Press Release

EU Commission uses secunet N-PKD module in Schengen Master List pilot project

[Essen, Germany, 25 July 2017] **The European Commission is currently operating a pilot project trialling the use of master lists for managing the exchange of certificates in electronic identity documents (eID). The Schengen Master List is a collection of trusted certificates (CSCA) which are required for checking eIDs. Approved authorities in the Member States can then check eIDs without the need to contact the issuing country directly. The secunet eID PKI Suite for generating and managing master list certificates is used in the test system.**

In eIDs such as passports, the information stored on the integrated chip is secured using encryption procedures. A public key from the country issuing the document is therefore needed to check the integrity and authenticity of a document (passive authentication). If eIDs are checked at border control, the key required for access is distributed securely in the form of certificates – also known as "Country Signing Certificate Authority (CSCA) certificates".

The exchange of CSCA certificates has proved challenging in recent years, since to date there has been no standard process for the exchange of certificates between individual countries, and customised procedures have had to be used between partner countries. For this reason, the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, has piloted the concept of master lists as a tool for distributing certificates. Master lists contain trusted CSCA certificates which are signed and distributed by the issuing country.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission manages the pilot project for creating the Schengen Master List to facilitate exchange of certificates, and published the first Schengen Master List at the start of this year. It contains an initial set of trusted certificates.

Press Release

One of the main goals of the pilot project is to involve additional Member States in the process of validating new CSCA certificates. Validation is a requirement for including only trusted CSCA certificates in the Schengen Master List. Norway and Portugal are currently providing information for the validation of new CSCA certificates, and are testing the feasibility of the Schengen Master List as a standard basis for secure electronic verification of international travel documents.

The pilot project provides valuable statistical information regarding the validation of certificates supplied by any country world-wide, through border control processes. Based on the validation of CSCA certificates by the participants, a new Schengen Test Master List can be generated using the JRC test public key directory.

secunet is providing a national public key directory (N-PKD) in addition to extensive expertise on drafting suitable guidelines for the new system. The N-PKD module of the secunet eID PKI Suite is used by the JRC test system for generating and managing master list certificates for the Schengen Test Master List.

"The secunet N-PKD system is not only a mirror image of the ICAO PKD, but allows the operator to generate and store the master, defect and deviation lists needed for the passive authentication process, alongside checking the quality of imported data and certificates", explained Andreas Hellrung, Product Manager for the eID PKI Suite at secunet.

The secunet eID PKI Suite is already in use in several European projects. The German Federal Police have been using the secunet eID PKI Suite to check electronic identity documents at their border inspection posts since 2011. The Smart Borders project operated by the European Commission uses the secunet eID PKI Suite for the exchange and validation of certificates, and for the management of the Schengen CSCA master list.

Number of characters: 3,779

Press Release

Press contact

Georg Hasse
Spokesman

Patrick Franitza
Dep. Spokesman

secunet Security Networks AG
Kurfürstenstraße 58
45138 Essen/Germany
Phone +49 201 54 54-1234
Fax +49 201 54 54-1235
E-mail: presse@secunet.com
http://www.secunet.com

About secunet

secunet is one of the leading German providers of high-quality IT security. Over 400 experts work in the areas of cryptography, e-government, business security and automotive security, and develop innovative products in these fields in addition to highly secure and reliable solutions. Many DAX companies as well as numerous authorities and organisations are among secunet's national and international customers, which total over 500. secunet is IT security partner of the Federal Republic of Germany and partner in the Alliance for Cyber Security.
secunet was founded in 1997 and achieved sales of EUR 115.7 million in 2016. secunet Security Networks AG is listed on the Prime Standard of the German Stock Exchange

Further information can be found at www.secunet.com