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Commissaire à l'information
et à la protection de la vie privée/Ontario

News Release

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Ontario's Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, releases new tool to help protect privacy and manage online identity among multiple players

TORONTO – Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian, is releasing a new assessment tool tomorrow, intended for use by companies that will be sharing their online identity management systems. Calling it the "Federated Privacy Impact Assessment" or *F-PIA*, it will serve to ensure end-to-end privacy across all members of an association or federation.

"Whether you're dealing with data in motion or data at rest," said Commissioner Cavoukian, "privacy assurances must be given by every member of the federation to ensure consumer confidence."

In a federated identity system, a consumer's online identity information supplied by a particular service or company can be recognized by a wide range of other service providers. In this scenario, a consumer would only need to register with one trusted "identity provider" or organization in the federation. When dealing with other members of the federation, their identity provider could securely share – on a need-to-know basis and with the knowledge of the consumer – the information which the second, third and subsequent companies need to complete a transaction, without the consumer having to register and maintain full user accounts with every company they dealt with.

The white paper, entitled, *The New Federated Privacy Impact Assessment (F-PIA): Building Privacy and Trust-enabled Federation*, builds on the IPC's earlier work on privacy and identity management, including the *7 Laws of Identity: The Case for Privacy-Embedded Laws of Identity in the Digital Age*, and *Privacy in the Clouds*. Written in collaboration with Joseph Alhadeff, Chief Privacy Officer of Oracle and one of the leading privacy experts of the Liberty Alliance Project, it represents a new direction. Formed in 2001, the Liberty Alliance is a group of 150 global technology vendors, consumer product and service companies, educational organizations and governments working to establish open standards, guidelines and best practices for federated identity management.

Commissioner Cavoukian fully appreciates the convenience that this type of arrangement can provide to consumers. "Limiting the amount of personal information you provide in a federated identity management system is a significant best practice with regards to privacy. Companies that are part of the federation cannot rely on a PIA that they may have produced for their business alone. I am urging them to conduct an F-PIA or Federated-PIA." Joseph Alhadeff further adds, "After reading the guidance in this white paper, the next logical step for a federation would be the development of a formal F-PIA. Organizations and federations should use it, along with numerous other PIAs and development tools currently in existence, to create measurable standards against which privacy and trust can be evaluated and implemented."



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This paper builds on the Commissioner's concept of *Privacy by Design* – a term that Commissioner Cavoukian developed in the '90s when she first began her campaign to enlist the support of technology to **protect** privacy, instead of encroaching upon it. Last week, the Commissioner sponsored a major conference entitled the *Privacy by Design Challenge*, which focused on the emergence and growth of privacy-enhancing technologies, commonly referred to as PETs, in a positive-sum (not zero-sum) manner, which the Commissioner believes will pave the way for ensuring the future of privacy. (For more information, please visit, www.privacybydesign.ca.)

Commissioner Cavoukian will be releasing her F-PIA white paper tomorrow at the 10th Annual Reboot Privacy and Security Conference in Victoria, B.C., where she will be delivering a keynote address on February 3rd. The white paper can also be downloaded, free of charge, at www.ipc.on.ca, on February 3.

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