

g Wireless!

By Auri Rahimzadeh

Handheld parking ticket generators may use infrared at the end of the day to transmit data to a main system. Infrared has served its purpose well over the years, but non-line-of-sight and greater distance, yet low-power, low-cost multi-device solutions (infrared is one-to-one) are needed today.

I am not elaborating much on infrared technology in this article. Please email me if you'd like me to cover that in more detail.

To recap: The infrared standard is IrDA, controlled by the Infrared Data Association. It can transmit line-of-sight to any other IrDA-capable device at many speeds, up to four megabits per second (sixteen Mb/s rates are in the works).

IrDA provides a different level of security since (a) the devices must be able to see each other and (b) each device could encrypt the connection's data and always "see" whom they're sending to without someone covertly listening in (e.g., in the other room).

The technology is also deployed in millions of devices worldwide, including PDAs, cell phones, laptops, handheld devices and consumer electronics equipment. It is cheap and easy to deploy for uses such as information kiosks (beaming parking garage maps and tourist information to PDAs, for example) and remote control systems where the signal must go only to the device it's being pointed at (such as your TV remote to the television in front of it, instead of one in another room).

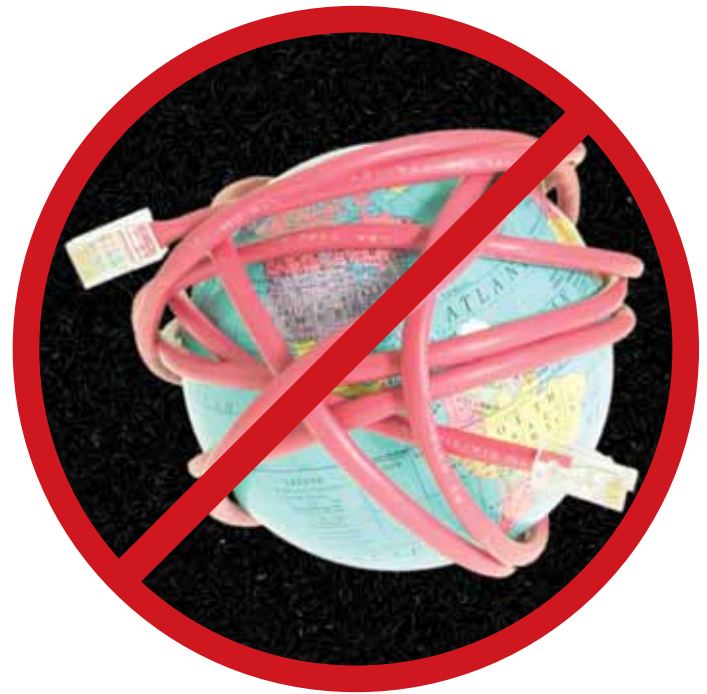
(For those wondering where the funky name came from, it stems from the great influence Baltic-region companies have had on the Bluetooth standard. Harold Bluetooth was the king of Denmark in the 900s.)

Bluetooth has a number of advantages for short-distance radio transmissions, such as handheld device communication, synchronization, printing and talking to cell phones (e.g., for an Internet connectivity), among many other uses.

Unlike 802.11x, which generally has a 6 milliwatt (mW) transmitter, Bluetooth transmitters tend to use only 1 mW, greatly reducing the battery drain and transmission radius, thus helping to prevent Bluetooth devices from interfering with adjacent networks. Like 802.11b and 802.11g networks, Bluetooth runs on the unlicensed ISM band, so keep that in mind when deploying Bluetooth where an 802.11b or g network already exists.

Bluetooth is well-suited for transmitting small amounts of data between devices. Generally, Bluetooth devices transmit at 1 megabit/second, compared to 1-54 Mbps for 802.11x and up to 4 Mbps for IrDA (an infrared standard).

Bluetooth also has standard device classifications. As a result, Bluetooth devices can intelligently communicate with one another automatically, such as placing a Bluetooth-enabled cell phone next to a Bluetooth-capable



laptop and automatically providing Internet services (after manually establishing classes of wireless (akin to 802.11 being a wireless version of Ethernet).

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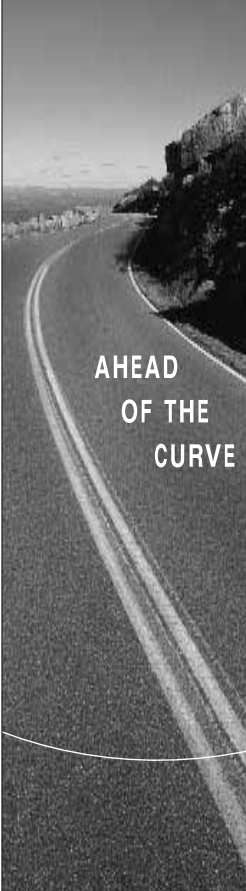
Caveat Emptor: The Myth of the 'Permanent Record'

from Page 38

ior was influenced by the perceived rewards and threats of imaginary beings, such as Santa Claus and the Boogeyman. When we reached school age and crossed the line of acceptable behavior, we were quickly introduced to the concept of the "Permanent Record," which would have all sorts of implications on the rest of our lives if we weren't diligent caretakers of it. At varying points in our maturation, we all learned that there were logical, scientific explanations for most of these fantastic imaginary childhood notions.

With the advent of technology and the Internet, the concept of the "Permanent Record" has been reborn among adults, based primarily on the existence of many low-cost, instant background checks. A quick visit to any online search engine will reveal dozens of background-check vendors advertising "proprietary databases (filled with) millions of criminal records (covering) statewide (or) nationwide territories (with) instant results" -- and \$10 price tags.

In reality, there is no national database of "Permanent Records" that can be checked to "clear" a person of previous criminal activity, There is no all-inclusive list where one could look to see if the "Permanent Record" of an individual remains unblemished, giving that person the "thumbs-up" for hiring. The primary source of crimi-



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nal-history information is the county courthouse, and it keeps records on only those who have violated the law within its jurisdiction. When someone breaks the law and gets caught, they are typically arrested, prosecuted, and convicted or dismissed according to the laws and procedures of one of more than 10,000 courts spread among more than 3,500 counties across the country.

With this many local sources of criminal records, it would be extremely challenging to assemble a comprehensive national or even state database containing current records of every arrest, conviction, disposition and expungement within its defined territory. Even state-sponsored criminal-history repositories lack the authority to mandate that every county within their jurisdictions report to them, or to regulate the timeliness of updates for those counties that do. To think a private company's "proprietary database" could assemble better information is dubious at best.

Making sense of a sea of records

Think of a beach, just a small one, with each grain of sand representing a criminal arrest, conviction, disposition or expungement, and with each area of the beach representing a different part of the country. If I walk around that beach and collect random scoops of sand from each area, I now have a repository representing records from all areas of the beach -- or the country. I can call this a nationwide repository, and the less effort I put into updating it, the less I can charge for access to information within it. However, there are many, many records from around the beach that I do not have, from all areas, and I cannot even be sure that for any given arrest record that I also have the corresponding conviction record, which may have been plead down or dismissed. There are two significant risks with this repository:

1. You hire an applicant with a "clean" record based on a statewide or nationwide criminal-history check. That employee then assaults a customer or co-worker, and a

His license had been suspended twice, but had just been reinstated the day of the crash.

history of assaults exists in a former county of residence where records were not updated to the statewide repository. Your company could be held liable for not having conducted a reasonable Fair Credit Reporting Act-compliant criminal background check.

2. You deny employment to an applicant based on an arrest record reported by a statewide or nationwide criminal-history check. The original charge, however, had been pleaded down or the entire record had been expunged at the county level. The applicant could hold your company liable for not using FCRA-compliant information.

How then do you conduct an efficient, FCRA-compliant criminal background check on a prospective employee? There is no feasible or cost-effective way to physically check every county courthouse within a state or, certain-

ly, nationwide. It would also defeat the purpose to rely solely on the applicant's word to check only those courthouses in states where he or she has lived.

The best way to conduct a comprehensive FCRA-compliant criminal-history check is to obtain a 7- to 10-year address history through a Social Security Number Trace, or SSNT, and then use that to identify counties in which the applicant has lived, worked or gone to school to check for a criminal history at the county level. This ensures that any record obtained is current and FCRA-compliant, and provides additional identifiers to make sure you are not pinning the rap on the wrong person based solely on a name match (which could also invite employment litigation). Statewide repositories should be used only in addition to a county SSNT and with a clear understanding of its limitations.

If you are subscribing to the myth that a "Permanent Record" exists by conducting statewide or nationwide database searches as your sole criminal-history check on your applicants, remember: He's making a list, and checking it twice ...

PT

Rob Thomson is an account executive for Cleveland-based Background Information Services (BIS). His background is in Human Resources payroll and benefits and in management consulting. He has an MBA from the University of Iowa. For more information on BIS, visit www.employeescreen.com.

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651 Taft Street NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Tel 612-331-2020

PSX, INC.
2523 Hamilton Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114
Tel 216-622-2920
www.psxgroup.com

REVCON TECHNOLOGY GROUP
1715 Cortland Ct. Ste 4 Addison, IL 60101
Tel 630-916-8770; Fax 630-916-8704
www.revcon.net

SAUNDERS PARKING SYSTEMS
3538 South Old State Road
Delaware, OH 43015
Tel 614-267-1945

SIGNATURE CONTROL SYSTEMS, LLC
101 Weldon Parkway, St. Louis, MO 63043
Tel 314-872-9900; Fax 314-872-2989
www.signaturecontrols.com

SIGNATURE CONTROL SYSTEMS, LLC
405 N. Brice Rd., Blacklick OH 43004
Tel 614-864-2222; Fax 614-864-2153
www.signaturecontrols.com

TAPCO
800 Wall Street, Elm Grove, WI 53122
Tel 800-236-0112; Fax 414-814-7017
www.tapconet.com

TRAFFIC & SAFETY SYSTEMS, INC.
48584 Downing, Wixom, MI 48393
Tel 248-348-0570; Fax 248-348-6505

UTS GLOBAL
2021 Midwest Road, Suite 200
Oak Brook, IL 60523
Tel 630 953-6250; Fax 630 953-6251

Southwest

ACCESS & TIME AUTOMATION, INC.
1147 South Huron Street,
Denver, CO 80223
Tel 303-698-0065; Fax 303-698-0873

ASSOCIATED TIME & PARKING CONTROLS
1000 Caruso Blvd., #413, Slidell, LA 70461
Tel 985781-3929; Fax 985-781-3950
cweaver@associatedtime.com
www.associatedtime.com

ASSOCIATED TIME & PARKING CONTROLS
9104 Diplomacy Row, Dallas, TX 75247
Tel 214-637-2763; Fax 214-688-0411
carcher@associatedtime.com
www.associatedtime.com

MITCHELL TIME & PARKING
4806 North IH 35, Austin, TX 78751
Tel 512-371-7773; Fax 512-371-7181
San Antonio, TX
Tel 866-371-7773; mtparking@sbcglobal.net
www.mitchell-time-parking.com

MOUNTAIN PARKING EQUIPMENT
6285 Gambler Place
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PROTECTIONTECH
2161 Regent Street #9
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801-256-0214
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Houston, TX 77055
Tel 713-263-1366; Fax 713-263-8154
carcher@associatedtime.com,
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www.associatedtime.com

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DGM CONTROLS
1426 Elliott Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98119
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Redmond, WA 98052
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Spokane Office 509-747-6231
www.protectiontech.com

Far West

ASSI-SECURITY INC.
18001 Cowan, Suite A
Irvine, CA 92614-6801
Tel 949-955-0244; Fax 949-955-0243

INTEGRATED ACCESS SYSTEMS, INC.
10755 Sherman Way, Suite 4
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Tel 866-249-4427; Fax 818-764-7033

MCGANN ASSOCIATES
900 Doolittle Dr., Suite 11A
San Leandro, CA 94577
Tel 510-568-6484

MCGANN ASSOCIATES
8220 Belvedere Ave, #B
Sacramento, CA 95826
Tel 916-456-1065

PARKING TECHNICAL SERVICES
9851 1/2 Alburts Avenue
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90607
Tel: 562-949-5227; Fax 562-949-5857

SAS ACCESS SYSTEMS
601 Market St.,
San Diego, CA 92101
Tel 619-236-0602; Fax 619-238-0868
www.sas-access.com

SECOM INTERNATIONAL
9610 Bellanca Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Tel 310-641-1290

SECURITEC ACCESS CONTROLS
10861 Sherman Way
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Tel 818-759-1292; Fax 818-759-1299

SENTRY CONTROL SYSTEMS
9842 Glenoaks Blvd.
Sun Valley, CA 91352
Tel 800-246-6662; Fax 818-252-0400
www.sentrycontrol.com

W. D. WHITE CO.
3505 Magnolia St.,
Oakland, CA 94608
Tel 510-658-8167; Fax 510-658-3503

WEST COAST SECURITY SYSTEMS
10535 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Tel 818-700-6440; Fax 818-718-0789

List your Company here.
Contact Sandra at
310 390 5277 Ext. 4

2004

August 03-05

Southwest Parking Association Conference and Trade Show

Location: Marriott University Park, Tucson, AZ
 Contact: Patrick Kass 520 621 3550
 Email: pkass@email.arizona.edu

August 19-22

China Parking Equipment and Management Expo

Location: Shanghai New International Expo Center
 Contact: Mr Cui +86 531 851 2040
 Email: saint@public.jn.sd.cn

September 19-22

NPA's 53rd Annual Parking, Transportation, and Services Convention & Exposition

Location: Anaheim, California
 Contact: Patricia Langfeld
 202 296 4336
 Email: plangfeld@npapark.org

September 19-21

Ontario Traffic Conference Parking Workshop and Suppliers Showcase & 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Location: Holiday Inn, Oshawa, Ontario
 Contact: Judy Woodley, Operations Manager
 416.598.4138
 Email: traffic@otc.org

September 22-23

Parkex International 2004 - British Parking Association

Location: GMEX - Manchester, England
 Contact: Bill Butler
 Email: b.butler@hgluk.com

October 03-05

Canadian Parking Association Annual Conference

Location: Vancouver British Columbia
 Contact: Carole Dunlevie 613 835 3530
 Email: carole@canadianparking.ca

October 05-08

21st Annual New Zealand Parking Conference

Location: Ruthford Hotel, Nelson, New Zealand
 Contact: Colin P. Waite +64 9 836 8017
 Email: colin.waite@waitakere.govt.nz

October 13-15

Florida Parking Association 25th Annual Conference

Location: Wyndham Resorts, Miami Beach, Florida
 Contact: Liliana Rambo (954) 921-3535
 Email: lrambo@hollywoodfl.org

October 17-19

9th Australian Parking Convention

Location: Adelaide, South Australia
 Contact: Sapro Conference Management +61 8 8352 7099
 Email: parking@sapro.com.au

October 21-22

International Concrete Repair Institute 2004 Fall Convention

Location: Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, Calif.
 Contact: Chris Jorgensen 847-827-0830

October 23-26

Midwest Campus Parking Association Annual Conference

Location: Drury Inn, St Louis, Missouri
 Contact: Ann Benson 314 977-3465
 Email: bensonac@slu.edu

October 27-29

Intertraffic Latin America Mexico 2004

Location: World Trade Center, Mexico City
 Contact: Marlou Rebel
 +31 20 549 22 32
 Email: m.rebel@rai.nl

October 31-November 02

Parking Association of the Virginia's/Middle Atlantic Parking Association Joint Workshop

Location: Hotel Roanoke - Roanoke, VA
 Contact: Robbie White 804 379 7696
 Email: parkofva@aol.com

November 02-05

California Public Parking Association Annual Conference and Tradeshow

Location: Burbank Airport Hilton Hotel and Convention Center
 Contact: Coral Joy Parks 909/463-7787
 Email: Coraljoy@earthlink.net

November 09-11

T2 Systems 2004 User Group Conference

Location: San Diego, California
 Contact: T2UC 800 434 1502

November 17-19

Carolinas Parking Association/Parking Association of GA Joine Fall Conferenc

Location: Francis Marion Hotel - Charleston, SC
 Contact: Jim Anderson
 Email: janderson@cagleyharman.com

2005

April 13-15

Texas Parking Association Annual Trade Show and Conference

Location: Dallas Texas
 Contact: Camille Williams 972 883 2343
 Email: wwiliam@utdallas.edu

May 21-25

International Parking Institute Conference And Expo

Location: Fort Lauderdale Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL
 Contact: IPI 540-371-7535

September 27-30

12th European Parking Congress

Location: Hotel President Wilson, Geneva, Switzerland
 Contact: Parkingswiss
 Email: info@symporg.ch

September 27-29

Parking Industry Exhibition/Intertraffic North America -- Parking and Traffic Exhibition - Conference for Parking Management and Technology

Location: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD
 Contact: Sandra Watson 310 390 5277 ext 4
 Email: swatson@bricepac.com

October 16-19, 2005

National Parking Association Annual Convention

Location: Fontainebleau Hilton Resort, Miami Beach, FL
 Contact: Pat Langfeld 202.296.4336 x 205
 Email: planfgeld@npapark.org

November 12-16, 2005

Canadian Parking Association Annual Conference and Trade Show

Location: Niagara Falls, Ontario
 Contact: Carole Dunlevie 613-727-0700
 Email: carole@canadianparking.ca

2006

May 14-18

International Parking Institute Conference And Expo

Location: Mandalay Bay Resort And Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV
 Contact: IPI 540-371-7535

2007

May 19-23

International Parking Institute Conference And Expo

Location: Tampa, Florida
 Contact: Coleen Williamson
 Email: williamson@parking.org

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