

L'usage de tout système électronique ou informatique est interdit dans cette épreuve

Traduire en français le texte ci-dessous.

SIGNING OFF¹

The pen-and-paper signature is dying. It may soon be dead. Since May 25, digital signatures on digital documents have had the same legal status in Britain as pen signatures on paper ones. In June Bill Clinton signed the Electronic Signatures Act by using digital signature technology (although he did also sign it the old way, with a pen).

Clinton made the point that new technology and new laws don't just mean the end of the manual signature. They also spell the end for tons of documents. "Soon", prophesied Clinton, "vast warehouses of papers will be replaced by servers the size of VCRs."

A digital signature may be a unique body attribute, such as the face, voice, iris or a fingerprint, or a series of numbers which you hold, but which you cannot actually read.

The pen-signature, it seems, is too human to survive modernity. Yet, if we lose written signatures, we'll lose something that relies purely on our own memory, since digital signatures and digital documents rely on the electronic memories of machines and on passwords.

Can handwriting survive as a form of communication, as an art or a skill? The spread of e-mail, phones and short text messages on mobiles is driving handwriting back into a smaller and smaller corner of time and popularity.

Adapted from *The Guardian Weekly*, September
21-27 2000

1. La fin de la signature