

Current Developments in the Area of Information Security and Privacy in Egypt

• Legislative Developments

Egypt issued a number of relevant regulations to build and develop the legal and regulatory infrastructure for ICT industry in Egypt.

- The Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Law in 2002 (Law no. 82/2002) and its executive directives.
- The Telecommunications Act issued in 2003 (Law no. 10/2003).
- The e-signature law issued in 2004 (Law no. 15/2004) and its executive directives.
- A draft Data Protection, Privacy, and Cybercrime law was prepared by a working group of legal and technical experts formed by a ministerial decree from the Minister of Communications and Information Technology. The draft law is expected to be forwarded to the legislative bodies in the near future.

• Infrastructure Developments

- **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI):** Egypt has adopted a strict hierachal architecture for implementing PKI, the technology required to perform qualified e-signature in Egypt. Currently, several governmental and private entities, including leading private banks and Egypt Post, are establishing PKI-enabled infrastructure.
- **Root (Certificate Authority) CA:** Egypt has started establishing a Root CA trust center, which will be up and running during the second half of 2008. This trust center is established according to the latest international security specifications. The Root CA trust centre is going to be the very heart of the national PKI efforts. In addition, four companies are being licensed to issue electronic signatures certificates under the umbrella of the Root CA.
- **Gov-CA:** The Ministry of Finance is establishing a governmental entity responsible for issuing governmental electronic signatures certificates to ensure the full protection and confidentiality for their transactions, in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Administrative development.
- **National ID:** A high level committee has recommended that the next generation of the national ID card will be a PKI enabled multi-application smart card. Implementation of this recommendation is expected to start in 2008.

• Awareness

- **Workshops & Conferences:** Several local and regional conferences and workshops were organized on e-signature, cybercrime, and IPR.
- **Publications:** several international research papers in different international security conferences have been published.