

Use of Biometric Technology and Background Checks

Community Use

- *Banks* from around the world use various forms of biometric technology to control building access and enhance the security of highly sensitive information. Smart card payment systems with biometrics are used to help draw the un-banked population into the banking community.
- *Payment systems* at gas stations and grocery stores link a consumer's biometric identifier with their bank accounts for faster and more secure payment processing.
- *Computers, hand-held devices, and cell phones* of various models require fingerprint identification before providing access to the device.
- *Health care professionals* licensed in the state of New Jersey are now required by state law to receive a criminal background check and present biometric identification. All nurses with a license that expired in 2007 should now have completed the process.
- *Human Resource professionals* indicated in a 2006 survey conducted by the Society for Human Resources Management that, of those responding, 85 percent of their businesses already perform background checks of their potential employees.

State and Local Government Use

- *School lunches* are increasingly being processed and paid through biometric technology. A finger print allows a parent to check from their home the food their child is eating, and allows a school to safeguard a student's health by monitoring the food they are allergic to. Parents across the country have praised the programs of their local schools.
- *Welfare fraud* is estimated to cost taxpayers \$10 billion per year. In response, several states have begun requiring biometric identification before welfare recipients receive their benefits. Connecticut alone spent \$5 million on a system that saved \$9 million in the first year.
- *Law enforcement agencies* from Massachusetts to Colorado use biometric technology to control access to police stations, police records, and to positively identify missing persons.
- *Teachers* in the state of Pennsylvania are required by state law to receive a background check and present biometric identification.

Federal Use

- *Registered Traveler* is a joint initiative between the Transportation Security Administration and the private sector to enhance the safety of air travel and the customer satisfaction of air travelers. Travelers register on a voluntary basis, and provide their finger print and iris data in order to expedite the airport check-in, security, and boarding processes.
- *US-VISIT* has been deployed to enhance the immigration services and border security by allowing law enforcement agencies to account for visitors in the U.S. as they enter and leave the country. As foreign visitors provide their finger print and a digital photo, American citizens are provided greater accountability and security at our nation's borders.
- The *Transportation Worker Identification Card* or "TWIC" is a joint venture between the Transportation Security Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard, requiring biometric identifiers from maritime workers to ensure greater port and national transportation security.