



SmartCards in Trento

The j4sign project and the national eID card

Smart cards

the keys of eGovernment?



- Smart cards are currently the best suited tools for establishing a trust relationship between citizens and government entities in order to issue remote eServices.
- Smart card should assure Identification, Authentication and digital Signature (IAS), because these are the requirements to avoid personal presence of the citizen.

Smart Cards in Italy



- The first official recommendation for use security tokens in Italy is due to the “Bassanini” digital signature law, November 10 1997, n. 513.
- Bassanini law was very strong, stating that paper signed documents and digital signed electronic ones have the same legal value.
- Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament (SSCD) was acknowledged in early 2004 by new Italian technical rules.

Smart Cards

in italy (continued)



- In Italy there are several (currently 18) certification authority authorized to issue digital signature certificates (and cards) to citizens.
- In year 1997 the Ministry of Internal Affairs started to plan an experimental project for issuing electronic Identity Cards to citizens; the card (CIE) is intended to provide Identification and Authentication, but NOT digital Signature.
- To speed up issuing cards for eGov, Ministry of Technology and Innovation issued technical rules for National Services Card (CNS); CNS are digital signature cards, interoperability with CIE is mandatory

Smart Cards in Trento



- We started to deal with smart cards in 2001, in the framework of EU eGap project.
- We developed a Java Applet for digital signing documents (public sole occupation requests) from the web, this service is still currently in use.
- At the end of 2004, it became possible to enhance and release the code developed in the eGap project as free software, under the GPL license.
- The j4sign project is currently hosted on SourceForge at <http://j4sign.sf.net>; one of the major CA in Italy is currently contributing to the project.

Smart Cards

in Trento - CIE



- Early this year we became one of the municipalities experimenting CIE
 - From the start we were investigating about putting digital signature on the card.
 - We are currently, together with Grosseto municipality, in the technical group established to study how to put digital signature (issued by an authorized CA) on CIE (issued by municipalities on behalf of Ministry of Internal Affairs)
 - CIE is planned to enter the deployment phase in Italy starting from January 2006 (paper card shall not be issued anymore)

Live demo



- j4sign is currently more an API than a user application
- j4sign is able to detect and use multiple card
- It works under Windows and Linux environments
- Using j4sign in combination with OpenSC (<http://www.opensc.org>) libraries makes a complete open source multi platform environment for digital signature a reality.
- We can provide technical details at deep level.
- [Test page.](#)