Case Study

Location
Shanghai, People's Republic of China

Needs
Verify access to welfare benefits, medical care and bank accounts; eliminate fraudulent claims; improve government efficiency.

Applications
Windows PCs, Windows 2000 network

DigitalPersona Products
- U.are.U® Integrator Gold SDK
- U.are.U® Integrator Gold Sensor Package

Overview
Shanghai has over 13 million people. Its citizens must carry multiple ID cards to access welfare benefits, medical care and bank accounts. Shanghai is taking the lead in consolidating these cards and adding fingerprint authentication to provide security and convenience for their citizens.

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Shanghai Social Security Card

Security Challenge

Over 800 million people access bank accounts or apply for welfare benefits and medical care run by the Chinese government. It is imperative to be able to correctly identify these citizens. Until now, the Chinese government issued separate identification cards for bank accounts, welfare benefits and medical care that citizens must carry with them. These identification cards are often stolen or shared resulting in fraudulent access and claims.

After evaluating many solutions, the Chinese government decided to implement DigitalPersona's fingerprint authentication technology on a single social security card to initially be used by the citizens of Shanghai.   Citizens register their finger on a U.are.U Sensor which creates a template (fingerprints are never stored). This template is stored in a database and on a social security card. Each time someone tries to access their bank account or apply for welfare or medical benefits, the template on their social security card is checked against the template in the database. A positive match allows access, but a negative match will deny access. The Chinese government plans to register all of their citizens over the age of 18, estimating that over 800 million citizens will have the new social security card containing U.are.U fingerprint authentication technology by 2005.

"The Chinese government wanted a solution that would be secure and convenient for their citizens," said John Che, Vice President, Z/K Software. "The U.are.U fingerprint authentication technology has provided this by requiring only one social security card to access multiple benefits."

Added Che, "Government employees find that U.are.U has improved efficiency by reducing fraudulent claims and the administrative work associated with processing the claims."

Benefits
- Avoid Fraud – By requiring fingerprint authentication prior to receiving welfare and medical benefits, citizens cannot access benefits that are not due them.
- Convenient & Secure – Citizens only need to touch their finger on a U.are.U Sensor to provide access to their accounts and benefits.
- Improves Efficiency – With U.are.U, government employees reduce administrative work associated with processing fraudulent claims.

Why DigitalPersona™
DigitalPersona, developer of the innovative U.are.U biometric security solutions, brings both heightened security and convenience to business and government. As proven by independent tests and millions of customers, U.are.U delivers time-tested, leading-edge biometrics technology. The U.are.U line of user authentication systems have won numerous industry awards including Secure Computing Best Buy, PC Week Best of COMDEX, PC Magazine Editors' Choice and Network Computing Editor's Choice. DigitalPersona has partnered with industry leaders such as Microsoft, IBM, Verisign and Checkpoint.