

August 26, 2010 NIST Smart Grid Privacy Subgroup Meeting Notes

Minutes by Rebecca Herold

Please send this distribution list any necessary corrections or additions.

Next full group teleconference meeting:

Thursday September 2, 2010 at 11:00am est

Here are my summary notes from Thursday's meeting:

1. Quick review of NISTIR 7628 status –

- The most recent draft of NISTIR 7628 has been posted to the twiki. You will find the 3 volumes at:
 - http://collaborate.nist.gov/twiki-sggrid/pub/SmartGrid/NISTIR7628v1July2010/draft-nistir-7628_vol1_08-24-2010.pdf
 - http://collaborate.nist.gov/twiki-sggrid/pub/SmartGrid/NISTIR7628v1July2010/draft-nistir-7628_vol2_08-24-2010.pdf
 - http://collaborate.nist.gov/twiki-sggrid/pub/SmartGrid/NISTIR7628v1July2010/draft-nistir-7628_vol3_08-24-2010.pdf
- Sandy B indicated that, as of this past Monday, the NIST plan was still to publish on Tuesday, August 31.

2. Discuss Impact of National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC) on privacy in the Smart Grid – group discussion

- See http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/ns_tic.pdf
- Rebecca posed the following questions to the group:
 - Where in the Smart Grid would "trusting the identity" be used?
 - Centralized identity management: privacy impact on Smart Grid?
 - Behavioral tracking more possible in the Smart Grid using NSTIC?
 - What Smart Grid credentials could be linked with other credentials?
 - Can credentials within the Smart Grid really be anonymous? Where would anonymous credentials be most likely used within the Smart Grid?
 - How would the smart cards be used within the Smart Grid?
- Group statements/comments:
 - What do you really mean by anonymity?
 - Lee Tien: How can a government-issued ID truly be anonymous? It is more like pseudonymous. The HHS implementation document has more details, but it is not publicly available.
 - In order to interact with the Smart Grid, would you need to have an NSTIC ID? What does this mean? What is associated with the credential? Attributes related to energy usage? Why would you trust this ID?
 - Heather West (CDT): NSTIC called out Smart Grid as a high-value identity.
 - It wouldn't actually be a voluntary program if you had to have a NSTIC id to be part of the Smart Grid.
 - Some have a problem with the term "trusted" itself.

- Ward: Taking the idea with a grain of salt. It's not something that any in the utility space has been exploring or looking at as a strategy. Main focus is on security. Utilities have been doing identity management for years.
- Jason P (DT Energy): Doesn't seem relevant to the Smart Grid.
- Ward: Smart Grid products are not up to security levels necessary from the utilities point of views.
- Smart home area may be where smart identity area may be impacted most. How can you be sure that neighbors' devices aren't communicating with each other?
- Another area may be with bill collections; it gets worse with economy. (e.g., skip tracing)
- Ross (CDT): Isn't this proposed NSTIC overkill for everything that's already being planned? Why is one identity needed? For the problems Smart Grid has raised, the NSTIC seems like overkill.
- Gail: If a device has the ability to establish an identity to an individual, and it's related to consent, could there be consent to things such as fingerprints, etc.? Are those types of things related to an individual going to be part of the identity? Energy usage fingerprints from the Smart Grid...concern with those being made part of the identities. Could consent be implied through these trusted identities?
- Everything about an identity in one place really puts individuals at more risk.
- Lack of details makes it hard to know how the NSTIC really impacts privacy within the Smart Grid.
- **TO-DO**: Rebecca will put together some points based upon the discussion for the group to look over and update. Then will pass on to Bill Hunteman next week.

Thanks,

Rebecca