

CHARTER
of the
TASK FORCE ON IDENTITY MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOMETRICS
AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

A. Official Designation

The Task Force on Identity Management (TF) is hereby established by action of the Subcommittee on Biometrics and Identity Management (Subcommittee) of the Committee on Technology (COT) in the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

B. Background

In recent years, electronic identities have proliferated rapidly, playing a key role in commerce, security, and many other aspects of today's highly connected, mobile world. This change has been accompanied by an increased need to ensure high-confidence identification of specific individuals, giving rise to the confluence of biometrics and "identity management" (IdM).

Numerous identity management technologies, standards and related plans are being developed independently at the application and sector-specific levels (such as telecommunications, border security, financial services, identity theft, etc.). While these all positively contribute to advancing IdM, the technology and its potential benefits will be limited without cross-sector and cross-application coordination and a common technological foundation. At the Federal level, needs and uses vary significantly, and a one-size-fits-all technical IdM architecture cannot satisfy all agency constraints and requirements. However, there are clear commonalities that would benefit from a coordinated Federal effort, enhance agencies' abilities to meet mission needs, ensure privacy protection, and enable individuals to exercise their identities securely. In recognition of these challenges, the Subcommittee's mission was expanded in 2007 to include coordination of Federal IdM activities.

C. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the TF is to assess the status of and challenges related to IdM technologies, and develop recommendations regarding Federal government's science and technology needs in this area.

For the purposes of this Task Force, "Identity Management" means "The combination of technical systems, rules and procedures that define the ownership, utilization, and safeguard of personal identity information. The primary goal of the Identity Management process is to assign attributes to a digital identity, and to connect that identity to an individual."

D. Tasks

The TF serves as part of the internal deliberative process of the NSTC. Reporting to and directed by the Subcommittee, the TF shall:

- Inventory and Baseline IdM Activities, Applications, and Challenges
 - Gather existing IdM-related information (such as documented needs, business cases, definitions, standards, plans, etc.) from programs/sectors of interest
 - Review disparate IdM taxonomies across the federal government, and establish a common, cross-sector, taxonomy for standard usage
 - Inventory ongoing and upcoming Federal IdM programs to establish a current baseline of activities and needs, within the context of the common taxonomy described above;
 - Perform an initial review of federal, national, and international IdM standards activities, including intra-governmental coordination between the various centers of standards management and authority;
- Identify activities that warrant Federal coordination
 - Identify critical IdM issues that require immediate attention and action;

- Identify issues that require long-term coordination, for example:
 - RDT&E (technology-specific, and in general)
 - Standards Development and Adoption
 - International and public-sector liaison
 - Outreach/Communications
- Develop recommendations for Subcommittee consideration
 - Recommend changes to the Subcommittee's organizational structure to support necessary IdM tasks;
 - Propose a plan for the Subcommittee's subsequent IdM work.
 - Identify necessary tasks that are beyond the subcommittee's purview, and the groups best suited to address them

E. Membership

The co-chairs of the Subcommittee, working with the Subcommittee's existing Department Leads, will identify participants in the TF. The following NSTC departments and agencies shall be represented on the TF:

Department of Commerce
 Department of Defense
 Department of Energy
 Department of Health and Human Services
 Department of Homeland Security
 Department of Justice
 Department of State
 Department of Transportation
 Department of Treasury
 Department of Veterans Affairs
 General Services Administration
 National Science Foundation
 Federal Trade Commission

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President may also be represented on the Subcommittee:

Office of Management and Budget
 Office of Science and Technology Policy

The Subcommittee co-chairs may, from time to time, designate additional representation from other Executive organizations, departments and agencies.

The TF, upon receiving approval from the Office of Science and Technology Policy, may utilize the Science and Technology Policy Institute to provide assistance in meeting these tasks.

F. Private Sector Interface

The TF may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy the nature of additional private sector advice needed to accomplish its mission. The TF may also interact with and receive ad hoc advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

G. Termination Date

Unless renewed by the Subcommittee co-chairs prior to its expiration, the TF shall terminate on July 1, 2008.

H. Determination

I hereby determine that the formation of the Task Force on Identity Management is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.