

# Idcheckcenter; a clearer, more discerning look at false/forged (identity) documents

There will always be people who, for whatever reason, wish to conceal their true identity and therefore use a false or forged identity document. Numerous software solutions and systems are already available to distinguish these documents. Besides the limitations in terms of quality and user-friendliness of these highly overpriced systems (in terms of the cost of purchase, use and maintenance as well as training expenses), they are particularly aimed at the document specialist and not the investigation officer, “the police officer in the street”. It is for them that Idcheckcenter has been developed.

## Idcheckcenter aims to ensure:

- The investigating officer can check an identity document quickly (high level of user friendliness);
- A false/forged document is always recognised (efficient system, security features are indicated using so-called ‘hotspots’);
- Customers do not need to purchase new hardware; the system can be linked to existing software applications, computers, tablets, smartphones and scanning equipment;
- Correct information is always available to the management, enabling them to manage and regulate the operation appropriately.

To achieve this, Idcheckcenter must stand out from the other systems. Now, after more than 20 years’ development, Idcheckcenter meets the stringent and increasingly higher standards:

1. The expertise database; not only a significantly larger number of documents but also very detailed.
2. A large number of available travel, identity and other documents, stamps etc.:
  - a. from over 200 countries.
  - b. great diversity in types of documents (passports, ID cards, driving licences, residence permits, entry and exit stamps, etc.)
  - a. a total of approx. 3600 documents
3. Clear images (> 250,000 very high resolution images), very many details and specific references.
4. Extremely user-friendly, linkable to hardware (e.g. scanners) and software applications (API available).
5. Can be used by both the document specialist and the investigation officer.
6. Management information system.

## Preventive effect

As Idcheckcenter provides every investigating officer with access to the security features database (expertise database), any ID document can be authenticated quickly and effectively at any given moment.

The combination of the programme’s user-friendliness and the access to the expertise database will ensure that in >99% of all cases a false/forged document will be detected, possibly resulting in a legitimate arrest.

### A full check should include the following three points:

1. Are the data in the MRZ (“Machine Readable Zone”) and the Chip correct (this can be verified automatically using a smartphone app);
2. Is the bearer of the document really the person to whom the document was issued? (Scan face - compare with photo / check by officer);
3. Is the document ‘genuine/original’?

Many current systems that claim to automatically check the above actually only check point 1 and possibly point 2. Due to the lack of access to an expertise database (at an ‘external’ location) or to the available database not being complete, security features are hardly checked at all. Thanks to its expertise database, Idcheckcenter fills this gap perfectly.

## Comparison with other document analysis systems

### Specimen and personalised documents

Many existing systems analyse documents on the basis of specimens. A specimen may vary from the original, however. This may lead to a wrongful arrest.

**Example 1:** Under ultraviolet light, the thread used to bind a Nigerian passport (version without a Chip) will appear fluorescent yellow. The thread on a specimen will appear white rather than yellow.

**Example 2:** The document number on New Zealand driving licences (cat. 5a) is printed using an ink jet printer. On original documents issued, this number is printed using laser print.

As far as possible, Idcheckcenter uses personalised documents as even documents the same series may differ slightly. In general, other programmes tend to include a single model. Idcheckcenter includes and shows all the variations within a particular series.

### To illustrate this point:

To be able to assess its authenticity, it is very important that an investigating officer knows which technique has been used to fill in/personalise a particular document.

Idcheckcenter has detailed records. The Idcheckcenter software includes accessible images of the variable data for regular issue and as many deviations as possible. Permissible deviations may also occur in authentic i.e. correct documents. These will often have been issued by a consulate. Other systems do not register these deviations as it entails a tremendous amount of work. This is because there are so many permissible exceptions to the standard issue documents.

Exceptions which are often found on the streets and which consequently lead to (costly) wrongful arrests. Two examples as illustration:

- The G series of passports for standard issue by the People's Republic of China are printed using laser print. However, the variable data in the passports issued by consulates and/or embassies in Europe - including in the Netherlands - may also be printed using an ink jet printer.
- A standard issue British passport (model without a Chip) is printed using a different type of laser printer to that used to issue an emergency travel document. This can be seen by the different grid patterns.

Where other systems generally only incorporate the security features specified by the printer, Idcheckcenter also detects all unknown security features. These features are also often unknown to forgers/counterfeiters, and a false/forged/counterfeit document is therefore more likely to be discovered.

## Management Information

Idcheckcenter offers a management information system enabling all actions performed within the program to be monitored and analysed. The login frequency can be reported per person/office/brigade etc. Analyses can also be generated according to the countries and documents checked. This offers the management organisation the option of direct analysis and the ability to take any appropriate measures immediately.

## QuickFinder

The QuickFinder is a module in Idcheckcenter software, developed specifically for the 'police officer in the street'. QuickFinder directs the investigating officer straight to the key security features by way of unique 'hotspots' so that checks can be conducted and managed smoothly. The flexible software enables the security features to be selected according to the available equipment (e.g. magnifying glass, UV/IR light).

## Scanning

In situations requiring fast control procedures, other systems use scanners. This currently usually involves scanning the "Machine Readable Zone" (MRZ). The MRZ identifies the type of document and the country it was issued in but not which model or version of that document it is. The disadvantage of this is that it only checks the commonly known security features. The Chip is also checked using the 'key' in the MRZ but this will usually have been deactivated in false/forged documents.

Idcheckcenter is developing a software solution which, when a document is scanned, randomly displays on screen one or more 'security features' from the Idcheckcenter expertise database for further verification. From now on, this unique app will read the MRZ and Chip as well as creating a link to the document for further examination. The option of both Chip and document

examination distinguishes Idcheckcenter from other suppliers in the market, actually making it incomparable to any other system in terms of innovation, quality, possibilities and the low cost per user.

## Technical specifications

Idcheckcenter is a PHP, MySQL and JSON based REST API incorporating full encryption of security features and images, thus also enabling the future development of various other web-based and mobile applications.

## Training requirements

Contrary to other systems, no expensive training/course is required. Learning as they go along (E-learning), all users need is a good head on their shoulders.

## Conclusion

We hope that, after reading this introductory information, you will understand and appreciate what distinguishes Idcheckcenter from other systems. The underlying factors are expertise (acquired over many years), innovation and drive.

**Idcheckcenter sincerely aims to launch a program that will enable significant improvements on many fronts thanks to:**

- The unique security features database of personalised documents, obtained through our own research (expert level).
- The “QuickFinder” for the investigating officer in the street (Guiding and E-learning).
- The “Management Information System” for management purposes.
- The unique app enabling examination of the MRZ and Chip and the Document.
- Suitability for mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.
- Linking pin between other (Police) databases/registers and (currently used) scan equipment.

