

Toward a PKI Framework for East African Community

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By


Julius Peter Torach
Principal Information Scientist
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kampala

Introduction

- EAC eGovernment Strategy Framework Document 2005(draft) recommends adoption of PKI by member states
- Other studies in the region have also recommended PKI for sectors such health, eCommerce, and so on.


PKI: where to Start

- White Paper?
- Strategy Framework?
- Technical Framework?
- Others?




Agenda

- Proposed sections of a PKI a strategy framework



PKI Deployment Framework

- Structure and frame for considering and solving problems
- Should aim at identifying and developing plans, processes, and the documents necessary for successful national/regional PKI
- Will facilitate PKI development, procurement, deployment, or regulation



1. Situational Analysis

- Situations in Member States
- Situation at EAC Secretariat (Regional)



2. Vision & Mission

- Clear vision and mission
- Goals and objectives
- Strategies



3. Why PKI?

- Rationale for Choosing PKI
 - Brief comparative analysis of PKI with other solutions e.g. SSL; PGP; IPsec; S/MIME;
 - Benefits



4. Best Practices

- Overview of best practices in selected countries
 - Business drivers for PKI
 - Technical Infrastructure e.g. protocols, certificate formats, repository
 - Physical infrastructure e.g. communications infrastructure, secure hosting of servers
 - Legal, regulatory and policy requirements
 - Operational requirements e.g. human resource
 - Implementation models
 - Interoperability

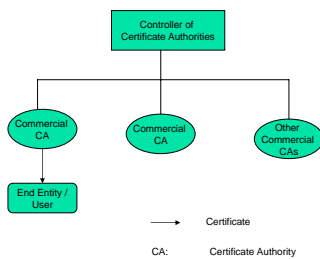
5. Critical Success Factors

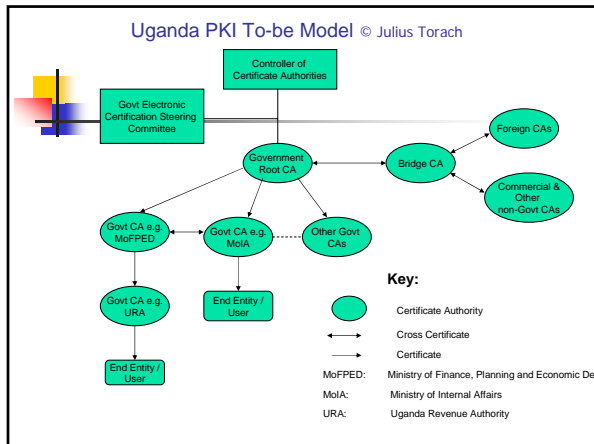
- Privacy
- Maintaining trust
- Application development guidelines
- Capacity building
- Awareness
- Interoperability

5. Generic PKI Models

- Hierarchical model
 - the root CA of the hierarchy is trusted by all relying parties, i.e., it is the sole trust anchor in the model
- Direct (Peer-to-Peer) Model
 - there is no root CA and no single trust anchor; any CA can establish a trust relationship to any other peer CA
- Distributed Web-of-trust
 - No trusted third party vouches for the identity or integrity of any end entity e.g. Pretty Good Privacy (PGP)
- Hybrid Trust Model
 - obtained by mixing/combining models
- Bridge CA
 - CA called the Bridge CA acts as a mediator, i.e., it introduces one organization to another instead of bilaterally cross-certifying each other

Uganda PKI AS-IS Model © Julius Torach





- ### EAC Model: Key Questions
- Should EAC Secretariat in Arusha act a bridge CA to the member states?
 - Should each member state have a bridge CA that cross-certify each other?

- ### 6. Institutional Framework
- EAC PKI Advisory Committee
 - National PKI Steering Committees
 - Designated national institutions to monitor, regulate and coordinate PKI activities
 - Governmental PKI Operators with Governmental Root CA
 - EAC & National Bridge CA Operators
 - Sector CAs



8. Monitoring & Evaluation

- National and Regional
 - Compliance with CPs & CPSs
 - Technical standards of digital certificates
 - Interoperability



9. Implementation Master Plan

- Key activities with budget
 - e.g. acquisition, installation, configuration, testing, certification, accreditation, and training
 - E.g. formulation of various implementation policies e.g. CP, CPSs, interoperability standards and guidelines, development of detailed PKI design, etc
- Should be a detailed schedule, complete with tasks, resources, and start and end dates.



Recommendations (1)

- EAC should spearhead the preparation of regional and national information security strategies with implementation plans
- Translate EAC PKI Strategy Framework to national strategies and implementation plans
- Government Certification Authority (GCA) and bridge CA should be established
- Interoperable PKI solutions within governments and the region should be promoted
- Legal framework for PKI and other related laws should be finalised



Recommendations (2)

- Each member state should mandate an institution to oversee information security matters, including PKI
- Common standards and guidelines should be identified or developed
- PKI implementation should be done in phases
- Information on PKI successes and challenges in the country should be shared
- Capacity building and PKI awareness should be promoted
- Common understanding of key terminologies in PKI is required



Conclusion

- PKI should be implemented as part of overall security strategy, not in isolation
- PKI strategy framework should include complete requirements such as the business, technical, legal, regulatory and standards requirements; also social and ethical issues
- This should be followed by the preparation of technical frameworks and policies



THANK YOU

Julius Peter Torach
Msc (CS); PGDCS; Dip. Law; BLIS (Hons); MCSE, MCP + I; A+; CCNA; CIO/Consultant for eGovt (Japan)

julistorach@yahoo.com
+256-77-2333695
