

Saudi Aramco: Implementing Identity Management Across Global Networks

The Challenge

With vast resources spanning the globe, state-owned Saudi Arabian Oil Company wanted a system to secure and manage its 54,000 employees, and facilities in 50 countries.

The Solution

In 2003, Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil producing company with a worldwide refining capacity of 3.6 million barrels per day, implemented an identity management project utilizing multiple TouchPrint™ 3500 live scan systems.

The program entailed enrolling Aramco employees throughout its offices and facilities worldwide via fingerprint biometrics to help ensure that the company can identify employees and provide privileges and benefits based on absolute identification that cannot be duplicated, lost or stolen.

The initiative, which is the framework for the creation of a trusted identity system all throughout the whole enterprise, is the largest and the first of its kind in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East.

Ultra Computer Services (UCS), a local integrator, is the main contractor for this project with primary responsibility for integration and maintenance. To meet Aramco's exacting requirements for this project, UCS teamed up with L-1 Identity Solutions and Dermalog to provide the components. The Saudi Aramco Identification System utilizes the backend software storage and search capabilities of Dermalog's AFIS.

"The challenges were threefold: Aramco wanted an open system that can accommodate future enhancements and upgrades; a solution that would allow us to migrate the old AFIS to the new one; and to have a good quality and reliable fingerprint database," says Luis Casingal, UCS Technical Support manager and team leader of the Aramco project.

"We know from the start that quality fingerprint images were the key for matching performance down the line so we went with the TouchPrint 3500 live scan system because of its advanced technology and unique features. Based on moisture discriminating optics, dual beam illumination and clear trace imaging, we know that we will get superior fingerprint images. L-1 Identity Solutions was very flexible in customizing the solution to Aramco's requirements," he added.

Aramco intends to leverage L-1 Identity Solutions technology to reduce the time consuming requirements and complexity involved in re-enrolling individuals in the future for other potential biometric-based security applications. Because it is based on a very open and flexible architecture, the Aramco Identification System will enable fingerprints enrolled via TouchPrint live scan systems that are initially used for background checks, to be used in the future for biometric-based employee ID cards, as well as for physical and logical access. Expanded use of biometric fingerprint data with only one enrollment can help to reduce loop-holes in security, which sometimes develops in fragmented security systems where individuals are asked to enroll multiple times.

About TouchPrint™ Live Scan Systems

The TouchPrint™ 3000 Live Scan Series fingerprint scanners are easy-to-use, highly reliable and provide the clearest and most consistent images in the industry. With image quality paramount to the success of a fingerprinting system, TouchPrint 3000 Series Live Scan systems provide state-of-the-art pore and friction ridge detail needed for positive ID. As concluded in the National Institute of Science and Technology (NIST) 2003 Fingerprint Vendor Technology Evaluation, high image quality is important, as it leads to fewer rejections and maximum AFIS performance, critical to workflow and throughput, especially in high traffic environments. With no fans and no moving parts in the optical scanner, TouchPrint live scan systems also help to ensure maximum uptime and lower total cost of ownership as compared to other systems on the market.

About L-1 Identity Solutions

L-1 Identity Solutions, Inc. (NYSE: ID), together with its portfolio of companies, offers a comprehensive set of products and solutions for protecting and securing personal identities and assets. Leveraging the industry's most advanced multi-modal biometric platform for finger, face and iris recognition, our solutions provide a circle of trust around all aspects of an identity and the credentials assigned to it -- including proofing, enrollment, issuance and usage. With the trust and confidence in individual identities provided by L-1 Identity Solutions, government entities, law enforcement and border management agencies, and commercial enterprises can better guard the public against global terrorism, crime and identity theft fostered by fraudulent identity. L-1 Identity Solutions is headquartered in Stamford, CT. For more information, visit www.l1id.com.