

IDENTIFICATION AND AUTHENTICATION IN THE HUNGARIAN E-GOVERNMENT

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Identification and authentication of the clients are crucial problems of the e-Government procedures. The new Hungarian Administration Procedure Act has defined two alternative methods for e-government identification: one is based on electronic signature, while the other uses the Central Client Gate and user name, password technique. In both cases any electronic case management must be preceded by a single personal registration procedure at the certification authority or at the so called document authority of the municipality. A government authority can authenticate the client by means of a mutual authentication process with the certification authority or the central registry respectively. This mutual authentication procedure is unique within the European Union, thus the certification authorities of other member states certainly will not provide this service. The security and effectiveness of the two methods are significantly different, but the act treats the two methods equivalent, and orders them to be used alternatively in any administration procedure. The identification at the Central Client Gate is a typical centralised solution. If the client uses electronic signature, he or she can freely choose among the certification providers – similarly to the federated identification model. Unfortunately the act combines the concepts of the electronic signature and the entity authentication in an ambiguous way.