Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
Commissaire à l'information et à la protection de la vie privée/Ontario

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"Tap 'n Go" Technologies – Now is the time to embed *PbD*

Commissioner Cavoukian launches new paper at Internet Conference

TORONTO – Ontario's Information and Privacy Commissioner, Dr. Ann Cavoukian has released a new white paper entitled, "*Mobile Near Field Communications (NFC) "Tap 'n Go" – Keep it Secure and Private*," at an Ottawa Conference on "The Future of the Internet: Opportunities & Challenges of Web 3.0."

Nokia was also a major contributor to this paper, which illustrates NFC's capabilities with four smartphone use case scenarios, investigates privacy and security risks, and offers practical "*Privacy by Design*" solutions to protect privacy, empower consumers, and build trust in the mobile ecosystem.

Tap 'n Go technology gives smartphone users new benefits and conveniences. Advances in mobile technologies, such as NFC, will provide people with control over our converging real and virtual worlds.

"User privacy does not have to be sacrificed for the sake of using NFC, which is currently in the early stages of adoption – we can have *both* the technology's convenience *and* privacy," said Commissioner Cavoukian. "Now is the time to apply *Privacy by Design* – to embed additional security and privacy into the design of applications that use NFC capabilities."

"Nokia has been committed to development of NFC technology standards and products for many years. *Privacy by Design* is a key element of Nokia's privacy strategy and is a commitment in our product creation process. Collaboration with Dr. Ann Cavoukian, Collin Mulliner and Harley Geiger was a great opportunity to provide guidelines on how the privacy principles can be manifested in a mobile technology, such as Near Field Communications," said Mikko Niva of Nokia Global Privacy Counsel.

What is Near Field Communications?

NFC is a short-range wireless technology that enables mobile devices to interact with other mobile (and fixed) devices, as well as with passive physical objects. Currently, NFC is most often used to:

- Initiate a service (e.g., read a tag to launch a Web browser to get a coupon);
- Pair devices (e.g., activate a Bluetooth headset);
- Transfer peer-to-peer data (e.g., share contact information, synchronize data); and
- Secure NFC card (e.g., mobile device acts as an access, loyalty or payment smartcard).

NFC Triggers Privacy Concerns

Mobile devices that allow for system-to-system data transfers, or for pairing of devices to enable interaction, may trigger privacy and security concerns, including unwanted data "leakage" or collection, user identification, user location-tracking, improper redirection to an unknown website, initiation of an unknown service (such as text messages charged to the user) or receipt of unwanted content.

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By applying *Privacy by Design* principles, "data privacy and security can and should be 'baked into' mobile device architectures, including physical design, operating systems, applications and services, with special attention to effective user interfaces and default privacy options. All stakeholders in the mobile ecosystem have critical roles to play in fostering users' trust and confidence," said Commissioner Cavoukian.

About the IPC

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is appointed by and reports to the Ontario Legislative Assembly, and is independent of the government of the day. The Commissioner's mandate includes overseeing the access and privacy provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as well as the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*, which applies to both public and private sector health information custodians. A vital component of the Commissioner's mandate is to help educate the public about access and privacy issues.

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