ID Card System Now In Production

You may have noticed a new look to some of your colleagues' identification cards. The new card results from months of cooperation between North America and HQ (ISRG) and Applications Development (STED). ISRG had been looking for ways to automate access to the Lester B. Pearson Building and turned their attention to a "card-swipe" lock system. The *IDACS* door-security system was purchased to allow central control of the door lock devices. STED was then approached to develop a system to produce the actual cards to be used by the door-lock devices.

The development team at STED took up the challenge and delivered the *ID Cards* system based on the now familiar Corporate Applications interface and platform. Since the *ID Cards* system was installed at ISRG in December 1995, 1,200 people in the Department have obtained the new building pass.

"Multimedia" Features

The new ID cards are produced using the latest in computer video hardware and software. Photographs are obtained using a state-of-the-art digital camera, that eliminates the time needed to develop conventional photographs. A magnetic strip, encoded onto the back of the card, is used to allow employees to enter areas of the Pearson Building according to their level of authorization granted by *IDACS*. Card-swipe entry devices will soon be installed at strategic entry points at HQ. In the meantime, security personnel can easily identify access authorization by viewing the color codes on the card: blue passes offer continuous access, seven days a week; green passes allow entry on weekdays during regular work hours; and red passes allow access only to the public areas, such as the Library and cafeteria.

The bar-code near the bottom of the ID cards will be used by the Library (and possibly other areas) to track material borrowed by DFAIT staff and authorized visitors.

The cards are printed using a special colour card printer. The one step process takes about two minutes to complete — no more photo development and drying, no more typewritten information, and no more lamination.

Integration with CorpApps

The *ID Cards* System has also benefited the Corporate Applications. Until now, updating DFAIT personnel information has been a time-consuming task. The information captured by the new system (employee's name, division and telephone number) is simultaneously loaded into the corporate database, thus ensuring data integrity. The ID card's digital photograph will also be available, at the bearer's discretion, in the next version of the Profiles application. Although some people prefer not to display their photo, it could be used productively. For example, when you visit a mission, staff could use Profiles to identify you and then greet you at the airport.

Important Note: If you have a valid building pass, please wait until you have been notified before coming to the ID Room for your new card.

On a final note, please don't forget your building pass, old or new, at home!

STD Director General Rick Kohler (right) holds up his new ID card, "hot off the press," while Terry Asselin and ISRG Director Dave Brush (left) look on.