A Good Rap (part 1)

A rapsheet contains historical information about a criminal subject’s arrests, prosecutions, court dispositions, sentencing and correctional supervision. Usually, it contains extensive identification information about the person, including name, height, weight, eye color, sex, date of birth, etc.

The term “rap” was an abbreviation for “arrest and prosecution.” Rapsheets were produced by police departments from their log books (blotters), and they rarely contained any kind of final disposition information. It was sufficient for police to share with each other what a person was arrested for; all the subsequent activity was lawyer stuff.

For most people today, “rap” is music. And www.rapsheet.com is an on-line e-zine for the hip hop industry. For us, rapsheet is formally known as a criminal history record. A rapsheet today would be almost useless to the criminal justice industry, to employers and licensing agencies, to the national instant gun check system, to public housing, and the transportation industry without a complete picture of the subject’s contact with justice agencies, especially final court dispositions. For example, WI Stat.111.335 limits the use of arrest and conviction records as a basis for employment hiring decisions.

Not by coincidence, the criminal history record is closely associated with fingerprint identification. The FBI pioneered criminal fingerprint identification in the early 1900’s, and many large police departments created fingerprint files patterned after the FBI’s fingerprint classification system. In the 1960’s and early 70’s, state police and justice agencies began to compile arrest, prosecution, court, and correctional information and used the FBI’s criminal fingerprint identification methods to positively link criminal activity to a certain person. These systems became known as state criminal history repositories.

In the 1970’s and 80’s, states automated their repositories, making available for the first time the interstate exchange of rapsheets produced automatically by computer systems. Even though every state had a different presentation format, different terminology, different codes, and different judicial procedure, we had opened a window to an automated national criminal records system.

In the next newsletter or two I will tackle the history and complexities of rapsheet formatting, and what we are doing to simplify the availability and readability of criminal history records. I’ve been asked to chair the national Joint Task Force on Rapsheet standardization. This mini-series of articles is a peek at where we’ve been and where we are headed.

See http://www.doj.state.wi.us/les/itf for breaking news. And, as always, I value your input.

Gerry Coleman, Director
Live Scan Compression Ratio Issue

A concern was recently expressed which identified a number of live scan images contributed to the FBI that fail to meet the EFTS Specification 3.9.3 average compression ratio of 15 to 1. Some vendors have been asked to monitor their sites and verify that they are sending images at an average of 15 to 1 compression ratio.

The FBI analyzed the comparison ratio of approximately 1.1 million electronic ten print fingerprint submissions over a 30 day period in October 2002, and discovered that IAFIS was "receiving a substantial portion of submissions compressed at rates higher or lower than the established 15-to-1 rate."

In order to meet the compression rate requirement live scan equipment must produce, on average submission files that are 650 kilobytes (kb) or larger. If file size is less than 650 kb, your live scan equipment is likely not compressing at the proper rate. Note: Agencies which contribute mug shot images along with electronic fingerprints will have a larger file size.

In 2004, 3,300 Wisconsin records were examined to see if they were in compliance with compression ratios.

DOJ is requesting assistance from live scan vendors, asking they examine compression ratios on live scan devices they maintain, and adjust the configurations to comply with the FBI’s EFTS Specification. After these changes have been made, additional analysis will be repeated until the appropriate average compression ration (15:1) is achieved.

For a copy of the report please contact Sandie Schultz at 608-264-9490 email schultzsd@doj.state.wi.us or Curt Bauer 608-261-8122, extension 2600 email bauercj@doj.state.wi.us

Ordering FBI Identification Supplies

Agencies needing FBI fingerprint cards should be ordering their supply directly from the FBI. For those agencies having access to LEO, your order may be placed online at http://home.leo.gov/lesig/cjis. Click on General Information and then Online Fingerprint Card Order Form. Those agencies not having access to LEO may download the order form at www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib/forms and either fax or mail to the FBI.

CCH Database Change

On Monday, December 13th, 2004 a change was made to the production Computerized Criminal History (CCH) database that forwards all fingerprint submissions, including non-criterions, to the FBI. This change was implemented following a recommendation from the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB) to search and return results for all records contributed as a Criminal Answer Required (CAR) transaction. The record must also be an arrest, prison intake, or jail intake submission. DNA, probation, parole and sex offender registrations are not forwarded to the FBI.

Juvenile records are not contributed to the FBI unless charges exist where the individual is waved to adult court.
Criminal History Improvement Meeting

With ever-increasing demands for complete and accurate criminal history information, it is crucial that criminal history information be reported timely and accurately. As more and more occupations require criminal background checks, the use of criminal history information has become more widespread and will only continue to grow.

CIB has tentatively scheduled a meeting to discuss issues and challenges to improving criminal history reporting in the state. This meeting should be attended by those who have the responsibility of reporting criminal history information to CIB, whether law enforcement, prosecutors, judges or other court personnel. The meeting will be held at the Country Springs Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) in Stevens Point on Thursday, April 7th. Registration forms and agendas will be mailed directly to agencies in a few weeks.

Contact Phil Collins at collinspe@doj.state.wi.us or (608) 267-2235 if you have any questions.

The Wisconsin Association for Identification (WAI) Annual Conference

The Wisconsin Association for Identification is hosting its annual conference on March 30th, 31st and April 1 in Madison, Wisconsin at the American Family Corporate Headquarters on American Parkway.

Directions, lodging and an interim agenda can be found on the WAI web site [http://www.thewai.org/next_sem.htm](http://www.thewai.org/next_sem.htm) Questions should be directed to the Conference Chair, Dan Roman at droman@cityofmadison.com or 608-266-4997.

Fast ID

Fast ID technology was first introduced in Wisconsin by the Department of Justice in December of 2002 and is available in nearly every Wisconsin County. This “instant identification” project has been extremely successful by not only identifying those who attempt to conceal their identity, but preventing local record management systems and databases from being populated with inaccurate name-based information. Today, there are 105 of these biometric devices installed at Wisconsin law enforcement agencies and a handful of non-traditional sites.

Fast ID devices capture and encode the fingerprint minutia of an individual with questioned identity. This information is sent to a biometric server hosted by DOJ, a search is conducted, and a positive identification is returned to the device in approximately 60 seconds. In 2003, 52,718 searches were conducted on individuals with questioned identity. Over 64,203 searches have been conducted to date. These devices have identified a number of wanted individuals, identified an unknown deceased person in Pierce and St. Croix counties, and a man wanted for murder in Illinois.

Fast ID is also being piloted at non-traditional agencies like Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, where probation and parole violators’ identity is confirmed before an individual begins serving a sentence and the Milwaukee District Attorney’s Identity Theft Unit. Likewise, they are used to confirm the identity of a prisoner prior to release.

Additional information on the Fast ID project can be found here: [http://www.doj.state.wi.us/les/CCH/FastID.pdf](http://www.doj.state.wi.us/les/CCH/FastID.pdf) For additional information, contact Project Lead, Sandie Schultz at 608-264-9490 or email schultzsd@doj.state.wi.us
2 New Systems Move to Production

In late 2004, the Crime Information Bureau put 2 new systems into production. The first system replaced an optical archive that was no longer supported. This new Criminal Document Archive Imaging System (CDARIS) is web enabled and data migration was complete in January. This archive contains in excess of 2 million fingerprint records, photographs, and final disposition reports contributed by booking agencies, courts and prisons throughout Wisconsin. Likewise, each time a criminal ten print card or photograph is contributed to the Crime Information Bureau, the image is stored in this archive.

The CDARIS Web application is available to law enforcement agencies that are interested in accessing these documents. In order to access and uncompress images, a plug is downloaded to a local PC. A license is required which costs approximately $950.00, and annual maintenance of approximately $240.00. Fingerprint images can be viewed and printed but not manipulated. Photographs can be downloaded and archived locally.

Minimum system requirements are:
- Intel Pentium II processor running at 300 MHz or equivalent
- 128 MB total system memory
- Internet Explorer 6.0
- Internet connection
- FBI certified printer if printing forensic quality finger prints is desired

Law enforcement agencies that are interested in web access should contact, Sandie Schultz at 608-264-9490, or email schultzsd@doj.state.wi.us
Hazardous Materials Haulers Fingerprinted Every 4 Years

Beginning January 31, 2005 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) will be required to fingerprint new commercial drivers with hazardous materials (“H” endorsements). This fingerprint based background check is the result of the USA Patriot Act, and includes new “H” endorsements, as well as some out of state transfers.

The Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) is authorized to conduct a federal criminal history background check that includes watch lists and other relevant databases to identify individuals who pose a security threat warranting denial of an “H” endorsement. Individuals identified as posing a security threat will be notified by mail and will have an opportunity to appear or ask for a waiver through the TSA. Appeal and waiver procedures will be provided in the denial letter.

The fingerprint background check must be completed before an “H” endorsement is issued and every 4 years thereafter, even though the Commercial Driver License (CDL) may be valid for 8 years. DOT is encouraging drivers to begin the renewal process at least 60 days prior to expiration to avoid a lapse in their authority to haul hazardous materials.

TSA has been also been authorized to collect reasonable fees to cover the costs of providing credentialing and background investigations in the transportation field. Section 520 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act 2004 authorizes TSA to collect fees to pay for the following costs: conducting or obtaining a criminal history records check; reviewing available law enforcement databases, and records of other governmental and international agencies; reviewing and adjudicating requests for waivers and appeals of TSA decisions; and any other costs related to performing the background records check or providing the credential.

For hazardous material haulers this means there could potentially be 3 fees totaling $78.00.

- The Collection Fee (if a private vendor is used) = $18
- The Threat Assessment Fee = $36
- The FBI Fee = $24

Additional information can be found on DOT’s website
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/types/commercial.htm
Palm Prints

The state’s Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was upgraded to allow for the capture, search and storage of palm prints. This was a major change for Wisconsin law enforcement in that it now allows for unknown latent palm prints to be searched against a known palm print database. Roughly 30% of all latent prints captured from a crime scene are from the palm area of the hand. Techniques used in palm print identification are the same as those used for fingerprint identification.

Vendors Corner

The Crime Information Bureau developed and published an Electronic Fingerprint Transmission Specification (EFTS) in 1997 for criminal transactions that closely mirrors the FBI’s specification. The Wisconsin version is commonly known as V1R3, and has been updated this month. Key changes include:

Example data has been updated;

The contributed SID, field 2.248, was increased from 8 bytes of data to 10 to accommodate 1,000,000+ SIDs;

Residence and employer street address lines 1 and 2 sizes were changed to reflect 30 bytes of data instead of 60;

A single hyphen is allowed in the residence and employer zip code fields.

Wisconsin’s criminal, applicant and palm print specification can be acquired by visiting our technical web site [http://www.doj.state.wi.us/les/CCH/eFingerprint.htm](http://www.doj.state.wi.us/les/CCH/eFingerprint.htm)

Questions or comments should be directed to Sandie Schultz at 608-264-9490 or email schultzsd@doj.state.wi.us

Traffic arrests and dispositions

With the arrival of the electronic submission of fingerprints, the Crime Information Bureau accepts traffic arrests for all traffic not just the felonies. We also accept dispositions for those non-felony traffic offenses as well. Many agencies have requested that we do this especially where the charges and convictions pertain to driving while intoxicated since multiple occurrences of this charge can result in eventual felony convictions.

CIB frequently receives calls from agencies saying “I know this person has previous arrests and convictions for drunk driving but it is not on the CIB record.” This is one step closer to remedying that situation. The Crime Information Bureau encourages all Sheriff and Police Departments to submit their traffic arrests and to pass the disposition forms on to the prosecutors and courts.

We encourage that the courts, particularly the municipal courts, submit traffic dispositions so we can make it a part of the subject’s record and close out the charges we receive. Most circuit courts are already submitting this information through CCAP and urge them to continue doing so.

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Lower Palms and Writer’s Palms used in state’s AFIS

The American National Standard for Information Systems – Data Format for the Interchange of Fingerprint, Facial, & Scar Mark & Tattoo (SMT) Information (ANSI/NIST-ITL 1-2000) has set standards for the capture and transmission of palm prints. This is called the Type-15 variable-resolution palm print image record and is required for all Wisconsin livescan sites with palm print capture that transmit fingerprint records to the Crime Information Bureau electronically. Currently, the Crime Information Bureau will only accept a livescan capture of palm prints which must also be attached to a livescan arrest ten print record belonging to the same individual. Depending on the livescan device, which has the capability to capture palm prints, a Type-15 record will be required for each capture of the palm. This would include the capture of both the right and left writer’s palm and one or two Type-15 records for each full palm. Depending on the livescan device being used, capture of the full palm may require two images to represent the full palm. The first type of capture is from the wrist bracelet to the tips of the fingers and the second type of capture is two separate scanned images of the fingers and of the palm. Therefore, four to six Type-15 records will be required to represent the subject’s palm prints in a normal palm print transaction.

All Wisconsin Law Enforcement agencies considering purchasing a new livescan device that has a palm print capture should contact the Crime Information Bureau (Sandie Schultz, 608-264-9490 or email: schultzsd@doj.state.wi.us) before sending records to make sure your livescan meets the ANSI/NIST and State of Wisconsin capture and transmission standards.

It is also very important that the livescan operator take the best sets of prints and palms to be sent to the Crime Information Bureau for processing. Two major problems with taking good palm print images is that the operator must ensure that they put enough pressure on the center of the back of the hand to allow for more ridge detail in the middle of the palm. If pressure is not applied to this area then the image that is being captured will be missing a large portion of ridge detail that could be used for positive identification.

Another problem area is the writer’s palm. Make sure that when capturing this area on the livescan that you start with the hand flat on the platen (glass) and then rotate the hand up slightly towards the little finger side of the hand, about 45 degrees. You should be able to see ridge detail in the captured image on the livescan monitor. If you do not see ridge detail then you probably have rotated the hand too much and will need to re-capture the image. You should check with your livescan vendor as to what are the best practice of capturing palm prints that they recommend while using their livescan devices and also share that information with every livescan operator in your department.

The state’s AFIS currently has 14,384 sets of palm prints within its database, which is roughly one year old. There are eight law enforcement agencies that are capturing and sending palm prints with their daily arrest records to the Crime Information Bureau. This number will continually grow as more sites add the ability to capture and send palm prints through their livescan devices. Even though the Wisconsin Department of Justice does not require law enforcement agencies to purchase a livescan with palm capture ability, it does highly recommend that agencies do so if they can afford it. The more palm prints that can be added to the AFIS database the higher probability that many more unsolved latent cases can be identified.