



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of Health

Identity , Identity Records and Identification in Canada

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Agenda

- Issues
- Identity
- Identification in Canada
- Building an Identification System
- Conclusions
- Questions



Issues

Identity Theft

Identity Fraud

Protection of Privacy

Individual Safety and Security

National Security

Data Quality



Issues

Public sector organizations provide citizens and clients with services, benefits and access to information

Before doing so these organizations need to know with varying degrees of assurance who the individual is and that they are who they say they are



Issues

Technology is making it easier and easier to provide services, benefits and access to information all the time; we no longer even need to meet the individual obtaining the service, benefit or information



Identity

For the purposes of individual identification, identity is constituted of a unique set of attributes that together make up the identity of a single specific individual, based on;

- Authentic and verifiable data pertaining to personal attributes
- Used by and for a single individual
- Recorded, stored used and transmitted in a secure fashion



Identification in Canada

There is no prescribed system of identification in Canada



Identification in Canada

Generally a person is identified by their name and birth date.

Other information may be collected depending on what is required by the person requesting the identification.

What is recorded in identity records is usually recorded on the basis of what the individual themselves wish to be recorded; most often their word is accepted as genuine.



Identification in Canada

For identification a collection of documents may be accepted, however there is usually little understanding of what a document is for, the origin of the information it contains or how the information has been collected or recorded



Identification in Canada

Examples of Accepted Identification

Drivers Licences

Passports

Provincial Identification Cards

Canadian Birth Certificate

Canadian Citizenship ID Card

Canadian Citizenship Certificate

Canadian Immigration Record of Landing

Permanent Resident Card

Canadian Study Permit

Canadian Work Permit

Temporary Resident Permit

Visitor Record

Refugees Permit

Canadian Forces ID

Police ID

DFAIT ID Card

Foreign Birth Certificate

Marriage Certificates

Change of Name Certificate

School or University ID Cards

Bank and Credit Cards

Vehicle Registration

Firearms Acquisition Certificate

Social Insurance Card

Health Cards

Native Status Card



Identification in Canada

A drivers licence:

- Purpose is to confirm that the person driving is the person whose picture is on the licence;
- Identity information on the document is usually recorded as requested by the individual and is not verified with an authoritative source;
- Information on Canadian Drivers licences is often obtained from drivers licences or documents issued by non-Canadian jurisdictions
- Not universal; only 70% of British Columbians have a valid drivers licence.



Identification in Canada

Drivers licences have been rejected as identification for future entry into the U.S.

“We have found in our own country that drivers licences are not a secure document.”

George W. Bush, March 2006, when asked to reconsider continued use of drivers licences as identification for persons crossing the Canadian U.S. border after 2007.



Identification in Canada

HCIM – the EMPI

- EMPI – Enterprise Master Patient Index
- Expected to be the health system “source of truth” on identity information
- Ministry owned system for the purpose of facilitating EHR development by creating a central depository of client identification information
- Collects person and record identifier information from the MoH Client Registry and source systems in Health Authorities



Identification in Canada

HCIM – the EMPI

- Data collected includes person names, birth date, sex, address, contact information, PHN, MRNs
- Matches person information from sources to identify records belonging to the same person
- Generates a composite of best available information to assist in client identification
- Will be accessed by authorized clinical users to assist in identifying patients, health records that belong to them and where those records are located.



Identification in Canada

HCIM – the EMPI

- Data has been collected over a long period of time according to changing standards, many records are not complete;
- Much of the data collected has not and cannot be verified as being accurate or correct;
- The data set does not include all the information required to ensure an individual is identified uniquely;
- Due to data quality issues probabilistic linkage cannot resolve all duplicated individuals or incorrectly linked records



Identification in Canada

Some of our problems:

- No nationally accepted standards or process for identifying an individual;
- Lack of understanding of what identity is and how it is communicated;
- We base identification on names, but understand little about them in the context of identity;
- We encourage abrogation of responsibility, a serve at all costs mentality.



Identification in Canada

My name for legal identification purposes is:

Andrew McBride

The names I am legally entitled to use are:

Andrew McBride

Andrew Smith

Andrew Brown



Identification in Canada

Which does not include others that may be accepted and recorded in “identity” records:

- Andy McBride, Andy Smith, Andy Brown, Drew McBride, Drew Smith, Drew Brown, Andrew Brown-McBride, Andrew Brown-Smith, Andrew McBride-Brown, Andrew McBride-Smith, Andrew Smith-Brown, Andrew Smith-McBride, Andy Brown-McBride, Andy Brown-Smith, Andy McBride-Brown, Andy McBride-Smith, Andy Smith-Brown, Andy Smith-McBride, Drew Brown-McBride, Drew Brown-Smith, Drew McBride-Brown, Drew McBride-Smith, Drew Smith-Brown, Drew Smith-McBride



Building an Identification System

F/P/T Council on Identity in Canada

- Formed following September 11, 2001 to address security issues related to identification
- Made up of representatives from each province and territory and,
- Key federal departments including Foreign Affairs, Service Canada, Canada Border Services, Canada Revenue Agency, and Treasury Board



Building an Identification System

The mandate of the Identity Council is to:

- Develop a policy framework for identity in Canada
- Facilitate implementation of the policy, and,
- Monitor its effectiveness



Building an Identification System

Principals Behind the Policy Framework

- Public Acceptability
- Government Responsibility
 - Joint Accountability
- Equity of Access
 - Universality of Documents
 - Uniformity of Standards and Compatibility of Systems
- Security Commensurate with Risk
- Support Quality of Service
- Supports Protection of Privacy



Building an Identification System

Key Strategies for Implementation

- Development of uniform standards
- Development of protocols/best practices in support of standards
- Development of interoperability of identity systems
- Promotion of public education
- Apply new technologies when appropriate



Building an Identification System

Key Components

- Foundation Identity Documents
- Foundation Identity Record Maintenance
- Authentication/Verification
- Stakeholder Notification



Building an Identification System

Foundation Documents

- Canadian Birth Certificates
- Immigration Documents
 - Citizenship Cards and Certificates
 - Permanent Resident Cards



Building an Identification System

From the 2001 Census – the BC Population

Born in Canada	2,821,870	}	3,868,875
Naturalized Citizens	744,870		
Landed Immigrants	302,940		
Non-Permanent Residents	37,190		
Total Population	3,902,065		

Less than 1% of people who reside in BC do not have a recognized foundation identity document



Building an Identification System

Foundation Record Maintenance

- Death/Birth Linkage
- Legal Change of Name
- Fraudulent Document Tracking



Building an Identification System

Authentication/Verification

- Electronic verification of foundation identity documents and the information they contain with source
- Notification of fact of death or report of lost or stolen documents



Building an Identification System

Stakeholder Notification

- Notify key stakeholders of changes of name for their clients
- Notify key stakeholders of deaths
- Automated registration/enrolment in stakeholder programs



Building an Identification System

National Routing System

- F/P/T partnership system using vital event data
- Electronic verification (Passports, SIN Registry)
- Electronic Notification (Statistics Canada, CRA, Other Provinces/Territories, SIN Registry)
- In pilot October 2005 to March 2006; two provinces and three federal departments
- Currently being ported to production



Conclusions

Technology has an important role in managing identity information

Technology alone cannot resolve the issues we face with our existing systems and the information (or lack of it) that they contain

Identity is like a house of cards; without a solid foundation it will collapse



Conclusions

While there is a way to go before the foundations of an identity system are in place in Canada we can help put it in place by recording key information from foundation identity documents as it is recorded on those documents, including:



Conclusions

- Surname
- All (and complete) given names in the correct order
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Issuing authority
- Date of issue
- Unique person identifier
- Unique document identifier



Conclusions

As well as the names the person wishes to be recognized by.



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Questions



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