Use Case Study: AOL and D-Link

**Liberty Alliance Specifications Help AOL and D-Link to Set the Standard
for Smart Business and Technology Partnerships**

Before Liberty Alliance
Companies aiming to create Internet services that enhance their customers' lives in new
ways had to develop proprietary technologies when it came to authenticating customers
(proving the customers are who they say they are) and use Internet protocols that limited
their ability to easily enable a partner to authenticate their customers and offer them
valuable services. Not only was this process time-consuming and costly for the
company, but also it generated resistance from partners due to the need for partners to
invest significant resources changing their products and services to interact with the
proprietary technologies.

Enter the Liberty Alliance
The Liberty Alliance is creating open, interoperable standards for federated identity,
opening the door for companies to more easily partner and develop new business-to-
business, business-to-consumer and business-to-employee Web-based services. The
Alliance recently released the final version of its Phase 2 specifications.

Liberty Alliance Specifications in Action with AOL and D-Link
AOL, the world's leading interactive services company, is leveraging open standard
technologies such as the Liberty Alliance specifications and SOAP/XML, to allow third-
party applications to easily access and interact with AOL's online services.

For example, in January of 2004, AOL and D-Link, the global leader in the design and
development of connectivity and communications technologies for the digital home and
the small to medium business markets, announced an alliance that uses the Liberty
specifications to extend access to AOL's Internet broadcasting service, Radio@AOL,
beyond the computer and into any room with a TV or stereo. A new line of D-Link
Wireless Media Players will allow AOL for Broadband members to listen to more than
175 CD-quality Radio@AOL stations on any TV or stereo in the home. Radio@AOL is
is available to all AOL customers numbering approximately 35 million. D-Link and AOL
are also working together to provide valuable digital home services for users of D-Link
products who are not current AOL for Broadband subscribers. AOL and D-Link plan to
offer purchasers of D-Link Wireless Network Media Players a limited trial subscription

to the Radio@AOL service allowing them to enjoy the #1 Internet broadcasting service for six months at no additional cost.

In addition, D-Link and AOL are working together to extend AOL's popular You've Got Pictures in the same way, allowing AOL for Broadband members to view their personal photos and slideshows, and exclusive photos from AOL's various photo galleries by using the AOL You've Got Pictures service on any TV in the home.

Using open standard technologies such as the Liberty Alliance specifications allows D-Link's Wireless Media Player customers to stream AOL multimedia content, beginning with Radio@AOL and You've Got Pictures, from the home broadband connection to the living room where it can be experienced through a home entertainment system. Liberty Alliance specifications provide the shared authentication mechanism between AOL's and D-Link's systems, authenticating the user and device, and connecting the device to the service.

According to Conor Cahill, Chief Architect with AOL, making this work was straightforward thanks to the use of standard protocols. D-Link simply built its client application to consume AOL's published API. "The use of standard protocols works in favor of other customers and partners for both AOL and D-Link," said Cahill. "It becomes easier for AOL to convince other partners to adopt a standard like Liberty Alliance and D-Link can use the same client code to access other published services."

In the first release of the Liberty-enabled service, AOL is using Liberty's Phase 2 specifications – the Liberty Identity Web Services Framework, including its SOAP Authentication, Discovery and Invocation Framework components. The Liberty-enabled version of the service is due to go into production during late Q1 or early Q2 of 2004.

About D-Link
Ranked by BusinessWeek as one of the top 100 Information technology companies, D-Link (www.dlink.com) is the worldwide leader and award winning designer, developer, and manufacturer of networking, broadband, digital electronics, voice and data communications solutions for the digital home, Small Office/Home Office (SOHO), Small to Medium Business (SMB), and Workgroup to Enterprise environments.

About America Online, Inc.
America Online, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Time Warner Inc. Based in Dulles, Virginia, America Online is the world's leader in interactive services, web brands, Internet technologies and e-commerce services.

About the Liberty Alliance Project
The Liberty Alliance Project (www.projectliberty.org) is an alliance of more than 150 companies, non-profit and government organizations from around the globe. The consortium is committed to developing an open standard for federated network identity that supports all current and emerging network devices.