

## Annual WARP Forum 2009

### Workshop brief – WARPs and the ICO working together

Chair: Neil Hare-Brown, QCC

Facilitators: Jonathan Bamford, Assistant Commissioner, ICO

Matt Smith, Information Security for London (Isfl) WARP Operator

Rapporteur: Derek Pollard, WARP Programme

#### **Background**

The Annual WARP Forum this year is looking at four main themes, one being a recommendation made at the last Forum to look at how WARPs and the ICO could work together for mutual benefit. The ICO have been approached and can see the benefits of the WARP trusted information sharing model and have agreed to help try and identify opportunities which support both the WARP programme and the aims of the ICO.

WARPs have an obvious role in helping organisations achieve operational compliance with the information security requirements of the Data Protection Act as all three WARP services: Filtered warnings, Advice brokering and Trusted reporting help to ensure that appropriate technical security standards are maintained.

They may have a less obvious, but potentially more important, role in helping organisations to achieve better integrated information security and data protection compliance policies. The inclusion of data protection material, links and discussion within a WARP supports this objective.

A WARP can potentially create dialogue within organisations about the link between data protection compliance (usually handled as a specialism linked to legal or other non-technical departments) and information security management (also handled as a specialism but generally linked to the IT function).

Cross-functional dialogue may help organisations to address potentially conflicting demands - for example, in how employee systems are monitored to achieve an appropriate balance between security and privacy.

The further step of supporting dialogue between organisations should help to inform this internal dialogue in productive ways. In particular, it may help members of a WARP to achieve a common standard that represents good practice.

The ICO have already offered to provide a single point of contact for WARP Operators and to promote WARPs on the ICO website. The ICO are also interested in how the WARP model could be used to support Privacy with for example the creation of anonymised privacy violation incident reporting.

#### **Workshop aims**

The aims of this workshop are to debate the topic of 'WARPs and the ICO working to reach a consensus on recommendations for the WARP programme and the ICO to take forward. In this context one recommendation may be that WARPs widen their membership to include operational and policy stakeholders responsible for DPA compliance. Or perhaps that the ICO should start to create compliance warnings and advisories for WARP operators. This is the 'what', but the aim is also to make recommendations on the 'how' and the 'who'.

#### **Workshop approach**

Neil Hare-Brown from QCC is your workshop chair and round table presenter at the morning plenary. The facilitators are Jonathan Bamford (ICO) and Matt Smith (WARP programme). After a short introduction, Neil will lead the workshop discussion on:

1. What support would WARPs like from the ICO?
2. What would the ICO like from WARP Operators and WARP members?
3. How could these requirements be met?
4. Who should be involved to take this forward?
5. Recommendations on what the WARP programme and the ICO should do within this topic.

The workshop only lasts an hour so it is suggested attention is given to just a few ideas, focussing on quality not quantity – one or two clear well thought through recommendations would be fine. Neil will provide a report back at the plenary and rapporteurs will document proceedings which will be posted on the WARP site.

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