



## Security Featured Article

April 29, 2009

### Interview: Intellicheck Mobilisa Defense ID System



By [Jessica Kostek](#), TMCnet Channel Editor

Last week, [TMCnet reported](#) on [Intellicheck Mobilisa's](#) introduction of Intellicheck Mobilisa's Defense ID System. Intellicheck Mobilisa is a technology company that develops and markets wireless technology and identity systems for various applications including, mobile and handheld wireless devices for the government, [military](#) and commercial markets.

Intellicheck Mobilisa specializes in two areas, identity systems: reading driver's licenses, military IDs and passports and the other is wireless, particularly for port security: wireless over water port security, security devices on buoys and ship to ship wireless.

The Defense ID System is a mobile, hand-held device that can be used at checkpoints and retail stores to verify a driver's licenses and also quickly run background checks all in a matter of seconds. The device is currently being used in various military checkpoints.

[TMCnet](#) had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Nelson Ludlow, CEO, Intellicheck Mobilisa, more about the system.

The most common form of ID in the United States with over 200 million licenses issued, Intellicheck believes that instead of a separate card for a certain restaurant or a hotel chain, they believe in simplifying life and using the one card that everyone has with them, all the time, a driver's licenses.

"If you take a license and flip it over, on the back there is a magnetic stripe or a barcode that has the same information that's on the front and sometimes additional security features," said Ludlow, "we are the official test lab for every Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) throughout the country, meaning if California implements a new driver's license, they would send the design to us and we make sure it is all in the right format."

Intellicheck Mobilisa's Defense ID System scans the magnetic strip or barcode for authentication. The scanner looks like any average scanner that you might see at a Wal-Mart or a K-Mart.

Uses for the device, Ludlow said, "is to check that the license isn't a fake ID. For example, if you're at a bar and want to buy alcohol, the bartender can check ID with our scanner but more importantly the device can be used in other areas like grocery stores that have self-checkout lanes. When customers are buying a bottle of wine, they need to prove that they are of age, so the same software that is used to scans and the same machinery that scans the barcodes on the produces can also scan your driver's license."

The keypad on the device is for more of the advance features. For example, if the device is being used for law enforcement purposes they can enter in an incident report. Another function built-in to the scanner is a camera. An officer can enter in information about an incident and take pictures of the scene.

The company has started a trial with the Claremont County sheriff in the Cincinnati, Ohio area and Ludlow says the sheriff's office is using the device in a couple ways.

"The standard is a patrol officer, if they pull someone over, they can scan the license right there at the car instead of having to go back to their vehicle and enter in the information. Officers, having the ability to run a background check by the vehicle of the person they stopped and can immediately check if they could be a violent criminal or someone who is on a be-on-the-look-out alert, which is safer for the officer."

"They are also using it to scan people that are going into the county court house or visitors to the jail," he continued, "and they have actually detained some of the visitors finding out that some of those people belonged in jail themselves."

Another example of Intellicheck Mobilisa's Defense ID System being implemented in a real-life situation was at an air show event in Maryland. "We scanned over 50 thousand people and made 71 stops just that weekend, Ludlow said, "the event did provide security such as metal detectors but we were the next stop where they had to show ID."

"Even for boarder control, instead of using a passport for the U.S.-Canadian boarder travelers can use their driver's license to get in and out of each country, and boarder control officials, using a system like ours, can run an instant background check." Ludlow said.

The technology is already being used in over 70 secure federal facilities which include military bases. Those who use the device also need to go through security. "To log into the device, you will have to scan your own ID card and it has to validate that it's you and you have to have a pin or password to get into the system. It's all controlled by the administrator for that military base or police department. They can add and subtract as users as they see fit."

In addition to military and law enforcement uses, the Intellicheck Mobilisa Defense ID System is also being used in commercially in retail stores and banks. Currently used in 88 plus banks, the ID System is used to check and see if the person applying for an account is actually them. Adding more security, these banks don't copy a customer's driver's license because the information is entered electronically.

At retail stores such as Target, Toys R Us, or Payless Shoes the ID System is used for customers who want to sign-up for a loyalty branded credit card. Intellicheck Mobilisa's software is used at the point of sale and with the same machine that scans the merchandise to also scan a driver's license for customers to quickly obtain a credit card approval after they answer a few questions on the signature capture pad.

The company is now working on a device for use in the hotel industry to aid in the check-in process. Ludlow said, "nearly 60 percent of people that show up don't have reservations so are working on a device, what we call a coaster that's slightly larger than a driver's license, and it's got one slot for customers to put their driver's license in and the other slot is to run a credit card through and with that customers essentially fill out the entire hotel application form in just a few second as opposed to standing at the front desk and waiting for the clerk to type in all the information."

Overall, Intellicheck Mobilisa's objective is for, "every time you have to show a driver's license, or anytime you have to fill out a your name and address and it's a long and tedious form, that's an opportunity for us to scan an ID card and help that process go quicker and easier."

*Jessica Kostek is a channel editor for TMCnet, covering VoIP, CRM, call center and wireless technologies. To read more of Jessica's articles, please visit her [columnist page](#).*