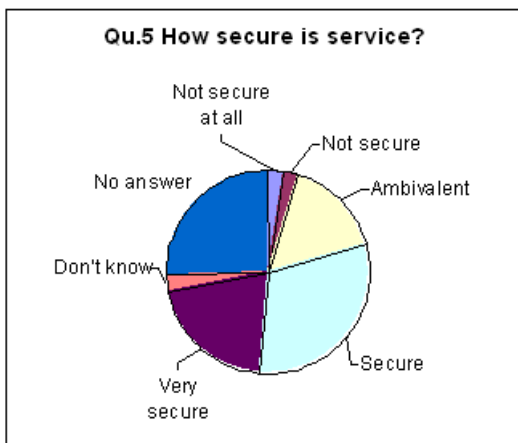Figure 5: Is eTNA secure?

Conclusions

In comparisons, eTNA is generally viewed as similar to, or better than, other systems. However, there is no room for complacency:

• eTNA must ultimately be significantly easier to use and have stronger facilities than other systems;
• the market survey shows eTNA in a generally good light but there are specific issues to be addressed.

The conclusions that we can draw with respect to security are that:

– security remains an issue for Internet shoppers
– no system is likely to completely remove security concerns
– eTNA has satisfied the promises made at the time of the first survey
– monthly billing is seen as an advantage
– eTNA shows every indication of meeting the needs of users.

Finally, testers emphasised that the software and the interface was 'useful', 'easy', and/or 'helpful' but not to the exclusion of all other comments.

The survey has highlighted a small number of deficiencies or areas for improvement in the software, the interface and the documentation, and it is clear that the consortium will need to address these before the formal launch.

The test user populations were all professional information workers with long experience of online systems, selected for this reason. It was felt that they would be best able to use the e-Diamond/eTNA system and judge it against other current search platforms. Based on the findings of this survey as set out above, it is clear that a case can be made for launching eTNA as an e-commerce platform following a small amount of additional work.

In the light of this market validation, it seems likely that the eTNA e-commerce platform will be launched in the autumn of 2004. While the intervening time will be spent mainly on improving the product and the interface, it will also allow the consortium time to sign up further eTNA Service Providers and Content Providers.

If readers are interested in eTNA, or if they wish to market products or services – or, indeed, become an eTNA Service Provider – progress can be followed and interest expressed via the website: http://www.et-diamond.net/

Chris Armstrong and Karen Blakeman

Online

Column Editor: Johanna Westwood, Advisor, University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

EBSCOHOST

EBSCOHOST http://www.ebsco.com/home/ have announced they are now offering the Columbia Granger's Poetry Database. There are over 50,000 poems in full text, included are also 400,000 citations to poems and bibliographic anthology information. A free trial is available.

CSA

CSA http://info.csa.com/daai/ have made available the Design and Applied Arts Index (DAAI). This is a bibliographic database of over 500 titles covering subjects in design and applied arts such as photography, textiles and interior design. The database contains 130,000 entries which include relevant articles, news items and exhibition reviews dating back to 1973. Data is also available on designers, craftspeople, workshops and companies. The database includes an Education Directory listing courses in design and applied arts in Colleges and Universities.

DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS - DOAJ

DOAJ http://www.doaj.org has a new version with improved features announced this month. Open URL linking is now available and allows journal titles to be linked to directly. Changes have been made to the user interface, to include an increase to 100 titles listed when a result page is displayed. More fields within the record can be searched, such as the language and ISSN. When browsing the subject tree, the number of journals listed under each heading are displayed.

BRITISH LIBRARY

BRITISH LIBRARY
http://www.collectbritain.co.uk/collections/dialects/ have announced their new website for Northern England's accents and dialects. It includes recordings and images during the 20th century. A wide subject area is covered ranging from steelwork, farming and football. It is a valuable collection into the changing dialects over the last century. When complete in September the Collect Britain digitisation project will include over 350 hours of recordings and 100, 000 images.
http://www.bl.uk/collectbritain

INDEX TO THESES

INDEX TO THESES http://www.theses.com/ have announced that the bibliographic coverage of dissertations accepted for higher degrees by UK universities and Ireland has increased. Coverage goes back to 1716, with 44,000 additional abstracts for the 1970 to 1985 period. In total there are now 480,000 entries in total, with all entries from 1986 onwards including abstracts.

R.R.BOWKER

R.R.BOWKER http://www.booksinprint.com> has introduced a new version called PatronBooksInPrint.com. The site is designed to be user friendly for library users to search the site. There are options to search for fiction and non-fiction, popular fiction areas such as romance or crime, or for a recurring character or series. For library users, there is an option to receive free e-mail alerts when new titles are available matching their search criteria. The current subscribers to booksinprint.com will receive this additional service as complimentary.

INGENTA AND EBSCO

INGENTA http://www.ingenta.com/ AND EBSCO http://www.ebsco.com/ have announced that Ingenta plc., will be working with EBSCO on a project to simplify the process for institutions to register their subscriptions to journals. Currently each title has to be individually registered. The new scheme should enable librarians to have immediate access to their subscribed journals purchased through a subscription agent. There are 260 publishers that supply data to Ingenta, 98% of these have agreed to follow this new process.

NETLIBRARY

NETLIBRARY http://www.netlibrary.com/ have teamed up with Information Science Publishing to provide full text material on research trends within IT. It is available through the Netlibrary interface and covers the latest information on areas such as knowledge management, E-commerce and distance learning. The database is regularly updated and currently contains 2,000 documents.

Internet News
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Further to a previous item on the Information Society, there was a World Summit on the Information Society held in Geneva from the 10th to the 12th December 2003 see: http://www.itu.int/wsis/. The summit was held at the initial instigation of the International Telegraph Union (ITU). If, like me, you aren't sure just who the ITU are, the following item from their website may surprise you:

As the world's oldest international organization, ITU can take much of the credit for developing the vast, interconnected web of networks which have grown to become the planet's largest man-made artifact. Established in 1865 to manage the first international telegraph networks, the Union has worked tirelessly to ensure that the latest technological advances have been rapidly integrated into the telecommunication networks of countries all around the world.
Over the last 135 years, the Union's mandate has expanded to cover the invention of voice telephony, the development of radiocommunications, the launch of the first communications satellites, and, most recently, the technological convergence that heralds the dawn of a new, telecommunications-based information age. With a membership which includes almost all the world's countries and over 500 private members from the telecommunication, broadcasting and information technology sectors, ITU can boast a long and highly successful track record in developing and managing our telecommunication resources.
http://www.itu.int/aboutitu/overview/foreward.html

The Public Library Authority conference in December announced a new three-year action plan that included the development of 'Digitial citizenship'. This is to build on the success of the People's Network and is intended to develop national services for information, learning and reading. As part of this development, Government minister Stephen Timms has stated that he is 'very keen' on the idea that every public library should be a Wi-Fi hotspot. It is claimed that 90% of libraries have broadband already, which will aid in the roll-out of Wi-Fi. Even now, according to Intel, there are more hotspots in the UK than in the whole of the rest of Europe put together.

At the same time, a report prepared for the Government (Business in the Information Age: The International Benchmarking Study 2003) http://www.ukonlineforbusiness.gov.uk/benchmarking2003/index.htm points to the widespread takeup of ICT by British business. The particular value of the report is that it provides a benchmark comparison against our European competitors and helps to pinpoint best practice, both here and overseas.