

identification upon arriving in Holland - the card holder inserts the card into a machine and presses his finger against a reader which then compares the two biometrics; if the comparison is verified, the traveller is automatically gated through immigration.⁹ For further use as a travel document, visa information could be written electronically into the chip.

As an additional level of security, the contents of the chip could be checked against the original image stored in a database at the Passport Office by simply transmitting a checksum from the chip and having it compared to the same checksum in the image database.

While such a card might have significant impact on the ways passports are used by travellers and immigration departments, this technology would be entirely feasible for the Passport Office if supported by the previously described imaging, communications, printing and storage technologies. The only addition would be some means of writing the information to the passport chip, and the inclusion of the chip in the passport. Immigration departments desiring to utilize these features would have to equip themselves with appropriate readers (already commonly in use for banking applications).

⁹ Reported by Mr. Jerry Webster, Director, Alien Documentation, U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.