

Position Paper:

Endorsing the Trustmark Framework

SAFECOM and NCSWIC encourage the public safety community to leverage the Trustmark Framework and implement ICAM solutions consistent and interoperable with the Trustmark Framework supported by the Program Manager - Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE) and located within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Adopting a nationwide federated ICAM solution is an important step for information sharing across the public safety community and will fundamentally improve our ability to save lives and protect property.

SAFECOM and NCSWIC recognize that federated ICAM solutions are necessary for public safety's ability to share and access timely and accurate information in a secure and interoperable manner. Existing ICAM solutions have already demonstrated their value to the public safety community because they actively encourage identity proofing and vetting of users on mission critical voice and data networks. Public safety needs assurance that the information they share is secured against outside threats and accessible only to authorized entities. ICAM solutions address these concerns by promoting collaboration and mutual trust within communities of interest and establishing "trust frameworks" among participating organizations.

Despite the progress of ICAM initiatives across the Nation, disparities in current ICAM solutions make it nearly impossible for public safety organizations to confidently and quickly access important information from systems outside of their current domain(s). In the current information sharing environment, there is no universally accepted and straightforward process for facilitating interoperability between existing disparate ICAM initiatives. Interoperability, a priority for the public safety community, will be a vital component of ICAM as FirstNet, Next-Generation 911 (NG 9-1-1), and other networks become available to public safety users.

The Trustmark Framework is a means to achieve interoperability between various identity federations without requiring explicit, written bilateral agreements. Currently in use by several law enforcement organizations, the Trustmark Framework establishes a mechanism for codifying and reusing components of different identity, credential, and access management (ICAM) solutions in an attempt to achieve greater adaptability, interoperability, and cost savings. The Trustmark Framework is one part of the larger, more holistic Project Interoperability (PI) / Information Sharing and Safeguarding Core Interoperability Framework (ICIF) developed by the PM-ISE. When fully implemented, the Trustmark Framework and its related components will allow public safety communities to more easily communicate with each other.

ICAM experts and public safety leaders convened at the [2014 National ICAM Strategy Summit](https://www.ise.gov/sites/default/files/ICAM_Summit_Report.pdf)¹ to outline a nationwide federated ICAM Strategy. Attendees identified the need to leverage existing identity proofing and credentialing processes and pushed for a nationwide federated identity solution that is standardized, reliable, modular, decentralized, secure, scalable, affordable, sustainable, and most importantly, interoperable. Consistent with the findings of the ICAM Summit Report, SAFECOM and NCSWIC believes that the Trustmark Framework provides a template for creating nationwide interoperability and incorporating both existing and future ICAM solutions.

¹ 2014 National ICAM Strategy Summit (https://www.ise.gov/sites/default/files/ICAM_Summit_Report.pdf)