Mobile IT Security for Citizens

Research project ITSCI receives 4.7 million Kroner to develop user-friendly security to, for example, tomorrow's netbank.

Access your netbank via your mobile phone. Or sign off on a loan from your bank using a digital signature downloaded via your mobile phone.<

These futuristic scenarios will soon be a reality. But first a series of problems need to be solved - these new systems need to be both secure and easy to use.

This is the goal of the research project IT Security for Citizen (ITSCI). The project is being funded with 4.7 million kroner from the program "Citizens IT Security" conducted by the Danish Ministry of Science's NABIT Committee. The partners in the project are the Department of Computer Science at Aarhus University, PBS, Cryptomathic, TDC, Giritech and Dansk Bank.

Description

The level of IT security offered to ordinary citizens' in modern society leaves much to be desired. Part of the problem is that the products on the market don't explain security in a way most people can understand.

Another part of the problem is that the solutions such as digital signatures and netbanking services are typically locked to one PC. This restricts flexibility and mobility, while the security of these solutions is vulnerable to attacks aimed at that specific PC.

The goal of the ITSCI project is to solve these problems by combining expertise in man-machine interaction with expertise in modern cryptology. The project will analyze the way ordinary people use secure systems and develop better principles for creating more secure user interfaces that are also easier to understand.

These principles will then be used to develop prototypes of mobile systems for authenticating users which can improve the user-friendliness and security of existing systems and form the basis for e.g. the next generation of home banking systems.

"It's a challenge to design secure systems, but the challenge is double the size if they also need to be easy to use," explains project leader, Professor Ivan Damgård.

"We know users only adopt security solutions if they are easy to use. That's why the project will design user-friendly interfaces and also set new standards for data security in mobile communication."

The ITSCI project will run for four years starting 1 January, 2007 and will have a PhD student and a post doctorate assigned to it.

More information
Professor Ivan Damgaard,
Department of Computer Science,
Aarhus University,
Ph. 8942 5780,
Email ivan@daimi.au.dk

Lars Struwe Christensen
VP Business Development
Ph: 43 298 908
Email: lsc@giritech.com