



## **Chambers of Commerce support e-government initiative with new Digital Certificate service**

ChamberTrust, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the British Chambers of Commerce, has recently launched a new digital certificate service which supports the authentication requirements for electronic government services.

A lack of confidence in the security of online services, and the legal status of transactions carried out online rather than on paper, are both issues which have been identified as hindering the move from traditional to online systems. Data protection and access control are also key considerations when widening access to local authority systems; a single instance of improper access can have serious effects on the credibility of online services, and its uptake.

The new SimplySign service has been developed to address these issues, and the service is part of the BCC's wider strategy to support the government's initiatives to put the UK at the forefront of e-commerce, making it the safest place for e-business.

SimplySign certificates are based on industry standard PKI, using X.509 certificates, providing a robust framework for securing e-commerce transactions. Chamber SimplySign also meets government level two authentication requirements and operates to BS7799 standards and will therefore meet the baseline criteria for any government application.

The service is also extremely simple to operate and implement, having been developed with a focus on user requirements for an easy to use digital certificate despite the robust technology which underlies it.

SimplySign is currently accepted on the Government Gateway for businesses submitting their VAT or PAYE returns online, and could support a wide range of applications within e-government including securing e-procurement applications or any other form of business-to-government transaction where data integrity, security and a clear audit trail are required.

BCC Director General, David Frost, states, "The Chambers of Commerce have always been a trusted partner to the UK business community. Now we are



extending this into the digital age by helping government and local authorities work more efficiently with business communities to their mutual benefit”.

ChamberTrust will be exhibiting at the InfoSecuriy Europe conference in Olympia between the 27<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. For more information or to register for free tickets please visit [www.infosec.co.uk](http://www.infosec.co.uk).

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## Notes to Editors:

### 1. British Chambers of Commerce

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) represents, through a quality assured UK network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, more than 135,000 businesses of all sizes in all sectors of the economy. Accredited Chambers seek to represent the interests and support the competitiveness and growth of all businesses in their communities and regions.

### 2. ChamberTrust

ChamberTrust Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Chambers of Commerce, specialises in delivering electronic solutions and services to businesses and organisations, making the Internet a secure and reliable platform for e-commerce. ChamberTrust Certificate Authority (CA) services are supported by Trustis.

### 3. Trustis

Trustis is a UK-based company that specialises in trusted e-commerce solutions. Trustis designs, builds and provides services for organisations that need PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) and digital certificate solutions.

Its product neutrality and vendor independence enable Trustis to give the best unbiased advice and guidance, and to recommend and deploy the most appropriate technology for each client's needs.

Trustis experts include security engineers, business specialists, cryptographers and lawyers, to ensure that every aspect of a client's e-commerce needs can be met. Clients include major banks, the NHS, local authorities, international corporations and SME's.