Secure Digital India

Voluntary SIG of IS Professionals

The Felt Need

- Digital India is a program initiative by Modi led Government of India
- Support is provided by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, (DeitY)
- It is observed that some of the recent decisions of DeitY have evoked concerns in the professional circles that DeitY is either not capable of taking right decisions or is deliberately working at cross purposes for political reasons.
- A group of IS professionals has therefore decided to form an Voluntary Special Interest Group SIG to debate issues related to Secure Digital India (VSIG-SDI)
- The SIG is presently available on the facebook page www.facebook.com/securedigitalindia

Deliverables

- The initial thought is to be able to generate reports that can be published and shared with the Government which can be useful in the planning and implementation of the Digital India program with a focus on Security issues.
    – Towards this goal we need to create a road map

What we have done so far

- We are trying to put together the interested members into a group.
  - Initial interest to join was expressed in a WhatsApp group where the idea generated
  - A google document has been created and shared with the members so that seriously interested members could update their information.
  - The process is continuing and is yet to be completed

Tasks Ahead

- Identifying the Vision
- Identifying a Mission Statement
- Identifying the Scope of activity
- Identifying specific issues
- Collecting views
- Collating views into a presentable report
- Publishing the report

Proposed Vision

- "To assist the Government of India in building a Secure Digital India"

Admitted Constraints

- This is a
  - Voluntary initiative
  - Self Appointed Group
- There is no guarantee that the suggestions would be heard and implemented
- There is therefore no expectation of rewards from outside.
  - Rewards to be expected in the form of self actualization of our goal of contributing our resources
    - Towards building a Secure Digital India

Beware of the Risk

- It is not the intention of the group to confront the authorities but in the course of its activities, the Group could express reservations and criticisms of some of the Government initiatives that may in its opinion be in conflict with the Security of Digital India
  - which may not be palatable to some in the official circles and possibility of a counter offensive against the members is not ruled out.
  - Those who are dependent on receiving favours from the Government may therefore evaluate the risks of associating and identifying with this group before proceeding further.
  - With this constraint in mind the members who have volunteered may be grouped into "Core Committee" of active members and "Associate members" who watch the developments and contribute their thoughts anonymously.
    - Members may define their status before they start contributing by informing Naavi who is the coordinator

Disclaimer

- All the views expressed in the group is considered as personal and not associated with the organizations with which the member is associated.

- Initial collection of views on any issue would be like a brain storming session though it may occur in full public view on the social media and
  - individual expressing the opinion in this phase is accountable for his views as an individual
  - Any publication that is approved by the group and published in the name of the group as a final output will be considered a collective recommendation.

Proposed Mission Statement

- To Be a Voluntary Advisory Group for Promoting Security in Digital India initiatives through various initiatives that flag issues, suggest probable solutions and tasks for further action

Proposed Scope of activity

- The activity would be restricted to debating on the policy and procedures related to "Information Security Issues", that may be faced by Digital India initiatives of the Government as it rolls out and not the implementation of the projects themselves.
  - Eg: Whether to introduce a smart traffic system or not is not our focus.
  - If such an initiative is contemplated, what would be the security issues and how they are to be handled at policy level is our focus.

Proposed Scope of activity

- Since "Security" is associated with the core functionality of a proposal,
  - we need to monitor individual projects undertaken by the Digital India program and then respond with identifying the Information Security initiatives.
    - Identifying issues that need to be discussed further is the first task of the group

Specific issues

- In the recent days some issues have come out into a public debate.
    - Such issues include the draft encryption policy, appointment of brand ambassadors etc.
    - While these remain issues to be discussed, we also need to identify other issues if any.
    - Every member can contribute his thoughts in this respect.

Contribute your thoughts on what are the issues to be flagged

Create a list of issues..

Submit your thoughts here..

- P.S. This is a brain storming exercise.
    - Essential principle to be followed…
        - One can add to other's thoughts and not criticize thoughts expressed.

List of Issues
(To Be developed based on suggestions)

- 1. Data Breach Notification policy for Digital India
- 2.Evaluating the Cyber Security Readiness of a Digital India Project in the form of an "Index"
- ….