LOCARD EU Project to Deliver Cross-Border Chain of Custody Assurance for Digital Evidence

Last month, EEMA officially announced that it is a Project Partner, working with 19 organisations across the EU to develop a solution that will deliver cross-border chain of custody assurance for digital evidence. Working as a Consortium Partner, EEMA will provide technical, legal, ethics and stakeholder communications expertise to the LOCARD project.

LOCARD recognises the vast challenge and opportunity digital evidence presents in criminal investigations. The 36-month EU-funded initiative will create a platform to enable digital evidence metadata to be stored in a blockchain. In doing so it will deliver the cross-border chain of custody assurance required along the forensic workflow, to improve the success of investigations and prosecutions.

In a ‘Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of The Council on European Production and Preservation Orders for electronic evidence in criminal matters’ published in April 2018 the impact of the Internet on crime was highlighted, stating that ‘As a result, in a growing number of criminal cases involving all types of crime, Member State authorities require access to data that might serve as evidence and that is stored outside their country and/or by service providers in other Member States or third countries.’ The proposal targeted the challenges presented by the international dimension of digital evidence and the need to provide law enforcement and prosecutors with ‘tools to address the way criminals communicate today and to counter modern forms of criminality’.

Chair of EEMA, Jon Shamah, states: “The exponential increase in the volume of digital evidence, emerging from a diverse array of sources such as smart devices, cloud services, surveillance systems, social media etc, presents organisations, law enforcement and prosecutors with an immense challenge but also a vast opportunity.” He continues: “Being able to swiftly gather evidence from a wide range of sources and manage the data in a way that preserves the chain of custody will enable cases to be investigated thoroughly, prosecuted faster and with higher success rates.”

Jon explains that: “LOCARD acknowledges that crime is increasingly borderless and without a way to share digital evidence in a manner that maintains its integrity, perpetrators will continue to evade the justice system.”

LOCARD is the latest EU project in which EEMA has been an instrumental Consortium Partner. EEMA is currently participating in FutureTrust - a Horizon 2020 project that supports the practical implementation of eIDAS regulation throughout Europe and beyond, and LIGHTest another Horizon 2020 initiative whereby 14 partners from nine European countries are building a global community based on international standards and open source software.

For more information about LOCARD visit: https://locard.eu/
ISSE 2019 Update

Professor Bart Preneel's 'Cryptographic Year in Review' has long been a highlight of the ISSE conference and we are delighted that he will return to Brussels in November, to share his always insightful and entertaining perspective at the 21st annual ISSE. Registration is open now: www.isse.eu.com

Self-Sovereign Identity - can we ever migrate easily?

26th November 2019, London

Those of you that attended our EEMA Fireside last October, focused on self-sovereign identity, will recall how it provoked heated debate from those for and against a more decentralised approach to managing identity. Can people be trusted? Do they want to manage their own identity? And, how could it be made possible from a technology perspective.

With the topic now being discussed in the international news media, the issue is rising higher up the agenda for organisations and citizens. So, we are going to move the conversation forward, by bringing together those who will help shape the future of self-sovereign identity, in London on 26th November, for our final Fireside of 2019. Join EEMA's high level speakers including, Mark King, Consultant at Broadsail and David Alexander, CEO of Mydex for what promises to be a lively conversation.

For more information and to register visit: www.eema.org/event/eema-fireside-briefing

Get involved with the European Trust Foundation

The European Trust Foundation (ETF) was launched in 2016, with the aim of strengthening digital trust throughout Europe and to become the leading independent and neutral entity. Today, this active Brussels-based body comprises 15 members – EEMA, eForum, ESI, IDnext, Kantara Initiative, LSEC, MEF, Mydex, Norstella, OpenSignature Initiative, PIMN, SSEDIC2020, Trust in Digital Life, tScheme and Vendorcom.

The ETF is supporting ISSE 2019 and many of its members will be participating in the two-day education programme. To learn more about the ETF, including advice regarding how it can help support your current and future projects, as well as how to become a member visit: www.europeantrustfoundation.eu

Share your news with EEMA members. If you have news, initiatives and opportunities that you would like to share with other EEMA members please email Graham Thatcher: graham.thatcher@eema.org