



HID Biometrics Modernize Criminal Enrollment and Expedite Identification Processes for the UK Home Office

THE CHALLENGE

The Home Office is the lead government department in the United Kingdom for immigration and passports, drugs policy, crime, fire, counter-terrorism and police. It plays a fundamental role in the security and economic prosperity of the UK and has been supporting the government in keeping citizens safe and the country secure since 1782.

For many years, its manual criminal enrollment systems, databases and suspect identification processes had been fulfilling program requirements. However, the manual processes of booking and identifying criminals were time-consuming and inefficient, leading to mistakes and missed opportunities to detain suspects.

To meet the demands of present-day policing and ever-evolving threats, the group needed to modernize its traditional process to address these issues:

- Manual booking of suspects using paper-and-ink needed to be retired.
- Identification of individuals had to be faster, more efficient and mobile to ensure that it could be done both in police stations and in the field.
- A criminal booking solution that could be fully integrated with government databases with the potential for additional input from other sources outside the policing community.

As part of this shift to digital, the department sought to incorporate a versatile, rapid identification solution to extend activities outside of the station and into the field for officers on patrol.

THE SOLUTION

Working with a key technology partner, the Home Office engaged HID to transition to a comprehensive electronic biometric identification system. After acquiring technical requirements, HID designed a solution to streamline processes and bring more efficiency, accuracy and flexibility to enforcement efforts for the Home Office.

Fingerprint is the most widely used biometric modality for identity authentication and verification due to its speed, ease-of-use, high accuracy, security and cost-effective nature. For law enforcement, HID's broad portfolio of best-in-class scanners deliver astonishingly detailed images and automatically capture fingerprints and palm prints regardless of positioning on the platen. The HID biometric systems ensure sequencing, positioning and print quality – handling the heavy tech lifting – which frees up officers to focus on safety and the scene around them rather than being distracted by technology at hand.

For this criminal enrollment project, HID provided a livescan cabinet which includes a PC, monitor, software and its best-in-class HID L Scan™ Tenprint and Palm Scanner. These versatile offerings allow for the capture of standard tenprint enrollments using both flats and rolls. The scanners are capable of capturing palm images, which are critical for matching against latent images found at crime scenes.

The palm scanner captures, stores and transmits information through a custom software solution created specifically for the UK Home Office. Using the Home Office's unique database submission format, HID created a platform called "Enrollment Centre" to meet the system's requirements. This incorporates HID ArcID™ Store and Forward software for biometric data processing. The ArcID Store and Forward software accumulates the data from multiple booking stations and submits the records to the AFIS.

All responses from the AFIS are routed directly to the livescan booking stations, ensuring that no criminal record data is retained in the ArcID Store and Forward server or visible to others outside the booking process. The software also integrates with the government's biographic holdings, allowing for data pre-population from verified non-police sources.

To enable a flexible identification system, HID created a solution designed to simplify the procedure of determining whether a suspect should be kept in custody. The system uses an easily captured fingerprint image to quickly query the criminal database for any relevant records.

And, as not all police work is done behind a desk or at a police station, HID provided a Jumpkit to replicate the functionality of an onsite booking livescan cabinet for mobile deployments. Using the HID L Scan Tenprint and Palm Scanners, law enforcement personnel can capture a full set of prints and run a check against the criminal databases through a Live ID procedure anywhere in the country.



SOLUTIONS

- HID L Scan Tenprint and Palm Scanner
- HID ArcID Store and Forward Software

BENEFITS

- Replace manual booking methods with a modernized, simplified electronic process
- Fast, accurate capture of fingerprint and palm images
- Increase match rate with 1,000 pixel-per-inch functionality
- Integrate with government databases to pre-populate biographic data to expedite the process
- Ability to print a fingerprint card for court proceedings

RESULTS

The HID livescan enrollment cabinets are deployed in more than 370 police stations throughout England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The technologies are in constant use, handling more than 2,500 enrollments per day and 3.3 million fingerprint searches every month.

When fingerprint evidence is used in a court proceeding, the HID solution provides the ability to print a fingerprint card based on the information gleaned from the livescan enrollment procedure. This also allows UK police agencies to share information with other government biometric holdings which are often in different formats.

The new electronic biometric identification solution saves time, produces more reliable matches and eliminates the requirement to store paper fingerprint cards. It also leverages data in government databases to pre-populate biographic information such as name, date of birth and national ID number into criminal records.

