

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 Identix 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 Identix 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 Identix 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. Identix was very flexible in customizing the solution to Aramco's requirements," he added.

Aramco intends to leverage Identix 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 Identix 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 Identix Live Scan Systems

Identix 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, Identix TouchPrint 3000 Series Live Scan systems provide state-of-the-art pore and friction ridge detail needed for positive ID. As concluded in the recently released 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, Identix 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 Identix Incorporated

Identix Incorporated (Nasdaq:IDNX) is the world's leading multi-biometric technology company. Identix provides fingerprint, facial and skin biometric technologies, as well as systems, and critical system components that empower the identification of individuals in large-scale ID and ID management programs. The Company's offerings include live scan systems and services for biometric data capture, mobile systems for on-the-spot ID, and backend standards-based modules and software components for biometric matching and data mining. Identix products are used to conduct background checks, speed travel and commerce via secure identification documents, prevent identity fraud in large-scale government and civil ID programs, and control access to secure areas and networks. With a global network of partners, such as leading system integrators, defense prime contractors and OEMs, Identix serves a broad range of markets including government, law enforcement, gaming, finance, travel, transportation, corporate enterprise and healthcare.