

SDW is a world-leading conference and exhibition event providing a global showcase for next-generation human identity solutions, focusing on intrinsic document security and on the new cutting-edge secure infrastructure now required to produce and use these advanced documents in live situations.

EEMA members can save 39% by booking at the Association Member Rate (£899). To register visit: www.sdwexpo.com/delegate-booking