

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	page
1. Introduction	11
1.1 Research problem	11
1.2 Research methodology	15
1.3 Purpose and objectives of the essay	16
1.4 Research questions	18
2. Electronic Transactions Act No. 19 of 2006	21
2.1 Electronic Transactions' have not been defined in the ETA	21
2.2 Electronic information that does not constitute a 'transaction'	22
2.3 Preamble does not restrict the application of the ETA	22
2.4 Objectives of the ETA	23
2.5 An act to <i>facilitate</i> electronic commerce, not for its regulation.	24
2.6 Is the ETA only for e-commerce and e-governance?	24
2.7 Arguments in favour of general application of the ETA	24
2.8 Legal recognition	26
2.9 Only when the law requires an instrument to be in writing	26
2.10 Electronic form is sufficient as original	27

2.11 When original is a paper based document, would the electronic form be acceptable as original?	28
2.12 Requirements for retention satisfied if electronic form is retained	28
2.13 Legal recognition of 'electronic signatures' and not limited to 'digital signatures'	29
2.14 Explanation causes confusion	31
2.15 Contracting parties can agree not to be bound by electronic contracts	32
2.16 Provisions contained in Chapter III not only for contracts?	32
2.17 Clarifications for the avoidance of doubt	33
2.18 'Network Service Providers' and not 'Certification Service Providers'	34
2.19 Excluded matters cannot be proved under the ESPA	35
2.20 Is Evidence only admissible under section 21(2)?	36
2.21 Can evidence be admitted under the Evidence Ordinance (excluding the ESPA) as well?	36
2.22 Section 21 does not restrict admissibility in criminal proceedings.	37
2.23 Implications of evidence being legally recognized under section 3, but inadmissible under section 21.	38
2.24 Provided that Direct oral evidence is admissible <i>if available</i> .	38
2.25 possibility of hearsay evidence being admitted	39

2.26 Evidence generated by a computer is direct evidence and not hearsay	40
2.27 If there is no reason to believe that the information is unreliable or inaccurate	40
2.28 Requirements of section 4 and 5 should be satisfied when admitting electronic evidence	42
2.29 Section 21 should 'state conditions of admissibility and not 'what is admissible'	42
2.30 Is electronic evidence admissible under the Evidence Ordinance excluding the ESPA?	43
2.32 Electronic Evidence is superior to paper based evidence	44
2.33 If ETA applies ESPA cannot apply	45
2.34 Does the ETA apply if it is legally recognized, but inadmissible?	46
2.35 Evidence Special Provisions Act of 1995	48
2.36 The Computer Crimes Act of 2007	50
j. Understanding the ETA through the foundation of the UNCITRAL Model Laws and the United Nations Convention.	52
3.1 UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Commerce	52
3.2 UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Signatures	66

3.3	United Nations Convention on Electronic Commerce	69
4.	Comparative Analysis of other jurisdictions	72
4.1	Singapore	72
4.2	United Kingdom	79
4.3	India	96
4.4	United States	102
4.5	Australia	109
5.	Conclusions	115
5.1	Conclusions and summary of reasoning	115
5.2	Recommendations.	122
5.3	Final Conclusion	129
	<i>Abbreviations</i>	132
	<i>Table of Statutes</i>	133
	<i>Table of Cases</i>	135
	<i>Bibliography</i>	137