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

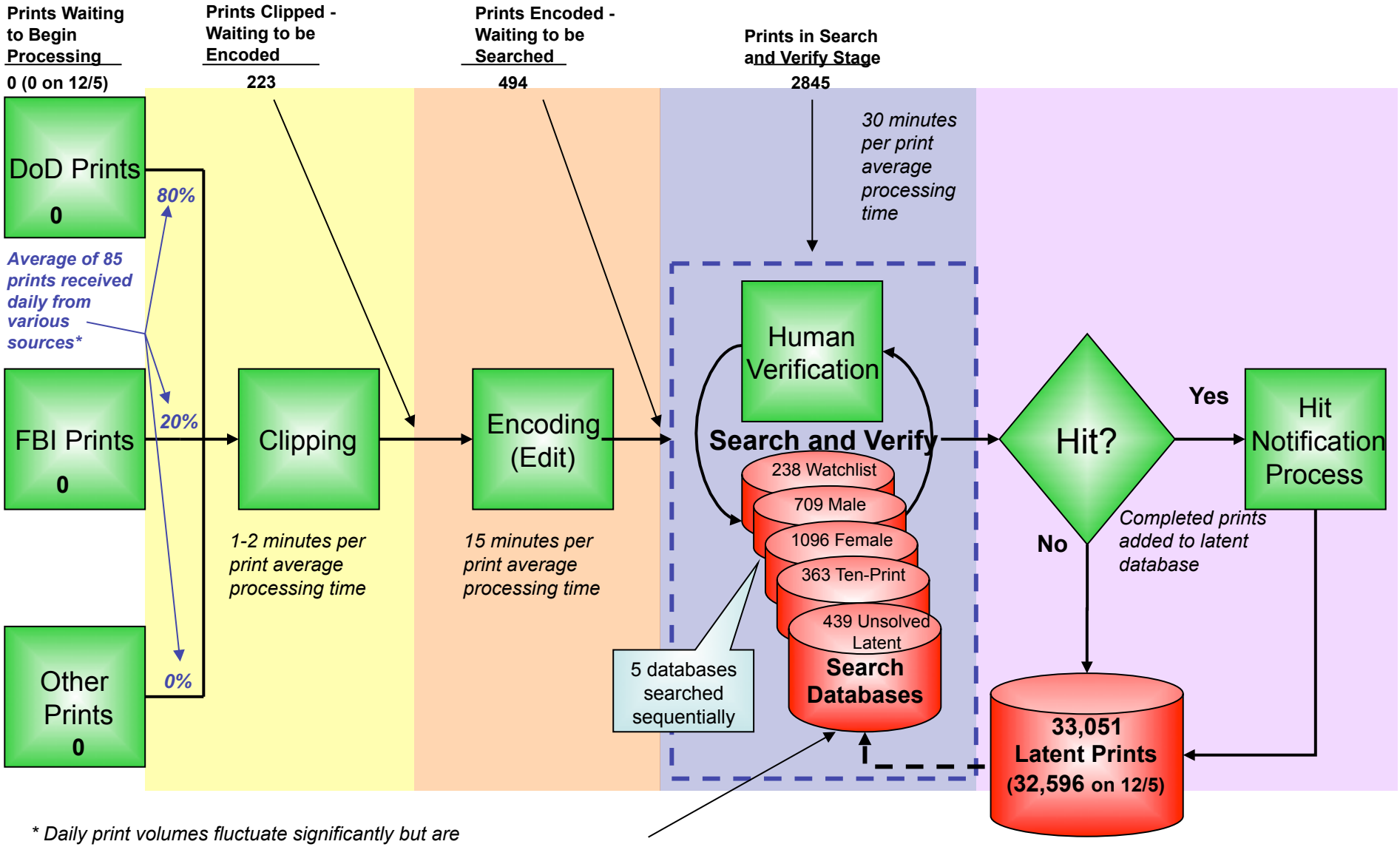
OUR DATABASE

- 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



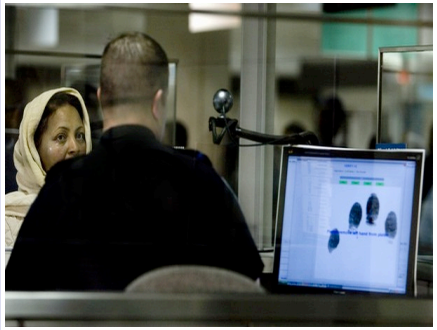
** Daily print volumes fluctuate significantly but are typically processed as they are received, consequently these daily volumes are not included in the "Prints Waiting to be Processed" queue.*

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

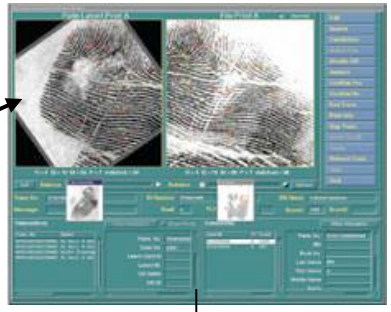
40k Latent Prints

Latent 10-Print Repository

6.0M Individuals

18%

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



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 A Latent Print Examiner's Guide to IAFIS)
  - 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

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