

Mutual Recognition of PKI & Digital Signatures - Indian proposed framework

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Introduction

1. Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) plays a very crucial role in every country's digital ecosystem, by providing technical non-repudiation as well as legal backing to the transactions happening digitally.
2. Mutual recognition aims to establish the acceptance of Digitally Signed documents beyond the country. It enables citizens to make use of their Digitally Signed documents outside their home country.
3. With more globalization, the people move across the world and has many a times required to produce original documents for education, banking, employment and various other purposes.

Key challenges

1. Today, the Digital documents require tedious process of having them as certified paper documents from the home country, in order to prove genuineness of the document.
2. On the business enablement, the lack of mutual recognition brings lot of vagueness in inter-country contracts and its admissibility, especially when they are digitally signed.
3. The lack of mutual recognition also slows down the Import / Export trade, due to need of physical document exchange or alternative confirmations before accepting electronic information.

The key benefits to be achieved

1. With the way of Mutual Recognition of Digitally Signed Documents, it will open up hassle-free exchange and recognition of personal/professional documents between the countries.
 - For example, National IDs, Bank Statements, Education Certificates, Driving Licenses, etc, provided that, they are signed by the 'issuer of the document' with a certificate issued under National PKI regulation.
2. Mutual Recognition also enables businesses to do ease of transactions with recognition of digitally signed contracts and documents.
 - It opens up opportunities for Certifying Authority operators to enable more use cases between such countries.
3. It also simplifies and speeds up the document interchange in case of Import and Export process.
4. Most importantly, it paves way for country's underlying digital infrastructure to be interoperable with another country, by mutual recognition of PKI / Digital Signatures
 - Example: Payments, Identity, Wallets, Digital Lockers, etc

Panel Discussion

1. India has taken the lead to launch the proposed framework in current year's G20 forum.
2. This framework proposes a simplified mechanism to make bring interoperability among National PKI systems of the countries/economies.
3. The documents have been shared with several countries, including the panelists of this discussion.
4. This panel has representation from countries in Asia, Africa and Europe providing a wide spectrum to discuss on this important subject.
5. Looking forward for a fruitful discussion!

Thank you!

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