

**Government Connect Industry Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday 13 November 2007
 Intellect Conference Suite, Russell Square House, London**

Attendees

Glen Farrant	Anite Public Sector Ltd
Robert Alley	CA
Lee Grafton	Department for Communities and Local Government
George Nahlis	Department for Communities and Local Government
Chris Watts	Department for Communities and Local Government
Stephen Howes	EG3
Norman MacLeod	Gandlake Ltd
David Bryant	Hytec Information Security Ltd
John Sweeney	IBM United Kingdom Limited
Melissa Frewin	Intellect
David Harrison	Metaskil plc
Geoff Linton	Oracle Corporation UK Ltd
Bob Kent	Public Sector Integrated Solutions
Colin Lobo	Siemens Enterprise Communications Limited
Sean Arrowsmith	Siemens Enterprise Communications Limited
Gus Bains	Software AG UK Limited
Steve Hoy	speed-trap Ltd
Tim Smith	SunGard Public Sector Aspiren Ltd

Apologies

Damien Kennedy	Cabinet Office
Bill Bicker	Extreme Networks
Tim Craig	Inmezzo Mobile Security Limited
Stephen Darvill	LogicaCMG Plc
Stuart Griffin	MMCC Consultants
Harjinder Bansal	Parity Solutions
Lesley Hewitt	Tribal Consulting Ltd.
Vicki Murcott	Valueworks
Peter Fagan	Vizuri
Peter Seymour	Voca Limited
Franck Merlin	Workwiz Ltd

1. Welcome and Introductions

Melissa Frewin, Intellect Programme Manager with responsibility for the GC IAG, welcomed attendees to the meeting. Delegates were invited to introduce themselves.

George Nahlis, Stakeholder Liaison Manager at Government Connect (GC), said that he was keen to ensure that the meeting was used to generate a frank and honest discussion about the future of the Industry Advisory Group and the direction of GC and elicit members' views on this.

2. Review of Minutes – 25 October 2007

The minutes from the most recent meeting were approved. Melissa Frewin gave an update on the status of the actions, which are detailed in the following table.

Action	Status
Action 1: Suppliers to send George Nahlis information for marketing to local authorities (through hardcopy and electronic form) or indicate existing sites/portals where the information is held.	Completed – this information has been incorporated into GC Market Place. Suppliers that have not submitted their information are welcome to do so.
Action 2: Suppliers to complete Satisfaction Survey.	Completed.
Action 3: Suppliers to send 400-500 word soft adds and logos for inclusion into the GC Industry e-Newsletter.	Completed. Suppliers that wish to submit information for future newsletters are invited to do so.
Action 4: George Nahlis to circulate an example of the GC Industry e-Newsletter.	Completed – an approved version is available on GC Market Place.
Action 5: Suppliers to contact George Nahlis regarding plans to use GC branding.	Ongoing.
Action 6: George Nahlis to send further details on the Industry Tracker, when available.	Ongoing. GCR Industry tracker handing over to EDT
Action 7: George Nahlis to provide details on the migration of existing Government Gateway authorities to Register.	Completed – Chris Watts delivered a presentation on 31 January.
Action 8: Suppliers to submit marketing collateral for local authority seminars (being run by Balraj Sadhu) - further details about the events, which are for local authority representatives only, can be found at: http://www.govconnect.gov.uk/news/upcoming-events/regional-seminars/	Completed.
Action 9: George to check whether there has been any useful feedback with regards to needing supplier assistance, following on from the regional seminars for local authorities.	Completed – local authorities expressed interest but had no specific questions at that stage.
Action 10: Suppliers to submit ideas for increasing local authority connectivity momentum.	Ongoing – some suppliers have been in discussion with Dilip Parmar on this.
Action 11: Suppliers to provide feedback on the re-launch of the GC website.	Completed – as part of the supplier satisfaction survey.
Action 12: Balraj Sandhu to share details on Tell Us Once pilots etc.	Completed.
Action 13: Intellect to ensure that GC Exchange is an agenda item for the next meeting on 31 January.	Completed – see section 3b) below.

3. GC programme update – George Nahlis

George Nahlis provided attendees with an update on the progress of the GC programme. A copy of the presentation slides is embedded below:



"Programme Update for IAG 310108.ppt"

a) GC Marketplace

George Nahlis gave an overview of GC Market Place, a Socitm hosted site that is designed as a means of providing information about suppliers to local authorities. The site is currently in its development phase and is not yet accessible by potential customers. Members of the IAG are invited to provide feedback and comments on the site before it is launched.

George explained that there would be several stages to the evolution of the site:

- ?? Basic alpha site, including information about suppliers in a spreadsheet format
- ?? Beta site, to include individual searchable supplier pages (which will allow for every supplier to have their own link which can be used for marketing purposes)
- ?? Added functionality to ensure that suppliers can update their own pages themselves

Access to the site is currently by invitation only, but the intention is to make it publicly available upon launch (with a facility to monitor traffic). A campaign will accompany the launch of the site, which is expected to be by the end of February, with targeted communications going out to people from all local authorities.

GC Market Place also includes a newsletter, which will be produced on a regular basis and will feature information about suppliers and their offerings.

Action 1: Suppliers to provide feedback on GC Market Place by mid-February.

Action 2: Suppliers to provide input for future newsletters.

b) GC Exchange

Answering a question on the status of GC Exchange, Lee Grafton explained that in Christmas 2006 Kenny Robertson led a review of government assets. Robertson concluded that GC Exchange should not be developed and that an existing asset should be used instead. GC subsequently reviewed the programme, focusing on delivering the secure network, with the intention of using Government Gateway for authentication.

Using Government Gateway for secure transactions over the internet currently entails a DIS box requirement (which acts as a known end point in the system). DIS functionality remains a requirement for data transfer, but this could potentially change when there is a business function to challenge it in which case the requirement would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in view of the fact that the data will be transferred over the secure GCSx network.

Suppliers highlighted the importance of the last paragraph on slide 5, which reads: 'A local authority or central government agency wishing to exchange data across the secure GCSx network by means other than described above must have the end-to-end solution reviewed by the GC and GSi Accreditation Working Groups. Guidance is available from Government Connect for this purpose.' The group noted the importance of ensuring there was clarity around the protocols, requirements and where this was documented. Local authority partnerships, for example, do not require DIS functionality in order to share xml data on the network assuming they are compliant with the Code of Connection (CoCo).

GC confirmed that the CTO Council will determine standards and procedures for the secure exchange of data over GCSx, and acknowledged that care must be taken to ensure that any such pre-defined standards would not be constraining or stifle innovation.

Action 3: George Nahlis to amend presentation slide to read DIS (Departmental Integration System).

c) GC Register

Chris Watts gave an update on GC Register, the Government Gateway citizen authentication register and enrolment service, and a copy of the presentation slides are below.



"2008-01-31 IAG -
Chris Watts.ppt"

Local authorities are currently facing two key problems: a lack of clarity around the business case and potential partnerships associated with this, and a lack of familiarity with the accreditation process. The Local Government Delivery Council is playing an important role in educating local authorities about security and secure networks and the Shadow CTO Council is helping to communicate information about the accreditation process.

The GC Register local authority service pack currently includes the following documents:

- ?? Readiness checklist and advice
- ?? Q-pack build documentation
- ?? MOA
- ?? Process description

However, the pack does not include information about handling change after the initial build or creditable acceptance testing, which would be of value to local authorities. GC is keen to speed up the approvals process and agreed to circulate a copy of the pack for review by IAG members.

- Action 4:** Chris Watts to include the 14-week timescale on the 1st process diagram in the presentation slides.
- Action 5:** Chris Watts to update the process slides to include citizen data requirements, single sign-on applications and relating services and enrolment data to citizen ID.
- Action 6:** GC to share GC Register local authority service pack to enable IAG members to comment and suggest additional content.

d) Citizen authentication

The vision of cross-government citizen authentication is extremely complex, and will require considerable resource by way of technical and build staff, account managers etc. Furthermore, a federated approach to identity management will involve problems with commonality across citizen ID's and multiple identities.

Members with particular views on the future of citizen authentication in the UK are invited to submit written positions to Intellect. Intellect will forward on individual responses and also collate any comments to be included in an anonymised industry submission.

It was suggested that the IAG could offer to hold a half-day workshop in approximately six weeks time with Rod Matthews, Strategy Director at EDT, as part of the Onward Home discussions with the aim of receiving and discussing Industry views and comments on future engagement with Programmes (see item f). The workshop also would focus on the business planning issues around citizen authentication.

- Action 7:** Suppliers to submit written positions on the future of citizen authentication (either individually or for inclusion in an anonymised industry response) to Intellect to be forwarded on.
- Action 8:** Intellect to approach EDT with a view to holding a workshop on the future of citizen authentication.

e) Future role of the IAG

George Nahlis highlighted the achievements of the IAG since its inception, and explained that he has been actioned to put together an options paper outlining how the forum might be used after 31 March and what it might seek to achieve. The paper includes two scenarios with the IAG either taking a holding role (with minimal activity) or enhancing and improving the current arrangement and ways of working.

George Nahlis promised to circulate a copy of the paper to members for comment before the final version is submitted.

Action 9: George Nahlis to circulate a copy of the IAG options paper to members for comment.

f) GC Onward Home

Lee Grafton confirmed that GC had received a settlement under the Comprehensive Spending Review, but that the discussion about its onward home was ongoing with a decision expected in mid-February. At present there is no indication as to whether there would be an extension or handover period.

Actions: see actions 8 and 9 above.

6. AOB

There was no further business for discussion.