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NSAI Standards

Standard Recommendation
S.R. CWA 16036:2009 (JUNE 2010)

Cyber-Identity - Unique Identification Systems For Organizations and Parts Thereof

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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR STANDARDIZATION
COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
EUROPÄISCHES KOMITEE FÜR NORMUNG

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Brussels, 2010-05-12

With reference to the above, please include the following minor editorial correction(s) in the document related to:

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- ☒ English
- ☐ French
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- ☐ PQ/UQ
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KAA

It has been brought to our attention that this document, issued on 2009-11-11 (CEN Standards Publications Weekly Output Reference 2009/11/II) requires modification.

Description of modification
Due to grey fields in the text some of the cross references were missing in the PDF document.

Please find enclosed the updated *English* version.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

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S.R. CWA 16036:2009

CEN WORKSHOP AGREEMENT

CWA 16036

November 2009

ICS 35.040; 35.240.01

English version

Cyber-Identity - Unique Identification Systems For Organizations and Parts Thereof

This CEN Workshop Agreement has been drafted and approved by a Workshop of representatives of interested parties, the constitution of which is indicated in the foreword of this Workshop Agreement.

The formal process followed by the Workshop in the development of this Workshop Agreement has been endorsed by the National Members of CEN but neither the National Members of CEN nor the CEN Management Centre can be held accountable for the technical content of this CEN Workshop Agreement or possible conflicts with standards or legislation.

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COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DE NORMALISATION
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Foreword

The production of this CWA (CEN Workshop Agreement) specifying “Cyber Identity: Unique identification systems for organizations and parts thereof” was formally accepted at the Workshop Cyber ID kick-off meeting on 11 April 2008.

This CWA consists of three main chapters (parts):

- Collection of requirements
- Inventory of applications and associated requirements
- Use cases and specific issues

The document has been developed through the collaboration of a number of contributing partners in the Workshop.

The CWA approval was obtained following an electronic approval process that finished on 5th October 2009. The following organizations express their support to the CWA:

GS1 Europe

GS1 Switzerland

ID Partners (France)

Bernard Istasse consultant (France)

Athens Chamber of Commerce (Greece)

Dr. Otto Müller Consulting (Switzerland)

ENISA (European Network and Information Security Agency)

Multicert (Portugal)

The Federal Authorities of the Swiss Confederation, Federal Strategy Unit for IT (FSUIT), (Switzerland)

Odette (UK)

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Comments or suggestions from the users of the CEN Workshop Agreement are welcome and should
be addressed to the CEN Management Centre.

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Introduction

Nowadays private and public organizations are increasingly relying more on electronic means of communications for carrying out their daily transactions for eBusiness and eGovernment purposes.

In electronic communications, to gain the trust and confidence of transacting parties, a required element is certainty regarding the organizations involved. Knowing exactly which the acting organization actually is, has become a matter of paramount importance for all transacting parties. This issue is known as “Cyber-Identity”. The matter is often reduced to secure authentication, but goes far beyond this limited subject. Reliable business information stored in trustworthy registries (official commercial registries as well as privately owned and operated directories) accessible online are another part of the picture which is often neglected.

Furthermore, regulations to fight against cyber criminality will enforce traceability of transactions, e.g. “know your customer” principle or anti-money laundering regulations. These examples show that the topic of the Workshop is also a cornerstone of the IT Governance.

Unique persistent identification of business entities by recognised bodies and the verification of such identifications in trustworthy registers are a prerequisite for interoperability in open user groups e.g. standards for electronic business exchange may mandate the use of unique identifiers in certain fields but do not specify how they can be decoded and resolved without a bilateral agreement. Therefore, the purpose of this CWA is to discuss these issues and provide standardisation bodies with proper recommendations to achieve this goal.

Several business registries currently in place address the issue of business Cyber-Identity albeit in a non-uniform manner. A significant amount of resources remains untapped, due to incompatible and non-interoperable business registries that mainly operate in isolation within non interoperable application domains.

The targets of this CWA are also in line with the EC Communication i2010 of the European Commission which indicates interoperability as a main challenge for creating a single information space and identity management as one area for action.

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1. Scope

The present document gives guidance on unique identification systems currently in use or emerging for organizations and parts thereof. This covers organizational and operational rules and processes to enable interoperability across multiple organization identification schemes. Stress is laid on the persistence or permanence of the identification, i.e. that an according identifier designates the same entity over a long period. It comprehends an analysis of existing systems and proposes recommendations on how to achieve interoperability among them by using meta-identification systems. These specifications form an umbrella over disparate schemes for business directory services in order to create a reconciled and workable framework that can be used in multiple application environments. The focus is on unique identification systems used in Europe taking into account relevant international standardisation developments.

The document concentrates on the usage of unique identifiers in “open” systems and user groups. The borders between open and closed groups are fluent and closed groups may be integrated in open groups at a later stage. Stress is laid on identifiers used in open exchange and which can be verified in directories accessible over the Internet. However, identification of products which are consumer goods is not in the focus of this document. In particular, this CWA focuses on the following topics:

- ***Organization identification schemes*** which allow to identify the organization;
  Including schemes which allow to identify the organization and organization parts (e.g. organizational units, establishments, documents or services provided by the identified organization – see “organization part” in “Definitions”), thus any relevant entity which can be identified uniquely.
- ***Verification of the identified organization contained*** in such a scheme and registered ***in a directory service***.
  Special consideration is given to governance issues and legal considerations concerning the registers as well as how secure access is ensured to such registers.
- ***Bringing together various schemes*** without obligating the scheme issuers to change their registration process.

The document contains an analysis of architectural models of interoperability of directories and resolution services and gives recommendations in order to assure low administrative effort and a maximum flexibility of using organization identification schemes and of verifying identifiers.

For the purpose of this Workshop, the term “Cyber-Identity” is restricted to worldwide unique identification of business entities and parts thereof by applying unique identifiers and “verification” solely to verifying the identified organizations by using a publicly available directory/register for organizations/companies. Excluded from the scope of this CWA is identification of citizens and consumers, although it will be taken into consideration that some issues are common to identification of citizens and consumers and an interface might be needed in future.

International standards covering issues addressing identification systems of organizations are taken as reference for the present document.

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