

Information security

The [Electronic Transactions Ordinance](#) (ETO) provides the legal framework for the conduct of e-business and recognition of digital signatures for secure electronic transactions. There is a growing list of authentication and encryption tools that take advantage of the latest technology to suit different business and security requirements. In particular, the Hong Kong Smart Identity Card contains a digitalised reserved personal identification number that can only be set and changed by the card owner. The optional storage of a recognised digital certificate presents a further means of authentication.

There is a critical mass of holders of digital certificates in Hong Kong with digital certificates embedded in their Smart Identity Cards. With growing community awareness of the lurking threats to information security, the availability of a Public Key Infrastructure is vital to safeguard the continued development of e-business. The Government will continue to improve the user-friendliness and portability of digital certificate services to facilitate the conduct of e-government and e-commerce transactions commensurate with the required level of authentication in a simple and secure manner.

To help businesses determine the appropriate assurance level and security requirements for different electronic transactions, the Government has published a risk assessment and electronic authentication framework for public reference in October 2007.