FutureTrust General Meeting and General Assembly

Project partners and associate partners in Belgrade, Serbia for the General Meeting and General Assembly which took place in April.
FutureTrust Going Global – First International Symposium

In April, FutureTrust hosted its first international symposium to highlight how FutureTrust and eIDAS can interoperate with schemes in the US and beyond.

This important event took place at the connect:ID conference in Washington DC, with FutureTrust co-ordinator RUB being joined by project partners EEMA, the Austrian State Computing Centre - BRZ and associate partners B.EST Solutions and SAFE-BioPharma.

The event included a live-streamed introduction to eIDAS provided by Andrea Servida, Head of Unit, eGovernment & Trust, DG-CONNECT, European Commission and an exhibition booth. The session generated a lot of interest and there are now plans to share the progress of FutureTrust with an even wider global audience.

Evaluation of FutureTrust Pilots and Demonstrators

Pilots and demonstrators show the applicability of trust services developed by FutureTrust. They make visible the various benefits of trust services for different stakeholders and connect trust services with concrete real-world use cases and applications.

To ensure excellence in the development and operation of FutureTrust pilots and demonstrators, their entire lifecycle is accompanied by a comprehensive evaluation process. Three evaluation phases—ex-ante, mid-term, and ex-post—ensure that FutureTrust pilots and demonstrators meet their specific goals in all project phases and yield the most valuable outcomes.

Methodology

FutureTrust bases the evaluation of its pilots and demonstrators on a thorough methodology. The applied evaluation process considers pilot-specific aspects and ensures that obtained evaluation results remain comparable between different pilots and demonstrators at the same time. This is achieved by basing all evaluations on a multi-layered evaluation-criteria scheme.

On a high level of abstraction, general evaluation criteria are derived from FutureTrust’s general goals, which are common for all pilots and demonstrators. General evaluation criteria cover the aspects Security and Data Protection, Functionality, Usability, Interoperability, Reusability and Sustainability, Legal Compliance, and Compliance with Project Goals. To consider the characteristics of the different FutureTrust pilots and demonstrators, general criteria lead to pilot-specific evaluation criteria. They meet the SMART objectives, i.e. are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound. Finally, in each of the three evaluation phases, pilot-specific criteria are further detailed to additionally consider specific aspects of the respective evaluation phase.

The applied evaluation methodology and its underlying multi-layered evaluation-criteria scheme ensure that evaluation results are obtained on multiple levels of abstraction. This yields a broad
First Results

According to the current lifecycle phase of the FutureTrust pilots and demonstrators, first results of the ex-ante evaluation are already available for one pilot and three demonstrators. Obtained results show that all pilots and demonstrators are on the right track and—despite their early stage—already promise good results.

Results of the ex-ante evaluation are currently transformed into concrete recommendations for developers and operators of FutureTrust pilots and demonstrators. These recommendations will contribute to an increased quality of all pilots and demonstrators.

Author: Herbert Leitold: Secretary-General of A-SIT and Thomas Zefferer: Senior IT-Security Expert (A-SIT Plus)
of components required to make eIDAS fully operational such as validation and preservation services. The scope is ambitious and promises to deliver several reusable components that can be built on by others as they seek to leverage the services enabled through eIDAS.

The challenge for the remaining part of the project is to find tests and pilots to demonstrate benefits of eIDAS in real world use cases and prove what has been built.

Looking beyond Europe

I was recently at a FutureTrust General Assembly (that’s how big the project is!). It was in Belgrade, which the observant will note is outside the EU. This was for good reason. A significant focus of FutureTrust is international with participants from several non-EU countries.

Arguably eIDAS is the closest thing we have to an international trust framework for interoperable digital identity and related trusted services. Working with stakeholders from countries outside of the EU is enabling FutureTrust to explore technically and legally how broader interoperability might be achieved.

That is essential if eIDAS is to become a standard globally.

The next General Assembly is later this year, by which time the project should have made significant progress in both of these areas. I’m excited to see where they get to.

Author: Steve Pannifer, COO, Consult Hyperion

Associate Partner Profile: Consult Hyperion

Consult Hyperion is an independent strategic and technical consultancy, based in the US and UK, specialising in secure electronic transactions. With over 30 years of experience, it helps organisations around the world exploit new technologies to secure electronic payments and identity transaction services.

Consult Hyperion has advised governments, banks, payment schemes, mobile operators and others on their digital identity strategies. This has included assessing the market demand and opportunity for digital identity services and advising on governance, technology and security aspects of digital identity related services. We have contributed to several EU funded projects in the area.

Consult Hyperion is an active member of key trade bodies in the identity space including EEMA, OIX and the DIACC. It supports the PCAG, the Privacy and Consumer Advisory Group to the UK government, which has been influential in the development of GOV.UK Verify.

Consult Hyperion brings the FutureTrust project extensive experience and knowledge of numerous digital identity initiatives around the world, across both the public and private sectors.

Trading with the world, not just within EU - the Digital Trade Hub of Azerbaijan and m-Residency

Traditionally, Azerbaijan has been an important strategic trade platform having an advantageous geopolitical location between Europe and Asia. The 21st century has marked a tremendous breakthrough in ICT development as people have embraced the wave of technology with open arms.
Taking this into consideration, comprehensive research was conducted to make a strategic decision that would take advantage of these digital improvements. As a result, the Center for Economic Reforms and Communication under the President of Azerbaijan was put in place to create in partnership with B.EST Solutions a Digital Trade Hub (DTH) to stay a leader in international commerce. Setting up a DTH simplifies everything related to international export and security by digitalising and automating all paperwork and payments, eliminating bureaucracy.

The DTH within the first six months generated US$300 million in export sales to more than 50 countries. For local SME’s it’s an incredible facilitator, having direct access to new export markets without unnecessary bureaucracy.

Additionally, to reduce friction and increase foreign direct investments m-Residency through mobile-ID is available in all Azerbaijan embassies abroad. It empowers entrepreneurs around the world to set up and run a location independent business in Azerbaijan and to use all cross-border e-services via the DTH. It allows non-residents in Azerbaijan to carry out operations to open LLCs, bank accounts, hire employees and carry out export-import operations after receiving e-signatures.

One of the steps made to implement the international validation service, is a close collaboration with the Web Notarius service as a partnership with Asseco from Poland, allowing mutual validation of e-signatures by trusted issuers worldwide.

The outcome of the projects were presented at the London Stock Exchange and Connect:ID in Washington DC. They will also be presented at the Second International Conference on Digital Trade Hub of Azerbaijan Development Perspective to be held in Baku in October.

Moreover, it is a delight to announce, that both projects Mobile-ID and the DTH have been nominated for the WSIS 2018 Prize by the United Nations (ITU), that will be announced in Geneva at its annual meeting.

B.EST Solutions is proud to contribute to ensure the lasting impact of the FutureTrust project.

Author: Jana Krimpe, Founder and CEO, B.EST Solutions
Associate Partner Profile: B.EST Solutions

Based in Baku, Azerbaijan, B.EST Solutions has implemented and operates a national legally binding Mobile-ID and e-signature ecosystem called Asan Imza which makes 600 public and private e-services available. The e-signature platform is connected to 56 countries in partnership with one of the largest international organisations named ISESCO.

The objective of B.EST Solutions in the FutureTrust project is to put forward a series of components and trustworthy services which will ease the use of secure eID and e-signatures in real world applications going beyond Europe, to enable legally significant transactions around the globe.

Bridging the eID gap and deficits, has aided Azerbaijan to become a global success story. Today 90% to 100% of tax declarations, 100% of labour contracts, B2B invoices and custom declarations are completed online.

Mobile-eID, has become a building block for additional value trust services. Since then, Azerbaijan has launched and become a major Digital Trade Hub (DTH). The DTH shows how practical compliant applications can be constructed and utilised with the aid of the developed FutureTrust components, to ensure direct presentation of European electronic products and services from all 16-member countries to Azerbaijan and vice versa.

IDentity Assurance as a Service

In 2017, Signicat received funding from the European Union Horizon2020 program to provide a better identity assurance platform and to deliver it to new markets. (Horizon2020 grant agreement number 784247). The IDAaaS (IDentity Assurance as a Service) aims to provide the best identity assurance solution for the regulated market, ensuring a good balance between compliance, cost and abandonment rates.

Signicat recently published an updated report “The battle to on-board II”, which shows that in the UK, as many as 56% of the consumers have abandoned a digital onboarding due to complexity and requesting too much information. Even in Sweden, where the usage of eID is very high, the abandonment rate was 50%, due to people changing their mind and confusing language. This all confirms that there is a big need to make identity assurance better.

IDAaaS aims to provide a low threshold for initial sign-up, to ensure that the relationship with the customer is initiated, and then step up the assurance as the activity and risk increases. Signicat is adding capabilities to onboard legal persons (organisations), in addition to the traditional natural persons (people). Both require lookup services to determine affiliation and whether the natural person, or the UBO (Ultima Beneficiary Owner) of a legal person, is a PEP (Politically Exposed Person), in which case stronger onboarding measures are required.

Data-driven authentication

In addition to a lot of innovation activities, Signicat is also involved in a research project for data driven authentication. PSD2 has been introduced to the European market to ensure the security of transactions. This means that the end-users will have to perform SCA (Strong Customer Authentication) more frequently than which is currently the case, and a solution is needed to make this as painless as possible for the users.
With data-driven authentication (also called dynamic biometrics), the smart phone will collect various information, such as movement (i.e. how the user walks), location, available Wi-Fi networks, as well as other factors, to determine a trust score which indicates the probability that the smart phone is in the hands of the user at a given time. This will then be used together with risk, to determine how much user involvement is required. If for example the probability of possession is high, and the transfer amount is low, there may not be a need to involve the user at all.

This is still a research project, and we’re hoping to add this to our MobileID solution in the near future.

Author: John Erik Setsaas, Identity Architect, Signicat

Associate Partner Profile: Signicat

Based in Trondheim, Norway, Signicat is one of the leading providers of electronic identity and electronic signature solutions in Europe, providing solutions to banks and financial institutions, insurance companies, government agencies and large corporations, as well as small and medium sized businesses.

Signicat solutions are used to authenticate users, provide electronic signing, identity proofing and document preservation, fulfilling operational capabilities in-line with international standards and requirements including, Privacy, Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist legislation and regulations (FATF), as well as Know Your Customer requirements for onboarding of new users.

Signicat is dedicated to innovating in the areas of eID and signatures, and to offer customers solutions that enable them to offer their products and services in new and innovative ways. It has won the international Identity Deployment of the Year Award and Best Innovation Award at the Cards and Payments Europe Awards.

Signicat is ISO27001 certified and is currently working on eIDAS qualification.
FutureTrust Project Partners

Full details of all Partners can be found on Opencard.

Federal Office of Administration (Germany)
EEMA (Belgium)
Arhs Spikeseed (Luxembourg)
Federal Computing Centre of Austria (Austria)
esec GmbH (Germany)
Giesecke+Devrient Mobile Security GmbH (Germany)
LAW trusted Third Party Services (Pty) Ltd (S Africa)
Ministry of Interior Republic of Serbia (Serbia)
Multicert (Portugal)
Public Service Development Agency (Georgia)
PwC (Belgium)
Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany)
Secure Information Technology Center (Austria)
Southampton University (UK)
Trustable Ltd (UK)
Türkiye Bilimsel veTeknolojik Arastruma Kurumu TUBITAK (Turkey)

Planned Activities and Events

EEMA 31st Annual Conference
13th - 14th June 2018
London, UK

ISSE 2018
6th - 7th November 2018
Brussels, Belgium

ICT 2018
4th – 6th December 2018
Vienna, Austria

FutureTrust Project

Yesterday we ran out of acronyms. Today we used our last accounting code. We’re in big trouble.

Why don’t we just reprogram the computers to accept longer codes?

A project like that would need an acronym and an accounting code.

Why not reuse a code from a project that’s complete?

Oddly enough, we’ve never completed a project.

Produced by EEMA – Dissemination Partner WP6