

PRESS RELEASE***The Way to Better Privacy and Identity Management in Europe******– PRIME Project Releases White Paper –***

Privacy and Identity Management are the central topics of **PRIME**. The project has just released the initial version of its **White Paper** to launch the debate on these issues. The document focuses on pathbreaking solutions needed to protect the privacy of individuals against the risks emerging together with powerful technologies.

Peter Schaar, Chairman of the Article 29 Data Protection Working Party¹, comments on the White Paper: “In the Information Age privacy is an issue of growing importance for each individual and for all Information Technology providers. New technologies require new ways of data protection. In its White Paper the PRIME project not only describes urgent privacy problems, but also outlines solutions and sketches visions for a world where users are able to successfully protect their privacy. The PRIME project makes it easier to design future solutions in a privacy friendly and economical way. Furthermore, these solutions should be easy to use in a practical way in order to gain high acceptance by users.”

Information technologies bring individuals and organisations continuous benefits already today, and promise much more in the near future. These powerful new technologies, however, more and more permeate the private sphere, up to opening it up for insight by others. One’s right to privacy of individuals is thus increasingly at risk. To preserve such essential right the individual’s autonomy and control over personal information must be at least maintained. Current practice and trends in information technologies, however, show a widening gap from such vision. This undermines trust in domains where trust is critical, such as healthcare, banking, and even the exercise of democracy. The goal of PRIME is to close this gap.

¹ This Working Party was set up under Article 29 of Directive 95/46/EC. It is an independent European advisory body on data protection and privacy.





Privacy and Identity Management for Europe

The PRIME White Paper outlines the issues raising from the disclosure of personal data and from the insufficient degree of control left to individuals in the digital world. It sets the vision of the PRIME consortium and elaborates proposals to support and enforce privacy law with a system that restores user's control. It suggests avenues to achieve the vision through necessary but reasonable investment.

The PRIME White Paper is strategic to the project's stakeholders. It is expected to influence the world-wide discussion on privacy and identity management. But it aims also to create a large consensus on the solutions and implementations required to protect privacy in the digital world. Hence, the PRIME consortium invites all those who feel concerned by these issues to assess the views and proposals contained in this document and to provide feedback. People from specific sectors like finance, health, services, telecommunications, government agencies, as well as regulators, specialists, experts, and all interested individuals are kindly requested to download the White Paper at <http://www.prime-project.eu.org/whitepaper/>. Any feedback is very much appreciated.

General Information on PRIME:

Website: <http://www.prime-project.eu.org/>

Project duration: March 2004 – February 2008

Budget: about 16 Million Euro

Funding: The PRIME project receives research funding from the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme and the Swiss Federal Office for Education and Science.

Project partners: Multidisciplinary consortium consisting of IBM (administration coordination: Compagnie IBM France; technical lead: IBM Zürich Research Laboratory, Switzerland); Katholieke Universiteit Leuven from Belgium; Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/LAAS and Institut EURECOM from France; Unabhängiges Landeszentrum für Datenschutz Schleswig-Holstein, Technische Universität Dresden, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, RWTH Aachen, Deutsche Lufthansa, and T-Mobile from Germany; Università di Milano, Joint Research Centre/IPSC, and Fondazione Centro San Raffaele del Monte Tabor from Italy; Universiteit van Tilburg and Erasmus University Rotterdam from the Netherlands; Karlstads Universitet from Sweden; Swisscom from Switzerland; Hewlett-Packard in the UK; and Chaum LLC from the USA.

