EnCoRe
Ensuring Consent and Revocation

A collaborative IT research project being undertaken by UK industry & academia

As more and more personal information flows from individuals to organisations when they interact online, people are becoming more and more concerned that they cannot effectively control what this information is used for, with which other organisations it is shared, and where it is stored. They may have given their consent, often in vague terms and implicitly, for its use, sharing and storage, but they have no real control over the specifics of these, nor the ability to revoke their consent and be sure that their wish is respected. In summary, they are not able to control where their personal information flows to, and this makes them uneasy about interacting online.

The overall vision of this project is to make giving consent as reliable and easy as turning on a tap, and revoking that consent as reliable and easy as turning it off again.

Supporting that vision is the need to ensure that the processes which perform these tasks are specific, reliable, rigorous and verifiably compliant with legal regulations and the wishes of the individual concerned.

The EnCoRe project’s aims are:

- To enable business to adopt scalable, cost effective and robust consent and revocation methods for controlling the use, storing, locating and sharing of personal data.
- To benefit individuals by providing meaningful, intuitive mechanisms which will allow them to control the use of their personal information held by others.
- To help restore individual confidence in participating in the digital economy and so, in turn, benefit the wider society.
The EnCoRe project links technology, process and regulatory research and development, all within a framework that is driven by the requirements of all the different stakeholders in a privacy-enhanced data protection environment. Its outputs include technical and process architectures, technology innovations and proof-of-concept prototypes, together with inputs to guide the development of an improved consent and revocation regulatory regime.

It will investigate a number of specific use cases with differing factors and requirements for reliable consent and revocation mechanisms, and will run design/build/verify cycles on three of these.

The project consortium is multi-disciplinary, spanning across a number of IT and social science specialisms, and comprises:

- Hewlett-Packard Laboratories
- HW Communications
- QinetiQ
- London School of Economics and Political Science
- Ethox Centre of the University of Oxford
- University of Warwick

The EnCoRe project runs from June 2008 to November 2011. It receives funding from the UK Government’s Technology Strategy Board, Economic & Social Research Council and Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council.

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