When Digital Identity and Access Management Meets Physical Security

Where does digital security end and tangible, or physical, security begin? In today’s cybersecurity ecosystem, it’s all just security. In fact, if you are handling these domains in discrete silos, your cyber resilience is already taking a hit.

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Walmart and IBM team up to track shrimp using blockchain

Walmart has announced a pilot to track shrimp imports from India to the USA using blockchain technology. The retail giant plans to track shrimp imports between Andhra Pradesh, a gorgeous coastal region in India’s southeast, and U.S.-based retail warehouses, using blockchain technology developed by IBM. It will feature “end-to-end traceability,” according to a press release issued Friday.

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The GDPR Temperature Tool - A new free resource for European SMEs to understand their risk of GDPR-related sanctions

The GDPR came into force in May 2018 with a blaze of publicity but 18 months on, still many businesses are unclear on how at risk they are from GDPR-related sanctions. The vast majority of business leaders believe that it is essential to comply with the GDPR, especially as companies can risk crippling fines.

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PoSeID-on develops an innovative, integrated and portable platform based on an intuitive Privacy Enhanced Dashboard combined with innovative technologies such as Blockchain, Cloud and Smart Contracts that enable end-users to manage their Personal Identifiable Information (PII) and data access authorizations easily, securely and independently.
The dashboard is available using certified account created on “eIDAS” that allows users to log in with their unique Digital Identity.

PoSeID-on will use Open Source architecture components and will enable organizations to provide data protection to their customers.

Using the dashboard, the user can have access to all the data grouped and enlisted, enabling him to have a holistic view in one window at one click.

PoSeID-on’s Risk Management Module helps reduce privacy risks and threats like identity fraud and data hacking, notifying users about risks and anomalies related to transactions over their data.

Furthermore, the blockchain-based system guarantees data security and traceability.

In the following paragraph, a practical use of the Poseidon Platform is explained.

Pierre is a European citizen, subscribed to the web portal of the National Public Administration of his country. He always uses the PoSeID-on platform to manage the personal information stored on the services he activated on the public administrations’ platforms.

Recently, he decided to activate a new service called “HakunaMatata Insurance” accessible on the web portal of the National Public Administration of his country.

So now, Pierre connects to the insurance webpage from the PA portal and logs in using his credential. In order to activate the new service, “HakunaMatata Insurance” asks for Pierre’s Personal Identifying Information (PII) such as the passport ID, street name and other similar data.

Pierre, instead of manually filling the fields with his PII, clicks on the button “get my data from PoSeID-on”, to get the required information from the PoSeID-on platform and he logs in with his eIDAS credentials to allow “HakunaMatata Insurance” to use his data.

Now, before moving on, hold on for a sec. What’s happening inside the PoSeID-on platform?
What you do not see is that, once the user and password are confirmed by the eIDAS provider, is that “HakunaMatata Insurance” is informed that the user has requested his information to be given by PoSeID-on. So, the Insurance service invokes Poseidon to collect the needed PII from Pierre’s profile.

At this point, Poseidon Data Processor steps invoking its blockchain if the required data are already managed. Thanks to the Smart Contract that runs on the blockchain, the request is confirmed as the data are found to be stored on the “YOLO Rental service” that Pierre happened to activate time ago through the National PA web portal.

Poseidon collects Pierre’s PII from “YOLO Rental service” database where they are stored. Now the web app backend input to the blockchain to modify the data permissions. The smart contract takes care of it while recording the information transaction and finally a new block is generated.

Poseidon finally sends the data to the “HakunaMatata Insurance”, that can store them in the local repository and use it.

Now back to Pierre.

Pierre, following the last steps required by the “HakunaMatata Insurance”, activates the new service. By acting as described until now, Pierre maintains the full control of his personal data. At any time, by accessing on Poseidon Dashboard, Pierre can see which data have been transferred by “YOLO Rental service” to “HakunaMatata Insurance” and decide whether to stop the data transfer at any given time.

To reach out new stakeholders and grab their interest towards the PoSeID-on project on December 10th, the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) organized a meeting involving many Italian representatives from both the public administration and private sector. The aim of the meeting was to gather feedback from the potential end-users to help the consortium find out where to improve.

To meet this goal the use case and the Poseidon dashboard features were shown to the stakeholders (for the first time), and a Design thinking methodology was deployed. The Design Thinking methodology can be applied in many ways and can produce different results depending on the outcome which is required. In this case, the Design Thinking methodology was shaped on building an interactive session which involved all the stakeholders to put their effort right into providing the best feedback both on the dashboard and on the developments on the MEF use case.

The main characteristics of the interactive session are:
Almost 40 people from different business sectors (public administrations and private sector) were involved. To enhance the collaboration and foster the production of useful insights, the stakeholders were split in four different groups, each of them with tasks to perform that would have led to produce crucial feedback for the PoSeID-on project.

The results produced by the interactive session were focused on the PoSeID-on dashboard. Below, the main takeaways are presented:

- the stakeholders valued high the effectiveness of the PoSeID-on platform in managing consent to the processing of personal data;
- the main idea of getting back the control over use of personal data is highly welcomed by the stakeholders as most of the audience thinks that centralizing the management of your data and consents in a single platform is an adding-value to encourage the use of digital services;
- finally, the stakeholders believe that PoSeID-on can be a cross-platform to support the provision of services to the citizen by the public administration.

Though, it was pointed out that some improvements on the user experience must be done, in order to make the dashboard more "user-friendly".