

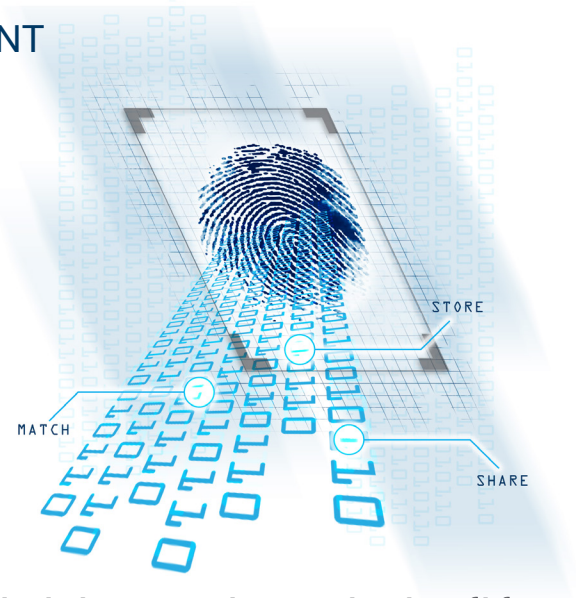


Information Paper

Biometric Identity Services

OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

The Office of Biometric Identity Management (OBIM) is the primary provider of biometric identity services for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its purpose is to protect the United States in support of its five key mission areas: counter terrorism and homeland security threats, secure U.S. borders and approaches, preserve and uphold the Nation’s prosperity and economic security, strengthen preparedness and resilience, and champion the DHS workplace and strengthen the Department. As part of DHS, OBIM provides advanced biometric identification, information sharing, and analysis to authorized frontline decision makers so that they are able to accurately identify the people they encounter and assess whether they pose a risk to the United States. functions:



VISION

OBIM leads the use of biometric identity for a safer world, enhanced individual privacy, and improved quality of life.

MISSION

OBIM provides the Department of Homeland Security and its mission partners with biometric identity services that enable national security and public safety decision making.

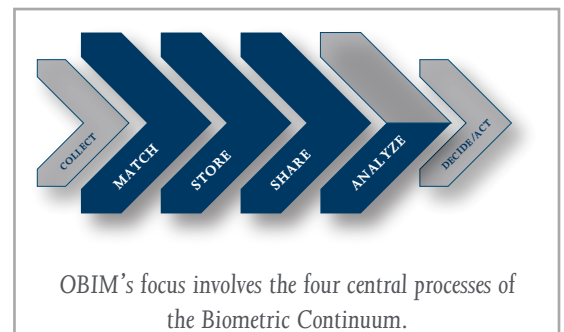
MATCH-STORE-SHARE-ANALYZE

OBIM provides actionable biometric identity information to DHS and its mission partners through its capabilities to match, store, share, and analyze biometric data. The Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT) database that facilitates these functions contains more than 250 million biometric identities.

OPERATIONS

As the lead provider of biometric identification and analysis services for DHS, OBIM focuses on the following priorities:

- Meet the needs of U.S. Government partners through 10-print and latent-print matching services.
- Drive biometric innovation and support emerging technologies to expand the range of capabilities for users.
- Upgrade and enhance OBIM systems to maintain interoperability with other biometric systems, including the Next Generation Identification (NGI) system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).
- Continue to share data with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to establish an automated interface between OBIM’s IDENT and the DoD’s Automated Biometric Identification System.
- Sustain and expand international partnerships with cooperating governments to extend biometric identity verification and matching.
- Operate and maintain the Federal Government’s largest automated identification system for biometric data.





SERVICES

OBIM supplies authorized federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government agency users, and international partners, with around the clock biometric services to help them accurately identify the people they encounter and determine whether those people pose a risk to their country. Every day, OBIM:

- Provides background biometric checks on more than 30,000 visa applicants for the U.S. Department of State, helping consular officers determine whether a non-U.S. citizen is eligible to travel to the United States.
- Enhances, with its biometric data, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing of more than 33.9 million international travelers without any increase in wait times at U.S. ports of entry.
- Establishes and verifies the identities of nearly 4 million immigration benefit applicants for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Supports rapid fingerprint identification of international visitors and immigrants at ports of entry.

EXAMPLES OF HOW BIOMETRIC IDENTITY SERVICES ARE WORKING

OBIM Helps Identify Victims of the Brussels Terror Attacks

OBIM received 32 sets of victims’ fingerprints following the terror attacks in Brussels, Belgium in March 2016. OBIM promptly identified 9 of the 32 victims, including one U.S. citizen. The quick turnaround time avoided additional methods of identification.

OBIM Matches Print Left on Drug Carrying Drone in Mexico

OBIM received a latent (unknown) fingerprint in January 2015 from CBP in San Diego, Calif. The print, taken from a drone that had crashed in Mexico with six pounds of methamphetamines, matched to a Mexican citizen on file in IDENT. OBIM passed the identity to CBP, who watchlisted the subject for any future encounter.

OBIM Speeds Credentialing for FEMA Recovery Teams

In June 2014, IDENT deployed system changes that allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to connect to the system and search fingerprints of employees, volunteers, contractors, and first responders. The new process greatly improves the efficiency and accuracy of vetting these workers to participate in disaster recovery operations.

OBIM Customers

- DHS Office of the Chief Security Officer
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Transportation Security Administration
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

OBIM also partners with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement entities, and the Intelligence and International Communities.

Protecting Privacy

OBIM upholds the privacy of all individuals while protecting the homeland, our citizens, residents, and visitors. As required, personal information is used only for the purposes for which it was collected, unless specifically authorized or mandated by law.

OBIM’s Privacy Officer is responsible for ensuring information collected is protected from misuse by anyone inside or outside OBIM. Contact the Privacy Office at OBIMPRIVACY@ice.dhs.gov.

In addition to fingerprints, these services are available in a limited capacity using iris and face matching. In the future, these and other modalities will be commonly used for all identity services.