Building a robust cross-border chain of trust for digital evidence

WEBINAR

What is digital evidence and what are the challenges in handling it?

The Council of Europe (COE) defines electronic evidence as any information generated, stored or transmitted in digital form that may later be needed to prove or disprove a fact disputed in legal proceedings.

At a crime scene there are many variables that investigators must consider in order to collect, present and analyse evidence, that preserves the chain of custody and enables it to be used in legal proceedings. Inexpert handling can cause damage and destruction of electronic evidence. Key considerations include - Do digital forensics need to be conducted on-site? Can devices be seized and if so what is the best practice?, Are hard drives encrypted? Could data be stored in the cloud and if so can it be accessed based on the jurisdictions involved? How are devices to be packaged, transported and stored? This process needs to be documented and timestamped.

Furthermore, evidence that is to be shared with other jurisdictions must comply with the respective domestic regulations.

Today, the level of competency varies wildly, not only from agency to agency and country to country, but within an organisation. Some have zero expertise in the use of digital evidence, whilst others understand the guidance and have procedures in place, along with the necessary technical capabilities. To move forward there needs to be a basic baseline of competence across all of the actors, both inside a single jurisdiction and across borders.

How could the use of digital evidence be improved for sharing data cross-borders?

Today, in high sensitive investigation areas such as child sexual exploitation, data is being shared between law enforcement agencies around the world without restrictions, because if restrictions are added data cannot be used and is therefore worthless. Time is often of the essence in such criminal investigations and the use of rogatory letters and European Investigation Orders can slow down the process when requesting digital evidence. So, a tool that speeds-up, automates and standardises the whole process would be useful.

How can tools to better manage the digital evidence process be implemented most successfully?

Most people don’t have computer science backgrounds and there can be a tendency (particularly at a management level) to assume that the tools can do everything. If tools are to be used for digital evidence purposes there needs to be a clear understanding of what the technology is doing and what it is telling them.

The webinar is available to watch now at: https://vimeo.com/433597523
EEMA welcomes Heather Flannagan

Following an extremely well received presentation during the EEMA Annual Conference Webinar Series in June, Heather Flannagan has become the latest member of EEMA. Heather is Principal at Spherical Cow Consulting and has been involved in leadership roles with some of the most technical, volunteer-driven organisations on the Internet, including IDPro as Principal Editor, the IETF as RFC Series Editor, and REFEDS as Coordinator, just to name a few. If there is work going on to develop new Internet standards, or discussions around the future of digital identity, she is interested in engaging in that work.

The webinar ‘Future Trends of Identity and Access Management’ is available at: https://vimeo.com/433601288

41% of European consumers unable to access financial services during lockdown

New research from EEMA member, Signicat, reveals that 41% of consumers across Europe have been unable to access new financial services thanks to a combination of pandemic lockdown restrictions and lack of access to digital options. The research of over 4000 consumers also discovered that two-thirds expect improvements following these poor experiences. One of these improvements should be 100% digital onboarding of customers.

More information can be found in Signicat’s new whitepaper ‘The Battle to Onboard 2020: The impact of Covid and beyond’ available at: https://resources.signicat.com/btob2020

EEMA through the ages: 1987 – 1999

EEMA was founded in 1987 and based in Brussels as a not-for-profit association. However, it all began in 1986 on the initiative of Tony Caplin and myself, when we were working at the email company One-to-One. The inaugural meeting of the major telecom PTTs was held in Zurich and we appointed our first Chairman, Leon Hendriks from Telecom Netherlands.

The following year EEMA hosted its first international Annual Conference in Paris, for a rapidly growing membership. This was the time of national telecom monopolies and in 1993 the Swiss PTT hosted the conference in Montreux with a reception aboard a liner on Lake Geneva.

Towards the end of the millennium, EEMA was invited by the European Commission to launch Information Security Solutions Europe (ISSE) conference in Berlin to promote European security products and services, sparking a 17 year collaboration with TeleTrust. This joint initiative between EEMA and the European Commission Directorate General Information Society, has firmly established itself as a must attend annual events for senior IT security professionals, academics, vendors and policymakers.

Roger Dean, Director Special Projects, EEMA
Meet the European Trust Foundation: NorStella

Jon Ølnes is the Product Manager Nordics at Signicat and he shares with us an introduction to the Norway based Norstella, a founding member of the European Trust Foundation.

Norstella is a foundation with the overall vision to contribute to better, increased and simpler digital interaction between the public and private sector. Norstella is financed by membership fees and income from projects such as research activities, conferences and workshops, as well as continuous activities such as administration of identifiers for digital customs clearance. Early activities in Norstella involved EDI and the original name was “Norwegian EDIPRO”. In this context, Norstella has been a contributor to standardisation activities such as ebXML.

Facilitating competence and industry networking

The major task for Norstella is to facilitate competence and industry networking and there are currently six active groups:

- Digital interaction, focussing on the relationship between the government and private enterprises in general.
- Digital leaders, which is an expert group and a forum for increased digitalisation.
- Transport and logistics.
- Nordic Operator Forum for standardisation and related activities in e-commerce and e-invoicing.
- eID forum, where actors in the Norwegian electronic identity and trust services business meet with relevant actors from the public sector.

Regarding eID forum, Norstella has co-operated with EEMA dating back to 2015. There is a strong overlap between participation in the eID forum and Norwegian participation with EEMA.

Developing ecommerce in Norway

Norstella has been instrumental in the development of electronic commerce in Norway, particularly in the standardisation of ecommerce messaging such as invoicing, customs clearance and transport related messaging. The ShortSeaXML project in shipping is one example. The Semicolon project on digital interaction in the public sector provided the foundation for much of the later work on digitalisation in Norway.

Regarding the eID forum, a networking forum like this has been active in Norway under various umbrellas since around 2000. Norstella took over the responsibility more than seven years ago. The eID forum has been instrumental to Norwegian adoption of the EU eIDAS regulation and in settling other matters of common interest to the Norwegian eID and trust services industry. Norway is among the most advanced countries in the world in these areas, not least because such a forum exists.

For more information about Norstella visit:

www.norstella.no