

**DIGITAL SIGNATURE LAW OF THE UNITED  
NATIONS, EUROPEAN UNION,  
UNITED KINGDOM AND UNITED STATES:  
PROMOTION OF GROWTH IN E-COMMERCE WITH  
ENHANCED SECURITY**

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[1] *Abstract:* Digital signatures enhance the ability of contracting parties to authenticate electronic communication. Sophisticated encryption and decryption technology is used to verify the identity of the other party to the electronic transaction. Digital signature law, necessary for adjudication of disputes between parties in e-commerce, is still in its infancy. This article covers basic digital signature law of the United Nations, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

[2] The United Nations' Model Law of Electronic Commerce of 1996 ("MLEC") had many implications. The MLEC approved the utilization of electronic signatures, stated that electronic signatures would have the same legal impact as an ink signature, and remained technologically-neutral, *i.e.*, did not mandate the utilization of any specific type of technology.

[3] The admissibility of "advanced" electronic signatures in legal proceedings and seemed to favor the more sophisticated technologies such as public-key-infrastructure ("PKI"). Utilization of PKI would provide the ultimate in digital signature security.

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