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AGREEMENT

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English version

Guide on the Use of Electronic Signatures - Part 2: Protection Profile for Software Signature Creation Devices

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.

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

Management Centre: rue de Stassart, 36 B-1050 Brussels

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Foreword

Successful implementation of European Directive 1999/93/EC on a Community framework for electronic signatures [Dir.1999/93/EC] requires standards for services, processes, systems and products related to electronic signatures as well as guidance for conformity assessment of such services, processes, systems and products.

In 1999 the European ICT Standards Board, with the support of the European Commission, undertook an initiative bringing together industry and public authorities, experts and other market players, to create the European Electronic Signature Standardisation Initiative (EESSI).

Within this framework the Comité Européen de Normalisation / Information Society Standardisation System (CEN/ISSS) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute / Electronic Signatures and Infrastructures (ETSI/ESI) were entrusted with the execution of a work programme to develop generally recognized standards to support the implementation of [Dir.1999/93/EC] and development of a European electronic signature infrastructure.

The CEN/ISSS Workshop on electronic signatures (WS/E-SIGN) resulted in a set of deliverables, CEN Workshop Agreements (CWA), which contributed towards those generally recognized standards. The present document is one such CWA.

The purpose of this CWA is to give guidance on the use of electronic signatures. Whilst the focus often has been on "qualified electronic signatures" as specified in Article 5.1 of the Directive, a side effect was that the requirements of employing general electronic signatures (referred to as "5.2 signatures") in e-commerce were not sufficiently addressed.

The purpose of this part of the CWA is to specify the security requirements for a signature-creation device that can be implemented in software, and thus fulfil a wider market need than the "Secure Signature-Creation Device" required for qualified electronic signatures.

The part of the CWA is intended for use technical experts and designers of systems and products in the area of electronic signatures.

This CWA is provided as a series of discrete documents, each a part of the overall CWA, the present part being Part 2. Details of all applicable parts can be found in Part 1.

This version of this CWA part was published 2004-03.

A list of the individuals and organizations which supported the technical consensus represented by this CEN Workshop Agreement is available to purchasers from the CEN Central Secretariat.

1 Scope

Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a community framework for electronic signatures [Dir.1999/93/EC] – referred to as the Directive in the remainder of this document – established a legal framework for electronic signatures and certification-services in order to contribute to their legal recognition. It is laid down in article 5.1 that electronic signatures fulfilling certain quality metrics – so called qualified electronic signatures – satisfy the requirements of handwritten signatures. In article 5.2 a residual provision is given where general electronic signatures are not denied legal effectiveness and admissibility as evidence in legal proceedings, even if the quality metrics of qualified electronic signatures are not met.

This CWA contains in a normative Annex a Protection Profile (PP) for a Signature Creation Device (SCDev) suitable for such general electronic signatures. The SCDev-PP follows the provision of the Common Criteria (CC) [ISO 15408]. It is based on the [SSCD PP] that has been developed as a standard for devices that are capable of creating qualified electronic signatures. A comparison between the [SSCD PP] and the SCDev PP is given, which points out the main differences.

2 References

2.1 Normative References

The following normative documents contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this CWA. For dated references, subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications do not apply. However, parties to agreements based on this CWA are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the normative documents indicated below. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document referred to apply.

- [DIR.1999/93/EC] Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 1999 on a community framework for electronic signatures.
- [SSCD PP] CEN/ISSS WS/E-Sign Workshop Agreement 14169: Security Requirements of Secure Signature Creation Devices (SSCD).
- [ISO 15408] ISO/IEC 15408-1 to 15408-3: Information technology - Security techniques - Evaluation criteria for IT security – Part 1: Introduction and general model, Part 2: Security functional requirements, Part 3: Security assurance requirements, 1999.

2.2 Informative References

- [SMIME] B. Ramsdell: S/MIME Version 3 Message Specification, RFC 2633, 1999.