

General Observations

Release Note 0.3

July 12, 2006

Following the publication of the first set of raw data from the cross-over test the organisers noticed a relatively wide-spread discussion highlighting inconsistencies and potential flaws within these data. In response, we would like to state the following:

- Release note 0.1 stated that the published results would contain inconsistencies due to the complex logistics of the event.
- Reader and passport vendors approached us when they found such instances. If the claims sounded reasonable and were compliant to our supporting data, we corrected such data.
- As we pointed out during the opening session, cross-over testing certainly has its limitations and should soon be replaced by single-ended testing against PICC and PCD test specifications.
- Time measurements during the test are likely to contain a substantial error margin, resulting in a wide variation of reading times. Although the organizers pointed out that functional evaluation rather than time measurement is the focus of the test, we noticed that during the cross-over test a number of reader vendors switched from automatic MRZ reading to manual input in order to gain a few seconds in read time. Such behavior, of course, makes a comparable evaluation of reading times at least very questionable.
- As to the linkage of border policy issues and reader functionality: one of the major intentions of the testing was the well in advance announced "real world" context where a reader meets the multitude of ICAO-compliant e-passports with all the combinations allowed for signature and hashing algorithms, image types etc. This is of extreme importance and a real virtue of these results.

e-Passport Interoperability Test Event, Berlin, May 29 – June 1, 2006

- Some vendors asked us about the amount of passports being tested during the event. The amount of passports varies around 90 passports. The reasons for this:
 - 91 passport-sets were officially registered
 - Passport set 91 replaced passport set 24 at the beginning of day 2. So it may be that some reader vendors have tested passport 24 on day 1, but this is just a negligible number.
 - As stated in the document “Testprocedure Interoperability Test Event” (available for download) any vendor should just have tested “xxxx-1” or “xxxx-2” passports. If “xxxx-1” and “xxxx-2” are mixed up, it’s a mistake by the test team.
 - Some vendors are missing tests of specific passports or passport sets. We do not know exactly, why some passports have not been tested on specific readers, but test teams reported, that some reader vendors have not been present at their table when the team approached.
- **We noticed several data evaluations being published based on our raw data. In order to avoid biased conclusions, please note that the only official data evaluations of the Berlin Interoperability Event will only be prepared and published by the event organisers.**