

Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM)



“The transition to 10-fingerprint collection increases the Department of Homeland Security’s ability to keep dangerous people out of the United States, while making legitimate travel more efficient.”

Testimony of US-VISIT Deputy Assistant for Policy and National Protection and Programs Directorate

NEEDS:

- Biometric identification of foreign visitors
- Rugged solution for use at U.S. ports of entry

HID GLOBAL PRODUCTS:

- Tenprint Readers
- HID Guardian

OVERVIEW

In 2004, the United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) program, which is now called the Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) was established to integrate biometrics into the U.S. foreign nationals entry-exit data system. The vision was to achieve a more secure nation through advanced biometric and biographic identification, information sharing and analysis.

THE CHALLENGE

The United States has millions of foreign visitors each year that must be processed through immigration, particularly at airports. With a projected growth to over 88 million in 2019, the US-VISIT program was tasked with finding a biometrics solution that would meet these challenges, both for the immigration officers and the foreign visitors.

Furthermore, the biometric solution needed to support the high throughput environment and conditions of a point of entry checkpoint. This translates to technology that can repeatedly capture a high quality image in a very rapid manner with only limited cleaning and maintenance requirements.

THE SOLUTION

The HID Guardian scanners provide a completely self-guided, ten-print fingerprint capture process that meets the requirements of the US-VISIT program. The scanners are able to capture flat and rolled fingers anywhere on the platen. The optical design allows for high-quality image capture regardless of whether a visitor’s hands are wet or dry. The fingerprint images are checked against a database to track individuals deemed by the United States to be terrorists, criminals or illegal immigrants.

With over 75,000 HID Global Guardian fingerprint scanners in use worldwide in a variety of critical homeland security, national identification, voter registration, applicant enrollment and other identity management programs, HID Guardian is the industry benchmark for ten-print scanning.

BENEFITS:**Improved Security**

- Biometric identity eliminates the risk of fraudulent or altered documents

Enhanced Productivity:

- Immigration officers quickly process foreign travelers using the HID Global ten-print fingerprint scanning devices

Increased Efficiency:

- Finger scans are used across multiple agencies for subsequent verification

THE RESULTS

The HID Guardian ten-print fingerprint scanning devices are in place at all major U.S. points of entry. The US-VISIT program collects, stores and shares digital fingerscans and photographs for subsequent verification. Every day, US-VISIT provides access to biometric data for over 30,000 authorized federal, state and local government agency users to help them identify, mitigate and eliminate security risks.

The biometric entry procedures have stopped thousands of criminals and immigration violators from entering the United States, making a marked difference in efforts to improve the integrity of the U.S. immigration and border management system. The success of the US-VISIT program has laid the foundation for the rapid expansion of HID biometric identification to other agencies.

After years of operation, the US-VISIT program is viewed by many countries as the “gold standard” for biometric-based verification and analysis. This has led to numerous countries working in close cooperation with US-VISIT.



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