

# ID Newswire®

## Trends in Personal Identification and Biometrics

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## HIPAA Not The Only Reason Hospitals Choose Smart Cards

About eight years ago, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems Inc. had the idea of electronically storing patients' medical records in their pockets. For the mid-1990s, the organization was a little ahead of its time.

Instead of giving everyone their entire medical history in digital form, the Jackson, Miss.-based health care provider issued more than 90,000 magnetic stripe cards that held a patient's medical record number and a control

number. That card simplified admission to the hospital and other processes. But now the company is realizing its dream of years ago and will begin a pilot test in December that will issue smart cards to members.

"We decided to go to the next step and look at using a micro-processor card and expand it to include a subset of the patient medical record, such as allergies, vital signs, and medication," says Rick Caldwell, chief information officer at MBHS.

Mississippi Baptist Health Systems is a pioneer in the United States in offering its patients smart cards for health care. However, hospitals across the country are seeing value in using the micro-processor cards for secure login to computer networks to assist in complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HIPAA requires hospitals and medical centers to establish safeguards regarding disclosure of patients' electronic medical

records. The goal of the act is to protect the privacy of patients while making health care more efficient by replacing the mountains of paper-based health care forms with electronic documents.

Mississippi Baptist Health Systems owns and operates two hospitals with 500 doctors on staff and 70,000 members who receive health care through the system. The company will begin the smart card rollout in December with one

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## Associations Work For Online Birth Certificate Verification



There's a story told among those in the driver's license business about a man who had blank paper stock for birth certificates and Social Security Cards. This man drove across the state, stopping at Department of Motor Vehicles offices to obtain driver's licenses in different names along the way.

The crook was supposedly using the fake licenses in a check-cashing scam. But far worst crimes could be hatched using counterfeit birth certificates and Social Security cards, such as identity theft and money laundering.

And it appears those documents are not hard to fake. The U.S. General Accounting Office used off-the-shelf computers and software to successfully create both types of documents. Another problem is that there are thousands of different types of birth certificates issued in different jurisdictions across the country, making it difficult to determine if a certificate is legitimate.

An effort is underway to address these issues by electronically verifying the information on a birth

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## Media Mogul Launches Trusted Traveler Company

Swipe a card, scan a thumbprint and cruise through airport security. That's the vision of a registered traveler program.

The theory is that travelers, especially those who travel often, will pay a fee and voluntarily submit to a background check in order to get through airport security lines more quickly. "Twenty percent of the people travel 80% of the time," according to Jim Byrne, senior vice president of government business at Daon, a New York-based biometric software firm, citing an air travel survey from ATA Airlines. "There are a small number of people that do most of the traveling."

Registered traveler programs have been much discussed since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but little has been done to make it a reality in the United States. New York-based Verified Identity Card Inc. aims to change that, entering the fray last week with a plan to speed its customers through airport and other security lines.

Behind the new enterprise is media executive Steven Brill, founder of Court TV

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## Sagem Completes NYPD AFIS Install

Sagem Morpho announced the completed installation and testing of a forensic fingerprint system that allows the NYPD to go to a paperless system for fingerprints.

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## Ohio Program Gives Up On Smart Cards

Ohio is making the switch to magnetic-stripe cards for delivering cash benefits and food stamps, saying smart cards are too expensive.

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of its larger corporate clients, says Becky Carruth, director of information services at MBHS. If the tests are successful, chip cards will be issued to other members in the first quarter of 2004.

While the cards will store some of a patient's medical information, that same information will still be stored on the hospital's database, Carruth says. Patients will be able to update their information, such as blood pressure, via a secure Web site and update the card at a kiosk when visiting the hospital.

Before making the decision to go to smart cards, Mississippi Baptist received feedback from many organizations in the community and the hospital staff, Caldwell says. The emergency room staff is one of the departments most excited to see the system implemented. Oftentimes nursing home patients are brought in unable to communicate necessary information, Carruth says. "The card is ideal in this setting," she says.

After issuing cards to patients, Mississippi Baptist Health Systems plans to equip ambulances with smart card readers, Caldwell says. That would allow emergency medical technicians to read the information on the cards and have the patient's information faxed to the hospital while en route.

Caldwell says he hopes that the cards will eventually be used beyond MBHS' network. "We can hopefully make it ubiquitous and independent of a hospital information system," he says. "A patient could take it to another clinic, and the application on the card could be used to print out the patient's information."

Mississippi Baptist Health Systems will use a chip card with 64 kilobytes of rewriteable memory from the Horsham, Pa.-based U.S. subsidiary of Gemplus International SA, a French smart card vendor. Carruth estimates spending between \$25,000 and \$40,000 in cards, readers and other hardware.

Gemplus is involved with a number of health care smart card projects, says Scott Azzolina, marketing director of the financial and security services business

unit in North America for Gemplus.

Azzolina says the company is participating in another patient smart card program in New York. But a more common application for the technology allows hospital staff to securely access computer networks to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Gemplus cards were issued to approximately 1,500 physicians, nurses, and staff at Denver Health, according to Greg Veltri, the organization's chief information officer. Denver Health is a health provider that served 950,000 patients in 2002.

Denver Health is using smart cards along with a user name and password so staff can access hospital computer systems with a single sign-on, meaning signing on once to gain access to all the applications and data they are entitled to. This reduces the security risk of employees sharing passwords, and protects Denver Health's patient information from unauthorized access.

But Denver Health originally went with the system for ease of use, not HIPAA compliance, Veltri says. "We didn't do it for HIPAA specifically, we didn't want physicians to have to remember different log-ins," he says.

Azzolina says HIPAA is just one reason health care organizations are choosing smart cards. Most health care institutions are looking at smart cards for the same reason corporations are choosing the technology, Azzolina says. Organizations want to better secure computer networks and cut down on the number of passwords an individual has to remember.

Azzolina says Gemplus has seen the interest in smart cards increase in the past few months, and he see more interest in the market in 2004.

And while the adoption of smart cards in the U.S. has been slow in some sectors, there are many health care projects overseas that could prove to be a roadmap for institutions here.

Marvin Tansely, vice president of smart



**The health ID card from Mississippi Baptist will contain patient's medication and vitals information.**

cards, access and public sector at smart card vendor Axalto, points to the Sesam Vitale, the French health care card, as a potential model for programs worldwide.

The Sesam Vitale was started in 1997, and there are approximately 57 million cards in use with more than 65 million to be issued in the near future. Some 500,000 cards have been issued to physicians for their use.

One of the main reasons for the French program was the complex reimbursement process for both patients and professionals, Tansely says. The old paper system was prone to error, fraud and delays before final payment was received. The average reimbursement time has been reduced from more than six weeks to two or three days.

Another large smart card project is the Taiwan Health Care Card. The card is being issued to the 24 million Taiwanese citizens at a cost of approximately \$170 million, according to Christopher Hoenn, engagement manager for Giesecke & Devrient solutions, a smart card vendor supplying the cards for the project.

The card holds various medical data, including a patient's last six treatments and prescription information, says Gregor Boeckeler, a project manager with G&D. The card also allows doctors to access x-ray information, which is stored on a secure network.

It seems likely that smart cards will be used by more consumers around the world to store personal medical data, and by health professionals for secure access to computer networks. <

> **Birth Certificate**, Page 1

certificate when it is presented. The Social Security Administration and several DMVs are testing this system.

Leading the charge in this arena is the Silver Spring, Md.-based National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), an association of public health bureaus and government agencies that track births and deaths. The association wants to have all birth certificate information available online, says Ken Beam, executive director at NAPHSIS.

The initial aim was to authenticate the birth certificates of individuals applying for Social Security numbers, Beam says. But when the Arlington, Va.-based American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators heard about the project, it wanted to consider the system as well as a way to reduce license fraud, says Jay Maxwell, AAMVA's chief information officer.

With a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, AAMVA is setting up the systems in four or five states to check

birth certificate information, Maxwell says.

To confirm the birth certificate information, a motor vehicle agency must enter a few more information fields, Maxwell says. Date of birth, where the applicant was born and the control number on the birth certificate will be checked against the NAPHSIS database. The same system is also linked to the Social Security Administration so the Social Security number can be checked.

Once the information is confirmed, that applicant's data will be "closed out," Maxwell says. This will prevent another individual from applying for a driver's license with the same document or information. The hope is that this will deter identity theft by making it harder for a fraudster who, for instance, has obtained a copy of someone else's birth certificate to obtain a driver's license in that individual's name

AAMVA is expecting some bugs when the system becomes operational, Maxwell says. A married woman whose birth certificate lists her maiden name

may face further questioning. And some of the record-keeping agencies are not online, although Beam says his association is working with the various bureaus to bring them online.

What will be essential to the success of this program is the participation of all local bureaus that track vital statistics, Maxwell says. Otherwise, the information applicants present at DMVs cannot be verified.

But state and other jurisdictions may not want to hook into the system because they make money from selling birth certificate information to the public. "States make money from selling these things and they understandably don't want to give up the revenue," says one government source following the situation.

AAMVA is currently working with Congress to procure funding so its members can use the NAPHSIS system, Maxwell says. He estimates it will cost about \$2.5 million and take two to three years before state motor vehicle agencies are able to verify birth certificate information. <

## Unisys Awarded Airport Access Control Contract From TSA

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration awarded a 20-month contract to test physical access control technologies at 20 airports across the country to Blue Bell, Pa.-based Unisys Corp.

The contract has a value of \$8 million with a ceiling of more than \$17 million. The TSA will select airports and technologies for the program depending on location of the facility and the technology to be tested.

Biometric technologies, possibly including fingerprints, iris scans, and facial recognition, are expected to be part of the mix, according to the TSA.

Unisys will also look at anti-piggybacking technologies, such as surveillance cameras that could be used at secure access points to guard against a second individual slipping into a secure area on the heels of someone with proper credentials.

Technologies in the program could also contribute to a Transportation Worker

Identification Card, which is being developed and is expected to be used by up to 15 million workers in airports, seaports, and other transportation centers across the country.

Several airports have expressed an interest in working on the program. The TSA is studying proposals from the airports and will announce specifics in the next several weeks. <



### Biometrics in Financial Service Applications

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## Identix's Competitors Calling Homeland Security Deal Foul

The five-year, \$27 million U.S. Department of Homeland Security fingerprint contract awarded to Identix Inc. is drawing criticism.

The deal, one of the largest biometrics contracts ever awarded by the U.S. government, is being protested by Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.-based Cross Match Technologies Inc., according to several sources. Cross Match's protest has led to an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office.

The contract is a deal to provide DHS with Identix's live scan booking stations and separate desktop systems to the Citizenship and Immigration Service. The immigration agency uses live scan electronic fingerprint scanning systems to capture and electronically submit applicant fingerprint images to the FBI to conduct criminal background checks prior to admitting applicants access to the country.

With the biometrics industry still in its infancy, competition for contracts has

been fierce as companies strive to finally realize significant revenue from government projects.

Sources say Cross Match, an AFIS vendor, is the only company officially protesting the deal, but that other vendors were concerned as well. Officials at Cross Match and Homeland Security refused to comment on the situation.

A spokesperson for Minnetonka, Minn.-based Identix says the company expected the contract to be protested because of its size. The investigation is expected to take 30 to 90 days, but could be completed sooner because DHS is waiting for the machines, the spokesperson says.

Those familiar with this contract say the bidding process was unusual in some ways. For instance, the government made changes to the contract during the bidding process, forcing vendors to make two presentations. One is normally sufficient.

One change in the original bid was from a request for desktop fingerprint scan-

ners that attach to PCs to one that included "booking station" fingerprint scanners, says one source. To some it was unclear what DHS meant by a booking station, and a DHS official referred the vendors to Identix's



**An Identix 3500LC Live Scan system.**

TouchPrint 3500LC Live Scan Booking Stations as an example. "The contract seemed bullet-proof for Identix," the source says.

There are also concerns that Identix's pricing may have been revealed to the DHS evaluation team prior to the completion of all vendors' technical evaluation, giving them an advantage because of the low quoted price. <

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and American Lawyer magazine. Joining him in the venture are TransCore, which handles electronic toll collection payments, and ChoicePoint, a specialist in identity verification and background screening.

Brill says he came up with the idea for the card while working on his book "After: How America Confronted the September 12 Era." "Every day I worked on the book I'd confront another example of how in the 'September 12th era' we needed a new solution to the old problem of balancing security with liberty and privacy," Brill says. "Not to mention balancing our new need for added security with the problem of not having bottlenecks every time one of us wants to go into a building or a theater, or get on a train or airplane."

The company plans to issue what it calls the V-ID card to individuals who undergo a voluntary background check and provide a fingerprint biometric. The biometric

will be used to prove their identity each time they seek entry to a secure area. The cost of the card will be between \$30 and \$50, plus a monthly fee of about \$3. Brill suggests companies might pay the fee for their employees or office buildings for their tenants.

Besides checking the applicant's background at enrollment, the company will ensure that cardholders remain eligible for the card, which means that they have not been added to a terrorist watch list or been convicted of a disqualifying felony.

Brill suggests that facilities such as office buildings, airports, shopping malls, universities, theaters and sports arenas might choose to create special lanes to admit holders of V-ID cards. Currently, Alpharetta, Ga.-based ChoicePoint is working on installing a test system in its headquarters as a demonstration site.

Brill says he is in talks with airports, prime locations for a pilot test. Brill has met with the Transportation Security Administration, a federal agency that controls security screening at airports. A

TSA spokesperson confirms the meeting with Brill, but says the agency has no formal relationship with the company. The TSA is working on its own registered traveler program, but it's still in the "concept phase," the spokesperson says.

Other details also have to be worked out, such as which card technology will be used in the program. Brill says the company is looking at the different technologies, but leaning towards storing a cardholder's biometric information on a central database.

Daon's Bryne says Brill is on the right track. Daon is working with Annapolis, Md.-based ARINC Inc., an airline technology research company, on a registered traveler program in San Francisco. The program is just in the development stage.

Byrne says registered traveler programs should be run by the private sector, not the government, and should include more than just airports. "If you can spread the cost of the infrastructure out over a broader base, it's a better business model," he says. <

# Ohio Benefits Program Gives Up On Smart Cards

Saying smart cards are too expensive, officials from the Buckeye state say they plan to ask for bids on a magnetic-stripe card for delivering cash benefits and food stamps

Ohio and Wyoming were the only two states to use the chip cards to distribute benefits to low-income individuals, but now Wyoming will be on its own.

With U.S. merchants slow to add smart card readers to their cash registers, the cost of the chip card program has become prohibitive, says a spokesperson for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. At \$4.74 per card per month, including the cost of transaction processing and subsidies for supermarket smart card readers, Ohio's benefits program was costing more than double the average monthly cost of under \$2 that most states pay contractors to operate their programs.

Ohio, which has 884,000 benefits recipients, plans to ask for bids for a mag-stripe benefits

card that would be issued by 2005. The new card will also be used to deliver cash assistance as well as food stamps, which are electronic coupons for food purchases. The existing smart card cannot be used for cash benefits, because ATMs typically do not accept smart cards.

Robert Bucceri, chairman of the Electronic Funds Transfer Association's EBT [electronic benefits transfer] Industry Council, says he believes Ohio's EBT experience shows that smart cards are much more appealing for informational services, which require the card to store more data, than for payment services. "The takeaway on this is that smart card technology is overkill for a payment transaction," he says. "Payment cards are a simple transaction that tells us 'yes' or 'no.'"

Wyoming has no plans to convert its smart card-based program to a mag-stripe program, says Terry Williams, the state's EBT coordina-

tor. Wyoming has a much smaller recipient base – about 20,000 households - than most other states, and, because it self-services its EBT program and uses no third-party contractor, the state can maintain its smart card program at a much lower per-recipient cost than Ohio, says Williams.

Wyoming also uses the smart cards to track nutritional information as part of the Women and Infant Children program that distributes specific food items to pregnant women and new mothers. The state also has plans to use the smart cards for other programs as well, says Williams.

Wyoming, however, must continue issuing paper checks for cash assistance as the smart cards cannot access ATMs, Williams admits. And the state does face an interoperability problem when recipients with smart cards cannot collect their benefits in other states using the cards, he says. <

## Sagem Completes AFIS Installation

Sagem Morpho Inc. announced the completed installation and testing of its advanced MetaMorpho Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for the New York Police Department, the company announced last week. The new system can capture palm prints and integrates an archive and retrieval system. The palm-print processing ability is added not only to the department's fingerprint collection, but also to its forensic systems for processing latent prints left at crime scenes. Sagem has also delivered the data from a conversion of approximately two million previously captured fingerprint record cards, which completes the initial population of the archive and retrieval system. The completion of this installation will allow the NYPD to process

fingerprints and palm prints in a paperless environment. <

## Biopay, Answers Partner

Herndon, Va.-based BioPay LLC and Answers Etc. have announced a partnership designed to reduce check fraud for merchants across the country, the companies announced last week. As part of the agreement, more than 4,000 Answers Etc. customers will be able to subscribe to BioPay's database of individuals with poor check-cashing histories. Answers Etc. supplies check-cashing systems to merchants. The agreement also allows for BioPay's biometric technology to be offered to existing and new Answers Etc. customers. This will allow businesses to access an electronic commercial biometric database of BioPay's

customers, as well as other information. <

## Datastrip, HID Partner

Exton, Penn.-based Datastrip announced this month support for HID's iCLASS contactless smart card technology in its DSVerify2D handheld ID card reader. The 3.5-pound Datastrip reader can decode iCLASS access cards, biometric templates that may be stored on the cards, and even two-dimensional bar codes affixed to the cards' surface in one step, while matching a live fingerprint or other biometric to the stored template for one-to-one identity verification, the company says. Potential installations include trucking company docks, military bases and other manned physical access control points where there is no doorway to accommodate a stationary reader. <

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