



Society of Information
Technology Management

Socitm Futures

Held Monday 8th September 2008 at the Offices of Message Labs Limited

40 Whitfield Street London W1T 2RH.

Meeting notes

This meeting was supported by  **MessageLabs**[®] www.messagelabs.co.uk

Glyn Evans Birmingham city council (Chair)
Adrian Hancock Socitm Managing Director
Mark Brett Socitm Futures Programme Manager (Minutes)

David Bryant Hyttec & Socitm Board Member
Doug Maclean Socitm Consulting
Ian Cooper Hampshire County Council
Jacky Scobell Kent County Council
Jim Haslem LB Bromley
Paul Davidson Sedgemoor DC & CEO of LeGSB
Stephen Fellowes London Connects
Simon Norbury Government Connect
Len Anderson Socitm Consulting
John Stubleby Cabinet Office PSN Programme Director
Caron Alexander DFPNI

Apologies

Richard Steel Socitm President
Martin Greenwood Socitm Insight
David Hopkins Milton Keynes Council
Glen Wood Wolverhampton
Neil Moore Hampshire Fire & Rescue service

1) Welcome and Introductions

Everybody was welcomed to the second meeting of Socitm Futures and introduced themselves.

2) Update on the present situation with Socitm Futures and the way forward.

Adrian updated the meeting explaining that the NAC had still not met to ratify the membership composition of Socitm Futures. This would happen soon. It was explained that a Policy Creation process had been agreed by the Socitm Board, written by Richard Steel the Socitm President. This would be the methodology used to develop, consult with the membership and publish all Socitm Policy.

Also circulated to the members was a summary note of the brainstorming session held on at the last meeting in July. The notes from the brainstorming session, further explains the process of policy creation and articulates the stages and the themes/approaches to be used.

A draft terms of Reference document was also circulated to explain the purpose and governance of the group.

3) Security and joining-up Government through Government Connect and the Public Services Network Interconnect. (John Stubbley Cabinet Office)

GSI overview and the way forward

(A PowerPoint presentation accompanies these notes and is on the Socitm Futures GovX space.

The GSI Strategic Design Board was constituted in July 2008. This board has the remit to develop and procure the replacement for the GSI. Most of the information can be found at: http://www.cio.gov.uk/public_sector_network/index.asp

The current GSi architecture has a number of limits. The plan is to simplify the whole setup and reduce costs whilst ensuring it is secure and resilient.

The Government conveyance Network in the middle. A number of other networks are integrated.

Under the new architecture model, there are 4 layers;

- Business
- Technical
- Network
- Transport

There is a strong influence on the lower levels around the architecture. There will be codes of Connection and codes of inter-connection.

Under the Governance there will be four functions;

- Identity
- Settlement - Suppliers and finance
- GCN Function (core network)

- Service information monitor

The approach will be to buy a service, not a set of pipe work. There will be a set of standards around what constitutes PSN compliance. Timescales being delivered by the Ocean procurement at the moment. this will need to be completed by Easter next year. Some Pathfinders will be put in place. There will be a PSN catalogue.

Ocean (Managed by FCO) FTN replacement, (FCO UK & Global telephone system), replacement for MTS replacement for GSI. (See other presentation on the GovX space for further details). See also: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/working-for-us/contracts-procurement/contracts/ocean-procurement/>

The PQQ is out to EU tender. Negotiation will be December08 – March09. All of these will be driven through a catalogue.

TM Forum - Large scale buyers council. High level Industry group, especially around standards. IATP (CESG work stream) is looking at the security standards.

Opportunities to engage:

Looking for a core team - 1 to 2 days a week. (Secondment at organisations own cost)

Committee and working group input. 1 to 2 days a week. (Voluntary input)

Review Team - Review documents Any members wishing to volunteer to be part of the Cabinet Office GSi group, should contact Adrian Hancock.

There was a discussion about the LeGSB and GC input to this process. Also discussion around partnership connectivity and aggregation.

PD Asked about the Government Connect view on this issue. SN explained that GC has been built to be compliant with the future, hence the CoCo and other approaches. Once connected to GC, other services will be a lot easier to bring forward.

Next steps:

Agreed that a briefing/fact sheet would be useful to Socitm members as many will be unaware of the PSN developments & approach. John Stubleby agreed to make an input to this. It was agreed this is an example of the added value Socitm Futures should be able to offer to Members in future and should form a legitimate part of the Group's role.

Update on Socitm Benchmarking

Doug Maclean (Managing consultant Socitm Consulting)

Doug gave an overview of the planned changes to the benchmarking. There will be announcements at the Socitm Conference.

Looking at expanding the benchmarking approach forward to look beyond ICT service. Looking at providing a more complete and rounded approach to delivery, which will include gap analysis, monitoring and reporting.

The products will be reviewed and delivered through a more integrated approach.

The new offerings will be launched at the Socitm conference.

- Customer Access
- Business Transformation
- Environmental impact
- Business Continuity
- Information Assurance
- Flexible Working
- Shared Services

Comment was made that:

- there are similar initiatives in some areas e.g. CiPFA/PWC running exercises in London on Shared Services – it was unclear how the new service was to be positioned alongside these other initiatives
- business continuity models are being adopted in London, particularly prompted by the Olympics – these could offer some good practice indicators
- there should be some model to show how individuals and business units are perceived to be contributing business value. I.e. are you seen as an overhead or a business critical driver?

Environmental issues, looking into the whole area of time saved, fuel saved by not needing to travel etc.

There was comment around the content of the Socitm KPIs and NeSDS(ICT & Customer Service) will continue to be made freely available to all UK Local Authorities, through Socitm membership.

The chargeable services will continue to be around any value add. **The copyright and IPR of both the NeSDS and Socitm KPIs rests with Socitm. No commercial exploitation is permitted without permission from Socitm.**

AOB

An item of AOB was discussed by LeGSB, around some work with DWP. There was a need for clarification between projects, so the item will not be reported further until clarified.

Len Anderson gave a short update on the Eurim work on Information sharing, which is documented in the Socitm Futures GovX space. Specifically Len seeks support for FAME and its recognition as a tool for information sharing in partnership situations. At this time Kent Connects is piloting FAME in this context. For further information on FAME, see: <http://legsb.gov.uk/search.php?q=FAME>

Socitm Futures

In the course of the meeting several comments were made regarding the role, structure & relationship of the Group, such as:

- Membership - it is important to secure more Socitm members from local government on the group – plans are that regions should be represented

- Decision making – it is unclear whether the Group is purely advisory or whether it will have decision making powers. The consensus was that it should be able to make decisions however, will need to refer major issues to an alternative group – is it clear yet which one?
- Group should have a forward plan of issues to be considered – unclear as yet how this will be constructed and maintained
- Contribution of Group Members – discussion that Members of the Group must be prepared to take actions and contribute positively between meetings

Communicating the role of Socitm Futures – it was agreed there needs to be clear and extensive communication to Socitm Members both for the Group itself and also in the context of the overall changes in the Society. It was unclear what is planned at Conference but this would be an ideal opportunity. A comprehensive communications plan is needed to be instigated immediately after Conference.

Meeting closed at 13:00

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th November at Siemens Offices Nr. Old Bailey London;
See: <http://www.communications.siemens.co.uk/enterprise/downloads/london.pdf>