

**Gas Industry Standards Board
Future Technology Task Force
Security Issues Teleconference
August 19, 1998
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by John Tsucalas at 1:00 PM.

Susan Croley read the Antitrust Guidelines

Andy Sicignano volunteered to take minutes.

The agenda was amended to cover the following five topics:

1. Encryption
2. Authentication
3. Non-repudiation
4. Client-side certificates
5. Site visibility

Encryption:

John proposed that we use 128 bit RSA encryption for Customer Activity Web sites. This would be a standard, not a minimum, although as technology advances, this standard may need to be reevaluated and updated. It was noted that most companies are using 1024 bit RSA encryption in their EDM implementations, although EDM is file-based, whereas we are now contemplating an interactive site.

Authentication:

In this context, authentication means 'Basic Authentication' or a similar logon mechanism. A Customer Activity Web site should require a single logon/password pair for each session. Some sites require separate logons for the site and underlying database. It was agreed that a single logon per Customer Activity site was desirable.

Non-repudiation:

Although non-repudiation is a very important feature, it is impractical to implement on Customer Activity Web sites using currently available non-proprietary technology. GISB should continue to evaluate potential tools, and create standards and guidelines for its implementation as soon as the technology will support it.

Client-side certificates:

Although the Camel Model specifies that client-side certificates should not be required; they may prove necessary for non-repudiation. Topics such as certificate authorities remain to be researched. GISB should not require client-side certificates at this time, but will probably be necessary in the future.

Site Visibility:

One way to secure a site is to not make it visible, that is, to not provide links to Customer Activity Web sites anywhere. If the links are not available, Web crawlers will not pick them up, and hackers will not know of their existence. On the other hand, it would be convenient for a link to a TSP's Customer Activity site to appear on its Informational Postings site. At this meeting, there was not a clear consensus as to whether the risk of exposure was outweighed by the convenience of making the links available.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Attendees: Incomplete List!

Susan Croley	Duke
Bill Fortney	EPNG
Steve Hinton	TransCapacity
Joe Kardas	NFGSC
Chris Phillips	Columbia Gas & Columbia Gulf
Ron Payne	Sonat
Mike Shahan	CNG
Andy Sicignano	Enron Capital & Trade Resources
Mike Stender	EPNG
Stan Thomas	KN Energy
John Tsucalas	EDS or Enron