



Hiding your Identity through Technical Advances

Today acquiring a fake ID is so easy. Gone were the days when you had to steal or find an old driver's license, try to pry it open, and make the necessary changes then put it back together again. Now it is much easier to buy a fake ID from the Internet. The World Wide Web has made fake IDs accessible to just about anyone. It has also made just about any ID available for duplication. If you look in to the websites selling fake IDs you can choose from many ID types. For example, most sites offer fake driver's license templates for almost every state in the US as well as Canada and European countries. And to help you in making you choice of website to buy from, there also websites that rate fake ID websites. So you will supposedly know which are scams and which ones are legitimate fake ID sellers.

Fake IDs sold today are also more sophisticated, with better quality, sometimes looking exactly as the original. Technology has evolved to what it is now and come a long way with present image, graphics and printing, fake IDs can now be made with a quality never seen before. Even law enforcement people admit that there are fake IDs that are very hard to detect and could easily fool even them.

Worse, almost anybody can now make fake IDs of the same quality as those bought on the Internet. With a common personal computer, an inexpensive laminator and a colored printer, one can make fake IDs. (1) [Templates of IDs](#) can be bought and downloaded from the Internet depending on the ID one wishes to forge or with a scanner, one can also simply scan an original ID and use it as a template. With the use of a photo/image editing software, one can change the text and include the required photo. After that, just print and laminate. It is so easy some young people have even made money selling fake IDs to others produce in this manner.

Because of these new challenges to securing IDs many are looking for new alternatives that are more secure. The most recent changes to IDs are the inclusion of holograms and the use of PVC cards instead of the old plastic laminated cards. But even these are starting to become easily faked due to new do it your self technology coming out, not really intended to be used for creating fake IDs.

The next logical step is the (2) [use of smart cards](#). Smart cards are cards with either with its own memory or processor or both embedded in the card. It can store information and interact with several input and output devices. Use such it cannot be easily faked because aside from copying the look of the card, the forger also has to have the information found in an original put in the fake ID. This technology is already used in credit cards, and transport companies that use electronic card tickets and the like.

The only problem with using smart cards as a substitute for existing ID cards such as the driver's license is implementation. For one, it costs more to make a smart card. Another is even if the use of smart cards can be implemented. Telling the fake from the original requires technological tools that may be too expensive for establishments to purchase. So in the end these establishments will end up checking using the same old method, by looking at the IDs. Until the price of the technology is considerably lowered this is an option that will have to wait. This opens up another branch of question: *Is it not possible that by the time it is feasible to use smart cards the technology to forge them has also caught up rendering them the same as today's IDs?*

By far the best solution is biometric systems. These are security systems that make use of parts of the human body to uniquely recognize each individual. An example would be the use of fingerprints to determine an identity of a person. In this case, the actual physical body of a person is his or her ID. By using this system of security, it will become virtually impossible for anyone to create a fake ID.

But again this would require even more resources to implement as compared to a smart card system. Aside from this, skeptics are also concerned about the security of the data, which is part of a biometrics system. In order to identify a fingerprint for example, the fingerprint of the person has to be in the database. This means



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that in implementing a biometric system everyone has to have a file in the database. Many are afraid that with a system, it will be easier to commit a more sinister crime, which is identity theft.

- (1) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biometric>
- (2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smart_card