



Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome. Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

Install extension

العربية ESP PYC DE Freevideo IHOTB RTD RUPTLY



Applications RSS

RT

QUESTION MORE. LIVE



09:39 GMT, Jan 7, 2015

News USA UK Russian politics Business Op-Edge In vision In motion Shows Bulletin board More

Home / USA /

Government starts testing online ID program

Published time: April 29, 2014 17:55

[Get short URL](#)



T.J. Kirkpatrick / Getty Images / AFP



State officials in Michigan and Pennsylvania have been awarded roughly \$2.4 million in federal funds to test an online ID system that's been called a "driver's license for the internet," and it could soon exist from coast to coast.

Tags

[Information Technology](#),
[Internet](#), [Security](#), [USA](#)

The "National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace" program has been in development for years, but it's about to finally be rolled-out to a degree in two locales in order to see if using government-certified IDs on the web is something worth considering on a much larger scale.

Where to watch

Schedule

Recommended

Curiosity for Curiosity!
UFO hunter spots 'coffi...

Globalization is
barbarous, multinationals
rule world – Marine Le Pen

MH370 was 'shot down by
US military', claims form...

by Taboola



"The goal is to put to bed once and for all our current ineffective and tedious system of using passwords for online authentication, which itself was a cure for the even more ineffective and tedious process of walking into a brick-and-mortar building and presenting a human being with two forms of paper identification," reporter Meghan Neal [wrote](#) for VICE's Motherboard website on Tuesday this week.

In theory, the program would also help curb a major problem rampant within both the worldwide web and the federal government: abuse. The United States government loses billions of dollars a year due to fraud, Neal reported, and the White House thinks that number could be drastically cut if a new system was implemented to authenticate the people that use government programs and websites alike.

"What if states had a better way to authenticate your identity online, so that you didn't have to make a trip to the DMV?" Jeremy Grant, the senior executive adviser for identity management at NIST, told the [New York Times](#) in 2011.

To see if there may be success on a national level, the NIST has awarded Michigan and Pennsylvania hefty grants to fund programs that would implement a "trusted identity" system as sought by Washington. Earlier this month, the GCN tech website reported that Michigan received \$1.3 million to pilot an automated system that validates identities online in order to replace the in-person proofing system currently in place for those looking to apply for state benefits, and Pennsylvania was offered \$1.1 million to develop a similar program that stretches across multiple state offices.

According to [GCN](#)'s William Jackson, Pennsylvania's pilot program combines *"both automated identity proofing with federated use of credentials so that the same token can be accepted for multiple programs without duplicating effort and personal data across departments."*

"The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pilot will offer residents the opportunity to obtain a secure, privacy-enhancing credential to conduct online transactions with a number of participating agencies including the departments of Public Welfare and Health," NIST [said](#) when they awarded the grant to the Keystone State. *"Citizens will be able to register just once to access a variety of services, eliminating the need to create multiple accounts and to validate their identity multiple times."*

**RT News English**Updated version
for iPhone app**RT News English**New version
for Android

In Michigan, “[t]he program will aim to help eliminate barriers citizens face in accessing benefits and services by streamlining the applications process, while also reducing fraud and improper payments,” the NIST explained.

A database of identities in Pennsylvania already maintained by the state’s Department of Public Welfare, Jackson reported, containing millions upon millions of names. That agency’s chief information security officer said that the NIST’s vision is pretty complex, however, and would allow other offices across the state to access that information in order to authenticate people using government services in other sectors.

Privacy advocates predictably don’t see these systems as being all that good. In 2010, the Electronic Frontier Foundation called the program a “[pervasive](#)” one that “*would pose to privacy and free speech online*” by putting so much sensitive, personal information into the hands of Uncle Sam.

“*The whole thing is fraught with the potential for doing things wrong,*” Microsoft engineer Kim Cameron told the New York Times when they reported on the program in 2011. In that same article, Electronic Privacy Information Center associate director Lillie Coney suggested that implementing such a system simply puts too much at stake.

“*Look at it this way: You can have one key that opens every lock for everything you might need online in your daily life,*” Coney said. “*Or, would you rather have a key ring that would allow you to open some things but not others?*”

Just this week, Neal at Motherboard warned of the consequences such a scenario could give way to: “*Then there’s the problem of putting all your security eggs in one vulnerable basket. If a hacker gets their hands on your cyber ID, they have the keys to everything,*” she wrote.

According to GCN’s Jackson, the two pilot programs about to be rolled out “*will help to determine the effectiveness of these tools with an eye toward getting them widely adopted.*” The NIST is expected in September to award new grants valued at roughly \$2 million to the winners of this year’s pilot program funding.



More From The Web

Sponsored Links

New U.S. Currency Law Now In Effect

Stansberry Research

Buffett's Empire Is In Peril... And He Knows It

The Motley Fool

Review: A Killer Smartphone for Keyboard Lovers

BlackBerry

CIA Insider Reveals Government "Day After" Plan

Money Morning

27 of the World's Most Beautiful, Remote Places

AFAR

Simple and Easy Ways to Elevate the Basic Chicken Wing

POPSUGAR Food for Smirnoff

by Taboola

More from rt.com

Curiosity for Curiosity! UFO hunter spots ‘coffin’ on Mars (VIDEO)

Globalization is barbarous, multinationals rule world – Marine Le Pen

MH370 was 'shot down by US military', claims former French airline boss

by Taboola

17 comments

Login



Leave your comment...



Willis

0





Oh, this is bad news but news that needs to be spread in an effort to stop the government(s) involved. I will start spreading it within my own blogosphere and I ask all who read this article to post it (or its' link) on your FB or whatever social network outlet you use. Total control of each and every one of us is the only outcome of this program unless it is voted down.

02.05 10:46

Reply



Cheryll Hovis

0



The inconvenience of walking into the DMV and waiting is minuscule compared to the violation of my privacy that this will eventually lead to.

30.04 09:12

Reply



Tessa

0



This will be sold as a great benefit but what happens when the government decides to suspend your "licence" because you may be making comment they do not like? Or shuts down alternative media because they are not reading the White House script like MSM? Of course they will be billed as "homegrown terrorists" and many sheeple will buy the lies. It is up to the people that see the dangers to start fighting hard on this one. The powers that be have proven themselves to be the enemy of free speech and the constitution. Wake up people, the US is putting the final touches on the police state.

30.04 07:29

Reply



DoAskDoTell

0



a horrible joke... *nobody is at home* gov

qui bono? lawyers, hackers, "insiders who can opt out", massive red tape maze/cloud

Time to opt out, have alias, "black" markets, organize communities, share skills/tools, think farther than the short-term costs

Knowledge is power. Get united, boycott big and be sneakier... stand up for one another or die already ;D

30.04 01:47

Reply



Mike B

0



I am so gad nub sick of the endless paperwork and always having to prove that I am who someone else decided to call me.

Its because of government requirements for ID that it is even possible for "identity" to be "stolen".

Government; creating problems with solutions that always leads to more problems.

30.04 01:37

Reply



Gem

0



...land of the free home of the brave. ;)

29.04 22:45

Reply



itsme1248

0



"In theory, the program would also help curb a major problem rampant within both the worldwide web and the federal government: abuse. "

Funny. The government is the #1 abuser of the internet.

29.04 19:15

Reply



god

0



A dartboard, with picture of Obomber and covenant would sell well about now

29.04 16:56

Reply



D'Markus Jones

0



[quote name='Avis71' time='29.04.2014 19:02']i am getting bored of all this

[/quote]

And you are the problem you s tinkng as sbagpieceofsh it. People like you will ruin everything for everyone that gives at least one flying ph uck who controls their lives.

29.04 16:54

Reply



John M. Wadsworth

0



[quote name='Godzilla_Govt' time='29.04.2014 19:45']Here we go. National ID 3.0 One-identifier. One-mainframe to rule them all. [/quote]

These were my thoughts exactly. Tyranny always comes in baby steps. As with all other forms of boiling-frog-type oppression, it will only stop when the people open their eyes and protest. I hope that's soon. By the time the pot begins to boil, it will be too late.

29.04 14:32

Reply

Next comments

[News](#)[USA](#)[UK](#)[Russian politics](#)[Business](#)[Op-Edge](#)[In vision](#)[In motion](#)[Shows](#)[Bulletin board](#)[More](#)[Live](#)[Where to watch](#)[Schedule](#)[Legal disclaimer](#)[Privacy policy](#)[Feedback](#)[About us](#)[Contact info](#)[العربية](#)[Español](#)[Русский](#)[Deutsch](#)[Freevideo](#)[ИНОТВ](#)[РТД](#)[RUPTLY](#)[Applications](#)[RSS](#)[Legal disclaimer](#)[Privacy policy](#)[Feedback](#)[About us](#)[Contact info](#)[Applications](#)[RSS](#)**RT NEWS ENGLISH APPS**[Android](#)[iOS](#)[Windows phone](#)[Windows 8](#)**RT**

© Autonomous Nonprofit Organization "TV-Novosti", 2005–2015. All rights reserved.