

White House Officials Push Online Trusted IDs

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The U.S. Department of Commerce will launch an office focused on promoting online trusted identity technologies, although much of the effort will be driven by private vendors, officials with President Barack Obama's administration said Friday.

Trusted ID technology is important because it can help improve consumer confidence in the Internet, said Gary Locke, secretary of the Commerce Department, during a speech at Stanford University in California. "The reality is that the Internet still faces something of a trust issue," Locke said. "It will not reach its full potential until users and consumers feel more secure than they do today when they go online."

Locke and Howard Schmidt, cybersecurity coordinator at the White House, announced a national program office in the Commerce Department for the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC). The upcoming NSTIC, released in [draft form in June](#) ^[4], will seek to create an "ecosystem" where Internet users can trust each others' identities, but the U.S. government will not have a monopoly on issuing online credentials, Locke said.

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