Cryptomathic to discuss Crypto-Agility and present a new solution for qualified trust services at ISSE 2019

Cryptomathic will focus on crypto-agility and present a newly launched solution for qualified trust services at ISSE 2019 – the Crypto Service Gateway (CSG).

Managing Director at Cryptomathic GmbH, Guillaume Forget, comments: “The quality of the audience at the ISSE event combined with the insightful and compelling talks is a strong motivation for us to continue attending and sponsoring these conferences. This time, we will give a talk on crypto-agility and invite a partner of ours in the eIDAS space to present a newly launched solution for qualified trust services that combines automated client on-boarding with the facility for strong customer authentication as well as local and remote signing.”

FutureTrust releases Signature Generation & Sealing Service and Validation Service

The EU-funded FutureTrust project has released two important trust service components – the Signature Generation & Sealing Service (SigS) and Validation Service (ValS).

SigS makes it possible to generate advanced and qualified electronic signatures and seals using a large variety of signature and seal creation devices from different issuers across Europe. Among the supported signing tokens is the German eID card, the German Health Professional Card, the qualified signature cards issued by the German Chambers of Industry and Commerce and various qualified signature creation devices from Luxembourg, Estonia, Belgium and Portugal.
SigS

The SigS operates in a specially secured environment and supports standardised signature formats and the interface standards recently developed at ETSI ESI and OASIS DSS-X as well as the ChipGateway protocol. A distinctive feature of the SigS is the close integration with the pan-European eID-Broker, which allows the creation of smart advanced electronic signatures based on a suitable electronic identification processes, which enable advanced electronic signatures with the German eID card and also smart signing processes based on arbitrary identity management systems.

Depending on the signing or sealing device and the format of the provided document (PDF, XML or other format), SigS produces advanced or qualified electronic signatures and seals in standardised formats, such as CAdES, XAdES or PAdES. In order to support a variety of application scenarios and compliance requirements, SigS allows the addition of time-stamps and supports the different baseline signature conformance levels standardised by ETSI.

VaIS

Currently most components available for validating advanced and qualified electronic signatures and seals are limited to specific document and signature formats, and are not available as Open Source or even have been shown to be vulnerable. VaIS is able to validate electronic signatures, seals, certificates and evidence records and will become Open Source within the FutureTrust piloting phase.

Potentially the most important application of the VaIS is the validation of Advanced and Qualified Electronic Signatures and Seals generated with the SigS, or other signature generation and sealing services in standardised formats, such as CAdES, XAdES or PAdES. Furthermore, VaIS is also able to validate related signature objects including X.509 Certificates, for which the revocation status and the trustworthiness according to a provided set of trust anchors in a Trusted List is checked, and Evidence Records, which enable efficient long-term preservation of digital signatures. The rules for validation are determined by configurable “Signature Validation Policies” and VaIS returns the validation result in a machine-readable, XML- or JSON-based, validation report. Last but not least, VaIS is designed in an extensible manner, such that modules for other not (yet) standardised signature formats or validation policies can be easily plugged into the VaIS in a well-defined manner.

“An important goal of ‘FutureTrust’ was to simplify the use of eIDAS-related technologies in practice. Against this background it is a great pleasure to see how easy it is to use the Signature Generation & Sealing Service,” says Jon Shamah, Chair of EEMA and Leader of the FutureTrust Dissemination Work Package.

“That it is now even possible to use the German eID card to create advanced electronic signatures is particularly nice for German citizens,” adds Dr. Detlef Hühnlein, CEO and founder of ecsec GmbH and leader of the FutureTrust Pilots Work Package. “The novel combination of eID and sealing technology to create smart advanced electronic signatures demonstrates that there are large intrinsic synergies between the various eIDAS services, which only need to be exploited.”

News in brief

Free WiFi for EU citizens in Rome using eIDAS

Last month it was reported that the city of Rome will use eIDAS to enable EU citizens visiting, working or studying in the capital to access free WiFi by signing in with their national digital identities.

New European Commission FAQ provide PSD2 overview

The European Commission has published an FAQ for making electronic payments and online banking safer and easier for consumers. It provides a useful overview of PSD2 and ‘strong’ authentication: https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_QANDA-19-5555_en.htm
Meet the EEMA Board – Lorraine Spector

Lorraine's involvement with EEMA began in 2010, when her experience was called upon to prepare a paper on Recommendations for European Digital, Education, Awareness and Trust For all Citizens as part of the EU SSERIG project. Since then, Lorraine has become a lynchpin for the association supporting EEMA's participation in new EU projects as well as driving its packed event calendar.

**How do you work with EEMA on a day-to-day basis?**

I am the Board Director responsible for EEMA Strategy and Business Development. This includes our conference programme, public relations, marketing and online activities as well as supporting EEMA as an EU project partner on initiatives including LIGHTTest, FutureTrust and LOCARD. I can often be found in Brussels working alongside the Chair (Jon Shamah) and our excellent Executive Team.

**How do you add value as a member of the Board of Management?**

My background includes management and entrepreneurship, as well as ethics training. It is the diverse range of skills and experience from a wide array of industries and geographies that make EEMA stand out. Together we have guided EEMA to become a leading European Think Tank, with a great reputation as an EU project partner.

**What is it about EEMA that impresses you the most?**

EEMA was established over 30 years ago and still has many of its original founders and supporters, as well as new people coming into the industry, so we are able to access and share all of our experience of the trends and technologies and attract new dynamic specialists who give us the vision for the future.

**Can you share your most memorable EEMA experience?**

One memory that has stuck with me is sitting between Kim Cameron and Dave Birch over dinner as they solved the world's identity problems on a napkin. Not only was it an amazing evening, it truly encapsulated what EEMA represents – bringing people of influence and experience together to tackle the challenges we face today.

**What is your ambition for EEMA in the longer term?**

To continue to grow as the leading independent, non-profit, European Think Tank, collaborating with the EU and our many global partners, through world class projects, conferences, high-level fireside briefings, education and facilitating networking for our loyal members and the industry.