Gunnar Nordseth and Julian Ranger to present at EEMA Annual Conference

EEMA is delighted to reveal the CEO of Signicat, Gunnar Nordseth and Founder of digi.me, Julian Ranger will present keynotes at its 32nd Annual Conference, which is being hosted by Microsoft in London on 18th and 19th June 2019. The focus for the event this year is Empowering Business Through Digital Transformation. For more information and to register visit: www.eema.org/annual

BSI certifies world’s first Open Source “eID-Kernel” according to BSI TR-03124

The Open eCard project was initiated in 2012 to provide a platform-independent Open Source implementation of the eCard-API-Framework, according to BSI TR-03112 and the related ISO/IEC 24727 standard, in order to enable arbitrary applications to utilise arbitrary smart cards for authentication and signature purposes.

Based on these standards the Open eCard App was developed and certified in 2015 by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) as the world’s first Open Source eID-Client according to BSI TR-03124, which not only supports the German eID ‘Personalausweis’ but also several other European eID and signature cards.

Version 1.3 of the Open eCard platform is the world’s first Open Source eID-Kernel that has been certified according to BSI TR-03124. With this library, mobile identification with the German eID card, which has been notified with level of assurance ‘high’ according to Article 8 of the eIDAS-Regulation, can now be seamlessly integrated into any Android-based smartphone app. This innovative and trustworthy technology has already been used in practice for some time in the “FiftyFifty Taxi” project of the German districts of Lichtenfels and Kulmbach and the integration into the systems of identity Trust Management AG was recently started. In addition, further application scenarios in the field of electronic signatures, which are currently being developed in the EU-funded FutureTrust project, and further integrations will follow soon.

Thanks to the international standard ISO/IEC 24727 implemented in Open eCard, additional contactless eID tokens, signature cards and electronic health, as well as health professional cards can now also be used for mobile authentication and signatures.

To read the press release in full visit: https://www.eema.org/bsi-certifies-worlds-first-open-source-eid-kernel-according-to-bsi-tr-03124/
On 5th March, EEMA hosted its latest High-Level Fireside Briefing at Gallup’s office in The Shard which this time focused on how criminals could exploit artificial intelligence.

“Incredibly interesting discussion and brilliantly orchestrated fireside.”

Jon Shamah (pictured right with EEMA’s Roger Dean) were at the eWorld Procurement & Supply conference to present how the LIGHTest project can positively impact global supply chain.

EEMA was in attendance at the European Commission in Brussels to represent its members at the 15th anniversary of ENISA - The EU Cybersecurity Agency.

Member of the EEMA Board of Management, Lorraine Spector, attended the Global Transformational Policing Summit at Chelsea FC to discuss digital evidence management across Europe.
You would think that it would be easy – but it’s not. Recently, I was tasked with showing some of the economics of a voluntary national eID program, separated out between eID authentication, transformation and national registration, and I found it virtually impossible to get any hard ‘forensic’ numbers.

I spoke with many eID program leaders across Europe at high level and whilst there are lots of percentages there is little available when it comes to real objective figures.

This set me thinking about how you would objectively measure the success of a national eID program, and if you would ever want to?

Yes, you might be able to get some savings analysis for the population registry benefits, but most countries have these established many years ago, but the actual savings made by a card – whether it’s a smartcard or purely digital system have not been calculated. There really is not much enthusiasm for that. One should then really start thinking as to what the real reason for this is, and why would anyone want to measure something that has the potential to end badly. It is a real disincentive. Do you really want to spend money, trying to measure benefits that may or may not exist; which you were responsible for selling to your superiors in the first place; and which you cannot undo anyway?

Maybe there are some other measurements, other than financial, that are worth considering when justifying the introduction of national eIDs.

Let’s concentrate on the customer. Government savings are invisible to most people and only get squandered elsewhere. The customer is the citizen. Therefore, what you want to do is to make sure that the citizen/customer is happy. You could run a survey, and if the majority of people say “Thank you for my eID”, then that is a good sign. Actually from a political point of view it is great sign!

Politicians will always spend money to gain votes if they can. A terrible thing to say but it’s the truth. Politicians rarely spend money if something is unpopular. So, if the system is liked by the citizen, it can be deemed a success. And this means politicians being re-elected. You can make the citizen happy by saving them money and saving them time. Both of those can be interpreted as a delivery of a service.

You can save a citizen time

By reducing the time that it takes to enrol into a service, whether government or private sector, such as opening a bank account, or registering for a loyalty scheme or similar. Also fewer mistakes are made. It’s called ‘friction’.

The second way is to speed up getting a requested benefit, like receiving a new driving licence, or a building permit. Even something simple like a dog licence. Here we are talking about end-to-end workflow. This is the ultimate measure.

Another way of benefiting the citizen is to provide services that they would not normally be able to receive without an eID, but in conjunction with a consolidated identity it is fast and simple. A great example of this is a pension dashboard, such as in Denmark. From one location you can see and compare all the pensions that you have ever taken out during your life – both public and private sector. You can look at consolidated figures and know exactly how your income will change after you retire, and if you are young enough, adjust payments accordingly. They tried this in the UK but without any real meaningful benefit to the user. It just served the state pension, which you cannot adjust anyway. Simpler just to phone up!

The whole circus of opening up a bank account, can be simplified with a strong eID and some common-sense coordination between ‘Know Your Customer’ rules and the eID service.

Another example is online age verification. Not necessarily for buying alcohol or cigarettes online – does anyone really do that? - but about attending music festivals, concerts or other entertainment venues where alcohol is served/sold. You need to show that you are over 18. Do you want to bring your passport to a music gig? I had to declare my age on line recently, for buying tickets for a film festival. This was not a reliable test. Anyway. it was OK, I could not buy any alcohol. They were mainly selling drugs!

Of course, if it takes forever to enrol into a voluntary National eID scheme, with constant errors, or if it’s not efficient and fails to deliver, then it will not be liked and will be counterproductive.

Citizens are highly intolerant of failure in something as personal as an eID. They are the ultimate measure of success.