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Massachusetts Institute of Technology and HID collaborate to address RFID privacy concerns : Contactless News

Posted February 21, 2006

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Monday, February 20 2006

Smart card solutions provider HID has partnered with tech-savvy MIT in Cambridge to facilitate a “dialogue” on RFID security, ID, and privacy issues while promoting an online RFID research resource. A steering committee of MIT researchers and industry veterans will develop content for the new web site.

Goal is to Encourage and Facilitate Dialogue and Set a New Bar of Excellence for Privacy and Civil Liberties Protections Related to RFID

SAN JOSE, Calif.- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and HID have announced a joint effort to provide a public forum to discuss RFID and public policy, and to explore innovative RFID uses for personal identification that enhance privacy and security. MIT and HID are also creating a comprehensive online resource for industry, government and the general public, where they can learn more about RFID and privacy-related topics.

“As government and private industry expand their use of RFID, privacy concerns have emerged that deserve a neutral forum for dialogue that includes stakeholders from government, private industry and the public,” said Dan Greenwood, an MIT lecturer and attorney. “We at MIT will provide that forum with support from HID, by inviting stakeholders to our campus and hosting a relevant Web site on our servers.”

A Steering Committee, composed of MIT researchers and faculty and an industry Advisory Board, will develop content for the Web site. Advisory Board membership includes: Richard Varn, Senior Fellow, Center for Digital Government and Center for Digital Education; Daniel Combs, President, Global Identity Solutions; Jeff Staples, Managing Partner, Avisian Inc.; and Bill Newill, Acting Executive Director, International Association for Identification Technologies.

“MIT’s Media Lab is researching and developing new RFID design opportunities that support and reflect well-balanced public policy,” Greenwood said. MIT and HID will also collaborate to explore creative new uses for RFID which improve a wide array of transactions that take place in people’s daily lives.

Steve Wagner, chief operating officer of Irvine-based HID Corporation, said his company welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with MIT. “We recognize the need to balance consumer privacy interests with the growing use of RFID across many sectors of the economy. Collaborating with MIT, a world-class educational institution, is a natural extension of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding individual privacy with the responsible use of RFID technology,” said Wagner.

In addition to working with MIT, HID, the premier global supplier of contactless access control cards and readers for the security industry, established an industry-first set of corporate privacy policy principles governing the use of RFID.

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February 2006						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
« Jan		Mar »				

Archives

November 2007
March 2007
February 2007
May 2006
April 2006
March 2006
February 2006



3