PC/SC Workgroup

MEETING MINUTES
for November 6, 2012, Hyatt Madeleine, Paris

MEMBERS PRESENT

NAME	COMPANY	EMAIL ADDRESS
Jean Lusetti	Gemalto	Jean.Lusetti@gemalto.com
Torsten Maykranz	Identive	tmaykranz@ identive-group.com
Stefan Trautner	Identive	strautner@identive-group.com
Uwe Schnabel	HID Omnikey	USchnabel@hidglobal.com
Franz Trierweiler	Ingenico Healthcare/e-ID (Xiring)	franz.trierweiler@ingenico.com
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Abu Ismail	NXP Semiconductors	abu.ismail@nxp.com
Christophe Lombardo	NXP Semiconductors	christophe.lombardo@nxp.com
Dietrich Wecker	PC/SC Administration	admin@pcscworkgroup.com

PC/SC Workgroup

MINUTES

The meeting began at 7:40 PM (scheduled for 7:00) because of delays of the RER train system.

1. Administrative

1.1. Financial Report
Current account balance and income from membership fees and test card sales was briefly discussed. A detailed report for the 3rd quarter 2012 is posted at website.

1.2. Review of Administrative Costs for Sale of Test Card Sets
The income of the PC/SC workgroup mainly consists of test cards sales and membership fees. Due to falling or stagnating test card sales and a resulting smaller number of associate members, the income of the workgroup had a falling tendency during the last few years. The Administration reported that the income for 2011 and 2012 up to now did not cover the costs and that there are outstanding balances due for the administrational services rendered by Open Domain. Jean Lusetti, Gemalto, and Uwe Schnabel, HID Global, discussed with the group on how administrative costs could be reduced.

One of the discussion points was the annual $60,000 administration and $12,000 web hosting fee that the group pays to Open Domain. Jean and Uwe regarded these fees as possibly too high since the administrational work should now be lower due to lower test card sales and smaller number of members, as well as cheaper Internet hosting fees should result in lower website hosting fees.

Uwe Schnabel, HID Global, suggested a formula according to which the combined fees for administration and website hosting services should not exceed 65% of the income from membership fees.

Jean Lusetti, Gemalto, also suggested that the current system of core and asscociate membership levels should be replaced by a single membership level. This would essentially mean that:
- The core membership level will be eliminated.
- All core and associate members will be converted to "members".
- Modified bylaws grant voting rights to all members.

Since Oracle was not represented, this change proposal could not be voted on at the time of the meeting.

Action item (a):
What: send email with details of proposed admin & hosting fee formula to PC/SC admin for distribution.
Who: Uwe Schnabel, HID Global.
When: next few weeks.

Action item (b):
What: contact Oracle, agree on new membership level, work on details of bylaws.
Who: Jean Lusetti, Gemalto.
When: not defined.

1.3. Pricing for Test Card Sets v2.0 and v1.0 and Loaner Sets v2.0 and v1.0

Jean Lusetti, Gemalto, discussed with the group the notion that the current pricing of test card sets (US$ 1,000 per set) may be too high for some companies. The question was discussed if by lowering the price the sales volume could be increased. Since it is mandatory for companies to be PC/SC members before they can buy a test card kit, the total cost for a non-member would be, at the minimum, the associate membership fee for one year plus the price of the test card kit. This way, lowering the test card kit pricing alone would not dramatically lower the total cost for non-members.

No conclusion was reached on this yet. The group wants to analyze the relationship between test card sales and one-year associate memberships first.

Action items:
What: compile a table that shows relationship between test card sales and new associate membership sign-ups. Show how many of the new sign-ups are renewed/not renewed after first year. Table should show the last few years and be sent to members.
Who: Administration.
When: next couple of weeks.

2. Minor Change Request for Part 3 Chapter 3.2.2.1.4 of the PC/SC Specifications 2.0

Torsten Maykranz, Identive, discussed the change request with the group, based on the document "Minor change request for PC/SC2.0 part3 chapter 3.2.2.1.4" dated 10/23/2012 provided by Identive.

Action items:
What: re-submit document after minor revision.
Who: Identive.
When: next few weeks.

3. Demonstration of PC/SC test tool by Identive

Stefan Trautner and Torsten Maykranz from Identive presented a first version of a software tool designed to test PC/SC compliance.

This first version does not yet include all features for a full compliance test, and should be seen as a starting point for building further consensus on how this tool should be further built-out.

The group generally agreed that there are many advantages of having their own test tool. The key benefits are:

- Independence from Microsoft. The current Microsoft test tool does not cover all parts of the specs.   It has been difficult or impossible in the past to convince MS to add features to the test tool. Since MS is not a PC/SC member, the group cannot rely on future availability and feature extensions of the MS test tool.

- Compatibility with platforms other than Windows. The MS test tool only works under Windows platform, where the PC/SC owned test tool could be used under multiple platforms (Windows, Linux, Solaris, MAC …). In order to keep the initial development effort low, the group agreed that initially the PC/SC test tool should be developed to work under Windows while the program architecture would allow porting it to other platforms later on.

- Increasing sovereignty of the workgroup. By having their own test tool and test procedures that allow companies to verify PC/SC compatibility of their products, the workgroup will be able to offer a better overall service.   The test tool might ultimately also help to increase revenue from test card sales.

Among the key remaining questions are:

- How to share the effort of developing and maintaining the code base among the members. Abu Ismail suggested that the effort could be shared by the members, where contributions could be made in code or payments.

- How to handle optional features of the PC/SC specifications. Uwe Schnabel suggested that the group would have to comb through the specifications, specifically parts 3 and 10, and define which features will be part of the compliance test and which will not be included. A modular architecture of the program will be desirable so that semi-independent modules can be added by members or selected outside contributors to cover specific features of the specifications.

- How to handle the process of PC/SC compliance testing.   The group agreed that it must put in place a process defining the compliance test, including downloading the test tool, ability to verify the results (MS does this via issuance of a certificate), differentiation of the versions of the test tool (a product could be successfully certified by one version of the test tool, but not by another version), handling bug fixes.

Action items:
What: estimate time and effort to finish an initial version of the PC/SC test tool.
Who: Identive.
When: next few weeks.

4. Support for PC/SC in new Windows versions

4.1 Contactless Card Test Suite

Uwe Schnabel, HID Global, discussed the fact that Microsoft has stopped WHQL Unclassified Device Submission with Windows 8. It was agreed that the group shall ask Microsoft about their future update plans for Windows 8 with respect to this topic.

Action items:
What: send draft email with Microsoft contact info to PC/SC admin.
Who: HID Global.
When: next 2 weeks.

4.2 No PC/SC support in the new WinRT

Harm Braams, Vasco, discussed with the group the implications of the fact that Windows 8 RT does not fully support PC/SC. Even though Windows 8 RT still supports mini drivers that can access PC/SC functionality, other applications outside the mini driver environment cannot access the PC/SC environment.   The group agreed that PC/SC directs an email to Microsoft recommending that, from the viewpoint of the workgroup, it would be desirable that future updates of Windows 8 RT fully support the PC/SC environment. This request could be initiated by submitting a DCR (Design Change Request).

Action items:
What: send draft email with Microsoft contact info to PC/SC admin.
Who: Vasco Data Security.
When: next 2 weeks.

5. Update on Part 10

Franz Trierweiler, Ingenico, discussed with the group the fact that he submitted a draft document in Spring 2012 for redistribution with the group and that he did not receive any feedback, even after sending several reminders. The document seemed to never have been circulated and the Adminstration was unresponsive.

Uwe Schnabel, HID Global, also mentioned that, during the course of the last 3 years or so, the responsiveness and accuracy of the Administration was sometimes lacking. At times it took up to 3 reminders to get things straightened out, such as documents that were uploaded containing the wrong version info, revised documents were not updated correctly, etc.

The Administration agreed to look into this lack of performance on its side, determine the cause and ensure that requests to PC/SC admin will be handled promptly and more diligently in the future.

Also, in order to speed up the way that submitted documents are adopted, the group

agreed that a submitted document should be deemed accepted if no response is received within 2 weeks after distribution for review.

Action items (a):
What: ensure that the document submitted by Ingenico (Xiring) has been properly distributed.
Who: Administration.
When: immediate.

Action items (b):
What: look into and improve the Administration's responsiveness and accuracy when handling request to PC/SC admin.
Who: Administration.
When: immediate.

(Comment from admin: some of the problems seem to be related to changing email addresses. The PC/SC mailing lists only accept emails from known addresses. If your email address changed, for example, because of a company name change, you may still receive Workgroup mails because your mail server still accepts both old and new names. The list server, however, rejects mail from unknown addresses without further notice. We will provide updated communication guidelines including mailing list policies.)

6. Updated Proposal for Part 10 Supplement

Vasco proposes a method to execute reader features via "pseudo-APDU". Harm Braams, Vasco, will send a document defining the new tags for review by the members.

Action items:
What: send a document defining the new tags for review by the members.
Who: Vasco.
When: next few weeks.

7. Update on Part 3, Supplemental 2 Document – NFC devices

Abu Ismail, NXP, discussed with the group the topic on how NFC related info can be facilitated with the application. Abu proposed a solution where special tags would be used to address functions that can be contained in library and header files.

Harm Braams, Vasco, was of the opinion that this would constitute a service provider. Uwe Schnabel, HID Global, thought that the proposed solution might be too complex to support.

Similar functionality could also be accomplished via a mini driver, but the certification of a mini driver constitutes too much effort.

It was concluded that NXP should submit their revised proposal to the group next week.

Action items:
What: submit proposal to the group for review.
Who: NXP.
When: next week.

8. Other Business
No other topics were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 AM.

Members: Please review the Meeting Minutes, and inform the Workgroup Administration of any inaccuracies within 10 days of receiving them. When no inaccuracies are found, the Minutes will be viewed as having been accepted by the membership.

PC/SC Workgroup Administration
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