



3 November, 2003

Ms Debbie YAU
Clerk to Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Ms Yau,

Building a Digitally Inclusive Information Society and related issues

Professional Information Security Association (PISA) is a not-for-profit organization for local information security professionals. Our objective is to promote security awareness to the IT industry and general public in Hong Kong, utilizing our expertise and knowledge to help bringing prosperity to the society in the Information Age.

We think that a digitally inclusive information society should have the following aims:

1. Bringing every citizen, home and school, every business and administration centre, securely online and into the digital age.
2. Creating a digitally literate Hong Kong with security in mind, supported by an entrepreneurial culture ready to finance and develop new ideas.
3. Ensuring that the whole process is socially inclusive, builds consumer trust and strengthens social cohesion.

In achieving the above aims, we propose the following means:

1. The government should provide more education and awareness on information security and privacy,
 - The government should spend more effort on educating SME and home users on information security and privacy. In the recent Blaster worm, they are major targets. They cannot protect themselves and recover when infected



- In schools, more resources should be given to IT security training to make school network a secure one, not becoming a breeding bed of hackers/worms or utilized by hackers. Besides, education on information security and privacy should also start from schools

- 2. More funding should be spent on supporting academic research and development in the area of security, such as cryptography, intrusion detection, Honeypot, security certification standards.

- 3. The government should promote open source information security technologies and establish awards and funding for designated IT security program that the government wants to push forwards.

- 4. The industry should be more responsible to the information security issues and make the products "security friendly".
 - Software developers should make their products "security friendly" and dependable.
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 - They should put "security" in their product design. For example, minimal installed services.
 - They should have security coding practice, e.g. using compiler options to prevent buffer overflow
 - They should properly test their product, especially in the security aspects.
 - They should give easy-to-use interfaces to users to configure the secure profiles according to their customer's need. For example, users might find difficulty in using file sharing when enabling WinXP firewall so eventually they will keep it off.
 - IT Product developers should warn of insecure factory settings and provide easy way to secure their products e.g. WLAN products should provide a clear warning, such as sticking label on the product, to users to change the insecure default settings once connection test is over.
 - ISPs should be more proactive against large-scale worm attack, spam email and DoS attacks. The government and HKCERT should play a more proactive role in coordinating with ISPs to stop large scale worm attack.
 - HKCERT should extend her scope of work to home users

- 5. In building and enhancing trust, the government should make more use on PKI and HK smart ID card.
 - The use of PKI and HK Smart ID card should be more user-friendly, including the installation and use.



- SMEs should be guided how to make the use of the PKI technology. There should be pilot companies to demonstrate the success stories. HK Post can take a more proactive role here.
- The government should project a clear direction on the use of PKI for e-Commerce that requires high trust. Allowing the use of PIN for tax filing confuses the general public that PIN technology is trustworthy.
- The government should take the lead in using XML and related security technologies in B2G, B2B and G2G transactions.

As a conclusion, we think that building a digitally inclusive information society can follow the marketing framework - AIDA model. We should get attention, hold interest, arouse desire and finally obtain action.

Yours faithfully,

Professional Information Security Association