DHS LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

The US-VISIT / IDENT System

DHS AGENCIES PROVIDING LATENT PRINT SERVICES

- US-VISIT
- UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
- FORENSIC DOCUMENT LABORATORY
- CUSTOMS LABORATORY (HOUSTON, TX)

SERVICES

- SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE US-VISIT BIOMETRIC SUPPORT CENTERS IN ARLINGTON AND SAN DIEGO (24X7)
  - Latent fingerprint
    - Latent-to-known
    - Known-to-latent
  - 10-Print
  - Watchlist enrollment
  - NSEERS enrollment
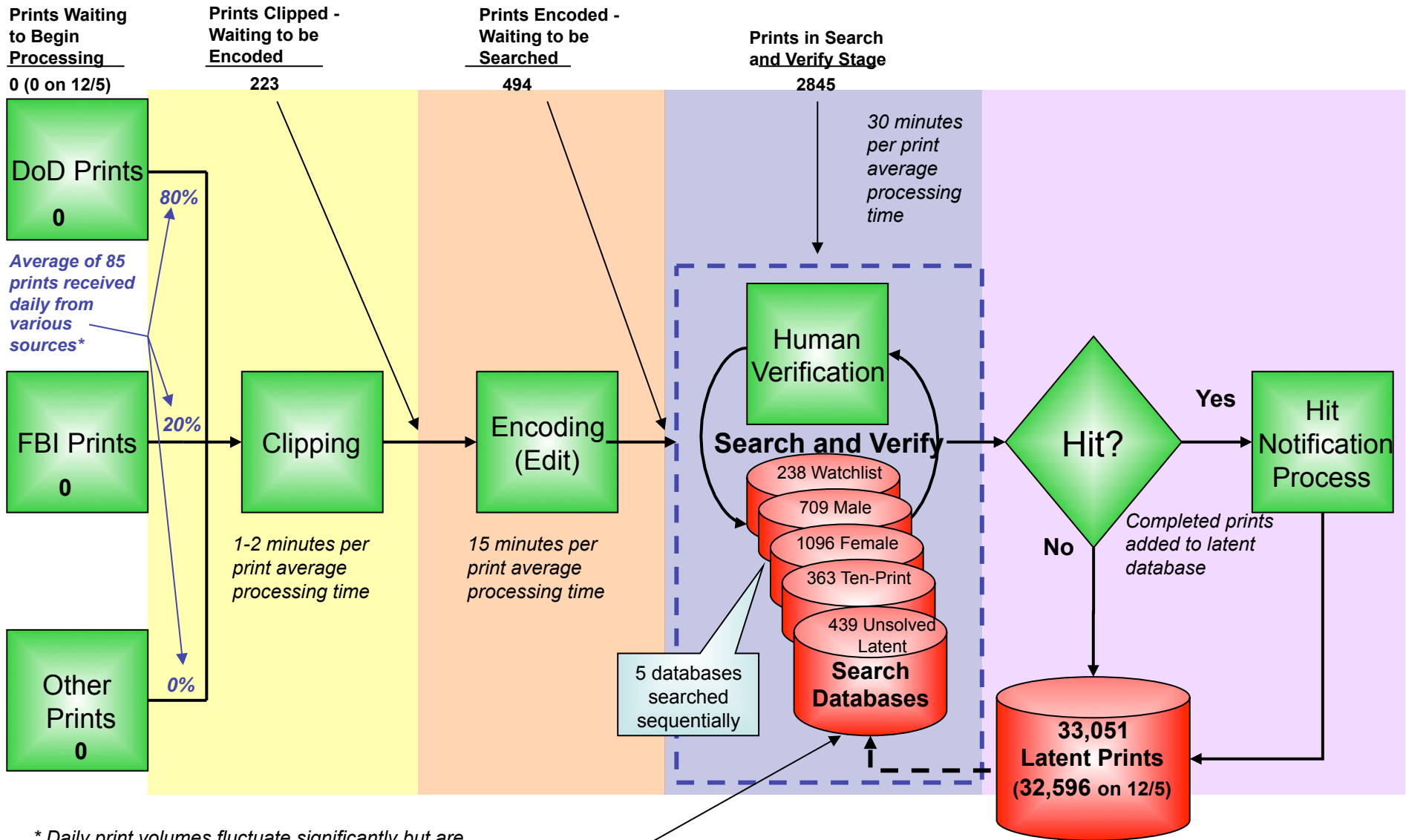
OUR DATABASE

- IDENT
  - More than 100 million subjects
  - Daily volume about 100,000 transactions
  - 40,000 new records added daily
  - 70 percent of this database is not replicated elsewhere
  - Consists of immigration records (civil and criminal), downloaded FBI, Interpol and other records
  - More than 40,000 unidentified latent fingerprints

LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

- Latent fingerprints are downloaded from FBI, DOD, Intelligence agencies and others
- Approximately 85 latent prints a day received
- Searched sequentially against Watchlist, VISIT Male, VISIT Female, 10-Print and Latent-to-Latent files

US-VISIT/IDENT Latent to 2/10 Print Process Overview
12/12/2008

Prints Waiting to Begin Processing

0 (0 on 12/5)

Prints Clipped - Waiting to be Encoded

223

Prints Encoded - Waiting to be Searched

494

Prints in Search and Verify Stage

2845

30 minutes per print average processing time

DoD Prints

0

*Average of 85 prints received daily from various sources**

80%

20%

0%

FBI Prints

0

Other Prints

0

Clipping

1-2 minutes per print average processing time

Encoding (Edit)

15 minutes per print average processing time

Human Verification

Search and Verify

238 Watchlist

709 Male

1096 Female

363 Ten-Print

439 Unsolved Latent

Search Databases

5 databases searched sequentially

Hit?

Yes

No

Hit Notification Process

Completed prints added to latent database

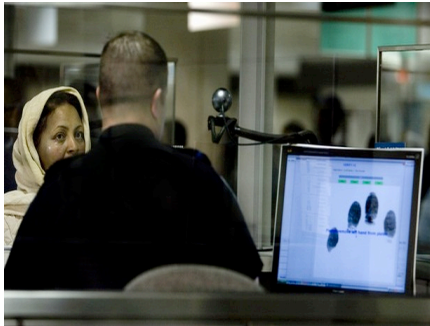33,051 Latent Prints (32,596 on 12/5)

* Daily print volumes fluctuate significantly but are typically processed as they are received, consequently these daily volumes are not included in the "Prints Waiting to be Processed" queue.

Future state with new 10 print processes will allow latent prints to be re-run against repositories as needed

US-VISIT/IDENT Latent Process Overview

10 Print to Latent Processing
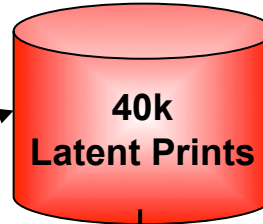
Department of State 10 print submissions

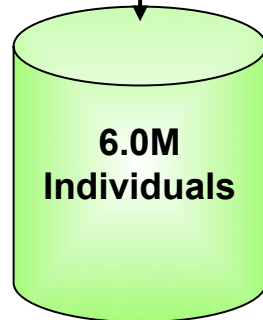Port of Entry 10 print pilot site submissions

Pending Workload
- Approx. 5M DoS and POE submissions
- Working oldest submissions first (FIFO)

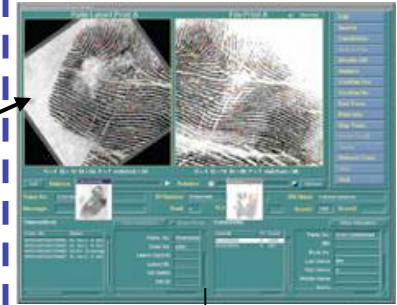Prints searched against latent database and added to the Latent 10 print repository

Latent Database

40k Latent Prints

Latent 10-Repository

Print

6.0M Individuals

Approximately 18% of searches result in a candidate list being generated (1 or more potential matches to be further examined)

18%

Requiring, on average, 1.2 human verifications per returned candidate

LATENT PRINT ACTIVITIES

- 10-Print to Unidentified Latent Prints
  - Approximately 100,000 sets captured daily at embassies, consulates and ports of entry
  - Run against unidentified latents
  - Growing backlog of work due to current system limitations

LATENT CASE WORK ACTIVITIES

- Low volume now

- No processing/development activities

- Interoperability expected to give other agencies (local, state and Federal) access to this very large database

- Remember – 70 percent of this database is not replicated

- Many visitors do not have fingerprints on file in their home countries but do in US-VISIT

- 367 unknown subjects identified in 2008

STATISTICS

- 41 latent print examiners (approx. 30 FTEs)
- Most are located in Arlington
- Recently averaging about 90,000 latent comparisons a week
- Very low hit rate because of use of AFIS as a national security tool rather than criminal investigation tool

PERSONNEL

- Full-time and part-time

- Many are retirees from FBI, Secret Service, MPD and others

- Experience level very high

- Now planning how we will recruit and train our second and third generation of examiners

ISSUES

- Future staffing – recruiting, selection, training to competency, maintaining competency
- Maximizing effectiveness of examiners
  - What can the systems do to help?
  - What can managers provide to the examiners?
  - Studies to determine the optimum encoding strategies for latent print searches of ten-print databases (JFI volume 57, July/August 2007 <u>A Latent Print Examiner's Guide to IAFIS)</u>
  - For US-VISIT – how do we keep examiners alert when the hit rate is extremely low?
  - Are there any fitness for duty concerns we need to address such as visual acuity, form blindness, medical conditions that affect abilities
  - How to certify examiners

ISSUES

- Environmental concerns

- Professional culture/management culture

- Workload

- Acceptance/willingness to use new technology

- Monitor size

- Need for recognition

- Fatigue (overtime or part-time employment)

- Confidence in system abilities, e.g. minutiae marking

CONTACT INFORMATION

Danny Greathouse

202-298-5192

danny.greathouse@baesystems.com

or

Anne May

202-298-5263

anne.may@dhs.gov