

IDENT / IAFIS Interoperability

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Homeland Security



Executive Summary

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is working in collaboration with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of State (DOS) to define a plan for Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) and the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) interoperability. The following actions have been or are being taken to demonstrate how IDENT and IAFIS will work together to share alien immigration history, criminal history, and terrorist information:

Planned Action	Description	Date
DHS / DOJ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	DHS and DOJ will complete an MOU to resolve data access and privacy issues concerning FBI usage of US-VISIT data.	Completed February 10, 2005
Immigration and Border Management Strategic Plan	US-VISIT is currently developing a strategic plan for the Immigration and Border Management Enterprise. This enterprise includes federal agencies, or portions of agencies, which have key roles in managing immigration or the flow of individuals across the border. The strategic plan describes the overall business vision, functional strategies for information technology, data management, and facilities, and an implementation strategy for realizing the plan. Interoperability is critical to achieving the plan.	Late Summer 2005
IDENT / IAFIS Interoperability Recommendation with Cost and Schedule Estimate	DHS, DOJ, DOS, and NIST will continue analyzing the business requirements and technical alternatives presented in this report. Together, the departments make a recommendation for the most technically feasible and cost effective alternative, along with a cost and schedule estimate; to achieve the interoperability needed to support sharing of alien immigration history, criminal history, and terrorist information based on positive identification and the interoperable capabilities of IDENT and IAFIS.	October 2005
Completion of Version 1.2 Deployment	DHS will continue the deployment of the IDENT / IAFIS integrated workstation to the remaining ports of entry and Immigration and Customs Enforcement locations through the end of 2005. DOJ will continue to support the deployment of these workstations through investment in IAFIS capacity to address the additional workload resulting from this wider deployment.	December 2005



Introduction

DHS, DOJ, and DOS are working collaboratively to achieve interoperability between the Federal Bureau of Investigation's IAFIS and DHS' IDENT. Interoperability is defined as the sharing of alien immigration history, criminal history, and terrorist information based on positive identification and the interoperable capabilities of IDENT and IAFIS. In the Conferees Report of the DHS 2005 Appropriations Act and the DHS 2006 Appropriations House Report 109-79, Congress directed DHS to prepare a report on the status of IDENT / IAFIS, including:

- Status of interoperability efforts;
- Plan to achieve full interoperability;
- Costs of interoperability;
- Timetable for interoperability;
- Responses to recommendations contained in the March 2004 DOJ Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Report on IDENT / IAFIS; and
- Response to the issues raised in the December 2004 DOJ OIG Report on IDENT / IAFIS.

This report responds to the requirements, and reflects the DHS position, with general agreement of DOJ and DOS. DOJ and DOS have also been directed to provide a report to Congress on IDENT / IAFIS interoperability, among other things.

Status of IDENT / IAFIS Interoperability

In March 2000, DOJ developed an initial implementation plan for interoperability of the then Immigration and Naturalization Service (now DHS) IDENT system and the FBI's IAFIS. DOJ and DHS have made substantial progress in accordance with the plan. Through March 2003, DOJ / INS deployed approximately 150 IDENT / IAFIS workstations to INS border locations. These workstations provide DHS officers and agents an interim interoperability solution by enabling a simultaneous fingerprint check of IDENT and IAFIS at border patrol stations and in secondary inspection areas at ports of entry. After March 2003, responsibility for further deployment was transferred to DHS. DHS is actively working to deliver Version 1.2 of the implementation plan. The major phases of work of the plan and their status are:

Version	Capability Description	Status
1.0	Provide a process to utilize two workstations to query IDENT and IAFIS. The ENFORCE / IDENT workstation captures the alien background information and queries the IDENT apprehension and lookout databases based on two index prints. A separate workstation captures the alien background information and queries the IAFIS database based on ten rolled prints. IDENT and IAFIS are integrated only through a set of standard operating procedures. Two workstations are required.	Completed July 2001



Version	Capability Description	Status
1.1	Enhance Version 1.0 with a new capability to return not only the IAFIS FBI number and name, but also the associated rap sheet. IDENT and IAFIS are integrated only through a set of standard operating procedures. Two workstations are required.	Completed May 2002
1.1.1	Enhance Version 1.1 with new workstation hardware that enables future software upgrades and integration of both ENFORCE / IDENT and IAFIS functions within a single workstation. The new workstation provides access to IAFIS for sites that could not access the system before. IDENT and IAFIS are integrated only through a set of standard operating procedures. Two workstations are required.	Completed July 2003
1.1+ / 1.2	<p>Versions 1.1+ and 1.2 (referred to as Version 1.2 in this document) are addressed in a single release.</p> <p>Provide a single integrated workstation to perform a background check in both IDENT and IAFIS. The integrated workstation processes the alien and queries both systems based on a single set of ten rolled fingerprints. The IAFIS query is processed within 10 minutes. The IDENT query is processed in two minutes. Positive responses from both IDENT and IAFIS are integrated and provided to the agent at the single workstation.</p> <p>Integrate case information between ENFORCE and the FBI Joint Automated Booking System (JABS) when an alien is detained and booked. The single integrated workstation will support a JABS compliant photograph and will allow certain IAFIS data to be recorded within JABS and the ENFORCE record.</p>	<p>Completed Deployed to all Border Patrol stations (September 2004). Deployed to over 150 ports of entry (December 2004).</p> <p>In Process Full deployment by December 2005.</p>
2	Provide IAFIS with the capability to store biographic and biometric information from the IDENT apprehension database, which contains both flat and rolled fingerprints. This capability will allow other federal, state and local enforcement agencies to submit 10 rolled fingerprints for criminal checks against IDENT fingerprint records contained within IAFIS. Note: The current definition of Version 2 incorporates Versions 2, 3, and 4 from the March 2000 DOJ implementation plan. This report identifies the activities undertaken by DHS / US-VISIT and DOJ / FBI to address this requirement.	In Process Integrate this capability into a broader set of interoperability requirements.

Future of IDENT / IAFIS Interoperability

DHS and DOJ have successfully worked together to address the requirements and security concerns identified in the DOJ IDENT / IAFIS Implementation Plan, including the sharing of information on a daily basis to support each agency's mission. However, since the development of the plan in 2000, Congressional response to the events of September 11, 2001, has highlighted additional requirements and security concerns with IDENT / IAFIS interoperability that have broadened the scope of the original plan.



Changed Environment

A broader interoperability strategy than initially contemplated is now required to address all requirements and security concerns. Congress has already identified many of these requirements in legislation:

USA PATRIOT Act of 2001: Requires the ability to check the criminal history records for alien visa applicants, alien admissibility, and alien deportability.

Homeland Security Act of 2002: Requires DHS to oversee and coordinate DHS programs for and relationships with state and local governments.

Enhanced Border Security and Visa Reform Act of 2002: Requires an interoperable law enforcement and intelligence data system, and the ability to update IDENT as a critical watch list with known and suspected terrorist information.

Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004: Requires creation of an information sharing environment to share terrorism information across the homeland security, law enforcement, and intelligence communities at all levels of government and the private sector, and accelerated development of an integrated electronic biometric entry-exit screening system (i.e., the Entry / Exit system).

Given the new, post-September 11 environment in which the federal government is operating, additional requirements and security concerns can and must be identified. DHS, DOJ, and DOS are committed to working together to effectively support national security and facilitate legitimate travel.

Long Term Interoperability Approach

DHS is taking a leadership role among the community of agencies that play important roles in immigration and border management in this new environment of heightened security concerns. DHS created the US-VISIT program to support key immigration and border management processes across agencies. US-VISIT incorporates a different set of non-criminal processes supporting many additional requirements, and uses biometric and biographic information for multiple purposes related to the movement of people into and out of the United States. While IDENT and IAFIS are critical systems for DHS and FBI operations, they are also critical to the ability of other organizations to accomplish their operations also (e.g., DOS and state and local law enforcement organizations). A significant level of interagency coordination, including DOJ, DOS, the Department of Labor, the Social Security Administration, additional components of DHS (Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Citizenship and Immigration Services), and state and local law enforcement organizations, is required to ensure that all requirements and security gaps are addressed, while also facilitating travel to and from the U.S., as well as immigration benefit decisions.

Addressing these requirements and security gaps requires a strategy and plan that focuses on the most critical needs. The US-VISIT program is currently developing a comprehensive



strategic plan for the Immigration and Border Management Enterprise (those federal agencies, or portions of agencies, that have key roles in managing immigration or the flow of individuals across the border). The strategic plan describes an overall business vision, and functional strategies for information technology, data management, and facilities. Interoperability of systems and processes is a critical component of the effort. DHS will continue to promote interoperability as an essential element to improve information sharing as evident in its recent active participation in DOJ / FBI planning for IAFIS modernization.

US-VISIT will work with members of the enterprise to plan, design, and implement capabilities related to interoperability (One Person One Identity, Person Centric View, and Service Oriented Architecture). These three delivery packages are defined as follows: One Person One Identity is the capability to establish an identity for an individual, connect that identity to available appropriate information, and verify the individual's identity at each subsequent interaction. Person Centric View is the means to update and access all relevant information about a person and provide that information to appropriate decision makers. The Service Oriented Architecture will integrate the systems, standards, processes, procedures, and measurements around the delivery of information services that can be used across the Enterprise.

The planning and operational capabilities associated with these delivery packages will enable the sharing of immigration history, criminal history, and intelligence information, tied to a single biometric identity, subject to the laws, regulations, policy, and interagency agreements throughout the Enterprise.

Near Term Activities

IAFIS and IDENT have made significant contributions towards national security and protecting our country's borders; however, increasing the scope and timeliness of information sharing between the two systems can substantially enhance the mission effectiveness of both agencies. An interagency Integrated Project Team (IPT), consisting of representatives from DOJ / FBI, DHS / US-VISIT Program Office, DOS, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, was recently formed to develop an approach and implementation plan for full interoperability. The IPT has come together in the spirit of true cooperation and collegiality and has already made important progress on achieving interoperability. The team performed a preliminary evaluation of several technical alternatives for complete data sharing within high-level legal, privacy, and policy parameters.

Business Needs: Congress has indicated a critical need for IAFIS and IDENT to share information to the maximum extent possible. To support the mission of solving crimes, preventing terrorism, and vetting employment applications for sensitive positions, the FBI needs the ability to search, as appropriate, certain state, local, and other federal agency records, including latent fingerprints, against IDENT. Similarly, to support the DHS mission of protecting the country's borders, controlling illegal entry and exit, and facilitating lawful immigration and travel, DHS needs the ability to search administrative records, such as applications for admission to the U.S., as well as immigration and criminal enforcement records against IAFIS. DOS needs to be able to search visa applicant fingerprints against relevant alien fingerprint files in IAFIS.



Prospective Solutions:

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In the emerging concept of the shared data model approach, each agency would provide a synchronized read-only copy of their fingerprint data to the other agency's site. There, it would serve a dual role: [REDACTED] and secondly, the receiving agency would use the read-only copy to conduct fingerprint searches in support of their mission. Each agency would provide the information technology capacity to access the other agency's fingerprint data to meet their own workload and response time requirements. When an agency gets a hit, it could request from the other agency the latest biographic and other case information related to the hit.

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Scalability for both the expected increase in the number of daily transactions and the continual growth in the size of the databases is a critical issue for both agencies in this model. The FBI database is expected to grow at historical rates of 5 percent per year, and the DHS database is expected to grow by a factor of 10 within the next five years. Planning efforts currently underway will address the need for both agencies to meet performance requirements in an environment with significant database growth, without impacting current mission operations.

Estimated Cost: DHS has successfully completed work on Versions 1.1 and 1.2 of the original IDENT / IAFIS Implementation Plan within current funding.

Estimated Cost of Version 1.2: As of November 2004, DHS had deployed the Version 1.2 integrated workstation, developed under the original IDENT / IAFIS Implementation Plan, to all Border Patrol stations and all major ports of entry. DHS plans to deploy additional Version 1.2 integrated workstations to the remaining ports of entry, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement locations by December 2005. DHS estimates the cost of this additional deployment to be \$7.5 million.

Estimated Cost of Full Interoperability: IDENT / IAFIS interoperability must meet the needs of all agencies involved in immigration and border management processes. The approach being pursued under the auspices of the strategic plan will provide an understanding of the interoperability needs across all members of the Enterprise. In the interim, however, the IPT has developed an initial cost estimate related to the technical solution example described above. DHS, DOJ, and DOS refine this estimate and highlight the primary integration and development costs to achieve biometric interoperability. While DHS is still finalizing the parameters of the system development needs for 2006, if needed, additional resources to support continued implementation will be considered through reprogramming of existing available FY 06 funds. Both the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice will develop budget requests, within internal departmental budget planning process, to support the necessary level of funding for



IDENT/IAFIS interoperability for 2007 and beyond.

Regarding the example solution, costs were estimated for three primary project segments: conversion to a 10-print enrollment and background check process, Initial Operating Capability, and Full Operating Capability. Costs were estimated making extensive use of commercial-off-the-shelf technology. Although costs for DOS operations (including increased personnel and facility modifications at posts) are included in this estimate, increased costs for DHS operations at primary, secondary, and examiner verification have not been included. Also, there will be additional costs from increased operations and staffing due to the expected increase in the apprehension, detention, and prosecution of greater numbers of illegal aliens.

As discussed in the prospective solutions section, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It was chosen to illustrate the type of solutions that may be feasible, and a rough order magnitude of costs and schedule. A thorough analysis of these prospective solutions—based on more detailed policy, business process, and technical requirements—must be performed to determine the most effective and cost efficient alternative. The IPT is committed to conducting this analysis, and offering a recommendation by the end of 2005 for use in agency and administration decision-making.

The Initial Operating Capability (IOC), tentatively planned to be achieved about two years from project start, will convert the current 2-print DHS IDENT to support 10-print processing, and will establish a [REDACTED] search capabilities, and basic biographic/case data share mechanisms. Full Operating Capability (FOC) should be achieved about 1.5 years after IOC. FOC includes increased matcher performance appropriate to the increased volumes expected by FY2009, faster FBI data search times, and more comprehensive biographic/case data sharing.

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The cost and schedule estimates were constructed based upon a combination of formal estimating models along with expert and historical experience in constructing similar systems. A team of subject matter experts from IDENT, IAFIS, NIST, and industry experts met over an extended period, with support from DOS, to analyze the specific capabilities required to integrate IDENT and IAFIS. The team decomposed the proposed solution into components, used direct experience when possible, priced components with credible and experienced vendors when necessary, and used generally accepted business practices. Workloads and database sizes were projected to a point five years in the future and system performance was extrapolated to the projected workloads and database sizes. Cost estimates were based on present day dollars for commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) products from existing architectures, and General Services Administration schedule prices were used for other COTS products. Once the estimates were formed, the team presented the findings to IDENT, IAFIS, and various outside subject matter experts for quality assurance purposes to ensure that team did not overlook a significant component or double count. A 20 percent contingency factor was applied consistent with acceptable business practice when providing cost estimates at the conceptual level.



Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Recommendations

March 2004 Department of Justice OIG Recommendations

The FY 2005 Appropriations report requirement called for DHS to respond to the recommendations contained in the March 2004 DOJ OIG report. It should be noted that the December 2004 DOJ OIG report considered only the first recommendation still open.

1. *The DOJ should develop and implement a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the DHS to guide the integration of IDENT and IAFIS*

In February 2005, DHS, DOJ, and DOS signed an MOU to address FBI access to information contained within US-VISIT systems. DHS has provided the FBI with access to US-VISIT and immigration violator data, user accounts to FBI analysts, and extracts of data to IAFIS in support of DOJ operational needs.

To date, DHS and DOJ have successfully operated without an MOU to complete the Version 1.2 work being addressed in the DOJ Implementation Plan, or enable long-term interoperability of IDENT and IAFIS for criminal history and law enforcement purposes. The IPT discussed in this report is responsible for having made much of the progress toward longer-term interoperability and demonstrates our ability to work together toward a common goal. The IPT established a set of guiding principles and a charter that clearly defines scope, mission, and responsibilities. The IPT is led by an Executive Committee comprised of executives from each agency participating in the long-term interoperability effort.

An MOU is an important vehicle to enable information sharing and to ensure that the necessary protections are clearly delineated such that the privacy of legitimate travelers is properly protected through explicit procedures for access to the data and normal audit provisions are included. As DHS and DOJ continue to make progress toward accomplishing the DOJ Implementation Plan and long-term interoperability, an MOU may be needed to support the resolution of policy issues, planning and development of the remaining versions if needed, and funding issues such as cost sharing. DHS expects to work under the auspices of the existing MOU, expanding or revising it as necessary to accommodate on-going work.

2. *The DOJ should assign responsibility for coordinating and overseeing the integration project to a senior DOJ official*

DHS and DOJ have continued to make progress in the execution of the original DOJ Implementation Plan. DOJ, in conjunction with the DOJ OIG, has been successful in providing a focus on the criticality of the effort and the law enforcement requirements that must be addressed. DHS would like to complete the deployment of Version 1.2 under the existing DOJ plan and leadership approach.

The near and long term activities identified in this report will require the collaboration of



DHS, DOJ, DOS, and other agencies. It is appropriate that a senior official from each participating agency be identified, and that these officials commit to working together to achieve long-term interoperability.

3. *The DOJ should pursue expeditiously the development of Version 2 of the IDENT/IAFIS Integration Project, which will provide the DHS apprehension and criminal history information to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.*

DHS agrees that the requirements of Version 2 of the DOJ Implementation Plan should be expeditiously gathered and analyzed, but does not believe that development can begin immediately. DHS is aware that there may be law enforcement needs for data contained within IDENT that is not currently sent to IAFIS; however, the requirements for this data have not been well defined. State and local law enforcement agencies have indicated that they are not interested in the vast majority of the data contained in IDENT, which is administrative in nature. They have expressed an interest in accessing data upon which specific law enforcement action must be taken.

Since 2003, DHS has provided IAFIS with the Immigration Violator File (IVF) so that biometric and biographic information can be made available to other law enforcement entities, including state and local. This data file includes records for criminal aliens that could be of interest to other law enforcement agencies through access to IAFIS. In addition, the Version 1.2 IDENT / IAFIS workstation provides a real-time update to JABS for DHS criminal bookings. The combination of the Version 1.2 workstation and the IVF provides the FBI with all ten-fingerprint records that are captured during the course of criminal alien processing by DHS. This ensures that law enforcement agencies using IAFIS can access criminal alien information from DHS. These capabilities satisfy a known subset of the broader information sharing requirements for law enforcement purposes, and they were delivered in advance of Version 2.

DHS is committed to providing entities that rely on IAFIS data, including federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, with access to alien biometric and biographic information that may be relevant during the course of law enforcement activities. DHS plans to address these issues as a component of the broader set of interoperability and data sharing requirements for not only the IDENT system and the criminal processes that are currently being addressed under the DOJ Implementation Plan, but also for the needs of all agencies involved in immigration and border management processes. Therefore, DHS does not plan to address these requirements under Version 2.0 as defined in the DOJ Implementation Plan, but as part of the larger Strategic Plan that is described in this report. The IPT is the means by which these broader requirements will be understood and addressed.

4. *The DOJ should work with the DHS to update the FBI's "wants and warrants" information with IDENT on a daily, rather than bi-weekly, basis until IDENT and IAFIS are fully integrated.*

The recommendation was implemented in May 2004. Since that time, the FBI has



provided DHS with a Wants and Warrants file on a daily basis. The extract provides users of the IDENT lookout database with a subset of critical IAFIS criminal history information that is updated on a daily basis. Critical user communities that benefit include users of the IDENT 1.1 workstations that have not yet been upgraded to 1.2 workstations (expected to be complete by the end of 2005), and the users of US-VISIT.

In addition, DHS continues to work with DOJ to further enhance criminal history information to include wants and warrants for individuals of unknown origin, updates of the latent fingerprint file, and criminal history information that has been filtered or prioritized based on severity of crime to ensure that they are relevant to the decisions made by immigration and border management decision makers.

5. *The DOJ should coordinate with the DHS to establish procedures to ensure that the criminal histories of all aliens who have a lookout or IAFIS hit are provided to and reviewed by the Border Patrol. In addition, we urge the DHS to make these criminal history records part of the official record of its encounter with the alien. Further, we encourage the Border Patrol to create a uniform policy for all Border Patrol Sectors and stations that outlines appropriate procedures for handling lookout hits.*

DHS agrees that agents require criminal histories from both IAFIS and IDENT. The OIG documented this recommendation based on the process and procedures in place at the time of the Batres case in 2002. Since that time, DHS and DOJ have collaboratively developed the 1.1+/1.2 IDENT / IAFIS workstation that performs a near real-time IAFIS criminal history search in parallel with an IDENT apprehension and lookout search (in other words, the criminal histories of all aliens who have a lookout or IAFIS hit are provided to the Border Patrol using this integrated workstation). The Version 1.1+/1.2 IDENT / IAFIS workstation provides the processing agent with a fingerprint search of the IAFIS database within 2 minutes, with an end-to-end response time of 3 to 5 minutes, and provides the agent with a combined response from both IDENT and IAFIS from which the agent can determine the appropriate course of action required. All Border Patrol stations and over half of the ports of entry are using the 1.1+/1.2 IDENT / IAFIS workstation as of November 2004.

Those locations that have not yet received the new workstation are supported by Version 1.1 processes, which do not have the benefit of an integrated IAFIS criminal history check. The DOJ OIG identified issues with the ability of agents to consistently utilize the separate IDENT workstation and Western Identification Network/Automated Fingerprint Identification System (WIN / AFIS) criminal background check processes. To ensure that DHS personnel at locations with Version 1.1 workstations understand the proper process and procedure, DHS developed a comprehensive web-based IDENT training program that became operational in 2004. This training is mandatory, and covers important IDENT processes and system information to help ensure that agents understand established process and procedures.

DHS agrees that IDENT and IAFIS criminal history "hits" should become part of the official record during an encounter with an alien. Procedures currently in place require



that the processing agent document the receipt of information from IDENT and IAFIS and document how the information was used during processing. The DHS also agrees that a uniform policy across all Border Patrol stations for lookout hits is required. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection established and issued written procedures that outlined appropriate steps for handling IDENT lookout hits and IAFIS hits. In addition, procedures were developed to ensure that the Border Patrol is provided with IDENT lookout and IAFIS hit information for review when processing aliens.

December 2004 DOJ OIG Recommendations

The FY 2006 Appropriations House report requirement called for DHS to respond to the issues raised in the December 2004 DOJ OIG report. That report expressed concern about disagreements among DHS, DOJ, and DOS on the definition and required elements of an interoperable biometric fingerprint system. The report also expressed concerns that efforts to reach agreement were stalled. The establishment of the IPT and IPT's significant progress on reaching agreement on business requirements and feasible technical alternatives for long-term interoperability should allay these concerns. The IPT is working cooperatively and collegially. DHS, DOJ / FBI, and DOS are committed to identifying and implementing a mutually agreeable plan for ensuring true interoperability, and the accomplishments of the IPT represent the most significant progress made to date in this regard.



DHS Appendix: Potential IDENT/IAFIS Interoperability Requirements

DHS has identified a series of potential requirements that were not included in the original DOJ Implementation Plan. While the long-term interoperability solution is expected to address many of these requirements, several could enhance national security in the short term. Many of these requirements may also require substantial investment to achieve. DHS believes the IPT now in existence can consider these requirements from both a short- and long-term perspective.

Expansion of Wants and Warrants. Currently IDENT receives fingerprints of all foreign-born persons

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IAFIS Response Time. During an adverse action, an immigration or border agent receives an immigration criminal history response from the IDENT in less than two minutes and lookout information in less than 30 seconds. Inspectors at a port of entry receive this information in less than 10 seconds. IAFIS completes a fingerprint search of the full database within 2 minutes, with an end-to-end response time of 3 to 5 minutes. DHS will work with the IPT on exploring the means to ensure IAFIS criminal history response times are more in line with those currently supported by IDENT, across all relevant data sets. It is anticipated that the prospective technical solutions discussed in this report will address this item.

IAFIS Criminal History Data. To ensure that immigration authorities have access to the most relevant information in IDENT, DHS has requested that additional criminal histories of persons who are foreign born or of unknown origin be provided to DHS / IDENT. The FBI has responded that this request would require 720 days to complete. DHS will work with the IPT to explore the means to address an expedited timeframe to provide this additional criminal history information. It is anticipated that the prospective technical solutions discussed in this report will also address this item.

Searches by Severity of Offense. IAFIS does not provide DHS with criminal history information that is specifically relevant to the decisions that immigration authorities need to make. Rather,



IAFIS provides immigration authorities with the full criminal history of an individual when a background check is performed and a match is made. The processing agent must review and assess the relevance of information using established procedures. This adds additional time to operations and can significantly impact processes like inspections. The impact can be significant given the volume of visitors that US-VISIT must support. Moreover, DHS has found that the majority of criminal history information is not relevant to the officer agent reviewing the rap sheet provided by IAFIS. DHS has developed a method using electronic rap sheet information to determine which records are relevant to admissibility decisions that can be explored in the context of the longer-term solution. In the meantime, DHS is working with the FBI on how to get extracts with the sub-set of offenses most relevant to immigration decision-making at DHS.

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Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Access to IDENT Apprehension Data. IDENT apprehension data is created as a result of DHS encounters with aliens that do not result in a criminal prosecution. DHS is aware that there may be law enforcement needs for some of this data. The new plan should define these requirements and the associated policies and procedures for DHS interaction with law enforcement in response to their use of the information.

Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Access to IDENT Immigration Violator File. The IDENT Immigration Violator File supports the currently defined interoperability standards that enforcement agencies use to communicate information to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). However, the data uploads are performed in real-time. The new plan should include new interoperability requirements that may affect the Immigration Violator File or IDENT.

Processing Fewer Than 10 Fingerprints. IAFIS does not have the capability to manage biometric fingerprint records that include fewer than 10 rolled fingerprints, even for verification against a known record, other than as latent. DHS would like the IPT to explore opportunities to enhance IAFIS to accept less than 10 rolled fingerprints to further interoperability efforts, and 10 prints in other than a rolled format, such as flat or slap formats, to accommodate technical advances. DOJ / FBI and DOS have ongoing pilots testing the match of both 2 flat prints and 10 flat prints against the IAFIS database, and the FBI installed a capability to handle 14 flat transactions in January 2005.