

Q & A

JOHN HARRIS OF SIGNiX



SIGNiX, long time provider of digital signature workflow, will soon introduce

to its solution digital identities that adhere to the SAFE-BioPharma® global standard. Use of the SIGNiX solution assures life science and healthcare companies that they can authorize agreements that meet legal and regulatory requirements around the globe. We spoke with John Harris, SVP of Product Management.

How do you characterize the new SIGNiX/SAFE-BioPharma relationship?

The SBP-SigniX relationship ushers in the ability for life science organizations to take a single vendor approach in an area that traditionally has been multi-vendor. We soon will be able to issue compliant SAFE-BioPharma digital certificates in a cloud-based environment and use those certificates to sign documents digitally. Both internal and external signers, using a trusted SAFE-BioPharma credential, can securely apply a digital signature anywhere, with any device.

Will SIGNiX be issuing SAFE-BioPharma® compliant identity credentials?

Yes, that part of our strategy will be implemented over the coming months. Short term, we plan to leverage the identity for signing documents. Longer term, we will issue compliant identity credentials for authenticating to services and other types of capabilities. SAFE-BioPharma identity credentials provide a great sense of who the signer is. In the life sciences, that knowledge is critically important.

Why is it important for life sciences entities to use digital signatures?

They put the evidence and record of the signature in the document itself, just like wet ink. A digital signature creates evidence that is present for as long as the document is subject to scrutiny. Depending on the document, that could be a matter of decades. The digital signature establishes, with certainty, who applied the signature, what it is that person signed and the reason for signing. Each signature also creates a tamper-evident

seal protecting the document from changes. If there is an attempt to change the document, digital signatures can let the relying party know. All of this is permanently embedded in the signed PDF. In the Life Science industry there are other regulatory and legal reasons to use digital signatures. For example, as of June all e-Submissions to EMA require digital signatures.

What advantage does the SIGNIX platform offer life sciences users?

The SIGNIX platform is totally flexible and convenient

for applying a signature to any electronic document. SIGNIX's patented technology, by default, enables digital signatures at a price that competes with less secure electronic signatures. Using the same technology and workflow, you can turn the dial up to a fully secure signature, compliant with the SAFE-BioPharma standard or down to sign non-regulatory contracts, always using digital signatures. It truly simplifies the process.