e-identity

What does e-identity means to the Estonian state and its residents?

Unlike in many other countries, every Estonian, irrespective of his/her location, has a state issued digital identity. Thanks to this Estonia is years ahead of countries still trying to work out how to authenticate people without physical contact.

How does e-identity work and how can it be used?

In Estonia, every person using his/her ID-card or Mobile-ID can safely identify themselves, use e-services and give a digital signature.

What can a citizen do with their e-identity?

- Here are some examples of how the eID is regularly used in Estonia:
  → to prove identity when logging into bank accounts
  → to give digital signatures
  → to vote using i-Voting system

- → to check medical records or use e-Prescription service
- → to establish a company or submit tax declarations
- Digital signatures help save every citizen 5 working days per year

How many Estonians have e-identity?

- 99% of Estonians have ID-card, which is their digital identity carrier. 64% of them are actively using digital ID-card.
- 19% of Estonians have mobile-ID, which is also their digital identity carrier.

- 51% of Estonians use Smart-ID, which can be used to log in to financial sector e-services and confirm transactions and agreements. Smart-ID unlike Mobile-ID cannot be used for iVoting.

How actively do Estonian people use e-ID?

- It is estimated that Estonia saves 2% of its GDP value annually through the usage of digital signature.

- During the past two decades over 1. 4 billion digital signatures (of the same legal effect as handwritten signature) have been given.

How is the data related to an individual's electronic ID protected against hackers and against abuse by the state itself?

The data traceability function allows each person or company to monitor exactly who — for example which government agency - and how have used the data related to their electronic ID.

How the security risk related to the ID card chip threatened Estonia in 2017?

It was a theoretical security risk associated with the implementation of public key encryption algorithm in the ID card discovered by researchers and was eliminated by remotely updating the certificates on the ID card chip. The risk didn't become an actual security breach and within a few months the risk was completely eliminated. In short, this case actually proved the strength of e-Estonia as a trustworthy Nordic approach was taken and the truth was talked openly to the public.