

S. Joe Bhatia President and CEO American National Standards Institute	IDSP – 2007 Plenary Meeting Washington, DC Closing Remarks – September 24, 2007 <i>Word Count: 579; approximately 5 minutes</i>
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Thank you, Joe. Good afternoon everyone.

I'm pleased to be here . . . and especially pleased to see the progress that has been made since this panel first convened last November.

You know better than I how much identity theft has impacted businesses and consumers around the globe:

- Consumers are modifying their purchasing behavior;
- Businesses and government agencies are improving their data security practices;
- And card issuers are upgrading their identity fraud detection tools.

But identity theft continues to top the FTC's list of consumer fraud complaints . . . this is a seven year stretch that needs to be broken.

Government and industry need to work at a single purpose if we are to restore consumer confidence in the privacy of their personal data.

(pause)

Much has already been done . . . both within and outside the standards and conformity assessment community . . . to help solve identity theft problems.

For example, the President's ID theft task force developed a three-pronged strategic plan focusing on law enforcement, customer data protection and consumer education.

Lawmakers on Capitol Hill are coming down harder on identity criminals.

And the standards community continues to produce standards and best practices that can be used to stem the tide of identity crimes.

This panel is capturing what works in the current environment . . . building upon it . . . and making it better.

Joe, we would like to thank you, the Working Group chairs, and the members of this panel for the work you have done – and that you continue to do.

Steve Cole and I share the view that this has been a mutually beneficial partnership for both ANSI and BBB . . . and we are both eager to see the final results of your work.

I'm pleased to hear your confidence that the IDSP will be ready to deliver by January 2008 a set of standards-related recommendations that the business community can rely upon to address ID theft prevention and management.

Congratulations!

(pause)

Unfortunately, though, I'm afraid that your work may not be over . . .

Across the Americas, to Europe and China – other countries are also considering identity theft a global priority.

Just last week the Commerce Department convened a roundtable to discuss ID management and international business competitiveness.

The International Telecommunication Union has also launched a focus group to bring together telecom standards bodies to collaborate on standards and practices that will enhance the interoperability of global identity management systems.

This panel's Founding Partners and Contributing Members are multi-national or global organizations themselves . . . and all of you in the room today have a stake in the global marketplace.

(pause)

I encourage each of you to share your thoughts on next steps.

What can or should this panel do to advance the important work that has been done this year?

What can be done to foster the partnerships between business, government and consumers in this area?

What can be done to ensure that your recommendations span the digital divide . . . and provide stepping stones for global identity solutions?

ANSI stands ready to assist in facilitating your next steps.

And we encourage your ongoing engagement.

Help us to prevent identity theft from coming anywhere near the top of a future list of consumer concerns.

I look forward to hearing your ideas during the reception.

Thank you. This meeting is now adjourned.