

"The digital transformation might be slow but will gradually increase"



The representatives of the eMudhra Group, the first Certification Authority to get a license from Controller of Certification Authorities (CCA) Mauritius, gave a Business Presentation, last week at Ebène. The Chairman, V.Srinivasan, talked to BIZweek about the adoption of the products of eMudhra and what we will need to undergo the digital transformation

Have you conducted any feasibility study in Mauritius to see how the products and services you are offering can work?

Actually, no feasibility study is required. It's a transformative effort. The adoption of the multiple digital products and services offered by eMudhra might be slow at the beginning, but it will gradually increase. The other thing is that these products are not only for Mauritius. They are already being used in India in large volumes, for example.

Do you think we are ready to adopt these new technologies?

Yes, mostly ready. I said in the pre-presentation that the Information & Technology Act is already there as legal backing. We already have the license from the Controller of Certification Authorities and we have worked with some institutions like the Mauritius Post Ltd, and the Public Procurement Office. So, it's only more and more adoption, and also some sort of linking with the national ID, like it has been done in India. So, if these two are done, large scale use can take place. It's not a very complicated process. The Aadhaar (identification document where the holder digitally signs) project has taken around six months to be completed in India. It can take a similar amount of time in Mauritius.

Our mission is to ensure and help in the digital transformation of Mauritius. This transformation has to be achieved by the government and the private sector. We can only help. You already have the needed support like connectivity here. Only some decisions have to be taken. Even in the private sector. They'll save lots of money. Let's take the example of a telecom company. To issue a new SIM Card to a client, it will require the address proof, the utility bill, the ID card etc. If all this is done digitally, there will be cost saving. That's why I said the government need not make the digital signature obligatory but voluntary. Enable the situation first and those who'll want to save money will think about it. What is usually done in three days can be done in two minutes, for instance. The transformation will be slow but it will gradually increase afterwards.

We are talking about digital signature. What is it really about?

It means signing digitally with the fingerprint or by iris scan. It's not like having a physical pen to sign a document. Well, the digital signature has an algorithm called the short word algorithm with 2 to 48 bits encryption. This is what uniquely identifies the person associated with the document. If the document is tampered with, it becomes red to alert that it has been tampered with. Only the fingerprint can uniquely capture the person. We all know that more and more fraud is happening, and people are replicating other people's signature. But it is not possible to replicate the fingerprint.

Ever since you are evolving in this digital sector, has there been any case of fraud reported or tampering around?

Yes. Initially, during the first two or three years, there have been some cases in India. When we first issued the digital signature, all the security standards were not in place. But over the years the industrials have evolved, and the government has also put in place the required security measures in data centres, or regarding encryption, firewalls... As a result of this, frauds have been gradually eliminated.

Above 50 and still going digital!

I'm above fifty but I am at ease with digital signature, and still learning!" V.Srinivasan is the Founder Chairman of eMudhra Limited since its inception in 2008. Prior to this, he was the Managing Director and Global Chief Executive Officer of 3i Infotech since April 1999. Within a span of just ten years, he turned 3i Infotech into a global technology company having revenue of above USD 500 million, with over 10,000 employees servicing a large number of customers in over 50 countries across 5 continents. Having travelled widely around the world, he has a deep understanding of global business issues.

Mr. Srinivasan combines a comprehensive mix of academic qualifications and professional experience. He is a graduate in Mathematics from Madras University and secured the First Rank in the university. Apart from being a rank holder in the Chartered Accountancy examination, he is also a qualified Cost and Works accountant and a Company Secretary. He had also attended the Executive Development Programme at the Kelloggs School of Management in Chicago, USA.

Over the past few years, eMudhra, apart from providing solutions to retail Customers, has evolved into a company providing enterprise solutions which encompasses document signing and workflow system – emSigner, Voice of Customer analytics – Prism and instant electronic signing and authentication services– eServices. The latter is the latest addition to the eMudhra's enterprise services which comprises of eSign, eKYC and eAuth services which enable electronic paperless signing, authentication & KYC services.

Refer:

<http://www.bizweek.mu/fr/info/digital-transformation-might-be-slow-will-gradually-increase>