



Punjab Forensic Science Agency Modernizes its Finger- and Palm-Printing Processes with HID Solution

The Punjab Forensic Science Agency (PFSA) is a government-owned, full-service forensic testing facility and laboratory in Lahore, Pakistan, working under administration of the Home Department. PFSA provides 14 different forensic services to law enforcement agencies, courts of law, prosecutors and other agencies, including audiovisual analysis, computer forensics, crime scene investigations, DNA and serology, forensic photography, fingerprinting and narcotics examination.

Through the Institute of Forensic Sciences, PFSA also provides forensic, continuing education and certification training to professionals according to internationally established competency standards. Geared toward scientists and technicians, the training programs are designed to educate and expand the capacity of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, medical examiners and investigators.

CHALLENGE

PFSA's previous paper-and-ink method of recording finger and palm prints was time consuming, had too many retakes and did not always produce quality results. This manual method was particularly challenging when it was necessary to record prints on-site from unidentified cadavers.

"To avoid all these issues, we were trying to find a solution to automate this recording process in order to save time and have better quality finger and palm print records," said Naeem Ahmed, Ph.D., Section Supervisor, PFSA.

Automation would also advance PFSA's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which automatically matches an unknown fingerprint against a database of both known and unknown prints. A more robust solution would allow PFSA to obtain, store and analyze criminals' fingerprint, palm print and mug shot data for their identification through latent prints recovered from crime scenes more quickly.

Finally, modernizing its printing processes would differentiate PFSA with a highly efficient and credible fingerprint recording system.

SOLUTION

At the recommendation of Enhancerz Communications (Pvt.) Ltd., a local distributor partner, PFSA implemented the HID L Scan 500 Palm Scanner, a compact, high-resolution biometric scanner for tenprint and palm print capture, at its remote sites.

The L Scan features a precision optical block and an image sensor specifically designed to deliver the highest resolution images possible. A preview of the biometric image is displayed on the integrated screen of the scanner.

HID's patented Auto-Capture feature ensures rapid and error-free image capture by automatically taking a picture when sufficient quality of fingerprint(s) or palm is detected. HID proprietary FlexFlat and FlexRoll features capture fingerprints and palm images automatically, regardless of their positioning on the platen, increasing first-time success without additional maneuvering. If not required or desired, customers can enable manual capture mode.

The result produces up to 14 fingerprint images of one person:

- Ten rolled impressions of fingers 1 to 10
- Four control plain impressions with two thumbs and two slaps (four fingers in one image)
- Palm prints consisting of the upper, lower and writer's palm

An important differentiator for PFSA was the palm scanner's ability to function in harsh operating environments with temperatures ranging from 0° C to 50° C. It was also important that remote sites be able to connect to a central database, which "made it easier to access the records as soon as they were entered into the system," said Ahmed.

PFSA also deployed the HID Patrol ID as part of the jump kits used by its Crime Scene Unit in the field to record tenprints, and HID's customizable Mission Oriented Biometric Software (MOBS) to capture biographical and biometric data for all HID scanners.

RESULT

HID printing and scanning solutions allowed PFSA to replace the traditional ink-and-roll fingerprinting methods with automated, high-quality capture of tenprints and palm prints. With an intuitive user interface, image preview and proprietary automatic features to capture the best prints possible in the least amount of time, the L Scan solution provided a modernized, positive user experience and highly reliable and quality capture—even in challenging circumstances.

"HID solutions are highly time efficient as they capture high quality prints at a much faster rate than the traditional method, with the ability to recapture poor prints during enrollment," said Ahmed.



SOLUTIONS

- HID® L Scan™ 500 Tenprint and Palm Scanner
- HID Patrol ID
- HID® Mission Oriented Biometric Software (MOBS)

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