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National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace

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SECURITY »

The Digital Constitution of the United States.

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Which section of the strategy are you posting about?: security

Amendments:

<http://www.house.gov/house/Constitution/Constitution.html>

Rank 246

Idea# 515

... a little help from everyone to create a whole new digital document that we will all sign (in MD5 format) for our future.

tags:

Submitted by [Community Member](#) 2 months ago

Attachments

Comments (1)



[Dazza Greenwood](#) said:

This is a provocative idea, and deserves some dialog and debate. Eventually, the constitution will need to be - in a sense - translated into a "digital document" in order to keep pace with the digital government that is now unfolding. This will be, I predict, a human readable and machine readable "document" that will consist of code in every sense. It will have diagrams in languages like UML and requirements, constraints, contingencies, trigger points, deadlines, sequences and other machineable rules that can be applied to and received by the systems, software and machines that in effect do and increasingly will run each agency and program of the government. This "run-time" enterprise-wide rules document will include the constitution (eventually) and will (and has actually) start with agency guidance document, regulations, statutes and other rules that contain system requirements and constraints and "code". The notion by "Community Member" that everybody should "help" by creating such a "new" document contains many many assumptions - including that the document should be "new". Perhaps the document should be old and simply reflect existing law (at first and for a long "getting used to it" period) and the only new aspect should be that it will be a "digital" document. Or perhaps the participatory process should be more robust and nuanced than the petition-like "sign with your digital signature and MD5 hash" mentality. Perhaps it should be the Provence of a selected group of the nations top minds and advocates selected by the people or the states (as was the case for the initial constitutional convention) and there should not be a "write by huge committee of individuals" drafting exercise. There are so many assumptions it is not worth noting any more now, but it is interesting to consider the idea further in some appropriate forum. If NSTIC is a success, the identity infrastructure necessary to pull off this type of idea could exist. That would be necessary, but not nearly sufficient to tackle the proposal. While many of the contributions of "community member" appear to be on a very different track, it is very important to take each idea on it's own merits. This idea has the benefit of being both important and well as a feeling of inevitability. It's worth considering.

Eventually, I'd imagine a "document" that could describe rules (including a "Trust Framework", a "regulation" a "statute" or eventually even a "constitution") that was written in three layers: business, legal and technical. These three layers are in essence reflected in the document as "execution" "management" and "governance" and that is a good sign for NSTIC. The "requirements" and "design" and the "implementation" would each be contained in the "document", and it would be possible to cross-reference, cite and incorporate by reference from any section to any other section. This would be an "integrated" human readable and machine readable "system" in the form of a digital document. This would be a mature realization of the ideas of a "codification" of rules that can operate as written rules interpretable by a magistrate or other adjudicator as well as "coded" rules that could be interpreted or compiled by machines operating functions.

