



## **Working Towards Interoperability Among Public and Private Electronic Authentication Systems**

The Electronic Authentication Partnership, Inc. (EAP) is a cross-industry organization working on the vital task of enabling interoperability among public and private electronic authentication (e-authentication) systems. Accordingly, the EAP supports and supplements the work of other organizations in the e-authentication world, as well as individual industry-wide authentication protocols.

E-authentication system interoperability is essential to the efficient and cost-effective operation of safe and secure systems that perform essential electronic transactions and tasks across industry lines. The EAP is building on the groundbreaking work of various e-authentication systems, suppliers and users by:

- Creating a voluntary partnership for the governance of digital authentication among stakeholders from all levels of government, the private sector and public interest groups.
- Replacing bilateral agreements between participating parties who wish to rely on each other's authentication processes with a uniform and universally accepted set of rules, resulting in multilateral trust among all participants.
- Establishing and maintaining common policies and practices for credentials, credential providers and credential processors that will facilitate trust, interoperability; as well as support the easy evaluation and acceptance of credentials issued by multiple parties.
- Developing a standard evaluation process for credentials and setting uniform approaches and minimum requirements for authentication.

- Building on existing credential mechanisms and creating new complementary operating rules and associated processes.

### **It's a Matter of Teamwork!**

The Electronic Authentication Partnership is the premier forum for the exchange of policy information about electronic authentication and identity assurance. While other organizations focus on technology, standards or specific solutions, the EAP is an open forum of leading policy makers. The EAP provides education and networking opportunities for those who are shaping the direction of identity assurance. The EAP builds on the technology and standards developed by others by providing expert industry insight, guidance and recommendations. The EAP helps determine which solutions can be used to promote interoperability between various authentication systems.

The EAP includes America's leading organizations in e-authentication and identity assurance, combining the talents of government and private sector experts. The EAP's goal is to provide a simple, yet legal and reliable, user-friendly process for verifying identity across systems and various authentication systems.

### **It's a Matter of Trust!**

Interoperability between various authentication systems means that an organization can rely on an identity credential, even if it is not issued by an organization in the same authentication system. Reliance on the credential must be based on a trust infrastructure. Ideally, the relying parties should be able to trust a credential because it was issued in accordance with a standard framework agreed to by all members.



### **It's a Matter of Public/Private Collaboration!**

The EAP seeks to collaborate with leaders from both the public and private sectors for solutions that promote interoperability between authentication systems. Establishing policy for millions of people, thousands of buildings, computer systems and networks is having a profound impact on identity verification in this country. The EAP leadership wants to ensure that practices within the government and private sector are consistent and responsive to the needs of both sectors.

### **Benefits of Membership!**

The EAP is now entering a critical phase - *moving from theory to reality*. The EAP's Trust Framework includes policies and rules to promote interoperability and is ready to be put into use! You can play an active role in identifying projects that can test the framework and determine which policies and practices truly promote the interoperability of electronic identity credentials issued by different federations. EAP members have the opportunity to:

- Help shape identity assurance policy for both the public and private sectors.
- Position your organization to participate in pilot programs that will influence the evolution of identity assurance.

- Stay informed of government policy that impacts identity assurance.
- Learn about the latest technology, standards and solutions in the e-authentication and identity assurance industry.
- Get to know public and private sector leaders in e-authentication.
- Identify opportunities to save time and resources in implementing identity assurance programs.
- Participate in discussions about and vote on key aspects of the EAP's Trust Framework as it is modified in response to pilot tests and other developments.
- Participate in all EAP membership activities, such as meetings, conference calls, issue resolution and rules updates.
- Have access to exclusive "*Members Only*" web sites, documents and materials, which provide information on the latest developments in e-authentication.
- Learn best practices in the industry as they are established, so that you and your organization are positioned for operational, even competitive advantage.
- Expand markets by promoting wider use of identity credentials.

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### **Contact Us!**

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