Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology,MrTassarjenChedumbrumPillay

MrGreg Berber, Symantec expert

Heads of ministries, parastatals and CEOs

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

Albert Einsteinonce said “It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.”

The discussions in the European Union on the proposals for arevised legal framework for data protection as well as the ongoing work in the Council of Europe and the OECD; the ongoing process in the United States to refine its privacy protections, and the plans to introduce a privacy bill of rights; the recent APEC initiative to strengthen the cooperation between data protection authorities and to implement a system for streamlined and accountable data transfers across the APEC region through the APEC Cross-Border Privacy Rules inspiring itself from the EU Framework; the growth of several multilateral cooperations and

enforcement networks and the global initiatives to foster enforcement cooperation amongstdata protection authorities ; you will agree that these recent developments highlightthe importance of protecting our personal information which has now more than ever before skyrocketed.

The world is faced today through minute and acute globalisation, the threats associated with the ignorant use of technologywhich present data protection and privacy risks. The Internet in particular has presented challenges to the protection of people's privacy and the protection of their data, especially combined with the increasing use of mobile devices. Technology is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. The day we start worshipping technology without getting to know its membranes or tentacles, I would dare say we are doomed and enslaved for life. The words may seem far reaching but have their "pesantd'or". Henry David Thoreau, a famous american writer, said "Men have become the tools of their tools."

This is not to underestimate the vital importance of technology but to raise awareness on the potential impact it may have on our privacy. Who will care about our privacy if we do not? In fact we

have no choice here, we are bound to increase our understanding of technology so that we have control.This is not science fiction that I'm talking about but reality.

I have often met people who wanted to understand why we have to protect our data and why we need a commission to do that? I hope that the concerns raised now answer this question. Data protection is the modern fundamental human right of the digital age and will remain so for the future years to come, with its own specificities and complexities requiring a particularly specialised institution to cater for its enforcement.

Technological developments have convinced legislators all over the world to review the rules and laws governing privacy and data protection. Data protection and privacy enforcement authorities have increased cooperation and are trying to coordinate as much as possible their actions when they face issues of common concern.Considering the difficult economic situation, exchanging information and expertise to make the best use of our scarce resources is of utmost important.

In order for Mauritius to comply with international standards, our government has to make more efforts to sign and ratify the

convention on the protection of personal data commonly known as convention 108 and pursue its efforts to make Mauritius be recognised by the European Union as an adequate country in data protection.

As stated earlier on, in all parts of the world, data protection and privacy rules are currently underreview - a great opportunity is being offered to try to harmonisedifferent systems. We have grasped this opportunity to align our data protection laws with current international standards in order to provide our people better protection of their privacy and personal data. I hope that the government will now respond to our consistent efforts to make these amendments possible in the shortest delay possible.

Cloud Computing is attracting increasing interest due to promises of greater economic efficiency, lower environmental impact, simpler operation, increased userfriendliness and a number of other benefits. However, the evolution of Cloud Computing raises a number of important issues relating to, for example, the fact that the technology is still developing, data processing has become global, and lack of transparency is making it more difficult to enforce privacy and data protection rules. These issues may magnify certain risks inherent in data processing, such as

breaches of information security, violation of laws and principles for privacy and data protection,and misuse of data stored in the cloud.

Cloud computing should not lead to a lowering of privacy and data protection standards as compared with other forms of data processing;

• Data controllers must carry out the necessary privacy impact and risk assessments (if necessary, by using trusted third parties) prior to embarking on Cloud Computing projects, this office has developed guidelines on how to conduct privacy impact assessments also posted on our website;

• Cloud service providers must ensure that they provide appropriate transparency, security, accountability and trust in Cloud Computing solutions in particular regarding information on data breaches and contractual clauses that promote, where appropriate, data portability and data control by cloud users; cloud service providers, when they are acting as data controllers, make available to users, where appropriate, relevant information about potential privacy impacts and risks related to the use of their services.

Further efforts must be put into research, third party certification, standardisation, privacy by design technologies and other related schemes in order to achieve a desired level of trust in Cloud Computing; to build privacy thoroughly and effectively into cloud computing adequate measures should be embedded into the architecture of IT systems and business processes at an early stage (this is commonly called privacy by design);and

The Data Protection Office will continue to provide information to data controllers, cloud service providers and legislators on questions relating to privacy and data protection issues. All stakeholders - providers and customers of Cloud Computing as well as regulators – should cooperate in order to ensure a high level of privacy and data protection and IT security.

To create trust, public and private entities around theglobalised world, there is a need to ensure that these entities inform society to the maximum possible extent about their profilingoperations. They should be more transparent about profiling, the way theprofiles are assembled and the purposes for which the profiles are used.Providing better information should also ensure individuals have better control over their data.

Profiling operations should not take place without human intervention,especially now that the predictive power of profiling due to more effectivealgorithms increases the potentiality of injustice to individuals due to fully automated falsepositive or false negative results which should be avoided at all cost. Provisions need to be established to allow the individual to challenge both the profile and the outcome.

This workshop will also touch upon other topics such as online behavioural advertising and forensic detection tools to counteract data protection incidents, amongst others.

I wish you a pleasant brainstorming workshop and extend my warm welcome to you all.

Thank You.