

## Cyberlaws

- The Digital Signature Act 1997, enforced on the 1st of October 1998, is an enabling law that allows for the development of, amongst others, e-commerce by providing an avenue for secure on-line transactions through the use of digital signatures. The Act provides a framework for the licensing and regulation of Certification Authorities, and gives legal recognition to digital signatures. The Controller of Certification Authority, who has the authority to license and regulate Certification Authorities, was appointed on the 1st of October 1998.
- The Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 which came into effect on the 1st of April 1999, provides a regulatory framework to cater for the convergence of the telecommunications, broadcasting and computing industries, with the objective of, among others, making Malaysia a major global centre and hub for communications and multimedia information and content services.
- The Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission was appointed on the 1st November 1998 as the sole regulator of the new regulatory regime. Although regulation in the form of licensing is provided for, one of the cornerstones of the new regulatory framework is self-regulation by the various industries, including the ICT and multimedia content industries.
- The Copyright (Amendment) Act 1997 which amended the Copyright Act 1987 came into force on the 1st of April 1999, to make unauthorised transmission of copyright works over the Internet an infringement of copyright. It is also an infringement of copyright to circumvent any effective technological measures aimed at restricting access to copyright works. These provisions are aimed at ensuring adequate protection of intellectual property rights for companies involved in content creation in the ICT and multimedia environment.
- The Computer Crimes Act 1997, effective as of the 1st of June 2000, created several offences relating to the misuse of computers. Among others, it deals with unauthorised access to computer material, unauthorised access with intent to commit other offences and unauthorised modification of computer contents. It also makes provisions to facilitate investigations for the enforcement of the Act.

- The Telemedicine Act 1997 is intended to provide a framework to enable licensed medical practitioners to practice medicine using audio, visual and data communications. To date, the Telemedicine Act has yet to be enforced.