

Semper - The last chapter, or the first?

- * Did SEMPER reach its objectives?
 - Where they the right ones?
- * Can we eventually take SEMPER to the market?
 - Will it satisfy/appeal to the users?
- * What are the most prominent features of SEMPER?
 - The Architecture?
 - TINGUIN?
 - The bargainer (FIT)/SECA?

What has happened since we started?

1. SSL, SET and Java arrived
2. The User is less and less in control
3. Workstations are getting more and more vulnerable
 - SEMPER adapted to SSL, SET and Jav without problems
 - The SEMPER architecture can cope with 2) & 3)
 - Are the any alternatives to SEMPER
 - even if SEMPER is not the best solution. I think not.

What has *not* happened since we started?



* Still no useful PKI

- with a few exceptions (e.g. Swisskey)
- EC still seems to be about mail order and off-line/credit-,debitcard payments
- The banks are not playing!

Problem: Unless this changes, SEMPER may be considered overkill for EC

– but appealing for other applications!

- because what is SEMPER?

- * A very advanced security approach
 - still looking for the right application
- * But, you cannot sell security
 - only secure applications
- * SEMPER is not a product
 - It is trying to set a trend
 - It is pre-competitive
 - It may become a standard

Who are the potential customers?

- * Vendors
- * Banks
- * Governments/Public Institutions
- * Education!

Only they will appreciate - if any - the depth
and quality of the solutions

- and they will not even have to pay for it!

So what is SEMPER again?

- * Its an advanced security solution
 - which must be tamed and trimmed!
- * Its an open adaptive architecture
 - which will only survice if adopted by vendors and users
- * It focuses at this stage *too much* on security
 - e.g. fingerprints of keys, even in TINGUIN
 - users not interested in key management
 - only security services

In conclusion - on a scale from 1 to 10

I would give SEMPER **8 points**

Why not more?

1. Too complex (too slow, too large)
2. At most 1 in 4 will have the intellectual ability to use it
3. Too much can go wrong
4. And too much academic security freaking!

But on the whole a very impressive, sound and innovative approach!

Where are we heading then?

I believe EC in the near future will be characterised by

- Off-line or credit/dibit card payments (still)
- Is build around individual applications provided by a service provider (e.g. BOLERO)
 - in semi-closed systems
- quite likey initiated/required by governments
 - e.g. the FSTC-”check” pilots in USA
- There is a growing understanding for TUI
- Chipcards arte moving in