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RFID - a warning to believers

"He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name" **Rev 13 vs 16-17**



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Date: 24 October 2006

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The Technology

RFID (**R**adio **F**requency **I**dentification) is part of a growing industry known as nano-technology (the science of very small things). RFID "chips" are tiny transmitters that transmit a single 16 digit number. Anything that an RFID "chip" can be attached to can thus be given a unique number that can be read by RFID receivers. This number can be used to reference information from a database for anything from medical records to a list of authorised people allowed to unlock your front door.

Who makes it?

Literally thousands of companies are working on RFID technology for commercial purposes. One such company VeriChip Corp <http://www.verichipcorp.com> however, has developed a Human implantable RFID device which is now only about the size of a grain of rice. VeriChip Corp even has FDA (Food and Drug Administration of the US) approval for its use.

Is this now or for sometime in the future?

The first RFID chips, used for Passports, were implemented in 1998. VeriChip started on the Human implantable version in 2001. Tesco and Sainsbury currently use RFID chips on their CD's and DVD's (a sticky label with copper wires in a spiral pattern underneath).

Barry Smith, a New Zealand evangelist, predicted the bar code and something very similar to the RFID implantable chip as early as 1974. That technology is here and NOW and is already being used. Most pets these days have RFID implants instead of the old collar tags.

What is it being used for?

The uses are numerous and new "fantastic" ideas are being dreamed up every day. The following are just some of the ideas either in use or actively being discussed and developed now:

Medical Records for patients – especially useful when the patient is unconscious

Prisoner tracking – currently these devices are external but many prisoners have found ways to cut the device off so implants seem the natural solution.

Pet/Animal identification – has been in use for many years now. The recent "Mad Cow" disease encouraged its widespread use in farm animals

Wander prevention – mainly for the very young or for the old in senility. This technology causes alarms to sound when anyone tagged goes out of their allowed bounds.

Building Security – the automatic unlocking of doors or other sensitive areas based on who you are and what authorisation you have. Ultimately this could lead to the elimination of house keys. Your house will unlock for you as you approach the front door.

Car Security – similar to the above, cars doors will open automatically and the ignition will only start for someone with the authorised RFID numbers.

Retail Supply Chain – the tracking of assets and stock from supplier to warehouse and the retail outlet.

Retail Checkout – the automatic pricing of your shopping bill without even having to take the products out of your basket.

Air Travel Security – Tracking people around an airport to combat terrorism

Military Asset tracking (including Human personnel) – one thing you don't want is an enemy stealing your weapons and using them against you. The solution is to make sure they can only be used by a soldier with an authorised RFID.

Child tagging (especially babies in maternity wards) – prevention of embarrassing mistakes when parents are released with the wrong baby.

Exclusive clubs (VIP member features) – see the Baja Beach Club of Barcelona who offers “extra facilities” to its VIP members. This uses the Human implantable chip from VeriChip Corp.

What could it be used for?

The number of uses is infinite; however, one that concerns me most is this:

Banks are always looking for ways to combat fraudulent financial activity. When someone steals your credit cards and buys goods on your account, it is the banks that nearly always have to pick up the tab.

We are moving closer and closer to a cashless society where most things can be bought by credit card. Cash is expensive to produce, paper cash has a limited lifespan and has to be carefully managed and cash is getting easier to forge with cheaper equipment. Cards are one solution to this problem, however they can be easily lost or stolen and the consequences are far greater for the banks as most cards have daily limits in the thousands of pounds or even no daily limit at all in the case of most credit cards.

It is only a small technological step away to introduce RFID (you now already have a “chip” in your cards). To combat the problem of losing your cards or having them stolen you could have a chip implant and the banks are very interested in this idea although they realise that just at the moment this is too sensitive an issue for the general public to swallow.

What is needed is a major event or disaster which brings on a nationwide call for RFID technology. The murder of Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman started a serious debate about having children tagged as one of the problems was the time it took the Police to find the bodies and speculation that they could have found the children BEFORE they were murdered. What parent would not want that? In fact you will find this question in the Science Museum’s “In Future” section where the visitor gets to vote whether they think this is good technology.

Once there is general acceptance of a chip implant the banks can then refuse anyone an account UNLESS they have been chipped. Don’t forget that having a bank account is not a right. Banks are just businesses and can refuse anyone they want.

Thus you arrive at a situation where you will not be able to buy or sell anything unless you have a bank account which is not possible unless you have a chip implant. The situation gets worse for you may not even be able to be employed as most employees pay salaries directly into a bank account.

What does the Bible say?

An angel sent by Jesus to the apostle John told him to write down what he saw and heard. The result is the book of Revelations which was given to warn us about end times and to provide indicators and signs so that we may recognise when it happens or is about to happen and that we can know what to do and what not to do. It should not worry those who follow Jesus and obey his commands and we should not dwell too long in its pages at the expense of the rest of the Bible, however, it is there for a purpose and with the aforementioned RFID technology we may just be on the verge of a prophecy being fulfilled.

“He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name” **Rev 13 vs 16-17**

Notice the reference to the right hand or forehead. These are the most prominent parts of the body and also parts not normally covered by clothing. The hand is useful because it can be waved in front of a receiver and the head is also useful for overhead surveillance receivers. Some of the references in the VeriChip Corporation documents talk about using the upper right arm, however, I suspect that a future clothing fashion, for example “smart clothes” and “Digital Fabric” may make the upper arm an unsuitable location as the signal from the chip could get blocked by the wire cage like fabric in the clothing material of the

near future. It is interesting that all articles about Human implantable RFID chips talk about the right hand or arm, never the left, why is that do you think? One of the references, however, does show an implant in the left hand. The reason for this is that it was self administered by someone who was right handed. As for the reference to buying and selling see the previous section for a possible scenario.

Many people have expressed concern that the chip itself holds personal information or can somehow give out your current location, however the Bible has it spot on. It is the number of your name. In software development one of the most difficult things to do is guarantee uniqueness of people. Something that I call the "Pete Smith Syndrome" is where Pete Smith rings up and you go to get his records only to find you have 5 Pete Smiths on your database so which one is he, if any? If I had a unique number IT would be so much easier.

"This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666." **Rev 13 v 18**

It is not clear yet where the significance of the number 666 comes in, however, one early form of Bar Code had three sets of double lines slightly longer than all the others, one on each end and one in the middle. The double line was a 6. This gave rise to earlier predictions that bar codes may be the mark of the beast, however, the idea of people walking around with bar codes on their foreheads just did not seem plausible. Whether there will be any similar significance in the arrangement of the 16 digit code or perhaps the 666 is related to something entirely different like a UN resolution document or an EU directive that gives rise to a mass census in which we are forced to have an implant we may not know until much later.

"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name.' This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus." **Rev 14 vs 9-12**

In this passage a stark warning is given to those who have the mark of the beast as they will incur God's fury. It is not going to be easy for the faithful either as they will be required to endure patiently. This is an indication of the fact that life will get pretty tough for those who refuse. In the cashless society you will not be able to buy or sell, you will not be able to be employed as you will not have a bank account to pay into and according to some of the current predictions travel will be restricted. The question comes down to who do you fear most, Man or God? In Luke we read:

"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him." **Luke 12 vs 4-5**

Jesus was not talking to non-believers here; he was talking to his disciples about having a respectful fear of God. When we are given clear warnings and told of the consequences of disobedience we had better take note.

Warning RFID could seriously damage your health?

Never before has there been a technology that could so closely match this prophecy in the Bible and not until now has Man been able to do anything like this on a Global scale. We may be wrong but I for one do not want to take the chance. In the light of other events that we are witness to every day no Christian can be complacent and we must take God's warnings very seriously.

All of the uses of this technology will be sold to us as "fantastic" ideas. To the non-believer it will seem daft for anyone to refuse. If I were not a Christian and had not been warned of

the consequences I would think this a fantastic technology, the next killer application after the Internet and the mobile phone.

There is no easier way to say this:

DO NOT HAVE RFID CHIPS IMPLANTED IN YOUR BODY OR IN YOUR CHILDREN

Refuse any request to do so no matter what or how good the reason is. This way you will avoid incurring God's fury.

References

The following are a number of references I have used in the research for this article:

1. VeriChip Corporation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) list. This gives some useful information about VeriChip the company and its Human Implantable RFID device and applications. The FAQ also attempts to allay natural fears about the technology. They take great pains to explain that their chip will not allow you to be tracked as the chip does not contain any GPS capability. Well, it does not need to for you to be tracked, as soon as a fixed receiver picks you up it knows you are near the receiver and thus your approximate location. Not only that but they have just launched "Wander Watch" and "Roam Mate" two technologies specifically designed to track the movements of pensioners in senile dementia to prevent them from wandering off. <http://www.verichipcorp.com/content/company/corporatefaq>
2. VeriMed medical applications, this article describes a scenario where an unconscious patient is admitted to hospital, but because they have a chip implant the hospital can get immediate access to the patients medical records and begin the diagnosis process even though they cannot communicate with the patient. <http://www.verichipcorp.com/news/1161292017>
3. Building Security, an article about how the technology can be used to open doors to authorised personnel. http://www.verichipcorp.com/images/GSN_Mar06.pdf
4. Tesco Supply chain, an article about Tescos experimentation with RFID. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4211591.stm>
5. Wal-Marts RFID Strategy, an article about how Wal-Mart is pioneering the Global supply chain with RFID by forcing its suppliers to attach RFID chips to all of its products. http://www.directionsmag.com/article.php?article_id=629&trv=1
6. RFID self checkout, do you recognise the machine? Yes they are now in all major Tescos and Sainsburys, RFID "ready" and just waiting for you to waft your shopping bags in front of it to total up your bill without removing the products from the bag. Of course, they have to get the chips onto the products first but that is only a matter of time. <http://www.rfidjournal.com/article/articleview/1082/1/1/>
7. Travel restrictions, a recent article discussing possible future security ideas for combating terrorists at airports using RFID tagging. A separate article (not included) describes the difficulties in ensuring that people will wear the RFID chip and preventing people from swapping them or having them stolen, surely the solution is to implant the chip? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/6044310.stm>
8. The Baja Beach Club in Barcelona, special treatment for VIP members who have the chip implant. <http://www.prisonplanet.com/articles/april2004/040704bajabeachclub.htm>
9. The Bank's interest in RFID, notice how nice it all is talking about the "touchy feely side of banking" using RFID technology. Well that certainly is no Bank that I have ever heard of or experienced. I suspect a more sinister side that is too unpalatable for human consumption just at this moment. <http://www.rfidjournal.com/article/articleview/396/1/1/>

10. Barry Smith the New Zealand evangelist who first predicted something like RFID technology as far back as 1974.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Smith_%28New_Zealand%29
11. Smart Clothes and Digital Fabric a future fashion that may force VeriChip back to using the right hand instead of the arm. <http://www.howstuffworks.com/computer-clothing.htm>
12. The Bible, NIV, Book of Revelations.
<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation%2013%20;&version=31>