

11. The Passport Office of the Future - A Scenario

This section is intended to provide an overview of the technologies used in the PPO in future for the processing and authentication of passports. The section is not intended to be a review of all informatics to be used by the PPO in the planning time frame, nor to suggest in any way that a detailed design has been completed. Rather a descriptive operating framework has been put together using known technological developments, in order to provide a sense of reality to the reader in understanding how it could evolve. Similarly, cost estimates for different components are included, mainly for budget sizing and eventual incorporation by the PPO as appropriate into the strategic plan framework to follow in section 12.

11.1 Operation

The following is a hypothetical description of a passport system as might exist five or ten years from now, utilizing equipment and technologies that are presumed to be readily available at that time. Certain operations or features that may currently be deemed unacceptable for socio-political reasons, such as the use of fingerprints, are included in the case of possible changes in social acceptability - they are not critical to the basic scenario described.

The applicant:

The applicant may be asked to sit in front of a video camera, have his or her image digitized, sign an electronic tablet, have his signature digitized, and put their thumb on fingerprint reader for a digitized fingerprint. All of these biometrics would be recorded for reproduction on the passport and for later recall from the computer as necessary for authentication of the passport document according to accepted security practices at that time. See figure 3 on Page 44 for a pictorial description of this procedure (shown for pictures and signature only).