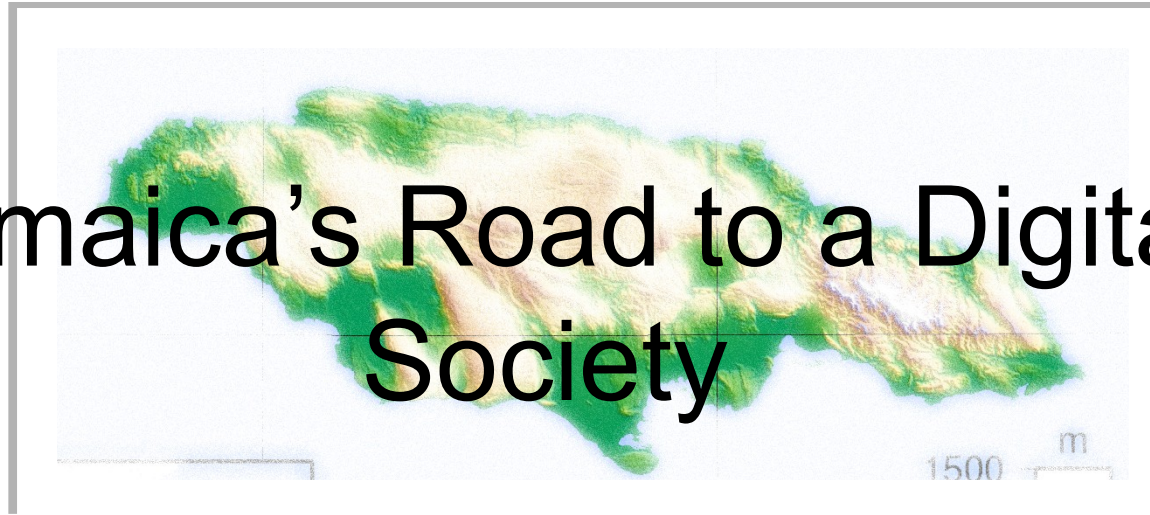


Jamaica's Road to a Digital Society



Background

Jamaica is the 4th largest island in the Caribbean, with a population of approximately 3 million persons and is considered an upper middle income country.

As it pertains to technology, the Government of Jamaica encourages the usage of e-Commerce, with the Tax, Customs, and Immigration agencies all providing access to their systems via the Internet.

More than half the population has access to internet and as such the Government of Jamaica has multiple strategic objectives which includes the improved usage of ICT to provide services.

Introduction

The Government of Jamaica has seen it necessary to create a framework for secure communication and transactions over the internet.

To enable this we have developed the legal framework to support this initiative and started the implementation of the technical solutions for Digital Signature to support this endeavor.

There are still some gaps both legislatively and technically that must be addressed for us to garner real benefits.

LEGAL

- E-Transaction Act (2006)
- National Identification and Registration (NIRA) Act -(in-train)
- Data Protection Act (in-train)

IMPLEMENTED

- PKI implemented (CA – Trade Board Jamaica), though not actively used

CHALLENGES

- Buy in to platform
- Lack of user base for system and services

FUTURE PLANS

- National Identity Systems – Digital Identities for populous
- Digital Signing Certificates for multiple systems

Achievements To Date

- ✓ Legislation approved to support the validity of Electronic Transactions, including electronic signatures – E-Transaction Act (2006), enacted 2007. The objectives of this act includes:

- Eliminate barriers to electronic commerce due to over-writing and signature requirements
- Promote efficient delivery of Government services by means of reliable electronic documents

The following is achieved by the Act:

- Defining the Certificate Authority and their role.
 - Support for the use of electronic transactions for the supply of good, services or facilities to suppliers in Jamaica or in other jurisdictions
- ✓ CA (Trade Board Jamaica Limited) implemented, though not actively used

Challenges

- ✓ Take up and usage of the solution has been limited, as at present it is only being used by the Companies Office of Jamaica for testing.
- ✓ NIRA Act being redrafted and Data Protection Act, 2017 not yet approved - these Acts will drive the acceptance and support the implementation and usage of Digital Identities.

Future Plans

In conjunction with South Korea a feasibility study was performed and from it's report the following is being planned:

- ✓ Amend E-Transaction Act to ensure up-to-date, correct definitions, and close other legal gaps.
- ✓ Redesign and upgrade the current PKI implementation, to have a National PKI, with eGovJa becoming the single Root CA, and Trade Board an accredited CA.

Future Plans

- ✓ Implementation of Digital Identities. As apart of the National Identification System (NIDS) that is in progress, we will be implementing eIDs which will include the use of digital signatures.
- ✓ PKI enabled Application Development - Government agencies have now seen the need to use digital signatures for signing documents and this has become a requirement for at least two (2) systems to date, with one in testing phase.

Thank You

