

# 'Condomania', Firewalls, Payments and On-line Banking

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\* All examples of safe electronic commerce highlighted at Electronic Commerce 97 \*

As part of today's opening address at Electronic Commerce 97, Mrs Barara Roche, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of

State for Small Firms, Trade and Industry, said, "The development of on-line services and markets is creating a new

environment for businesses and customers. For electronic commerce to flourish, we have to ensure that this environment is

as reliable, secure and safe as the "real world".

Electronic Commerce 97, the UK's only event dedicated to addressing business solutions for the electronic age, is

addressing just such issues. The new look conference is examining the hype and realities of using the Internet,

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and messaging services for companies looking to adopt or improve their use of

electronic commerce practices.

Security is very much in the spotlight in seminars focusing on 'Commerce Over The Internet' - which features real case

studies; Payments and On-line Banking - Completing The Trading Cycle; Making Global Electronic Commerce Secure and Global

Logistics in World Trade. On Thursday (23rd), security is still the focus with the morning seminar concentrating on

Security and Legal Issues - Fact or Fiction.

New Launches

Meanwhile, in the exhibition dozens of new announcements were made today - from the launch of two new firewalls, one

software package from NEXOR which cloaks sensitive information

on an organisation's Intranet from unauthorised access, and the second, a combination

of hardware and software described as a 'firewall in a box' from Wick Hill - to

encryption software from nCipher and several new commercial web sites.

There are several on-line catalogue companies exhibiting and demonstrating products and web sites at this year's event,

but of the new commercial web sites unveiled today which really caught the imagination were the sites for TOYS R US, Condomania and OneRugbyPlace - all of which use iCat's on-line catalogue.

EDI users, often considered the originators of electronic commerce, also found plenty of news - Albany software launched NETlink which enables users to implement EDI over the Internet while Perwill and Prospera both launched enhanced EDI services.

The Electronic Commerce Association (ECA) announced two new sponsoring members,\* the winners of its Awards for Excellence\* and its endorsement of Community EDI2000 - a new service aimed at ensuring UK trading communities using EDI systems are Year 2000 compliant. The new service, which has already signed up its first community hub - Wickes plc, will focus on the electronic linkage, based on EDI, that bind trading organisations' supply chain systems together.

Electronic commerce is also the subject of a debate in the House of Lord's this week when the question "In the face of US Government initiatives designed to ensure that electronic commerce takes place over the Internet under US law, what is HM Government going to do?" is asked. Senior members of the ECA, as well as other representatives from Electronic Commerce Company (the ECA, Article Number Association and European Electronic Messaging Association - sponsors of the electronic commerce event) will be available at the show on Thursday morning (23rd) to respond/comment on the previous evening's debate.

Electronic Commerce 97 is taking place this week at Olympia 2, London (21-23 October). More information and the full seminar programme can be found on the event's web site: <http://www.t-stone.co.uk>.

\* Information about the Electronic Commerce Association's announcements can be found on NEWSdesk at <http://www.newsdesk.com> or from Judith Gillespie on 01737 644903 ([judithg@cix.co.uk](mailto:judithg@cix.co.uk))

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